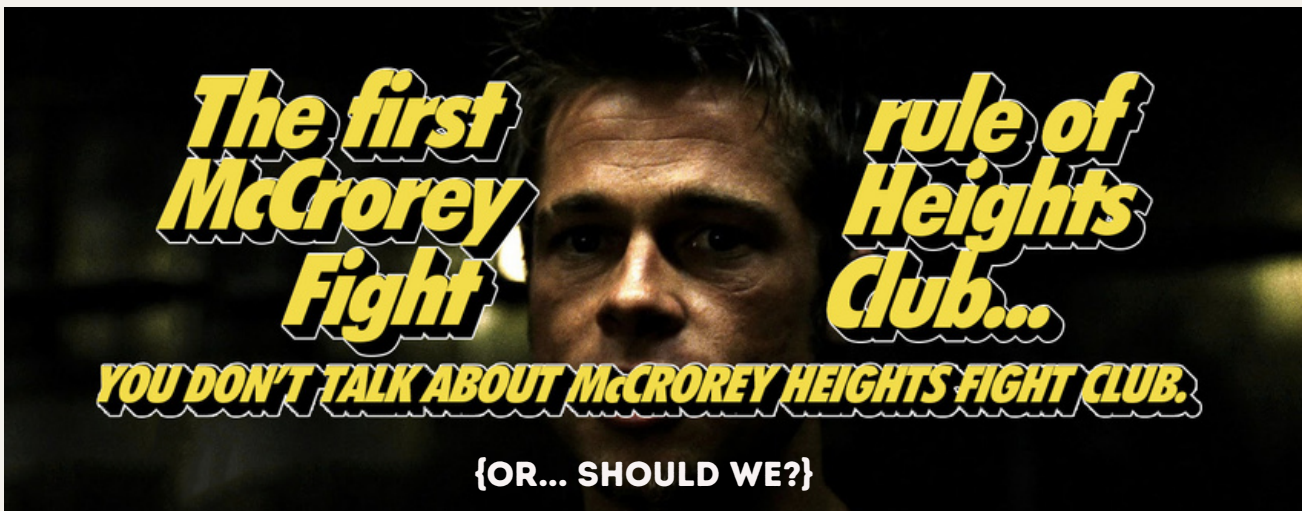





THE McCRORIAN

· YOUR NEWS IN McCROREY HEIGHTS ·



McCrorey Heights Forum: A Meeting of Minds



President Sean Langley

Neighbors,

I recognize and understand that there is a range of feelings toward the demolition of the Heard home. To this end, I would like to coordinate a neighborhood forum. The goal of this forum is to use what happened as an educational opportunity and collectively think about how we can move forward as a community.

To be productive, we will break up into groups and answer a couple of questions. Once everyone has had a chance to express their thoughts in their respective groups, one spokesperson will provide collective group thoughts. This way everyone's voice is heard and we manage our time effectively. Following this discussion, the executive committee will then take what we have heard and implement the ideas expressed.

So I'm clear, this meeting is not designed to point fingers at any person, group, or us as a community. This forum will intentionally be focused on solutions.

I look forward to seeing everyone on tomorrow at 6:00 pm at First Baptist West sanctuary.

Your President,
Sean Langley



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Who We Really Are National Night Out 2022



NEIGHBORHOOD HISTORY 1951

Attorney Charles V. Bell of 1645 Madison Ave., made headlines when he refused to give up his seat on a Greyhound bus to a white passenger on July 20, 1951. Bell was traveling to speak at a Veterans of Foreign Wars rally in Spartanburg when the driver ordered him to move to the back of the bus to make room for white passengers. Bell refused to move unless he was placed under arrest and eventually got off the bus, causing a commotion that attracted the attention of the police.

The incident was covered by local newspapers, and the Gastonia Gazette ran a headline stating that Bell was arrested and suing the bus company for \$60,000. The police chief denied that Bell was actually arrested, hoping to avoid a lawsuit against the city. Bell went on to sue Atlantic Greyhound for \$10,000, as reported in Durham's Carolina Times.

Bell's actions on the bus were a small part of a larger movement against segregation in the United States, and his refusal to give up his seat was an act of civil disobedience that inspired others to take similar actions. Although, a direct connection is not mentioned, it is noteworthy that Rosa Parks' historic similar historic gesture would take place nearly four years later, in 1955. Charles V. Bell's legacy lives on as a reminder of the importance of standing up for what is right and just, even in the face of adversity.

