



The Oak Leaf

Fall 2025

Published by the



MYERS PARK
HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION



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Have an idea, suggestion, compliment or correction? Contact us at info@mpha.com or our Editor at tammyclaussen@att.net

mpha.com



Enjoy this issue of *The Oak Leaf*

It underscores our commitment to inform our members of important news and events. You can also keep current via www.mpha.com and by asking to join our periodic email list.

Magazine Staff

- Editors:**
Tammy Claussen & Matt Lauro
- Advertising:**
Tammy Claussen & Charlie Welch
- Design:**
Melissa Schropp
- Contributors:**
Tammy Claussen
David Dulin
Matt Lauro
Sarah Sumner
Charlie Welch
Jenni Walker & Katherine Murphy, *24 Foundation*

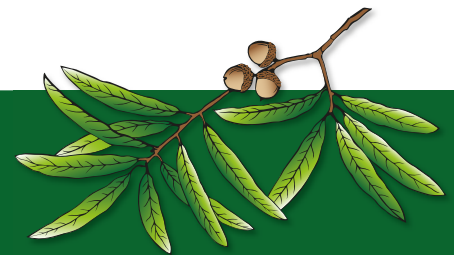
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Dear Myers Park Residents,

Our Myers Park Homeowners Association Board plays a vital role in maintaining the beauty, safety, and sense of community that make our neighborhood such a wonderful place to live. As homeowners, we all share in the responsibility of preserving the quality and value of our homes and the MPHA Board is the group that helps guide and protect those interests. The Board serves as the voice of the neighborhood and provides a forum for residents to express their ideas, share concerns and work together on initiatives that strengthen our community. As homeowners, we encourage you to stay involved and thank you for your continued support and commitment. Together, we can maintain the exceptional community we all call home.

Sincerely,
Your MPHA Board of Directors



From the Editors

As the seasons begin to change and cooler air drifts through the tree-lined streets of Myers Park, we're reminded of what makes our neighborhood so special — community, connection, and care for one another. This fall issue of *The Oak Leaf* captures that spirit beautifully, with stories that celebrate both our shared history and the vibrant life happening all around us.

Inside, you'll find a moving feature on the 100-year legacy of Myers Park United Methodist Church, a cornerstone of faith and service that continues to inspire our neighborhood. We also highlight the incredible success of this year's 24 Hours of Booty, which raised an impressive \$1.7 million to support cancer programs — a testament to the heart and generosity of our community.

And of course, don't miss the recap and photos from our annual Fourth of July celebration — a joyful reminder of how special it is when neighbors come together to laugh, dance, and make memories under the summer sky.

From both of us, thank you for helping make Myers Park the place we're all proud to call home.

Warmly,
Tammy & Matt



Tammy Claussen



Matt Lauro

President's Message

By Charlie Welch, MPHA President



Myers Park friends and neighbors,

I hope you and your family are doing well. Our majestic oaks and other trees are turning colors and the heat of this summer is behind us. It is a great time of year to be outside enjoying our neighborhood.

I am currently serving as President of the Myers Park® Homeowners Association

(MPHA). I have lived in Myers Park most of my adult life and have served on the board for a number of years. I am passionate about the neighborhood and committed to doing all that I can to keep it as one of the most beautiful neighborhoods anywhere. We are a member driven organization, so if you have ideas, please share them.

In this issue, you will see a number of stories about topics of interest in our neighborhood. We are fortunate to live in a thoughtfully designed neighborhood that has stood the test of time. We have been celebrating centennial homes for several years and in this issue we celebrate the 100th anniversary of Myers Park United Methodist Church (MPUMC). David Dulin and Sarah Sumner have written a terrific article about the history of a new "suburban" church, founded in 1925. For 100 years, MPUMC has proudly stood as a beacon at one of the entrances to Myers Park, welcoming Charlotte residents to the neighborhood.

