

Published by the



**MYERS PARK**

HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

# The Oak Leaf

Summer 2020

"Hey, I'm a  
White Oak Leaf!"

## Inside:

President's Message	3
Membership Update	3
Letter from Becky Carney	4
July 4th Parade	6
MPHA Year in Review	7
24 Hours of Booty	8
Understanding Trees' Disease	9
CMPD Officer Beimel Community Report	11
Marchers in Myers Park	12
Charlotte Marathon	12
Our Tree Canopy: The White Oak	14
Storm Damage	15

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a compliment or a  
correction? Contact us at  
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[mpha.com](http://mpha.com)

## Damage Report:

Surveying the  
Aftermath of May's  
Severe Storm,  
page 15



State Legislator

**Becky Carney**

reflects on  
current  
challenges,  
page 4



**MYERS PARK**  
HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

**Preservation Award**  
2019

Photos of award winner  
on page 13!



**July  
4th  
Parade:**  
Social  
Distance  
Style, page 6



## Weeping Conk:

what it  
is and  
what  
to do  
about it,  
page 9



## This Is Your Oak Leaf

We hope you enjoy this edition of *The Oak Leaf*.

It underscores our commitment to inform our members of important news and events. Did you know you can also keep current via [www.mpha.com](http://www.mpha.com) and by asking to join our periodic email list?

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## Your 2020 MPHA Officers & Directors

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Charlie Welch

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John Beard  
Bob Lilien  
Pamela May  
Joddy Peer  
Susan Shaver

\* indicates new Board Member

## Introducing our newest MPHA Directors:



**Duke Almon**

*"I have lived in Myers Park for more than 10 years. My family and I enjoy everything about our neighborhood and all that it has to offer. I look forward to serving on the MPHA Board and contributing whatever I can to help keep Myers Park a vibrant and thriving community."*



**Kevin Christmas**

*"I joined the MPHA to become more engaged in what is going on in our community and to hopefully help contribute to the continued preservation of this wonderful neighborhood."*



**Michael Morley**

*"I have lived in the Charlotte area for over 18 years. When my wife and I relocated back to the Myers Park area, the MPHA Board gave me the opportunity to give back to a community that has given me so much."*



**Sydney Warren**

*"After moving to Myers Park last fall, I joined the MPHQA Board to learn more about our beautiful neighborhood and to support its character — particularly the trees."*

## Welcome and Thank You!

Mail form below with payment, or visit [www.mpha.com](http://www.mpha.com) to join online.

Help Protect  
the Unique Beauty  
of Myers Park

## 2020 Membership Form



Title(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address (if different than property address) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address(es) \_\_\_\_\_

### Membership Options

☐ MPHA Member: \$75

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All three membership options include annual dues

Please consider an additional donation to help preserve our magnificent tree canopy

☐ Tree Fund Donation: \$25

☐ Additional Donation: \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Amount Enclosed:** \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to MPHA and mail to:

MPHA, PO Box 12733, Charlotte, NC 28220. **Thank you!**



# The President's Message:

By Charlie Welch, MPHA President



## Greetings MPHA Neighbors,

I hope you and your family are doing well in these uncertain times.

I am currently serving as President of the Myers Park® Homeowners Association. I have lived in Myers Park most of my adult life and have served on the board for a number of years. I am very passionate

about the neighborhood and committed to doing all that I can to keep it as one of the most beautiful neighborhoods anywhere. I consider it an honor to serve on your behalf.

Unlike most homeowner associations, membership in the MPHA is entirely voluntary. The board and officers are volunteers and serve because of their affinity for the neighborhood. If you are a member, Thank You. If you would like to join, we would love to have you. Membership is what enables us to continue to preserve and enhance the historical character and beauty of the neighborhood.

You will read further in the Oak Leaf about many of the wonderful things that we have done and are planning. If you have additional thoughts for consideration, please share them. We are a member driven organization and we want to hear from you.

The central topic in the news today of course is covid-19; it dominates local, state and national news. In March, we adapted our lifestyles for what we thought would be at least a few weeks, but for an uncertain period beyond that. Young children are now home, moms and dads are home, adult children came back home, maybe even adult children with children returned home. Many returned for what they thought would be temporary and are now making the best of a much more than temporary stay. At first, it was for a few weeks until we figured things out. Then, a few months, now The....Whole... Year?

A wonderful attribute of our neighborhood is our network of sidewalks. And these are sidewalks which are a good distance from the curb away from traffic. On this note, have you ever seen so many folks out walking? And running? And pushing

strollers? And walking dogs? It's like, "We're not going to let this pandemic get us down!" And, wow, I just didn't realize how many babies and dogs we have!

