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### Malcolm Graham on the impact of Covid-19 on Historic West End residents and businesses

West Side Connect [dstrickland@qcitymetro.com]

Sent: Friday, April 17, 2020 4:20 PM

To: Steve Johnston



#### Malcolm Graham on how Covid-19 has impacted Historic West End residents and business owners

Malcolm Graham was barely sworn in as a Charlotte City Council District 2 representative when Covid-19 came calling. Overnight, the conversation along the Historic West End changed from growth and potential to one of survival.

Before the pandemic arrived, "it was like a dream come true," Graham told West Side Connect. "All the pieces were falling together. We had scheduled in March a town hall meeting with the students at Johnson C. Smith University to educate them about all the positive developments that were happening around the corridor."

He ticked off a few of them:

The streetcar, scheduled for completion in December.

Five Points Plaza, buoyed by major grant from the Knight Foundation.  
The I-77 underpass on West Trade, scheduled to get a major redo.  
The old Excelsior Club, scheduled for redevelopment.

Now Graham spends much of his time in talks about Covid-19 and how it's affecting the various District 2 communities.

[Read the full story.](#) [Glenn Burkins]

## WEST END BUSINESS



### Online shoppers, prepare for Great Things

"If I picked up this store and dropped it in South Charlotte, it'd be a million-dollar store," says Traci Bullock, the manager of Great Things, a resale boutique on Beatties Ford Road.

She is justifiably proud of the shop, which generates revenue that supports transitional housing for homeless women.

The shop sells high-quality clothing, perfume, jewelry, handbags, home décor and houseware items at a discounted rate. Much of the clothing comes from Clothes Mentor, a popular national consignment shop chain with two locations in Charlotte and one in Rock Hill, SC.

Last year, Great Things donated \$40,000 to My Sister's House Transitional Living Center. But due to the Covid-19 stay-at-home order, store operations and donations have come to a halt -- 80% of its donations come from Clothes Mentor, which also closed due to the pandemic.

It was always part of the roadmap to add e-commerce, said Bullock, however Covid-19 forced the store's management to aggressively move up the timeline and they hope to make online shopping available by the end of April.

[Read the full story.](#) [Crystal Marie]

## HEALTH

### **Getting a Covid-19 test on west side is now easier**

Charlotte's two-largest hospital systems, Atrium Health and Novant Health, are making it easier for residents in underserved and minority communities to be screened and tested for Covid-19.

Novant Health is testing residents for Covid-19 at its [Michael Jordan Family Medical Clinic](#) at 3149 Freedom Drive. This drive-thru testing site is open weekdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Atrium Health's mobile unit [will conduct Covid-19 testing this week](#) at these locations and times:

10 a.m. – 4 p.m., Monday, Clinton Chapel AME Zion Church at 1801 Rozzelles Ferry Road

11 a.m. – 6 p.m., Friday, Northside Baptist Church at 333 Jeremiah Blvd.

## IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

[GoodRoad CiderWorks and Mr. 3's Crab Pot reflect on Covid-19 impacts](#)

[Meet Reggie McNeil, the nonprofit exec who took home the \\$20K SEED20 prize](#)

[Black, country and proud: Trailbred Riderz spur urban horse culture](#)

[What does romance look like during a pandemic?](#)

## EVENTS

*Due to North Carolina's stay at home order, nonessential in-person events have been postponed or canceled until April 30. If you have virtual events to share, please submit them to our [events calendar](#).*

## TUESDAY

[COVID-19 in Communities of Color, What History Tells Us](#): Guest panelists **Dr. Ophelia Garmon-Brown** and the Knight Foundation's **Charles Thomas** join Levine Museum's **Dr. Willie Griffin** and **Braxton Winston** in a deep dive into the history of health inequity, and how Charlotte neighborhoods are organizing support in these trying times.

## APRIL 23

[Digital Meetings for Neighborhoods](#): Consistent communication within your neighborhood organization is imperative even during a pandemic. The City of Charlotte is hosting a training session via Zoom that will focus on how to ensure a quality digital meeting for your neighborhood organization presented by Next Stage Consulting.

**MAY 7**

[Digital Communications for Neighborhood Groups](#): Digital communication can help build capacity in neighborhoods and foster a stronger sense of community. In this session hosted by the City of Charlotte in partnership with NextStage Consulting, learn how to use digital communication as a tool to improve communication in your organization.

Got an event you'd like to post? [Click here to get started.](#)

**We need your help**

West Side Connect is looking for westside residents willing to serve on our board of advisors. Board members will help shape this focus of the journalism initiative as we grow to better serve the needs of the various westside neighborhoods. Drop us a line at [editor@qcitymetro.com](mailto:editor@qcitymetro.com).

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