You will also meet our newest CMPD Community Coordinator, Officer Iraldiba Herrera. She has been a fantastic addition and we have enjoyed working with her. MPHA members were able to meet her at our annual meeting on November 12.

Once again we are offering our popular private property tree program. The trees are priced at our cost, which is quite attractive. MPHA members, the MPHA and the City have planted over 500 trees in the past few years; we are making a difference. John Nolen envisioned this wonderful cathedral of trees a century ago and we are determined to continue his legacy.

Personally, my wife and I had to remove a declining 125 year old Willow Oak this year. Although we hated to do it, it was necessary. Of course, we will replant another oak tree. You can't immediately replace a 100' tall oak tree and its canopy, but you also can't begin to replace it until you plant a new one. You would be surprised how quickly these B&B trees grow enough to provide shade and clean the air. Please consider purchasing a tree for your property or making a donation to the Jack McNeary Tree Fund.

On a related note, many of you know that I also serve on the Charlotte Tree Advisory Commission. We have been encouraging the City to increase funding for tree maintenance and tree planting and I would like to thank City leadership for their action. The City has increased its tree maintenance and planting budget by more than 20% annually for several years, which is considerably more than the overall budget has increased. While it still underfunded, I appreciate the challenges of government funding and thank City leadership for making a meaningful effort to close the gap toward appropriate funding.

The MPHA publishes *The Oak Leaf* twice a year and for many, this may be your first issue. If you are one of our new neighbors to Myers Park, welcome, I know that you will love living here. We would love to have you join as a member. Membership in the MPHA is entirely voluntary, but it enables us to preserve and enhance the historical character and beauty of the neighborhood. If you are already a member, Thank You! If you would like to join, we would love to have you. We also send information via e-mail which is more efficient. We won't use your e-mail for any purpose other than neighborhood matters.

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

Best regards,

Charlie Welch
President

2026 MPHA Membership

As we look ahead to 2026, we invite all homeowners to renew your annual MPHA membership and continue supporting the community we are so proud to call home. (And if you aren't already a member, please consider joining.)

Your participation truly makes a difference and every renewal plays an essential role in keeping Myers Park beautiful, safe and thriving.



Visit www.mpha.com to join online or scan QR code below.

Membership Options:

- MPHA Member: \$75
- Myers Park Guardian: \$150
- Myers Park Defender: \$300
- John Nolan Society: \$500

