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Dilworth Quarterly

June 2017

Don't Miss

Good times for a good cause: Triple B @ Triple C raises funds for the Dilworth Soup Kitchen. **Find out how much on page 4**

Need a plant, baby or dog sitter this summer? **Make the connection with a Dilworth youth on page 6**

What's growing where in Dilworth? **Go to pages 8 through 15 to find out.**

How do your neighbors feel about the latest CMS plan? **Find out on page 23.**

Want the latest, most up-to-date news of the neighborhood? Then we need your email! **Go to page 25 for directions on how to sign-up.**

Volunteer for the 45th Home Tour! **Details on page 25.**



Larry Elder in front of a painting from the Carl Plansky Collection

Elder Gallery Owner Moving On

By Jill Walker

Reflecting on the approaching sale of his gallery on S.Tryon Street, Larry Elder feigned composure, insisting that he was not as sentimental as he thought he would be about it and, in fact, that he was more than excited about the prospect of Saturdays off. Hmmm... I wasn't buying that.

For 16 years now Larry has owned and operated Elder Gallery with a winning combination of artistic know-how and business acumen. His monthly gallery shows (doing the math that amounts to 192!) became a calendar highlight. A Friday evening Elder Gallery "Reception for the Artist" always promised good art and a great social time. It was kind of like having a "Cheers" in the hood, but an art gallery version of one. Old friends, new friends ...somebody's going to know your name, just like the song from Cheers. And if not, Larry or

his wife Janice will find a way to make you feel welcome.

Opening his business right after 9/11, Larry remembers thinking, "This is a bad move, but it's too late now." The first show ended up a great success. "I remember people being so supportive," Larry said. "They really wanted me to be successful: Janice's and my friends and co-workers, our Dilworth neighbors. I'll really never forget all that support from everyone." As I watched Larry revisit this memory, I could see that this thought really got to him.

Over the years Janice proved a stabilizing force. "She was the person who helped me understand what's important and what's not," Larry said. "I'd expect things to go a certain way and when they didn't, she would reel me back in and get me back on the right tangent."

Larry has always had a very good eye for

continued on page 30

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Deadline for Next Issue:

Ads: July 15

If you are interested in advertising in the Quarterly, email Mary Beth Sensabaugh at msensabaugh@carolina.rr.com. Rates and sizes can be found on dilworthonline.org.

Copy: July 29

Copy and ads received after the deadline may be held for a later issue.



The Dilworth Quarterly is written by volunteers and proudly printed on 30% reused and 100% recycled paper. It is published under the direction of the DCA and is mailed 4 times a year to over 4500 households and businesses in the Dilworth community. While we make every reasonable effort to verify the integrity of our advertisers, we do not endorse products or services unless specifically stated.

From the President

Off to a Busy Start...

Earlier this spring, I spent a glorious morning volunteering with the folks at the Dilworth Community Garden. It was the first big workday of the season and the morning started with a lot of overgrown plots, several wheelbarrows and a giant pile of mulch. I was stationed at a table helping sell mulch to plot holders and the experience was delightful. I watched as folks dived into weeding and pulling the last of the cold season bounty – someone even pulled a couple of heads of the freshest lettuce from their plot and handed them to me to enjoy! Plots that had only hours earlier been over grown were transforming into blank canvases for a tapestry of plantings, with tidy edging and neat rows emerging from all the hands working the soil. Load after load of mulch ferried from the giant pile to each plot with much debate on proper mulch application – to mix in or just put on top? The crowd was agreeably split on opinion while discussing what everyone was planning to plant in their plots. Over 30 plot-holders with their friends, families, and yard helpers worked hard all day in the Community Garden with the joy and hope spring planting brings. The spirit of cooperation and neighborhood was abundant. It was another reminder of just how special Dilworth is and how fortunate I feel to live here. If you have not done so, take a walk down to Ordermore and see how lovely your community garden is.

The year is off to a very busy start with another wildly successful Triple B at Triple C in the books. Proceeds from this eagerly attended annual event benefited our neighbor, Dilworth Soup Kitchen, this year's Dilworth Cares partner.

The Dilworth Ladies Spring party again delivered a delightful evening of friendship and merriment at Theory Design Studio with fun, food and friends. Proceeds from this event also benefitted Dilworth Soup Kitchen.

As an aside, I am so proud of our partnership with this outstanding program. It has been a delight to work with this amazing group of volunteers and see how we can directly impact the lives of those in our community. The Dilworth Soup



Courtney Leehman
DCA President

Kitchen serves a hot, sit-down lunch each Monday from 11:30-12:30 free of charge. If you can find the time, I encourage everyone to drop by on a Monday morning to volunteer with the lunch service. It is an outstanding and rewarding experience.

Time to mark your calendars for upcoming neighborhood events.

The summer will bring us the **Yiasou Greek Festival** 5k road race on August 26, 2017 and fall will kick off with one of the largest and oldest Greek Festivals in the country. Yiasou started in 1978 and is one of Charlotte's largest cultural events. Be sure to mark September 7-10 on your calendar to visit the festival and catch up on all of the fantastic Greek food you've been missing all year.

The **45th annual Dilworth Home Tour** is set for September 15 from 6-9 p.m. and September 16, from 10-4 p.m. Seven Dilworth neighbors are opening their homes to the Tour this year, representing a broad view of life in our community. Keep an eye on the Express and the Dilworth website (www.dilworthonline.org) for volunteer opportunities. Working a shift on the Home Tour is great fun and a terrific opportunity to see friends and neighbors. The success of the Tour depends on our volunteers who, year after year, staff the event. Please sign up to take a shift or two!

This year's **Dilworth Jubilee** will be held Saturday, October 14 from 4-9 p.m. in Latta Park. Hopefully, the shift to later in the fall will give us cooler weather and fewer late summer storms! The Jubilee committee is hard at work bringing this family-friendly evening event to life. Expect entertainment, food and beverages centered around the Latta pavilion. Bring your lawn chairs and blankets and enjoy a lovely fall evening with neighbors and friends. Be sure to look around at the revitalized Latta Park. Thanks to the ongoing work of many volunteers, the park is now largely free of invasive plant species and beautifully updated with native plants. The initiative to

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	Aaron Newlander Land Use	Amanda Pipkin Anderson Communications
	Lilly Young Dilworth Cares	Valerie Preston Home Tour

Home Tour Committee

Valerie Preston
2017 Home Tour Chairperson

DCA meets in the Tom Sykes Recreation Center on the first Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m.

