



fall 2010



# ECA

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### JOIN THE ECA

My neighbour asked if he could use my lawnmower and I told him of course he could, so long as he didn't take it out of my garden.

– Eric Morecambe



Doing business without advertising is like winking at a girl in the dark. You know what you're doing, but nobody else does.

– Stuart Henderson Britt

## SAVE THE DATE

Elizabeth Community Association  
Annual Meeting and Covered Dish Dinner

**6:30p.m.**

**Monday, October 18, 2010**

St. John's Baptist Church Hall

## Amazing Elizabeth

by *Hardin Minor*

What makes our neighborhood such an amazing place to live? One might say its location... Yes! One might say its natural beauty from the canopy to the unique gardens... Yes! One might say the historical significance... Yes! But as my grandmother Kit Massie used to say, "It's the PEOPLE that make the party." YES! I believe it is especially our neighborliness that makes Elizabeth such a special place and I'll tell you how deeply I know this truth. At 7am May 25 I was on the operating table at our most excellent neighborhood hospital for a rendezvous with the DaVinci System to remove my cancerous prostate gland. Actually I was excited to interface with one of the most technologically advanced medical assist robots available. The operation went well yielding a cancer free dude with a PSA of 0.0...Yes! But the recovery has taught me a thing or two about patience, pain and the power of love. Every single night for the next 14 nights after returning from Presbyterian our family dined on the nutritious, delicious love offerings of our neighbors. Casseroles, ciabatti hoagies, salads, Bar-B-Q, grilled vegetables and desserts. Coordinated by Carlson Williard, it was a parade of good food that took the pressure of food prep off of my

extraordinary wife Linda who continued to teach through my convalescence. My two sherpas Massie and Tucker were equally impressed. It made all the difference in the world and I'll never forget it! So THANK YOU Elizabethans for your assistance. "A friend in need is a friend indeed!" And guys PLEASE have your PSA level checked every year. The sooner you catch Mr. C the quicker you can kick his tail!

## The Little Sugar Creek Greenway

by *Nancy Albert*

The section of the Little Sugar Creek Greenway that runs along the edges of the Elizabeth neighborhood was dedicated in a ceremony on August 7 and is now officially open. With construction nearly complete, it is possible to walk, jog or bike along side the creek bed from the Metropolitan complex on South King's Drive, under East Moorhead Street, through Freedom Park and all the way to the trail's end behind the Park Road shopping center. It will be a long walk but I am looking forward to a cool fall morning to give it a try.

While many of the county's other greenway trails feature little more than a pathway to walk on, this section, which snakes through more urban areas along King's Drive, has a large fountain as its centerpiece, polished granite

# Once Again...

deadline winter 2010:  
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sculptures, granite benches and mosaic stone inlays designed by Masayuki Nagase, a Japanese-born artist. There are also restrooms and a snack bar and a stone-clad clock tower. Several bridges, both pedestrian and for automobile traffic have been built.

Construction on this portion of the Greenway has been going on almost as long as I've lived in Charlotte. The creek was officially "uncapped" in 2002, when a concrete parking lot that covered over the creek began to be removed.

A period of demolition of old buildings followed, new sewer lines were laid and some creek bed restoration was needed. Little Sugar Creek was once one of the most contaminated waterways in NC but the sewer lines and runoff retention ponds have helped purify the water. When I walked the portion behind the Metropolitan, a family of ducks were visible. Hopefully more wildlife will return.

This project was underway before the Parks and Recreation department's budget was

drastically cut this year. The department currently has no funding to develop the rest of the planned sections along the Greenway which was to be extended to 7th Street near CPCC's Culinary Arts building, or to complete another park planned for Pearl Park Way.

Charlotte's greenways are urban treasures. Get out and explore them. If you have out-of-town visitors, take them on a tour and do a little hometown boosterism. And please encourage our commissioners and other civic leaders to

photo: John Albert



restore funding so that these ribbons of green can be completed and maintained.

