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MYERS PARK *Life*

is looking for a few good *pictures!*

Please send pictures to Delia at clteditor@n2pub.com by the 5th of the month in time for our next issue (March 5 for the April issue, April 5 for the May issue). Pictures need to be 1MB or larger to be of good print quality.

Here are a few good suggestions for photos:

Last call for winter pics! – As the winter season closes, we welcome your favorite winter wonderland pictures. From skiing, snowboarding and sledding to building a snowman, we want to see how you made the most of the chilly months.

Valentine's Day & Presidents' Day – Share the love by sending us your favorite Valentine's Day photos. And show us how you made the most of the extended Presidents' Day weekend.

Mardi Gras – You don't have to live in New Orleans to celebrate this festive holiday. From Fat Tuesday parties to carnivals and parades, we invite you to share your Mardi Gras fun with us!

March Madness is here! – As we march to the Final 4, we also want to acknowledge the incredible basketball talent we have right here in our community. Whatever your age, share your team's action shots and basketball moves with us.

Myers Park Life is your neighborhood publication. Break out your cameras and share your pictures with us for our April 2015 issue.



College Acceptances – Your kids have worked hard, and it's finally paying off. Send us a picture of your high school senior displaying his or her college acceptance letter, sporting a sweat-shirt or holding a school flag.

St. Patrick's Day – Ouch! Better don your green for this festive holiday or you might get pinched. From the St. Patrick's parade to the Charlotte Goes Green Festival, show us how you celebrated this Irish holiday.

Milestone Birthday Celebrations – Do you or a loved one have a milestone birthday coming up? Send us a memorable photo!

Family and Neighborhood Gatherings – *Myers Park Life* is all about family and community. Our favorite photos are those of kids playing, birthday parties and neighborly gatherings.

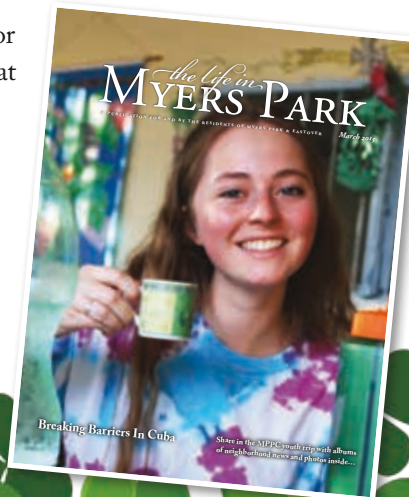
NEW TO THE *Neighborhood?*

Are you and your family new to Myers Park, Eastover, Old Foxcroft or Deering Oaks?

If so, welcome! Please send your contact info to clteditor@n2pub.com to be added to our monthly sneak peek email and event invitation list!

Want to place something in *MYERS PARK LIFE*?

To submit an idea, photo or article, please email Delia at clteditor@n2pub.com.



A VERY SPECIAL **THANK YOU** TO ALL OUR CONTRIBUTORS THIS MONTH!

We are always looking for residents to share ideas, submit photos and write stories! Let's celebrate the great things happening in our neighborhood! No contribution is too small!

Email Delia at clteditor@n2pub.com with suggestions, photos or an interest in being a part of the *Myers Park Life* team! Tell us what you want to see in your neighborhood publication!

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Neighborhood *Note:*

By: Myers Park Neighbor McLean Campbell

My earliest memories of fishing are sitting on a dock at Lake Norman with my grandmother, Beazie. Fish wake up early, she told me, so we'd trudge down after breakfast, outfitted with a rod, sliced cheese and hot dogs.

Beazie was as excited as I was, staring at every ripple, every bubble, hoping for a bite. Whenever we caught a bream, both of us would jump with joy. I remember telling my friends that I had the best grandmother, and fishing was her favorite thing in the whole world. Turns out, her favorite thing in the whole world was me. Thus began my love of fishing.

Fast forward to March 2015: Temperatures will soon be warming, and my thoughts are turning to one of my passions, fly fishing.




Fly fishing is a sport that requires constant focus, patience and physical coordination. Your success on the stream is directly related to these factors, as well as knowledge of fish. When you combine all these, there is nothing like the feeling of seeing the colors of a rainbow swimming toward your fly.

My uncle lives in Montana, where I've fished the famed Black-foot and Clark Fork Rivers. This summer, I had an incredible experience traveling to Wyoming's beautiful Wind River Range. I slept on the ground, hiked long distances and battled mosquitoes the size of small birds. It was all worth it. The Wind River Range rewarded our hardships with beautiful Brookies and Cutties, bigger than I've ever seen.

For some great fishing opportunities nearby, Bill Bartee, owner of Jesse Brown's Outdoors, recommends the Davidson near Brevard (which I've fished and is great), Cane Creek in Linville and The South Toe near Mount Mitchell. If you're interested in taking up the sport, drop by Jesse Brown's to ask about their gear and guide services.

If you've never tried fly fishing, I hope you will. Just seeing a trout hitting a fly in an explosion of colors and water will hook you for life. Plus, trout is absolutely delicious. I hope to see you on one of North Carolina's fabulous rivers. You'll recognize me immediately; I'll have a huge smile on my face!

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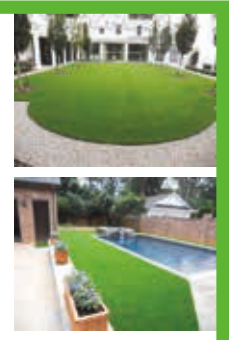

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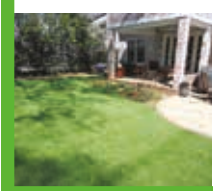

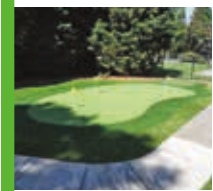
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The Shields family (Mike, Thomas, Marion and Meredith) in NYC celebrating Marion's birthday.




(L to R): JoBrent Austin and Bill Diehl III at the 57th Annual Greater Charlotte Heart Ball.

around the
town
Neighborhood Snapshots


To share your pics with *Myers Park Life*, please submit to Delia at clteditor@n2pub.com.




JoBrent Austin, Loraine Cass, Samantha McCall, Jerri Webb and Alaine Bollinger enjoy the Heart Ball.



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Bourne family trip to the Bahamas: swimming with the sharks at Atlantis



Banks and Molly Bourne with their children, Mary Pope (9) and Fairbanks (11)



(L to R): Carmen Hilton, Eastover resident Rosalie Reynolds and Bruce Hilton at the World Affairs Council of Charlotte Speaker Series on January 22.



Merrill Dowdy and rescue dog "Remi" enjoy a warm day at the dog park in Eastover.



Eagle Scouts from Troop 17 at Christ Episcopal Church (L to R): Alex Funderburg Jr., Patrick Vaughn Jr., Bo Bernhardt, Freeman Bell and Dylan Mask



Charlotte Latin School freshmen gather for pictures at sunset before heading to school for the Sadie Hawkins dance on February 7.