Our trees are both a blessing and a challenge. Our canopy certainly is beautiful and the envy of many other neighborhoods; however, these trees are aging—some are as old as 100 years—and are becoming diseased (see the article on diseased trees in this issue), not to mention damage by storms and cankerworms. Fortunately, the cankerworm population has diminished in recent years. The MPHA is proud of its Tree Fund, which it uses to replace many lost trees.

One event that may be impacted by covid-19 is our annual 4th of July parade. At press time, events like the parade are not allowable. The parade has been extremely popular and would be a welcome neighborhood gathering, but we also want to be prudent. We are considering alternative ways to hold an event and have considered a Labor Day event, if necessary. We will e-mail any updates on the 4th of July and post them on our website, mpha.com, so please check back there.

Earlier this year, neighbors and MPHA board members met with Mecklenburg County representatives regarding the future of DP Nature. DP Nature was built in the 1950's and has been heavily used by school children and adults alike. The building is quite outdated and the County has proposed expanding and modernizing the facility. Many MP residents are supportive of keeping DP Nature where it is, but concerns have been raised regarding increased traffic, congestion and safety. County manager Dena Diorio and the Parks and Rec staff have listened to neighbor's concerns and have made modifications to their plan. We appreciate their openness and willingness to collaborate on the expansion plans. Expansion planning may have slowed due to other priorities, like covid-19, but we look forward to continuing to work with the County on a mutually agreeable design.

I have been fortunate enough to meet many of you and hope to meet many more. I can be reached at [info@mpha.com](mailto:info@mpha.com); I would love to hear from you.

Best regards and stay safe,

Charlie Welch



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## A Letter from our NC State Legislator Becky Carney

**I** planned to write an article about the nuts and bolts of the state legislature and how it impacts Myers Park, but I'm choosing to speak from my heart instead. Our world is just too topsy-turvy right now.

I'm not sure about you, but these have been an emotional few months for me as a state representative, a wife, a mother, a grandmother and now a great-grandmother. The COVID-19 pandemic and the tragic death of George Floyd and resulting protests have shaken our city to its core. It's a lot to take in, but I'm hopeful that we will overcome these challenges as a community.

I was proud to see the peaceful protest earlier this month on our doorsteps in Myers Park. I was heartened to see so many of my neighbors waving and joining the marchers. I was heartbroken that I could not walk with them as well and join them at Freedom Park. Unfortunately, I am in the high-risk category for suffering serious complications from COVID-19. Please know that I walked in spirit.

In my 18 years serving you in the General Assembly, I can't recall a moment like this for our city, but as always, I am with you as we rise to the challenge of a pandemic and stamping out the systemic racism that ignited the protests.

Although I am not physically present in the district during this pandemic, I have been working diligently for you. In March, I was named a co-chair of the healthcare working group of the House Select Committee COVID-19. We met virtually for weeks. We heard from public health officials and healthcare workers. We also heard from people on the frontlines trying to address healthcare disparities throughout the state and this city. Their input helped us craft legislation to address the impact of COVID-19 on our healthcare systems in rural, urban and suburban communities. Out of our work, more than \$250 million of the \$1.57 billion 2020 COVID-19 Recovery Act is designated for healthcare relief. It will be used for a variety of actions from acquiring PPE (personal protective equipment) to supporting free and charitable clinics to funding COVID-19-related research at our state colleges and universities.

As always, I am also focused on education. It's the reason I ran to serve on the county commission nearly two decades ago, and it fuels my passion today in the General Assembly. I was proud to see the allocation of nearly \$300 million to address the education challenges exacerbated by COVID-19. I am a proud supporter of a current bill to provide flexibility for school funding so that Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools can reallocate under-utilized appropriations to bolster learning for our students.

The relief act was a bipartisan effort, and I am hopeful that it signals a willingness of both parties to work together to address the challenges ahead. We've had a rocky start to the summer, but I am feeling optimistic. As I look back over the last few months, I reflect on how our community has pulled together.

We rallied around our healthcare workers during the height of the pandemic; we organized social distancing celebrations for our 2020 graduates (our future leaders); and individuals and organizations gave away facemasks in underserved neighborhoods. And these are just a few of the efforts concerning COVID-19.

In the wake of the brutal killing of George Floyd, I am thankful to all of the community leaders, activists, clergy and individuals who have been peacefully marching against racism and intolerance. I have never seen this many diverse people come together to take a stand against racism, and it fills my heart.

There's a great shift going on in this country and in our community. I'm holding on to faith and hope that we will emerge even stronger and more united.

Grateful,





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## Myers Park July 4th 2020 Parade - Yes or No?

**S**trike up the band! Decorate your bicycles! Bring in the fire trucks! Get your face painted! Wait—not so fast! We’ve had some terrific July 4th parades here in Myers Park in the past, BUT this year is a bit different, isn’t it? Things are just so unpredictable thanks to the COVID-19 pandemic that the MPHA believes it best to not hold the parade in July 2020. So, our patriotism will have to take a back seat to our good health this year. While we could try to maintain social distancing, it just wouldn’t work with so many folks participating. But WAIT . . .

