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### **FEATURES**



### ON THE COVER:

Bank of America's Susheel Krishnaprasad (from left), SPX's Derick Faulkner and Premier's Morgan Bridges are part of Ballantyne's corporate sports contingent.

Photo by Shane Baskin.

### **Suiting Up**Company sports teams take the field.



Farm Charm

Locally grown food gains following.





### **DEPARTMENTS**





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### BALLANTYNE

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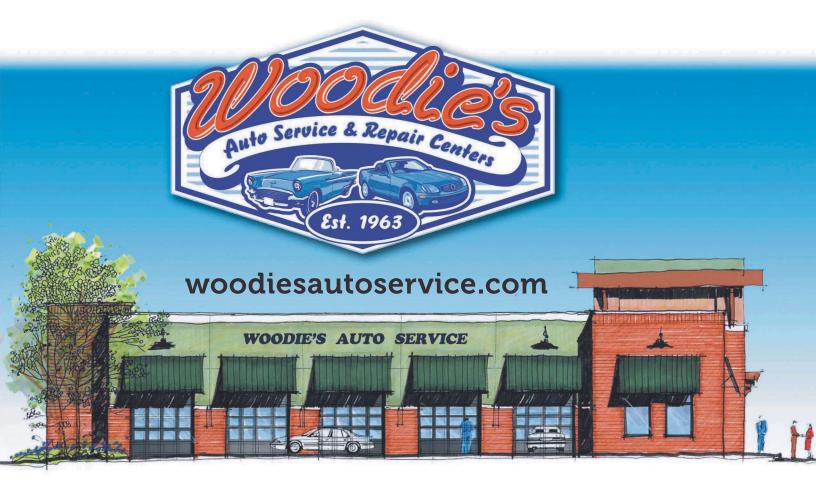
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Summer 2012 Vol. 12 No. 2

BALLANTYNE MAGAZINE SUMMER 2012



### 8 Locations for your convenience

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# Summer's Happy Hum

## Sports, Cuisine and Excursions to Remember



MANY AMERICANS CAN NEVER GET ENOUGH SPORTS, including folks who live, work and play in Ballantyne. That's especially true come summer, so in this issue we begin with an inside look at how sports teams at corporations in this area are making a comeback. Once a popular extra-curricular activity for employees in small mill towns, today's company sports team is driven by a desire to stay healthy, along with an all-out passion to get in the game once the workday is done. You'll learn how employees at Ballantyne companies have started teams only to discover that

fun on the field creates a camaraderie that makes for a winning strategy back in the office.

Our Date Night couple is equally enthralled with sports, so we follow them as they spend a starry-eyed night at Knight's Stadium watching America's favorite pastime, proving that taking a sweetheart out to the ballgame can cast its own romantic summertime spell.

Since the world of sports today often involves recreational activities in the wild, we load up our outdoor gear and make tracks for Bryson City,

the perfect base camp for a family summer adventure in the Great Smokies. The new 2013 Wave shaper at Nantahala Outdoor Center for freestyle kayakers will definitely challenge your inner daredevil, but we also explore the thrills of zip lining, jet-boat riding, cycling, fishing or hiking deep in the woods.

Closer to home, we show you a way to stay cool by touring the fabulous public fountains in Ballantyne, some of which double as picnicking, patio dining and free music venues. Our expert local bartender reveals her tips for creating your own signature summer cocktail, while our Style Points guru helps you de-stress the family beach trip.

For outdoor cuisine, Fab Fare catches up with "The Roaming Fork," a popular bistro on wheels that appears every Thursday at Brixham Tent in Ballantyne Corporate Park (my personal favorite is their blackened fish tacos).

One of summer's blessings is a bounty of fresh fruit and vegetables, and despite the suburban surroundings here, the

farm-to-table movement is making major inroads in Ballantyne. We introduce you to Sammy Koenigsberg, an architect turned vegetable farmer in Waxhaw, who not only supplies some of Charlotte's finest restaurants but also provides fresh pickings to 60 families in this area.