Myers Park High School students before Sadie Hawkins dance on January 31.



Alexander Youth Network
Photos Courtesy of Ron J. Deshaies/Treasured Events of Charlotte



(L to R): Trish Hobson, Lynn Crutchfield, Dr. Dawn O'Malley, George Montgomery and Craig Bass



(L to R): Craig Bass (President & CEO), Rudy and Tracey Heintze, William and Pamela Crowder



(L to R): Dillon Bowles, Haley and Scott Poole, Elliot Crutchfield, Chuck and Kathleen Price and Chris Latta

...continued



Aerial photo of Myers Park, Queens College and Freedom Park looking toward Uptown (January 2015)

Arts & Science Council’s Connect with Culture Day - January 10
Photos Courtesy of Ron J. Deshaies/Treasured Events of Charlotte





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resident RECIPE

Corny Cornbread

By: Eastover Neighbor Katy Beltz

2 eggs

1 (8¾ oz.) can whole kernel corn, drained

1 (8½ oz.) can cream-style corn

8 oz. sour cream

2 (8 ½ oz.) boxes of Jiffy corn muffin mix

1 stick butter, melted

Mix all ingredients together and pour into a greased 13x9 inch pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 35-40 minutes. Cool before cutting.

To have your recipe featured in *Myers Park Life*, please submit to Delia at clteditor@n2pub.com.



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(L to R): Jimmy Pettit, Michelle Manning (girlfriend), Liz Pettit, Ryan Ostrow (boy-friend), Margy and Walt Pettit

Meet your NEIGHBORS

MARGY AND WALT PETTIT

By: MPL Content Coordinator Delia McMullen

To recommend a neighbor to be featured in *Myers Park Life*, please submit to Delia at clteditor@n2pub.com.

AFTER A MASSIVE, YEAR-LONG RENOVATION, WALT AND MARGY PETTIT HAVE SETTLED INTO THEIR HOME AT 1943 QUEENS ROAD. THEY BOUGHT THE 1920S TUDOR REVIVAL HOUSE, WHICH IS LISTED ON THE NATIONAL HISTORIC REGISTER, IN LATE 2012. THE HOME IS SITUATED ON THE CORNER OF QUEENS ROAD AND SHARON ROAD ACROSS FROM MYERS PARK BAPTIST CHURCH. THE PETTITS' PAINSTAKING AND THOUGHTFUL RESTORATION OF THE HOME HAS GARNERED NOTICE AND APPRECIATION FROM THE NEIGHBORHOOD, WINNING THEM THE CONNIE BROWN MYERS PARK HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION PRESERVATION AWARD AND THE HISTORIC CHARLOTTE BLAST FOR THE PAST RESIDENTIAL AWARD IN THE PAST YEAR.

Margy and Walt are both native Charlotteans, and Margy is from a fourth-generation Charlotte family. Walt is an attorney at The Hutchens Firm. He received a BS in business from NC State and his law degree from Mercer University. Margy is a real estate manager for The Lofts at 7714 in Mint Hill, a retrofitted textile mill turned into commercial spaces. She has a BA in history from Belmont Abbey College and an MA in history from Providence College.

Walt and Margy met at the now defunct Bachelors and Spinners Club in Charlotte in 1981 and were married at St. Patrick's Cathedral on Dilworth Road in 1983. Margy's great-uncle, Charlotte-born John Henry Phelan (businessman, oil producer and philanthropist), donated the funds for the church to be built in 1938 in honor of his parents, Margy's great-grandparents, Patrick and Margaret Adele Phelan. The late Phelans resided on South Tryon Street when Charlotte was just a small city.

Margy explains their journey to their current home: "Our first home was a historic condominium complex on Hawthorne Lane in the Elizabeth neighborhood and then a small 1930s bungalow on Altondale Avenue in Eastover. As our family grew, we moved to Barclay Downs and then Summerlake off of Sharon View Road. We lived in the Summerlake home, right behind Olde Providence Racquet Club, for 20 years and raised our two children there. Elizabeth and Jimmy are now grown. We are an avid tennis family and enjoy playing both at Olde Providence and Myers Park Country Club."

The Myers Park neighborhood is lucky to have such committed guardians for this landmark property. As Walt concludes, "We love all the bustling activity of our Myers Park location: the church, the university and everyone strolling by!"





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(L to R): Ann Atkinson (decorator), Jack Rorick (contractor), Margy Pettit and Allen Brooks (architect)





CONNIE BROWN

preservation award

By: Myers Park Neighbor Pamela May

WHEN NOW-LEGENDARY LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT JOHN NOLEN CREATED MYERS PARK OVER 100 YEARS AGO, IT WAS A PIONEERING EFFORT OF NEIGHBORHOOD PLANNING. HOMES AND OTHER STRUCTURES WERE BUT A PART OF THE DESIGN AND WERE INTENDED TO EXIST IN HARMONY WITH NATURE. THE RESULT IS A TREASURE WHICH BRINGS ENJOYMENT TO MANY, BOTH WITHIN AND BEYOND HER PHYSICAL BORDERS.

Chief among the concerns of the Myers Park Homeowners Association (MPHA) is the preservation of Nolen’s plan in the midst of high demand for this limited resource. Knowing how easily Myers Park can be diminished by overly enthusiastic building of structures too large for their lots, we joyfully celebrate those homeowners and their designers who honor the history, neighborhood design mandates, integrity and future of this special place when building or renovating.

In 2012, MPHA renamed its annual preservation award in grateful memory of our exuberant friend, tireless MPHA



board member, gifted American Society of Interior Designers member, and lover of beauty Constance Bunting Nock Brown (1940-2012). Connie personified the charm of Myers Park with her generous spirit, great wit, many friendships and lively commitment to her neighborhood’s unique character in loving partnership with her husband of 44 years, Morrison Brown, and through their firm, Brown’s Interiors.

You’ll read more about the 2014 Connie Brown Preservation Award winners, Margy and Walt Pettit, in this issue. Their impeccable restoration of a wonderful home has brought delight and wonder to the many passersby who had little idea what a jewel was hidden on that corner. Annually MPHA looks for just such a preservation example—one that does justice to Myers Park and to Connie Brown’s legacy. Help us celebrate by submitting candidates via www.mpha.com.

Pamela May is a past president of the MPHA and a fan of preservation.

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SPOTLIGHT

South End Veterinary Clinic

By: Contributing Writer Victoria Putnam
Photos courtesy of Liza Cox Photos



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Dr. Maples with Reesie Buttercup and Penelope

Owned by Dr. Gene Maples, South End Veterinary Clinic (SEVC) has been serving the Myers Park area since 2006. The full-service office provides everything from preventative medicine to surgical procedures to nutritional counseling and everything in between.