. . . the MPHA has come up with Plan B. Plan B is a 4th of July parade actually ON the 4th of July! We’ll do it in our cars—the ultimate type of social distancing! Yep, we’ll decorate our cars



and drive around the ‘Hood celebrating our independence. Naturally, there’ll be the fire truck leading the procession, some vintage and exotic cars, and your family SUVs, sedans, trucks, and convertibles. You name it, and it’s open to anyone who wants to participate.

Continuing with Plan B, since it’s not possible to hold our actual parade on July 4th this year, plan to join us at 10:30am Labor Day, Monday, September 7, 2020 on the lawn at Queens University on Selwyn Ave. for our belated July 4th parade.

Further details are forthcoming. Check your email, our website ([www.mpha.com](http://www.mpha.com)) and our signs throughout the neighborhood.



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# MPHA 2019: The Year in Review

By John Beard, President 2019

**I**n 2019 our membership numbers remained strong and our current financials were the strongest we have experienced in recent years.

We were able to partner with Charlotte City Arborists and utilize the MPHA Tree Fund donations to have two tree plantings. Early in the year we planted forty-five Willow Oak trees throughout the Myers Park neighborhood. We followed up the year with another planting of thirty-seven trees. This was a great use of our Tree Fund and was in addition to what the City planted. We will continue replacing our ageing tree canopy as funds are available. Thank you for your continued support of the MPHA Tree Fund.

In addition to the plantings, there was a major tree pruning project by Duke Energy. You may have noticed the most visual prunings were the Cherry trees that grow in our medians. Initially the prunings were more aggressive than we anticipated. Jack McNearly and several Board members were able to work with Duke Energy and Asplundh to develop a more practical and aesthetic pruning method that wouldn't take away the beauty of the trees. Thank you, Jack, for your hard work.

MPHA held another well attended 4th of July parade. We were able to foster our neighborhood relationship with Queens University and change the parade staging to their main campus. Atrium Health helped support the parade with donations including tents and health kits. The parade included a new tradition of vintage and interesting cars. We appreciate everyone that brought their cars and trucks and joined the parade. Our friends from Charlotte Fire Department led the parade and CMPD helped keep us safe. David Britt again provided music that was appreciated by all. JJ's Redhots and King of Pops provided refreshments. City Councilmen, Tariq Bohkari, was our Grand Marshall. It was a great event that we hope will continue as a neighborhood tradition and celebration of our Nation's Independence. The MPHA Board was active with parade preparation and participation. Thank you to every neighbor that helped with and attended the parade. A special thank you to Jenifer Walker for her hard work and coordination.

With increased new construction and renovations, MPHA continued to support our neighbors and membership in regard to upholding deed restrictions. We had several occurrences where we had to notify homeowners or builders of issues. Most of these were handled with letters. We have found that existing builders, experienced with building in Myers Park, are knowledgeable of the deed covenants. Problems arise with new builders to the area. We notify new construction projects and any permit pulls greater than \$100,000 by letter to inform them of possible restrictions that they must research and adhere. We appreciate our neighbors support and observance to the deed restrictions. If you ever think something is amiss or if you have questions, please contact MPHA.

In November, we conducted our Annual business meeting. Taiwo Jaiyeoba, Assistant City Manager, was the keynote speaker. He addressed the growing populous of Charlotte,

housing needs, affordable housing, and single-family zoning. Changes to single-family zoning could be a major factor for existing neighborhoods and should be monitored for consideration and input. MPHA continues to monitor and seek conversations with our Community leaders.

Additionally, at the meeting we celebrated and presented the MPHA Preservation Award. The 2019 MPHA Preservation Award was presented to Tyler and Caroline Covington of 2001 Sherwood Avenue. Congratulations to the Covingtons on their effort to preserve not only the character of their house, but also the Myers Park neighborhood.

At the end of 2019, MPHA transitioned to a new membership management system. JOIN IT was selected for its affordability, consolidation of records, ability to join online (<https://www.mpha.com/online-membership/>), automation of instant payment, and renewal reminders. Emily Zuyus, Sarah Monnin, and Emily Fisher spent a lot of time and energy on this project and should be commended.

It was a busy year and we as an Association—members and neighbors enjoyed another great year living in a great neighborhood.

## Membership Update 2020

By Sarah Monnin & Emily Fisher



**W**e are on track for 2020 but need your help! We are targeting 700 Myers Park Homeowners Association members but are currently at 569—please join if you have not and encourage your friends and neighbors to do the same! Visit [MPHA.com](http://MPHA.com) or send in the form on Page 2 of this Oak Leaf issue. Our basic dues are \$75.00 per year and are tax deductible. Together, we can get this done!