All membership options include annual dues



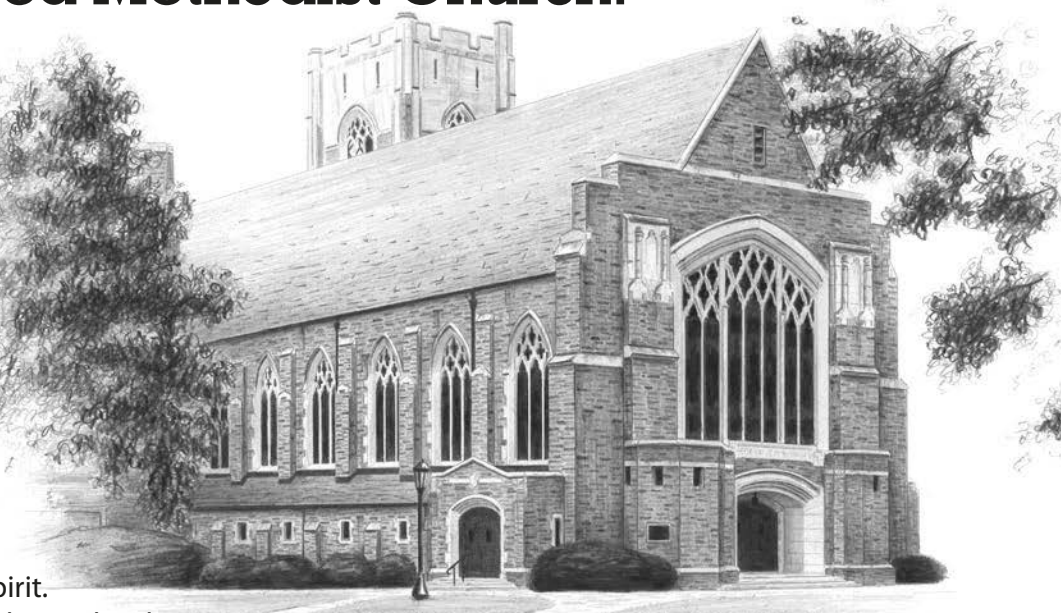


Myers Park United Methodist Church: Celebrating a Century of Faith, Service, and Community

By David Dulin and Sarah Sumner
(Edited for The Oak Leaf)

This October, Myers Park United Methodist Church celebrates 100 years of faith, service, and enduring community spirit.

What began in 1925 as a bold vision by ten local businessmen has grown into one of Charlotte's most influential congregations—a church whose story mirrors the city's own growth and generosity.



Russell Smith 1997

Humble Beginnings

It all started when those ten founders — with no land, no budget, and only conviction — dreamed of a Methodist church “way out in the suburbs” of Myers Park. Their first service was held October 25, 1925, in the Queens College chapel. Soon after, they purchased the corner of Queens and Providence Road for \$18,000, narrowly outbidding Esso by \$2,000. A small wooden store was renovated to seat 200 worshipers, and Myers Park Methodist Episcopal Church, South was officially chartered with 100 members.

A Vision in Stone

By 1927, the growing congregation needed a permanent home. Founding member and architect Louis Asbury designed an English Gothic sanctuary — complete with a soaring bell tower, arched ceilings, and beautiful stone from J.B. Duke's Hillsborough quarry (the same used for Duke Chapel). The first service was held in 1930. Inside, stunning stained-glass windows depicting the Apostles and Christian Virtues would be completed by 1945, illuminating generations of worshipers.

Faith Through the Depression

The Great Depression brought hardship, but also remarkable generosity. Luther Snyder, a Coca-Cola executive and new member, pledged up to \$100,000 for a new education building — if the church could pay off its debt by 1939. The congregation rose to the challenge, and the Snyder Memorial Educational Building opened in 1938, using the same Hillsborough stone. A year later, the church became known simply as Myers Park Methodist.

Growth and Global Reach

By the 1940s, membership had topped 1,000, and 178 members served in World War II — with only one loss. In 1947, 15 bells cast in England were installed in the tower, which was later expanded to a full 24-bell carillon. The magnificent Aeolian-Skinner organ, completed in 1950, still remains one of the finest in the nation.

Through the 1950s and '60s, the congregation continued to grow and give. A Youth Building was added in 1962, and the church deepened its global mission partnerships in Bolivia, Costa Rica, Liberia, India, and the Congo. Following a merger in 1968, the church became Myers Park

United Methodist, reflecting the denomination's unification and the end to segregation within Methodist congregations.

Serving Charlotte and Beyond

The 1970s and 1980s brought an even stronger focus on local outreach. Myers Park UMC helped found Crisis Assistance Ministry and, through the Jeremiah Group, brought Habitat for Humanity to Charlotte. The Wesley Trust endowment was created in 1983 to sustain long-term mission funding. Membership surpassed 3,300, and the ministries for singles, seniors, and youth thrived.

A 1995 capital campaign raised over \$5 million, with nearly half devoted to outreach projects — from Habitat houses to Africa University in Zimbabwe. In 1996, the church launched Room in the Inn, providing meals, showers, and shelter to unhoused neighbors. The ministry remains active today.

Building for the Future

As the congregation neared 4,000 members in 2000, it embarked on its largest project yet — the 75,000-square-foot Parish Life Building. Completed in 2003 with familiar Hillsborough stone, the facility

added Jubilee Hall (for 750 guests), a chapel, a columbarium, and ample community space. True to its mission, 10% of the \$17 million raised was devoted to global and local service, from Duke Divinity School to emergency shelters.

