

Can Charlotte really become a city of bikes?



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Finally, biking in uptown without fear

By Ely Portillo

Pedaling through uptown last week alongside cars and pedestrians, I felt something that I've rarely felt before on city streets: Relaxed. That's because I was riding not in lanes of traffic or in a tiny, painted "bike lane," but in a full-sized, two-way, striped and painted lane for bicycles, separated from cars by a concrete curb and plastic bollards.



Report: An 'economic halo' for rural churches in North Carolina

By Ely Portillo

In small towns across North Carolina, churches function as more than places of fellowship and gathering for people — they're also civic assets and de facto economic engines. That's one of the key findings of a new research report by the UNC Charlotte Urban Institute, in partnership with The Duke Endowment and Partners for Sacred Places.



Podcast: How parking can strangle a city, and what to do about it

Future Charlotte podcast

Abundant, convenient, cheap — or even free — parking, right where you want it, so you can drive up to your destination and find a space right by the door. Sounds great, right? Maybe so — unless that abundant parking is killing your city.



YMCA of Greater Charlotte

28TH ANNUAL McCROREY YMCA MLK HOLIDAY CELEBRATION

MONDAY, JANUARY 17



MLK Holiday Virtual Celebration: Monday, Jan. 17

As a member of Niner Nation and the greater Charlotte community, you are invited to participate in the Annual McCrorey YMCA MLK Holiday Virtual Celebration scheduled for 9:00 am on Monday, January 17th. This event will honor Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s legacy and celebrate the impact of the McCrorey YMCA. Showcased events will include a spoken word piece written and performed by McCrorey YMCA teens, an original dance from YMCA youth, and a performance by the McCrorey YMCA Senior African drummers.



Garden journals offer a window into our changing world

By Ruth Ann Grissom

That's a common theme running through my entries over the past few years — extended periods of heat, drought and excessive rain. Gardeners pay attention to those events. I don't feel the need to keep detailed records of temperature and precipitation — they're widely available — but a garden journal can translate raw data into something tangible. The lettuce that bolts too soon. The peas that flame out early. The celery that survives a mild winter. If we pay attention to our gardens, they might be the best way to see how a changing climate impacts our own backyards.

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