The four-person team at SEVC is led by Dr. Maples, a lifelong animal lover who has an American Staffordshire-Terrier mix named Reesie Buttercup—who gets to come to work with him every day—and a cat named Mango. Dr. Maples received his undergraduate degree in biology from UNC Greensboro, and his degree in animal science from NC State. In 2001, he went on to get his doctorate from the College of Veterinary Medicine at NC State. Soon after, he and his wife moved to Charlotte, where he worked at a different veterinary practice for a little over a decade before purchasing South End Veterinary Clinic.

Dr. Maples says the most rewarding part of his job is being able to work with the animals he loves every day. Another perk? Interacting with people who feel the same way.



Sien Creytens at the front desk



Dr. Maples with his own dog, Reesie Buttercup



(L to R): Dr. Gene Maples, Sien Creytens, Andrea Laffey and Avery Gardner

Two veterinary technicians assist Dr. Maples at SEVC. Andrea Laffey is a University of Notre Dame graduate who decided to pursue becoming a vet tech after working as a receptionist. She is pet parent to a cat named Summer and two dogs named Helga and Klaus. Avery Gardner, the only native North Carolinian in the practice, grew up riding horses and has two dogs named Flex and Smokey.

Sien Creytens works the front desk as South End Vet's receptionist, keeping things organized and running smoothly. Originally from Belgium, she, too, grew up riding horses and currently owns a 33-year-old Appaloosa named Applejack. She also has a dog named Becky and four cats: Tinkerbell, Marley, Reid and Penelope.

The small team at SEVC ensures that the service remains pleasant and personal. "Building relationships with our patients and clients is the number one priority for us," says Dr. Maples. "We consider our clients to be our friends." He notes that when people come in with their pets, conversations usually extend beyond the wellness of the pet to include the well-being of the entire family.



Andrea Laffey and Avery Gardner giving Helga a nail trim

Besides basic wellness care, SEVC provides a range of other services, meeting nearly all of the healthcare needs of the pets in their care. Preventative measures, surgical procedures, dental care and radiology are all readily available, including advanced services that require the expertise of a specialist. Working with these specialists allows pet care to remain in-house with the team pets and owners know and trust.

To streamline care and keep the process simple for pet owners, southendvet.com offers an online pharmacy and access to pets' medical records.

In the three years Dr. Maples and his team have run South End Veterinary Clinic, the business has built a reputation for quality care and personable, friendly service. When your pet becomes an SEVC patient, you join the SEVC family.

Visit the team at South End Veterinary Clinic at 2135 Southend Drive, Suite #106, Charlotte, or check out their website at southendvet.com.

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Sawyer, Kristi, Elliott, Arden and Gary Davies

Not long after moving into our home it began—the continual, soulful pleas for a puppy. Our three kids, Sawyer, Elliott and Arden, persisted with the familiar attempts to persuade us: “I will feed her,” “I will walk her,” “I will bathe her, play with her, and take care of her,” they promised! Not quite ready to take the plunge, I offered up what I hoped was the perfect consolation, a kitty compromise.

Hours later, we buckled up and drove to the pound on a family kitten quest. We’d been told we could “test drive” these little ones to find the very kitten that all five of us were looking for. (In other words, we could have brief playtime with a few.) We wandered past cage after cage of little eyes peering out and tiny paws poking through. There were climbers, sleepers, hiders and squeakers and one most desperate “MEOW-er.” The adorably fluffy and decidedly friendly tabby seemed to be begging the kids as fervently as they had begged us parents. That day, the irresistible Dutchess Davies assumed her position as one of our family.

As her name would suggest, Dutchess spends countless hours during the winter stretched across her throne (or ottoman) warming herself in front of the fire. In the summer she can be found perched on the back of sofas and chairs, in the spotlight of warm sunrays. Sometimes she makes a practice of cozying up in boxes, bags, duffels and drawers. One day as I walked through my bedroom, I heard the faintest sound coming from my dresser drawer. Curiously, I pulled it open and out popped our cat. Talk about a long winter’s nap!

continued...

Macy and Dutchie

By: Myers Park Neighbor
Kristi Davies

To have your pet featured in Myers Park Life, please submit to Delia at clteditor@n2pub.com.

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Macy and Dutchie

In recent years, Dutchess has become fondly nicknamed Dutchie, as it better suits her personality. She breaks all cat stereotypes, for she is not aloof or distant. In fact, Dutchie is downright friendly! No scaredy-cat is she. When the doorbell rings, Dutchie dashes down the stairs to see who has arrived. Affectionately, she brushes up against guests and may opt for your lap as you find your seat. At times she purrs simply when you smile at her.

Well, my kitty compromise lasted about two years. In 2009, eight-week-old Macy, our black Lab puppy, waddled into our lives. Her sweet temperament, playful spirit and desire to please made her one of the family instantly. In due time (a couple of hisses and swats later), even Dutchie warmed up to the puppy.

Macy amazed us as a fast learner. The reward of a treat motivated her to master all types of commands with little training. Beyond sit, stay and lie down, however, Macy learned to ring a bell when she wants or needs to go outside. She had Potty Training 101 down pat in a few days. A long ribbon with a bell dangling from the end hangs from the back door. Macy bumps it with her nose to jingle the bell, a sound that's code for "I need to go out."

Today, our pets seem almost human-like to us. They hang out wherever we are and mirror our emotions in many ways. Perhaps what sets Macy and Dutchie apart, though, is their friendship! They keep each other company and look out for one another. In fact, Macy will ring the bell on behalf of the cat, noticing she wants to come in! Even now, the two can be spotted relaxing by the fire together, side by side, like two old friends.



Dutchie



Fireside friends



Macy wants to surf too!

Benjamin

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(Clockwise, starting left): MPHS juniors Katie Little, Klaus Mayr, Alex Spratley, Brenna Wells, Emily Bass, Julia Kelly, Eric Zhu and Emily Koloski at a “Love Luggage” painting party.



Emily Koloski with some of the painted suitcases.

To recommend a community interest article to be featured in *Myers Park Life*, please submit to Delia at clteditor@n2pub.com.

Old Bags *Learn* NEW TRICKS

By: Resident Reporter Cynthia Sims and
Myers Park Neighbor Emily Koloski

Remember those old suitcases with hard vinyl outer coverings and buckle closures? One Myers Park resident has found a creative, heart warming way to bring these suitcases back to life in order to help children on a life-changing journey. With the help of her friends, Emily Koloski, a junior at Myers Park High School, turns these once dated suitcases into “Love Luggage” for area foster children.

To acquire the suitcases, Emily sent out a notification in her school’s e-newsletter explaining her cause and requesting donations. She also shopped at various Goodwill locations. Next, she sanded and primed the luggage. Then came the fun part— Emily hosted a Love Luggage painting party where she and her friends

transformed the ordinary suitcases into extraordinary works of art. The finished pieces will carry not only a child’s belongings but a message of hope and dignity during a difficult time.

“Often children come into foster care with nothing or with their few belongings carried in a trash bag,” explains Emily. “My goal is to have every child receive a suitcase that helps them feel loved from the inside and out.” Emily packs each suitcase with a stuffed animal and blanket, as well as basic hygiene items.

