




THE McCRORIAN

· YOUR NEWS IN MCCROREY HEIGHTS ·



President Sean Langley



Spring into Action!

Greetings Neighbors,

Spring is here and this is indeed the season of new beginnings. Dormant plants begin to grow again, flowers are blooming, new seedlings sprout out of the ground again, and hibernating animals awaken.

But spring is also also a time for us as a community to get outside and enjoy this weather. I have seen many of you walking, laughing with neighbors, and sprucing up your yards. All are positive signs of a healthy and productive community.

I encourage you to continue to do this and make connections with neighbors that you don't know. After all, spring is a season of new beginnings.

Look forward to seeing each and every one of you very soon.

Your President,
Sean Langley



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NEIGHBORHOOD HISTORY 1974

Dr. Emery Rann was named one of the “100 Most Influential Black Americans” in 1974 by Ebony Magazine for his pioneering work in desegregating hospitals and medical organizations. He was born in Keystone, West Virginia, on March 9, 1914, and raised in a family of educators. He graduated from Johnson C. Smith University and the University of Michigan, earning degrees in biology before beginning his first career as a teacher. He later graduated from Meharry Medical College in Nashville and moved back to Charlotte to open his own medical practice.

He was the first black physician to be accepted into the Mecklenburg County Medical Society and the North Carolina Medical Society and one of the first African Americans to secure hospital privileges at Charlotte Memorial Hospital.

Dr. Rann was an avid writer, having published two manuscripts of his poetry and recollections, "Beat of the Tom-Toms" and "Potpourri." He was also an elder in Memorial United Presbyterian Church. Despite his numerous accomplishments, Dr. Rann remained racially conscious throughout his life. His courageous and effective advocacy for civil rights won him a reputation as a pioneer in desegregating hospitals and medical organizations, earning him a place among the nation's “100 Most Influential Black Americans” in 1974 by Ebony Magazine.

Executive Committee



Shauna Bell
Vice President:
Quality of Life



Veronica Marshall
Secretary



Angela Stoyanovitch
Vice President:
Land Use &
Property Matters



**Rosemary
Lawrence-Young**
Financial Secretary



Winston Robinson
Vice President:
Community Engagement



Annie Alexander
Treasurer



Samantha Taylor
HDC Commissioner
(McCrorey Heights Rep.)
**Pending*

OUR STORY

A Pioneering Legacy That Schooled Us All

Elizabeth "Libby" Schmoke Randolph was a trailblazing woman in top leadership at Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools during the 1960s to 1970s, and her husband John D. Randolph was a maintenance supervisor at Charlotte's Brookhill Village apartment homes. Elizabeth "Libby" Randolph was Principal at University Park Elementary when the couple moved here. During the 1960s, as a CMS administrator, she launched kindergarten classes across the school district.



March 18, 1917 – December 4, 2004

She rose to become Assistant Superintendent in the 1970s, the first African American female to co-lead the district, and was celebrated as WBT Woman of the Year – one of the city's highest honors. The main building of the Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools administrative campus is named in her memory.

Randolph grew up in a remarkable family, her father John Hagan Schmoke saved enough on a carpenter's wages to raise six children, four of whom went to college. Her mother, Pearl Johnson Schmoke, was a teacher and had a significant influence on her. Randolph enrolled at Shaw University, the first HBCU to achieve university status in 1873 and known for pioneering offerings in medicine and law. Through all of that, Shaw set its primary task as training teachers. After graduating, she took positions throughout North Carolina. First, in the mountains of Rutherford County, then in the village of Wake Forest, then in the small city of Burlington. In 1944 the superintendent in Charlotte, Dr. Elmer Garinger, hired her to come to the state's largest city. At West Charlotte High, she quickly became a beloved teacher of English, also supervising the drama program and Student Council.

Later that year, Dr. Garinger tapped Randolph to be the founding principal at the new University Park Elementary School, a position of significant importance in the era of segregation. In 1959 she and husband John took out the permit to build the house at 1616 Patton Avenue in McCrorey Heights. John Daniel Randolph passed away in 1963. In 1964, U.S. President Lyndon B. Johnson launched the War on Poverty, which aimed to use government to better the lives of Americans living in poverty. The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission was established, and by the end of the decade, the Civil Rights Act and the Voting Rights Act were signed into law. These initiatives impacted schools and Randolph's work, and her contributions to education proved to be instrumental in the progress made in this field. She continued to influence and support students and their families, and her impact is still felt to this day.

