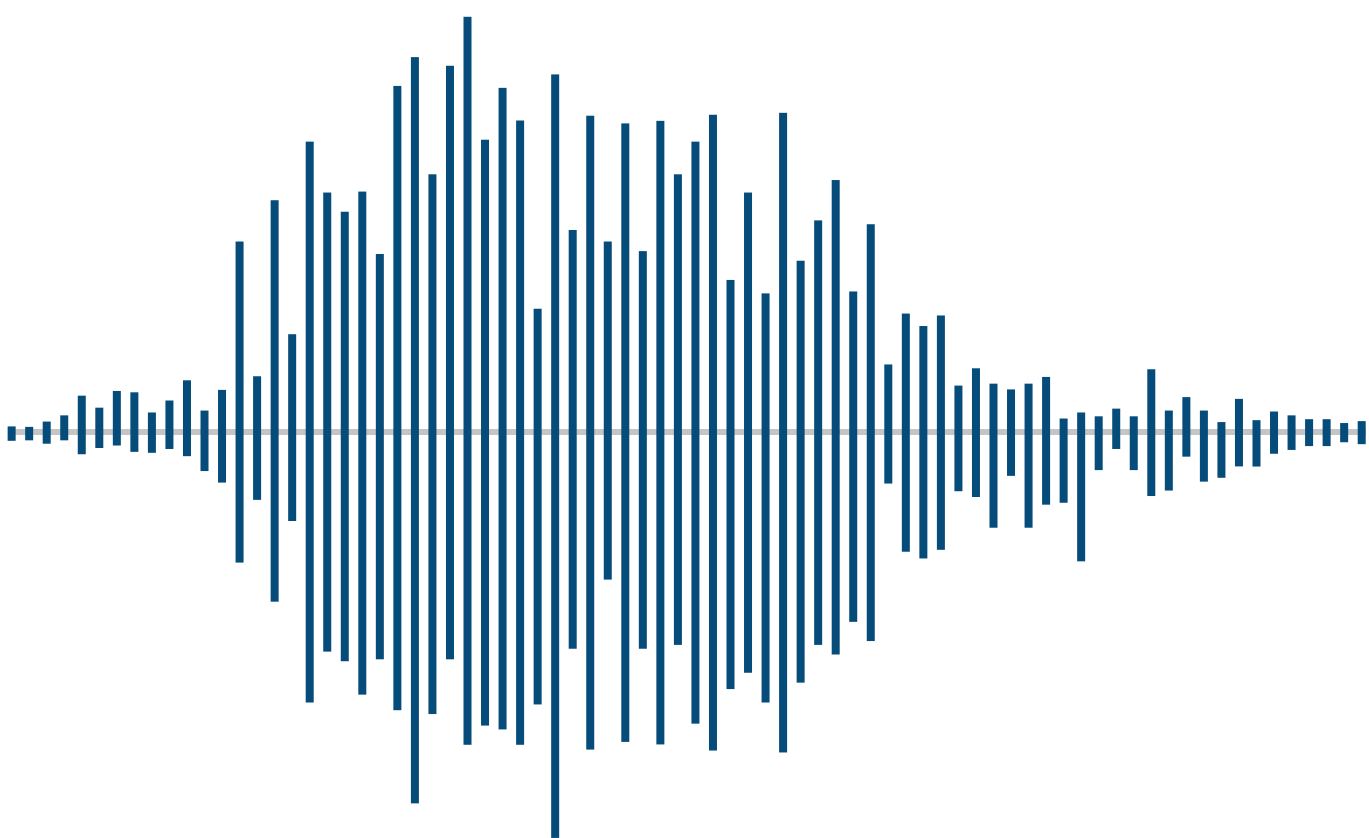


MORE THAN A RADIO STATION



We're a **HUB**  for

breaking news. We're an

 **INVESTIGATOR** *of political*

wrongdoing. We're a  **FORUM**

for explorations of difficult local

topics. We're a **FACILITATOR** 

for community conversation. We're

a **DESTINATION**  *for some*

of the country's best journalists.

We're an **IDENTIFIER** 

of community assets. We're WFAE,

Charlotte's **NPR NEWS SOURCE.**

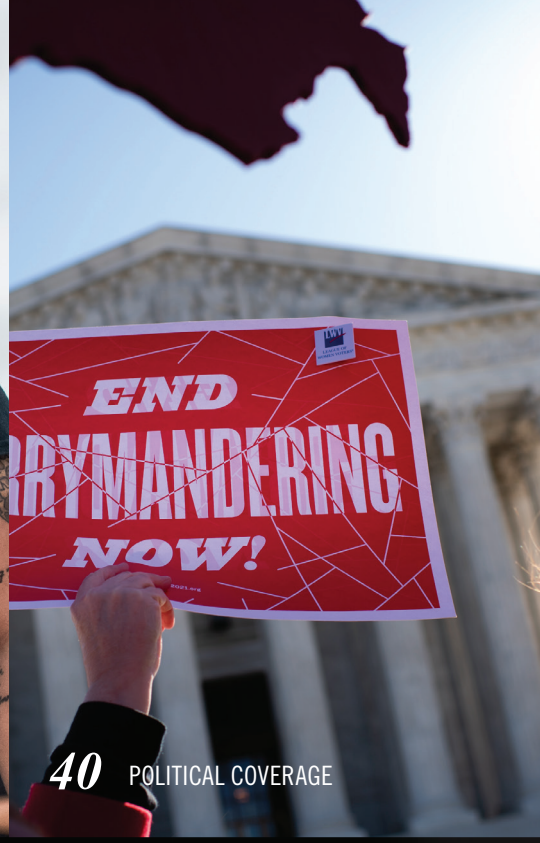
LIVE
We're

LOCAL
We're

MISSION & VISION	8
LETTER FROM BOARD CHAIR	10
LETTER FROM CEO	11
OVERVIEW	12
PRODUCTIONS	20
POLITICAL COVERAGE	40
BREAKING NEWS	44
HURRICANE FLORENCE	54
WFAE HAPPENINGS	58
AWARDS	60
WFAE PEOPLE	62
WFAE BY THE NUMBERS	66
MAJOR DONORS	72
GOVERNANCE, ADVISERS & STAFF	84



47 UNC CHARLOTTE SHOOTING



40 POLITICAL COVERAGE



41

VOTING SCANDAL IN THE 9TH DISTRICT

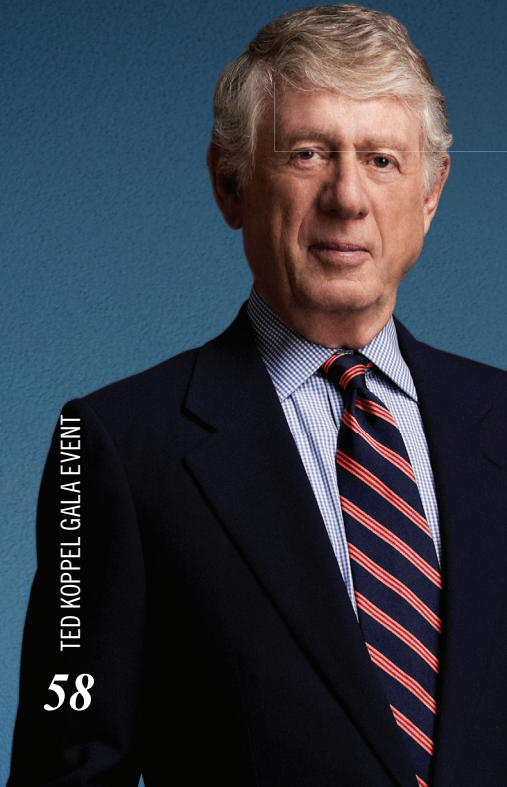


28 SHE SAYS PODCAST



32

SOUTHBOUND PODCAST



TED KOPPEL GALA EVENT

58



26 AMPLIFIER PODCAST

OUR MISSION

*Journalism that informs,
enriches and inspires.*

*A more knowledgeable
and engaged community
grounded in our
shared humanity.*

OUR VISION

LETTER FROM THE BOARD CHAIR, MARK ETHRIDGE

An informed public is essential to a healthy democracy.

That's why the board and staff at WFAE is so grateful for a record amount of support from a record number of members that enabled WFAE to become the Charlotte region's foremost source of local news in 2019.

In a time when commercial news outlets find themselves challenged by declining audiences and eroding advertiser support, WFAE has flourished – growing the number of local reporters, producers and editors and expanding the ways with which we connect with our audience.

That listener support means citizens still have a place to turn for in-depth reporting, like WFAE's coverage of the 9th Congressional District scandal, the weekly Finding Home series which focuses on the area's affordable housing shortfalls and *Charlotte Talks with Mike Collins*, where thoughtful and intelligent interviews earned accolades as the area's best radio show and a ranking among National Public Radio's top 25 podcast.

That same support allows WFAE not just to inform, but to enrich the community, whether it's through Tommy Tomlinson's *SouthBound* podcasts exploring southerners and southern culture, or by bringing former ABC News anchor Ted Koppel to town to speak at the station's annual dinner.

One of WFAE's most important 2019 accomplishments was expanding two-way connections with listeners, empowering citizens to tell their stories, soliciting audience ideas, and facilitating listeners' connections with each other.

Charlotte Talks brought leaders and citizens together in public forums throughout the city to discuss issues ranging from unchecked suburban growth to an alarming surge in homicides.

Nick de la Canal's *FAQ City* series answered listeners' questions about why quirky things here are the way they are.

When the station sought ideas from listeners for podcasts with the idea of picking one for production as part of the Queen City PodQuest, listeners from every zip code in WFAE's broadcast area submitted entries – nearly 400 people!

With *Amplifier*, hosted by Joni Deutsch, WFAE reached new audiences by shining a light on the area's music scene and performers. *Amplifier* ranked as one of the top 30 music podcasts available through Apple.

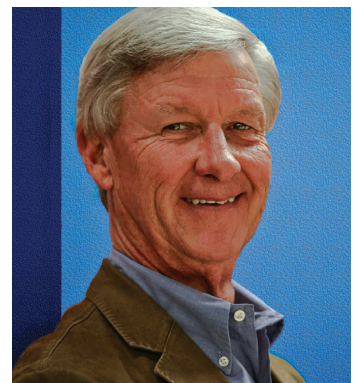
None of this would have been possible without you, our listeners and members. You have allowed the station to answer the question of what successful, vibrant, public-service journalism looks like going forward – non-profit, non-partisan and audience supported.

Thank you. We feel that we're just getting started.

Sincerely,



Mark Ethridge
Board Chair



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT & CEO, JOE O'CONNOR

Board Member Gabriella Chapman put it best, "WFAE is safe refuge."

In this hyper divided, segregated country, the combination of outstanding journalism, relentless idealism, abiding civility, undying curiosity, and much needed wit, all add up to a welcome escape from the media maelstrom – a bridge to positive change not just in our congregation of listener-users but our community writ large.