From patterns to poems and encouraging quotes to Disney characters, each suitcase becomes a message of hope for its future recipient. “Even though I won’t get to see

the children receive their suitcases, I hope it makes them feel that they are not alone – that there is someone out there who is watching over them, thinking about them,” says Emily.

Emily has teamed up with her church to host a luggage drive, Saturday, March 21 at Myers Park United Methodist Church from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Volunteers will have Love Luggage signs and will be outside, ready to receive your luggage as you drive through the side entrance (portico) to the Parish Life Building on Queens Road.

If you have any questions about Love Luggage, please contact Emily at ekoloski@icloud.com

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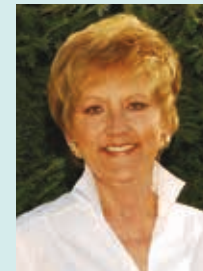
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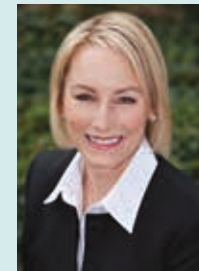
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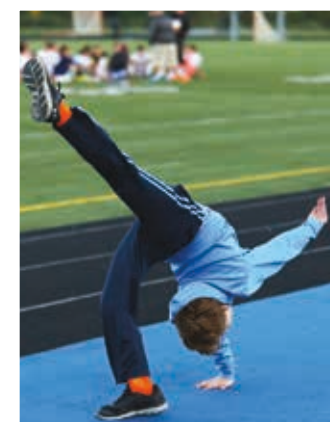


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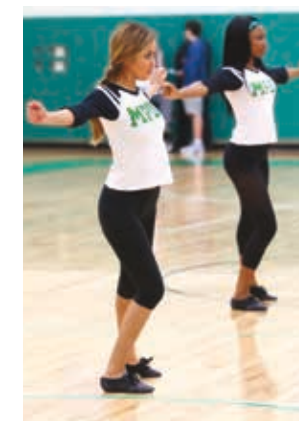
(Above) James Gourlay, brother of Myers Park varsity soccer player William Gourlay, performing on the sidelines of a varsity boys' soccer game last fall. Photos courtesy of MPHS Sports Photos – www.brucestribling.com



Varsity Women's Basketball player Chanin Scott Photos courtesy of MPHS Sports Photos – www.brucestribling.com

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MPHS Dance Company, Photos courtesy of MPHS Sports Photos – www.brucestribling.com



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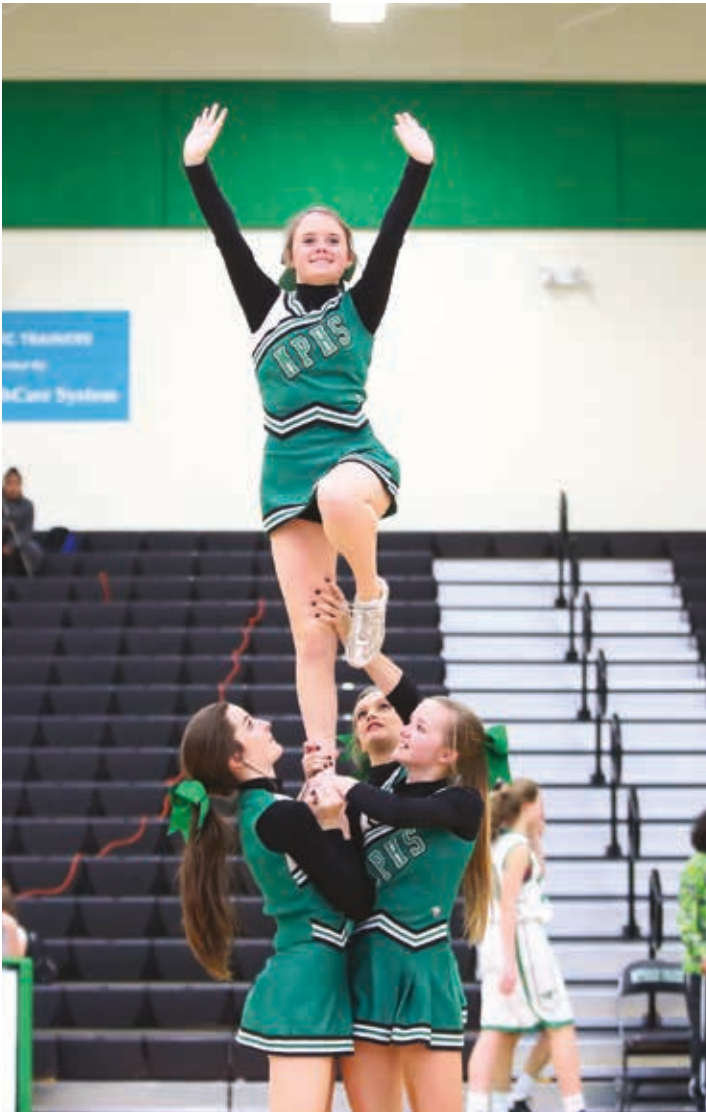
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MPHS JV Men’s Basketball, Photos Courtesy of MPHS Sports Photos – www.brucestribling.com



MPHS Cheerleading, Photos Courtesy of MPHS Sports Photos – www.brucestribling.com



(Below) MPHS varsity basketball player, McKenna Haire, with her brother Jackson, Photo Courtesy of MPHS Sports Photos – www.brucestribling.com



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MARCH Myers Park Life

John Morgan, president and founder of Urban Building Group, can be reached at johnmorgan@ubgcharlotte.com.

Home OF THE Month

veranda time

So just what are the most common or requested home improvement projects these days? Don't let the title throw you off—kitchens and baths still remain the most requested home improvement projects. This makes perfect sense, considering every home has at least one kitchen and bath, and at some point they all need to be replaced. However, if the current trend continues, it may not be long before we see the sector often labeled “outdoor living” take the lead. John Morgan, president and founder of Urban Building Group, Inc., a local design and construction firm, said the desire and willingness from his clients to invest in upscale outdoor spaces is on the rise. According to Morgan, “Our clients want to maintain a certain lifestyle. Families are busy but want to enjoy entertaining and spending time together with family and friends. In our mild climate, most prefer to do that outside. Creating a space well connected to the home and protected from weather increases the chances of them getting to do that with their free time. They don't have to travel to a destination to experience vacation mode.”

Everyone can recall a time on vacation, perhaps at the beach or mountains or possibly overlooking a golf course, where the facility amenities and outdoor landscapes merged into one space

in what felt like the perfect gathering or dining experience. It's these exact feelings from those moments in time that we are drawn to when we consider just how to make the perfect outdoor space. Morgan continues, “Urban Building Group, which has designed and built numerous verandas off the backs, sides and fronts of homes, always considers connectivity, natural light and amenity use.” Amenity use could be anything from a fire-place to an outdoor bar. Every client has a style and vision, and Urban Building Group tries hard to blend the existing architecture into the perfect plan to maximize use of the finished space. This has helped the company earn numerous awards for their outdoor living and porch projects through the National Association of the Remodeling Industry and the Home Builders Association of Charlotte.