## **Elizabeth signs update**

*by Kris Solow*

Hopefully by the time you read this, you will have also noticed all the shiny new Elizabeth signs in the neighborhood – if not, they’ll be forthcoming. Chip Gallup of CDOT was very helpful with new sign recommendations and the removal of the existing signs. Bill Spencer of Instant Sign

Solutions on Kings Drive did an excellent job of silk screening the signs while keeping an eye out for details such as the hole placement not interfering with the image, and installing them. Through countless neighborhood drives to count and recount the locations of the existing signs, and tag the poles for CDOT to remove them, Tim Cleveland and I made a determined team. Then we went back out yet one more time to tag additional poles for new locations and eliminate a few old locations

for the installation of the new signs. We hope you enjoy the neighborhood’s fresh new look!

## **25th annual Elizabeth 8K coming this spring**

*by Amanda Loftus*

The 2011 Elizabeth 8K will hit the streets on Saturday, April 9. This year marks the 25th anniversary of the event. Runners and walkers are delighted year after year with the scenic course through the Elizabeth neighborhood and the hospitality of our community.



The 2010 event, presented by Presbyterian Orthopaedic Hospital, took place on Saturday, April 17 with perfect spring weather and a record turnout of 910 participants. More than \$15,000 was raised and will be used for tree planting and beautification of the common areas of Elizabeth.

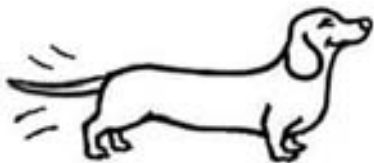
There's plenty to do to prepare for 2011, and listed below are some ways you can make an impact:

### **Sponsors and donations:**

Is your company (or a company you know) interested in becoming a sponsor or donating products and services? Paid sponsors are a vital part of our success, but in-kind donations and services such as race refreshments, participant t-shirts, and marketing and printing services also help us to maximize our revenue.

### **Participant**

**recruitment:** We want to break 2010's participant record and see even more people at the starting line on April 9. Help us spread the word to your running/walking group, co-workers, neighbors, and friends,



and get a crew together for race day. The course is stroller and dog friendly.

**Volunteer:** More than 60 people are needed on race day to ensure a well-executed and successful race. Come out and join your neighbors for a fun morning of giving back to your community.

Please contact Amanda Loftus at 704.608.9089 or [aemloftus@yahoo.com](mailto:aemloftus@yahoo.com) with questions or to get involved. In addition, please visit [www.elizabeth8k.com](http://www.elizabeth8k.com) in the coming months for race information and to register.



Mark your calendars for April 9, and come be a part of our annual tradition!

### **Hoodie Charlotte**

*by Kathryn Listwa*

A new hyper-local news site working in partnership with the Charlotte Observer will be officially launching later



this fall – with the Elizabeth/Chantilly area as one of its major news zones! Residents will be encouraged to visit and contribute to the site with reviews, comments and suggestions to help create a robust community resource for Charlotte-area neighborhoods. Visit [www.hoodiecharlotte.com](http://www.hoodiecharlotte.com) this October for updates on the Elizabeth Homes Tour and more.

### **Ward's lilies**

*by Kay Minor*

In early spring of this year, I planted 90 oriental lilies in memory of my friend Ward. Now it's almost July and the last Casa Blanca's are blooming.

Ward and I worked together at Myers Park Hardware along with his partner (of 38 years) Jim. We called ourselves the 3 musketeers, each performing our essential steps in the dance of retail work. Getting to know someone can be a tricky process, but Ward always made it seem so easy. Physically, he reminded me of an old tree trunk anchored in the soil - lots going on underneath the rough exterior. Not many knew he was a music major, singer, teacher, cook, poet, gardener and a loyal friend.