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Dilworth Cares

By Marcia Rouse

Annual Event Benefits

Dilworth Cares hosted its 3rd Annual Triple B @ Triple C March, raising \$6,300 for Dilworth Soup Kitchen. Triple C Brewing Company provided the venue, craft ales and IPAs. Charlotte's dynamic Underground Detour Band (including Dilworth residents' Ralph McMillan and Pat Campbell) performed live while Mac's Speed Shop served plenty of bbq and sides. Valerie Martin, DSK chef, baked her renowned corn bread and Dilworth Cares Committee served an array of home baked desserts. Even Duke and UNC fans were able to catch the NCAA basketball match up! Check out the photos:

www.nwilliamsphoto.pixieset.com, enter password: TripleBC

It's a simple idea, raising money for a noble cause and at the same time providing the opportunity for friends and neighbors to gather for an evening of food, spirits and lively music. It



no requirements,
no charge,
just come and eat.

2016-2018 recipient of Dilworth Cares



Left: A typical Monday where volunteers feed up to 200 thankful guests.
Above: Dilworth neighbors and friends enjoy fundraiser at Triple C Brewing Company.

would be impossible to host such a successful event without generous sponsors and partners. A special thank you goes to:

- Dilworth Facial Plastic Surgery
- Dilworth Community Association
- Underground Detour Band
- Triple C Brewing Company
- Dilworth Soup Kitchen chef, Valerie Martin
- Mac's Speed Shop
- Nancy Williams Photography

Seven years' strong, Dilworth Soup Kitchen's "no requirements, no charge, just come and eat" serves approximately 200 guests each week. They offer the same level of hospitality Charlotte neighbors enjoy while dining out in Dilworth. DSK board member Ben Hinchey says "our goal is to serve our guests with dignity".

DSK volunteers know that those served often return every week for food and fellowship. A seasoned DSK volunteer told me recently that 'you can't understand how fulfilling it is to serve those in need until you've done it'. One of the great ironies is that one who serves almost always benefits more than one who is served. As one volunteer told a first-time volunteer recently, 'you'll be back, it's addictive'. ■

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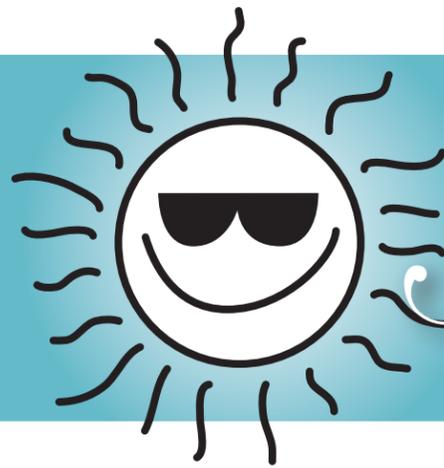
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Summer Connections

Grace Schlernitzauer

I am a rising Junior at Charlotte Country Day and have four years of **babysitting** experience with young children. I would love to help you out this summer. I have my own transportation.

704/293-7787 or
grace.schler@gmail.com



Maddie and Sophie Reiser

Maddie Reiser. Ohio State upcoming sophomore Sophie Reiser. Providence day school upcoming senior **Babysit/water flowers/feed pets/run errands**

Jenireiser@gmail.com



Alexandra Lewis

I am currently teaching fourth grade in West Charlotte. I am interested in nannying part-time between mid-June and early august. I have many years of **babysitting** experience that include tutoring, carpools, and summer activities. I have spent the past three summers nannying and have enjoyed every minute of it. References are available upon request.

803/606-9659 or
Alexandra.lewis78@gmail.com



Jordan Carson

I am currently finishing up my freshman year at Furman University. I will be home in Dilworth this summer between the beginning of May - August and am interested in full-time or part-time **nannying** positions as well as ad-hoc **babysitting**. I have several years of babysitting experience and have three elementary and preschool age siblings. I love spending time with kids and am also an experienced carpool driver! References are available upon request.

704/770-1464 or
jordan.l.carson@gmail.com.



Mac Norvell

I am a rising 9th grader at Myers Park. I am a great student and very responsible. I can help you when you are out of town by taking care of you **pets, watering your plants, getting your mail**, etc. I can also help when you are in town with all sorts of miscellaneous work. I am a hard worker and a quick learner.

704/609/0752



Claire Allison

I am 14 years old and a rising freshman at Myers Park High School. I have lived in Dilworth my entire life. I am currently at AG and I play soccer and softball. I am available in June and July this summer to **babysit** boys and girls around Dilworth. I love to work with kids! For more information and available references, you may contact me via email. Thanks.

claireallison65@gmail.com.



Michael Allison

I am in 8th grade at Alexander Graham. I have lived in Dilworth my whole life. I love to fish and play baseball. Last summer I started a business



of taking kids fishing at Freedom Park and **teaching them how to fish**. If your child is interested, I will be doing that again in June and July this summer Monday through Friday. I charge \$7.50 per hour. Please email me to schedule a time and for more information. References available upon request.

Michael.Allison0605@gmail.com



Tess Culpepper

Looking for a **petsitter**? Look no further! I'm TessCulpepper, a rising 11th grader with over 8 years of petsitting experience.

Contact me at
tscpetsitting@gmail.com

Sophia Gagnier

Aged 15, available for **babysitting** children, including infants, toddlers and school-aged kids. Accomplished outdoor camper and solo traveler, familiar with first aid, leading crafts, girly-crafts, drawing, singing, cooking simple meals and is confident with dogs. Experience babysitting just one kid or multiple kids at a time.

202/446-7697

Morgan Daly

I just graduated from Duke University. I will be home this summer (starting May 16) before I start my full time job. I am available to **babysit, house sit or pet sit!** I have babysat for many Dilworth families before and love animals! I have my own car and I can come to you or provide transportation. Please call me if you need any help this summer! Thank you!

704/607-9760 or
morgan.daly23@gmail.com

Julian Gagnier

Field Hockey coach for private lessons, perfect to improve skills for upcoming middle or high school season. 30 min/\$20 or 60 min/\$40. I have 7+ years playing experience in Europe and US, varsity team trainer/manager at Country Day, coach at summer field hockey camps and Evolution-Charlotte hockey club. Current member of men's East coast high performance team.

202/446-7453 or
julian@shum.net



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Making A Difference

DeeDee Mills: Always Climbing New Summits

By Dave Preston

Even in a neighborhood full of multi-tasking, driven polymaths, Dilworth resident DeeDee Mills stands out for her energy, warmth and determination. DeeDee runs a non-profit (Behailu Academy) that empowers youth through the arts, service and academic support and owns local favorite



restaurants The Summit Room and The Mayo Bird. She is also nearing opening day(s) on two new Dilworth restaurants, scheduled to launch this summer on E. Morehead Street.