Shown here are some of the trends we are seeing as well as some of our favorite outdoor projects from the last few years. Feel free to contact John Morgan of Urban Building Group for more information or with any questions on the design or materials used on the highlighted projects. You may also visit the website to see a full listing of UBG projects and services:

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Neighborhood HAPPENINGS


Charlotte St. Patrick's Day Parade and Charlotte Goes Green Festival – March 14



Don your green attire and come out for the 19th Annual Charlotte St. Patrick's Day Parade and Charlotte Goes Green Festival on Saturday, March 14 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The parade steps off at 9th Street and N. Tryon Street and marches south to 3rd Street.


This year's parade will feature over 100 units that include pipe and drum bands, Irish dancers, floats, step bands, lots of animals, beauty queens and much more. Visit www.charlottest-patsday.com for more information.

Autism Charlotte Rock and Roast – March 27



Autism Charlotte will host its 6th annual oyster roast on Friday, March 27 from 7 p.m.-11 p.m. The Rock and Roast will take place at The Palmer Building (2601 E. 7th Street) and feature live acoustic music, a light supper and beer and wine. Tickets are \$125 and can be purchased online at www.autismcharlotte.org. Autism Charlotte is a local non-profit organization aimed at meeting the underserved needs of families dealing with autism in our community. The mission of Autism Charlotte is to integrate children and young adults with autism into our community through inclusive programs utilizing their unique gifts and talents while providing peers and volunteers a life-changing experience. Learn more at www.autismcharlotte.org.


Novant Remarkable Estate Sale – March 27 and 28




Friends of Novant Health will host a Remarkable Estate Sale Preview & Early Purchase Party on March 27 at 6:30 p.m. Join friends and event curator Patrick Land of Hamilton-Stuart, fine consignments, antiques and estate sales in this estate sale presenting special treasures from their homes to yours. Items include antique furniture, collectibles, art, glass, pottery, jewelry and unique home accessories – all remarkable items to benefit cancer, heart and hospice services with Novant Health Presbyterian Medical Center. \$75 per person includes food by La-tea-da's,

drinks, music and valet parking. Call 704-384-4048 for credit card reservations or mail check to Novant Health Foundation (PMC), PO Box 33549, Charlotte, NC 28233. The free public estate sale is March 28 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Cash, credit and carry—all sales are final. Both events will be held at the historic Belk House located at Presbyterian Medical Center, 200 Hawthorne Lane. www.novanthealth.org/estatesale


22nd Annual Queens Easter Egg Hunt – March 28





Queens University of Charlotte invites you to join us for the 22nd Annual Easter Egg Hunt on the lawn on Saturday, March 28. The hunt begins promptly at 10 am, rain or shine. Remember to bring an Easter basket. Arrive a few minutes early to enjoy the Queens mascot (REX), the Easter Bunny, face painting and refreshments! RSVP by March 24 to Meghann Goddard at goddardm@queens.edu or 704-337-2214. Please leave your name and the number of children/ages.



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"Breaking Barriers" bus



Amelia
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tour AND travel


"BREAKING BARRIERS" IN CUBA

By Myers Park Neighbor Amelia Willingham

To have your travels featured in *Myers Park Life*, please
submit to Delia at clteditor@n2pub.com

As if being American in Cuba didn't draw enough attention, we drove around in a hippie bus. It was the first thing we saw when we stepped out of the intimidating airport security into the warm winter Cuban air. Well, that bus and tons of old cars circa 1950s. We drove in the "Breaking Barriers" bus all around Cuba, drawing funny looks everywhere. We were on a mission – to, ironically, break barriers.

continued...



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Myers Park Presbyterian Church youth group and chaperones, including Kim Brattain (front row, far left). The group traveled to Cuba from December 26-January 4.



MPPC youth with Cuban children



Hotel Nacional in Havana with the group's Cuban tour guide, Yosmel



Enjoying a Havana sunset with MPPC youth minister, Rev. Michelle Thomas-Bush

But the daunting task turned out to be effortless as we stepped off the bus in Remedios into the open arms of our Cuban brothers and sisters. They met each of us with a “Cuban hug,” defined as a light embrace with a kiss on the cheek. All church members (even the little old ladies) from the Iglesia Presbyteriana Reformadia in Remedios walked the full distance from their church just to meet us at our hotel. Their astounding generosity and hospitality further revealed itself when we arrived hours later at their church to see smiling faces, more Cuban hugs and a big welcome sign. As one member of our group observed, we weren’t welcomed as new friends with different economic, governmental and lingual systems. It was as if we were long-lost family members being welcomed home.

The four days spent with our brothers and sisters in Remedios saw joyful times of laughter at language difficulties, heart-racing memories of an all-age baseball game and sincere moments of



Merritt McDonald finds a Cuban friend!

faith and love-sharing. One of my favorite memories with one of the church members was when we were saying our goodbyes on our last night together. I had spoken a few days earlier at dinner with an elderly woman about how we are all children under God. On that last night together, just before I gave her a Cuban hug, she said “Mi hija,” which means, “My daughter.” This loving remark reminded me how alike we all are. Although we speak different languages, live in different worlds and live completely different lives, indeed we are all children under God, and we are all family.

By the end of our time spent with our new brothers and sisters, not only had the barriers been demolished with no trace of a border, but we had also achieved our goal of building bridges. After a goodbye party, the Cuban youth invited us to come back to meet at the church later. We played a Cuban spinoff of “Truth or Dare” and laughed at teenage-humor jokes. It was



The group visits a Cuban Beach

as if I were hanging out with some of my school friends on a weekend. I still exchange emails with one of my friends daily, practicing my broken Spanish and exchanging salutations of “besitos” (little kisses) and “bendiciones” (blessings).

Day-to-day life in Cuba is vastly different from day-to-day life here. First, a step into the center of Remedios is a leap into the past. Old cars are scattered, youth hang out on park benches and ice cream is five for a dollar. They don’t have freedom of the press. They don’t enjoy our luxury of traveling to the beach, even though they have one of the most beautiful beaches on the planet. Their economy is failing, and government services are almost non-existent. They had things to learn from us, and we had things to learn from them. Most of all, they reminded us to stop “going” and just enjoy the moments we have with each other. We saw people just sitting around doing nothing, and while that was a bit extreme,



Cuban and American youth after baseball game

it allowed us to see how busy we are and how we never stop and take a real break, because our minds are always racing, and we feel guilty when we pause for too long.

Through our four-day experience in Remedios, we achieved our goal. We broke barriers and built bridges of trust. We shared laughter and declarations of our faith. And most importantly, we made friends for life. I’ll never forget the moments spent singing in the park at night, cheering on my baseball teammates, painting a mural depicting the story of Jesus’ life, and playing silly games like “Pass the Broom.” I’ve created lifelong bonds. And as my friend Yeily told me in an email the other day, “Somos amigas por siempre.” We are friends forever.