We often laugh out loud during *Wait, Wait, Don't Tell Me* or notice our eyes are moist during *StoryCorps*. We mourn the lives lost next door at UNC Charlotte in the aftermath of that tragic shooting or our hearts reach out to Syrian families caught in the crossfire.

What used to be fanfare for the common man, journalism has evolved from what my mentor Ted Koppel observes "news you need to news you want."

WFAE and NPR remain fearless to tell you the facts, particularly when they are hard to hear. Our growing newsroom may challenge your preconceptions, provoke an utterance of disgust or disbelief in the moment, but upon reflection, opens your perspective, widens your view, expands your horizon.

We are so much more than the latest news, or even the most cogent analysis of ongoing stories—we cover all aspects of the human experience.

Our programs renew one's humanity, so much so that many supporters call us a daily and trusted companion. That trust is magnified by our increasing interaction with the community we are licensed to serve.

I have the distinct privilege not only to lead one of the most talented media companies in the country but also in my constant travels around the region, to bear witness to our neighbors fighting for positive change, encouraged by WFAE's excellence and commitment.

Thanks to your support, we all are becoming the region's leading catalyst for our collective transformation.

Thank you.

Onward!



Joe O'Connor
President and CEO



2019 OVERVIEW

IN TRACKING METRICS, WFAE SET RECORDS FOR REVENUE, MEMBERS, SPONSORSHIPS, DIGITAL GROWTH AND ACCOLADES.

In FY19, WFAE notched significant milestones on its way to locking in its role as the go-to source of journalism, information and conversation in the Charlotte region.

Many of those milestones were born of grit, innovation and experimentation that paid off handsomely for the station – and the overall community. In other instances, they were an outgrowth of longer-term, strategic efforts to build WFAE's digital capacity and create a more pronounced culture of philanthropy. That philanthropic culture is critical for the station to expand its content and community outreach and to support even more efforts to fill in the region's growing local news gaps.

It became clear in the past year that WFAE represents more than a terrestrial radio station for Charlotte and its surrounding region.

A man casts a vote during the special election between Democrat Dan McCready and Republican Dan Bishop in North Carolina's 9th Congressional District on September 10, 2019. Photo credit: Sean Rayford/Getty Images



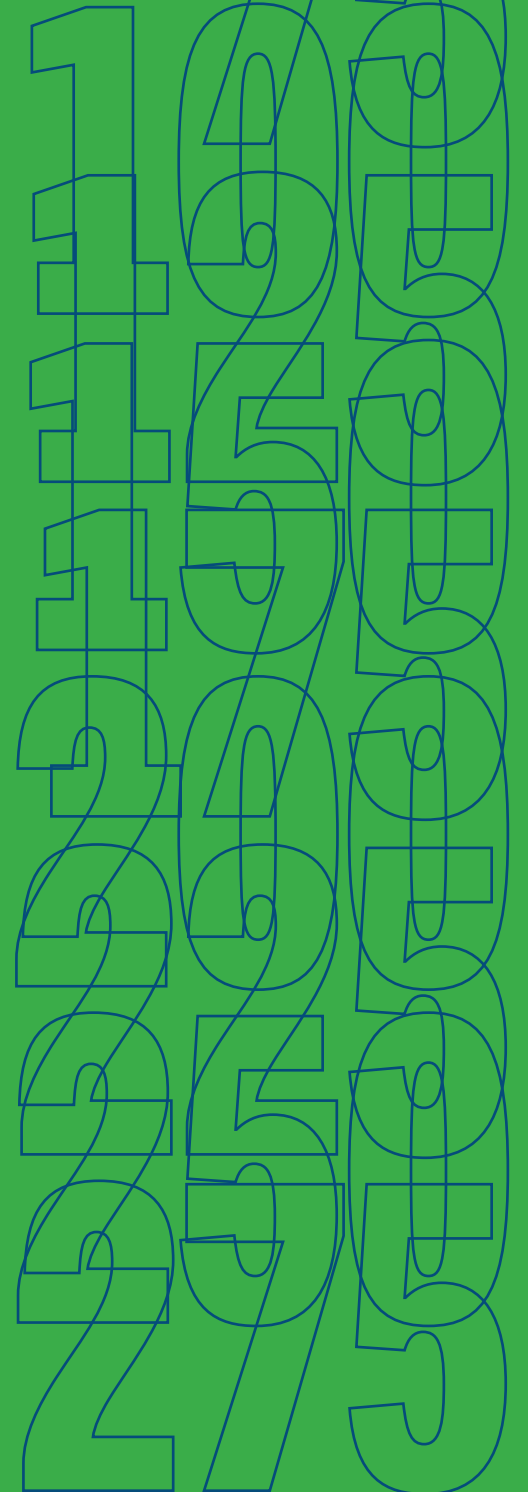
**WFAE'S DIGITAL
GROWTH
HAS BEEN
SKYROCKETING
WITH WFAE.ORG
USERS UP 146%
OVER FY18.**

146%



**WFAE PLACED
IN THE TOP 20 OF
ALL NPR STATIONS
IN SEVERAL
BENCHMARKS FOR
DIGITAL GROWTH.
THIS AUDIENCE
GROWTH WAS
DRIVEN IN PART
BY THE STATION'S
ACCLAIMED ROSTER
OF PODCASTS.**

TOP 20



*Michel Martin, the weekend host of NPR's All Things Considered introduces Ted Koppel prior to interviewing him from the stage of the Charlotte Convention Center at WFAE's annual gala.
Photo credit: Jeff Cravotta Photography*



“WFAE has taken a major step to becoming the primary hard news source in the region.”

Mark Ethridge
WFAE Board Chair

WFAE posted its fourth consecutive year of record fundraising. Memberships and corporate sponsorships delivered record results, and sponsorships for events and podcasts reached an all-time high as well.

New engagement onramps – from events to contests, and from public conversations to community-created content – opened the doors to more interaction and community involvement.

And while the station heaped honors on many members of the community, WFAE itself, across the board, was honored with more awards and recognitions this year than any other year.

“That’s a testament both to the quantity and quality of the work being done at WFAE,” said Jeff

Bundy, executive director of branding and engagement.

WFAE’s journalism during the year had notable impact. WFAE was the first to report several key stories in the 9th Congressional District absentee-balloting scandal. It paved the way for new procedures in investigating sexual-assault cases, and triggered the donation of a new transitional home for homeless women and children.

Not to be underestimated, however, is the knowledge imparted from the station’s yearlong exploration of the lack of affordable housing, one of the region’s most critical issues.

Listener comments flowed in as a response to the *Finding Home* series, which aired throughout 2019. “When you unravel the onion, you’re educating people in

ways that you don’t even know about,” said President and CEO Joe O’Connor.

“I think WFAE has taken a major step to becoming the primary hard news source in the region,” said WFAE’s board Chair Mark Ethridge, who directed the *Charlotte Observer’s* Pulitzer Prize-winning investigations of the textile industry and the PTL scandal involving Jim and Tammy Faye Bakker.

“Traditional news sources have declined, so there are significant gaps,” he said. “Somebody has to fill them, and that somebody is WFAE.”

Here’s a closer look at WFAE’s innovations and achievements during the past year.

WFAE WAS HONORED WITH MORE AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS THIS YEAR THAN ANY OTHER YEAR.

PRODUCTIONS



Mike Collins
Charlotte Talks host
Photo Credit: Jeff Cravotta

Charlotte Talks is where Charlotteans tune in to stay on top of what's happening in the region whether it's growth, affordable housing, upward mobility, education, crime, the arts and more.

For on-demand listeners, the *Charlotte Talks* podcast repeatedly ranks in the Top 25 in public radio station podcasts, thanks to master interviewer Mike Collins.

The show's weekly Local News Roundup on Friday and Saturday mornings continues to be the most popular *Charlotte Talks* show of the week. Also popular – and important – are the monthly Mike and the Mayor sit-downs between host Collins and Charlotte's Mayor Vi Lyles. This segment has been expanded with regular conversations between Collins and mayors from neighboring communities.

Increasingly this year, *Charlotte Talks* has moved to cover breaking news as it happens. Acting on a tip, the show was the first to report that Charlotte Mecklenburg School Superintendent Clayton Wilcox would be suspended.

And after the April 30 shooting at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte in which a shooter killed two students and wounded four, *Charlotte Talks* opened up the phone lines to callers to foster community engagement.

"I think it was an important show because it helped people deal with their emotions," Executive Producer Wendy Herkey said.

"It seems the pace of important news stories is only increasing. And this is happening at the same time that many news organizations are closing their doors. WFAE is really stepping up to fill the void, and I am particularly proud of how we've evolved *Charlotte Talks* to meet these needs. Where else are you going to hear thoughtful conversation about our city?" Herkey added.

Charlotte Talks is known for hosting Public Conversations to help the community delve into difficult issues. In FY19, three public conversations were held.

Charlotte Talks also hosted five community events during the year. Among them, it again took the Friday News Roundup on the road. Collins also hosted an evening with Bob Woodward, the investigative journalist who helped uncover the Watergate scandal that led to President Richard Nixon's investigation.

This year, *Charlotte Talks* was awarded a Regional Edward R. Murrow Award and an award from the Charlotte Area Association of Black Journalists (CAABJ). *Charlotte Magazine* also named *Charlotte Talks* the "Best Radio Show" and *Creative Loafing* named Collins "Best Radio Personality."

"I think we win by default," joked host Collins. "That's OK because we are the only ones doing a series of events important to people who live here."

Charlotte Talks airs Monday - Friday from 9AM to 10AM and re-airs Monday - Thursday from 7PM to 8 PM and Saturday from 7AM to 8AM

CHARLOTTE TALKS

Charlotte Talks host Mike Collins hosts a conversation with candidates for Charlotte City council from the stage of the McGlothlin Theater.



EDWARD R. MURROW AWARD

Public Affairs Program

CAABJ AWARD

Radio Commentary

BEST RADIO SHOW

Charlotte Magazine

BEST RADIO PERSONALITY

Creative Loafing



08/02/18

Beyond She Says

Dealt with the community and police response to our sexual assault investigation, which exposed police training and process lapses.



Top: Mike Collins (L) with She Says podcast host Sarah Delia, CMPD Deputy Chief Katrina Graue, Lieutenant John Somerindyke and Crystal Emerick of Brave Step.

Bottom: Sarah Delia
Photo Credits: Daniel Coston

10/23/18

Election Special

Convened community members for a Midterm Election Special.



Mike Collins (L) with his guests Dr. Michael Bitzer, Department of Politics chair, Catawba College; Wayne Goodwin, chairman, North Carolina Democratic Party; Connie Green-Johnson, president, Democratic Women of Mecklenburg County; Robin Hayes, chairman, North Carolina Republican Party; and Sarah Reidy-Jones, vice chair, Mecklenburg County Republican Party on the stage of the Booth Playhouse in Charlotte.
Photo Credit: Chris Miller / WFAE

04/18/19

07/31/19

Growing Pains

Focused on the explosive growth in the Lake Norman area.

