

## QCity Metro Business Edition



**From** QCity Metro <editor@qcitymetro.com>  
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Learn how Lowe's helped a west Charlotte neighborhood transform a vacant lot into a [community park](#).



**Glenn Burkins**

Publisher

Nothing is easy about launching and then growing a small business. Trust me; I know from experience.

At the same time, few accomplishments in my career have felt more satisfying.

Others apparently agree. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the federal government issued a record 5.4 million business ID numbers

in 2021.

This newsletter, which we launch today with sponsorship from Lowe's, is devoted to those who **dare to dream** and are willing to embrace the risks required in pursuit of those dreams.

Each month on the final Sunday, we will publish this newsletter. We will provide news and information useful to local entrepreneurs. We'll introduce you to local business owners and share proven strategies that lead to success.

Today we introduce Donna Maria, an entrepreneur and small business coach who will write a monthly column. We also spotlight a Bank of America "problem solver" who holds 32 patents.

As we kick off this journey, I'm eager to hear your thoughts and suggestions. [Drop me a line.](#)

One last thing: If you know someone who might benefit from receiving this newsletter, be sure to forward it and invite them to [subscribe](#).

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## Food for thought:

*"If you're working when other people are not, you're going to beat them. It's just a fact. I know that from my own career working hard."*

*Retired banker Hugh McColl Jr., speaking to students at Belk College of Business at UNC Charlotte. [Watch the video.](#)*

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## Meet Donna Maria, QCity Metro's small business columnist



Twenty-two years ago, I quit a lucrative job as an attorney in my hometown of Washington, D.C., to start my own business.

My friends and family members thought I had lost my mind, but I knew exactly what I was doing.

Fast forward to today, and I can look back and say that I made the right decision.

You can do it too, and I'm here to help.

[Keep reading.](#)

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**With 35 patents, Cameron Wadley is a top inventor at Bank of America**



Bank of America announced a "record-breaking year" for patents in 2021.

Cameron Wadley, a technology senior vice president, is part of that trend.

With 62 patents filed and 35 issued, Wadley is one of the company's "top inventors," Bank of America said in a statement.

In a Q&A, he talks about his work and offers advice for those who would follow.

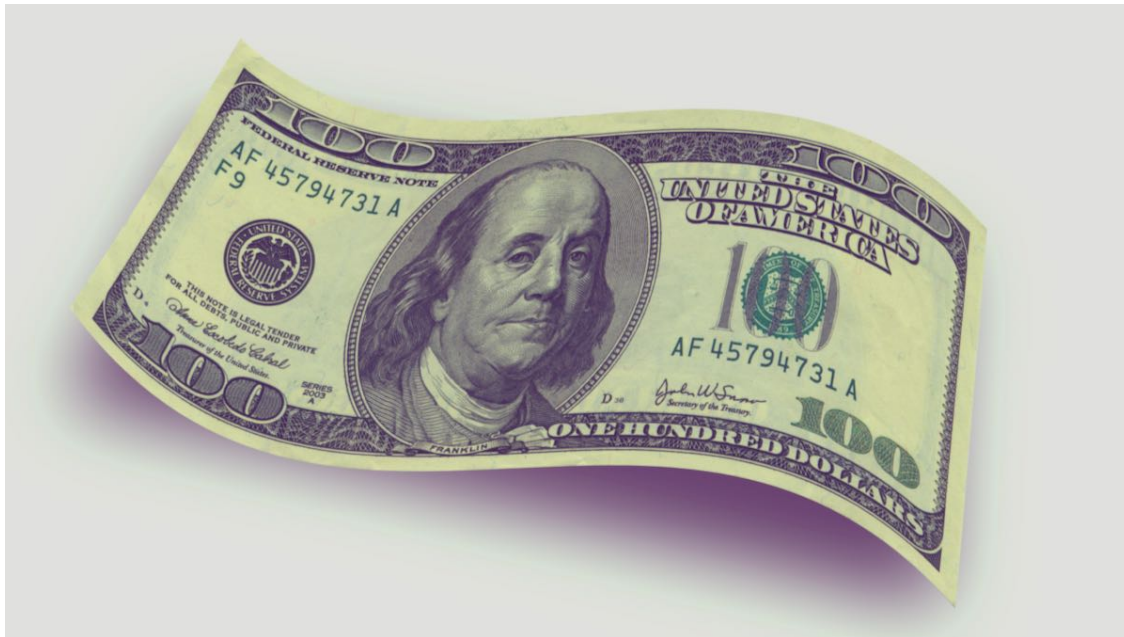
[Keep reading.](#)

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### **Partner Post**

**Take this 1-minute survey for a chance to win \$100**

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Lowe's is committed to serving diverse communities. Answer five short questions and you might just win a c-note, courtesy of QCity Metro.