OUR STORY CTD.

Randolph's legacy in education is evident in the main building of the Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools administrative campus named in her memory. Her commitment to education and dedication to creating equal opportunities for students regardless of their backgrounds and race are a true testament to her character and leadership skills. Elizabeth "Libby" Randolph was an inspiration to all those who knew her, and her legacy lives on through the countless lives she touched and impacted throughout her career. **M**

WHY THE FUSS OVER PAINTING EXTERIOR BRICK? **FROM THE HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION (HDC)**

As most of you may already know, painting brick is a huge no-no...not just within the historic districts of Charlotte but pretty much within the whole historic preservation community nationwide. So, why is painting brick so frowned upon? Here are four reasons:

- 1. It changes the original design and look of a mid-century modern house. These homes were generally designed with a more horizontal (shorter and longer) aesthetic in mind, and the elongated brick typically used for these homes contributes to that design detail. Many mid-century modern brick homes use brick to create patterns (through different color, textures and styles), which is another design detail specific to this style of house. But, painting brick is a style trend...and, trends pass (but the maintenance of painted brick stays).
- 2. Due to the busyness of our lives low maintenance has become an important consideration for homeowners. Brick, in its natural state, is a very low-maintenance building product. Once it is painted, though, it is no longer low maintenance – it will need to be repainted.
- 3. Painting brick can cover up unsightly elements of brick exteriors such as cracks. This can become a ‘buyer beware’ situation – without being able to see the natural brick the buyer probably can’t see the extent to which cracks may be affecting the structural integrity of the house.
- 4. But the most important reason why brick should not be painted is moisture issues. Brick is naturally a porous material, meaning that it needs to ‘breathe’ (i.e., the evaporation of and drying out of moisture). If exterior paint is applied to brick, then the brick has a ‘seal’ over it (the paint) which does not allow for the brick to breathe. If moisture gets trapped, then it becomes a source for the growth of mold and mildew – which can cause the paint on the brick to peel off. But, even worse than the paint peeling, the inability of painted brick to breathe can eventually lead to the structural failure of the brick.

So, please know that the primary reason for not allowing brick to be painted is to keep both the design and structural integrity of the house. This holds true for all masonry (brick, stone and concrete).

Look around your neighborhood and see all the beautiful variations of the unpainted mid-century modern homes and know that not only are they unique but they were built by skilled craftsman...and are timeless.

Please feel free to contact the HDC through email (charlottehdc@charlottenc.gov) or by phone (704.336.2205).

FEATURE

Cheers to 100 Years: Celebrating the Incredible Life of Mildred Grier on Her 100th Birthday!

Mildred Grier, a longtime educator and original homeowner in McCrorey Heights, will be celebrating her 100th birthday on May 10th, 2023. Mildred, a native of Charlotte's Third Ward neighborhood graduated from Second Ward High School in 1941, continuing to Johnson C. Smith University where she graduated in 1945. Mildred continued her educational pursuit with graduate studies at Columbia University in New York, NY before she began teaching in the small town of Fairmont in Robeson County, NC. She later returned to Charlotte with her husband and moved into the new home they built at 1640 Madison Avenue in 1958.



Mildred's commitment to education was evident throughout her life. She taught history and math at Rosenwald School in Fairmont and continued to make an impact in Charlotte as an educator. Her dedication to the community extended beyond the classroom as well. Among other organizations, she is a member of First Baptist West (for eighty-seven years), Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority incorporated, Las Amigas incorporated (Charlotte-Mecklenburg chapter), Metrolina Bridge Club of The American Bridge Association, and the McCrorey Heights Neighborhood Association, where she still actively participates in events. Her legacy as an educator and community leader continues to be an inspiration to many.

Mildred's commitment to education is a testament to her character and the impact she has had on the African-American community in Charlotte. Her contributions to education and community have left a lasting impact, and her birthday celebration is an ideal opportunity to give her the flowers that she deserves. As she celebrates her 100th birthday, Mildred's story serves as a reminder of fortunate McCrorey Heights is to have her as a member of our family. **M**

Mrs. Mildred Grier

AROUND THE WAY

Oaklawn Ave Takes a Step in the Right Direction with New Crosswalk Installation

McCrorey Heights residents can now look forward to a safer and more convenient pedestrian experience with the new installation of a crosswalk on Oaklawn Avenue. The crosswalk, which connects McCrorey Heights to the Oaklawn Cemetery and the Oaklawn neighborhood park, will provide a safer and more convenient route for residents to walk, jog, and bike. With the new crosswalk, pedestrians will be able to cross the busy road with greater ease and confidence, improving overall pedestrian