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 Legacy Heard Throughout Charlotte

Isaac Heard Sr. was one of the most skilled professionals in Charlotte's African American community in the 1950s, when he arrived as an engineer with Douglas Aircraft. He became an upper-level official in Charlotte's Community Development Office during the 1970s and 1980s, working to heal the scars of Urban Renewal. He and his wife, Gwendolyn, raised two children, Ike Heard Jr., who became a well-known planner active both locally and nationally and daughter Mrs. Cheryl Dale Heard Graber, an early childhood educator.



Mr. Issac & Mrs. Gwendolyn Heard

Issac Heard Sr.: June 15, 1925 - March 7, 2021

Gwendolyn Bridge Heard: October 17, 1927 - November 17, 2017

Isaac Heard Sr. grew up in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, and studied Building Construction at Hampton Institute in Virginia, where he later taught before moving to Charlotte in 1953. After working for Douglas Aircraft as an engineer, Mr. Heard joined Charlotte-based J.N. Pease Architecture and Engineering as a draftsman and specification writer. He subsequently moved to the Charlotte Planning Commission where he served until 1975. He then signed on with the city's Community Development Office.

Gwendolyn Heard was known for tireless volunteering in her neighborhood, in social organizations, and in civic life. When well-educated African American parents got together in 1957 to charter the Charlotte chapter of Jacks & Jills, a national educational enrichment association for youngsters, Gwendolyn Heard served as Vice Chair. She was also listed as "the bridal consultant" when Dorothy Counts, who had made headlines when she integrated Harding High School in 1957, got married in 1965. When the School Board closed seven "Negro schools" during desegregation, Gwendolyn Heard co-led an effort with Presbyterian minister Rev. Robert Shirley to allow neighborhood children to use the facilities for recreation. The effort grew into the Mecklenburg New Frontier Council in 1966, with Mrs. Heard as Chair, to push for "total community planning" in Charlotte.

Isaac and Gwendolyn Heard bought their corner lot home on 1623 Madison Ave. from Ervin Construction, one of the era's largest suburban builders in Charlotte, which took out the permit to construct the residence in 1957. They lived in this house for nearly six decades. African-American architect Harvey Gantt (who would later become Charlotte's first Black mayor) designed the 1975 carport extension that accentuates the dwelling's horizontal lines, echoing the work of notable architect Frank Lloyd Wright.

OUR STORY CTD.

Isaac Heard Sr. made significant contributions to Charlotte's African American community and beyond. As an engineer, he played a vital role in the production of missiles at the Charlotte Army Missile Plant, which became an essential weapon in the Cold War. Later, as an official in the Community Development Office, he helped heal the damage caused by Urban Renewal and worked to strengthen existing neighborhoods. Gwendolyn Heard was a tireless volunteer and advocate for education and community planning. Issac Heard passed away on March 7, 2021. He was preceded in death by his beloved wife Gwendolyn who passed on November 16, 2017. The Heard family's legacy lives on through their endless contributions in shaping both McCrorey Heights, as well as greater Charlotte into the strong community in which it remains today. **M**

FENCE STANDARDS HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION (HDC)

As one of Charlotte's eight Historic Districts, McCrorey Heights is part of the stewardship of Charlotte's history – at the neighborhood level. Part of preserving this history is keeping the character and integrity that is unique to each of the historic districts. While it may not seem like an important detail, fences are definitely part of a neighborhood's story – it's one of the seen, yet not always noticed, details that defines the character of each neighborhood. For instance, have you ever driven past homes on a street and one house has a very tall, solid fence wrapped all around the property and you can't see in at all? It immediately breaks the rhythm of the block and disrupts the appeal and personality of that particular neighborhood. Preservation can be largely in the details, so something as simple as a fence can subconsciously affect how a property and the neighborhood are perceived.

Fences should be made of wood and/or metal. Vinyl, split rail fences, and bare concrete block walls are not allowed. Here are just a couple of many examples of fences that are appropriate:



McCrorey Heights is a mid-century modern neighborhood, so chain link fences in the rear yards were used – but they were see-through, 3-4 feet tall and only in the rear yards. The use of chain link fences in the front yard is not allowed. Also, fences in McCrorey Heights are not installed in front yards.

