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Once again the designers and engineers of Mercedes-Benz have surpassed themselves with the latest iteration of the S-Class Coupe, the flagship of the Mercedes-Benz spots vehicles. Featuring a sleek design which conveys grace and style while hinting at the raw power waiting to be unleashed once you enter the opulent interior, the 2015 Mercedes-Benz S-Coupe could very well be the proverbial ride of your life. Felix Sabates invites you to take that ride at Mercedes-Benz of South Charlotte.



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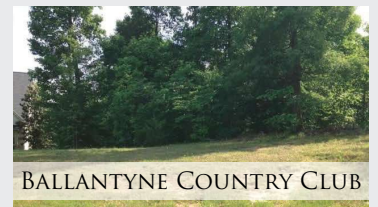
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FEATURES



Homegrown + Cool

Edgy street wear and snappy bowties are turning heads.



ON THE COVER:
Gallery Restaurant serves red snapper fresh from the Carolina coast.
Photo by Shane Baskin.

Creating Your Career Ladder

Local women find engaging occupations as entrepreneurs.

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Ocean to Table

Ballantyne gets hooked on fresh, sustainable seafood.

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DEPARTMENTS



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Get up to speed on what's happening in Ballantyne.

FACES27
Meet three locals whose personalities shimmer.

EXPERT DIRECT32
Evoke the feeling you want through interior home colors — here's how.

STYLE POINTS44
Gingham, a.k.a. picnic plaid, is a get-up-and-go spring fashion.

FAB FARE58
Like its artist namesake, Miró serves up bold, confident Spanish creations.



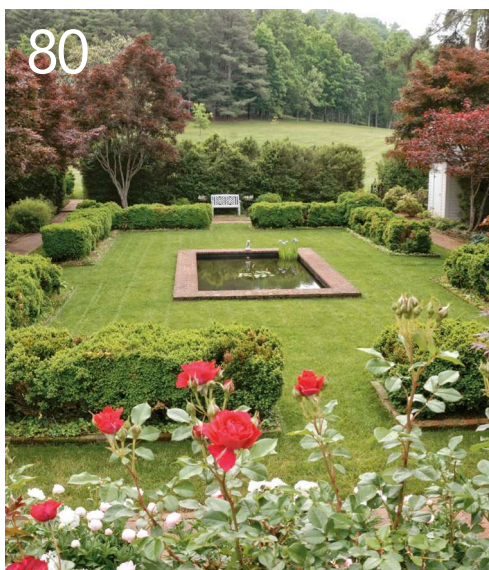
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The "B" lampposts in Ballantyne provided an early symbol of a rising community.

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From supporting causes to simply networking, see who's out and about.

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TAKE FIVE94
What five things come to mind when you think "spring"? Check out ours.

EYE LEVEL96
See the "Blossom Pop" that signals the change of seasons.



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Extraordinary Delights

Play Outside this Spring!



The extra hours of daylight and the delicate wild violets that bloom along Four Mile Creek Greenway are two annual heralds I look forward to each spring. Other welcoming harbingers of spring are the vibrant green leaves that appear almost overnight and the daffodils and bright tulips that suddenly color our Ballantyne landscapes.

After winter hibernation
it's time to enjoy the
additional sunshine, blue
skies and warm weather.

As our beautiful surroundings bloom, I can't help but take a moment to reflect and commit to personal renewal. I seem to naturally gravitate toward eating more seafood and buying local. In "Ocean to Table" we offer a fresh catch for the home cook or for a seafood lover's dinner out.

The new season also tempts us to brighten up our wardrobe. Style Points explores cheerful gingham, a must-have for spring. We also feature three young men who are putting Ballantyne on the fashion map. In "Homegrown Cool" we introduce you to the entrepreneurs, their two companies and their fun and funky clothing lines.

In the spirit of rejuvenation, we take a look at professional growth. Over the years, higher education has truly evolved. As a college freshman in the mid-1970s, I had the option of pursuing a Bachelor of Science in

home economics, a common major at the time for those who had aspirations of managing an efficient home. While that degree is no longer offered today, even then I chose to go another direction. "Creating Your Career Ladder" showcases three women who have created their own successful paths by starting their own businesses.

Now back to those beautiful blooms. My husband and I lived in Virginia for a few years prior to moving to Charlotte and were awed each year by the spectacular color that seemed to explode across the landscape each April and May. The Blue Ridge Mountains dotted with red bud trees, flowering dogwoods and vibrant azaleas in full bloom offered magnificent vistas worthy of a prized postcard. In Escape, we travel to the Charlottesville area for Historic Garden Week, where we experience the unforgettable gardens and tranquil beauty of Virginia in spring. For a perfect ending, we introduce you to Take Five, a fun take on the spirit of the season.

After winter hibernation it's time to enjoy the additional sunshine, blue skies and warm weather. I encourage everyone to go outside to play and experience the extraordinary delights of spring.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Regina Robertson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized "R" and "B".

Regina Robertson
Editor-in-Chief

HALSTON & WARHOL

SILVER & SUEDE



Andy Warhol, *Liza Minnelli*, 1979, Collection of The Andy Warhol Museum. © 2015 The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, Inc. / Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York

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What's happening in and around Ballantyne



BCC Rally's Sue Dockstader, presented a ceremonial check for \$199,000 to Tami Simmons, executive director of Komen Charlotte, and Park Williams, Komen Charlotte board president, at BCC Rally's wrap-up event at Aloft Charlotte Ballantyne.

BCC Rally Contributes \$199,000

BCC Rally concluded its 11th year of raising funds and awareness for breast cancer with a gift of \$199,000 to Komen Charlotte. The amount reinforces the nonprofit's distinction as the largest Rally organization in the U.S. since 2008 and Komen Charlotte's largest

single donor. Donations came from special events and pink bow sales.

More recently, BCC Rally announced that Vice President Marcia Myers Gainer is its new president. Sue Dockstader, who held the position for the past three years, remains on the board.

In addition, the board enlisted two new members: Carl Carande, national managing partner of the advisory practice at KPMG, and Maura Sanborn, a breast cancer survivor and owner of Green Oaks, a professional life and career coaching firm. Learn more or donate: www.bccrally.org.

NEWS CUES



Morrison YMCA Sponsors Spring Events

Spring highlights at the Morrison Family YMCA range from three youth theater events to a road race and a charity golf tournament.

The Y's Ballantyne School of Theatre will showcase two youth performances: "Jungle Book" March 20-22 and "James and the Giant Peach" April 17-19. Auditions for "Peter Pan Jr." will be held Saturday, April 18, by appointment only. Visit www.ymcacharlotte.org/morrison for performance dates and audition information.

Saturday, May 2, marks the 11th annual Run! Ballantyne race in Ballantyne Corporate Park,

presented by Bissell Cos. and the Morrison and Ballantyne Village YMCAs. With over 2,500 runners last year, this family friendly event is open to runners of all ages and experience levels. Information and online registration: www.ymcacharlotte.org/morrison.

On Monday, June 1, the Y will stage its 15th annual charity golf tournament at Ballantyne Country Club. The tournament benefits the Y's Readers program and other efforts. For tournament details, contact lisa.schlachter@ymcacharlotte.org.

Breakfast Club Enters 15th Year

The Ballantyne Breakfast Club, now beginning its 15th year as a community forum, will hold meetings this year in April, June, August and December, all on Saturday mornings.

Check www.ballantynebreakfastclub.com for dates and topics.

Meetings, which are free and open to the public, are held at The Ballantyne Hotel & Lodge starting at 9 a.m. Attendees begin gathering at 8 a.m. to enjoy complimentary coffee and refreshments. Info: Ray Eschert at 704-651-1237 and reschert@aol.com.

Corporate Park Hosts Earth Day Event



Ballantyne Corporate Park

will hold its annual Earth Day celebration on Thursday, April 23. The main event will run from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Brixham Tent, where attendees can purchase lunch from food trucks, enjoy music from WKQC-FM ("K" 104.7) and visit with local "green" vendors. Free shredding and electronic recycling will begin at 9 a.m.



TV Channel Selects Dana Rader

Dana Rader has been chosen as a charter coach for a Golf Channel Academy program to launch this spring. Rader along with other LPGA and PGA teaching professionals and instructors will appear on the channel's television and digital platforms. Golfers enrolled at Dana Rader's Golf Channel Academy location will be able to track their golf progress alongside Rader and her staff using advanced software to measure specific goals.



Mark Reed

Country Day Leader Recognized

Charlotte Country Day School's head of school, Mark Reed, has been elected into the Headmasters Association, a selective organization of 100 secondary school educational leaders from across the country. Reed is the only Charlotte-area member and one of just two members in North Carolina.



Recent graduates of the greenway's naturalist program.

Become a Naturalist, Send Kids to Camp

Nature lovers can become certified S.C. Master Naturalists at a 12-week environmental training course on Wednesdays from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. beginning in March at the Anne Springs Close Greenway in Fort Mill.

The Catawba Master Naturalist Program teaches participants to identify plants and animals and better understand ecological concepts they can apply through volunteering in their communities. The course is based at the 2,100-acre greenway, a nature preserve that features nearly 40 miles of trails, woodlands, pastures and waterways. Cost is \$600, which includes course materials, instruction and field trips. Participants also receive a one-year greenway membership.

The greenway is also offering more than 50 summer camps for children ages 3 to 18. They range from the popular Adventure Seekers outdoor day camp to a variety of sports and specialty camps that teach everything from photography to mountain biking and rocket science. Registration and information: www.ascgreenway.org or 803-547-4575.

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German School Celebrates 40 Years

Deutsche Schule Charlotte celebrated the school's 40th anniversary on Jan. 29 at the Charlotte City Club. An awards ceremony honored founding members, the first principal and past presidents and chairpersons.

The nonprofit German school serves more than 200 students and meets every Saturday morning from September to May. For more info: www.dsclt.com.



Friedel Farkouh (front row, from left), Kay Schnaidt, Klaus-Dieter Wurm and Claudius Reckord were among the Deutsche Schule honorees. Others (back row) were Michael Raffler, Kurt Waldthausen and Bernd Losskarn.

U.S. Kids Golf Honors Local Pro



Molly Tullar Braid

Molly Tullar Braid, director of junior golf at Dana Rader Golf School, has been named to

U.S. Kids Golf's Honorable Mention list of Top 50 Kids Teachers for 2014. This is the fourth year in a row for Tullar Braid to be recognized by U.S. Kids Golf.

Elwoods Announces Staff Additions

Restaurant industry veteran Dan Glasser has joined Elwoods Barbecue & Burger Bar as director of operations. Taking over the kitchen is chef Stancil Stowe. He is a graduate of Le Cordon Bleu College of Culinary Arts and brings over 11 years of industry experience. Stowe has introduced a new Southern-inspired barbecue menu. Info: www.elwoodsbbq.com.

Savor Spring at The Ballantyne Hotel & Lodge



Hotel Offers Its Own Bourbon

The Ballantyne Hotel & Lodge has partnered with Woodford Reserve to make its own bourbon. Ballantyne's Woodford Reserve Personal Selection

is a blend of two Woodford Reserve barrels and is available for \$14.

Restaurant Starts Whiskey Club

Gallery Restaurant has launched The Whiskey Club of Ballantyne. Spring events include Irish Whiskey on March 27; Malt Varieties, a dinner event on April 24; and All About the Barrels on May 29. Each event is on a Friday from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Cost: \$40 and \$75 per person for dinner events. Reservations required: 704-248-4100 or cbrobst@theballantynehotel.com.



Easter, Mother's Day Brunch

An elaborate buffet will be offered on Easter, April 5, and Mother's Day, May 10, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Cost: \$75 per person, \$35 for children ages 5 to 12 and complimentary for children 4 and under. Reservations required: 704-248-4100.