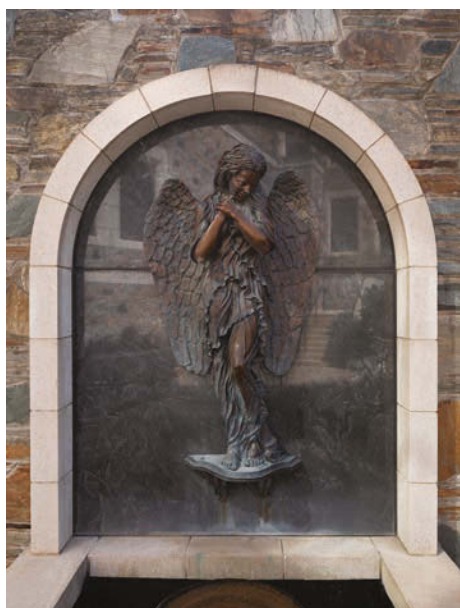
That same year, Dr. James Howell became Senior Minister, ushering in an era of growth and inspiration. Membership grew to over 5,000, with four weekly services and a thriving online presence. The music ministry blossomed under his leadership, and outreach programs — from Freedom School to Habitat builds — expanded the church’s impact far beyond its walls.

Living Out Wesley’s Words

John Wesley’s timeless call — “Do all the good you can, by all the means you can...” — became the spirit of the early 2000s. The church responded to crises in Haiti and Brazil, funded hundreds of thousands in local aid, and launched the Jubilee Plus Fund, raising \$2 million in six years for community outreach. By 2010, annual giving to local agencies topped \$500,000. Mission teams traveled across the U.S. and abroad, and members volunteered in Charlotte schools like Sedgefield and Marie G. Davis.

Hope Is Here: A New Chapter

In 2021, the church broke ground on its most ambitious project yet — the Hope Is Here campaign. The goal: replace the



aging Youth Building with a vibrant new Center of Hope designed for the next century of ministry. The new facility includes a café, gym, hospitality areas, classrooms, offices, and dedicated youth spaces — again using the signature Hillsborough stone.

The campaign also devoted \$5 million to affordable housing, supporting projects with Habitat for Humanity, the YWCA, Caldwell Memorial Presbyterian Church, and Roof Above. Despite rising costs, the congregation rallied once again. The new Center of Hope opened in May 2024, a living testament to the church’s enduring generosity.

A Legacy of Faith and Action

From a rented college chapel to a thriving hub of worship and service, Myers Park United Methodist Church has remained true to its founding mission — to be a church in the community and for the community.

Today, the missions of its ministry focus on four key areas: affordable housing, food insecurity, children and schools, and equity and empowerment — all while

maintaining a global reach. Over the years, its members have included mayors, civic leaders, educators, physicians, and countless volunteers united by faith and purpose.

As Myers Park UMC celebrates its centennial, the words of those early founders still echo: “The church is not a building — but the building gives us the opportunity to be the church.” A hundred years later, standing proudly at Queens and Providence, that opportunity continues to grow.

Hope is here — and always has been.





Anne Spencer



As a proud Myers Park resident, I'm committed to the continued success of our neighborhood. If you or someone you know is considering a move, I'd be honored to put my years of experience as a consistent top-producing Broker/Realtor® to work for you. Always feel free to reach out with your real estate needs.

Your neighbor,

Anne Spencer
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704.264.9621

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Help Preserve the Legacy of Myers Park by Planting an Oak Tree!

It is turning cool which means it is time to plant trees again...or at least order trees again. The Myers Park® Homeowners Association (MPHA) is pleased to offer our private property planting program again to MPHA members. The program will be similar to last year's; we will be offering three different oak trees, installed, plus your choice of a NC species, subject to availability. It took some work, but thanks to our partners we were able to keep the cost the same as last year.