For more information on the standards for fences in Charlotte's Historic District, please go the Fences and Walls section (pages 8.6-8.8) of the Charlotte Historic District Design Standards that can be found online: <https://charlottenc.gov/planning/HistoricDistricts/Documents/HDCDesignStandards.pdf>. And, for more information about the Historic District Commission, please visit <https://charlottenc.gov/planning/HistoricDistricts/Pages/Home.aspx>.

The staff at the Historic District Commission (HDC) is happy to answer your questions and address your concerns. We encourage people to contact us before a project gets started – even if it's just something that you're considering but not sure about, yet. Please feel free to contact the HDC through email (charlottehdc@charlottenc.gov) or by phone (704.336.2205).



ACCORDING TO YOUR NEIGHBORS

Names: Laurin Davis

Street: Patton Avenue

Where are you from: Charlotte

Food your neighbors should try: Jimmy Pearl's

One album your neighbors should take on a road trip:
Back of My Mind by H.E.R.

One song your neighbors should listen to in the gym:
"Hey" by Lil Baby

5 music artists you would recommend for a deep dive

- SZA
- Lucky Daye
- Muni Long
- Coco Jones
- Kendrick Lamar

One book your neighbors should read:

The Misadventures of Awkward Black Girl by Issa Rae

One series your neighbors should binge-watch:

Rapture (Netflix)

One movie your neighbors should see:

Lean on Me

Favorite business on the West Side:

Archive

Best advice ever received:

You only fail what you never try.

Get something off your chest:

Implement financial literacy and creative planning in high school. Help prepare young leaders to be successful prior to graduation. **M**

THE GRAPEVINE

**McCrorey
Marketplace**

**Community
Announcements**

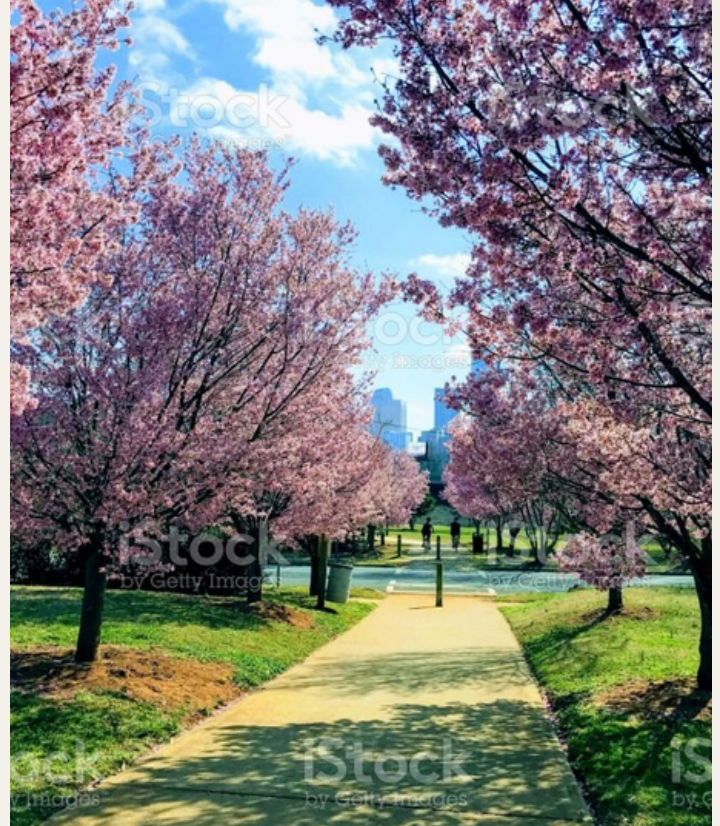
**Neighborhood
Recognitions**

West Side Greenway Connection

Mecklenburg County is exploring the idea of adding a greenway along Andrill Terrace that could connect McCrorey Heights to the Uptown Irwin Creek Greenway. For those unfamiliar, this connection would allow us to seamlessly move along Andrill Terrace, behind the JCSU softball field and football stadium, underneath I-77 interstate, and then come out next to Ray's Splash Planet/Irwin Academic Center. From there, we could connect to the existing Irwin Creek Greenway that extends to the Panthers stadium. Please join us on Friday, March 10th from 12:00-1:30 pm to walk along our potential greenway. Your interest and involvement is critical in moving this project forward.

