

came to Dilworth for the charm and ambience. I remember the days of wonderful parties and parades. It was a different way of life."

A newcomer to the South End District is The Bee Man Candle Company, which features products made by American artists as well as an interactive retail experience. Visitors can watch candles being made or join in the experience by making their own.

"You can create a candle based on your own unique style," says owner Brian Howell. "We offer a broad range of candles, candle holders and home accents and accessories. We also offer bath and body products." Howell, a native of New York, served as an apprenticed candle maker when he was a teenager. He has operated a wholesale candle business from New York for the past 15 years. Howell chose South End for his first retail store which opened in June 2006. "This is a great location," he adds. "There are nice communities surrounding the area. It has the art influence, is trendy—up and coming. It's a great place for people to spend a day."

AN ART LOVER'S PARADISE

Dilworth and South End are home to numerous art galleries. The Charlotte Art League, CAL, which was established in 1965, is one of the oldest active art organizations in Charlotte. The non-profit organization is located in a 1940s biscuit factory on Camden Road. It's a working studio that gives artists the opportunity to develop professional skills and nurture creativity while expanding their networking and increasing their exposure. Visitors are encouraged to tour the facility, observe artists in action, purchase their works and attend special events held throughout the year.

The South End First Friday Gallery Crawl is held each month from 6 to 8 p.m. and begins at the CAL. Participants visit unique restaurants, music venues and art studios. The South End Shuttle takes guests from one end to the other.

Larry Elder of Elder Art Gallery on South Boulevard opened one of the first art galleries in the South End District six years ago. "It's been a great experience watching the art district grow," says Elder. "Our gallery is unique in that we offer a huge spectrum of artwork. We are the representative for the estate collections of Leon A. Makielski and Earnest Walker, both 20th-century artists. We represent over 60 American artists whose works represent contemporary living, which is work done in today's time that is realistic, impressionistic or abstract." Each month, the gallery features an exhibition showcasing a particular artist. "This is an incredible district," adds Elder. "It continues to

change and grow, which brings additional excitement. It's nice to have a small area within the city where people can go from gallery to gallery witnessing a new experience at each establishment."

McColl Fine Art on East Boulevard is known as one of the premier art galleries in the Southeast. The gallery specializes in fine American and European paintings, with a primary focus on select works of art from the 19th and early 20th centuries. Here you'll find exceptional quality from the following periods—the Barbizon School, the Hudson River School, Academic painting, Impressionism, and Post-Impressionism.

To discover Dilworth's enchantment, set aside a day and emerge yourself into this delightful setting. Drive through the area and relish the different styles of architecture. Read the historical markers identifying historical residences. Witness the few remaining iron light poles with simple decorative tops. Projecting arms on these poles once carried the streetcar's overhead wire. Stop for lunch, take a stroll through Latta Park and visit some of the unique shops. Relax and enjoy yourself in Charlotte's original suburb. *

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