Wine & Cocktail Tastings

Gallery Restaurant offers weekly tastings on Fridays beginning at 6:30 p.m. The first and third Friday of the month usually feature a particular type of wine, and the second Friday of the month focuses on cocktails. Cost: \$25 per person.

Spring Teas

In addition to usual Afternoon Tea, The Ballantyne Hotel & Lodge will hold a Downton Abbey Tea March 11-14; Mother's Day Tea May 6-9; and Queen Elizabeth's Birthday Tea June 3-6.



For the specialty tea events, the cost is \$36 for adults and \$18 for junior patrons. For Afternoon Tea, the cost is \$32 for adults and \$16 for junior patrons. Reservations required: 704-248-4100.

The Golf Club at Ballantyne

On Mother's Day, May 10, moms play free with one paid round of golf at the daily rate. In honor of Armed Forces Week, May 10-16, the club will offer half off the regular rate to golfers with military identification, which must be presented upon arrival. When reserving tee times, please mention the special offers: 704-248-4383.

Weddington Kids Consignment Sale March 14

Weddington Kids Consignment's spring sale will be at Weddington United Methodist Church's Family Life Center on Saturday, March 14, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

More than 30,000 items are anticipated for sale, with most available for half price starting at 1 p.m. The Family Life Center is located at 13901 Providence Road, and there is no fee to enter the sale.

The sale will also be open to the public on Friday, March 13, for pre-sale shopping from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Admission is \$10 per person. Volunteers and consignors will have access to the sale on Friday from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. Info: www.weddingtonkidsconsignment.com.

BIZ BUZZ

Chamber Hosts Lunch Series, Business Bash

The Ballantyne Chapter of the Charlotte Chamber of Commerce will hold a "Business Booster Series" this spring. All are luncheon meetings on Thursdays.

March 5, the group will gather at Ballantyne Country Club from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. to discuss "Cyber Security: How to Protect Your Business." April 2, the Charlotte Chamber Small Business Member Series, which is for members only, will be from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at The Ballantyne Hotel & Lodge.

May 5, the Charlotte chapter will hold a small business panel discussion from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at The Ballantyne Hotel & Lodge. Register at www.charlottechamber.com. Fee is \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door subject to a wait list.

The Ballantyne Chamber Business Bash will be Thursday, June 4, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., rain or shine, in Ballantyne Corporate Park at Brixham Tent. Tickets are \$10 in advance at Morrison Family YMCA, \$15 at the event.

Networking Group Meets April 28

Ballantyne Briefings, a business networking group, will meet Tuesday, April 28, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Aloft Charlotte Ballantyne. Kurt Graves, executive coach and group chair at Vistage Charlotte, will discuss "Is Your Work Worthy?" Info: Allen Starrett at ars@starrettlawfirm.com or www.fb.me/ballantynebriefings.



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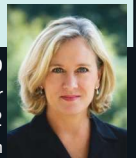
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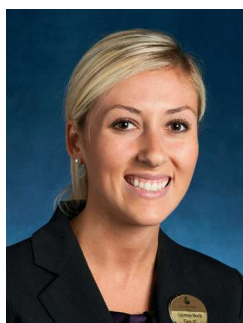
Carolina Kramer



Janet LeClair



Alan Grant



Courtney Adams



Andrea Hessel-Sorce



Crystal Palmer

Bissell Organizations Hire, Promote Staff

Allison Meyer and Rita Gabriel have joined The Ballantyne Hotel & Lodge as meetings and events managers, while Carlos Macias Caicedo has been hired as assistant director of housekeeping.

Among promotions at the same site, Carolina Kramer is now assistant director of the front

office, Alan Grant is guest relations manager and Courtney Adams is front desk supervisor.

In other employment news, Andrea Hessel-Sorce was named document control specialist for the Bissell Cos., and Crystal Palmer has joined Ballantyne Business Center as general manager.

Ballantyne Resident Named COO

Janet LeClair, a resident of Ballantyne, has been appointed chief operating officer of The Ivey, a nonprofit day center for people living with Alzheimer's, other memory conditions and Parkinson's.

In her new role, LeClair will be involved as The Ivey launches a fundraising campaign to expand its campus by building two licensed family care homes. Info: 704-909-2070 or lynn@theivey.com.

THE YOUNGER SET

Cuthbertson High Wins \$25,000 Grant

Cuthbertson High School in Weddington is one of 100 high schools to earn a \$25,000 grant from the Celebrate My Drive program sponsored by State Farm. Students, parents, administrators and the community rallied in support of teen drivers, making online safe-driving commitments to help the Cavaliers reach their goal.

"State Farm is proud of Cuthbertson's efforts to generate excitement among students, faculty and the entire community to make safe-driving commitments and have positive conversations about teen driver safety," says State Farm agent Wil Brooks, whose office is in Toringdon.

"We appreciate all of the wonderful support of the program to help reduce teen crashes and save lives," adds fellow State Farm agent Wally Moore. Details: www.celebratemydrive.com.



Wil Brooks presents check at Cuthbertson High.

"My work in the arts is my passion. I rarely called in sick to my job at the museum. And then I was told I had terminal cancer."

Christopher was diagnosed with stage 4 kidney cancer, and oncologists at the Levine Cancer Institute treated him with an experimental drug not available anywhere else in the region. It's been three years since his diagnosis and he has his life back.



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Charlotte Catholic Honors Choir Sings at The Ivey

Charlotte Catholic High School's Honors Choir visited The Ivey Memory Wellness Day Center in December for songs and holiday cheer. The Ivey provides daily care for people living with memory loss due to Alzheimer's, Parkinson's and mild cognitive impairment. Dottie Tippet, fine arts chair and choral director at the school, leads the choir. The singers chatted with audience members following the performance.

Junior Golfers Compete

The Golf Club at Ballantyne hosted the 14th annual Ballantyne Junior Open Feb. 7-8. Dana Rader Golf School's Marc Lapointe, director of instruction, and Molly Tullar Braid, director of junior golf, co-directed the 36-hole, stroke-play tournament. The field of more than one hundred young golfers participated in groups based on age and gender. Results are posted at www.danarader.com in the junior programs section.



Ardrey Kell Wins Theater Award

Ardrey Kell High School's theater department earned the award of Overall Distinguished Play for its performance of "Our Place"

in the high school competition at the North Carolina Theater Conference in Greensboro last semester.

The award earned the department a trip to the Southeastern Theater Conference in Chattanooga, Tenn. in March. The department will again perform "Our Place," written by Terry Gabbard, theater teacher at Ardrey Kell.

The group will perform its newest production, "42nd Street," March 26-27 at 7 p.m. and on March 28 at 2:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. All performances are at Ardrey Kell High. Tickets are available at www.carolinatix.org.

OPENINGS



Smokehouse Coming to Toringdon

Midwood Smokehouse will open this April in Toringdon on Johnston Road in the former site of Sticky Fingers. The menu will feature the same hickory smoked barbecue brisket, pork and ribs popular at the original Midwood Smokehouse on Central Avenue. Patio seating, kids' menu, craft beer selection, private dining room and catering are available. Info: www.midwoodsmokehouse.com.

Blakeney Club to Add Clay Courts

Blakeney Racquet and Swim Club will add four new clay courts in late spring 2015. Details: www.blakeneyclub.com or 704-841-7529.

SWEET CHARITIES



Corporate Park Collects Coats for Kids

Ballantyne Corporate Park tenants collected 916 coats during the Share the Warmth Coat Drive benefiting Steve's Coats for Kids. WSOC-TV and Hands On Charlotte picked up the donations in Ballantyne Corporate Park on Dec. 18.



Gingerbread Houses Raise Nearly \$8,000

The Ballantyne Hotel & Lodge brought in more than \$7,800 in December to benefit Levine Children's Hospital. Out of 31 entrants, Johnson & Wales University students Charles Zimmerman and Maris Pedersen won the People's Choice Award with their "Chateau Blanc" creation. Attendees voted for their favorite gingerbread house with a minimum donation of \$1 to the children's hospital.

3-2-1 Dash for Down Syndrome March 21



The Down Syndrome Association of Greater Charlotte will hold its third annual 3-2-1 Dash for Down Syndrome 5K and one-mile run at 8:30 a.m. at 8835 Blakeney

Professional Drive on Saturday, March 21. Details: www.dashfordownsyndrome.com.



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Cadets, Switchin' Kitchens Aid Vets

Cadets in Ardrey Kell High School's Marine Corps Junior ROTC program and Switchin' Kitchens, located in the Fountains of Ardrey Kell, will join forces for the third year on Thursday, March 12, to provide meals for veterans in need at the N.C. National Guard.

Last year cadets and their parents, along with customers and veterans, donated enough money to purchase 250 meals, more than double the number of the year before. Operation Homefront delivers the meals to families living paycheck to paycheck or to disabled or single veterans who need cooking assistance.

Each meal comes with a personal thank-you note signed by the cadets. Rachel Basile, owner of Switchin' Kitchens, says the idea for the project came from cadet Carly Scheve. To contribute or learn more, call Switchin' Kitchens at 704-844-2002.



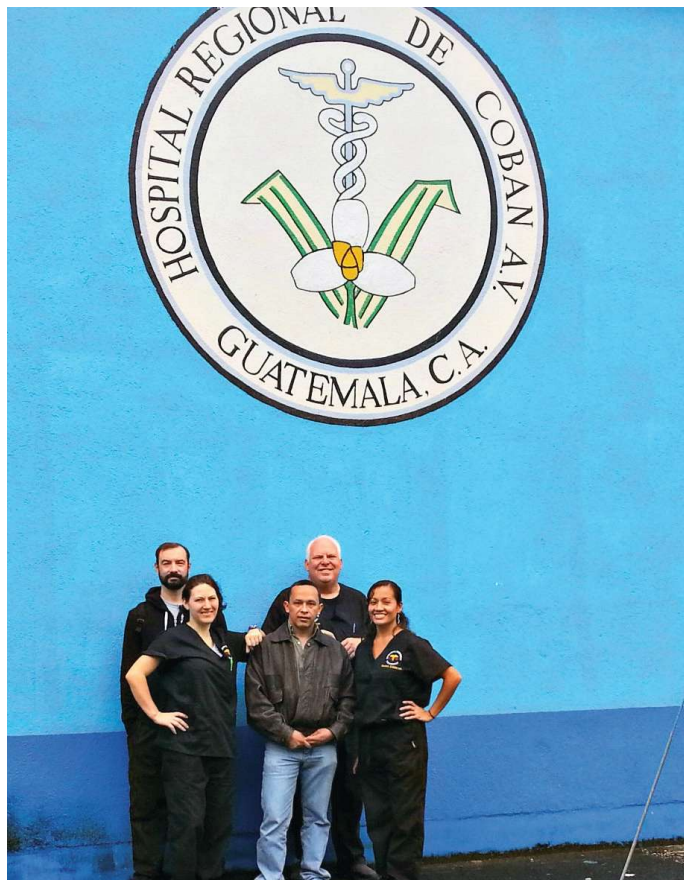
Photo by Daniel Coaton

When Allegro honored Felix Sabates (fourth from left), family members Doug Herbert, Mimi Sabates, Kim LeCompte, Carly Fitz and Victoria Fitz were on hand.

Allegro Foundation Honors Sabates

The Allegro Foundation honored Felix Sabates for his support over the past decade at the 6th Annual Ambassador's Ball Jan. 10.

Maguy Marrario Doyle, ambassador to Prince Albert II of Monaco, was the special guest at the gala at Quail Hollow Club. All proceeds from the event went to Allegro's free movement-education programs for children with disabilities in Charlotte and Fort Mill. Info: www.allegrofoundation.net.