Our program started via e-mails to members a couple of weeks ago. As with many items today, trees are in high demand so we encourage you to order trees as soon as possible to ensure availability. We are working closely with our nursery and will attempt to secure trees as soon as they are ordered. Please go to mpha.com for more information and to complete your order. Below are the trees that we will be offering:

	Willow Oak	B&B	\$460
	White Oak	B&B	\$460
	Red Oak	B&B	\$460

The trees are 2 - 2 1/2" caliper, 10-12' feet tall and will be A grade trees. These are the sizes that the City recommends for transplanting; they are sufficiently tall and begin growing more quickly than larger trees. We are targeting installation in January or February. Just like last year, the trees will be watered for one year and come with a one-year warranty.

This program has been very successful; members and the MPHA have planted hundreds of these trees over the last few years. Our canopy will not be restored overnight, but we are having an impact. As you know, John Nolen's original plan called for oaks in the median where applicable, then 1-2 trees in the right of way (ROW) and 1-2 trees in front yards. If you have considered planting additional trees to return our neighborhood to what John Nolen originally envisioned, this is a great time to plant a tree for our future canopy. The \$460 is our cost and we believe this is a very attractive price.

Additional information is on our website, but if you have any further questions, please e-mail us at info@mpha.com. You may also make a contribution directly to the Jack McNeary Tree Fund on our website.

Thank you for your support to help grow and protect our tree canopy.

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Myers Park July 4th 2025 Celebration Highlights

Myers Park sure knows how to celebrate Independence Day! We hope you enjoy some of the pictures from this year's festivities below— and we hope to see you there again in 2026!



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2025 *24 Hours of Booty* Recap: \$1.7 Million Raised in 24th Year

Myers Park once again served as the heart and hub of 24 Hours of Booty presented by Levine Cancer Institute—24 Foundation’s signature charity cycling and walking event. Celebrating its 24th year, the event raised an impressive \$1.7 million (and counting!) to support cancer navigation and survivorship programs throughout the region. Since its inception in 2002, the event has generated more than \$30 million to help change the course of cancer.

Held July 25–26, the event brought together 1,100 registered participants and 109 teams from 23 states and three countries, all united by a shared mission. Whether riding, walking, running, or rucking along the Booty Loop, participants were cheered on by neighbors, friends and family as they made their way through the tree-lined streets of Myers Park. When not on the course, participants gathered in “Bootyville” on the Queens University of Charlotte soccer field for food, camping, and camaraderie.

“Twenty-four years of 24 Hours of Booty is an incredible milestone,” said Katherine Murphy, executive director of 24 Foundation. “We are deeply grateful to every participant, volunteer, neighbor, and supporter who showed up with heart and purpose—even in the heat—to help make an immediate impact in our cancer community.”

With summer temperatures soaring, 24 Foundation made participant safety a top priority. Cooling stations, misting fans, hydration points, a fan wall, ice baths provided by Sauna Culture, and round-the-clock medical support from Charlotte Fire Department were all part of the plan. Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department also ensured safety and smooth traffic flow throughout the event. Hundreds of volunteers helped power the event and its mission.

Funds raised support local cancer beneficiaries, including Atrium Health Levine Cancer Institute and Levine Children’s Hospital. Donations are still being accepted for 2025 and can be made online at 24foundation.org.

“24 Hours of Booty is more than just a charity event. It is a movement rooted in resilience, connection, and compassion,” said Murphy. “This beloved event simply wouldn’t be possible without the hospitality and support of the Myers Park neighborhood. Many thanks to Levine Cancer Institute, the residents of Myers Park, Queens University of Charlotte, CMPD, and Charlotte Fire Department for their partnership and support.”