Last year, the MPHA was able to plant over 80 new trees, as well as countless hours spent working with partners across the City of Charlotte to safeguard and advance the needs of our neighborhood. In addition, we hosted the 4th of July Parade and our Annual Meeting. Funding from your voluntary memberships, tree donations and legal fund contributions makes this possible.

In 2019, total membership was 626 households, up from 611 in 2018. With over 3200 families in Myers Park, 700 members is just under ONE IN FIVE households. If you would like to check the status of your membership, please contact [info@mpha.com](mailto:info@mpha.com) with your name, current address and email. We adopted a new software program this year, affording us easier and more efficient membership tracking.

Thank you for your continued support. Please stay in touch at [MPHA.com](http://MPHA.com) and our new Facebook Page.



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## 24 Hours of Booty 2020 Will Go On, BUT...

...in a different way:

**UNLO<sup>24</sup>PED!**

To ensure the safety and well-being of all 24 Hours of Booty participants, the 24 Foundation is reformatting this year's event from the traditional in-person experience into a virtual experience on July 24th and 25th that will provide all of your favorite Booty moments from the comfort and safety of your home or yard. Details of this new way of changing of the course of cancer will be released in the coming weeks.

The virtual event is for all ages and can include anyone from around the world. Registration is \$25 per person and includes an event T-shirt. There is no fundraising minimum to participate, but fundraising is encouraged to support 24 Foundation's cancer beneficiary partners. Participants who have already registered for the 2020 24 Hours of Booty and want to do the virtual event can have the remainder of their existing registration fees transitioned into contributions toward this year's beneficiaries or receive a promo code for \$50 off the 2021 24 Hours of Booty.

Booty Block Party toolkits will be available for pick up with goodies like stickers, tattoos, balloons, sparklers and luminary bags to "Spark Hope" in your community and show others why you support 24 Foundation and our mission. Pickup for toolkits will be communicated to participants through email. Contact the 24 Hours folks through [contactus@24foundation.org](mailto:contactus@24foundation.org) or Lisa Dale at [lisa@24foundation.org](mailto:lisa@24foundation.org).

To date over \$21 million has been raised for cancer navigation and survivorship programs. The funds raised benefit local beneficiaries. Please get involved and contribute at [www.24foundation.org](http://www.24foundation.org). Let's hope that our 24 Hours of Booty event will return in person to our Myers Park streets in 2021!





# Understanding Trees' Disease

By Jack McNeary

**T**rees. Diseased Trees. The Myers Park Canopy. Most Myers Park residents and the Homeowners Association are concerned about our trees. In particular, we're concerned about the trees that the City, particularly the Landscape Management Department that houses the City Arborist and staff, has marked for removal due to disease. These are primarily the trees that grace the medians and planting strips along our streets. Many of Myers Park's trees are over 100 years old. As a professional arborist, I am especially concerned about Charlotte's and Myers Park's trees and have been studying them for over 50 years.

I am concerned that most Charlotteans do not understand much about their trees, and the science that allows them to grow so well in this part of the country. Since I spent many years in the tree maintenance business, I developed this article to answer some of the situations, other than old age, that cause trees to fail. Please take the time to read the computer links in the letter below.

I recently took a close look at a particular Myers Park tree: a Willow Oak on Hermitage Road near Queens Road, and I concur with the City's condemnation for the following reasons. There are mushrooms in several places around the trunk. These mushrooms are the fruiting bodies of the fungus *Inonotus dryadus*, which goes by several common names. I like the name Weeping Conk because when the fruiting bodies first show up in late summer or early fall, they have attractive globs of moisture on a cinnamon colored conk. It is extremely common in the Southeastern US as well as in Europe. Here is a good link for more information: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Inonotus\\_dryadeus](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Inonotus_dryadeus). I have observed these fungi on oak trees for over 50 years here in Charlotte. *Inonotus dryadeus* finds Willow Oaks a desirable and suitable host but rarely other species. Trees that have been wounded by equipment such as lawn mowers or are close to curbs and sidewalks commonly get this fungus. Older oak are very likely candidates.

I also talked to a homeowner who has lived there for a number of years and has seen the fruiting bodies for several years. He also stated that he has pulled the fungi mushrooms off the tree in the hopes that it would repair the tree. When I was still active in my business we used to say that once we saw this mushroom we could wait for approximately seven years before we would recommend removing the tree. Over time the upper crown would deteriorate and we would recommend removal.

I changed my mind when I had a chance to examine a tree in my own yard that got the Weeping Conk, and I also wrote about this situation in detail on my web site ( [https://jackmcneary.com/html/case\\_history\\_1.htm](https://jackmcneary.com/html/case_history_1.htm) ). About 40 percent of the root system was gone, and we decided it was prudent to remove the tree. I have since suggested that three years was a more appropriate time to give serious consideration to recommend total removal.