Uncovering hidden gems in our community, whether they be a person, place or thing, is one of our favorite missions here at Ballantyne Magazine. In this issue you'll meet the amazing Lon and Ann Morin, members of The Greatest Generation, and their

Uncovering hidden gems in our community, whether they be a person, place or thing, is one of our favorite missions here at Ballantyne Magazine.

equally overachieving daughter and son, who is an astronaut. Just reading everything that this family has accomplished in their lives is an incentive to get cracking on my bucket list ASAP.

Whatever your goals and dreams, I hope you will savor the endless pleasures of summer with your loved ones, indulging in those warm-weather pursuits — whether it be a Fourth of July family barbecue or a barefoot stroll in the grass at dusk — that make memories of this season the ones we remember best.

JJ Bissell

Publisher, Ballantyne Magazine

**Correction** - At Ballantyne Magazine, we are committed to accuracy. In our Spring 2012 issue, the correct telephone number for the Ballantyne School of Etiquette should have been 704-807-7055.

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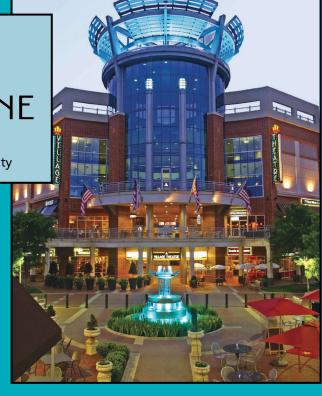






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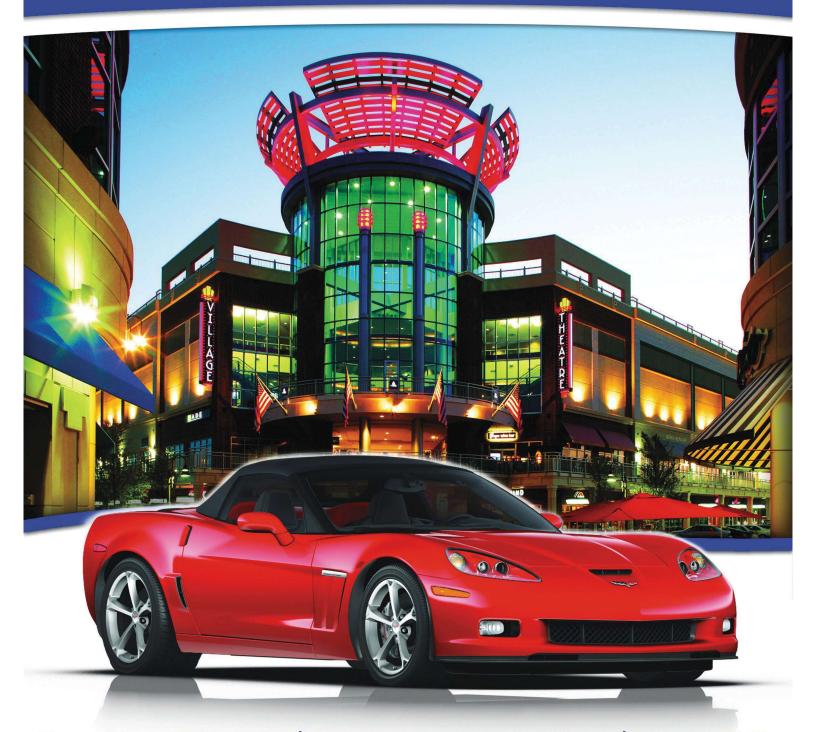
Jesse Brown's Outdoors

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YMCA of Ballantyne Village





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### Wire

### What's happening in and around Ballantyne

### Y Hosts Golf, Triathlon Events

The 12th Annual Charity Golf Tournament, which benefits the YMCA 2012 Community Support Campaign, is Monday, June 4 at Ballantyne Country Club. The tournament features a shotgun start at noon. All proceeds go to the Y Readers Literacy Program for underresourced first and second graders who are failing literacy at Nation's Ford and Berryhill elementary schools.