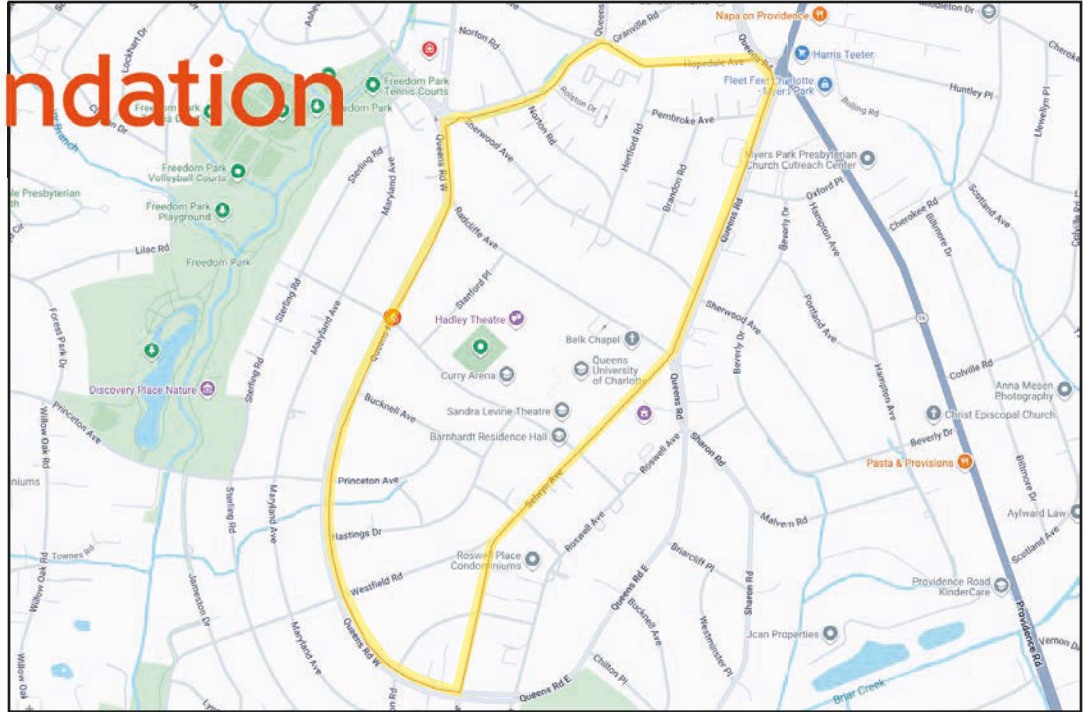
Myers Park neighbors along the race route showing their spirit and support for participants!

24 Foundation

Mark your calendars:

The 25th year of 24 Hours of Booty returns to Myers Park July 24–25, 2026!

See the race route on map:



Dana Galli

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Official Boundaries of Myers Park

Ever wonder just where Myers Park's boundaries are? Have you squinted at various maps and still come away wondering? Well, the Myers Park® Homeowners Association Board has come to the rescue! We've researched to produce the following list of streets and residential street numbers for the official boundary. We hope it's useful to you.