Note: There will be a considerable amount of walking. Please wear comfortable shoes and bring plenty of water.

Thanks,
Sean



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IN MEMORIAL
ANNIVERSARIES
NEW NEIGHBORS
ACHIEVEMENTS
ETC.**



First Baptist Church - West
Thursday, February 9, 2023
Meeting Minutes

Community Partners' Reports:

CMPD Report: Officers Monroe and Samuels present

- Minor incidents with low call volume:
 - January 28, aggravated assault. Shots fired. Suspect arrested
 - Traffic stop, arrest in that incident
 - Someone passed away in First Baptist Church West parking lot. No foul play suspected
- Neighbor concerns discussed at meeting:
 - 1808 Van Buren: trash, cars, activity
 - Patton + Clifton speeding and stop sign infractions. Residents requested police presence to reduce incidents
- For support, information, etc. please email officers Samuels and Monroe at the following:
 - Denzel.samuels@cmpd.org
 - Lakia.monroe@cmpd.org
- CMPD Announcements
 - Mycmpd app – will populate all crimes and incidents in the neighborhood. Can download in android and apple app stores
 - CMPD will have increased presence as part of community policing

Code Enforcement: Harry Pope

- Neighborhood looking good overall
- Construction sights are now in compliance
 - 2009 Washington had a semi in the neighborhood; all commercial vehicles are prohibited. They have been cited
 - 1812 Van Buren cited for trash can. Trash can must be rolled in by midnight on the day of collection
- 1808 tagged for junk vehicle and neglect
- 1901 Washington cited for neglect; yard waste
- Code Enforcement Announcements:
 - 311 calls for code enforcement can be anonymous
 - Trash and recycle collection (what can and cannot be thrown away) is on Mecklenburg code enforcement website

Historic District: Jenny Shugart + Kristy Harpst

- Postcard mailer will be sent to every property owner. What the district is, what the rules are, contact info and link to rules/guidelines
- Jenny Shugart is McCrorey Heights staff resource. She will be attending association meetings regularly
- Designs standards menu online (new copy including McCrorey heights coming soon).
<https://charlottenc.gov/planning/HistoricDistricts/Documents/HDCDesignStandards.pdf>

Trees Charlotte: Joi Mayo

- Piloting new programs in McCrorey Heights and Ramblewood
- Program is centered on preservation and conservation
- For families that qualify, Trees Charlotte can help with assessments, removal and planting (qualifying applicants – federal requirements)
- Support based on funds availability
- May 15th is the start of the program
- There will be events in the neighborhood where neighbors can ask questions and learn more
- <https://treescharlotte.org/>

President's Update:

- Liability Insurance Update
 - Event by event. Each event will require different insurance
- Grant Updates
 - Neighborhood matching grant and another are due in March
 - Money will go toward insurance, tree toppers and events
- JCSU
 - Permanent exhibits at school. Working to get date and time for community to go together
- Irwin Creek Greenway Kickoff Meeting
 - Andriil terrace may become a study for a potential greenway and connection to Uptown
 - March 10th at noon is a walk; need people to participate to show activity/participation

Budget Report:

- January deposits totaled: \$735.00
- Paid \$25 for Dorothy Graves bereavement
- Current balance is \$3,313.82 as of January 31, 2023
- There was an error in last month's meeting minutes. All donations should be given to Rosemary Lawrence Young at 1616 Patton Avenue Charlotte NC 28216, not Annie Alexander

Leadership Team Introductions + Committee Updates:

Due to time constraints, all committee reports were tabled until the next meeting.

Discussion:

- 1623 Madison Avenue demolition. Announcement was made.

Announcements:

- 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
- Next Association Meeting: Thursday, March 9, 2023 at 6 p.m. First Baptist Church-West in the Sanctuary

2023-2024 Dues:

Reminder that dues are \$25.00 annually and can be paid 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 1616 Patton Ave (Rosemary Lawrence Young) will be deposited by the 5th of each month; anything after that will be on the next month report

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

Attendance:

- There were 20 people in attendance.
- The meeting was adjourned at 7:01 pm.

Minutes prepared by Veronica Marshall

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