Amelia Willingham is a senior at Myers Park High School and will attend Davidson College in the fall.



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Andy Warhol, *Liza Minnelli*, 1979, Collection of The Andy Warhol Museum.
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Hopefor Heggie

By Resident Reporter Cynthia Sims



NOVEMBER 19 was a special milestone for one young Myers Park resident. Heggie, age 3½, was able to celebrate one year free of seizures from a crippling disease called Dravet's Syndrome, a rare form of epilepsy. It is the most catastrophic epilepsy a child can have and can lead to severe mental retardation or even death due to a seizure or complications from a seizure.

Heggie was born a healthy, full-term baby, but at eight months he suffered his first status epilepticus seizure which changed his world and that of his parents in an instant. Heggie was placed on multiple daily medications; however, the length and severity of his seizures increased. He was helicoptered to Levine

Children's Hospital three times and ventilated four times with seizures lasting as long as three hours. In March 2013, Heggie's parents made the difficult decision to move from their home in Cornelius to the heart of Myers Park, directly across from the hospital, where the doctors knew and had treated Heggie so many times before. They continued with the grueling regimen of a host of daily medications and lived in fear of the unknown of when the next seizure would strike. Heggie's mother refused even to travel more than five minutes from the hospital in case Heggie had an episode.

At their doctor's suggestion, they placed Heggie on a ketogenic diet. This diet

is like an extreme Atkins diet which requires no carbohydrates. Each meal is measured to the tenth of an ounce to ensure Heggie's body stays in ketosis. To put this in perspective, Heggie ingesting even one Goldfish cracker could put him at risk for another seizure. What happened next, Heggie's mom can only explain as a "divine miracle." Within two weeks of being placed on this strict diet, Heggie's seizures rapidly decreased—he has now been seizure-free for over a year. His alertness has returned, and his daily medications have been greatly decreased. This type of result is practically unheard-of for children who suffer from Dravet's and can have up to 60 seizures a day.

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The ketogenic diet presented a challenge this past Halloween. Heggie's mom dropped off letters to neighbors explaining her son's condition and inability to participate in Halloween in the traditional way. She included a Matchbox car with the letter and asked if they would give the cars, rather than candy, to Heggie when he came to trick-or-treat. The support this family received was overwhelming. Heggie's mom emotionally described the night as "a true testament to what a community should be" adding that "Myers Park rose to the occasion. It was so inspiring to see people who did not even know us to take care of us in such a kind way. We are so grateful to them for making Heggie's Halloween night so special." Heggie received over 40 cars and other gifts as well as homemade ketogenic treats various neighbors had made for him.

Heggie's mom asked that this story be a message of hope as well as heartfelt gratitude for all of the support of Myers Park, Levine Children's Hospital medical staff, family and friends. They celebrated Heggie's seizure-free year with signs of gratitude in their yard. Heggie's mom summed it up beautifully. "Everyone we have met has been so loving, accepting and compassionate while we are on this difficult journey. It is a true blessing to be a part of the wonderful community of Myers Park."

To recommend a community interest article to be featured in *Myers Park Life*, please submit to Delia at clteditor@n2pub.com.



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We are proud to introduce our new Physician Assistant, Diana Roetting. Diana is currently accepting new patients and available to see patients of all ages for your medical dermatology needs.

Diana received her Bachelors of Science in Chemical Engineering from the University of Texas before going on to complete her Masters degree in Physician Assistant Studies at East Carolina University. She is fully licensed by the North Carolina Medical Board and nationally certified. Her professional memberships include the North Carolina Medical Society, Society of Dermatology Physician Assistants, American Academy of Physician Assistants, and the North Carolina Academy of Physician Assistants.

In addition to her professional responsibilities, she enjoys jogging, shopping, and being a local foodie. Diana lives in Elizabeth with her husband and goldendoodle named Ling Ling.

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EARLY Spring BULBS

ARTICLE SOURCE: NATIONAL GARDENING ASSOCIATION

Nothing signals the end of winter like the first crocuses poking their heads through the last of the melting snow. Few plants are as easy to grow as the early-blooming bulbs. The only challenge is remembering to purchase and plant the bulbs. During the excitement of the summer and fall gardening season, it's hard to imagine just how bleak the garden can look in late winter.

Following is a selection of early-blooming bulbs. Since many of these are small in stature, they look best planted in relatively large numbers. Don't be intimidated by the thought of planting 100 or more bulbs; the tiny bulbs take just seconds to plant, especially if your soil is loose. Simply make a slice in the soil with a trowel about 4 inches deep, wiggle it to make a hole, and holding the soil back with the trowel, drop in the bulb. As you slide out the trowel, push any scattered soil back into the hole, then water the area to settle the soil.

BLUE SIBERIAN SQUILLS

Scilla is one of the earliest spring flowers to bloom. Flowering for a remarkably long time they bear clusters of bloom spikes that offer scented deep blue flowers. They are exquisite when planted under spring flowering shrubs such as forsythia, azaleas, rhododendrons, and magnolias.

CROCUS

Crocus ring in the spring in a range of colors from blue to yellow to white. The bright colors are wonderful planted in masses so you can enjoy a carpet of color from a distance. In the case of crocuses, more is definitely better! And like snowdrops, crocuses will multiply each year, especially if they are planted in the very well-drained soil they prefer.

SNOW GLORIES

Sometimes called Glory of the Snow, these beauties will blanket the ground with blue in early spring. Each bulb produces multiple star-shaped, sky-blue flowers. Just 4 to 5 inches in height, they look best planted in large drifts, and will multiply rapidly. Ideal for naturalizing

on lawns in light shade or for planting in between perennials, as well as between larger spring bulbs, such as daffodils.

GRAPE HYACINTH

Grape hyacinths aren't true hyacinths, but instead are in the genus *Muscari*. However, if you look closely at these flowers, you'll see the resemblance to hyacinths in the clusters of tiny flowers atop strap-like foliage. Grape hyacinths are so eager to multiply that they can become weedy. Plant them where they can spread freely--in the lawn, under shrubs--rather than in a formal bed.

HYACINTH

If the above flowers, with their diminutive stature and often muted colors, gently announce the arrival of spring, true hyacinths fairly yell it from the rooftops. And not only are they extravagant in appearance, they are also wonderfully fragrant. Add these to the fact that hyacinths are very easy to grow, and there's no reason not to include at least a few of these beauties in your garden. They are also excellent for forcing indoors, where you can enjoy their scent each time you pass by.