DeeDee is a native North Carolinian and proud Tar Heel. She notes (with some amazement) that she has now lived in Charlotte for roughly

as much time as in her childhood hometown. DeeDee came to Charlotte to work for the Carolina Panthers (she notes that she didn't even have a week off between graduation and beginning her job), and has fond recollections of the crazy first year of the Panthers' existence. She laughingly remembers the madness of helping to start an NFL franchise from scratch, including playing in Clemson's Memorial Stadium, and the ensuing battle over beer sales at games (as the local county banned Sunday alcohol sales).

DeeDee's culinary contribution to Dilworth began out of sadness at the loss of the Dilworth Caribou Coffee location. When most people hear their favorite coffee spot is closing, they might complain to friends, stop by for one last order, or write a strongly worded social media post.

DeeDee's reaction to the news that her favorite coffee spot was closing was to sign a petition to save Caribou and then to embark on a long and extremely competitive bidding process for the location. As the number of bidders waned, she wrote an essay explaining why she should be the one to develop the location.

Dilworth residents are now thankful for her perseverance and her essay-writing skills, as she opened two restaurants in the location. The MayoBird, which she had been running for roughly one year as a food truck prior to getting the Dilworth location, serves DeeDee's belief that Dilworth needed a neighborly coffee spot, combined with her lifelong love of chicken salad. The Summit Room was named for the location of DeeDee's inspiration

for the restaurant – the peak of Mt. Kilimanjaro; she decided to enter the restaurant business during her ascent to Africa's tallest peak.

Not content with just two restaurants in her home neighborhood, DeeDee is now close to opening two new Dilworth restaurants: Joe and Nosh, and The Packhouse. DeeDee notes that the projects represent her present (Charlotte) as well as her background (her hometown).

Joe and Nosh pays homage to late Charlotte institution The Coffee Cup. DeeDee says she was especially inspired by the Coffee Cup's history as an early adopter of integration and a female owned restaurant.

The Packhouse is a callback to DeeDee's roots – she grew up in eastern North Carolina, in tobacco country. DeeDee tore down three packhouses in order to reuse the wood in her new venture, and will serve drinks made from muscadine grapes raised by former tobacco farmers. DeeDee is even involving her 8 year old son in the restaurant, as he is in charge of the grape juice.

During her time in Charlotte, DeeDee has lived "all over the city," including a prior stint in Dilworth. However, DeeDee says she "loves Dilworth so much," adding she "never wants to leave," citing the walkability and great neighbors as her favorite parts. While her near-term future is dominated by the two new ventures, Dilworth residents can be sure that DeeDee will soon find another way to put her positive stamp on the neighborhood. ■

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Dilworth Market Update: Sold in the Last 180 Days

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611 Mt Vernon Avenue	\$715,000	3/3.0	2,676
2114 Cumberland Avenue	\$1,250,000	5/3.1	3,782
1232 Belgrave Place	\$635,000	4/1.1	2,826
2223 Springdale Avenue	\$1,305,000	5/4.1	3,953
1927 Dilworth Road W	\$890,000	4/2.1	2,597
2513 Marshall Place #12	\$914,700	5/3.1	3,897
700 E Worthington Avenue	\$799,000	3/2.1	2,512
604 E Kingston Avenue	\$835,000	3/2.1	2,538
2120 Floral Avenue	\$390,000	2/1.0	1,120
2747 Dilworth Heights Lane	\$337,500	3/2.1	1,387

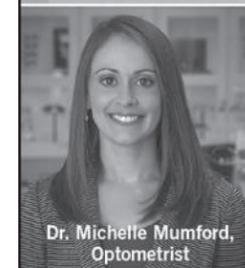
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Home & Garden

The Signs of Spring

By Myron Greer

Winter...what winter? It seems as though spring sprung in January and with the few exceptions of an infusion of cold weather days, we have been enjoying its rewards for several months. We are now safe into the season for planting flowers, trees, shrubs and vegetables. For most of you living in the Dilworth area of Charlotte, there are not large parcels of land for farming so why not do the next best thing, raised beds and pot farming are all the rage these days (and I'm not speaking of the illegal kind). If you are wanting to put a raised bed at your home there are many kits you can purchase at any hardware or home improvement venue. If purchasing the kits they simply snap together with instructions. If making your own you will want to purchase untreated wood and organic soil. A good size to start is four feet wide by six feet long but you can make it any size you choose. This size will feed a family of four for an entire season. There are many YouTube videos for constructing your own bed. A planting guide is included below for you to follow. We have a wonderful climate for growing many types of food in our area all throughout the year. One of the items not included in the list below is herbs. Pots make a great growing space for all kinds of herbs. Basil, Mint, Oregano, Chives, Rosemary, Curry, Sorrel, Parsley are just to name a few. These can be used in seasoning your food or making vinegars, salad dressings or flavored waters. All vegetables and herbs need at least 6-8 hours of full sun for optimal growth potential and remember to use organic soil.

Home farming makes a great family project and if you have school-age children it can be a learning experience and experiment in Science, Math and History. Get their hands in the soil and teach them where their food actually comes from, how to measure the beds, how the sun creates Photosynthesis, how worms aerate the soil and how food is harvested. They can also learn about the history of food and how certain vegetables and herbs came to live in the southern region of the United States. Everyone will enjoy it so much more and it truly gives you a sense of respect and awe for Mother Nature.

If you decide not to grow your own food this season, there are many options for purchasing local, organic, non-gmo food right in your Dilworth Neighborhood. The Charlotte Tailgate Farmers Market in Southend and the 7th St. Public Market in downtown to name a couple. Visit localharvest.org to see a complete listing in the area. Because we live in a rich agriculture section of North Carolina, another option we are fortunate to have is the local farms in the metro area. There are numerous farms in Union, Mecklenburg, Cabarrus and Stanly Counties that provide meat, produce, flowers and even a distillery that make-up some of the variety you can purchase locally. Get to know your farmer and how they treat the land, produce and livestock and you will truly know where your food comes from. Every family can have their own personal farmer and the Charlotte area has organized farm

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Dilworth Community Garden

Inside | Out Charlotte

Did you know... The Dilworth Community Garden has been selected as a Community Partner for *Inside | Out Charlotte*? What, you say, is *Inside | Out Charlotte*? *Inside | Out* is a community-activated art project that places framed, high quality reproductions of artworks in neighborhoods across selected cities, funded by the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation. For Dilworth, this means starting on May 8, the Dilworth Community Garden will showcase two artworks that are currently on display at The Bechtler Museum of Modern Art and The Harvey B. Gantt Center for African American Arts + Culture. Latta Park is a Community Partner too! Come check out both sites. They will be on display until July 8. Stay tuned to the Dilworth Express for fun community activities focused around both of these installations. ■

