



Keeping Our Community Connected

Welcome to the first edition of the McCrorey Heights Neighborhood Association newsletter! We are excited to share with you the latest news, events, and updates from our community. This monthly newsletter is a great way to stay informed and connected with your neighbors, and we encourage you to share it with others in the community. In this edition, you'll find information on upcoming events, neighborhood news, and volunteer opportunities. We hope you enjoy reading it and look forward to your participation in the many activities and programs offered by the McCrorey Heights Neighborhood Association. Thank you for making our community a great place to live! M

DO YOU KNOW THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THESE YEARS?

1867

1907

1912

1915

1949



Sean Langley

Meet the President

Neighbors,

I feel honored and privileged to serve the residents of Historic McCrorey Heights. I first learned about this iconic neighborhood when I was a student at Johnson C. Smith University. We toured McCrorey Heights, learned about its history, and ironically enough, I took a majority of my classes in McCrorey Hall.

My wife and two kids have called McCrorey Heights home for the past 17 years. It is here where we chose to plant our roots because of its connection to Johnson C. Smith University, history of civil rights activist that shaped our nation, strong sense of community, and these beautiful mid-century homes.

For those I know, thank you for your support as we try to build on the rich history of this neighborhood. And for those I have not met yet, I look forward to meeting you soon.

Warm Regards,
Sean Langley



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Meet the Executive Committee

1867

Freedmen's College of North Carolina, (Johnson C. Smith University's original name) was founded in 1867 by the Rev. S.C. Alexander and the Rev. W. L. Miller.

1907

Dr. Henry Lawrence McCrorey becomes the second Black man to serve as president of Henry J. Biddle Memorial Institute (which later became Biddle University before changing the name to Johnson C. Smith University).

1912

Dr. H.L. McCrorey files plot map and begins construction in the blocks near the intersection of Beatties Ford and Oaklawn avenues, two rural roads that were already in existence.

1915

The city of Charlotte took land by eminent domain from Dr. McCrorey between Beatties Ford Road and Fairmont Avenue for construction of the Vest Water Treatment Plant.

1949

Dr. McCrorey began selling lots in earnest. He sold the first lot to Odell Robinson, a student at JCSU, who returned from serving in Korea with the U.S. army.



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 Community of Historical Significance

McCrorey Heights is a historic neighborhood located in the historic West End of Charlotte, North Carolina. Land for the community was purchased in 1912, later developed in the early 1950s as an African-American neighborhood of affluence & influence. The neighborhood was named after its founder; Dr. H.L. McCrorey- the second Black president of Johnson C. Smith University. Dr. McCrorey played a significant role in the development of the community until his death in 1951.



Dr. & Mrs. H.L. McCrorey

The history of McCrorey Heights is closely tied to the Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and 60s. Many of the residents of the neighborhood were active in the fight for equal rights and desegregation. The neighborhood was home to several prominent civil rights activists, including Dr. Reginald Hawkins, Charles V. Bell, Thomas Wyche, Rev. J.A. Delaine.

Some of Charlotte's most significant moments in history developed from McCrorey Heights. One example of many includes Thomas Wyche (1635 Oaklawn Ave.) initiating one of the earliest Civil Rights era desegregation lawsuits in 1951, when he sued the city of Charlotte for denial of admission into the Bonnie Brae Golf Club at the "Whites only", city-owned Revolution Golf Course. The case was decided in 1956 in favor of Wyche, resulting in the desegregation of the golf course. In addition to its role in the Civil Rights Movement, McCrorey Heights was also an important center of African-American culture and community in Charlotte. The neighborhood was home to several medical professionals, educators, and business leaders.