The annual Tri! Ballantyne is Saturday, July 14 starting at 7 a.m. This popular competition includes a 300-yard swim in the Morrison Family Y pool, followed by a 12.7-mile bike ride through south Charlotte and Union County, ending with a mostly flat 5K run.

The Kids Tri! Ballantyne is the day before, July 13, beginning at 6 a.m. Designed for emerging triathletes ages 6 to 14, this event involves age-group categories for swimming, biking and running.

For details, call 704-716-4680 or go to www.ymcacharlotte.org.



### **NEWS CUES**



### Farmers Markets Return to Ballantyne

Several farmers markets have returned for another summer season of selling fresh produce in Ballantyne. The popular Providence Produce Market is open Monday to Saturday from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. (Providence Road at Ballantyne Commons Parkway).

The Village at Robinson Farm (Rea Road at Williams Pond Lane) sponsors a farmers market every Wednesday from noon to 6 p.m. The Meeting Street Farmers Market at Cedar Walk (Ardrey Kell Road at Marvin Road) is open every Tuesday from 4 p.m. to dusk.

You can also purchase local fruits and vegetables seven days a week from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Tina's Fresh Produce in front of Young's Plantation (U.S. 521 at Highway 160).

### **Breakfast Club Hosts Summer Meetings**

The Ballantyne Breakfast Club will hold two meetings this summer, both on Saturdays.

The topic on June 9 will be the toll lane/hot lane being added to the I-485 widening project. The Aug. 11 meeting will focus on the latest developments with the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools prior to the start of the new school year.

Meetings are at The Ballantyne Hotel & Lodge starting at 9 a.m. Social time begins at 8:30 a.m. with complimentary coffee and refreshments served by the hotel. Meetings are free and the public is invited. Details: www.ballantynebreakfastclub.com.



### Collegiate Baseball Comes to Ardrey Kell

The Southern Collegiate Baseball League's longest standing team has moved from Fort Mill to Ballantyne. The Smokies, comprised of four owners, a front office and 30 collegiate baseball players, are calling the Ardrey Kell High School baseball field home this summer. The team will play a 42game schedule in June and July.

Funded in part by Major League Baseball, the league offers top-notch college players from all over the country a chance to compete in a wood-bat summer league, either to prepare for their upcoming college seasons or raise their stock in the major league draft.

Formerly known as the Fort Mill Stingers, the Smokies were founded as the Carolina Sox in 1994 and moved to Fort Mill in 2007.

Smokies' players are working this summer with the Morrison Family YMCA in five baseball camps for youngsters. The team is selling advertising for outfield wall signs and print media, and CureSearch recently became a partner of the team. More info: www.ballantynesmokies.com.

### Coffee **Experts** Go Mobile

Rush Espresso in Ballantyne Village, known for Italian espresso coffee, has launched a fully mobile service. The service includes a full espresso coffee machine able to



provide all drinks available at Rush Espresso, along with those on the Rush Espresso marquee, cold bottled drinks, iced teas and a selection of bakery items. The mobile setup is designed for farmers markets, sporting events, weddings, corporate meetings and social gatherings. Booking info: rushespressocafe@gmail.com.

### Massage **Envy Nears** 1 Million **Facials**

Massage Envy will soon serve its one millionth Murad facial customer. The individual who receives this record-setting facial will win one year of free facials and products. Details: Massage Envy in Ballantyne Village, Blakeney or the Arboretum, or www.massageenvy.com.

BALLANTYNE MAGAZINE SUMMER 2012

### Local Salon Adds Stress-Fix Line

Modern Salon and Spa in Ballantyne
Village now offers the new Aveda StressFix line of soaking salts, concentrate
and body lotion made of organic
ingredients. The Stress-Fix line's
aroma includes essences from organic
farms and is formulated using Aveda



AVEDA

"aromaology" techniques that include pure essential oils. Info: www.modernsalonandspa.com.



Over 1,000 turned out for last year's event.

### Big South 5K Oct. 20 at Blakeney

The Big South Conference will host the third annual Big South 5K Road Race at 8 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 20 in the Ballantyne area.