The crosswalk installation comes as a result of a concerted effort by local residents and city officials to prioritize pedestrian safety and accessibility. This new addition is part of a larger initiative by the city to create safer and more walkable neighborhoods. Some in McCrorey Heights are optimistic that the new crosswalk on Oaklawn Avenue could lead to the highly coveted concept known by many as “The Westside Trail”; a pedestrian trail that would run alongside Irwin Creek, reconnecting McCrorey Heights with downtown Charlotte as well as other Westside communities that were disrupted by the implementation of state and federal highways.



The installation of the new crosswalk is expected to have a positive impact on the community by encouraging physical activity, community engagement, and overall health and wellness. With safer and more accessible routes for pedestrians, residents of McCrorey Heights will be better able to enjoy the many amenities of the Oaklawn neighborhood park and beyond. Additionally, the new crosswalk is expected to help reduce traffic congestion and promote a cleaner, more sustainable environment for all. **M**

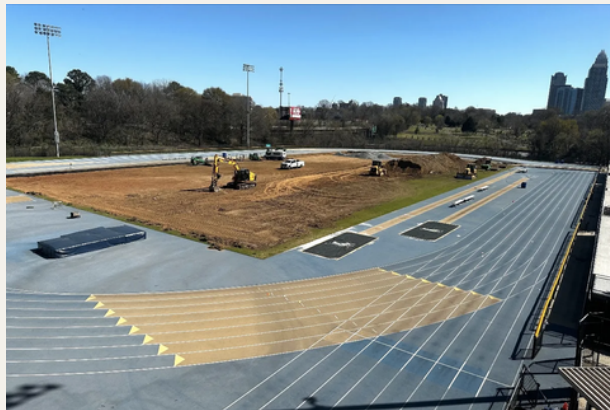


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AROUND THE WAY

JCSU Goes the Extra Yard with New Turf Football Field Installation

Johnson C. Smith University is set to install a new artificial turf field at Irwin Belk Stadium, set to be completed by May of 2023. This marks a significant improvement for the university's athletics program, providing a top-of-the-line facility for its football and track & field teams. The new field is expected to be a boom for the university, attracting both athletes and spectators alike.



The decision to install an artificial turf field came a little over a year after the Golden Bulls hired their former three-time All-American and All-CIAA quarterback Maurice Flowers (c/o '96) as head football coach. The new field should be a nod to the pass-happy, fast offense that Flowers has been known for since his days as offensive coordinator at Myers Park High School in the late 90's. The new field will also allow for more frequent and consistent use, without the need for extended periods of maintenance or recovery time. Additionally, the field will be more durable and weather-resistant than natural grass, ensuring that it remains in top condition for years to come. This will ultimately save the university time and money, allowing it to focus on other important initiatives.

The installation of the new field is part of a larger effort by Johnson C. Smith University to enhance its athletics program and provide the best possible experience for its student-athletes. The university is looking to return to a long tradition of excellence in athletics after the institution completely shut down in response to the 2020 pandemic. With the completion of the new turf field, Johnson C. Smith University will be well-positioned to attract top athletic recruits and provide a world-class sports experience for its entire community.

AROUND THE WAY

Clean Sweep: McCrorey Heights Neighbors Tidy Up Andrill Terrace

On Sunday April 2nd, McCrorey Heights held its first neighborhood clean-up of the year along the Andrill Terrace stretch that has long been notorious for illegal dumping. The clean-up, which started at 3:00pm, was attended by several community members who came together to beautify their neighborhood. The event was organized by President Sean Langley and the McCrorey Heights Neighborhood Association, whose mission is to improve the quality of life for residents by promoting community involvement and awareness. The clean-up was a great success, with volunteers collecting a large amount of litter and debris from the area.



The event was an excellent opportunity for residents to come together and make a positive impact on their community. The clean-up was an excellent example of the power of community involvement and showed how a small group of people can make a big difference. By working together, the volunteers were able to create a cleaner, more beautiful neighborhood that everyone can be proud of. The event also highlighted the importance of responsible waste management and the need for residents to take an active role in keeping our community clean and litter-free.