Dr. Reginald Hawkins

In conclusion, McCrorey Heights is a historically significant neighborhood in Charlotte, North Carolina that has a rich cultural heritage. The neighborhood was established in the 1950s as a middle-class African American neighborhood and it continues to be a vital and thriving community today. Despite challenges faced by residents, the community has been able to preserve its history and culture, and it remains an important part of the city's cultural landscape. ¶

COMMUNITY MATTERS

McCrorey Heights Makes History... Again

McCrorey Heights, a historically Black neighborhood on Charlotte's Beatties Ford corridor, has recently received the coveted local historic designation status. This significant milestone makes it the second black community in the city to receive this recognition, following the Oaklawn Park neighborhood.



The historic designation status is a major achievement for the community, as it recognizes the cultural, social, and architectural significance of the neighborhood. The McCrorey Heights community was established in the early 20th century as a housing solution for African-American professionals during a time of segregation and limited opportunities. Over the years, the neighborhood has grown into a close-knit community with a rich cultural heritage and a strong sense of community pride. The historic designation status will help preserve the cultural heritage of McCrorey Heights, ensure that its historic buildings are protected, and provide the community with a platform to tell its story to future generations. This recognition is a testament to the community's resilience, perseverance, and cultural significance. **M**

Thank You, Natalie Beard

Natalie Beard is a name that deserves recognition and gratitude in the McCrorey Heights community. As the former president of the McCrorey Heights Neighborhood Association, Natalie has worked tirelessly to ensure that the community's voice is heard and its needs are met. Her leadership and dedication have made a profound impact on the neighborhood, leading to a number of positive changes and improvements. From advocating for community initiatives to organizing events that bring residents together, Natalie's contributions have left a lasting impression on McCrorey Heights. Her unwavering commitment to the community has been instrumental in making McCrorey Heights a better place to live. On behalf of the community, we would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to Natalie Beard for her outstanding leadership and her tireless efforts to improve the neighborhood. Thank you, Natalie, for all of your contributions! **M**



THE GRAPEVINE

McCrorey Marketplace

Stuff for Sale!
Stuff for Sale!
Stuff for Sale!
Stuff for Sale!
Stuff for Sale!

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Community Announcements

Events
Meetings
Status
Information
Etc.

Events
Meetings
Status
Information
Etc.

Events
Meetings
Status
Information
Etc.

Events
Meetings
Status
Information
Etc.

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Information
Etc.

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Information
Etc.

Events
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Status
Information
Etc.

Neighborhood Recognitions

Birthdays
In Memoriam
Anniversaries
New Neighbors
Achievements
Etc.

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In Memoriam
Anniversaries
New Neighbors
Achievements
Etc.

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**ADVERTISE YOUR
BUSINESS & EVENTS
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**GIVE A SHOUT
OUT TO SOMEONE
RIGHT HERE!**

ACCORDING TO YOUR NEIGHBORS

Brandon & Nichelle Hawkins



Names: Brandon & Nichelle Hawkins

Street: Patton Avenue

Where are you from?

Brandon - Dallas, TX

Nichelle - Summerton, SC

Food your neighbors should try:

Brandon - blue crabs in Maryland or Cajun cuisine in New Orleans

Nichelle - raw oysters w/mignonette sauce

One album your neighbors should take on a road trip:

Thriller by Michael Jackson

One song your neighbors should listen to in the gym:

Nichelle - *Freedom* by Beyoncé & Kendrick Lamar

Brandon - *Hustle & Motivate* by Nipsey Hussle

5 music artists you would recommend for a deep dive

- Stevie Wonder
- Scarface
- J. Cole
- Gregory Porter
- Snoh Alegra

One book your neighbors should read:

The Simple Path to Wealth by JL Collins (In addition to The Bible)

One series your neighbors should binge-watch:

Game of Thrones (seasons 1-7)

One movie your neighbors should see:

Love Jones

Favorite business on the West Side:

West End Fresh Seafood Market

Best advice ever received:

Save 10% of your money

Get something off your chest:

I would like for us to stop letting buzz words & circular conversations distract us from real and productive solutions to address pressing issues such as economic mobility and mental health. **M**

MINUTES FROM THE LAST MEETING

First Baptist Church - West
Thursday, January 12, 2023

Meeting Minutes

Community Partners' Reports:

CMPD Report: Officer Monroe

- No priority incidents in the past month
- Some domestic incidents related to child welfare
- Three traffic stops in the neighborhood; citations issued

Code Enforcement: Harry Pope

- Distributed code enforcement booklets to association attendees
- Announced that fines have increased from \$50 to \$150 depending on the infraction
- Some new construction projects in the neighborhood have been fined for not maintaining clean worksites.
- Recycling days have been missed due to issues with the sanitation department. Noted it could be a manpower or equipment issue. Residents should call 311 to have trash and/or recycling picked up, including bulk trash

President's Update:

- S. Langley introduced shared agreements/meetings rules. Enclosed below for reference
- K. Harps (Mecklenburg Historic Commission) working on the national designation. Country to oversee the submission
- Currently working on ways to reestablish the connection with Johnson C. Smith University

Budget Report:

- Finance Secretary new role was added to the leadership team; the treasurer position remains
- S. Langley, R. Lawrence, and A. Alexander were given fiduciary responsibility over association finances, including transactions at Mechanics + Farmers Bank
- The current balance is \$2,603.82 as of January 12, 2023

MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MONTH'S MEETING (CTD.)

Leadership Team Introductions + Committee Updates:

Winston Robinson, VP Community Engagement

- Role includes community connectivity and engagement
- Looking to neighbors to lend skills and talents, e.g. writers, marketers, designers, etc.
- Interest in sharing oral and written history

Shauna Bell, VP Quality of Life

- Role includes beautification and quality of life
- Areas of focus for this committee may include community directory, welcome committee, sympathy/bereavement process; infrastructure improvements, e.g. sidewalks, street lights and fence on Van Buren

Angela Stoyanovitch, VP Land Use/Property Matters

- Role includes property matters and safety. Works closely with VP Quality of Life
- Areas of focus for the committee may include back-alley dumping, construction site hours, historic preservation, and property improvements, e.g. garden of the month competition

Discussion:

- Suggestion was made by Rhonda Covington to bring back block captains. Role includes information sharing, new member welcome and community liaison
- During financial report and dues announcement, some residents voiced a need to improve relations with renters
- Marilyn Brown requested that all meetings moving forward be held in church sanctuary due to safety concerns, as well as space accommodation. Association meeting dates scheduled for the remainder of the year

MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MONTH'S MEETING (CTD.)

Announcements:

- Channel 6 is interested in human interest and historic neighborhood stories. Please contact S. Langley for more information
- Committee sign-ups. Please email mccroreyheightsassociation@gmail.com if you'd like to sign up for a committee - Community Engagement, Quality of Life and/or Land Use
- Clotelle Fisher, 1637 Patton Avenue, passed away. The association sent a \$25 donation to her family. Thank you card received and read by Marilyn Brown
- Next Association Meeting: Thursday, February 9, 2023 at 6 p.m. First Baptist Church-West in the Sanctuary

2023-2024 Dues:

A reminder that dues are \$25.00 (minimum) annually and can be paid in three ways:

Option 1: Payment can be made by bill pay through your personal account
Send payment to Mechanics and Farmers Bank (add them as a recipient)
For/Nickname: McCrorey Heights Community
Account: #0601
The payment will go directly into the McCrorey Heights account (#0601)

Option 2: CashApp Account - \$McCroreyHeights

Option 3: Moving forward those who pay cash please leave your name and address on the envelope.

All Checks/cash dropped off at 1913 Patton Ave (Treasurer, Annie Alexander) will be deposited by the 5th of each month; anything after that will be on the next month's report.

All monies that come in after the 5th will be reported on the next month's report

Attendance:

- There were 21 people in attendance.
- The meeting was adjourned at 7:01 pm.

**OUR NEXT ASSOCIATION MEETING IS
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2023, AT
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH WEST.
THE MEETING WILL START PROMPTLY
AT 6 P.M. AND END AT 7 P.M.**

M