Brian Whelan (from left), Heidi Gaines, Dr. Martin Gutierrez, Patrick Lynch and Sandra Calderon helped with the equipment donation by the Heineman Foundation.

Engineer Volunteers in Guatemala

Brian Whelan, a health care engineer with REMI Group based in Ballantyne, recently returned from a trip to the Regional Hospital of Coban in Guatemala. He traveled there with Biomedics Without Borders and in conjunction with the Heineman Foundation of Charlotte, a part of Carolinas HealthCare System.

The mission was to unpack, inspect and install more than \$1.2 million in donated equipment from the foundation for the hospital's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, as well as to repair any related equipment within the hospital. Details: www.theremigroup.com.



Jay Patel, representing AAHOA, presents a check to Carolina Panthers tight end Greg Olsen (right) to benefit the Greg Olsen Foundation.

Charlotte Shootout Raises \$25,000

The Charlotte Shootout, a tournament at The Golf Club of Ballantyne hosted by the Asian American Hotel Association Owners (AAHOA) in Charlotte, recently raised \$25,000. Proceeds were donated to several organizations, including the Greg Olsen Foundation.



Cyclists living with Type 1 or Type 2 diabetes who participate in the tour are known as "Red Riders."

Tour de Cure Comes to Corporate Park

The American Diabetes Association Tour de Cure will be hosted out of Ballantyne Corporate Park on Sunday, May 3. The event will start and finish at Brixham Tent. Participants can choose from four courses. Registration is \$15, and the fundraising minimum is \$200. Details: 704-373-9111, ext. 3262, or Rolly Sauls at rsauls@diabetes.org.



Meck South Rotary's Beth Elz Trotter presents the chapter's contribution to Daniel Fogerty of Beds for Kids.

Rotarians Provide \$30,000 to Beds for Kids

Over the last three years, Meck South Rotary has been involved in a community partnership with Beds for Kids, a local nonprofit. The club recently provided \$30,000 to the organization, which will allow Beds For Kids to cover its costs of mattresses for an entire year. Half of the money came from the Meck South chapter, which received a matching grant from the Rotary Foundation.

In other charity work, Meck South recently raised more than \$500 for The Salvation Army with the ringing of the bell at The Arboretum Shopping Center.



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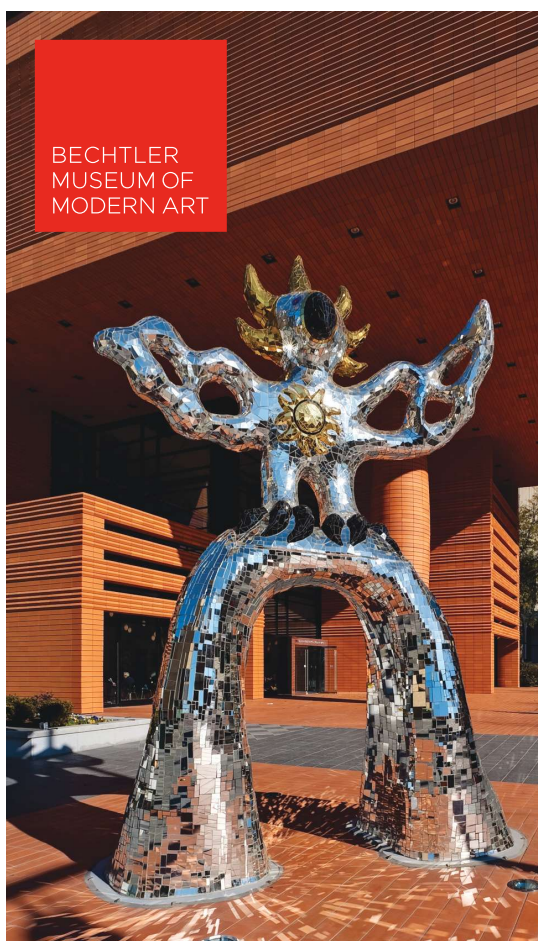
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Elwoods Donates 'Cash' to Groups

Elwoods Barbecue & Burger Bar has donated \$30,000 in "Elwoods Cash" to Morrison Family YMCA, Ardrey Kell High School and Marvin Ridge Middle School. Elwoods Cash can be used at the restaurant, located in Hunter's Crossing Shopping Center.

The Y will award Elwoods Cash to deserving volunteers, and Ardrey Kell and Marvin Ridge will give students opportunities to earn the cash.



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Jay Patel (left), owner of UPS stores in Ballantyne, and Henry Kellem, owner of Snap Fitness at Ballantyne, supported a new charity road race.

Snap! Crackle! Run! Supports Charities

Henry Kellem, owner of Snap Fitness at Ballantyne, organized the first Snap! Crackle! Run! 5K race. Proceeds were divided between Alex's Lemonade Stand, which fights children's cancer, and Sow Much Good, which promotes a healthy lifestyle through food and nutrition. UPS stores in Ballantyne owned by Jay Patel contributed to the event.



Community House Middle School counselors Valerie Johnson (from left), Dawn Baker and Christine Babao join forces with Angie Taraboi and Kerry Price from Helen Adams Realty.

Realty Company Partners with School

Helen Adams Realty collaborated with Community House Middle School in December to provide holiday gifts to families of children who attend the school. Donations allowed the company and school to provide gifts to three families. Info: 704-341-0279.

Relay for Life May 29-30 at Morrison Y

The American Cancer Society will hold its third annual Ballantyne Relay for Life from 6 p.m. Friday, May 29, to 6 a.m. Saturday, May 30, at Morrison Family YMCA.

At Relay For Life events, individuals and teams camp out at an athletic track, park or other gathering area starting at 6 p.m., with the goal of keeping at least one team member on the track or pathway at all times throughout the evening. Last year the event exceeded its goal, raising \$105,000. The fundraising goal for 2015 is \$115,000.

A Survivor's Dinner will also be held on Thursday, May 28, to honor and celebrate those who have won their battle with cancer or who are still fighting the disease. Details: www.relayforlife.org/ballantynenc.

Blakeney Store Again Supports Turning Point

Creative by Nature Home, a home accessory store in Blakeney Town Center, raised \$5,200 in donations for Turning Point during the holiday season through sales of a featured ornament. This brings donations to the organization over the past three years to \$15,200. Details: www.cbnhome.com, or to donate to Turning Point, www.turntoday.net.

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BRIGHT LIGHTS

Meet Three Shimmering Local Personalities

Photos by Ray Sepesy



ARE YOU GOOD AT guessing things about people?

OK — who on this page majored in music theory, who zip-lined through the Jamaican forest and whose dream vacation is to kick back on Sullivan's Island and enjoy a personal chef for a week?

See if you got them right as you read about our community "Faces" over the next several pages.

One is a school principal, another a technology VP and the other a general manager for a retail area in Ballantyne.

Their guilty pleasures run the gamut from HGTV and online shoe shopping to burning enough calories to enjoy Southern fried chicken on a Belgian waffle.

Meet John Nell, Sharon Mazurek and Ed Camp.

ED CAMP

Birthplace: Reidsville, N.C.

Job: General manager/marketing manager, Ballantyne Village.

What do you like most about your job?

I tell everyone I am the mayor of Ballantyne Village. I enjoy helping create the village atmosphere.

What's your guilty pleasure?

As a diabetic, I don't have many left. HGTV.

Do you live in Ballantyne?

I live off Park Road near South Mecklenburg High School. Moved there in mid-November. Was in Plaza Midwood for three years.

What is your favorite Ballantyne-area restaurant?

Any at Ballantyne Village, of course. I love all types of food, but I am a pescetarian.

What is your favorite outdoor activity?

Sitting on the beach or walking. Best combination — walking on the beach. (I have lived in Charleston twice for four years each time.)

Describe your dream vacation.

A week at a beach house at Sullivan's Island near Charleston with a personal chef.

What would your theme song be for walking into a room?

"Best of My Love" by The Emotions.

What is your favorite news source?

Network TV.

I would be rather caught dead than wear anything in ____.

Duke blue. (Go Heels!)

What charitable organizations are you involved with?

I've moved all over the country but stayed involved in some way with the American Cancer Society, hoping to help find a cure. I've lost so many close friends and family members to the disease. Also, I have been a supporter of The Salvation Army.

What is your biggest pet peeve?

Waiting on someone I know will be late but hoping that maybe he or she will make it on time.

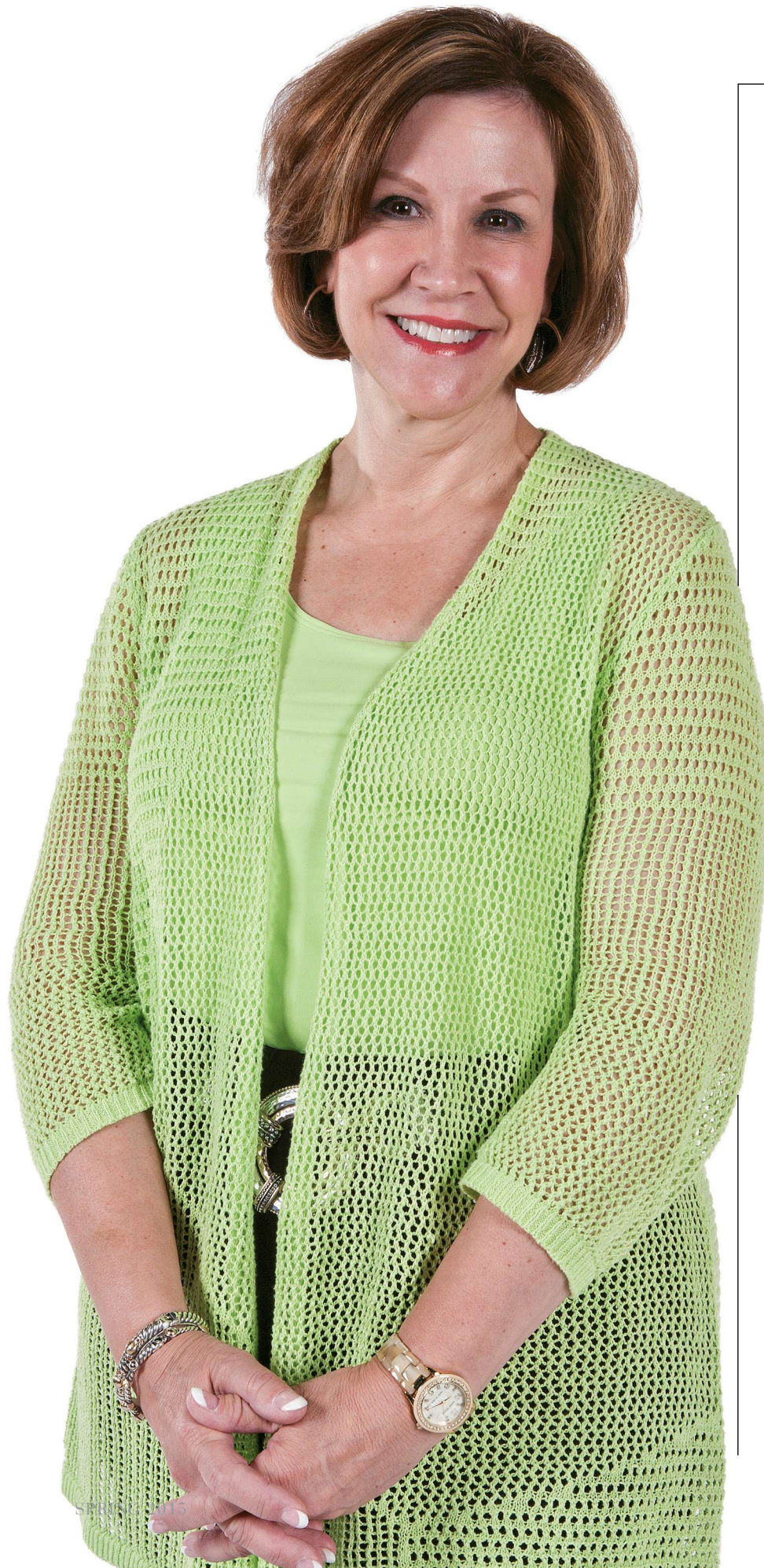
What is a hidden gem in Ballantyne?