The race begins and ends at the Blakeney shopping center. The first half of the certified course involves rolling hills, while the second half is primarily downhill and flat. According to Matt VanSandt, assistant marketing director of the Big South Conference, this makes the route one of the fastest 5K courses in the South.

Participants will be treated to food, beverages, music and giveaways at the conclusion of the race. The event is timed to coordinate with the 6th Annual Blakeney Shopping Center Boo! Bash starting at 10 a.m. that same day.

The Big South 5K Road Race was created in 2009 to serve as a fundraiser for middle school athletic programs in Mecklenburg and Union counties, as well as to develop a new scholarship opportunity for Big South Conference athletes. Among the schools in the Division I conference are Winthrop, UNC-Asheville, High Point, Coastal Carolina, Gardner-Webb and Charleston Southern. Over 1,000 runners participate in the race each year with expectations of even more this year. Details: www.bigsouth5k.com.

### **Community House Sets Summer Lectures**

The Lower Providence Community House's 2012 Lecture Series will feature the following speakers at 3 p.m. on three Sundays this summer: June 10, "Dream Interpretation" with Mary Ellen Suntich; July 22, "Master Gardeners of Mecklenburg County" with Margaret Genkins; and Aug. 12, "Finding Your Life's Balance" with Kelly S. Buckley.

Tickets cost \$10 at the door. Proceeds go for continued restoration of the log-cabin facility. More info: 704-905-8334, lowerprovidencecommunityhouse@hotmail.com or www.historiccharlotte.org.

### Salon Holds Event with Dior

Hello Beautiful Salon in Ballantyne Quad partnered with Christian Dior in Dillard's SouthPark Mall to hold a "New Look for Spring" event in March. Dior offered free makeup and hair consultations on braids, airbrush makeup and looped hair. Other festivities included a live DJ on the patio of Five Guys Burgers and Fries, free appetizers from Duckworth's Grill & Taphouse and raffle prizes.



### **Blakeney Square Underway**

Crosland Southeast has begun development on Blakeney Square. With signed leases with BB&T, Chick-fil-A and Firestone, the firm expects the project to be complete by the end of 2012.

Crosland has donated over half of the original nine-acre Blakeney Square site to Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation as stream buffer. The green space will serve as the connecting link between an existing network of trails behind the Apartments at Blakeney, Blakeney Crossing, and the Blakeney Greens and Blakeney Preserve neighborhoods.

SUMMER 2012

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### Spa Offers Intro to CST

The Spa at Ballantyne is offering an introductory special on CranioSacral Therapy. CST is designed to normalize the environment around the brain and spinal



cord, enhancing the body's ability to self-correct. Increasingly used as a preventive health measure, CST helps to alleviate migraines, learning disabilities, chronic neck and back pain, stress-related disorders and other conditions. The Spa at Ballantyne offers a 25-minute "Intro to CranioSacral Therapy" for \$65. More information: 704-248-4141.

### **Concert Series** Returns to Blakeney

The popular free summer concert series at the Village Green will be held again at Blakeney through the end of September. Concerts are every Friday and Saturday evening from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. Details: www.shopblakeney.com.

### **StoneCrest Sponsors** Summer Music Series

StoneCrest at Piper Glen shopping center is once again sponsoring its free summer music series, with artists appearing every Friday and Saturday through Sept. 29 from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. Details: www.shopstonecrest.com.





### **Cars & Cabernet** Celebrated

In April, Crü Wine Shop in Toringdon hosted the 3rd Annual Cars & Cabernet event. Attendees enjoyed fine wines and fine cars, including Porsches and Ferraris, courtesy of the Carolinas Region Porsche Club.



### Savor Summer at The Ballantyne Hotel & Lodge

In addition to fine dining and accommodations, The Ballantyne Hotel & Lodge is home to events yearround. Check out the



Cigar Dave live radio broadcast and two cooking schools on tap this summer.

On Saturday, June 23, nationally syndicated radio host Cigar Dave will broadcast outside the Golf Pavilion at The Golf Club at Ballantyne from noon to 2 p.m. to celebrate 14 years of broadcasting in Charlotte.