April 27: Earth Day at the Dilworth Community Garden

Below: Cortney Molino
Top right: Marlene Marti
Bottom right: Heather Ruckerstuhl and
Carol Poteat



The Mulch Crew



The Work Crew



Karen Broome and Suzi Rosen

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Neighborhood Environment

Update on Latta Park

By Nancy Nicholson

Slowly but surely, we are making progress in Latta Park. A few of our latest accomplishments and plans follow:

Douglas Tallamy's *Bringing Nature Home* has been provided to Dilworthians by a neighbor wanting you to know more about making Latta more livable to wildlife and people. Its subtitle is *How You Can Sustain Wildlife with Native Plants* which describes what this book is about. It is a must read for inspiration and information, and we hope that you will keep the books moving from one person to another to further educate Latta supporters. They have been put in the *Little Free Libraries* at the following locations, and we ask that they be returned to the one from which you get it:

- 1231 East Worthington Ave.
- 413 East Worthington Ave.
- 1010 Lexington Ave.
- 1618 Park Road
(corner of E. Kingston Ave.)

The Charlotte Woodworkers' Association has made 12 birdhouses from wood donated by Lowe's on South Blvd. These houses are especially important because Parks and Recreation is not able to leave up dead trees due to risk of injury to park visitors. The houses will have entrance holes primarily for Bluebirds and Nuthatches, but will also be used by Wrens, Titmice and Chickadees. They will be installed by Parks and Recreation.

We are presently in discussion about a pollinator garden installation this coming fall as well as renovation to the decaying amphitheater that was used for several weddings during the last year. We believe that there are many ways it can be utilized by schools, families, theater groups, and more.

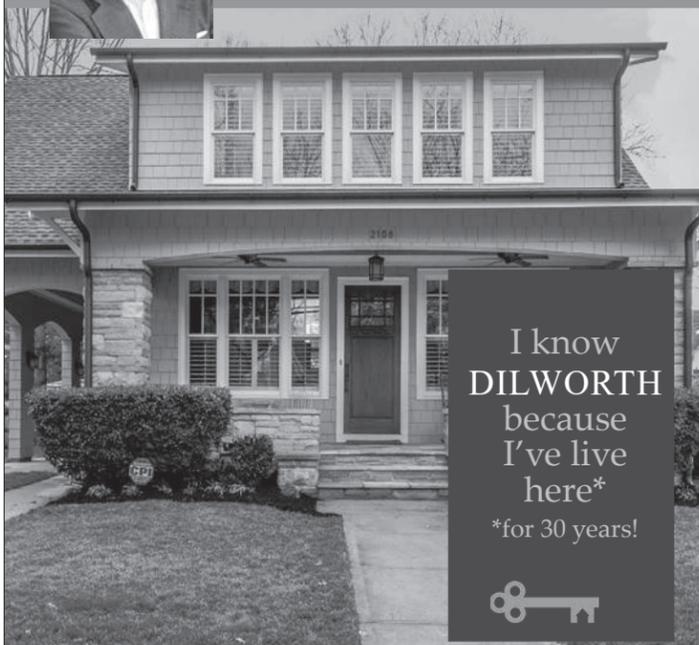
Our recent almost monthly workdays have been used to remove Canker Worm tree banding, spread mulch and invasive removal. As you may know, we planted 34 native trees donated and watered by *TreesCharlotte* last November.

If you would like to be added to our volunteer list, please contact nancyenicholson@gmail.com ■





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Merchant News

By Mary Beth Sensabaugh

DILWORTH FACIAL PLASTIC SURGERY At Dilworth Facial Plastic Surgery, Dr. Andrea Garcia and Dr. Josh Surowitz are masters in the art of facial rejuvenation and hair restoration. As dual board-certified, fellowship-trained facial plastic surgeons, Drs. Surowitz and Garcia have the skills and expertise to deliver uncompromising, long-lasting, natural results. Our cutting edge two-surgeon collaborative model is a first in the greater Charlotte area and one of only a handful in the country. With our commitment to unparalleled patient care, combined with the skills and experience of our surgeons, we strive to be the gold standard in cosmetic and reconstructive facial plastic surgery, hair restoration and injectables. Mention *Dilworth Quarterly* to receive \$50 off Botox and injectable filler.

ED'S TAVERN, Dilworth's favorite neighborhood spot for over a decade, located at the corner of Park Road and Ideal Way, now features a huge new back patio with 10+ big screen TVs playing all of your favorite sports. Featuring a covered bar area, with garage doors to enjoy the open air and tons of fans to keep the breeze going even on the hottest of days, Ed's new patio is the place to be this summer! Ed's Tavern has evolved with the new deck, remodeled bathrooms, 30+ big screen TVs, 32 taps with local NC and regional craft beer, upgraded pub grub, and the best chicken wings in town. Live music, pool tables, bar games, and Charlotte's best trivia on Wednesday and Thursday nights (voted by CL readers for 10 years) provide endless entertainment. New owners Lance and Tina Blundell invite you to stop by and say hello. Ask for GM Mike Morelli and introduce yourself! www.edstavern.com



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Dilworth Tasting Room

By Beth Booker

Upon walking into Dilworth Tasting Room the vibe is warm, modest and friendly. While the wine and food selection is top-tier (we'll get to that in a bit), there is no sense of intimidation when you can't pronounce a certain wine or when you don't know which cheese pairs best with a glass of Côtes du Rhône. Owner Jaffer Kovic and the staff will make you feel comfortable immediately.

The décor is minimalistic, but simply stunning. The bar, made of copper steel and mahogany, seats 17-18 people and is one of a kind with intricate metal work and wooded detail. The columns

are also constructed with mahogany, as well as carriage bolt and angle iron. Perhaps one of the coolest aspects of the interior of Dilworth Tasting Room is that a majority of the renovations of the 2,800-square-foot space can be credited to Hase Kovic, the owner's father — including the columns within the space, the bar and the wine racks. Among the metals and mahogany are red couches and navy booths that really stand out.

Apart from the gorgeous interior, Dilworth Tasting Room has an incredible patio with a garden and a copper-top outdoor courtyard bar (also built by Hase Kovic) that we are sure will be a go-to spot for Charlotteans this summer. It's one of the main reasons we

come back time and time again. It boasts a koi fish pond, soothing fountains and beautiful greenery. At night the party lights that hang from above only add to the relaxing ambiance.