The Ballantyne Festival/Autumn in the Park.

Share something that someone would never guess about you.

I love to decorate for Christmas.



**SHARON MAZUREK**

Birthplace: Pittsburgh.

Job: Principal, Ballantyne Elementary School.

What do you like most about your job?

I have an outstanding staff, and no day is ever the same. We have the honor of working with wonderful kids who love learning and with their families who provide great support.

What's your guilty pleasure?

Shopping online for shoes.

Do you live in Ballantyne?

Yes.

What is your favorite

Ballantyne-area restaurant?

131 Main.

What is your favorite outdoor activity?

Tennis.

Describe your dream vacation.

Spending a week or two at a tropical resort, relaxing by day without emails or phone, listening to live music and dancing the night away.

What would your theme song be for walking into a room?

"Brown-Eyed Girl" by Van Morrison.

What is your favorite news source?

CNN.

I would be rather caught dead than wear ____.

Open-toed shoes without polished toes!

What charitable organizations are you involved with?

St. Jude Children's Hospital, Susan G. Komen, Ballantyne Relay for Life and Therapy Dogs International. I have a 17-month-old King Charles cavalier spaniel who is a certified therapy dog. Savannah and I visit nursing homes and will (soon) begin visiting hospitals.

What is your biggest pet peeve?

People who constantly create drama and then sit back to watch the fallout.

What is a hidden gem in Ballantyne?

Fitness Together — the trainers are awesome and really individualize the workouts.

Share something that someone would never guess about you.

I have been zip lining through the forest canopy in Jamaica and parasailing in Mexico. I swam with the dolphins in the Bahamas and the stingrays in the Cayman Islands.

JOHN NELL

Birthplace: Columbus, Ohio. Moved to the Marvin area in 1995, when the closest grocery store was at The Arboretum.

Job: Vice president, information technology, HA Logistics.

What do you like most about your job?

Finding clever ways to apply technology to help businesses innovate in all sorts of interesting ways.

What's your guilty pleasure?

Carving time out for myself to stay fit so I can enjoy fantastic food.

Do you live in Ballantyne?

SOBA (South of Ballantyne), our answer to NODA.

What is your favorite Ballantyne-area restaurant?

OGGI — best eggplant parmigiana hands down.

What is your favorite outdoor activity?

Camping, hiking and mountaineering in the N.C. mountains.

Describe your dream vacation.

Climbing Mt. Aconcagua in Argentina and Mt. Vincent in Antarctica, both of which can be accomplished in a monthlong, back-to-back journey.

What would your theme song be for walking into a room?

"Once in a Lifetime." by the Talking Heads.

What is your favorite news source?

Talking to people who have a diverse variety of news to share, as well as www.stumbleupon.com.

I would be rather caught dead than wear ____.

Madras pants.

What charitable organizations are you involved with?

Apparo. It assists Charlotte-area nonprofits with technology initiatives. Helping nonprofits leverage technology to enhance effectiveness is rewarding and better our community.

What is your biggest pet peeve?

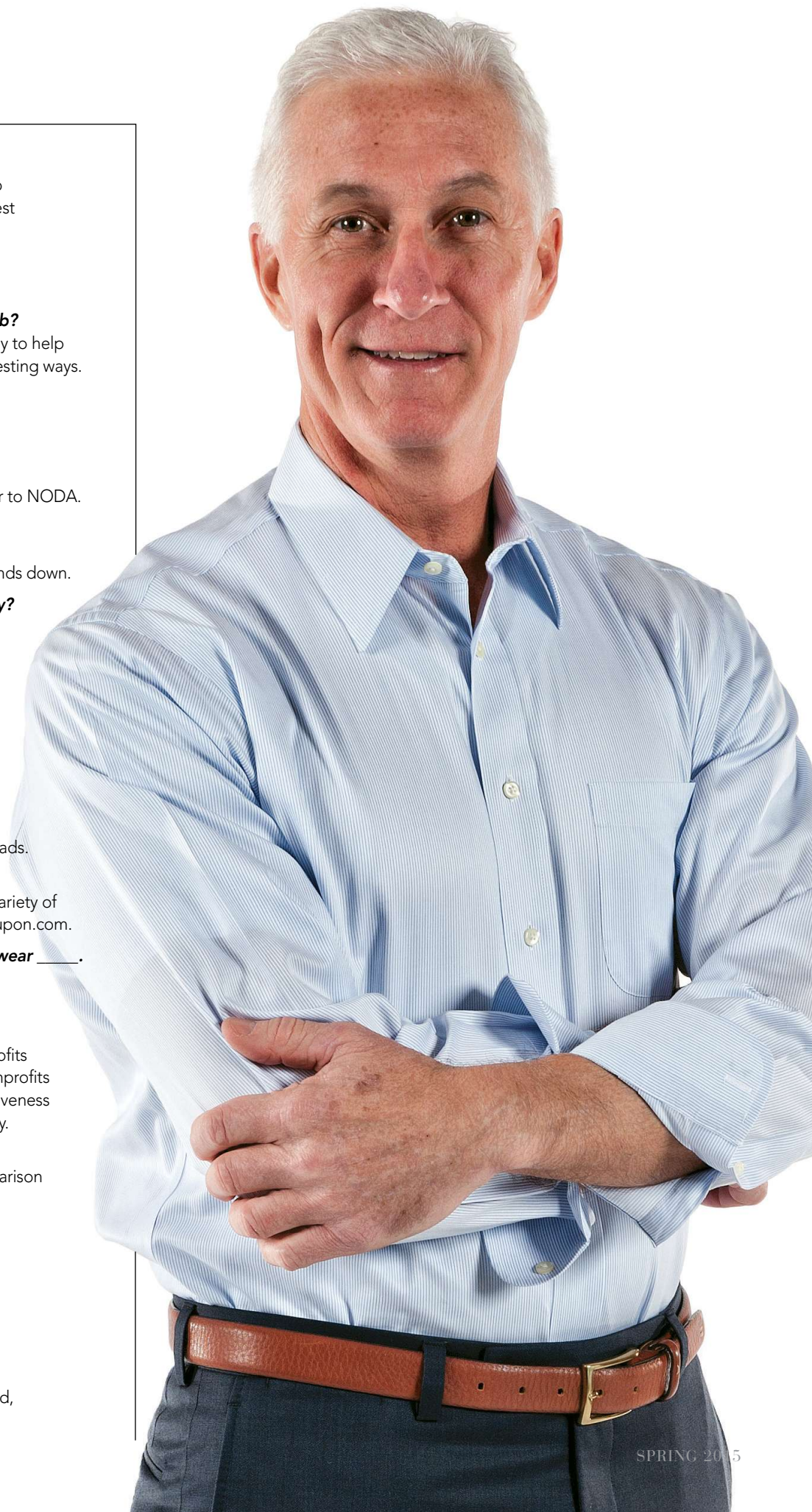
In our society, there is a constant comparison of what "is" with some desired state of what "should be," which sets people up to be chronically dissatisfied.

What is a hidden gem in Ballantyne?

"Chicken and Waffle" at Terrace Café.

Share something that someone would never guess about you.

I studied music theory in school and composed arrangements for a jazz band, so I have a crazy, groovy taste in music.



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Tranquil

Hues for Your Home

Choose Interior Colors to Evoke the Feeling You Want

By Donna Frasca

HOW DO YOU FEEL WHEN YOU SEE A GORGEOUS BEACH? Touch a soft kitten? See a baby's first grin? Watch flowers emerge in spring? These are all good feelings certain to put a smile on your face.

These, my friends, are the feelings we can capture and incorporate into our homes. How? With the right color choices.

I've been designing color palettes for homes in Charlotte for the past eight years, ever since I moved here in 2007. I love homes with a large two-story foyer, five bedrooms, three baths and the friendly but oh-so challenging open floor plan. Did I just describe your home?

It's not really a challenge to choose colors for this layout; you just need to know some basic rules to be on your way to designing your own color palette.

There is a broad spectrum of feelings that make us smile and feel good — emotions anywhere from joy to contentment. But how do we really go about evoking such feelings in our home through the color palette? It's an easy process, and here's how it works.

Start with a feeling that resonates with you. As spring comes into bloom, I think of "tranquil." You, of course, choose the feeling you desire.

In the graphic to the left I have three circles. Each circle "feels" like tranquil to me — soft blue-gray with a soothing sea green, followed by the ever-so-calming color of blue water. These are colors I like and find soothing.

Note the numbers I have displayed. The three main circles are the principal colors in the palette. As the circles intersect, they create additional colors that become part of the "tranquil" color palette. You now have up to five colors you can incorporate into your home with little effort.

What's great about designing color for your home this way? First, you have a color palette based off a feeling that will be part of your home. Second, you have colors that all have the same undertone and relate to each other. Furthermore, if the colors look good to you in these photographs, they will look good in your home.

With the "tranquil" color palette in mind, here are tips for making choices for areas in your home:


- The lighter color of blue-gray, shown as 1, is suitable for the foyer and kitchen.
- The saturated colors, represented by 2 and 3 (sea green and water blue), will likely work well in the bedrooms.
- The stronger accent colors of 4 and 5 are perfect for the dining room or office, where darker hues are the norm.
- Adding a creamy soft white for the hallways and a crisp white for the ceilings and trim completes the look.

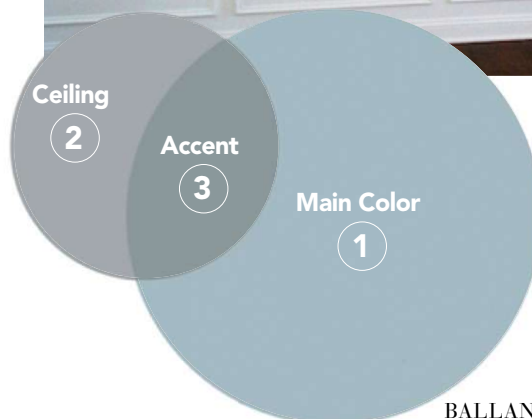
If the colors look good to you in these photographs, they will look good in your home.

Donna Frasca is a color expert and virtual designer based in Charlotte. Her website is www.decoratingbydonna.com.



When it comes to choosing the right colors for your home, pick colors that feel good to you. If you prefer less pigment in your living spaces, stay with a warm neutral wall and bring in your favorite colors with decor and accessories.

Just remember, if you choose colors that make you feel good, these feelings will become part of your home, which is a good thing! 



Calm

Here is an example of a color trio that achieves the feeling of calm.

IT'S CLEAR THAT WOMEN HAVE MADE BIG GAINS MOVING UP the corporate ladder since they stepped in to take the place of men serving on the front lines in World War II. But women aren't just moving up the ladder these days; they are increasingly creating it, starting firms that are fueling the economic recovery, both in Ballantyne and throughout the country.

According to The State of Women-Owned Businesses Report by American Express OPEN Forum released in August, women are starting an estimated 1,200 new businesses each day — up from 740 daily the previous year. Women-owned businesses account for 30 percent of all enterprises, the research shows.

The reasons women are opening their own shop vary. Some burned out in corporate careers, while others felt they could create more satisfying results by striking out on their own. Some were inspired to make a change; others were forced to by the weakening economy.