Ward's taste in gardening was self described as "early Halloween". All colors welcomed, spontaneous germination encouraged. He, like myself, leaned towards all things recycled and rusty. A small greenhouse in back of his house in NoDa propagated heirloom treasures from hometown Ft. Mill and beyond. One day beautiful pink verbena showed up at work in some old coffee cans. Of course they were Ward's. Finding these on the side of an old railroad track he named them "railroad verbena".

Once while looking at old garden photos with Jim, we found one of Ward's mama standing by her iris bed in SC. "That looks just like Ward in a house dress and apron" I said. We laughed together and then looked a little closer to be sure it wasn't.

When his lilies bloomed, I invited Ward's best friends Ann & Jim to share a meal and memories. We looked at pictures and videos from last year's party in my garden, laughing mostly, some tears too. The prism of Ward's spirit was shining in all it's splendid colors.

### **How I grew Ward's lilies**

I purchased my bulbs from Costco in March of this year- thirty to a bag, three different colors. Bulbs should feel heavy in the hand, like fresh garlic bulbs.



The flowers of oriental lilies are über-fragrant, so I always plant extra for cutting.

For planting, I used fresh compost (compost central) to eight inches. Added to existing soil. Lilies prefer good drainage, so I piled the soil a bit high and added some creek sand from Blue Max Materials. Six inches is deep enough for planting, as lilies continue to grow throughout the year, working themselves downward. I planted mine in groups, but marching soldiers are fine too.

Full morning sun 'till one o'clock or so worked best as a location for my lilies. Protection from the hot afternoon rays protected the delicate flowers.

I fertilized the emerging sprouts when about three inches tall in the spring with a balanced fertilizer: 8-8-8 or 10-10-10. I like Lilly Miller fertilizer from Lowe's.

After blooming – yes they bloomed beautifully this June – I cut back the seedpods and not more than half the entire stem. When all the leaves are yellow, I'll cut back to the ground the

remaining plant and wait for next year's glorious show.

## **You gotta have a plan**

*by Rick Solow*

With fall fast approaching, now is the perfect time to start thinking about your yard. But



before you run off to your favorite neighborhood nursery falling into the trap of the spontaneous plant purchaser, wait! Do you have a landscape plan? Do you know where that perfect camellia is going to go? Have you asked yourself, “Do I

have the right lighting? How's the soil?,” or “Gee, I wonder how big that plant will get?”

Whether your yard is big or small, every space can benefit from a well-thought-out plan. The landscape planning process is the opportunity

to make the most of what you have. While some homeowners can visualize their perfect yard, most of us cannot, and this is where the help of a design professional comes in. A landscape designer or landscape architect trained and specializing in residential spaces can help you discover the possibilities that exist in your yard. As both an astute listener and a visionary, the landscape designer can respond to your special needs and interests while challenging you to think outside the box and discover the unique yard you may not have realized could be yours. You may be asked to create a list of your goals, your budget, your likes and dislikes,

your use of the space. This also a good time to focus on problem areas such as drainage, steep slopes, shaded areas where grass won't grow or hot, sunny spots where everything bakes. Screening unwanted views, creating privacy from a neighbor

*photo: Rosalie Spaniel*

without offending, or what to do with the new recycling containers are all issues that can be considered. And how the installation of the project can be phased over time is always a good question and can be considered as part of the design process.

Our yards in Elizabeth offer outstanding possibilities with a magnificent tree canopy as a backdrop, good soils, and manageable scale. Every back yard has the potential to be a gardeners paradise, an intimate dining or outdoor living area for your family and close friends, a neighborhood gathering spot for cookouts and entertaining, or a child's wonderland. If you look around you'll see the work of some talented landscape

architects in our neighborhood. No yard is too small or too far gone for a well-done upgrade. So the next time you find yourself in the nursery and that lovely plant in the corner is calling your name, don't succumb. Get a plan first!

## Gliding into fall

by Frances L. D'Amato

This summer has been so hot that I am really looking forward to the coolness of fall. However, I do want to recall some of the joys of summer that will help me glide into fall.