Now, let's get down to the good stuff — the wine and food. We're far from wine experts, but luckily the staff is very accommodating in helping you figure out which wines you would like to try. Even if you can't choose just one, there are wine flights — yes, finally a flight for us winos to enjoy! You can choose either three white wines for \$18, or three red wines for \$22. Whether you want champagne, whites, reds or something a little sweeter, there's something for everyone— including beer drinkers, who will appreciate the solid list of beers from all over the world. Their selections are constantly changing, giving you even more of an excuse to frequently drop in.

Whether you're just looking for a little nosh or your sweet tooth is calling your name, we think you'll be satisfied with Dilworth Tasting Room's menu. If you're a cheese lover, you will be spoiled with choices — and we all know nothing goes better with wine than cheese! Our absolute favorite thing on the menu is the Burrata. Imagine the creamiest, most delicious cheese you've



ever had. Then imagine it with basil pesto and bread. Seriously, go try it and thank us later. Another SB favorite is the baguette truffled cheese melt — it's like a grilled cheese for adults.

If you are watching your diet and don't want to eat your weight in bread and cheese like the rest of us, there are definitely healthy options for you to choose from, such as the DTR Salad or a snack caddy with mixed nuts and olives.

Dilworth Tasting Room is exactly what the South End/Dilworth area needed — a neighborhood bar with a simplistic and delicious menu and a killer wine list. The awesome patio doesn't hurt either! Whether

you are looking for a date night spot, somewhere to unwind after work, a laid-back, yet classy place to take your in-laws, or if you just need a night out with the girls, Dilworth Tasting Room is the place to go.

Dilworth Tasting Room is located at 300 E. Tremont St., Charlotte NC 28203. Hours are Monday through Thursday, 4 p.m. to 10 p.m.; Saturday, 1 p.m. to 11 p.m.; Sunday, 1 p.m. to 8 p.m.



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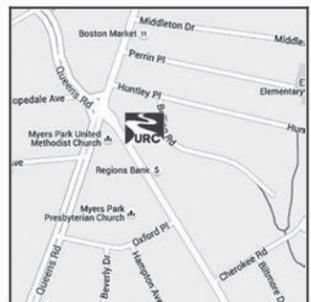
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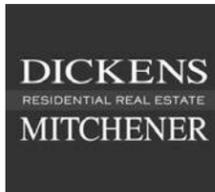
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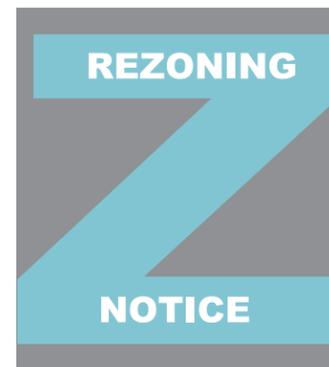
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Land Use

331 East Boulevard to be Demolished

By Ellen Citarella

The apartment building at 331 East Boulevard was built around 1925 and was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1987. Located on the corner of Euclid and East Boulevard, it is described in the register as follows: Apartments, brick. Two and a half story, side gable roofed with triangular brackets. Two-tier full facade shed porch with brick piers on first floor, paired posts and shingled balustrade on second. Central gable with stucco and timbering. circa 1925.

This Tudor Revival apartment building is one of the first of its kind in Dilworth, and most assuredly the oldest remaining today. According to the rental web site, the Charlotte style quadruplex apartments have two bedrooms, one bath, hardwood floors, a living room, large dining room, kitchen with appliances and an awesome balcony in front. The units were completely redone last year, according to the web site, and rent for fifteen hundred dollars per month. Hardly seems possible for a historical and profitable building like this to be destroyed, doesn't it?

You may remember the funky Magic Maze costume shop, which used to sit on the lot next to this apartment building. A two and a half story wood frame bungalow built in 1915 and owned by the same property owner, it was demolished 100 years after it was built. The building was allowed to deteriorate to the point that the damage was irreparable.

The demolition of the Magic Maze left five out of thirteen original buildings on this magnificent block of East Boulevard still standing. When/if 331 East Blvd. gets demolished, there will be a scant four remaining.

The pattern repeats itself all along East Boulevard, where the majority of the beautiful original grand homes have either been demolished or modified beyond recognition.

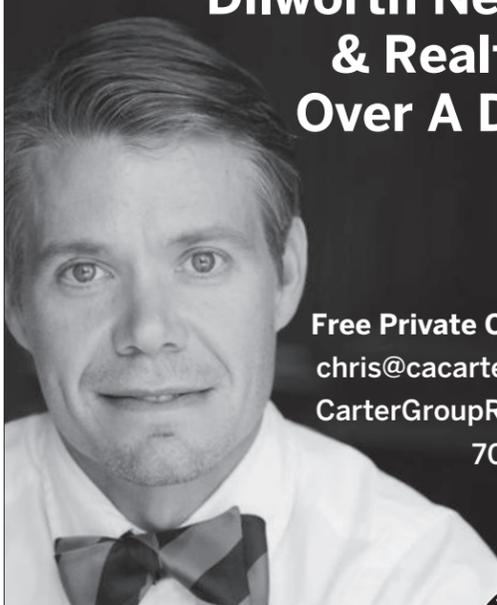
Plans for this lot and the one next to it have not yet been shared, but if we look to the west all along South Boulevard we



know what can happen.

Hopefully, someday Charlotte's historic districts will have the power to prevent our historic buildings from being torn down to simply make room for another average infill construction opportunity. Until that day comes, the loss of this building will remove another important thread from the fabric of our beautiful and historic Dilworth neighborhood. ■

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Point

Counter Point

CMS Student Reassignment Plan

In order to address the overcrowding at Dilworth Elementary (DE), operating at 120% capacity, and the underutilized Sedgefield Elementary (SE), operating at 89% capacity and to "decrease the number of schools with high concentration of poor and high needs students" and to increase "equitable access to quality schools", the following changes have been proposed: Reassign students within the I-277 loop from DE to First Ward Creative Arts Academy and reassign students from one area of Sedgefield from SE to Marie G. Davis school. In the remaining Dilworth and Sedgefield areas, students would attend SE for K-2, DE for 3-5, Sedgefield Middle (SMS), and Myers Park High School.

Here are arguments for and against from two Dilworth residents. *These opinions do not reflect those of the DCA or the board.*

Pro

By Holly Wood

Having grown up a CMS student during the height of forced busing in the 70s/80s, the issue of school boundaries is not a new one to me. I attended Beverly Woods Elementary for 1st-3rd grades, was bussed across town to Barringer Elementary for 4-6th grades, then attended Carmel Jr. High and South Meck High. When I was a junior at South, our school lines were redrawn and my younger brother was assigned to Myers Park High, while I continued at South. We had a loving rivalry his sophomore and my senior year.