Homicides: A Community Approach

Addressed the city's alarming increase in homicides.



Broadcast from CPCC's Merancas Campus in Huntersville, host Mike Collins (L) with WFAE reporter David Boraks; Lake Norman Chamber of Commerce President Bill Russell; Huntersville Planning Director Jack Simoneau; Cornelius Town Manager Andrew Grant; Davidson Mayor Rusty Knox; Scott Cole, of NCDOT; and Huntersville Transportation Planning Director, Bill Coxe. Photo Credit: Erin Keever / WFAE



Top: Robert Dawkins, community organizer and founder of SAFE Coalition NC, was one of the panelists at this Charlotte Talks live event.

Bottom: An event attendee asks a question to the panel. Photo Credits: Erin Keever / WFAE

“Our
broadcasts
are better.
You can
hear it.”

Marshall Terry
WFAE's Morning Edition co-host

MORNING EDITION

One of the most significant changes to WFAE's programming line up launched in FY19 when the station gave its *Morning Edition* local newscast a second host. *Morning Edition* is the most listened-to show of the day.

Lisa Worf moved from being assistant news director to co-host the show with Marshall Terry. In addition to hosting the show, the team weaves local newscasts into the national program. The goal was to increase the amount of local journalism and newsmaker interviews and create a greater sense of place.

“We've got a bigger newsroom staff and more content,” Worf said. “There were more stories to fill in” – more than one person could handle well.

“Teaming Marshall Terry and Lisa Worf together for this broadcast was all about serving our community,” said News Director, Greg Collard. “I couldn't be prouder of the results. Not only do the broadcasts feature more in-depth news reports and features, they're just fun to listen to. Marshall and Lisa have a great 'news sense' and are expert broadcasters. Our audiences are really responding positively to the team.”

“Listeners regularly comment on the improvements to *Morning Edition*,” agreed CEO O'Connor. “Elevating Lisa to the co-host position has enhanced Marshall's ability to make the newscasts really pop.”

It also allowed the community to discover Worf, a journalist known for her reporting skills, as a strong on-air presence. Where the show's news reports had pulled clips from the previous day's staff features and rounded up news from other local media, this year *Morning Edition* began doing more live interviews and adding better sound bites and audio to the reports.

“It's changed dramatically,” Terry said. “Having two hosts allows us to write more detailed headlines.”

It also allows the show to be on top of the news, including booking guests who can talk about stories that are still unfolding.

“Our broadcasts are better,” Terry said. “You can hear it.”

Agreed Worf: “We have more informed and sharper newscasts and the community is responding.”



WITH *AMPLIFIER*, WFAE IS STAKING A CLAIM TO A NEW AUDIENCE OF MUSIC LOVERS, WHO ARE BEING INTRODUCED TO THE STATION THROUGH THE PODCAST.



Joni Deutsch
Host of the *Amplifier* podcast speaks to guests from the *Amplifier* stage at the Charlotte Shout festival.
Photo Credit: Daniel Coston Photography

Following the success of last year's podcast star, *She Says*, which chronicled one woman's sexual-assault case through the criminal justice system, WFAE initiated a new podcast, *Amplifier*. It launched on Sept. 3, 2018, to spotlight Charlotte's music scene, from banjos to bands, songwriters to symphonies, record labels to rock stars.

Amplifier became so popular it quickly received national recognition, even as it imparted welcomed attention to Charlotte's music makers. So far, there have been more than 66,000 downloads of *Amplifier* podcasts, and it ranked in the Top 30 of all music podcasts available through Apple.

Leading up to its launch, host Joni Deutsch, WFAE's manager of on-demand content and audience engagement, invited local musicians to submit their work; more than 400 did. For the podcast launch, *Amplifier* spotlighted the best 20 artists – one for every weekday in September. Accompanying the launch were free live performances and a record sale offering some of the station's LP and CD collection amassed from when WFAE was primarily a jazz station.

A new *Amplifier* episode now appears bi weekly.

Deutsch and some *Amplifier* featured artists have been invited on NPR's *Morning Edition* and *Weekend Edition*, on WBUR's *Here and Now*, and on NPR Music's *All Songs Considered*. Deutsch also has spoken at numerous industry panels and music events. The podcast has received a regional Edward R. Murrow Award for Excellence in Innovation and an honorable mention from the international Webby awards for excellence in arts and culture podcasts. Soon after its launch, it was named best local podcast by *Charlotte Magazine*.

During the spring "Charlotte Shout" festival, Deutsch hosted five days of lunchtime performances by local musicians.

With *Amplifier*, WFAE is staking a claim to a new audience of music lovers, who are being introduced to the station through the podcast. A Center City Partners study of the city's music ecosystem credited *Amplifier* with being a "trusted curator" that could help elevate Charlotte music.

WFAE's validation has also boosted many artists' careers.

"A lot of the artists I've been able to hand-select, I now see them being booked by others because they found out about them in *Amplifier*," Deutsch said.

Now, other public radio stations are reaching out to Deutsch for advice on replicating *Amplifier*'s success. Individually, Deutsch has received many honors. She has been named one of Charlotte's Top 30 under 30 and a Young Achiever by Duke University. She was also nominated for a United Way Young Leaders Award.

Future plans for *Amplifier* include a one-hour radio special and free lunchtime performances, all part of a Corporation of Public Broadcasting grant focused on country music. Also in the works is a spring 2020 event to showcase local musicians who have submitted their work to NPR's "Tiny Desk Contest" and a celebration of Charlotte music alongside classic music station WDAV and regional music station WNCW.

Amplifier has played a major role in elevating WFAE's visibility in the community. Marshall, chief content officer, said that some 3,000 attendees attended *Amplifier*-related events during the year.

AMPLIFIER

66,000
DOWNLOADS
AS OF JANUARY 2020



Soprano Melinda Whittington was a performer with Opera Carolina when Joni Deutsch interviewed her for the Amplifier podcast. During the interview, Whittington shared that her goal was to perform with The Metropolitan Opera. At the time of printing, Whittington had reached her goal and is singing with the Met. Photo Provided. Amplifier logo Design by Matthew Scott.

*“I feel like it’s given me a voice.
And that’s an important thing to a
survivor, a very important thing.”*

*Linda**
Sexual-assault survivor



Sara Delia
 WFAE reporter and host
 of the She Says podcast.
 Photo Credit: Logan Cyrus

The impact of *She Says*, WFAE's podcast star of FY18, continued in FY 19. Its 10 episodes were downloaded some 354,000 times and the podcast landed in the Top 200 of all podcasts in iTunes' rankings. *She Says* also sought to engage listeners by including stories that callers left on voice mail.

Shortly after the last planned episode was produced, *She Says* was the focus of a *Charlotte Talks* public conversation on Aug. 2, 2018. At that event with police officials present, more women said that they, too, were survivors of sexual assault and that their cases had been stalled. Police took their names and promised to follow up after the conversation. Police also publically apologized to Linda* for the handling of her case.

The series created a ripple effect of change throughout the state. Some nurses reported that state reimbursements for sexual-assault kits resumed for their hospitals after the U.S. Justice Department, alerted by reporting that stemmed from the podcast, made an inquiry.

The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department changed policy around rape-test procedures and said its detectives would get new trauma-interview training in 2019. "Police told us our reporting will influence how they will treat victims in the future," Delia said.

Linda, the sexual-assault survivor, credited the podcast for helping her to heal.

"I don't know that the case would have gotten this far had I not brought the story and this information to you, so there's a healing part to it," she said in the podcast's final episode.

"I feel like it's given me a voice. And that's an important thing to a survivor, a very important thing. And to hear other survivors, you know, be given an opportunity as well through the podcast to have a voice has been really amazing, too," Linda* added.

* Linda is the pseudonym used by the woman featured in the *She Says* podcast.

SHE SAYS

**354,000
 DOWNLOADS**
 AS OF JANUARY 2020

QUEEN CITY PODQUEST

“The Queen City PodQuest process was such a fun and intense learning experience. So when we did win, it was amazing!”

Stephanie Hale
Co-host of the Queen City PodQuest
winning podcast, “Work It!”

WFAE made a significant foray this year into community-created content by soliciting podcast ideas from the public. It launched a *Queen City PodQuest* competition in December, asking for a proposal and a two-minute sample podcast; 379 ideas were submitted before community members were asked to vote on their favorites.

The competition elicited 184,666 page views to contest pages on WFAE’s website. 31,703 voters cast 99,320 votes for their favorite podcast. Five semi-finalists were selected for additional mentoring from WFAE, leading up to a live-pitch finale in early May at the NASCAR Hall of Fame. Cash and a future podcast deal with WFAE were awarded.

The grand-prize winner, *Work It*, will look at people’s work – how it shapes their lives and their triumphs and setbacks. Creators Stephanie Hale, Jill Bjers and

Kevin Young won \$1,000 and the opportunity to work with WFAE on a deal to produce six to eight episodes.

The second place (and fan favorite winner) was *Next Door Docs*; *Choose Your Own Adventure* took third place.

“Although we could only produce one of the hundreds of great podcasts ideas we received, WFAE is committed to providing access to resources to help the podcast community grow,” Chief Content Officer, Marshall said in announcing the winners. “We believe that everyone has a story worth telling, and podcasting is one way to empower more people in this community to tell those stories.”

In FY20, WFAE is hosting the *Queen City PodQuest Academy* and *Workshop* for residents across the Charlotte area.

The team behind the Queen City PodQuest winning podcast *Work It* pose for a photo with WFAE Podcast Manager, Joni Deusch. L-R Kevin Young, Joni Deusch, Jill Bjers and Stephanie Hale. Photo credit: Jeff Cravotta Photography



**TOMMY TOMLINSON'S
POPULAR BIWEEKLY
PODCAST *SOUTHBOUND*
CONTINUED TO
FEATURE NOTABLE
SOUTHERNERS, OFTEN
BEFORE THEY LAND ON
THE NATIONAL RADAR.**

SOUTHBOUND

Tommy Tomlinson's popular biweekly podcast *SouthBound*, continued to feature notable Southerners, often before they land on the national radar. For instance, he interviewed Nashville singer/songwriter Erin Rae about a year before NPR Music's "Tiny Desk Concert" invited her to perform. And he hosted Tayari Jones around the time her novel "An American Marriage" was selected as part of Oprah's Book Club.

This year, *SouthBound* added a suggestion box for listeners to nominate topics. Nearly 100 suggestions have been submitted. Two of those suggestions have been featured on the podcast feed: Chuck Reece, editor of *The Bitter Southerner*, and Southern chef and PBS host Vivian Howard.

Also new this year for Tomlinson is *On My Mind*, an opinion column that comes out every Monday on WFAE and WFAE.org.