Every Sunday after church uptown I stroll through the Ratcliffe Gardens of the Greenway. My imagination goes wild as I look at the chaise lounge and oversized chair. From here I can see the signs pointing to other cities named

Charlotte and the distance from uptown to these other destinations. I always feel like Alice In Wonderland as I walk toward the little stools that look to me like toad stools, all brightly colored with mosaics. Then the big fish water fountain that some adventurous children

run under and get wet. In the heat I am tempted to shake off my sandals and join in knowing that with the heat I'd probably dry off before I got to my car.

Independence Park with the its Rose Garden and walkways call



to me now as we ease into the cooler weather. I love taking a walk along Greenway to this grand park. I always begin my walk at the roses admiring the colors and aromas.

Then I continue on the path and stop at the gazebo for a little rest. I also get a chance here to read a few passages from one of my Meditation books.

Today I'll share a passage from the Meditations with Julian of Norwich:

*The spiritual thirst of Christ*

*Is*

*A love-longing*

*that lasts and always will*

*until we are all*

*together whole in him.*

I love this image of Christ longing for us just as I long for him. I guess we all know the feeling of longing for our loved ones especially when they are away at work or school. Then there is joy when we reunite sometimes at the end of the day and other times at the end of a trip or a semester at school. It feels so good to be joined again.

Julian was an Anchor of the Anglican Church and she lived in a chamber attached to the church. She spent her life praying and she was always open to praying with whomever came to visit.

Now that I'm in the autumn of

photo: John Albert

my life, I see how rewarding such a life could be.

I love working in my garden, making space for the birds and for my friends to spend time with me. For I feel like it is in the joining with others that I truly live. Most of you know that I have a cat named Jesselle that was a year old on August first. She loves going to the bamboo rows to see who's moving there. More often than not she'll bring a mouse or chipmunk back to the brick wall enclosed garden. There she'll play with the creature, catching and letting it go 'til she tires of her game and lets it go for good. One day the chipmunk climbed up the Ivy covered wall and so did Jesselle. The chipmunk then jumped to the brick wall and flew off to the parking area. Jesselle was right on the chipmunk's heels but I think it got away. Jesselle just came back to the sliding door waiting for me to open it. I feel like I learn from her to be accepting of what is!

Now I'd like to invite you to join me in taking the time to walk in our parks, to linger with an inspirational book, to do some Tai Chi and feel the cool breeze touch your skin.

Fall calls us to enjoy the fruit of our labors. The Farmer's Markets are overflowing with the fruits of the fields. Our friends are back from holiday so let's gather together in our gardens or parks and just enjoy being!

## **Elizabeth Home Tour 2010**

*by Rosalie Spaniel*

Want to see a 1911 bungalow that's a showplace of modern luxuries yet still maintains its historic charm?

How about a 1930 Cape Cod that delights with a colorful collection of Murano glass and eclectic artwork purchased by its discriminating owners?

Or would you rather enjoy the storm creek areas on Kenmore Avenue that have earned National Wildlife area certification?

You can see all that – and a lot more – on the 2010 Elizabeth Home Tour, scheduled for October 2 and 3. This year's tour, one of the Elizabeth Community Association's biggest fundraisers, will provide a mix of indoor and outdoor delights. Visitors will tour five homes, a studio, and several outstanding landscaped areas. The Charlotte Council of Garden Clubs, always a favorite tour attraction, and Hawthorne Lane United Methodist Church are also on the tour.

### **Featured homes include:**

#### **Julie Chavez and Scott Kaysen, East 8th Street.**

Both the house and garden will be open. This charming bungalow started life as the home of the Hawthorne Methodist Church pastor and retains the original wood-paneled pocket doors and the

original wood railing in the stairway.

**Heather and Gus Obleada, Clement Avenue.** The owners' love of color is evident throughout the newly expanded house, and bright splashes of color in unexpected places make this home a joyful experience.