*The Weeping  
Conk fungus*



*Results of  
Weeping Conks*

I have had many years to observe this problem, and Weeping Conk is a big part of why we have so many large trees uprooting in my opinion. I suspect there are other species of fungi at work below the ground and would like to see some scientific studies on this. Meanwhile lots of these large older trees are being partially held up by anchorage to the curb on the street side, and the sidewalk on the other side.

Even if you see no visible sign of decay, you should go back and look at the base of the tree, and you will find evidence of the shrunk black conk on different sides of the tree. This tells me there is lots of root decay going on under the ground. I probably have a few hundred photos of uprooted trees in the Charlotte area, and there is usually massive decay which only appears visible after the tree has fallen. The City has a very large number of trees for which they are responsible, and I believe they are keeping records, so they know where the problem trees are located. In my opinion they need several more tree crews just to keep up with the responsibility's they have taking care of Charlotte's trees.

*Jack McNeary is a long-time Member of the Myers Park Homeowners Association and a former professional arborist for over 50 years. Jack knows trees!*





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# Myers Park Community Coordinator Police Report

by Officer L. Beimel

**H**ello Myers Park. I hope everyone is doing well and staying healthy. I have been with you all as your Community Coordinator for 6 months now, and it has been a pleasure. I want to provide an update on crime trends so far in 2020 and a few tips on how we, as a team, can make your neighborhood a little less appealing to those looking to commit crimes.



So far this year, property crime has been a large majority of the crime committed in the Myers Park area. Overall crime in the area is down compared to last year. Property crime includes house break ins, motor vehicle thefts, car break ins, and other thefts such as packages, bicycles, mail, tools, etc. Property crimes are crimes of opportunity. Many of these crimes can be prevented.

That is where you all come in. The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department can only do so much to promote security in your community. As a resident of Myers Park, you also have a responsibility to help reduce and deter crime in your neighborhood. We need your help to achieve the best results.

## A few tips to remember:

- Always lock your doors and secure your windows.
- Never leave valuables in your vehicle (i.e.: cell phones, purse, briefcase, backpack, gym bag, cash, loose change, and especially firearms).
- Take your keys, including valet keys; never hide spare keys in or under your vehicle.
- Never leave your vehicle running and unattended.
- Make sure your house is well lit (i.e.: outside lights, spotlights, motion lights, etc.).
- Always keep your garage door closed, even while at home or doing yard activities.
- Store bicycles, tools and other such equipment in a locked shed or garage. Do not leave outside unattended.
- Install an alarm if possible. They are only effective when used.
- Know your neighbors and be involved in your neighborhood.
- Be alert and report suspicious activity to 911 immediately.

I hope these tips are helpful. Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or concerns.

Take care and stay safe!



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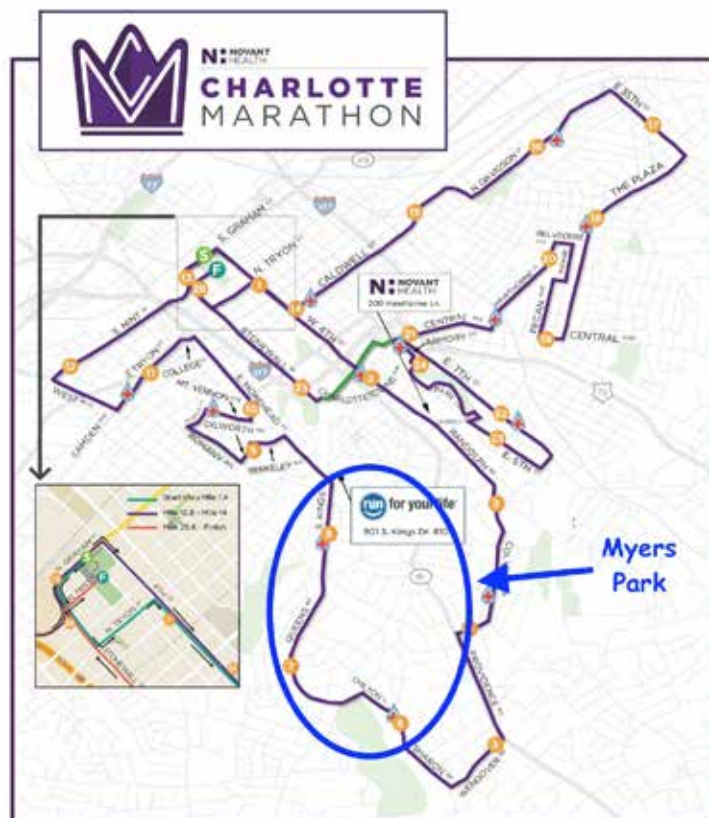
Demonstrators chose Freedom Park and Myers Park's tree-lined streets for a peaceful march on June 1, 2020.