Tomlinson, who has written for publications including *Esquire*, *ESPN the Magazine*, *Sports Illustrated*, *Forbes*, *Garden & Gun*, and many others, spent 23 years as a reporter and columnist for the *Charlotte Observer*, where he was a finalist for the 2005 Pulitzer Prize in commentary.

When asked about bringing his commentary to radio, Tomlinson said "It's been interesting for me to adapt the column format to audio. I always wanted what I wrote to sound good when you read it out loud, but now I'm actually having to read it out loud! So it's been good for me as a storyteller."

At the end of each commentary, Tomlinson shares his WFAE email address (ttomlinson@wfae.org) for listeners to share their thoughts on what they'd heard. And audiences are regularly reaching out to Tomlinson with their insights.

"I get a good bit of response from listeners," he said. "Some folks agree and some disagree, which is to be expected when you do commentaries. But everyone has been respectful. And I suspect that's because WFAE treats its listeners respectfully."

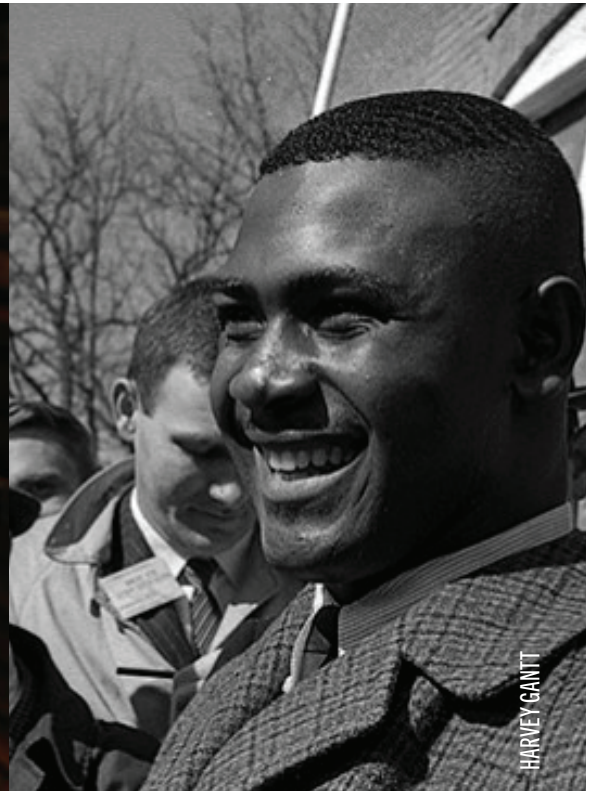
WFAE's audience wasn't alone in responding positively to Tommy's work. The Public Radio News Directors Inc (PRNDI) awarded Tomlinson top honors for commentary. Also, *Charlotte Magazine* named Tomlinson "Best Author" for his book, "The Elephant in the Room: One Fat Man's Quest to Get Smaller in a Growing America."



Tommy Tomlinson
WFAE commentator and host of the
SouthBound podcast.
Photo Credit: Jeff Cravotta Photography



JIMMY RUSSELL



HARVEY GANTT



BROOKLYN DECKER



LAURA VINROOT POOLE




TAVIARI JONES



DALE EARNHARDT JR.



VIVIAN HOWARD



“FAQ City has really gotten a lot of traction with newcomers. It helps people learn more about their new home.”

*Mark Ethridge
WFAE Board Chair*

FAQ CITY

“Who is Sharon, and Why Are So Many Streets Named After Her?” Indeed, there are at least 14 roads in South Charlotte named after Sharon, plus two neighborhoods, a school, a shopping center and more. For curious Charlotteans, *FAQ City* did the research and shared the answers to this and many other questions.

“We had at least 12 or 13 people reach out asking about Sharon,” said Nick de la Canal, host of the online, broadcast and podcast series. The episode in July became one of his favorites of the year.

Turns out, the name refers to a place, not a person. In the Bible, “sharon” refers to “rich pastures,” local historian Tom Hanchett explained. In Charlotte, the first Sharon Roads led to the Sharon Presbyterian Church, built amid rich land in a nice part of town. Later Sharon names took their cues from that association.

FAQ City invites community members to pose a question they’d like answered and the community votes on the ones to pursue. Voting can be open for up to a week and a half and sometimes, de la Canal says, he’s surprised at the

questions the community wants WFAE to pursue.

“We’ve gotten more than 600 questions since we started in January 2017,” he said. Four or five new ones come in every week. “What people come up with, what they want, sometimes that’s not even on my radar screen.”

Many listener questions deal with past legacies that may be hidden amid Charlotte’s new skyscrapers.

“People say Charlotte has torn down a lot of its history,” de la Canal said. By unpacking some of that heritage, *FAQ City* helps give Charlotteans and many of its new residents a sense of place that helps them feel more connected, said de la Canal.

Board chair Ethridge agrees. “*FAQ City* has really gotten a lot of traction with newcomers,” he said. It helps people learn more about their new home.

Besides queries about history, *FAQ City* is often asked to delve into infrastructure issues: Why do some roads not have streetlights? How does the timing of traffic lights work? How did some Charlotte neighborhoods get their names?

Why do some sidewalks abruptly end and go nowhere?

De la Canal said he always tries to give a shout out to those who pose a topic. “They have thought about it and are genuinely curious about it.”

FAQ City comes out with a new podcast every other Tuesday and can be heard on the air during *Here and Now* and on Friday’s *Morning Edition*.

This year, *FAQ City* moved into community engagement with an event on March 27 at Charlotte Mecklenburg Library. Nearly 100 people came and were invited to play a “Wheel of Fortune”-type game, trying to answer questions from past podcasts and win prizes. New questions were also solicited. More community sessions are likely in the future.

Also in FY19, the feature garnered an award: Hearken, which created the community engagement platform used by *FAQ City* and hundreds of other news organizations, issued one of its 2018 Champions of Curiosity Awards to *FAQ City* and its host, de la Canal.



Nick de la Canal
WFAE reporter and host of the *FAQ City* podcast.
Photo Credit: Jeff Cravotta Photography

“Finding Home *seeks to help the community understand what’s going on with housing in Charlotte’s neighborhoods.*”

Greg Collard
News Director

Throughout the 2019 calendar year, WFAE has made a significant commitment to covering the lack of affordable housing in the fast-growing Charlotte region. Finding Home was an “all hands on deck” project with every reporter on staff coming up with story ideas to air every Monday during the entire year.

“It’s a huge, huge commitment, which we initially launched without outside funding or a grant,” CEO, O’Connor said. “We’re happy that Lowe’s stepped up to sponsor this vitally important series.”

Finding Home seeks to help the community understand what’s going on with housing in Charlotte’s neighborhoods. How do things really work? Who makes money? What policies are having unintended, and sometimes intended, consequences,” said news director Greg Collard.

The stories have generated far-reaching listener engagement. Mayor Vi Lyles herself responded to

a WFAE story about the diminishing number of landlords willing to accept Section 8 subsidies by saying she was going to ask City Council for a “public-private” dialogue on why people with housing vouchers can’t find a landlord willing to rent to them.

While corporate donors have anted up funds to help the city solve the problem, in one instance, a WFAE listener was moved to take matters into her own hands. Upon hearing a WFAE story about the eviction of a nonprofit that was providing transitional housing to homeless women and children, the anonymous donor bought the organization its own house.

Much credit for imagining WFAE’s coverage goes to Ju-Don Marshall, WFAE’s chief content officer, who leads the staff in exploring “things we wouldn’t otherwise know about,” O’Connor said.

**FINDING
HOME**



FINDING
HOME

presented by WFAE

SPONSORED BY



POLITICAL COVERAGE

**WFAE'S GOP
CONVENTION
COVERAGE WILL
FOCUS ON HOW THE
CITY AND RESIDENTS
ARE IMPACTED AS
WELL AS THE
POLITICAL THEATER
OF THE EVENT
ITSELF AND WHAT
IT PORTENDS FOR
THE 2020 ELECTION.**



Steve Harrison
Political Reporter

Politics is always big news in North Carolina and FY19 delivered more than its share of controversies to cover, with some of them getting national attention.

One of the biggest stories of the year was the absentee-ballot scandal in Bladen County. It caused the North Carolina Board of Elections to refuse to certify the initial results in the 9th Congressional District race because of allegations of election fraud. In that race, Republican candidate Mark Harris eked out a 905-vote win over Democrat Dan McCreedy. The board later ordered a new election.

Steve Harrison, who joined WFAE in FY19 from *The Charlotte Observer* to cover politics, led Charlotte media outlets by breaking important early news stories on the developments. He was the first reporter to disclose that investigators were focusing on Bladen County, where a political operative was found to have illegally collected absentee ballots. And he was also the first to report on the statistical anomalies involving that county's absentee ballots that significantly set it apart from other counties in the district and in the state and raised alarm bells about the validity of the election results.

His reporting was cited in a formal petition asking the Election Board to delay certifying the election. Investigators later charged several people with election fraud.

Harrison tracked the story as it percolated throughout the year and through a new election ordered for Sept. 10. It marked the first House of Representatives election to require a do-over since 1974. Republican Dan Bishop, a Trump ally, won by more than 3,800 votes.

The same day another special election was held in North Carolina's 3rd Congressional District to fill the term of Walter Jones Jr., the incumbent who died on Feb. 10, 2019.

Then in June another major political story broke when the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in a long-standing case that Republicans had gerrymandered the state's congressional district maps but that the maps did not violate the U.S. Constitution. The court said it would not be drawn into the dispute but noted that state courts could rule on the maps and state legislatures could create independent commissions to draw the maps. Still at issue is how the maps will be drawn after the 2020 Census.

Politics also paved the way for some partnerships. WFAE and WUNC, the public radio station serving much of eastern North Carolina, teamed up before the mid-term elections to help listeners make informed decisions on Election Day. They produced two pre-election specials focusing on the legislative and congressional races and the six proposed constitutional amendments.

Also during the year, Charlotte emerged as the only city to bid on hosting the August 2020 Republican National Convention. The city's bid, however, has come with recriminations as some City Council members have debated whether the city should pull out as host.

For the 2020 convention, WFAE coverage plans include launching *Inside Politics*, a new podcast. "A huge part of the [GOP Convention] coverage will be how the city responds to this convention," Harrison said, whether it brings protests, political disruption or convention drama.

Opposite page: View of state delegates, many with signs, on the floor at the Republican National Convention in the Quicken Loans Arena, Cleveland, Ohio, July 21, 2016.
Photo credit: Mark Reinstein/Corbis via Getty Images

This page: Signs shown as part of the Fair Maps Rally coinciding with the U.S. Supreme Court hearings in landmark redistricting cases out of North Carolina and Maryland.
Photo credit: arah L. Voisin/The Washington Post via Getty Images





Politics is always big news in North Carolina but FY19 delivered more than its share of controversies to cover.