**Diana and Reid Watson, Kenmore Avenue.** Another home with a bonus garden, this 1928 bungalow features modern upgrades but hasn't lost its original flavor. You'll want to check out the spacious rooms and private getaways that make this an eminently livable home.

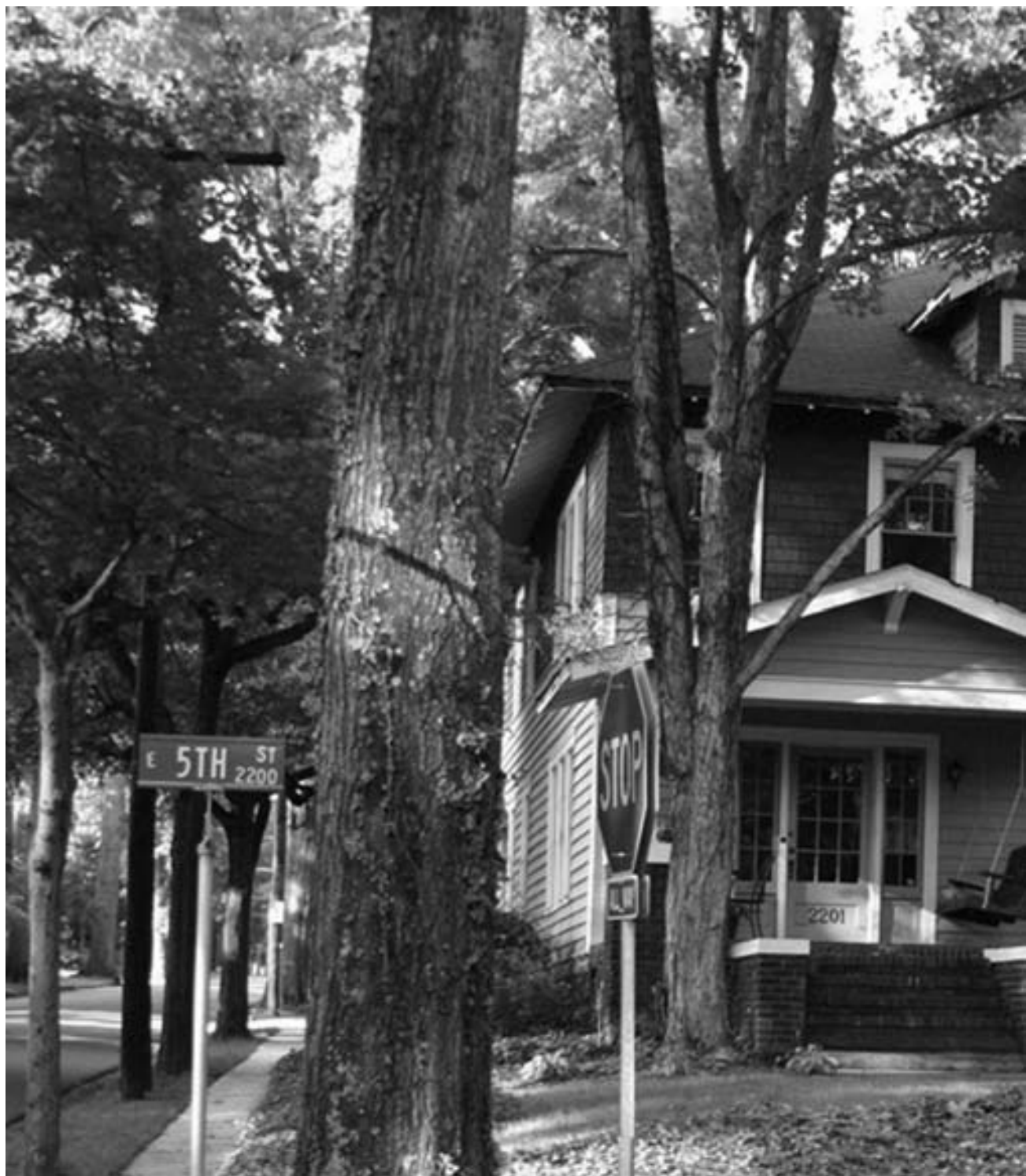
#### **Paige McThenia and Jon Adams, East 8th Street.**

This unassuming bungalow reveals a surprisingly modern interior, using both shape and color to make design statements throughout the home.