### Meet Our Editor

**Ferman Wardell**, a native of Charlotte, has lived in Myers Park since 1986, having lived on Queens Road (experiencing Hurricane Hugo!), Hermitage Court, and now

Bromley Road. He attended Myers Park High School, where he met the girl who is his wife of 55 years. Ferman has a special interest in Myers Park's beautiful old homes, canopy of trees, and extensive and welcoming network of sidewalks. As a MPHA Board Member since 2017, he is head of the Communications Committee, specializing in producing The Oak Leaf twice per year as Editor and maintaining the MPHA website.



## The Charlotte Marathon: November 14, 2020

We are blessed again this year to have a portion of the November 14, 2020 Charlotte Marathon come through Myers Park, specifically (from Colville Road): Providence Road, Wendover Road, Sharon Road, Chilton Place, Queens Road East, Queens Road West, and Kings Drive. Expect runners from 8:00am to 9:20am along these streets. In addition to the full marathon, there will be a half marathon, a 10K relay, a 5K race, and a one-mile race. The half marathon, relay, and 10K runners will be mixed in with the full marathoners in the Myers Park portion.

**Want to run?** Go to their website: [www.thecharlottemarathon.com](http://www.thecharlottemarathon.com). **Want to support the runners?** Get your chairs and decorations anywhere along the route and cheer them on!

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# And the MPHA 2019 Connie Brown Preservation Award Honors go to:

## 2001 Sherwood Avenue

**T**he MPHA congratulates Tyler and Caroline Covington of 2001 Sherwood Avenue as recipients of our 2019 Connie Brown Preservation Award, which was presented to the Covingtons at the 2019 MPHA Annual Meeting. The home was built in

1925 and is a perfect example of Tudor Revival architecture designed by Martin Boyer with a very European interior.

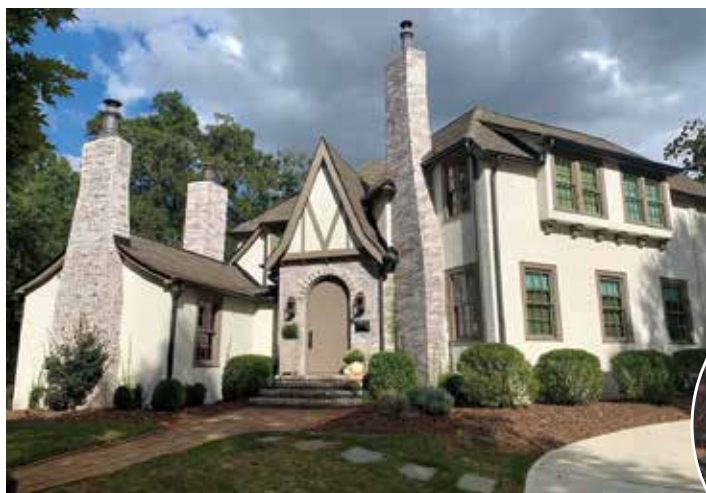
The Myers Park story is a seminal one of the early craft of town and landscape planning in America. In the mid-1800s “park” was a new word for Americans. Wide streets, parks and broad front yards assured the permanence

of the open spaces in Myers Park. Preserving the original intent of this vision is as critical to Myers Park today as it was when it was first conceived. Each year the Myers Park Homeowners

Association presents Preservation Awards to recognize outstanding renovations or additions to existing homes. These awards are designed to encourage the preservation of existing homes and to maintain the character and scale of the Myers Park neighborhood.

The preservation award is named for Connie Brown, who was a tireless contributive volunteer in the Charlotte community through her years of delivering Friendship Trays, her participation in the Mint Auxiliary, the Mint Collectors Circle, and as a board member of Myers Park Homeowners Association. A teacher and devoted mother, Connie worked in partnership with husband Morrison Brown in their design firm, and both were both professional members of American Society of Interior Designers.

**Want to nominate someone for our Preservation Award? Contact us at [info@mpha.com](mailto:info@mpha.com).**



Front – pictured after above and before at right



Rear – pictured after above and before at right



Kitchen – pictured after above and before at right





# Featured Tree in Our Canopy: The White Oak

By Ferman Wardell

**H**ey, Fellow Myers Park Tree Lovers, we all know about and see every day those ubiquitous, magnificent Willow Oak Trees in our famous, lovely canopy, right? Right. But let's not forget to recognize those equally magnificent White Oaks! For you botanists and Latin scholars, it's the *Quercus alba*.