Perhaps as a parent with children at a CMS magnet school, I should not have a voice in what happens with the changes proposed for Dilworth and Sedgefield elementary and middle schools. However, my children's magnet school was targeted in phase 1 of the CMS strategy to equalize schools. And, as a Dilworth homeowner and a taxpayer deeply invested in public schools, I feel that I absolutely have a say. My husband and I are strong advocates for public education, believing that our community prospers when we invest in the education of our young as opposed to prisons down the road. As many are aware, a recent study found Charlotte to be 50 out of 50 in upward mobility when born into poverty. That's dead last out of 50! The Charlotte Opportunity Task Force found that inequality in our public schools is a prime reason for this. Sitting in my Dilworth home, listening to helicopters overhead for weeks during the uptown riots last fall, I was once again inarguably reminded that something needs to be done about the disparity that exists in this great city that we like to think of as a leader in the New South.

My experience attending a 1st-3rd grade school and being bussed to a separate 4th-6th grade school was nothing but positive. I say this unequivocally and attribute it to a couple of things. First, I came from a supportive middle-class family that valued education. I truly believe that I could have attended school anywhere and done well because I had loving, involved parents. Second, my parents did not make a big deal about it. I

continued on page 31

Con

By Amanda Pipkin Anderson

1. Why in such a hurry?

The school board and superintendent have given the public less than a month to respond to this incredibly complex proposal. The public was notified on April 25th, the first public hearing is on May 9, and the board is scheduled to vote on May 24th. In addition to this rushed timeframe, the CMS leadership is in transition. Ann Clark will step aside for the new superintendent on July 1, 2017. Of the nine current board members, six are at the end of their four year terms and three of these will not be running for office in November. Due to this timeframe the current leadership will vote on a sweeping measure for which they will not be responsible.

2. Isn't there a simpler way to correct the issue of DE overcrowding?

Yes. The CMS proposal re-assigns the I-277 loop students to First Ward Creative Arts Academy. This change alone brings DE to 10% below capacity. Alternatively, CMS could (a) reassign the current DE enrollment area East of S. Kings and Sterling to Myers Park Traditional, or (b) rezone part of the current DE enrollment area in Myers Park to Eastover Elementary, or (c) redistrict the area South of Lilac Rd. and West of Sugar Creek and/or the Ideal Way corridor to SE. In these scenario grades K-5 would be maintained at DE and SE and more current DE students would attend an elementary school closer to home.

3. Is DE too economically and racially segregated?

No. DE has a student population that more closely reflects the overall demographics of the county than many other CMS schools. Based on CMS' diversity report, Dilworth students are 2.3% Asian (17), 3.2% Hispanic (23), 22.3% Black (160), 0.3% Pacific Islander (2), and 72% White (514). In comparison, Mecklenburg County is approximately 3% - 5% Asian, 7% -13% Hispanic, 27% - 31% African American, 50%-65% White, and 2% other. CMS' plan is based on a calculation of "socio-economic status" (SES) where low SES is not designated by poverty-level income but is the lowest ranking one-third of geographic blocks

continued on page 25

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Dilworth Express

The *Dilworth Express* goes out weekly to residents and Dilworth businesses who have signed up to receive it. The challenge today is that email filters can channel this type of communicate to your SPAM folder.

So for those of you that aren't seeing the *Dilworth Express*, check your Spam folder as you may be actually be receiving it! If it's still not there and you'd like to get this weekly summary of what's going on in Dilworth, send an email requesting the *Dilworth Express* to: express@dilworthonline.org.

NOTE: We are changing the address used to send the *Dilworth Express* from mathesond2002@yahoo.com to express@dilworthonline.org. So regular readers may also need to look in their Spam folder and "ok" the new email address. ■

Assignment Plan: Con continued from page 23

of households which reported low income, single-parent families, rental properties, and fewer years of parental education in 2014. Using these metrics DE has more low SES students than 51 other schools and a lower concentrations of high SES students than 13 other schools. It is possible that Dilworth will gain more medium SES students with the construction of many new apartment complexes around the neighborhood. While it is true CMS needs to address the resegregation of schools that has occurred since the 1990s, the pairing of DE and SE does not solve this problem. (For more see: <http://www.charlotteobserver.com/news/local/education/article147389089.html>).

4. Is the reassignment of AG students to SMS due to overcrowding?

No. The proposal seems to move students from a less crowded school (AG) to a more crowded school (SMS). SMS would be at 118% capacity after the proposed changes, nearly identical to the current percentage at DE.

5. Does the redistricting of AG students to SMS meet CMS's goal to eliminate split feeds?

No. This proposal appears to create an additional split feed that does not currently exist. Pinewood Elementary will now feed into SMS or AG, depending on the area. Previously, only Pinewood fed SMS.

6. Will this plan significantly impact diversity at AG and SES?

No and yes. The impact on AG seems negligible; AG's high SES will decrease slightly from 66% to 61%. On the other hand SMS' number of low SES students will decrease noticeably from 77% to 51%. Although this would likely benefit SMS, unfortunately this low SES population removed from the AG and SMS would be shifted to other lower SES schools such as Marie G. Davis K-8 (65% low SES) exacerbating the situation elsewhere. ■

45th Annual Dilworth Home Tour

Save The Date to Volunteer!

September 15-16, 2017

Please join this annual neighborhood event by volunteering to staff one of the beautiful Dilworth residences on tour this year. This is a great opportunity to catch up with old friends and meet new neighbors!

Proceeds from the tour benefit the non-profit Dilworth Community Association and its efforts to preserve the integrity and community of our neighborhood with such events as the fall Dilworth Jubilee and Conquer the Cankerworm tree banding.

A portion of Tour proceeds support the DCA's giving arm, Dilworth Cares. Dilworth Cares designates a local charity to receive funds from several neighborhood functions throughout the year. This year's recipient is Dilworth Soup Kitchen.

Volunteer shifts are Friday, September 15, 6:00 - 9:00 p.m., and two shifts on Saturday, September 16, 10:00 a.m - 4:00 p.m.

For more information, contact volunteers4DHT@gmail.com. To sign up to volunteer, visit our Sign-Up Genius page (www.signupgenius.com/go/5080f45aea62da7f58-dilworth) ■.