LOCAL EVENTS MARCH & APRIL

Friday, March 20-22

Charlotte Ballet: *Peter Pan*

Where: Knight Theater at Levine Center for the Arts

When: 7:30pm

Let your imagination take flight on a spectacular journey to Neverland! Jean-Pierre Bonnefoux's gravity-defying *Peter Pan* tells the story of the mischievous boy who never wants to grow up, his sassy sidekick Tinker Bell and the frightful Captain Hook. *Peter Pan* promises high-flying adventure, extravagant sets and costumes, and marvelous dance.

For more information: www.blumenthalarts.org

Friday, March 20-22

Kinky Boots

Where: Belk Theater, 130 North Tryon Street Charlotte, NC

Kinky Boots is the exhilarating Broadway musical that will lift your spirits to new high-heeled heights! Winner of six Tony Awards® including Best Musical, this inspirational story follows a struggling shoe factory owner who works to turn his business around with help from Lola, a fabulous entertainer in need of some sturdy stilettos. Together, this unlikely pair finds that they have more in common than they ever dreamed possible... proving that when you change your mind about someone, you can change your whole world.

For more information: www.blumenthalarts.org

Saturday, March 21

Charlotte Symphony Orchestra Presents: *The Music of Led Zeppelin*

Where: Ovens Auditorium, 2700 East Independence Blvd., Charlotte, NC

When: 8 p.m.

The Music of Led Zeppelin captures the sheer blast and power, riff for riff, of this classic band. Conducted by creator Brent Havens, the show features a heavy-hitting five piece band fronted by Randy Jackson with the Symphony adding musical depth and color to Zeppelin classics "Stairway to Heaven," "Heartbreaker," "Black Dog," "Kashmir," "Immigrant Song," and more.

For more information: www.ovensauditorium.com

Saturday, March 21

Fort Mill Middle School 5K

Where: Fort Mill Middle School, 200 Springfield Parkway, Fort Mill, SC

When: 9 a.m.

Join us for the 2nd annual 5K supporting sports at Fort Mill Middle School.

For more information: www.runningfive.racesonline.com

Friday, March 27

John Mellencamp

Where: Ovens Auditorium, 2700 East Independence Boulevard, Charlotte, NC

When: 7:30 p.m.

Rock & Roll Hall of Famer John Mellencamp just released one of the most distinguished records of his career, *Plain Spoken* on Republic Records. *Plain Spoken* includes ten stunningly elegant and soul-searching Americana gems.

For more information: www.ovensauditorium.com

Saturday, March 28

Historic Rosedale's Annual Easter Egg Hunt

Where: Historic Rosedale, 3427 North Tryon St., Charlotte, NC

When: 11 a.m., Noon, 1 p.m.

Explore our enchanting gardens and wander through our ancient boxwood maze as you and your child hunt for Easter eggs left by the Easter Bunny himself. Children of all ages are welcome and don't forget your Easter baskets. Come and explore our lush and magical gardens, which provide the perfect back-drop for Easter photos. In addition there will be a photo with the Easter Bunny.

For more information: www.historicrosedale.org

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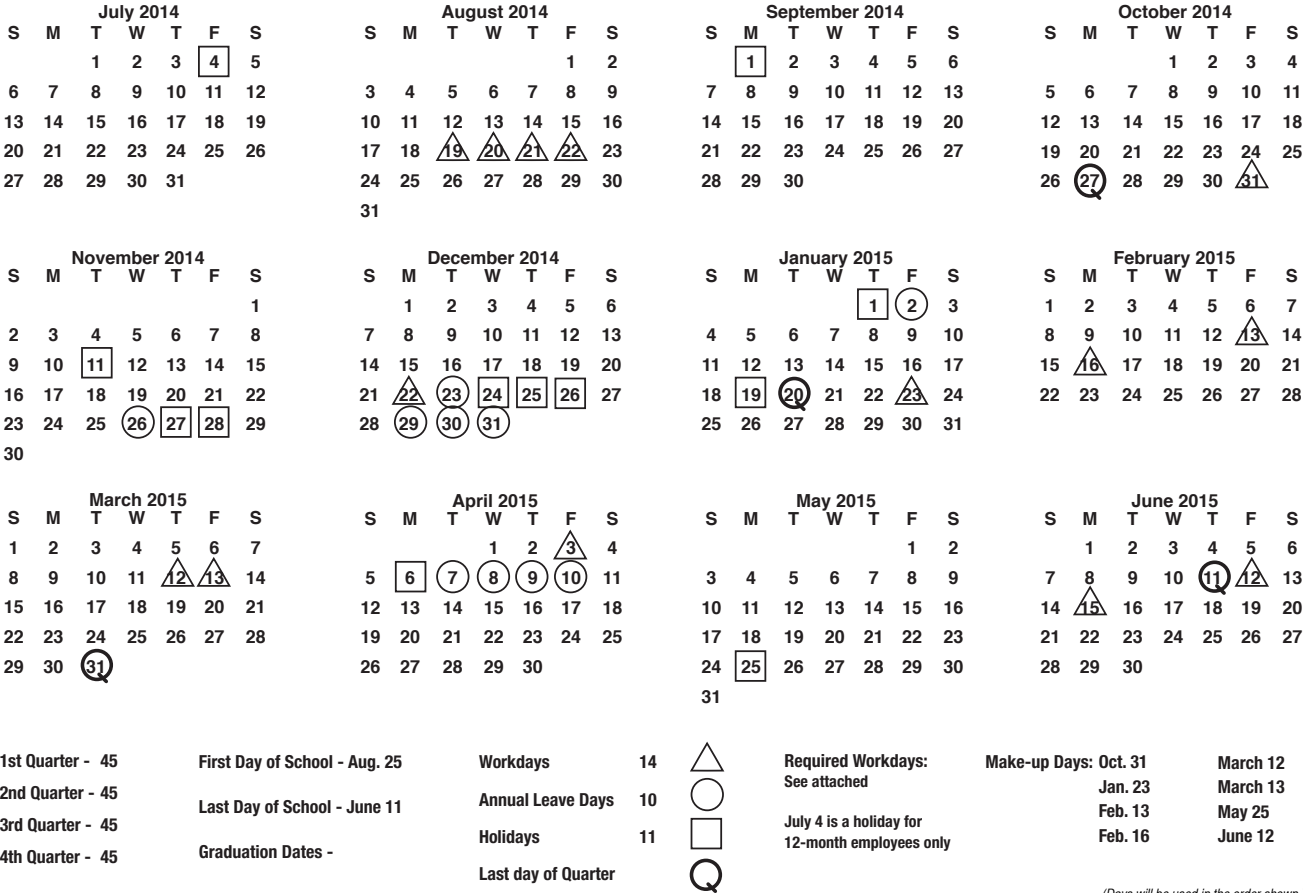
Tuesday, April 7
The Bible Tour 2015
Where: Ovens Auditorium, 2700 East Independence Boulevard, Charlotte, NC
When: 7 p.m.
Featuring: Steven Curtis Chapman, Francesca Battistelli, Brandon Heath and Danny Gokey. Your favorite artists bring the Bible to life through performances of today’s biggest songs paired with epic visuals from the Bible mini-series.
For more information: www.thebibletour2015.com

