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- 20-02 (18)
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West End change agent

West Side Connect [dstrickland@qcitymetro.com]

Sent: Sunday, August 16, 2020 7:27 PM

To: Steve Johnston



TOP STORY



In the shadow of JCSU, Dianna Ward is creating a new retail environment

In December 2019, the Charlotte business owner and real estate investor beat the odds to buy a small commercial building in the Five Points area.

With the building now under renovation, Ward and her partners are preparing to welcome their first three tenants — a pharmacy, a pizza restaurant and an ice cream shop — with room still for two additional stores.

In a city under constant remake, Ward is one of several Black business owners who have turned their focus to Charlotte’s West End corridor, an area rife with both promise and perils.

"I saw what was happening around the city, what people were doing, and I wanted to get involved," she said.

[Read our article.](#) [Glenn Burkins]

SCENE ON THE WEST SIDE



West End resident Hester McCardell Ford celebrated her 115th birthday on Saturday -- or was it her 116th?

Either way, Ford is the oldest person on record living in the United States.

According to her family, Census Bureau documents indicate she was born in 1905, but another set of Census documents show she was born in 1904.

Rain dampened the planned festivities, keeping Ford indoors, where she waved to party-goers who dropped by to wish her many more. [We were there.](#)

Photo: QCity Metro

ICYMI

[How a Local Historian Uncovered Trezzvant Anderson, the Charlotte Civil Rights Hero You've Never Heard Of](#)

A crusading journalist in the Jim Crow South, Anderson's work exposed discrimination against Black people at a time when few dared tell those kinds of stories. Levine Museum of the New South historian Willie Griffin, who grew up in Lincoln Heights, is writing a biography about Anderson. (Charlotte Magazine)

['This is not what we will tolerate' | West Charlotte neighbors join forces to help stop recent gun violence](#)

"This recent uptick in violence is definitely unsettling," said Stephanie Stenglein, President of the Historic Camp Greene Neighborhood Association. Neighbors plan to come together and involve community

officers to devise strategies to cut down on gun violence. (WCNC)

[West Charlotte warehouse buildings to be transformed into office space](#)

The \$30 million-plus redevelopment is called the Switch Yard. The buildings are near the intersection of Tuckaseegee Road and Jay Street. (WSOC)

[20 things to do, see, and eat in the Historic West End](#)

The West End is undergoing change as modern new-builds and oversized craftsman creep into modest neighborhoods. Still, much of the area has retained its charm. (Charlotte Agenda)

EVENTS



AUG. 22, 11 a.m – 4 p.m.

[Hidden Valley Census Caravan](#): Join Project 70Forward, LatinX CCC, and ENLACE for a drive-thru parade to Get Out The Count for the #2020Census. There will be music and giveaways from Radio ONE as the caravan winds through the Hidden Valley community.

Why the count matters: Census data is used for a variety of purposes, including deciding how federal tax dollars -- which help to pay for things such as roads, hospitals, schools, and social services -- will be spent at the state and local levels. So communities that are undercounted effectively end up sending those tax dollars to other communities. Undercounted populations are often poor, black, immigrant and transient.

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

TUESDAY, 3 p.m.

[Rosa Parks Farmers Market](#): The market, at the corner of Beatties Ford Road and Lasalle Street, will be open until 7 p.m. Everything comes from local farmers and neighborhood collectives.

TUESDAY, 7 p.m.

[Open Air episode](#): Join internationally acclaimed curator Dexter Wimberly for an intimate conversation and exclusive backstage studio tour with artist & scholar Dr. Fahamu Pecou.

WEDNESDAY, 6 p.m.

Congresswoman Alma Adams is hosting a "Stand Up and Be Counted" Census event via Zoom. [Registration Link](#)

WEDNESDAY, 7 p.m.

[Reading for Filth w/ Autumn Rainwater + Peculiar Hippie](#): A book club series that dissects adult urban fiction and other works from Black authors. This month's read: "The Coldest Winter Ever" by Sister Souljah.

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

We're listening

Who's doing good work along the West End corridor? [Drop us a line.](#) We love to spotlight people who are making a difference.

West Side Connect is powered by QCity Metro under a grant from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation

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