One think tank, the Kauffman Foundation in Kansas City, Mo., reported this fall that female entrepreneurship could be the new catalyst for growth in America. The group said accelerating female entrepreneurship

Local Women Find Engaging Occupations as Entrepreneurs

By Kerry Singe | Photos by Ray Sepesy



Creating Your Career Ladder



A former stay-at-home mom, Karen Garcia began her business 20 years ago.

Shay Prosser



Prosser co-founded
Get It Together in 2009.



During a recent weekend, Shay Prosser traveled to Hickory to counsel U.S. National Guard troops deploying to Afghanistan.

could have the same positive effect on the U.S. economy that the large-scale entry of women into the labor force had during the last century.

And Charlotte's ahead of the curve, according to U.S. Census Bureau data. About 31 percent of area firms are owned by women, according to 2007 data, compared to 28 percent statewide. Today, estimates from the National Association of Women Business Owners show more than 40,000 women-owned businesses call the Charlotte area home.

Models of Success

Shay Prosser's first entrepreneurial attempt years ago didn't go as planned. While she performed well as an event planner, her business didn't take off. In hindsight, she realized she wasn't fully committed.

Now armed with extensive corporate experience as both a marketer and financial advisor, Prosser, 39, is chief financial officer of Get It



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RCS Corporati

Karen Garcia

Providing staffing to the nuclear and energy industries is the focus of Garcia's company.



"Entrepreneurs don't start companies because they want to make money. They do it because they have a vision and ideas."

— Karen Garcia,
RCS Corp.

Together, a Charlotte-based company she founded in 2009 with Hallie Hawkins.

The company, which has Ballantyne clients, provides independent financial advice for individuals and companies that offer the service for employees, such as the USO of North Carolina. During a recent weekend, Prosser traveled to Hickory to counsel U.S. National Guard troops deploying to Afghanistan on financial issues.

Prosser knew this entrepreneurial venture would work. "I had no plan B," she says. "When I made the leap, it felt like it was the right option."

She looks forward to exposing her daughters, now ages 3 and 6, to women leaders she's met through local networking groups.

"I want them to see that if they have the strength or talent to do what they want to, they can figure out a way to do it," she says.

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— Tamera Green,
Viridian Marketing

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At Ballantyne Corporate Park one recent day, Karen Garcia enthusiastically welcomed a visitor to her company's new headquarters. The space is too big for now, but it's a strategic investment in RCS Corp.'s future, Garcia says.

Founded 20 years ago, RCS is a staffing and recruiting organization serving the nuclear and energy industries. It employs 20 employees in Charlotte and Aiken, S.C., and 375 workers nationwide. Revenues average \$35 million, and plans call for them to triple by 2024.

For Garcia, 59, success comes from doing something you are passionate about, treating people fairly and maintaining the highest ethical standards.

A former stay-at-home

mom, she became involved with the company after her husband attempted to market himself as a compliance regulatory engineer. He received more requests from people looking for help finding workers than he did projects for himself. Enter Garcia, whose background and passion lie in coaching and human resources. Soon, she was pulling in \$1 million worth of staffing contracts.

"We realized we were a staffing company," she says, speaking about the need to be flexible and pursue what one enjoys and is naturally good at.

"Entrepreneurs don't start companies because they want to make money," she says. "They do it because they have a vision and ideas.

They want to do it better,

and the money comes."

Entrepreneurial Voice

Tamera Green, 48, began her sports marketing career with a small agency in Charlotte, Muhleman Marketing, and thrived in the firm's lively atmosphere.

The business was sold, and Green moved successfully into management positions at larger agencies, including IMG and GMR Marketing, but missed the feeling of working more closely with campaigns. In 2013, she founded Viridian Marketing, which develops partnership marketing programs. An example of Green's work: She connected Sysco Corp. with the Food Network and celebrity chef Robert Irvine,

continued on page 43

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Green's firm develops partnership marketing programs.


■ continued from page 41

who features the company's products on his reality show "Restaurant: Impossible."

One thing Green appreciates about being an entrepreneur is the opportunity to have a voice, something she experienced during her first job assignment with her mentor, Max Muhleman.

Green, whose business is based in Ballantyne, remembers being nervous as a then-22-year-old recent graduate sitting at a conference table surrounded by industry heavyweights. The task was to bring an NFL franchise, now known as the Carolina Panthers, to Charlotte.

She was intimidated at first, but the attitude soon became clear: If you have a spot at the table, you've earned the right to have something to say.

"That's a big part of what an entrepreneur is: you've got a voice," she says. "That spirit of entrepreneurship and working with people who feel if you are accountable and bring ideas and perspective to table, then you are great — it gives you that feeling of being heard." 



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Gingham Getup & Go

The Classic Picnic
Plaid is a Darling
of Spring 2015

By Missy of pinkpistachio.com

GUESS WHO'S BACK? Gingham! Referenced on both sides of the pond, this classic check has a rich history that includes the American barn dance and Brigitte Bardot — who famously wore this picnic plaid in pink to say, “I do!” This season you’ll spot gingham in dresses, shorts, bags, shoes and more. Picnic basket and the fixin’s are optional!



If you're only going to try one trend this spring, gingham is a great choice.

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Trendy gingham can easily be coupled with other on-trend pieces. Take accessories, for example. Many top accessories are taking on a bohemian vibe: textured fringe, golden brass and layers galore.

Tie it all up with a skinny rope belt — the perfect universal accessory. 

Tip: The sunglasses, watch and shoes are available at www.nordstrom.com.



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**EDGY STREET
WEAR, SNAPPY
BOW TIES
TURN HEADS**

By Jennifer Mitchell
Photos by Shane Baskin

IF WE ONLY LOOK TO BIG cities for fashion innovation, we miss fresh, homegrown talent and creativity. That's true in Ballantyne where two area companies are reaping accolades for clothing lines that



Designers
Brandon
Etheridge
(from left),
Adam Bailey
and Anthony
Garofalo are
making their
mark in fashion.

both launched in 2013 but fall at opposite ends of the fashion spectrum — edgy street wear and gentlemanly bow ties.

Ballantyne residents Anthony Garofalo and Adam Bailey are the creative minds behind 4FIVE, a hip clothing line that aspires to take “ordinary life to the next level,” according to the company’s website. Meanwhile, Waxhaw’s Brandon Etheridge is marketing snazzy, interchangeable bow ties designed not to break your budget.

Garofalo and Bailey are both natives of Cleveland, and their friendship began when they met in Charlotte in 2009.

4FIVE is experiencing customer interest from as far away as New Zealand and Hawaii.



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Owners Anthony Garofalo (left) and Adam Bailey were looking for a creative outlet.

"The idea for this business came to life because during my day job in computer software I was experiencing a real creative void in my life," explains Garofalo, 32. "I was always interested in art design and felt starting



4FIVE plans to expand into boutique clothing stores locally and across the U.S.



The company's street wear has attracted artists, musicians, skateboarders and more.

this clothing line and partnering with Adam would be a great creative outlet for both of us."

Seeking to Inspire

4FIVE is a street-wear brand that includes



unique T-shirts, tanks and hoodies for men and women ranging in price from \$14 to \$55. The owners say what separates their company from others is not just their brand focus on quality clothing but wanting to inspire people to be their very best. "We aim to meet the needs of those who won't just settle for the ordinary," Garofalo says. "We are free thinkers and dreamers who look for something more than just a 9-to-5 life."

As the 4FIVE website says, "whether you're going after the next big million dollar idea, playing to a sold out venue or just relaxing on the beach," the company's clothing is meant to uplift you and feel incredible.

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Deck Head took off when the Wingate University bookstore placed a bigger order than the company expected.

Etheridge's grandmother helped sew and assemble some of his company's first bow ties.



"We have a wide range of ages wearing our clothing. Our niche market has seemed to evolve into those interested in music, art, entertainment, snowboarding, skateboarding and fitness," explains Garofalo. The focus is on designing

clothing for those who push the limits, who are following their dreams.

With online sales taking off, 4FIVE plans to expand into boutique clothing stores locally and across the U.S. "People from

continued on page 54

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A college freshman, Brandon Etheridge started Deck Head out of his home when he was a junior in high school.

■ continued from page 52



Etheridge looks forward to learning more about fashion when he studies in France.

all over the world are contacting us — from New Zealand to Hawaii,” explains Bailey, 31. “They say ‘we love your brand; when are you coming out with new designs? We want more!’ So word is getting out, and we see that people are enjoying our clothing and that is so rewarding.”

Fashioning Bow Ties

In nearby Waxhaw, a desire to provide affordable bow ties prompted another entrepreneur — Brandon Etheridge — to launch his Deck Head clothing line.

Now a freshman at the University of South Carolina, he started the company out of his home when he was just a junior in high school at Marvin Ridge. With a passion for wearing snazzy bow ties himself, he soon realized it was quickly becoming a pricey fashion statement when trying to keep his look fresh and new.

“Once my mom decided she wouldn’t buy me my second bow tie, that’s when I realized how expensive they were — when I had to actually pay for them myself,” says Etheridge, 18.

He thought if he could find an interchangeable bow tie that offered more than one look, it would

provide the statement piece he wanted at an affordable price. But after searching and not finding anything like this available in stores, he decided to go ahead and make it himself.

His grandmother helped sew and assemble some of his company's first bow ties. His first official sale was to Wingate University's student bookstore. "They ordered well more than we expected, and that's when we knew there was a real market," explains Etheridge.

Now working with clothing manufacturers, Etheridge is focused on getting Deck Head into clothing boutiques. Currently his line is being sold at Silverfly in uptown, and other recent

deals include the Charlotte Hornets' team store in Time Warner Cable Arena.

The bow ties are 100 percent silk and can be purchased individually or in packs of three. They range in price from \$30 to \$75. The company also designs T-shirts and baseball caps for both men and women.

Pursuing Dreams

With plans to study in France during his junior year of college, Etheridge hopes to be exposed to some of the highest levels of fashion in the world. His goal is to continue growing his company even after graduating from college.

4FIVE's Garofalo and Bailey say while many



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people may be surprised to learn that these new clothing lines are based out of the Ballantyne area — instead of a typical fashion capital like New York City — it shows that hard work and passion for a new idea can become reality no matter where you reside.

“Charlotte is a booming city, and there are a lot of great designers coming out of our area,” says Garofalo. “It’s exciting to be a part of that.”

Bailey says it’s an amazing feeling to have an idea like this and bring it to fruition. “To know people are spending their hard-earned money to buy what we are creating — that’s incredible and that drives us to keep our business going.”



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The restaurant's tapas menu features clams sautéed in white wine and garlic.

Bold and Confident

Miró Serves Up Artful Spanish Cuisine

By Amy Rogers Photos by Ray Sepesy

LIKE THE ARTIST FROM WHOM THE RESTAURANT takes its name, Miró Spanish Grille is bold and confident, with roots that run deep in the cultural and culinary traditions of Spain.

Now in a larger location, Miró is welcoming guests back to the much-loved eatery that closed for several months in summer 2014 to relocate and upfit a new space at Toringdon Market, next to Earth Fare. And now some new dishes that are part of the restaurant's rebirth join longtime favorites on an expanded menu.

Start with a selection of hot or cold tapas to experience big flavors on small plates, such as jamon y manchego, an intensely flavored Serrano ham paired with aged, sheep's milk cheese. Add some flaky empanada meat pastries and fried plantains that are mild and meltingly good. Thanks to more than 3,000 miles of coastline, Spain abounds with seafood that can be sampled here, solo or in combinations that feature mussels, clams and shrimp.



Swordfish with sundried tomato pesto is a popular dish.

Paella Variety

Say "paella" and what likely comes to mind is the iconic presentation of shellfish and rice, but technically the term refers only to the round cooking vessel in which the dish is prepared. That means a chef can create almost endless variations of paella.