**I want that cash**

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**Small Business Forum**



In celebration of Black History Month, U.S. Rep. Alma Adams hosted a small business forum.

The event showcased nine Black-owned businesses, ranging from culinary to retail. Each owner shared tips for aspiring entrepreneurs.

In addition, consultants shared a resource list for small business owners.

[Watch the video.](#)

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## Upcoming Events

[Small Business Popup At Sycamore \(March 5\)](#): Shop and connect with small businesses around Charlotte.

[Next level audience engagement \(March 5\)](#): Get tips on presenting to an audience and keeping them engaged.

[Boss Women Business Shower \(March 20\)](#) Come together with other female business owners to network and support each other's

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businesses.

[Small Business Speed Networking \(March 30\)](#) Meet with other small business owners to make connections and gain new contacts.

[JCSU Health Fair and Career Extravaganza \(April 1\)](#) Get educated on health awareness and find a career through graduate schools and other companies.

[Charlotte Small Business Expo 2022 \(April 6\)](#) Attend workshops, network with other businesses and shop from vendors.

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### Sponsor Post

## How Lowe's helped transform a vacant lot



Longtime residents may remember The Ritz theater, which was torn down in the 1990s. A vacant lot left behind had become an eyesore.

Then Lowe's celebrated its 100th birthday by renovating 100 communities across America -- including the vacant lot in Charlotte's historic Washington Heights neighborhood.

Today that park is a community hub where residents can gather, celebrate, host events and more.

[Learn More](#)

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### Business Spotlight

## Coffee shop owner wants to evoke 'positivity in every cup'



*Photo via Joe Keenan*

Joe Keenan caught the coffee shop bug shortly after he moved to Charlotte in 2016.

He would go to local shops to meet new people.

Keenan hosted a soft opening for "Evoke Coffee," a brick-and-mortar shop he launched on W. Morehead Street.

Keenan said he was inspired by the words of his mother, who died the

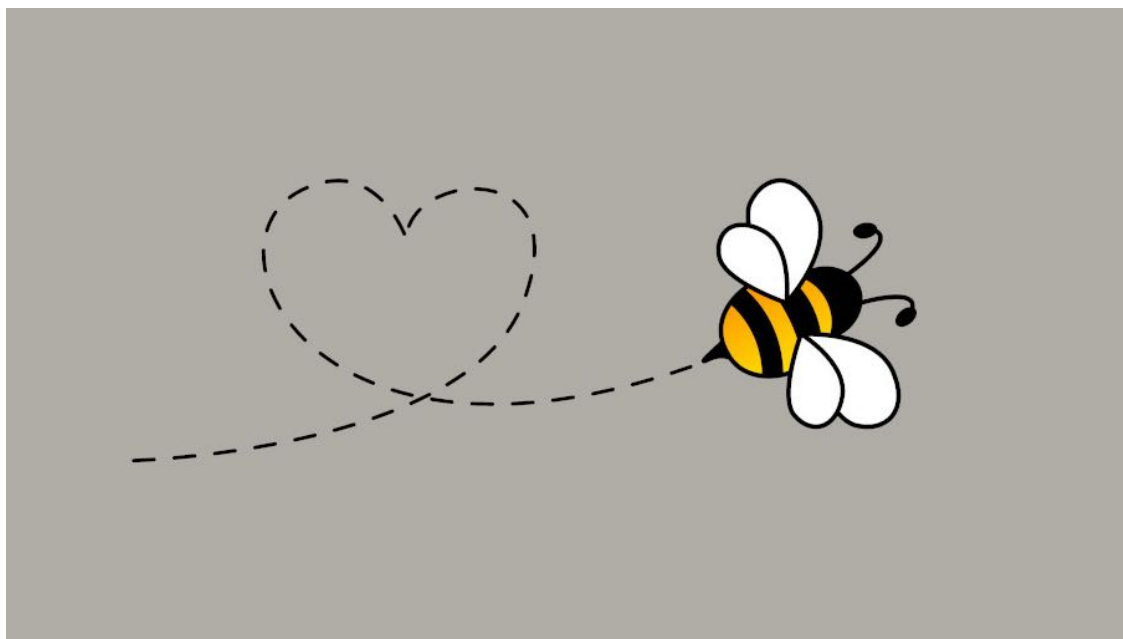


same month he opened the shop.

[Keep Reading](#). [Jalon Hill]

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## Biz Buzz



Has your business reached a key milestone? Maybe you opened a new office, celebrated an anniversary, closed a big deal or hired a new employee. Let us share your good news with others who read this newsletter. **Email:** [bizbuzz@qcitymetro.com](mailto:bizbuzz@qcitymetro.com).

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