Overall, the first neighborhood clean-up of the year was a great success, and the McCrorey Heights Neighborhood Association is planning to hold more events throughout the year. By continuing to work together, the residents of McCrorey Heights can continue to make a positive impact on their community and create a more beautiful, safer, and more welcoming neighborhood for all. The association would like to thank everyone who participated in the event and encourages more people to get involved in future clean-ups and other community events. **M**



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THE GRAPEVINE

McCrorey Community Neighborhood Marketplace Announcements Recognitions

In Memoriam

It is with a heavy heart that we, the McCrorey Heights Neighborhood Association, mourn the passing of Miss Mary Hayden, the beloved sister of our dear neighbor Annie Alexander. Miss Hayden passed on March 14, 2023. We extend our heartfelt condolences to the Alexander & Hayden families during this difficult time.



New Construction

A new construction home is currently underway at 1921 Washington Ave in McCrorey Heights.



Neighborhood Yard Sale - Saturday, May 20, 2023



Need to do some spring cleaning? Donate items for our neighborhood yard sale on Saturday, May 20, 2023. All proceeds will go to the MH Neighborhood Association. More details to follow but start collecting those items now!

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Quality of Life Committee

The Quality of Life committee has two main goals for this year: making sure the neighborhood is safe and secure and making sure everyone feels welcome. We're hard at work on a number of things that will help us reach these goals.

Block and Street Captains: Block and street captains will help us stay in touch with our neighbors, make sure everyone gets the same information, and keep the area and its people safe. On the next pages, you can read about the roles and duties of these important positions. If you are interested in serving as a street or block leader, please email Mrs. Marilyn Twitty Brown at matmbrown52@gmail.com.

Street lights: We are working with the city to fix purple street lights and repair ones that have burned out. If you see one of these lights, please call, text, or email Shauna Bell at 513-850-2322 or shaunabell@gmail.com.



(L-R) Rosemary Lawrence Young, Kamaria Lawrence, Marilyn Twitty Brown, Shauna Bell, Monique Hibma

Welcome packets: It's important to make links and get to know new people in the neighborhood by giving them a welcome packet. We are putting together welcome packets that will tell people about the rich history of McCrorey Heights, give them useful information like when trash will be picked up, and encourage them to get involved in the neighborhood events.

Celebrations: As a neighborhood, we want to celebrate birthdays, anniversaries, graduations, and any other great things occurring with our neighbors. We will recognize them in our monthly newsletter and at our monthly meetings.

Neighborhood Directory: We are updating the directory so that we all know how to get in touch with each other when we need to.

What we need from you?

Your information! Please fill out [this](https://tinyurl.com/MHAquestionnaire) short questionnaire (<https://tinyurl.com/MHAquestionnaire>) to give us updated information about your household. It should take you less than 5 minutes to complete. We will also have paper questionnaires available at the next meeting. **Please complete by April 30, 2023.**

Interested in joining the Quality of Life committee?

We meet the third Wednesday of the month from 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm
1610 Van Buren Avenue

STREET AND BLOCK CAPTAINS

Roles & Responsibilities

The people who live in a neighborhood are what make it feel connected. We are proud of the sense of community in McCrorey Heights, and we want to make sure that everyone feels safe and like they belong.

The neighborhood street and block captains are important parts of how we will all work together to reach this goal. As shown in the figure below, these roles are interconnected with the VP of Quality of Life to help neighbors and the executive team share and receive information.



The street and block captains' jobs will center around three things:

1. Ensuring the safety of neighbors
2. Encourage engagement
3. Gather and share information

The duties and roles of these positions in relation to the goals listed above are outlined below. The roles listed are a minimum of what is expected, but captains are encouraged to go above and beyond to get to know their neighbors in ways that are comfortable for them.

Ensuring the Safety of Neighbors

Our neighborhood is safest when we are all working together to prevent crime. With a steady exchange of information, we will be able to have a successful neighborhood watch program.

Captains do not have any law enforcement authority, but are people who facilitate the neighbors working together, share and receive information to and from neighbors and coordinate any safety activities. The job of captains is important and appreciated by the McCrorey Heights Neighborhood Association, but it carries no authority.