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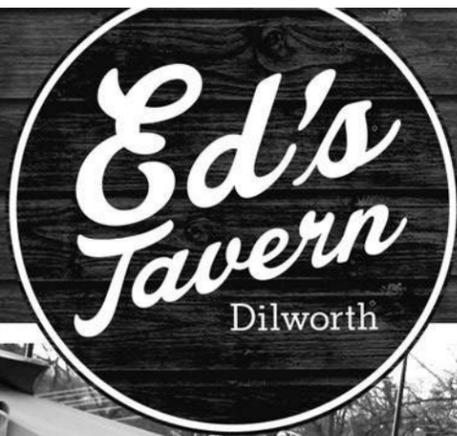
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Dilworth Ladies Spring Party

By Cindy Miller

Theory Design on East Boulevard buzzed with tremendous energy on April 27 as the Dilworth Spring Party commenced. Ladies greeted each other over sandwich bites, shrimp cocktail, gourmet deviled eggs, and more, provided by Earl's Grocery. They toasted with wine and Champagne provided by Vin Master, located in Atherton Mill. Opened last year as a design studio, Theory's beautiful retail space showcases furniture and gifts for every occasion. Guests became familiar with these items while pondering which raffle prizes to dedicate their tickets to that evening. The background music provided by Keith Serpa of Lessons & Sessions complimented the conversations between neighbors new and old and lent itself nicely to the warm vibe of the party. Everyone enjoyed the opportunity to pause from the busyness of April to connect and give back to



the Dilworth community; this year to support the efforts of the Dilworth Soup Kitchen. We are grateful to our sponsors. Please remember them and support them as they have supported us:

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Tom Sykes Rec Center Programs

Summer Calendar

Pre-registration is required for all programs. You can register online at www.parkandrec.com, by calling Tom Sykes Recreation Center at 98/314-1113 or by stopping by the center. For more information about all of Tom Sykes Recreation Center programs contact Justin Clarke at Justin.Clarke@mecklenburgcountync.gov

Volunteer Coaches Needed!

Tom Sykes Recreation Center needs coaches for:
Youth Flag Football, Flag Football Cheerleading
July 1st Registration;
Season: August-October

Contact: TomSykesRecreationCenter@MecklenburgCountyNC.Gov

YOUTH SPORTS

Lil Ray Basketball

Registration July 18- Aug. 19. Participants learn the basics and fundamentals of football in a recreational setting. Games played on Saturdays. A fun and instructional basketball program for 3-4 year olds. Participants will learn basic basketball fundamentals, team building and socialization skills.

When: to be announced

Ages: 3-4

Cost: \$45

Tom Sykes Flag Football

Registration July 1. Participants learn the basics and fundamentals of football in a recreational setting. Games played on Saturdays

When: Practices begin early August

Ages: 5-8

Cost: \$65

Tom Sykes Flag Football Cheer

Registration July 1. Tom Sykes Cheer teaches participants the basics of cheer including arm motions, chants and cheers. Will perform at Flag Football Games

When: Tuesdays 6:00-7:00pm

Ages: 5-12

Cost: \$65, includes uniform, pompons, trophy

Triple Threat Basketball Shootout

Come Join us for the first annual Tom Sykes Triple Threat Basketball Shootout! Participants will play in 3 point and Hot Shot Contests and a 3 on 3 tournament. There will be food, free t-shirt giveaways and prizes! Sign up begins August 1

When: September 23, 9 am-5pm

Ages: 10 and up

Where: Tom Sykes Gymnasium

Cost: \$20 includes food voucher and t-shirt

PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS

Music Together of Charlotte

Music Together is children and their grownups joyfully sharing songs, rhymes, movement, and instrument play, both in music class and in their daily lives. A pioneer in early childhood music and movement education, Music Together offers classes in which parents and caregivers actively participate.

When: Mon.-Sat.

Ages: 8 months - 5 years

Contact: musictogetherofcharlotte@gmail.com

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Fall Cycle Registration August 1

When: Every Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday, 2:45pm-4:30pm

Ages: 5-10

Cost: \$5 per class (snack included)

Intro to Sports

Participants will have fun learning the basics of a different sport each week. Soccer, football, basketball and nontraditional sports will be explored.

Fort Building

Using teamwork and engineering skills, participants will design a template for their forts and build them together with materials gathered from around the facility.

Art Adventures

Explore drawing, painting, etc. designed around themes to develop your imagination & observation skills.

Lego Engineering

Learn by making & develop creative, social and expressive skills. We will work together to build cool projects.

Interactive Gaming

Sharpen your skills through latest interactive video games along with lots of board games, air hockey, foosball, basketball shot, etc.

Lights-Camera-Action!

Participants will enjoy theatre art through group interaction incorporating short plays, music, prop building, puppet shows, learning sound effects while have fun! Participants will perform a play for family & friends.

Combo Days

Join us as we combine our regularly scheduled programs. Combo days will only be when we have a 5th week in the month and we will rotate the scheduled activities.

When: 5th of each month

SUMMER CAMPS

SPOTS MAY BE AVAILABLE!

(call to inquire about waiting list)

When: Monday-Friday, 8am-5pm

Age: 9-12 Years

Cost: \$100

Week 1: June 19 - 23 Say "Yes" to the Mess Art Week

This is the quintessential arts and crafts week! A literal hodgepodge of activities and mediums that include crayons, pottery, clay, duct tape, etc... the sky is the limit! We'll use all the good crafty verbs guaranteed to inspire: Sketching, blending, carving, molding, sculpting, pasting, painting!

Week 2: June 26 - 30 Hut, Hut! SYKE! Sports Week

Sports week will offer a variety of traditional sports. Discipline, Sportsmanship, and Integrity are some character development traits that will be presented in this fun and positive environment. Learn new skills as we explore a new specialty sport each day. Camps are designed for all ability levels (no experience necessary).

Week 3: July 3- 7 H2O + Sun = Fun! Swim Week

Jump into this week for unique swimming experiences with pool games and splash parks. Our daily activities will include classes on basic first aid and water safety skills. We will focus on pool and splash ground safety while learning about proper pool and park etiquette.

Week 4: July 10 - 14 Around the World in 5 Days Culture Week

Get your passport stamped as we travel around the world visiting different cultures/countries/customs through games, crafts and food. Track where we are traveling daily and celebrate international customs and diversity!

Week 5: July 17 - 21 So You Think You Can Act? Theatre Week

Calling all superstars to step into the spotlight and showcase your talents through skits, games, dance, music and creative arts. Enter our Tom Sykes Talent Show and show us the Next Big Thing!

Week 6: July 24 - 28 Natural Explorers Adventure Land Week

Great adventures await campers in this week filled with conquering great obstacle courses, outdoor activities an adventure through the nature trails and more!

Week 7: July 31 - Aug.4 Summer Safari Animal Week

Come take a walk on the WILD side! Participants will have fun engaging in the natural habitats of animals through everyday summer camp experiments and hands on activities. Get up close and personal with some of your favorite mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians!