**Kristan and Ken Magas, East 5th Street.** Once a triplex, then a duplex, this home has recently been unified into a seamless, spacious, single-family home. Its many lovely rooms, plus porches and patios, provide lots of space for this family to work, play, and gather with friends.

#### **Tammy and Mark Herrmann, East 5th Street.**

First in a trio of side-by-side gardens, the Herrmann garden features an eye-catching





pergola of Douglas fir with climbing roses and an Evergreen Clematis Armandii, plus a hidden outdoor shower.

**Kris and Ric Solow, East 5th Street.** The garage-turned-studio doubles as a game room-gathering place.



The catalyst for the change in function, a restored 1912 antique Brunswick billiards table, is the centerpiece of the ground floor. The garden has a split personality; one colorful section that reflects Kris's artist eye contrasts with Ric's all-white garden.

**Leesa and Jim Clardy, East 5th Street.** This garden features a wide expanse of grass that invites children to play, but garden enthusiasts will be enchanted by the flowers, shrubs, and trees that make this an attractive and

comfortable outdoor setting.

**Elaine and Jerry Tylman, Kenmore Avenue.** The outdoor area along the creek in the back of the Tylman home was once overgrown with kudzu and other invasive vines. Today the creek is home

to crawfish, turtles, frogs, and salamanders, and the creek path flora includes blueberry bushes, elderberry trees, and native marsh grasses.

The Charlotte Council of Garden Clubs will present a variety of floral arrangements and decorations. Hawthorne Lane United Methodist Church, with its beautiful historic-landmark sanctuary, completes the tour offerings.

Tour hours are 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, October 2, and 1 to 5 p.m. on Sunday, October 3. Tickets are \$12.00 in advance and may be purchased at local businesses starting in late September. Tickets on tour days will be \$15.00 and will be available at the Charlotte Council of Garden Clubs, 1820 East 7th Street.

So purchase your tickets early and invite your friends to come see some unique homes in our lovely historic district! For more information, contact Maya Packard at [mpackard@carolina.rr.com](mailto:mpackard@carolina.rr.com).

### **We Need You!**

It takes a lot of manpower to put on a successful home tour – each home must be staffed on Saturday and Sunday, October 2 and 3, in two-hour shifts. Volunteers who are able to work two shifts will receive a free home tour ticket. Email Tammy Herrmann at [tammyh@carolina.rr.com](mailto:tammyh@carolina.rr.com) to volunteer.



[www.cmc-mercy.org/events](http://www.cmc-mercy.org/events)



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You are invited to attend our free wellness seminars in the CMC-Mercy auditorium, located at 2001 Vail Ave. Complimentary meals will be provided. To register please call 704-512-3820.

**6 – 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, Sept. 14 – *Stress is Inevitable***

Join Dael Waxman, MD, from the Department of Family Medicine to learn how stress affects the body and techniques for neutralizing it.

**6 – 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 12 – *Healthy Grocery Shopping and Meal Planning***

Megan Dean, MPH, RD, LDN, Mecklenburg County Health Department program coordinator at Fit City for Fit Families, discusses how to plan healthy menus and shop smart at grocery stores.

**Noon – 1:30 p.m., Friday, Oct. 15 – *Running and Walking Safety***

Learn the proper techniques for running and walking effectively.

**6 – 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, Nov. 9 – *Healthy Holiday Eating***

Join YMCA dietician Alicia Fogarty, MS, RD, LDN, for a discussion on eating healthy during the holiday season. Learn tips for snacking smart at holiday parties and how to create healthy holiday menus.



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