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West Side Connect

West Side Connect [dstickland@qcitymetro.com]

Sent: Sunday, May 17, 2020 7:50 PM

To: [Steve Johnston](#)

WEST SIDE CONNECT

MCCRORY HEIGHTS



Mildred Grier, a West End neighbor you should know

Mildred Grier celebrated her 97th birthday this month. The Charlotte native grew up in the city's Third Ward, near what is now Panthers Stadium.

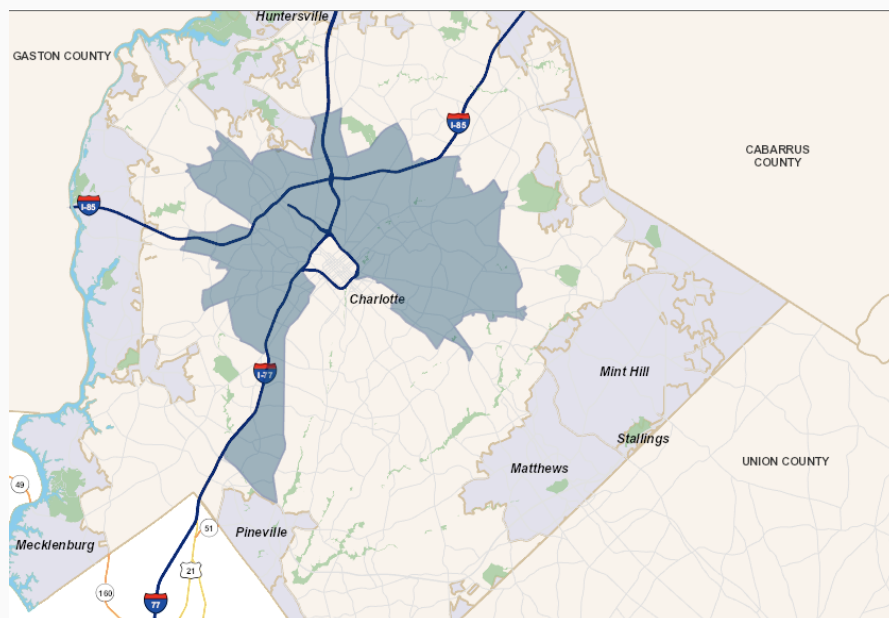
She's now a resident of McCrory Heights.

Grier was among the first women admitted as freshmen to Johnson C. Smith University. Years later, she and her late husband, Joe, were among the first to buy property in McCrory Heights, then a up-and-coming suburb for Black professionals.

In our Q&A, Grier talks about some of the changes she's seen.

[Read our full article.](#) [Patsy Pressley]

BUSINESS



Micro businesses can apply for relief funds

Starting Monday, Charlotte's micro businesses -- those with five or fewer employees -- can apply for grants to combat the economic disruption caused by the coronavirus pandemic.

The city has partnered with Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) to deploy the Micro Business Relief Fund, where 100 micro businesses -- located within opportunity corridors that fall largely on the east and west sides of town -- could receive up to \$10,000 each. The cash can be used for operational costs such as payroll, vendors, utilities and rent. Applications open Monday at noon.

A city official tells QCity Metro that, because the grant program will draw a large number of submissions, applications will be judged using strict standards.

The application will be available Monday at noon on the [LISC website](#). For questions or assistance, email info.charlotte@lisc.org.

[Read the full story](#). [Katrina Louis]

ASKED & ANSWERED



When will the Beatties Ford Road streetcar project be finished?

Work on the CityLYNX Gold Line has continued unabated, says Juliann Sheldon, the acting public & community relations manager for Charlotte Area Transit System (CATS).

Originally scheduled for completion in 2020, the second phase of the streetcar expansion is now scheduled to open sometime in 2021, she said. But don't blame the delay on Covid-19. The project has been held up by a number of factors, including work on the Hawthorn Lane Bridge, on the other end of the streetcar line, in the Elizabeth neighborhood.

[Read the full story.](#) [QCity Metro]

PEOPLE



Former West Charlotte High student looks to give back

Barber Kenny Quiller has had many entertainment industry greats in his chair. He's shaped up New Edition, Kevin Hart, and traveled with over a dozen celebrity tours to keep performers paparazi-ready. Now, he's giving back to West Charlotte High School's cosmetology department, where he first learned his trade, by organizing a fall cruise for alumni to coincide with his 30th class reunion in September.

Called *100 Dub C's on the Lake*, proceeds will benefit the West Charlotte cosmetology program and the Clinton L. Blake Endowment scholarship. Tickets are on sale at the [West Charlotte Alumni Association's Eventbrite page](#), and people can simply donate if they can't attend the event.

[Read the full story.](#) [Emiene Wright]

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT



Beatties Ford Road library branch gets new name: Charlotte Mecklenburg Library renames branch in honor of Allegra Westbrooks, the first African-American public library supervisor in North Carolina. [Digging deeper into Covid-19 impacts on Charlotte's Black community](#)

Over the next 12 months, QCity Metro plans to track the economic and social fallout in Charlotte's Black communities. Here's how you can join the effort.

[West Charlotte names Sam Greiner as their new head football coach](#)

WBTV reports that Sam Greiner will become a part of the rebuild of West Charlotte as they hope to get back to the glory days of Lions football. This hire comes as West Charlotte breaks ground on a new school right behind the site of the current school.

[An Inside Look at Venue @ 1801](#)

Historic West End turns the spotlight on event rental space, Venue @ 1801, located on 1701 West Trade. The business relocated to the west side within the past year and have been navigating construction and the pandemic. Learn about what they are doing in the community.

EVENTS

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

SUNDAY, 7 p.m.

[Adrian Crutchfield: The Lovers Lounge](#): The saxophonist, known for his neo-soul sound, performs live from The Playroom.

TUESDAY, noon

[Jazz Dance with Kimberly Pereira](#): Charlotte Ballet is offering free community dance classes online – open to all ages and all skill levels – throughout May.

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

Give us feedback

Got a story idea for West Side Connect? What about an event you want to share with your neighbors? Perhaps your westside church is hosting a revival or special event. Or maybe you want to advertise or get involved in some other way. Drop us a line at editor@qcitymetro.com.

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