

Commonwealth Park

EST. 1939

Spring 2013

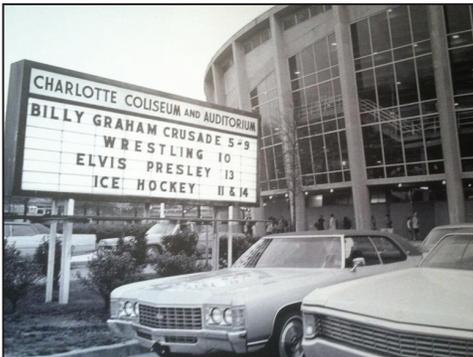
Post Office Box 18833

Charlotte, NC 28218

Around The Neighborhood: Bojangles Coliseum

By Joel Blackwelder, Pinecrest Avenue

It's July 11, 1967, and the lights go down at the Charlotte Coliseum. It's show time. You've come to see The Monkees. No, not the monkeys from the circus, the four lads who star in a hit television series of the same name. Who is the opening act? It's the Jimi Hendrix Experience of course. The Monkees' Mike Nesmith had requested the virtuoso guitarist as their opening act. After six dates on the tour, Hendrix bowed out. It seemed like the audiences just weren't connecting with his *Purple Haze*. During Hendrix's set, they screamed for the Monkee Davy Jones and his rendition of *Day Dream Believer*.



lettersfromthelibrary.com

Popular national celebrities on the circuit two decades earlier like Danny Kaye, Ray Bolger and Jimmy Durante chose to bypass Charlotte, because there wasn't a large enough space to perform. Imagine, if you will, Jimmy Durante in concert. The desire for a coliseum as well as a large auditorium picked up momentum in the growing city of Charlotte. Both were completed in 1955 for around four million dollars. Odell & Associates had designed these venues, and their location was selected because the site was on the town's outskirts and traffic congestion would be kept to a minimum. Imagine how close we think Bojangles Coliseum is to Uptown today. The official dedication of the Charlotte Coliseum was held on Sunday, September 11, 1955, and The Reverend Billy Graham delivered the dedication address. Since it opened, the coliseum has been the scene for many a concert, sporting event, trade show, graduation and convocation.

The coliseum was featured in professional architectural journals and publications. At the time, it was the largest free span domed structure in the world, with a diameter of 332 feet. The dome of St. Peter's in Rome is just under 138 feet. The roof of the coliseum was covered with aluminum and was featured prominently in advertisements for Alcoa. Another unique design feature was that the building could be completely evacuated in four minutes.

Basketball and wrestling were mainstays; the arena was home to the Carolina Cougars of the American Basketball Association from 1969 to 1974. The Cougars

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NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING

**Tuesday, June 4
7:00 p.m.**

WTVI Conference Room
3242 Commonwealth Ave.

Topics:

- Crime update/stats
- Charlotte Inn Update
- Neighborhood Watch
- Board/Committee Elections
- Questions/Comments

SAVE THE DATE! CPNA Meeting Dates for 2013

**June 4 Aug. 6
Oct. 1 Dec. 3**

Don't forget to join the neighborhood association! (see last page for details)

Around The Neighborhood: Bojangles Coliseum

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also played home games in Greensboro and Raleigh. Hall of Fame Coach Larry Brown began his coaching career with the Cougars in 1972. The Charlotte region was introduced to a new sport quite by accident. In 1956, The Baltimore Clippers Hockey Team got burned out of their arena, and finished their "home" season in Charlotte. The average attendance was 8,400 per game. The building was also opened to the public for ice skating. The cost of skate rentals in 1960: 50 cents. Years later, the coliseum was home to the city's Charlotte Checkers. The team won the East Coast Hockey League championship in 1996.