A special a la carte menu will be available, as well as a selection of beers and cocktails. Arrive early, bring a favorite cigar and socialize prior to the show. Tinderbox of the Carolinas is sponsoring the event.

If you want to elevate your culinary knowledge, consider taking the two summer cooking schools. "Fish and Shellfish: MF Foley and Gallery Signature Dishes" will be offered Saturday, July 21 from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. "Pairings: Local Farms, Distilleries and Breweries is the focus Saturday, Aug. 11, offered at the same time.

For each school, the cost is \$85 per person plus a 20 percent service charge. Advance reservations are required: 704-248-4100.

BALLANTYNE MAGAZINE SUMMER 2012

### Biz Bash June 7, Meeting Aug. 2

The Ballantyne chapter of the Charlotte Chamber of Commerce will hold its annual Business Bash from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Thursday, June 7 on Brixham Green, 15800



John J. Delaney Drive. For tickets or sponsorship information, contact cwalker@charlottechamber.com or call 704-378-4106.

The chapter will also hold a luncheon meeting on Thursday, Aug. 2. Luncheons are at The Ballantyne Hotel & Lodge from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Go to www.charlottechamber.com to register. The fee is \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door if space permits the day of the event.

### THE YOUNGER SET

### Lowe's Awards \$7,000 to School

Lowe's recently awarded a \$7,000 Toolbox for Education grant to Polo Ridge Elementary School. Christina Coburn, a fifth-grade teacher at the school whose husband works for Lowe's in Matthews, applied for a toolbox grant of \$2,500 two years ago. The money was for her students to design and build a garden that would yield fresh produce to be donated to the food bank.



She and science facilitator Wendy White joined forces last year to apply for the second grant. This spring they used the money to create 18 vegetable beds and construct a butterfly garden, pond and outdoor classroom. Additional contributors included Jim Lanier of Earth Farms, Williamson Irrigation, Phil's Wood Construction and Wilson Miller.



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Hawk Ridge students perform Seussical The Musical.

### **Local Students Get** Taste of Broadway

Elon Park and Hawk Ridge elementary schools performed in this year's Broadway Junior Theater Celebration on April 19 at the Knight Theater. A joint effort between the Blumenthal Performing Arts' Education Department, Music Theatre International and iTheatrics the event provided an opportunity for local children to learn about and participate in theatrical arts.

To participate, each school acquired a kit containing a condensed script, orchestrated music and choreography instructions for a well-known Broadway performance. This allowed the teachers, even those unfamiliar with theater, to put together a production that their students could be proud of. And, in the hopes of Music Theatre International, the process teaches students community building and important life skills.

For more information visit: www.mtishows.com, www.itheatrics.com and www.blumenthalcenter.org.

### Siblings Win Golf Flights

Eric and Sarah Bae of Cary, N.C. are the first brother and sister to win their respective flights in the Ballantyne Junior Open.

Held last February at The Golf Club at Ballantyne, Eric, 13, placed first as the youngest player in the field of the Boys 15-18, shooting a pair of 70s for a 140 total. Meanwhile, sister Sarah, 16, placed first in Girls 13-18, scoring a 72 and 70 for a 142 total.

It was the first time the two siblings had played in the Ballantyne Junior Open. Over 100 junior golfers participated.



Reona Hirai (from left), Sarah Bae and Cecily Overbey were the top 3 finishers in the Girls 13-18 flight.



### **Ted Mueller** Joins Bissell

Ted Mueller has joined Bissell Cos. as the director of information technology. With 14 years of IT experience, Mueller has an extensive background in the hospitality and financial services industries. He will oversee the IT team and work closely with all Bissell entities to identify and prioritize key initiatives, ensuring the highest level of quality in completing projects and in providing dayto-day support levels.



### Clyburn Named Staybridge GM

Nicole Clyburn has been appointed general manager at Staybridge Suites Charlotte Ballantyne. With 16 years of experience in the hospitality industry, Clyburn will oversee all operations of the hotel and lead efforts in further elevating Staybridge's quality and service standards. Most recently, Clyburn was front office manager at the Charlotte Marriott City Center.