Josh Lawson, chief counsel for the state Board of Elections and Ethics Enforcement, left, hands Mark Harris, Republican candidate in North Carolina's 9th Congressional race, a document during the fourth day of a hearing regarding the 9th Congressional District. Photo credit: Travis Long/Raleigh News & Observer/Tribune News Service via Getty Images

BREAKING NEWS

*A UNC Charlotte student addresses peers during a vigil on campus where the previous day a gunman killed two people and injured four students on May 1, 2019, in Charlotte, North Carolina.
Photo credit: Sean Rayford/Getty Images*



CRIMES AGAINST STUDENTS FROM UNC CHARLOTTE AND DEVELOPMENTS RESULTING FROM NEW AND OLD POLICE-INVOLVED SHOOTINGS DOMINATED WFAE CRIME COVERAGE DURING FY19.

UNC Charlotte Shooting

When shots rang out on the campus of UNC Charlotte on April 30, WFAE reporters were among the first on the scene to report that a shooter had opened fire in a classroom on that last day of the spring semester. Two students were killed and four were wounded before the shooter was taken into custody. WFAE broke the news and got fast reaction on the air and online. In September, Trystan Terrell pleaded guilty, apologizing and addressing a tearful courtroom before being sentenced to life in prison. His words surprised everyone.

“That was something I really didn’t think was going to happen,” said criminal justice reporter Sarah Delia.

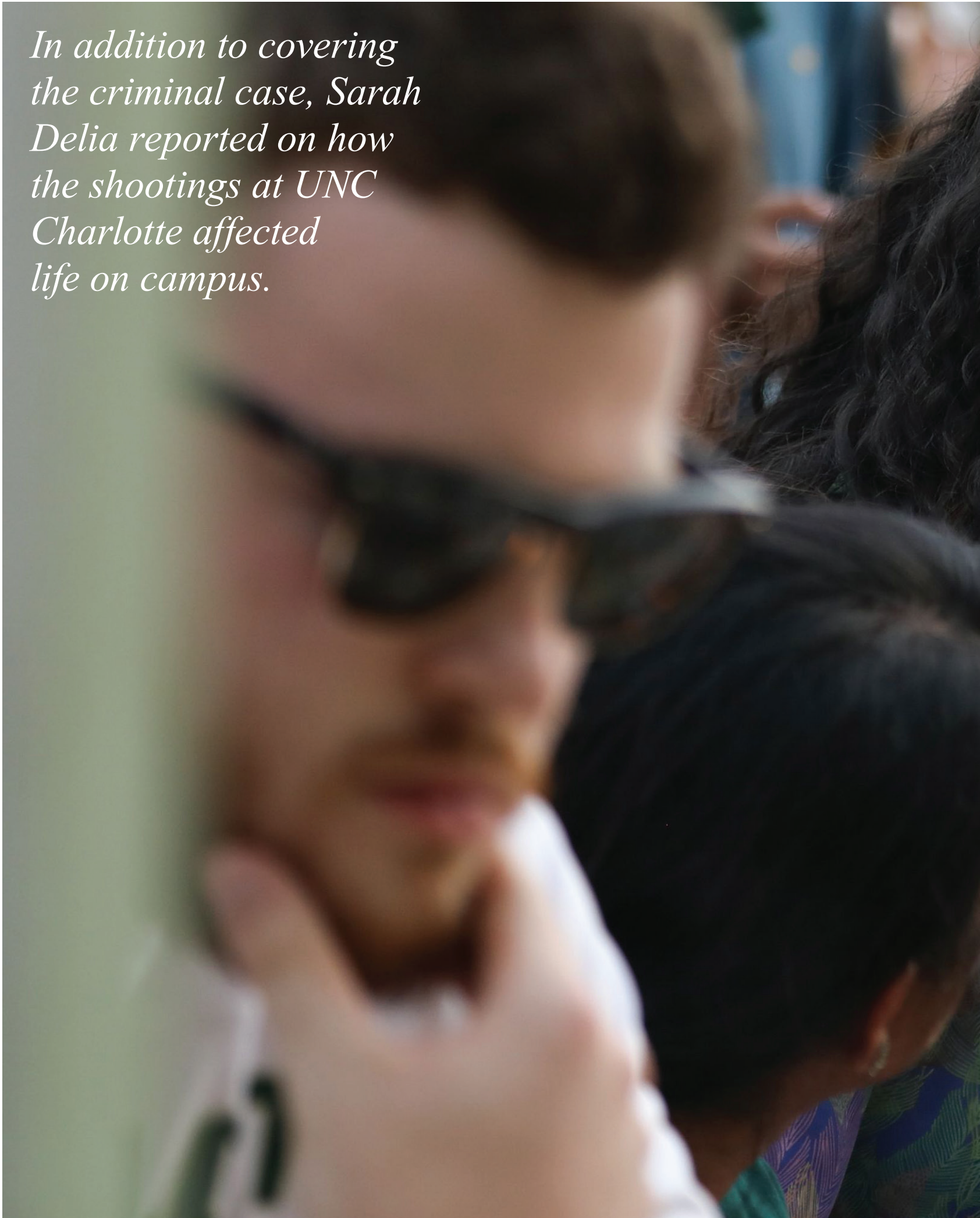
In addition to covering the criminal case, Delia reported on how the shootings affected life on campus. In a particularly moving feature, she recounted the university’s efforts to figure out how to archive the abundance of community-created memorials – candles, flowers, letters, stuffed animals – left at the site.

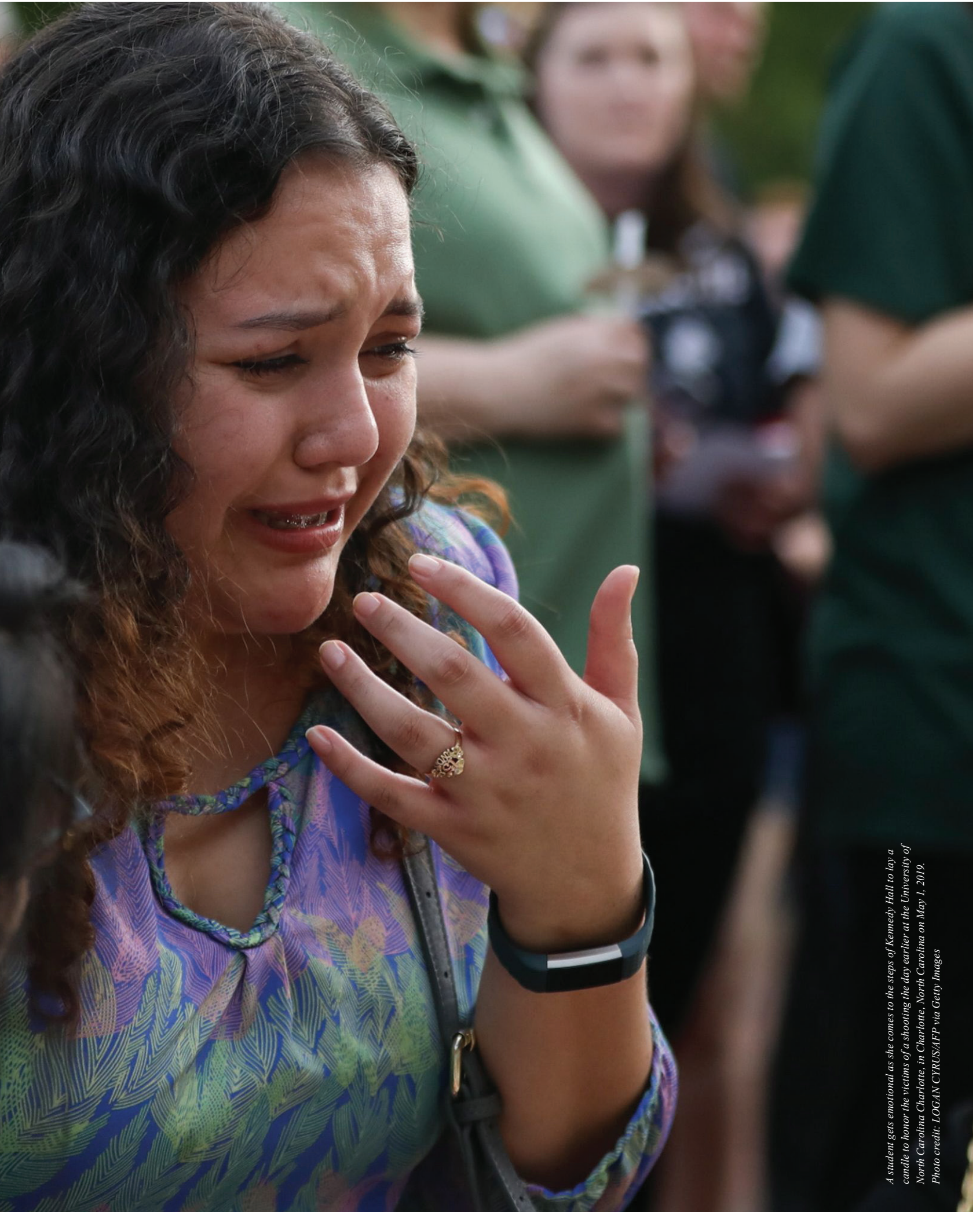
Danquirs Franklin Shooting

Meanwhile, a new police-involved shooting troubled the community during the year. Danquirs Franklin was shot in March after police responded to a 911 call about an armed man at a Burger King. Police said Franklin was perceived to be a threat after he was repeatedly asked to drop his gun. Police video, however, showed he appeared to be trying to turn the gun over to police, holding it by the barrel with the butt out, when he was shot and later died. His family has objected that he was only doing what he was told: the only way he could drop his gun was to reach into his pocket and take it out. Prosecutors declined to charge the officer who fired the shot, saying they couldn’t prove she was unreasonable in believing she faced imminent danger. The case, however, has left the community feeling unsettled.

“People continue to feel that it was not a justified shooting and that the officer acted too quickly,” Delia said.

In addition to covering the criminal case, Sarah Delia reported on how the shootings at UNC Charlotte affected life on campus.





A student gets emotional as she comes to the steps of Kennedy Hall to lay a candle to honor the victims of a shooting the day earlier at the University of North Carolina Charlotte, in Charlotte, North Carolina on May 1, 2019. Photo credit: LOGAN CYRUS/AFP via Getty Images

**HOMICIDES WERE
THE FOCUS OF
A CHARLOTTE
TALKS PUBLIC
CONVERSATION.
108 MURDERS
OCCURRED IN
CHARLOTTE IN
2019.**

Kerr Putney, chief of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police, fields questions from the media in Charlotte, North Carolina. Photo credit: Sean Rayford/Getty Images



Mark Carver Case

In June, a case involving the 2008 murder of another UNC Charlotte student came back into the news when a judge overturned the conviction of Mark Carver for strangling a woman on the banks of the Catawba River near where he was fishing. The judge said Carver's defense attorney was ineffective and found issues with the DNA evidence used to convict him. Carver was released from prison, where he had served eight years of a life sentence. A decision on whether the district attorney would drop his charges or retry his case was pending.