The list of musical acts that performed in our backyard is long and distinguished: Elvis, Lawrence Welk, Jerry Lee Lewis, The Rolling Stones, Elton John, Sonny & Cher, Rick James, KISS, Kenny Rogers, Joni Mitchell, Earth, Wind and Fire, Michael W. Smith. I was there for Bruce Springsteen (August 2, 1978) and the Grateful Dead (May 3, 1979) just to name a few. The coliseum was also used for other purposes. Lenny Kravitz once spent a month rehearsing there before going on tour. And several years ago, I had the opportunity to watch a closed rehearsal of a George Lucas live action show before it toured Japan.

Some may like the style of the original Charlotte Coliseum. Others may not care for it. It reminds me a little of the spaceship in the 1951 movie, *The Day The Earth Stood Still*. The arena has endured, with name changes and a major renovation that was completed in 2001. One thing is certain: this building is part of the history and unique landscape of our neighborhood of Commonwealth Park.

Editor's Note: The CP board will stay plugged into the future of the Bojangle's Coliseum site, keeping you all aware of developments as they occur.



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What your neighbors are saying about Sheridan Mechanical:

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Doug Sheridan and Sheridan Mechanical Contracting have done fantastic work for our family. ... I highly recommend Doug for electrical and HVAC work."

Amy M.

"they took extra time to reorganize/shorten piping and installed a wall outlet in a good position without additional cost. The work they performed was clean and of quality."

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A Word from the President

By Lori Pope, Commonwealth Ave.

I want to take this opportunity to re-cap what your neighborhood board was able to accomplish last year alone. It is my hope that you can see how involved we are as a board to ensure that the goals of our community are agreed upon as a group, and then ultimately met. Although your neighborhood board is full of dedicated and resourceful neighbors.....the time will come where we will need new board members and it is essential that we have involvement from fellow neighbors moving forward.

I know it is hard to think about taking more time out of your already busy schedule to get involved in your neighborhood, but I promise.....it is a good thing. You meet great people and truly get to know your neighbors – you get to be involved in change and take pride in making things better. The time investment can be minimal and your involvement can grow and change – just as life does.

I have lived in this community for a long time (over 12 years), but I only became an active member over the past few years. I felt so much more connected and a part of our thriving community once I started to simply go to the meetings – it was amazing. Try to make it a point to attend our next meeting to see what we can do as a group.

Accomplishments from this board (with help of amazing volunteers as well):

- Installation of stop sign at Woodland and Commonwealth
- The Charlotte Inn was shut down
- Following through with demolition to ensure vacant lot is transformed into usable space for the neighborhood
- Neighborhood Beautification Grant awarded to assist in the park we are creating for the neighborhood in the vacant Charlotte Inn lot
- Neighborhood Tree Banding Grant – awarded two years in a row
- Monthly neighborhood clean ups – to keep our streets clean and beautiful
- New neighborhood signs for event notification
- New website – **www.commonwealthpark.org**
- FB page with constant updates and interaction
- Wonderful events that get us all together – Fall Block Party, Holiday Reception, Yard Sale
- Informing neighbors of all budget updates, keeping detailed records, and allocating funds according to approved group decisions
- Set up of a PayPal account online – access from our website – so neighbors can pay their yearly dues and easily give back to the community

There are many more things to come in 2013, and we look forward to working with you to ensure the successful growth of our neighborhood. We welcome you to please go online and fill out our contact us form if you have any feedback or would like to get more involved. I look forward to seeing you at our next meeting!!

Commonwealth Park Neighborhood Association 2012 Financial Report			
Item	'12 Budget	'12 Actual	'13 Budget
REVENUE			
Membership	\$1,200.00	\$1,330.00	\$1,500.00
Newsletter advertising	\$1,800.00	\$1,700.00	\$1,700.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$3,000.00	\$3,030.00	\$3,200.00
EXPENSES			
Website	\$350.00	\$462.38	\$350.00
Newsletter printing	\$800.00	\$714.40	\$725.00
Supplies	\$150.00	\$79.50	\$100.00
Events	\$1,000.00	\$949.34	\$1,500.00
Post office box	\$125.00	\$120.00	\$125.00
Misc	\$300.00	\$365.45	\$300.00
Tree banding	\$250.00	\$40.00	\$50.00
Signage	\$0.00	\$432.22	\$50.00
Adopt a neighborhood grant contribution	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$500.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$2,975.00	\$3,163.29	\$3,700.00
Net increase/(decrease)	\$ 25	\$ (133.29)	\$ (500.00)

Maintenance Matters Discount

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10%

- This coupon may be applied to any work contracted prior to the expiration date shown and does not apply to estimates made prior to May 1 2013.
- This coupon is transferrable and should be shared with friends.
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- This coupon cannot be used or combined with other discounts.