Miró's paella valenciana is the traditional menu mainstay, while the newest version, paella de carne, contains lamb, chorizo, beef, pork and chicken. Also fresh on the updated menu, Spaghetti de Miró combines sausage and olives with sautéed chicken in a light tomato sauce.

The rich seafood stew known as zarzuela de mariscos remains

a menu favorite. What's more, Miró's new kitchen boasts a larger grill area for perfect steakhouse-style cuts of beef, lamb and pork.

Vegetarian and gluten-free diners will find plenty of choices to satisfy their tastes, and chefs are happy to accommodate special requests. A Catalan-style dish known as escalavida enhances



Langostinos al pil pil is shrimp sautéed in olive oil, garlic and paprika.

Spain abounds with seafood that can be sampled here, solo or in combinations.



Flaky empanada meat pastries are among traditional Spanish favorites.

seasonal, grilled vegetables with tangy chimichurri sauce. One recent diner noted there are 16 gluten-free items on the tapas menu alone; these accompany more than a dozen gluten-free entrees. Families with children who may not yet have developed adult palates will be happy to know that the restaurant provides many selections that are child friendly and familiar.


Signature Cocktail

Miró's wine list highlights the tempranillos, riojas, sherries and sparkling cavas emblematic of Spain, along with selections from sister nations in South America and several from California. The signature cocktail is the Madrid Margarita, which layers flavorful, frozen spirits atop a fruity, house-made sangria wine punch. Tres leches cake and flan are indulgent desserts for a final flourish.

The dining room with its subdued modern decor can seat about 120 at tables, cozy booths and at the bar, where comfortable leather chairs invite diners to relax. In mild weather, a small

patio seating area adds outdoor ambiance.

Miró serves lunch Monday through Friday, with service briskly attuned to the pace of life here in the U.S.; although, area workers who happily stroll over from the adjacent office park may be tempted to linger as if they were living in Spain. That's easy to do during the more leisurely dinner service, in keeping with the European custom of savoring each course deliberately and unhurriedly.

With a new space and a tried-and-true menu that continues to evolve, Miró Spanish Grille offers big, bright flavors for a dining experience that's both artful and authentic. 



The bar's booths and chairs are comfortable for relaxing.

Miró Spanish Grille

Lunch

Monday-Friday: 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

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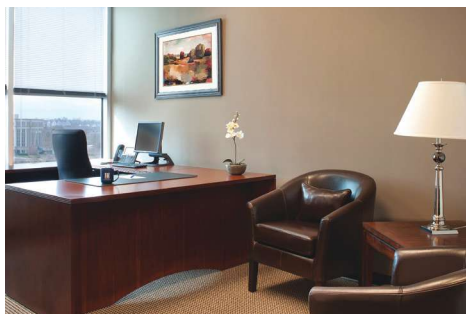


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A large fishing boat is seen from behind, sailing on a choppy ocean under a dramatic sunset sky. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a warm orange and yellow glow across the water and sky. The boat has a white hull and a blue cabin, with various antennas and flags on its mast. The water is dark blue with white-capped waves.

AS A TEEN, JIM SEIDEL'S IDEA OF A GOOD TIME was ice fishing with his dad on Devil's Lake in Wisconsin. Today the former automotive executive still has his hook in the water as owner of Carolina Fish Market, a fresh fish store in Cedar Walk that has helped spawn demand by people

Ocean^{to} Table

**BALLANTYNE GETS HOOKED ON
FRESH, SUSTAINABLE SEAFOOD**

By Nan Bauroth



in Ballantyne for fresh-caught seafood that adheres to sustainable practices.

"Once folks here tasted the flavor of fresh fish, the flood gates opened," he recalls. "People are realizing they don't have to buy frozen fish caught thousands of miles away. We have an ocean 3 1/2 hours from us."

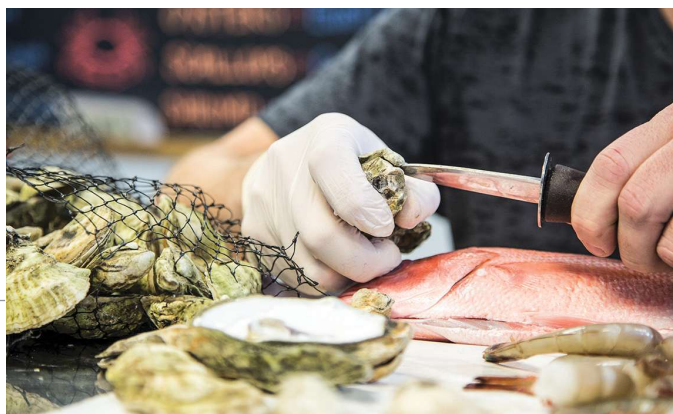
Carolina Favorites

One of the most plentiful

Above, Right: Carolina Fish Market treats customers to samples of fresh oysters, shrimp and other seafood.

"Once folks here tasted the flavor of fresh fish, the flood gates opened."

— Jim Seidel, Carolina Fish Market



fish caught off the Carolinas is flounder. "It's amazingly fresh a day out of the water," Seidel says. "Another fantastic North Carolina fish in season during the summer is gag grouper."

To inspire customers to cook fresh fish, Seidel's store offers sauces and seasonings, along with a helping of recipes. "Many come from



Photo by Shane Baskin

The display at Carolina Fish Market tells customers where seafood choices were caught.

SPRING 2015

customers who take pictures of their dish and post them on our Facebook page.” He also has two chefs on his staff who will walk customers through the steps of cooking fish simply but deliciously.

Publix at Ballantyne Towne Center is another local retailer responding to the fresh-caught fever. In addition to choosing from fish displayed in the case, customers can now special order 80 varieties of never-frozen fish.



The scale on the back of a Charlotte Fish Company truck weighs selections made on a visit to Gallery Restaurant.
Photo by Shane Baskin

“Some of my friends showed my fish to chefs and the whole business snowballed.”

— Tim Griner, Charlotte Fish Company



Chef de cuisine David Moore (right) chats with Tim Griner about his fresh seafood.

Photo by Shane Baskin

Chef's Catch of the Day

The trend toward eating more fresh seafood is also impacting menus at local restaurants. "We sell much more fish and shellfish than we do beef and other red protein items," reports David Moore, chef de cuisine for food sites at The Ballantyne Hotel & Lodge, including its signature Gallery Restaurant.

Fresh seafood is one of his favorites because of the variety of textures and flavors and the amount of open-ended creativity he can put into a piece of fish or shellfish. "I run a catch of the day usually featuring fish or shellfish. Snapper and grouper are favorites, and I always designate North Carolina coast fish because it attracts diners. There's

an emotional tie in eating local and supporting local fishermen," Moore says.

One of his favorite fresh-caught sources is Tim Griner, owner of Charlotte Fish Company, a supplier with boats based in Ocean Isle, N.C. Griner will text Moore what fish he has on his truck and then let him hand-pick the fish he wants. "I write nightly specials based on whatever product is coming in the back door, which is a lot of fun," Moore says.

Hook and Line Sustainability

Griner started Charlotte Fish Company after his engineering consulting

Gallery Restaurant sous-chef Garrett Merck prepares red snapper purchased only a short time earlier from Charlotte Fish Company.



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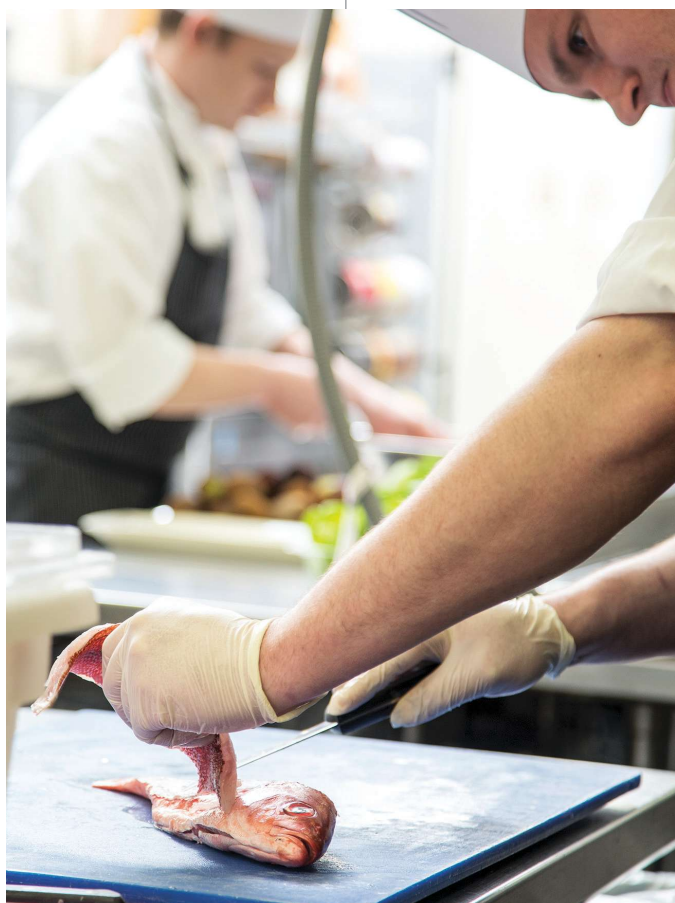


Photo by Shane Baskin



business here slowed in 2008. "I've always fished and had boats," he says. "I also had a federal permit to commercially fish, so when I had extra time, I did a little fishing for friends and family. Some of my friends showed my fish to chefs and the whole business snowballed."

Today Charlotte Fish Company owns several small boats from 26 to 31 feet, with two- to three-man crews who mostly fish off the Carolina coast, adhering to the most sustainable practices possible. "All of our fish are caught one at a time by one guy with a rod and reel; although, we catch some small species of several single fish at a time with multiple hooks," Griner explains.

To him, sustainability is a simple concept. "Sustainability is really only removing from the biomass of a species an amount

Photo by Shane Baskin

Left, Below: Using fresh, sustainable products, Gallery Restaurant fashions dishes around the best ingredients available on a given day.

"We sell much more fish and shellfish than we do beef and other red protein items."

— Chef de cuisine David Moore,
Gallery Restaurant

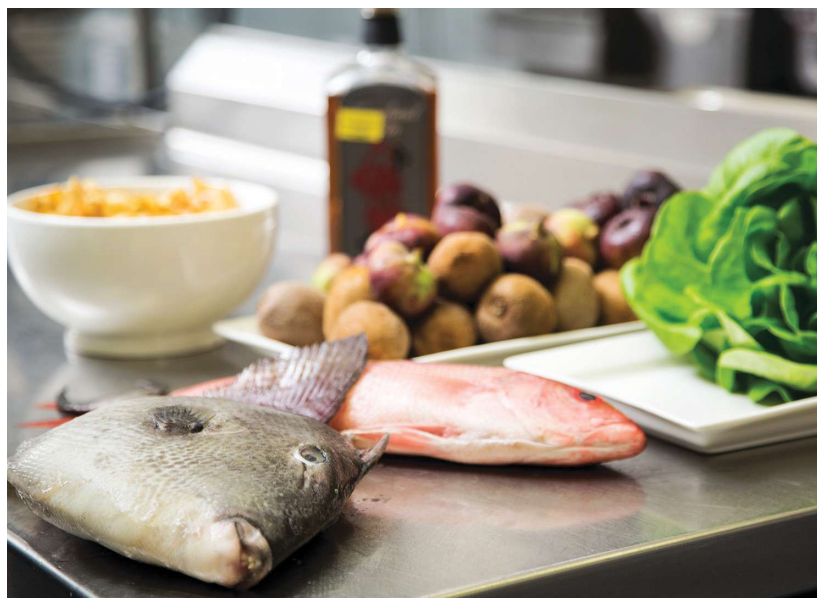


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Photo by Shane Baskin

One of the lesser-known fish from North Carolina waters is monkfish.

that the same species can reproduce and put back into its own biomass," he explains. Each species has its own management criteria. "Our main target is grouper and snapper, but grouper is only permitted from May 1 to Jan. 1 and then shut down to allow it to spawn. We switch species we target based on what the federal

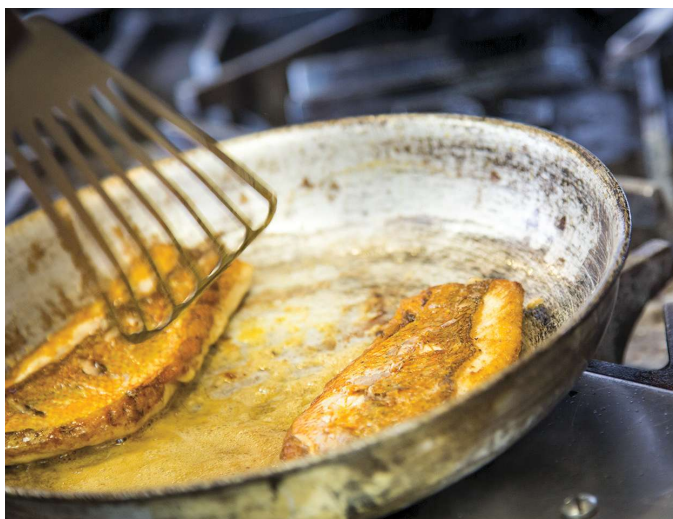


Photo by Shane Baskin

Above, Below:

Small touches of flavor and proper cooking are essential to bringing out the best in fresh fish.

government allows."