"It's a case that is still being talked about almost a decade later," Delia noted, with some Charlotteans wondering if the murderer is still at large.

Rayquan Borum Case

Riots stemming from the 2016 police shooting of Keith Lamont Scott led to another case that came to trial this year. In March, a jury found Rayquan Borum guilty of second-degree murder in the shooting of Justin Carr, a 26-year-old who had joined the second night of protests. Borum was sentenced to 23 to 28 years in prison.

Homicides in Charlotte

Homicides were the focus of a *Charlotte Talks* Public Conversation. Murders in the first six months of 2019 had already surpassed all of 2018. The event focused on what community members were doing to solve some of the root causes of the problem. 2019 ended as Charlotte's deadliest year since 1993. There were 107 homicides reported plus 12 cases considered by police and prosecutors to be justified homicides, according to Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department.

HURRICANE FLORENCE



WFAE ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTER DAVID BORAKS WAS QUICKLY DISPATCHED TO WILMINGTON AFTER WHQR, THE PUBLIC RADIO STATION SERVING CAPE FEAR, ISSUED A PLEA FOR HELP.

North Carolina was slammed with violent storms again in FY19 with the worst coming from Hurricane Florence, which whipped parts of North and South Carolina with torrential rains, storm surges, and winds that reached 150 mph before making landfall on Sept. 14, 2018, south of Wrightsville Beach.

It was the first major hurricane of the season, and it caused widespread coastal and inland flooding. Mandatory evacuation orders targeted parts of both states.

WFAE environmental reporter David Boraks was quickly dispatched to Wilmington after WHQR, the public radio station serving Cape Fear, issued a plea for help. Gingerly navigating a rented pick-up truck through flooded roadways, Boraks recalled landing in a city with little electricity, gasoline or food, and sleeping with other staffers on couches and floors amid the station's audio equipment. Working from that peninsula city turned into an island, he chronicled the impact of the storm, which caused 53 deaths and \$24 billion

in damages, for both WFAE and WHQR. NPR's *All Things Considered* gave national prominence to one of his stories about how, in that temporary cash-only economy, people with electronic benefits couldn't use them to buy food.

During the year, the state responded to the spate of storms – Matthew in 2016, Florence in September 2018 and Michael weeks later – with the creation of a new North Carolina Office of Recovery and Resiliency. Boraks reported that the new agency was charged with relocating vulnerable homeowners, making future storm recovery faster and coordinating recovery funds.

During the station's Fall On-Air Fundraising Campaign, WFAE partnered with the Foundation for the Carolinas to raise money for the victims of the storm. The money raised by WFAE listeners was matched by the Foundation. Nearly 100 WFAE listeners contributed to support the relief fund.

In another key environmental story, Boraks reported on how

North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper set new goals for reducing fossil fuels and fighting climate change in the state.

NPR's *Science Friday* picked up Boraks' story on how North Carolina's electric-vehicle charging stations will start acting more like gasoline pumps, enabling customers to pay by the amount of power used versus how long a vehicle is plugged into the charging station.

Also on the environmental front, Boraks continued WFAE's coverage of toxic coal-ash cleanup from Duke Energy's coal-burning power plants. In April, the state Department of Environmental Quality ordered Duke Energy to excavate and remove, rather than cover in place, coal ash from six remaining N.C. coal-fired power plants. Duke was already required to dig up and move ash to new, lined landfills at its eight other plants in the state. In early January 2020, Duke agreed to the excavation.

Opposite page: A boat passes through a flooded neighborhood in this aerial photograph taken above Wallace, North Carolina. Photo credit: Alex Wroblewski/Bloomberg via Getty Images

This page: WFAE environmental reporter David Boraks navigated flooded and washed out roads in a rented truck to file stories from coastal North Carolina after Hurricane Florence pummeled the region. Photo credit: David Boraks / WFAE



WFPAE HAPPENINGS



**“IT WAS A
TREMENDOUS
EVENT FOR
PEOPLE TO SEE
THE QUALITY OF
WORK WE DO.”**

Lisa Gergeley
Executive Director of
Corporate Development

FY19 was also a year in which WFAE experimented with new fundraising experiences. It sold tickets for the first time to its premier annual gala, which featured Ted Koppel interviewed by Michel Martin, host of Weekend All Things Considered. More than 400 people attended. The event set a WFAE record for corporate sponsorship and ticket sales.

*Legendary news broadcaster Ted Koppel was the guest of honor for WFAE's annual gala. The station's FY20 event will feature Kai Ryssdal, host of MarketPlace.
Photo Credit: Jeff Cravotta Photography*

AS WFAE'S PRODUCTION CAPABILITIES EXPANDED IN FY19, AS DID THE ACCOLADES SHOWERED UPON THE STATION IN THE FORM OF AWARDS AND HONORS.



SHE SAYS

Host Sarah Delia was awarded the prestigious Gracie Allen Award at a ceremony in New York City. The podcast was also recognized by the Online News Association's Online Journalism Award. The series won a regional Edward R. Murrow Award in the Investigative Reporting category. *She Says* was also named "Best Podcast" in Charlotte by *Creative Loafing*, and the marketing of the series was recognized with a Queen City PR Award by the Charlotte Chapter of the Public Relations Society of America.



AMPLIFIER

Amplifier was recognized in the 23rd Annual Webby Awards as a Webby Honoree in the Podcasts: Arts & Culture category. The series was also recognized for Excellence in Innovation by the regional Edward R. Murrow Awards. Readers of *Charlotte Magazine* voted *Amplifier* as Best Local Podcast. Host Joni Deutsch was named to *Charlotte Agenda's* 30-Under-30, was a finalist for United Way's Young Leader Awards in the Nonprofit Professional category and was recognized by *Scoop Charlotte* as one of the Women to Watch in Charlotte in 2019.



CHARLOTTE TALKS

Charlotte Talks show on the addiction, recovery and human toll of the opioid epidemic won a regional Edward R. Murrow Award in the News/Public Affairs Program category. The program was also honored by the Charlotte Area Association of Black Journalists for its Public Conversation on building an inclusive city. *Creative Loafing* readers voted Mike Collins as "Best Radio Personality." Readers of *Charlotte Magazine* voted for *Charlotte Talks* as "Best Radio Show."

AWARDS



SOUTHBOUND

SouthBound host Tommy Tomlinson was recognized by the Edward R. Murrow awards for Best Commentary. His memoir "The Elephant in the Room: One Fat Man's Quest to Get Smaller in a Growing America" was featured on NPR's *All Things Considered*, *Charlotte Talks* and *The Today Show*, and had a review in *The New York Times*. Readers of *Charlotte Magazine* voted Tommy as Best Author.



FAQ CITY

FAQ City received two awards from Hearken's 2018 Champions of Curiosity Awards. Host Nick de la Canal's reporting on what is the 287g program won in the Best Investigative Story Prompted by a Question category. The podcast episode about why the Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department destroyed 1,000 sexual assault kits received an honorable mention in the Question-Asker category.



JOE O'CONNOR

WFAE President & CEO, Joe O'Connor was elected to NPR's board of directors.



JU-DON MARSHALL

Chief Content Officer, Ju-Don Marshall was named to the Journalism Advisory Council of the Religion News Service and the Advisory Board for Report for America.



JEFF BUNDY

Executive Director of Branding & Engagement, Jeff Bundy was elected to the board of PRADO (Public Radio Development Officers).



JENNIFER LANG

The Corporation for Public Broadcasting and Arizona State University tapped WFAE's Product and Development Manager, Jenn Lang, to be a Public Media Editorial Integrity and Leadership Fellow.

NEWSROOM AWARDS

The newsroom won three regional Edward R. Murrow Awards. In addition to the awards listed above for *She Says* and *Amplifier*, Marshall Terry won in the Excellence in Sound category.

WFAE received two second place awards from the Public Radio News Directors, Inc. In addition to the *Charlotte Talks* award listed above, Lisa Worf's investigation into the Charlotte School of Law paying students not to take the bar exam was recognized in the Enterprise/Investigative category.

Reporter Gwendolyn Glenn won two awards from the Charlotte Association of Black Journalists for her features on evictions and Fairfield High School.



MARSHALL TERRY

Morning Edition Host



LISA WORF

Morning Edition Host



GWENDOLYN GLENN

Reporter/*All Things Considered* Host

WFAE PEOPLE

“As regional news organizations continue to thin, more and more seasoned journalists are coming to WFAE.”

Joe O'Connor
CEO

As FY19 wound down, WFAE steeled itself for the long-planned departure of Mark Rumsey, who was the respected host for 22 years of WFAE's *All Things Considered*. Rumsey left to fulfill a long-standing dream of becoming a hospital chaplain.

Replacing him is Gwendolyn Glenn, an award-winning journalist who has covered a range of issues for WFAE and NPR.

WFAE hired two *Charlotte Observer* reporters: political reporters Steve Harrison in FY19 and education reporter Ann Doss Helms in early FY20.

“As regional news organizations continue to thin, more and more seasoned journalists are coming to WFAE. We thank the contributors and sponsors who are funding our continued staff growth!” O'Connor said.

Harrison and Helms join former *Observer* staffers Tommy Tomlinson and David Boraks.

Previously, Ju-Don Marshall joined WFAE after top journalistic stints at the *Washington Post*, *Charlotte Observer* and other news organizations.

Sarafina Wright also came on board to join the *All Things Considered* team.

On the operations side, a key addition was Robert Koch, who was named WFAE's director of development in August 2018.



Mark Rumsey
WFAE All Things Considered Host, Mark Rumsey left WFAE at the end of FY19 to pursue his dream of becoming a chaplain. Photo Credit: Jeff Cravotta Photography



WFAE staff members on February 4, 2020.
Photo Credit: Jeff Cravotta Photography

WFVA BY THE NUMBERS

Greater Public, a professional organization for public media stations, reports that over the last five years, WFAE's membership program was the fastest growing in the nation for stations with fundraising budgets over \$1M and is the 2nd fastest growing station overall.

BY THE CLOSE OF FY19, WFAE HAD BECOME THE NO. 1 NEWS SOURCE FOR MANY IN THE CHARLOTTE REGION.

As WFAE has built new content opportunities and created new ways to involve the community, it has also been working to build a culture of philanthropy to support the station's activities.

Membership surpassed 21,000 contributors during the 2019 fiscal year, a 35% increase over four years ago and member contributions increased 13% to \$3.34 million.

With these impressive results, WFAE is the fastest growing public radio station in the country with a fundraising revenue budget of \$1M or more, and the second fastest growing station overall, according to Greater Public.

WFAE's digital audience skyrocketed. According to NPR's public metrics, early in the year

WFAE's website was one of the Top 20 NPR sites for digital growth, The *Charlotte Talks* podcast was among the Top 20 for weekly audience size, and *She Says* ranked among the Top 20 for the number of downloads per episode.