Week 8: Aug.4 - 11 Under Construction! Builders Week

Your creative builder will have a chance to test their best building techniques building LEGO and KNEK projects and use their imaginations to build their own projects. Campers will learn hands on techniques that will allow them to become creative thinkers, problem solvers and effectively work in organized teams. ■

YOUTH PROGRAMS

Piano Lessons

Piano lessons available for all ages and skill levels!

When: Monday and Wednesda, Beginning at 4:30pm

Cost: Half Hour Lesson - \$23

Contact: Amouel Brackett at amouel@aol.com or 704/965-1235 ■

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what people might be interested in as evidenced by the success of his business and the longevity of his gallery. When asked what were his criteria for selecting an artist, Larry said, "It's generally uniqueness. Is it well executed? Will it work in my market? Can I persuade people to buy it? Is the price point right? ... I want things that are challenging." (Full disclosure: I have five paintings and three sculptures from his gallery.)

"I used to be an artist for years," Larry said. "It's important to note that I was definitely not a great artist, but I did OK. I had some success with it. Sold some."

When the Elders lived in Spartanburg in their mid to late twenties, Larry had their garage converted into a studio; a conversion that garnered placement in Southern Living magazine! Beyond brush to canvas, he was heavily involved in the Spartanburg art scene and a past president of the Artists' Guild of Spartanburg.

The business acumen comes from a near 30-year career in technology training and education; one that included taking two internet tech start-ups public. "Ultimately, it dawned on me that it's time to do what I want to do. This is my chance to do it alone," Larry states. "I think I can make a go of it if I operate it like a business, and maybe I can have some success where other people have failed."

"I probably could have made more money if I had 'gone to

the other side' and offered more Tuscan landscapes," Larry said. "I don't feel compelled to sell art that might match someone's decor. If I were struggling and that's what I had to do to stay in business, I would have closed up my shop."

When asked what art exhibits he might have regretted putting on, Larry answered characteristically, "I'll have to stand by all the shows I did. I feel an obligation to educate people; to see beyond the immediate. I'm there to challenge." He cited three large pieces that leaned against his desk that I had glanced at with minimal interest when I walked in. The series, by Sally Bennett, an 80-year-old woman, was created by cutting thin strips from six original paintings and then weaving these strips together to ultimately create the three final artworks. Well that's cool! "Challenged?"... check!

For several years Larry put on "Carolina's Got Art", the third largest juried art show of its type in the nation, using both the number of entries and award money offered as criteria. This show brought in a broad variety of artwork as well as public excitement. While one of his most significant accomplishments for him, Larry admitted it was the hardest thing he'd ever done. And quite a challenge in a city like Charlotte, where we usually read more about a new pub opening than we do about a significant art event. Charlotte's art community has historically had a difficult time getting sufficient public exposure.

The gallery has also been a place for issues close to both Larry and Janice. Cecile Richards, president of the national Planned Parenthood, has spoken several times at events sponsored by Elder Gallery. And the Democratic National Convention brought the likes of Joe and Jill Biden, Quest Love, and journalists from The Guardian and other media for panel discussions on issues of significance.

So now what?

Janice and Larry will do some extensive traveling in both the U.S. and Europe, as well as take advantage of their mountain home near Tryon.

And adhering to Dylan Thomas' suggestion of "don't go gentle into that good night", Larry has signed a lease at the Dilworth Artisan Station to house the Carl Plansky art collection he purchased in 2012 and will be promoting henceforth. This in addition to divesting of a number of other original artworks and transitioning the gallery to new owners.

Look for a public announcement in early July of the new owners of Elder Art Gallery. They plan to expand on the venue rental component, bring new artists to complement those that have been successful in the past, continue community outreach and education, and expand into areas of their own interest.

So CHEERS to you Larry (and Janice too!) as you enter the next phase of your journey!

And we look forward to going to the next gallery where "everybody knows your name", whoever the new owners are! ■

revitalize this neighborhood jewel is an outstanding example of volunteer neighbors partnering with business and government to produce amazing results.

As we get into summer, be sure to visit the **Summer Connections** page in this *Quarterly* issue to find babysitters, pet sitters and walkers, house sitters, plant waterers and young helpers with your summer chores. This annual publication will introduce folks to hire from right here in Dilworth to help you get you through the summer vacation season.

We would always love to see you at a **Dilworth Community Association monthly meeting**, held the first Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Tom Sykes Center, at 1501 Euclid Avenue. Meet the DCA board and learn what is going on in our community.

If you'd like to get more involved, visit the Dilworth web site (www.dilworthonline.org) and sign up to receive the *Dilworth Express* newsletter. This weekly email will keep you up to date on happenings and opportunities around the neighborhood.

Enjoy your summer and I look forward to seeing you around Dilworth. ■

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don't recall hearing them complain about it once. Of course, they were supporters of integrated schools, believing that until our neighborhoods are integrated, we must go the extra distance to integrate our schools. I believe that children feed off the anxiety of the adults in their lives, and am grateful that my parents played it cool.

Until our neighborhoods are integrated, neighborhood schools will never reflect the diversity of our city. This is a big part of why we chose to have our children attend a more diverse magnet school in CMS, in which they are actually a minority. Of course, so many insist on wanting their child to attend the school closest to home. The fact that Dilworth residents bypass Sedgefield Middle to attend AG Middle School runs counter to this argument.

The baby step CMS has taken toward bringing about more equality in our schools was the easiest move for taxpayers to swallow, because the changes for the most part make more geographical sense. The district has provided Dilworth and other urban neighborhoods an excellent opportunity to lead by example. Let's show how racially and socio-economically diverse schools are, in fact, superior for ALL students. This fact has been shown in study after study (<https://tcf.org/content/facts/the-benefits-of-socioeconomically-and-racially-integrated-schools-and-classrooms/>). Let's embrace this change and show that caring about the future of ALL students (beyond the walls of our own homes) makes our city and our world a better place. ■

tours in the spring and fall almost every year. The Cooperative Extension Agency (CEA) in your county should have a complete listing of all the farmers in the area. At the CEA office you can also have soil samples done for free after April 18 to see what amendments would be best suited for your soil.

In addition, there are many community gardens in the Charlotte area and one notably in Dilworth. These community gardens create an easy, safe and productive way to not only grow food, but meet your neighbors and create a sacred sense of community right where you live. This year Myron Greer Garden Design will donate this Sign of Spring to be constructed in May.

We are honored to give back to our community in this way and hope you will join us in growing this community garden for all to enjoy. ■



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