Please visit www.dpsconstructionllc.com to learn more about the types of projects we complete.

Offer Expires May 31 2013

Local Real Estate Update

By Lou Galanty, Pinecrest Ave.

Well, it's taken quite a while but small positive changes are being seen in the Charlotte real estate market. Year to date new listings have risen 2.1% with median price rising 2.7% to 150K and average sales price going up 3% to 191K. One of the most positive signs is that closed sales rose 33% and days on the market shrunk by 6.6% to 151 days.

In the Commonwealth Park area for the past 6 or so months 15 homes have closed ranging in price from 82K to 354K. That huge variance in price is most often due to the home's condition. Our neighborhood is a prime location for rehabs and remodels. Updated homes with the latest amenities command the highest prices whereas untouched bungalows especially along Commonwealth Avenue are selling for considerably less. Currently 9 homes are active with 2 under contract.



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Seek and Find

By Lou Galanty, Pinecrest Ave.

D	S	C	R	A	T	S	H	T	R	O	N
I	A	U	M	C	L	O	U	D	S	P	B
A	T	J	N	P	T	T	E	E	G	A	E
S	E	A	O	Y	E	E	T	E	M	L	S
T	N	S	N	M	E	I	N	T	A	O	T
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R	L	C	L	L	R	K	A	O	A	C	R
O	P	R	E	T	O	I	L	N	Q	G	S
I	O	T	I	M	N	A	E	N	E	R	C
D	A	C	K	B	I	M	P	P	O	G	R
S	L	E	O	I	H	P	P	A	S	O	I
T	T	W	Y	Y	A	W	Y	K	L	I	M

What's that up there??

Find the following words – left to right, right to left, up and down or diagonally
 COMET STARS ASTEROID PLANET
 SUN SATELLITE CLOUDS MOON
 RAINBOW MILKY WAY NORTH STAR

Free Spay/Neuter of Community Cats

By Reita Pendry, Wisteria Condos, Briar Creek Rd.

The Humane Society of Charlotte has received a grant to offer free spays and neuters of one thousand community cats living in the 28205 zip code area, for the year 2013. (A similar grant covers zip code area 28208). The grant applies to stray cats, feral cats and even owned cats. For stray and feral cats, caretakers should take the cats to the Humane Society Delisser clinic at 8315 Byrum Drive, at the Animal Care and Control (ACC) facility. No appointments are necessary, but the cats must be dropped off at the clinic by 7:00 a.m. and picked up by 4:00 p.m. that same day. The feral cats must be confined in traps. For these cats, recovery carriers must accompany the cats to the clinic, so that they may be returned to caretakers in the recovery carriers. Friends of Feral Felines will loan traps and recovery carriers to caretakers, and instruct in the trapping and recovery process. Please call the hotline at **704-348-1578** for assistance.

Cats must have a rabies shot, which will cost \$5.00. The left ear of the ferals will be tipped, so that the community and ACC can identify the cats as having been fixed and vaccinated. If strays are likely to be placed for adoption,

caretakers may indicate at the time the cat is delivered to the clinic that no ear tip is requested.

The forms required for the spays and neuters are available at the ACC, or online at the CMPD website. Please indicate on the form the address of the caretaker within the 28205 zip code area, and that the cat is coming in under the grant program, **STRAY CAT CHARLOTTE**. Payment of the \$5.00 fee for the rabies shot will be collected at the time the cat is delivered for surgery.

For owned cats, appointments are required at the Humane Society for the surgery. Please call 704-333-4130 for an appointment, or make the appointment online at www.humanesocietyofcharlotte.org.