Block Captain	Street Captain
Encourage neighbors to advise you concerning criminal activity. It is the victim's responsibility to contact the police, however, you are asked to keep a record of break-ins, vandalism, graffiti, and/or any activity that becomes a concern for you and your neighbors. Provide this information to your street captains on a monthly basis	Share information from block captains with the VP of Quality of Life

STREET AND BLOCK CAPTAINS

Roles & Responsibilities

Remember: Our recommendation to all neighbors who see a crime in progress or notice suspicious activity is to observe and report from a place of safety. We strongly suggest that you DO NOT confront an offender unless you are in immediate danger. This applies to any neighbor. We do not want anyone to get hurt or injured trying to apprehend an offender or interfering with an incident other than to report the activity to the police. If you or your neighbors witness a crime in progress or observe suspicious behavior, call 911.

Working in partnership with Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department (CMPD) is integral to our collective success. Our CMPD Community Coordinator is Officer Lokia Monroe. She can be reached via email at lmonroe1@cmpd.org. Her supervisor is Lt. Nelson and can be reached via email at rnelson1@cmpd.org. Officer Monroe has agreed to practice more community policing in our neighborhood. Community policing encourages interactive partnerships between law enforcement and neighborhood groups. This clip (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UCMgXMc-So8>) provides more information about community policing.

Our community officers are invited to monthly associations meetings to provide updates on any incidents in the neighborhood and ensure that our community remains top of mind for our community coordinators.

Encourage Engagement

Captains should encourage engagement of neighbors in community events such as monthly association meetings, National Night Out (NNO), neighborhood clean-ups and other community events.

Block Captain	Street Captain
<p>Share event information with neighbors. This may involve handing out flyers, monthly calendar of events, etc.</p> <p>Place monthly association meeting notice signs in yard.</p>	<p>Get information about events from the VP of Quality of Life and share with block captains</p>

STREET AND BLOCK CAPTAINS

Roles & Responsibilities

Gather and Share Information

The gathering and sharing of information from the executive committee is crucial to ensuring that neighbors are engaged and celebrated.

Block Captain	Street Captain
<p>Inform Street captains about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Neighbors who are moving in and out of McCrorey Heights.• Celebrations such as births, graduations, weddings, etc.• Deaths <p>Gather information from neighbors for directory</p> <p>Give welcome packets to new neighbors</p>	<p>Share information from block captains with the VP of Quality of Life</p>

STREET AND BLOCK CAPTAINS

Frequently Asked Questions

What is a block captain?

A block captain is the eyes and ears for a block of houses, and looks for anything out of the ordinary that might need attention. They serve as a neighborhood watch on a given street, encourage neighbors to be involved and engaged in neighborhood activities and gather information. Block captains are not vigilantes; they ensure that police are notified when necessary and do not act as police.

What is a block?

A block can be all the houses along one or more streets, or it may be a portion of the houses on a given street.

What is a street captain?

A street captain collects information from multiple block captains and shares with members of the association executive team. They also share necessary information with block captains to ensure that all neighbors stay informed.

What is a street?

A street in McCrorey Heights are the major avenues. These are Oaklawn, Washington, Patton, Madison and Van Buren.

Can a block captain and a street captain be the same person?

Yes

How often should information be shared between block captains, street captains and the VP of Quality of Life?

As often as necessary. At a minimum, monthly reports should be shared from each block and street captain.

Interested in becoming a block or street captain?

Contact Marilyn Twitty Brown at matmbrown52@gmail.com.



ACCORDING TO YOUR NEIGHBORS

Name: Shauna Bell

Street: Van Buren

Where are you from: Columbia, SC

Food your neighbors should try:

Sweet plantains from Fonda La Taquiza (don't plan for good service, just go for the food)

One album your neighbors should take on a road trip:

The Miseducation of Lauren Hill

One song your neighbors should listen to in the gym:

Outkast - The Way You Move

5 music artists you would recommend for a deep dive:

Masego

Jonathan McReynolds

H.E.R.

Xscape

Ledisi

One book your neighbors should read:

The Warmth of Other Suns by Isabel Wilkerson

One series your neighbors should binge-watch:

Living Single (Seasons 1-3)

One movie your neighbors should see:

Elf

Favorite business on the West Side:

Po Boys Low Country Seafood Market

Best advice ever received:

As you climb the ladder of success, make sure it is leaning on the right wall.

Get something off your chest:

Take a look at the social emotional aspect of a school along with academic grades. How they treat your child will go a long way for their confidence and development.

**OUR NEXT ASSOCIATION MEETING IS
THURSDAY, APRIL 13, 2023, AT FIRST
BAPTIST CHURCH WEST.
THE MEETING WILL START PROMPTLY
AT 6 P.M.**