In his view, the incredible taste is worth the price of sustainability. "There is really no comparison with fresh-caught fish. Once fish has been harvested, its shelf life is very dependent on how it is handled and the temperature at which it is kept before you break it down. All of our fish are

sold whole. It takes a chef like David with the skill set necessary to handle them. Not cutting fish until it is ready to serve preserves the texture and flavor of the meat.”

Griner and his family eat a lot of smaller fish whole and cook them every imaginable way. One of his children’s favorites is deep fried black sea bass, a delicate white meat fish available off the coast year round.

Best-Kept Fish Secret

According to Seidel at Carolina Fish Market, one of the lesser-known fish from North Carolina waters is monkfish, an ugly species that is spiny, with mostly bone and skin. The fish supposedly got its name because fishermen would give it to local monks, but



Photo by Shane Baskin

Ready for serving, Gallery Restaurant special features the red snapper that chef de cuisine David Moore acquired earlier the same day.

they soon discovered the only edible portion, the tail, tasted just like lobster.

The best-kept local secret, though, is triggerfish, Seidel

says. Although the catch is limited, the triggerfish diet consists entirely of crabs, crustaceans and sea urchins. “Fish are what they eat,”

he notes, “so their meat tastes like crab” — sweet, not fishy. “Customers say it is one of the best fish they have ever had.”

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Photo by Ray Sepesy

Lighting the Way

'B' Lampposts Help Establish Vibrancy of Rising Community

By Christina Thigpen

AT INTERSECTIONS AT THE CENTER OF BALLANTYNE, you may have noticed the Tiffany lampposts with the signature Ballantyne "B." They are testament to the Harris and Bissell families' plans for building an exceptional community.

According to Terry Knotts, president of Knotts Development Resources and a member of the original development team, lighting was a key element to the vision for Ballantyne. "At that time, the Ballantyne area was considered a remote part of Mecklenburg County, and we were trying to establish the feel of a vibrant community with housing, shopping and offices. Ballantyne was to be different from other places so the lighting was chosen to reflect that."

Ballantyne's master developers worked with nationally renowned industrial designer Joe Sonderman to create the iconic Ballantyne "B." The lighting consultant based the design of the pedestrian lighting on this symbol, now recognizable to the greater Ballantyne area.

"Johnny (Harris) led the team to focus on all of the details that would work together to form a special sense of place," Knotts notes. "From the beginning Ballantyne was to be a distinctive

"Ballantyne was to be different from other places so the lighting was chosen to reflect that."

— Terry Knotts,
Knotts Development Resources


development not only in scale but in quality, from the road layouts to the landscaping to the lighting."

The "B" lampposts were installed at the intersections of the original road layout of Ballantyne to be pedestrian lighting along the walkways, with the tall cobra-style lights providing lighting for the roads. The team wanted to bring lighting closer to the sidewalk level to enhance safety and comfort for walking and enjoying the neighborhood.



This 1994 aerial shows the original layout for Ballantyne. The distinctive "B" lampposts were placed at main intersections.

"Johnny has always had excellent taste and an eye for decor that evokes a 'wow' factor," says Smoky Bissell, chairman of Bissell Cos. "We shared a vision to make Ballantyne a remarkable place, and I am forever grateful for his leadership in building such a strong infrastructure in terms of function and style."

The next time you're exploring the area, you'll know the story of the lampposts, a feature that has contributed to Ballantyne's evolution as a special place. 





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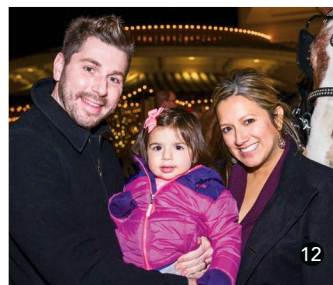
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'FROZEN' THEME ATTRACTS CROWD

Blakeney Shopping Center hosted "A Frozen Christmas" on the evenings of Dec. 19-20. The event featured photos with Santa, carriage rides, kids' crafts, hot chocolate and cookies. The highlight of each evening was character appearances from the Disney movie, "Frozen."

Photos by Hayley Watson



1. Back row: Michael Bose, Logan Foltz, Chris Johnson, Cole Bertram, Joe Yardley. Front row: Liz Yardley, Danielle Hickman, Caroline Wray, MaKenna Wray, Avery Buie, MaryAnn Foltz
2. Amanda, Ella and Kirk Castle
3. Samantha, Angelina, Connie and Gabriela Weidman
4. McKenley Long and Jennifer Herget
5. Sheila Borden and Sheila, Michael, Nolan and Taylor Holt
6. Colin, Finley, Carrie, Shannon and Claire Boling
7. Michael, Parker and Donna MacMillan
8. Matt, Lucy and Jessica Moore
9. Jose Badillo and Gloria, Brady, Tracy and Carlos Galvis
10. Julia and Katie Hoos
11. Wendi and Ava Ramadan, Angela and Ava Steele
12. Randy, Milania and Cynthia Garcia
13. Melissa, Parker, Peyton and Rob Warren
14. Kevin, Sean and Caroline Fox
15. Eugene, Ian, Branson and Olga Pisarski
16. Kelly and Carter Hetrick
17. Mark, Brianna, Kaitlyn and Dawn Wesley
18. Jayen, Amit, Hemi and Aashna Sheth

CHAMBER MEMBERS ENJOY MIXER

The Ballantyne Chapter of the Charlotte Chamber of Commerce hosted its first holiday mixer on Dec. 4. The mixer was designed to provide a networking opportunity for chapter members in a relaxed, informal setting.

Aloft Charlotte Ballantyne hosted the event, which attracted more than 50 business people in the community. They enjoyed food, gift bags and great networking.

Photos by Hayley Watson

1. Steve Hawa, Aja Pressley, Mallory Willink
2. Jeff Gruber, Brady Drummond-Ryan
3. Christy Brock, Juan Houston, Jennifer Reed
4. Brad Konawalik, Alexa Hawkins, Amanda Saari, Allen Starrett
5. Elizabeth Schultz, Katie Stephens, Jason Rankin, Dale Jennings
6. Kendal Christler, Aaron Oberlin
7. Katie Sontag, Jamal Jordan
8. Cherise Walker, Chris Jenkins
9. Gordon Lindsey, Craig Thompson
10. Janet Bates, Aly Faber, Misty Moyers, Pamela Tobin
11. Neal Caldwell, Karistyna Culp, Randal Roland



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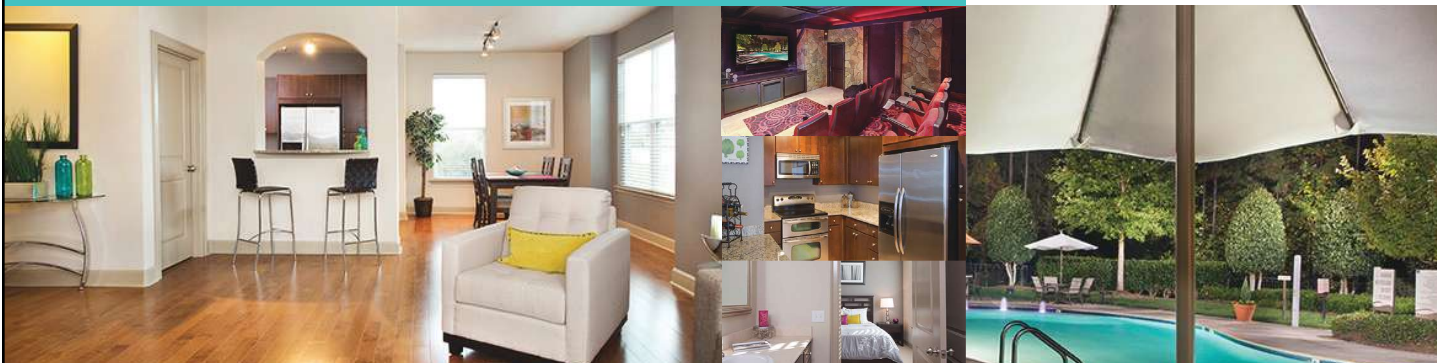
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INSPIRE! RAISES OVER \$35,000

Morrison Family YMCA and Levine Cancer Institute hosted the 7th Annual Inspire! Ballantyne Gala Dec. 6 at Ballantyne Country Club.

The formal event featured over 225 attendees and raised more than \$35,000 to benefit the institute's Cancer Wellness Program at the Morrison Y. Guests enjoyed music, great food and a silent auction

Photos by Hayley Watson



1. Ami and Steve Stein
2. Julie Mall, Amy Simsic, Stephanie Richard, Tricia Canon, Debbie Stephens, Erin Woeste
3. Lance and Cathie Weeden
4. Marty and Bridgit Kerger
5. Tara and David Wilson
6. Koh and George Herlong
7. Jordan Hamrick, Lisa Schlachter, Kimberly Borawa
8. Terry and Hayden Hasty
9. Tom and Colleen Blanchard
10. Sara and Derrick Layton
11. Michele and Ken Schmidt
12. Randy and Nancy Smith, Cheryl and Reid Smith
13. Carrie and Ken Baker
14. Jeff and Becky Roman
15. Clay and Andi Kennington
16. Danielle and Nate Orr
17. Diana Daughtridge, Greg and Sharon McCubbin
18. Kathy and Ken Leonczyk, Dana and Bill Peele
19. Jigna Gopaldas, Vic Patel
20. Andrew Rimer, Wynne and Tim Curran, Debbie and Kyle Stephens
21. Kim and Ron Merritt

'America's Largest

Celebrate Spring at
Virginia's Historic Garden
Week April 18-25

By Nan Bauroth

DRIFTS OF DAFFODILS AND MASSES OF PINK AZALEAS SURFACING across Virginia's landscape signal the arrival of Historic Garden Week. Every April the Garden Club of Virginia stages this eight-day, statewide event with 32 tours featuring 200 spectacular homes, horse farms, plantations and their unforgettable gardens.

Known as "America's Largest Open House," Historic Garden Week ranks with England's Chelsea Garden Show and the Tulip Festival in Holland — and this garden extravaganza is only a half-day drive north of Ballantyne.