NO SURGERIES ARE PERFORMED ON WEDNESDAYS, SO DO NOT TRAP THE CATS ON TUESDAY SINCE THEY CANNOT REMAIN IN THE TRAPS LONGER THAN OVERNIGHT. SURGERY DAYS ARE MONDAY, TUESDAY, THURSDAY AND FRIDAY.

NORTH LIGHT PHOTOGRAPHY



Miss Hancock
of Oakmont Avenue

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3350 Commonwealth Avenue



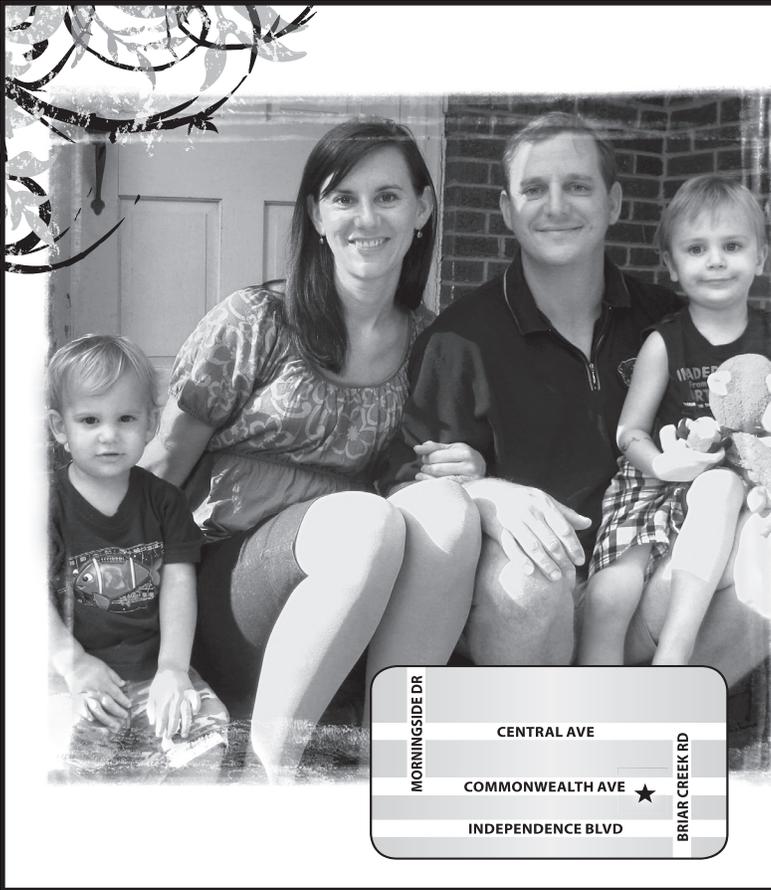
A neighborhood gallery offering education in art.

Opening May 10, 6-10pm, GRAPHEME
by Tom Roughton.

Tom, who paints to music, will be demonstrating his art
on May 10. He will conduct 3 classes on Wednesday
evenings, May 15, 22, and 29, at 6pm.

Mention this advertisement for **20% off tuition**.
Space is limited.

See UnCommonArtSpace.com for details.



A Community That Cares

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If you are looking for a church that cares, you don't have to look far. We are only minutes away. We welcome you to experience our caring community.

Sunday Worship – 10:00 a.m.



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Place your ad in the next Commonwealth Park newsletter!
Business Card Size—\$35 1/4 Page—\$60 1/2 Page—\$120
Discount packages available!
Contact Jerome Deveix @ jdeveix@gmail.com

Commonwealth Park Neighborhood Association Membership Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Annual dues are only \$20.00 per household and are very helpful in neighborhood improvements. Please send a check in today!!

Make checks payable & send to:
Commonwealth Park Neighborhood Assoc.
PO Box 18833, Charlotte, NC 28218

or

Pay online at commonwealthpark.org using PayPal

Check here if you would like to be contacted to volunteer on a committee or be a part of our neighborhood watch team. A neighbor will contact you shortly!