WFAE posted its fourth consecutive year of record fundraising, clocking a 58% growth in revenue over five years.

Meanwhile, sponsorships for events and podcasts reached an all-time high with corporate underwriting up 9% to \$2.56 million. Every podcast had a sponsor, and *Amplifier* attracted one of the station's largest sponsorships, OrthoCarolina, before it even launched.

CEO O'Connor said he now has weekly meetings on the prospects for a new WFAE headquarters.

"Right now the biggest opportunity for us to grow revenue is to change location to be much more visible, be on people's minds and literally be on the map," he said.

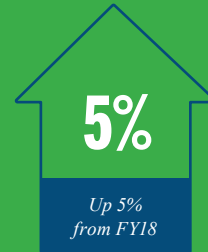
By the close of FY19, WFAE had become Charlotte's news leader. O'Connor said he'd like to add more reporters to cover such topics as upward mobility, the arts, and education. He also wants to continue to position WFAE to fill the news gaps created as the number of journalists shrink at other local news outlets.

In O'Connor's view, it's not just an issue of "holding government officials and business accountable" it's also an issue of making democracy work.

"There is," he said, "some urgency here."

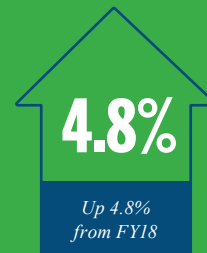
TOTAL 2019 REVENUE

\$7.39M



CONTRIBUTED REVENUE

\$4.23M



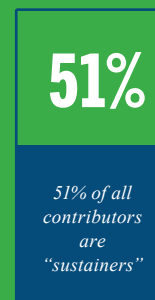
SPONSORSHIP REVENUE

\$2.55M



WFAE MEMBER COUNT

21,010



REVENUE

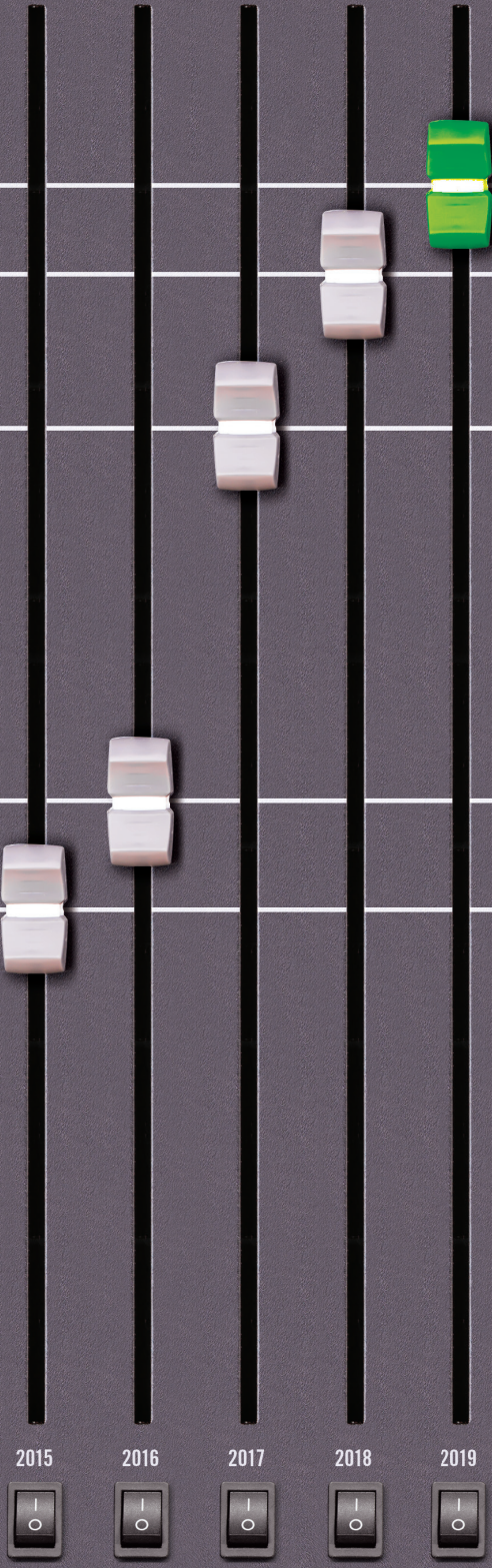
\$7,393,246

\$7,041,299

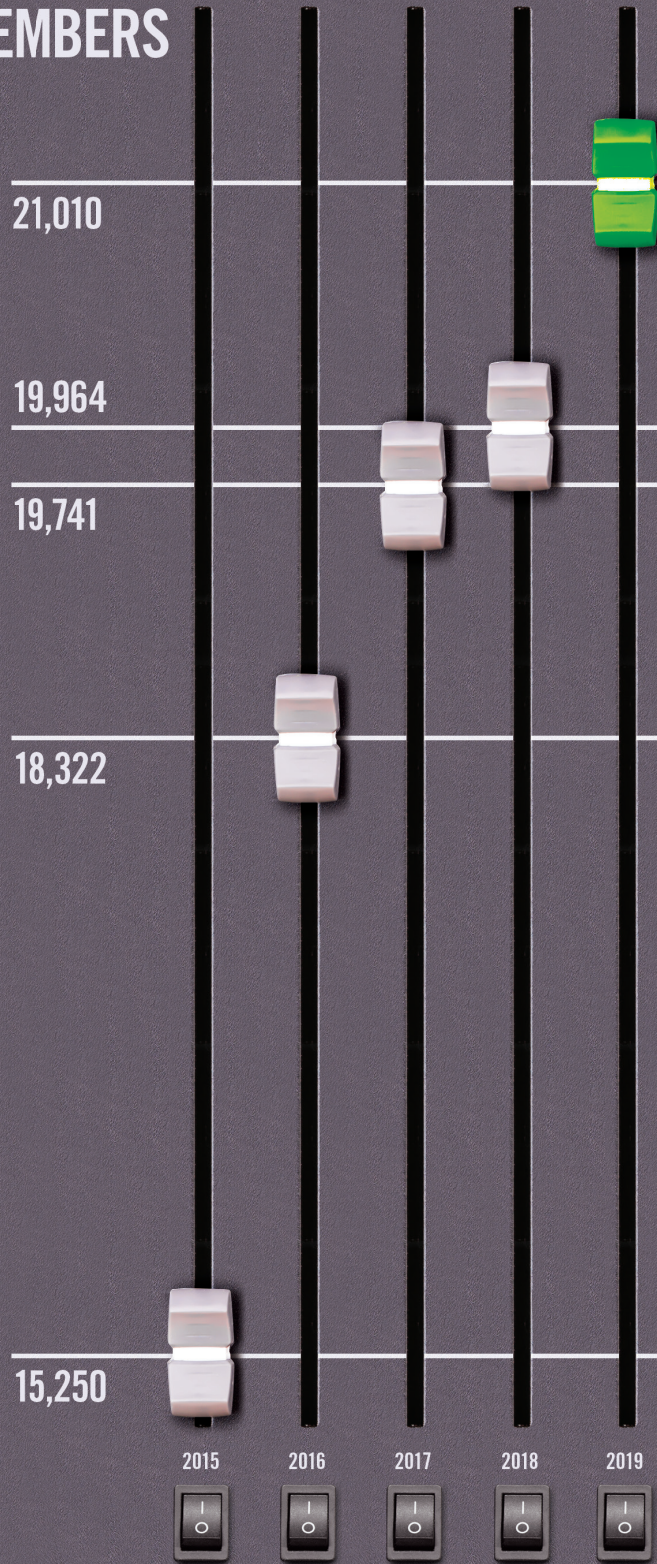
\$6,546,014

\$5,109,985

\$4,819,824



MEMBERS



MAJOR DONORS

MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

LEGACY SOCIETY

Individuals who have named WFAE in their wills.

PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE

\$20,000+

MANAGER'S CIRCLE

\$10,000 - \$19,999

EDITOR'S CIRCLE

\$5,000 - \$9,999

REPORTER'S CIRCLE

\$2,000 - \$4,999

PRODUCER'S CIRCLE

1,200 - \$1,999

BROADCASTER'S CIRCLE

\$1,000 - \$1,199

LISTENER'S CIRCLE

\$500 - \$999

* Board Member

** Former Board Member

Former Board Chair

Current Board Chair

+ Deceased

Donor list is as of October 7, 2019

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 Stephanie Boschee
 Jonathan Buchan **
 Bob & Eve Harrison
 Cathy Hasty & Mark Larson
 Jan Keil
 Joe O'Connor
 Margaret Parker+
 Christine Prigmore
 George & Eva Raftelis
 Stephen Rapa
 Patti and Tom Redden
 Helen Reed+
 Nancy & Bruce Roberts
 Tish and John Signet
 Bilal Soylu
 Ree and T.A. Strawser

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 Knight Foundation

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 Chris and Michelle Cicoletti
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 Elliott Close
 Joe Dellicolli
 Mary Tabor Engel* and
 Robert Engel
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 Fred Stubblefield, Jr.

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 Richard and Anne McKnight
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 Sean Michelson
 Amy and Jason Murphy
 Laura Nailor
 Elizabeth and Mike North
 Nancy Nyberg
 David Ogden
 Liz and Paul Peralta
 Leeann Pounds
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 Tari and Edward Schutzman
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 Chris and Marion Sekerak
 Betsey and Dick Sesler*
 Mattye Silverman
 Angela Simmons*
 Anasa Sinegal*
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 Didier Teirlinck
 Carlton Thornbury
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 Melodee and Roger Webb
 Lynn Weis
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 Ruth Wilkinson
 Ed## and Marylyn Williams
 Jack and Claire Wong
 David and Rebekah Woodward
 Jean Wright

* Board Member

** Former Board Member

Former Board Chair

Current Board Chair

+ Deceased

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 Laura Stanley-Duffy
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 Martha and Nathaniel Edwards
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 Tracy Eggleston
 Jens Eichhorn

Tagbo and Nwamaka Ekwonu
 David and Aleen Epstein
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 Bob Gaines
 Michael and Libba Gaither
 Bob and Jena Gallagher
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 Jordan and Christina Gratrix
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 Maureen and Dan Haggstrom
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 Emily Huling and John White
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 Sarah Israel
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 Rosemary Lambert
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 Paul Leonard
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 Chris Mair and Elizabeth Mosley
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 Mary Margaret and Fritz Porter
 Robert Marlowe
 Marie-Claire Marroum-Kardous
 and Kal Kardous