Now in its 82nd year, Historic Garden Week takes place Saturday, April 18, through Saturday, April 25, and typically lures 30,000 people, many of whom consider this pilgrimage an annual rite of spring. "I get amazing calls from

all over the world," says Karen Cauthen Miller, director of Historic Garden Week. "The people who come are incredibly loyal, returning year after year, often from very far away."

Tour proceeds, totaling \$17 million to date, fund the nonprofit organization's mission of restoration and preservation of Virginia's historic gardens. Today, nearly 50 active Garden Club of Virginia restoration projects are underway.

Home Base

Charlottesville is an ideal home base for Historic Garden Week because of its central location. Prestigious lodgings include Keswick Hall, a 1912 Italianate mansion on 600 acres; the Clifton Inn, member of Relais & Chateaux; and Boars Head Inn, a Charlottesville landmark. Top-notch

Open House'





This garden extravaganza is only a half-day drive north of Ballantyne.



Barboursville features historic sites.

Photo courtesy of Barboursville Vineyards

family accommodations include Hyatt Place and Homewood Suites.

Downtown Charlottesville is also a red-hot foodie haunt. Notables include Brookville, Red Pump Kitchen for Mediterranean dishes and the trendy Public House and Oyster Bar. The restaurants at Clifton Inn and Keswick Hall are other “in” fine-dining spots.

“Charlottesville is near and dear to my heart,” says Monica Murano Robinson, who works in Ballantyne. She and husband Glenn were married at the Clifton Inn and have returned regularly for 10 years. “The people

are so nice, and you can visit wineries, walk around campus (the University of Virginia) and take in all the history — the list goes on and on.” One of their favorite restaurants downtown is Fleurie, noted for modern French cooking.

Orange Tour

For guests to experience as many homes and gardens as possible, tours are staged different days of the week. The Garden Club of Virginia has created six tour itineraries grouped by region around the

continued on page 84



Photo by Cartriona Tudor Eiler

Verulam Farm and its gardens are on the Charlottesville-Ivy Tour.

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Now in its 82nd year, the event typically lures 30,000 people, many of whom consider it an annual rite of spring.



These flowers are part of Springfields, one of the three period homes on the Orange Tour.

■ continued from page 82

state, but visitors can pick and choose as they desire.

Two of the most scenic tours take place the first weekend close to Charlottesville, starting with the Saturday-only “From Pastures to Parterres” tour in Orange County.

“We focus on four properties along historic Spotswood Trail, including three period homes — Annadale, Aerie Farm and Springfields — plus the winery and 1804 Inn at Barboursville,” says Gail Babnew, co-chair of Historic Garden Week for the Dolley Madison Garden Club in Orange County. “The tour reflects the evolution of those properties over three centuries from agriculture to viniculture to horticulture.”



Lafayette gave the two Lebanon cedars pictured here at Montpelier to Dolley and James Madison.





Photo courtesy of Gail Babney/Dolley Madison Garden Club

Photo by Steve Trumbull



Photo by Carrianna Tudor Eiler

This wrought-iron gate at Verulam Farm was once part of the White House.

Top: This formal garden can be found at Springfield.

Above: Bloomfield is home to this array of perennials.

Nearby Montpelier, home of James and Dolley Madison with its formal gardens and magnificent hardwoods, including two cedars of Lebanon gifted by Lafayette, will be open as well.

The Barboursville Winery is a regular stop for the Robinsons. "Their Italian varietal wines are amazing," says Monica, noting that when visiting, they stay at the 1804 Inn and dine at Palladio's,

the vineyard's restaurant. "Palladio's infuses its Italian cuisine with so many of the farm's products that you can taste the freshness."

Another Tour: Charlottesville-Ivy

The other scenic tour in the area the first weekend is the Charlottesville-Ivy Tour, which runs Sunday

continued on page 88

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For guests to experience as many homes and gardens as possible, tours are staged different days of the week.



Photo by Carrianna Tudor Eiler

Photo by Carrianna Tudor Eiler



Above: The Harris home features pencil boxwoods intertwined

Left: The historic Aerie home (inset) is on the Orange Tour, while the contemporary Harris home is on the Charlottesville-Ivey Tour.

■ continued from page 86

afternoon and all day Monday.

"We feature four properties," report Robin Cherry and Meredith Mercer, co-chairs of the event for the Charlottesville Garden Club, which sponsors the tour in conjunction with the

continued on page 91

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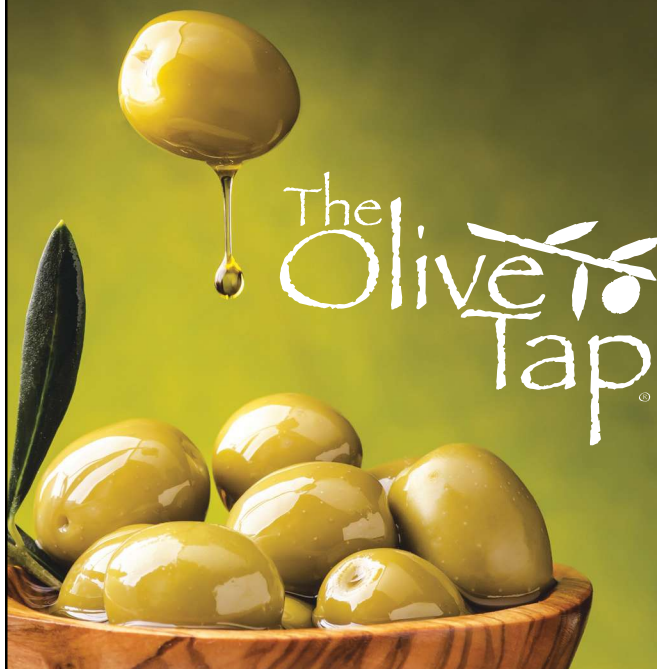
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This garden is
part of 200-acre
Foxhaven Farm.



Photo by Carrone Tudor Eiler

Master gardener Jane Heyward and husband Henderson donated Foxhaven Farm to the University of Virginia.



Photo by Carilana Tudor Eiler



Top, Middle: Foxhaven Farm offers a variety of blooming flowers and unusual tree specimens.

Right: The stately Bloomfield home dates to 1849 and was purchased by a Union soldier after the Civil War.

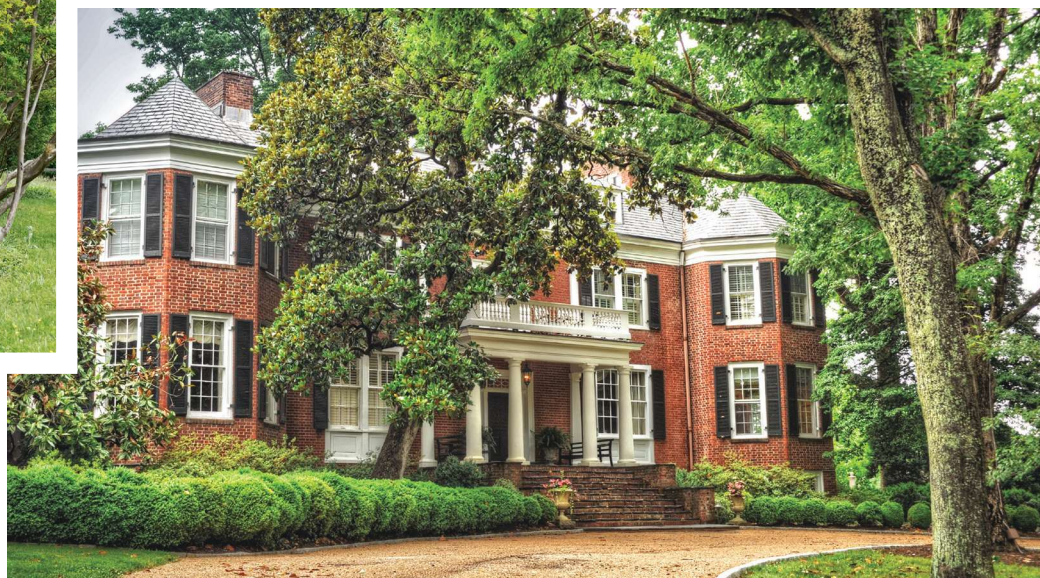


Photo courtesy of Gail Babnew/Dolley Madison Garden Club

■ continued from page 88

Rivanna Garden Club and Albemarle Garden Club.

First is Bloomfield, a property dating to 1735, with an intriguing Civil War

story of a Union soldier falling in love with Bloomfield and buying it after the war. "The entryway will be open in this home, which is in beautiful condition," Mercer says. "Around back



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are gardens with sweeping views of the Blue Ridge."

Next is Verulam Farm, another landed manor.


"The wrought-iron fence in the front belonged to the White House," Cherry says.

"This is truly an old-world estate with croquet lawn, pool house, Charles Gillette gardens, huge pond, tree orchard and breathtaking Blue Ridge vistas." Visitors can also walk to the restored antique horse barn, where horticulturists will offer advice and artisans fashion old garden tools for sale.

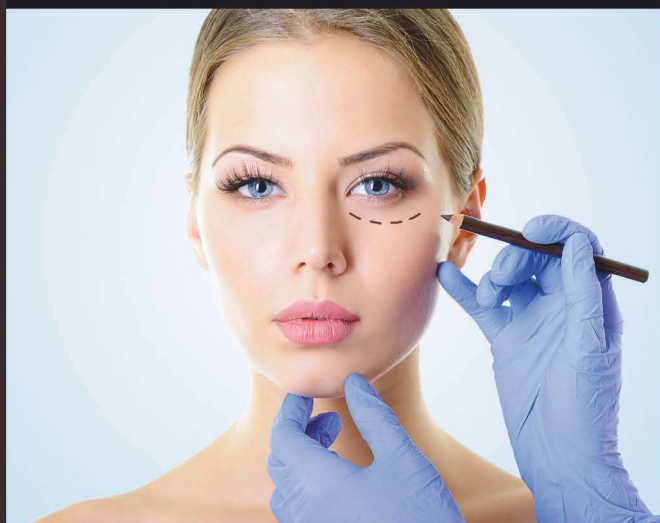
The grounds of the third property, the contemporary Harris home, were built by renowned landscape architect Nelson Bird Woltz and feature an enormous side perennial garden, fenced with two pencil boxwoods that are intertwined to create a diamond effect. "Everyone marvels at it," Mercer says.

Final stop is Foxhaven Farm, a 200-acre property donated to the University of Virginia by Henderson and Jane Heyward, a master gardener who introduced unusual tree specimens from abroad and was passionate about hellebores.

Monticello, a beneficiary of Historic Garden Week restoration funds, will also celebrate the event with special talks, walks and seeds for sale in its gift shop.

For faithful visitors, Historic Garden Week carries a strong emotional component. "An older gentleman recently called me seeking a guidebook so he could read it to a lady friend who was dying," Miller recalls. "He thought it would remind her of beautiful Virginia and her trips to Historic Garden Week." 

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Joys of Spring



What five things come to mind when you think "spring"? At Bissell Media, this is our Take Five: a glass of chilled chardonnay, cheery yellow daffodils, the Wells Fargo Championship at Quail Hollow Club, Chanel Glossimers to brighten and hydrate our lips and a colorful hat to celebrate the Queen's Cup Steeplechase in style.

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Blossom Pop!

Spring is ringing the doorbell when we spot tulips popping up behind the pansies. Rene Sands captured these colorful beauties in front of Courtyard by Marriott Charlotte Ballantyne last spring.

See Your Photo Here!

Eye Level showcases the sights, scenes and joys of Ballantyne. We love images of pets, friends, family, nature, events, activities — anything with a compelling local flair. Email your high-resolution image (300 dots per inch or higher) to news@ballantynemagazine.com and include your name and contact information. Hope to hear from you!

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