Street Name	Address Range	Street Name	Address Range	Street Name	Address Range	Street Name	Address Range
Arcadia Avenue	ALL	Glendale Road	ALL	Malvern Road	ALL	Queens Road East	ALL
Ardley Road	ALL	Granville Road	ALL	Maryland Avenue	ALL	Queens Road West	ALL
Beverly Drive	ALL	Greenbriar Road	ALL	Moravian Lane	ALL	Radcliffe Avenue	ALL
Brandon Road	ALL	Hampton Avenue	ALL	E. Morehead Street	1501-1628	Rensford Avenue	ALL
Briarcliff Place	ALL	Hanson Drive	ALL	Myers Park Drive	ALL	Ridgewood Avenue	ALL
Brunswick Avenue	ALL	Harvard Place	ALL	Nolen Park Lane	ALL	Rolston Drive	ALL
Bromley Road	ALL	Hastings Drive	ALL	Normandy Road	ALL	Roswell Avenue	ALL
Bucknell Avenue	ALL	Henley Place	ALL	Norton Road	ALL	Selwyn Avenue	1900-2823
Chilton Place	ALL	Hermitage Court	ALL	Oxford Place	ALL	Sharon Road	2001-2328
S. Colonial Avenue	222-248	Hermitage Road	ALL	Pembroke Avenue	ALL	Sherwood Avenue	ALL
Colony Road	2129-2250	Hertford Road	ALL	Pender Place	ALL	Stanford Place	ALL
Coniston Place	ALL	Hopedale Avenue	ALL	Picardy Place	ALL	Sterling Road	ALL
Croydon Road	ALL	Irby Drive	ALL	Portland Avenue	ALL	Wareham Court	ALL
Dartmouth Place	ALL	Jameston Drive	ALL	Princeton Avenue	1746-2146	Wellesley Avenue	ALL
Dickinson Place	ALL	S. Kings Drive	925-1367	Providence Road	Even #s 200-1652	Westfield Road	2300-2925
Edgehill Road North	ALL	Lorene Avenue	ALL	Queens Road	401-1943	Westminster Place	ALL
Edgehill Road South	ALL	Lynwood Drive	ALL			Winding Wood Lane	ALL



Meet CMPD Officer Herrera

We are pleased to welcome **Officer Iraldiba Herrera** as our new Myers Park Community Coordinator. Officer Herrera has been with CMPD for 6 years and currently works in the Providence Division. She recently transferred from the Hickory Grove Division (East Charlotte). She has lived in Charlotte for 6 years.

Many of you know Officers Smith and Hill who remain part of the Providence Division dream team covering Myers Park. Officer Herrera was at the MPHA annual meeting on November 12. We are fortunate to have such terrific representation from CMPD.

On September 29, 2025, Officer Herrera and CMPD hosted a neighborhood gathering to discuss crime and crime prevention in Myers Park. We would like to specifically thank Queens University for graciously hosting the event at the Rogers Science Hall. We had 75-100 people in attendance and everyone was appreciative of the time and thoughts provided by the CMPD officers.

Neighborhood Safety Reminder:

Please keep valuables out of your cars and lock car doors.
There have been too many unlocked car thefts.

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Share your favorite Holiday Moments with *The Oak Leaf*

As the lights begin to twinkle and the sounds of the season fill the air, we're reminded just how special it is to live in a community as vibrant and connected as Myers Park. The holidays bring out the best of our neighborhood — from festive gatherings and cheerful decorations to the laughter that spills from front porches and tree-lined streets.

For our first *Oak Leaf* edition of the New Year, we'd love to showcase the spirit of the season through you. If you're hosting or attending a holiday party, decorating your home, or capturing a favorite neighborhood moment, we'd be thrilled to feature your photos in our next issue.



Please send your pictures to info@mpha.com and include your name and street so we can share them in our "Holiday Highlights Around Myers Park."

Wishing you all a joyful holiday season filled with warmth, friendship, and a renewed sense of community.

With gratitude,
Tammy & Matt
Editors, *The Oak Leaf*



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Decades of Experience...

"Patty sets the bar of what you want with integrity, knowledge, and professionalism to make your life easier with stressful real estate transactions." - Paul & Holley M

"Patty was amazing to work with - always responsive, amiable, and honest in her opinions and feedback in this space. Planning to recommend Patty to all our friends moving to this area. - Mohammad Family

"Patty was so incredible to work with! There is no way we could have done it without her. She was so generous with her time and care throughout the entire process." -- Mae

I am a long-time resident of Myers Park with over 42 years of experience as a Top Producing Broker | Realtor® in the Charlotte and Atlanta regions. You can always expect to receive exceptional and customized service from me. Please reach out anytime you need assistance with residential real estate.