Saturday, April 11
Four Seasons Spring Wine Tasting Dinner
Where: Raffaldini Vineyards, 450 Groce Road, Ronda, NC
When: 6 p.m.-9 p.m.
Each dinner features four seasonal food courses and four specially chosen wines to complement the food. Culinary and wine descriptions will be given during the evening to enhance your enjoyment. This is an opportunity to share your food and wine passion with like-minded friends. The atmosphere will be relaxed and casual with a focus on meeting new friends and enjoying la dolce vita.
For more information: www.raffaldini.com

Friday, April 17 & 18
Carmina Burana
Where: Booth Playhouse, 130 N. Tryon St. Charlotte, NC
When: 3 p.m. & 8 p.m.
Carmina Burana is a gripping cantata by Carl Orff brought to life by Caroline Calouche and our virtuoso dancers. Poetic scenes of passion and spiritual liberation will send your pulse racing.
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Friday, April 17-25
The Fantasticks
Where: Duke Energy Theater at Spirit Square
When: 8 p.m.
“Try to Remember” a time when your biggest adventure was the first romance of your life. The Fantasticks is that story. It is about a boy, a girl, two fathers, and a wall. The original off-Broadway production holds the distinction of being the world’s longest running musical! With a fun and gorgeous score by Tom Jones and Harvey Schmidt (110 in the shade), and memorable songs such as “Soon It’s Gonna Rain,” and “Plant a Radish,” this classic American romantic-comedy will lift your spirits and remind you that the best things in life are often the most simple.
For more information: www.blumenthalarts.org

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools 2014-2015 Calendar
Approved by the Board of Education May 13, 2014



1st Quarter - 45	First Day of School - Aug. 25	Workdays 14	△	Required Workdays: See attached	Make-up Days: Oct. 31	March 12
2nd Quarter - 45	Last Day of School - June 11	Annual Leave Days 10	○	July 4 is a holiday for 12-month employees only	Jan. 23	March 13
3rd Quarter - 45	Graduation Dates -	Holidays 11	□		Feb. 13	May 25
4th Quarter - 45		Last day of Quarter	Q		Feb. 16	June 12
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(Days will be used in the order shown.)

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Collaborative Divorce

The New Normal

Anyone who has gone through a divorce will tell you that it can be one of the most challenging experiences of your life. Statistics show that fifty percent of first marriages end in divorce while the divorce rate is even higher for second marriages. Divorce has emotional and financial implications for all parties involved. Fortunately, a collaborative method is emerging to address the complex issues surrounding divorce in a productive, informed manner that often minimizes the emotional anguish and adverse financial consequences of a lengthy divorce.

North Carolina requires couples to live apart for one year before granting a divorce. During that time, divorcing couples may seek alternative methods to resolve disputes rather than going through an expensive, litigious trial. Two traditional alternative dispute methods include mediation and arbitration. The former involves an independent third party working with the couple to negotiate a settlement allowing both parties to share in the decision making process. This process can lower legal costs while providing a greater likelihood that the parties honor the agreement. Arbitration, on the other hand, is an adversarial process where an arbitrator imposes a legally binding decision after reviewing evidence in the case. This option is helpful when disagreement results in gridlock.

Collaborative divorce is emerging as a welcome alternative to the traditional dispute resolutions outlined above. Under the guidance of their respective lawyers, divorcing couples collaborate with a team of trained professionals to resolve emotional and financial disputes respectfully outside of court. When necessary, professionals such as marriage counselors and financial specialists are brought in to advise on matters in their areas of expertise. Because of the financial complexity inherent in divorces, financial planners and tax professionals are playing



a more active role in alternative dispute resolutions. However, many of these professionals have little or no training specifically related to the complex financial issues of divorce. To best meet the financial needs of divorcing clients, the Certified Divorce Financial Analyst (CDFA™) designation was created.

A CDFA™ professional typically comes from a financial planning, accounting, or legal background and goes through an intensive training program to become skilled at analyzing and providing expertise on both the short and long-term financial implications of divorce. When a CDFA™ is involved early in the process, they can provide comprehensive and accurate financial information necessary to reach a workable agreement as well as explain options, help set priorities and assist with the difficult choices involved in reaching a settlement. Enlisting the help of a CDFA™ professional can help all parties understand the financial implications both during and after divorce and help ensure a stable economic future for both parties while preventing long-term regret over misguided financial decisions made under the duress of divorce.



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Real Estate RESOURCE

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Address	Neighborhood	List Price	Sale Price	Sold Date	DOM	Beds	Baths	SqFt	Sp Sq Ft
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1337 Biltmore DR	Eastover	\$749,000	\$719,820	01/27/15	44	4	3	2,624	\$274.00
2138 Wellesley AVE	Myers Park	\$1,649,000	\$1,575,000	01/22/15	73	4	4.1	5,200	\$303.00
3035 Hanson DR	Myers Park	\$325,000	\$275,000	01/21/15	182	2	2	1,022	\$269.00
2041 Norton RD	Myers Park	\$2,690,000	\$2,600,000	01/15/15	41	5	4.2	6,814	\$382.00
400 Hermitage RD	Myers Park	\$549,000	\$250,000	01/12/15	62	3	2.1	1,530	\$163.00
2503 Roswell AVE	Myers Park	\$105,000	\$93,500	01/09/15	28	2	1.1	976	\$96.00
1645 Sterling RD	Myers Park	\$756,000	\$725,000	01/09/15	13	4	2.1	2,465	\$294.00
2445 Selwyn AVE	Myers Park	\$440,000	\$405,000	01/09/15	6	2	3	2,944	\$138.00
1414 Biltmore DR	Eastover	\$1,395,000	\$1,360,000	01/06/15	11	3	4	4,007	\$339.00
1501 Sterling RD	Myers Park	\$630,000	\$580,000	12/22/14	170	3	2	2,005	\$289.28
217 Middleton DR	Eastover	\$585,000	\$580,000	12/19/14	62	4	1.1	1,926	\$301.14
1513 Queens RD W	Myers Park	\$1,329,000	\$1,250,000	12/19/14	186	5	3.1	4,364	\$286.43
2539 Hampton AVE	Myers Park	\$650,000	\$600,000	12/18/14	3	3	2.1	1,861	\$322.41
2048 Coniston PL	Myers Park	\$675,000	\$626,000	12/16/14	79	4	2	2,549	\$245.59
2301 Pender PL	Myers Park	\$1,125,000	\$1,125,000	12/15/14	0	4	3.1	4,097	\$274.59
1626 Twiford PL	Eastover	\$1,195,000	\$1,058,205	12/15/14	281	5	5	4,238	\$249.69
1214 Wareham CT	Myers Park	\$1,025,000	\$1,025,000	12/08/14	45	4	4.1	5,768	\$177.70
AVERAGES		\$940,111	\$881,529		80	4	3	3,148	\$269.60




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