The White Oak is a large, strong, imposing specimen. It has a short stocky trunk with massive horizontal limbs. The wide spreading branches form an upright, broad-rounded crown. The bark is light ashy gray, scaly or shallow furrowed, variable in appearance, often broken into small, narrow, rectangular blocks and scales. The leaves are dark green to slightly blue-green in summer, brown and wine-red to orange-red in the fall. The fall foliage is showy. Now as many of you who have White Oaks know, they hang onto their brown leaves well into the winter and early spring and then dribble them all over your lawns!

White Oaks are wind pollinated. Acorns are produced generally when the trees are between 50-100 years old, although open-grown trees may produce acorns as early as 20 years. Good acorn crops are irregular and occur only every 4-10 years. The White Oak prefers full sun but has a moderate tolerance to partial shade. It is more shade tolerant in youth, and less tolerant as the tree grows larger. It can adapt to a variety of soil textures, but prefers deep, moist, well-drained sites. Older trees are very sensitive to construction disturbances. The deep tap root can make transplanting difficult.

There were many groves of White Oaks in Charlotte at places such as around Presbyterian Hospital and Queens University. The White Oak was likely the most common oak in the Charlotte area originally, and they can still be seen in most old church yards and cemeteries. They were capable of living for 300 to 500 years, but it was much easier to plant Willow Oaks because White Oaks usually have a tap root and are difficult to transplant. The Willow Oak was much more available, and nurseries did not have White Oaks to sell. In our early history the wood was extremely important in ship building (The USS Constitution) and farm equipment because it did not rot easily and was a very dense and beautiful wood.

My most memorable experience with White Oaks occurred during Hurricane Hugo back in 1989. Living on Queens Road between Oxford and Sherwood, we had two huge ones—one in back and one in front near the street. They each must have been three feet in diameter. Both blew down, the back one hitting our home taking out our deck, awning, and two cars, and the front one blocking all of Queens Road for some time and taking out our sewer line—phew! Fast forward to May 2020, when a storm cell plowed through and near Edgehill Park in Myers Park, taking down a dozen or so trees—and, yes, some White Oaks. And, if you notice, it's a White Oak leaf which graces this publication!



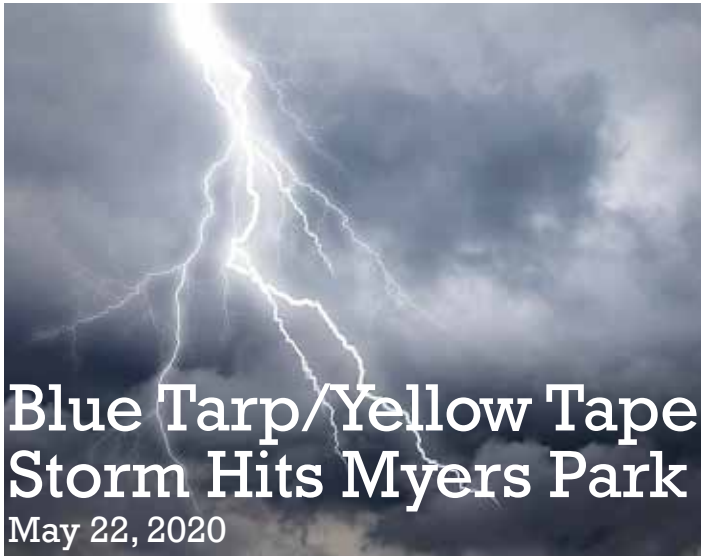
Hurricane Hugo-downed White Oak – Queens Road  
September 1989



Storm-downed White Oak – Edgehill Park,  
May 2020







# Blue Tarp/Yellow Tape Storm Hits Myers Park

May 22, 2020

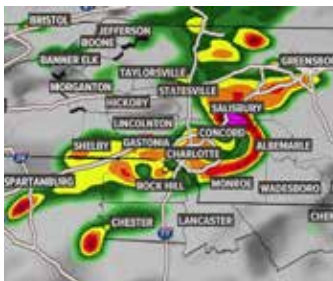
By Ferman Wardell

**S**hades of Hurricane Hugo! A severe storm toppled trees onto homes and power lines in Charlotte's Myers Park, Elizabeth, and Dilworth neighborhoods Friday, May 22, 2020 as Mecklenburg and surrounding counties remained under a threat of possible tornadoes and flooding into the night. Storms moved into the Charlotte region at about 3:30 p.m.

Duke Energy reported 64,600 Mecklenburg County customers without power at 5:30 p.m. Sounds like a local TV news report, doesn't it? Well, it was on every channel that night, that's for sure!

The damage reminded many Myers Park residents of Hurricane Hugo back in September 1989 as they viewed the aftermath of the many giant Willow Oaks fallen onto streets, cars, and homes in Myers Park, blocking major thoroughfares such as Queens Road West, Kings Drive, and Providence Road. Edgehill Road North took a particularly serious hit! The yellow danger tape and blue roof tarps went up quickly.