Ju-Don Marshall
 Steve Martin
 Dan Mathewson and
 Naho Kobayashi
 George and Marilyn Max
 David and Denise Maxwell
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A Prettier Potty	Carolina Sinus Center	Dakota Bear/Heafner Financial	Jennifer Coleman Counseling
AC Entertainment	Carolina Tattoo & Arts Gathering	Daniel Coston Photography	Joan B. Goode
Acadia Shutters	Carolinas Aviation Museum	Daniel Stowe Botanical Garden	John Christenbury
Acosta	Caroline Calouche & Co.	Davidson Community Players	Justin Inspires International
Actor's Theatre of Charlotte	Carpe Diem Restaurant	Delta Dental of NC	Keith Bell
AEG Live	Catawba College	Diamonds Direct Southpark	Knight Foundation
Agent's Choice School of Real Estate	Catawba Lands Conservancy	Discovery Place	Lake Norman Group RE/MAX
Aix En Provence	Catawba Science Center	Dish It Out Pottery	La-Tea-Da's
Aldersgate	Catt Wealth	Doctor's Making House Calls	Leadership Charlotte
Alzheimer's Assoc Western NC	Celebration of Seagrove Potters	Doctors Without Borders	League of Women Voters NC
Amelie's French Bakery	Center for Prevention Services	Donald Haack Diamonds	Legacy Health and Wellness
American Council on Germany	Char - Meck School System	Duke Energy - PRAA	Leland Little
Anson County Arts Council	Char - Meck Storm Water Services	Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians	Lennar Homes
Arts and Science Council	Char Meck Library Foundation	Education NC	Liberty Senior Living
Assistance League Charlotte	Charlotte Auto Show	Emory Law	Live Nation
Appalachian State University - Office of Art & Cult Prg	Charlotte Ballet	Eseeola Lodge at Linville	Lowe's Home Improvement
Atrium Animal Hospital	Charlotte Center City Partners	Everything But The House	Mallard Creek Animal Hospital
Atrium Health	Charlotte Chamber	Everything Hemp Store	Mann Travels
AutoBell Car Wash	Charlotte Concerts	Fellowship for Performing Arts	Maxx Music
Baby and Company	Charlotte Country Day School	Festival in the Park	Mazda of South Charlotte
Balfour Beatty	Charlotte Eye Ear Nose Throat Associates	First Citizens Bank	McLaughlin Young Group
Bank of America	Charlotte Museum of History	First Tennessee-Capital Bank	McLean Developers
Bartlett Tree Experts	Charlotte Prime-Ruth's Chris	Flatiron Books	Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools
BB & T	Charlotte Regional Partnership	Foundation for the Carolinas	Mecklenburg County Govt
Be Yoga	Charlotte Restaurant Week	Fox Rothschild LLP	Mecklenburg Cty Parks & Rec
Bechtler Museum	Charlotte Symphony	Fresh Air Technologies	Mint Museum of Art
Belgrave Associates	Charlotte VegFest	Gardner-Webb Univ Marketing	Modern Lighting Design Store
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Biggs Camera	Charlotte Regional Visitors Authority	Gaston County Museum	Morningstar Properties
Birdhouse on the Greenway/Wildology	Children's Home Society	Gaston County Public Health	Nantahala Outdoor Center
Blue Bee Coaching	Chimney Rock	Google	National Shows 2
Blue Cross Blue Shield of NC	City of Rock Hill	Grandfather Mountain	NC Dept of Transportation
Blue Ridge Music Center	Clayworks Inc.	Great Outdoor Provision	NC DOT Turnpike Authority
Blumenthal Performing Arts	Clean Air Carolina	Greater Charlotte Oral Surgery	NC Green Power
Bob Nocek Presents, LLC	Cleveland Cty Arts Council	Greenworks Power Tools	NC Idea
Bojangles	CLT Airport	GreerWalker LLP	NC LIVE
Bradley	CLT250	Habitat for Humanity Charlotte	NC LIVE
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Cannon School	Contemplative Rebellion	Hind's Feet Farm	Novant Health
Capitol Steps	Corkscrew @ Birkdale	Hometap	One Voice Chorus
Cardinal Camera	CPCC	Hood Theological Seminary	OneBlood
Care Weavers	CPCC - Small Business Center	HopeWay Foundation	Opera Carolina
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Carolina BioOncology Institute	Creative Loafing	Humane Society of Charlotte	OrthoCarolina
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		Jaguar Charlotte - Hendricks	Peter Guzzardi
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- Piedmont Craftsmen's Fair
- Powers Law Firm PA
- Preston House - Ridge Care
- Providence Day School
- Publix
- Queens University of Charlotte
- Queen City Appliance
- Queen City Nerve
- Queen City Plastic Surgery
- Renewable Energy Design Group
- RiverRun Intl Film Festival
- RK Motors Charlotte
- Road to Resolution
- Salvation Army
- SBL Entertainment
- Schiele Museum
- Scoop Charlotte
- Sharon Luggage
- Shepherd's Center of Charlotte
- Shiel Sexton
- Signature Healthcare
- Sock Club
- Sodoma Law
- South Charlotte Pediatrics
- Southeast Radiation
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- Southminster Retirement
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- St. John's Baptist Church
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- Theatre Charlotte
- Throwing Words
- Tindol Subaru
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- Tom Brydon/Tryon Medical
- Tom Bush Law Group
- Tosco Music
- Total Wine & More
- Town of Abingdon
- Trinity Episcopal School
- TruAssure
- Truliant Fedrl Credit Union
- Tryon Medical Partners
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- UNC Healthcare
- UNCC - Atkins Library
- UNCC - Belk College of Business
- UNCC - College of Education/
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- UNCC - College of Arts &
Architechture
- UNCC - Data Science/Health
Information
- UNCG - Division of Continual
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- UNC-TV
- UnitedHealth Group
- University City Partners
- University of Notre Dame
- Virginia Commonwealth
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- Wake Forest University Bioethics
- White Knight Engineered Products
- Whitewater Holdings LLC
- Willis Towers Watson
- Wilson Engineering
- Woodberry Forest School
- WorkSmart
- Wright Family Foundation
- WTVI
- YMCA of Greater Charlotte
- ZMax Micro Lubricants



As part of its Spring Fundraising Drive, WFAE gave away a new Mazda 3, compliments of Mazda of South Charlotte. Photo Credit: Jeff Cravotta Photography

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Richard Lancaster
Controller, Carmel Country Club

PRESIDENT

Joe O'Connor, WFAE
(Ex officio)

Scott Anderson, *Womble Carlyle Sandridge & Rice, LLP*
Sharon Blalock, *Principal, Spot Marketing*
Walter Clark, *Former CEO of Air T*
Dan Clodfelter, *State Utility Commissioner, Former Mayor of Charlotte*
Gabriella Chapman, *Regional Training Manager, YMCA of Greater Charlotte*
Gene Cochran, *Retired President of the Duke Endowment*
Charles Johnson, *Robinson, Bradshaw & Hinson, P.A.*
Jose Vega, *Senior Counsel, Wells Fargo*
Angela Oliver, *Learning & Leadership Development*
Client Manager, Bank of America
Dick Sesler, *Camp Blue Skies*
Carolyn Shaw, *Kirk, Palmer & Thigpen, P.A.*
Anasa Sinegal, *Central Piedmont Community College*
Glenn Stewart, *SunTrust*
Courtney Stribling, *Real Estate Investor*
Mary Tabor Engel, *Journalist, Instructor at Knight School*
for Journalism at Queens University of Charlotte
Meg Whalen, *University of North Carolina at Charlotte*
Ed Williams, *Author and Journalist*

2019 COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD

CHAIR

John Lincoln, *Principal strengths coach at CoreFocus Consulting*
& *Vice Chair of MoRA - Monroe Road Advocate*

Cephas Kwame Agbeke, *TIAA**
Jennifer Beightley, *Charlotte Pilates/Health Coach**
Mary Dombrowski, *Hilsmier Consulting, LLC*
Stephen Guardipee, *Hatcher Law Group**
Keenya Justice, *The Justice Firm, LLC*
Magdalena Krajewska, *Wingate University**
Barbara Lom, *Davidson College**
Sri Nagarajan, *Entrepreneur*
Hema Parekh, *Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond*
Cate Sherrie, *Cate Communications & TalentBridge HR Advisory*
Lecia Shockley, *Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools**
Tish Stoker Signet, *Depth Psychologist and longtime Journalist*
Eric Sipe, *Retired Psychologist in Hickory*
Cricket Weston, *Cate Communications & TalentBridge HR Advisory*
Dr. Shante Williams, *Retired Communications & Education Director for*
*Hospice & Palliative Care Charlotte Region**

* Community Advisory Board members joined July 1, 2019

2019 STAFF

STAFF

President/CEO – Joe O'Connor

Executive Assistant – Christina Allison

CONTENT STAFF

Chief Content Officer – Ju-Don Marshall

NEWS STAFF

News Director – Greg Collard

Managing Editor – Zuri Berry

Morning Edition Hosts - Lisa Worf and Marshall Terry

All Things Considered Host – Gwendolyn Glenn

All Things Considered Producer – Sarafina Wright

Product & Audience Development Manager – Jennifer Lang

Podcast Manager & Amplifier Host – Joni Deutsch

Weekend Host & FAQ City Host – Nick de la Canal

Digital News & Engagement Editor – Kylie Moore

Digital News & Engagement Editor – Dash Coleman

Assistant Editor, Digital News & Engagement – Jessa O'Connor

Reporter - David Boraks

Reporter - Sarah Delia (*She Says* Host)

Reporter - Steve Harrison

Reporter - Alexandra Olgin

Reporter - Tommy Tomlinson (*SouthBound* Host, *On My Mind* columnist)

CHARLOTTE TALKS:

Host – Mike Collins

Executive Producer – Wendy Herkey

Senior Producer – Erin Kever

Producer – Chris Miller

Assistant Producer – Ryan McFadin

Production Assistant – Jennifer Worsham

WEEKEND HOSTS

Operations Manager & Host – Tena Simmons

Bob August

Chris Edwards

Della Freedman

Jennifer Montague

Krissa Palmer

Mike Szymanski

Terry Wilson

INTERNS:

Cole del Charco

Jasmin Herrera

Justin Lape

BUSINESS STAFF

Chief Financial & Operating Officer – Jean Zoutewelle

Director of Engineering/IT – Jobie Sprinkle

Controller – Tanya DeGrace

Administrator, Finance & HR – Beth DeLawter

Traffic Manager – Brenda Grubb

Business Analyst – Jason Leighton

Office Coordinator – Sarah Shanks

MEMBERSHIP, MARKETING & EVENTS

Executive Director of Branding & Engagement – Jeff Bundy

Membership Manager – Meghann Batchelor

Community Relations Manager – Renee Rallos

Advancement Associate – Tori Chester

Graphic Artist – Matthew Scott

MAJOR GIFTS DEPARTMENT

Director of Development – Robert Koch

Development Officer – Mona Lita Carr

Development Officer – Anne Harber

Development Officer – Eliza Root

Development Officer – Amy Vavra

CORPORATE DEVELOPMENT

Executive Director of Corporate Development – Lisa Gergely

Senior Corporate Development Specialist – Noelle Culler

Senior Corporate Development Specialist – Joel Sprouse

Account Executives:

Steve Jameson

Jenifer Roser

Don West

Charlotte Shaver

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