

Stars of an Autumn Garden, plus a new book review



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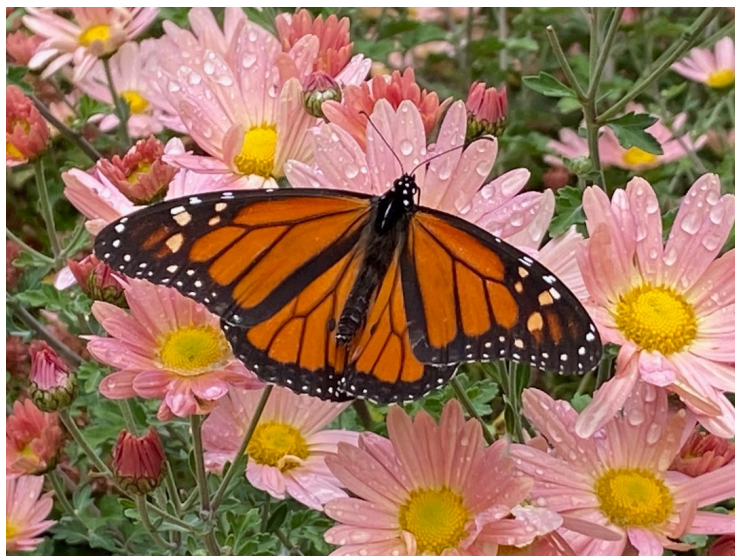
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The Chrysanthemum Chronicles

By Ruth Ann Grissom

My front yard in Charlotte was a blank slate. I had lofty aims – a garden of native grasses and perennials that was appealing to the human eye as well as birds and pollinators. A dear friend offered me several pass-along plants, including a clump of apricot chrysanthemums. Even though this fall-blooming perennial has long been used by Southern gardeners, it's actually native to Asia, so it didn't fit my basic criteria. And I worried the color would clash with the cooler tones of the goldenrods and asters I was eager to plant.





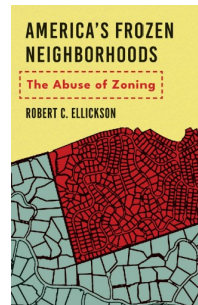
Are America's Neighborhoods Frozen?

By Aaron Houck

'Tis the season for holiday movies. We can choose a variety of films—comedies, dramas, even horror—but regardless of whether we're watching an old classic or a new release, Hollywood tends to stick to a standard script when it comes to depicting the ideal home. Almost always, the characters live in (or aspire to live in) a detached single-family house.

This fictional conception of the American Dream isn't unrealistic. Many of us do want a detached single-family home and many of us enjoy this element of the American Dream in reality. It's a wonderful life. So what's the problem?

The problem, according to Robert Ellickson's new book *America's Frozen Neighborhoods*, is that the predominance of detached single-family housing is heavily scripted by local governments, with severe consequences for economic growth and opportunity.



Transit Time: City Council Committee backs Light Rail Route Around Uptown's Northern Edge--but CATS Offers No Passenger Projections

Contributor: Steve Harrison

When cities apply for federal funding for new transit projects, ridership is perhaps the most important criteria.

Federal Transit Administration (FTA) wants to know: How much will a new rail line cost, and how many people will ride it? The Charlotte Area Transit System knows what the feds want, having built three major rail projects in the last 15 years.

Which is why last week's City Council transportation committee meeting was so strange. CATS staff presented three routes for the east-west Silver Line light rail to pass through uptown. It didn't provide detailed ridership estimates once during the entire 30-minute presentation.

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