There was a tornado warning, and the winds were swirling right down the streets. It was fast, and it was furious. The storm was among a line of severe thunderstorms barreling into Mecklenburg and surrounding counties from the west. The storms could pack "damaging gusts (up) to 60 mph" along with heavy rainfall, NWS meteorologists warned in alerts Friday morning.



Here in tree-studded Myers Park, we suffered the loss of trees, cars, and roofs. A walk or drive through the neighborhood was devastating. Fortunately, the Myers Park Homeowners Association has a Tree Fund and the City has tree resources, which hopefully will help

replace many of these trees in the planting strip next to the streets. I'll quit writing, and let the photos do the talking.



Kings Drive and East Boulevard blocked.



A ubiquitous blue tarp on Bromley Rd.



A common sight on many Myers Park streets.



It's obvious what had happened here!



Queens Road West at Radcliffe

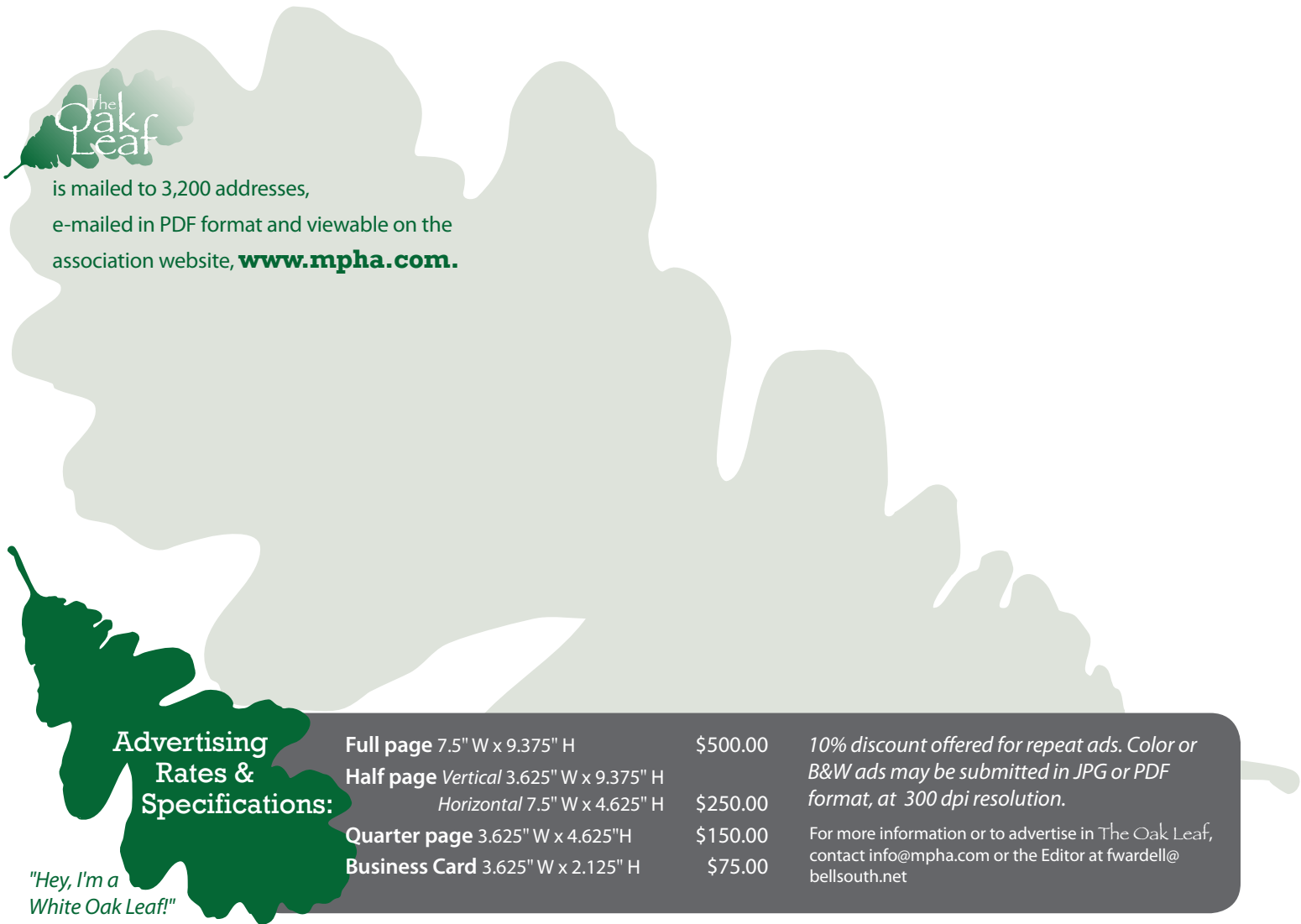



The two occupants were not injured!



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"Hey, I'm a  
White Oak Leaf!"