### BIZ BUZZ

### Slick Joins Jacobsen As PR Manager

Ballantyne resident Adam Slick has joined Jacobsen, a Charlottebased manufacturer of high-quality turf equipment, as public relations and communications manager. Slick is responsible for all aspects of public relations and corporate communications.

Prior to joining Jacobsen, Adam held roles in marketing and

communications for Verian Technologies and LPL Financial Institution Services. His experience in the golf and turf industry includes three years previously with Jacobsen as marketing communications manager. Contact him at aslick@textron.com.

### Hotel & Lodge Adds, Promotes Personnel

Tim Toohey has joined The Ballantyne Hotel & Lodge as executive chef. Originally from Australia, he has held culinary positions all over the world, including the Hyatt Hotel Canberra and Fairmont Resort in Australia. Toohey previously served as group







Tim Toohey Alicia Howell

Tobias Colvin

Elaine Hicks

executive chef for UK and Ireland Restaurant Associates (a division of Compass Group) at Bank of America/Merrill Lynch in London.

Also new to the hotel is Alicia Howell, appointed director of The Spa at Ballantyne. Howell oversees and manages all facets of the operation as well as develops and enhances the overall guest experience. Howell most recently served as spa director at The Shores Resort & Spa in Daytona Beach, Fla. Prior to that, she was general manager of the Orlando division of Mandara Spa, overseeing spa operations at the Walt Disney World Dolphin and Portofino Bay Hotel.

In other personnel changes, Tobias Colvin has been promoted to the newly created position of director of meetings and events. Most recently the banquets manager, Colvin is overseeing the service side of banquets and catering in his new position.

Elaine Hicks was promoted to banquet manager. Hicks will oversee the service team that takes care of guests attending events at the hotel.

In May, the hotel opened the Carolina Room, which overlooks the golf course and has 1,932 square feet. For more information call 704-248-4031

### Ballantyne Women Honored As 'Influential'

The Mecklenburg Times has named Wendy Whitehurst, owner of Custom Marketing Solutions Inc. in Ballantyne, and Dana Rader, founder and owner of Dana Rader Golf School, two of Mecklenburg





Dana Rader

County's 50 Most Influential Women Wendy Whitehurst

of 2012. An independent group of Charlotte business leaders makes the selections.

Rader has won many national accolades as a teacher and leader in golf. Whitehurst founded her company in 1996 with a primary focus on developing brand strategy to include cause marketing and ensure web content aligns with a company's vision and mission.

### Former Pro Player Offers 'Personal Best'

Mike Hartman, a former pro hockey player with the Stanley Cup-winning New York Rangers, now offers his program, "100 Ways



to Become Your
Personal Best" in
south Charlotte. A
life coach, Hartman
makes his program
available to companies,
organizations and
individuals, starting with
teens. Learn more:
www.mikehartman100.com.

### Associates Join Local Tate Office

Allen Tate Co. in Ballantyne announced the following associates have joined the office: Jamey Cox, Ashley Webb Henry, Patsy Joseph and Dawn Smiarowski. You can reach them at 704-543-5806.



Jamey Cox



Ashley Webb Henry



Patsy Joseph



Dawn Smiarowski

SUMMER 2012

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### Cubbyhole **Expands Merchandise**

Cubbyhole has revamped its store in Ballantyne Commons East and expanded its merchandise to include Corkcicles for wine bottles, Fire Wires flexible grilling skewers, the new Rodan + Fields anti-age skin-care regimen and a \$20 lip gloss with light and mirror.

Cubbyhole continues to carry Brighton Products, Vera Bradley, Tyler Candles, Mud Pie, Lindsay Phillips Shoes, Thymes Products, Sleep Sheeps, Demdaco, Kathy's Primitives, Lolita and Red Neck Wines and India Aluminum. Details: 704-759-0017.

### Local Bank Acquires New Branches

Carolina Premier Bank, a statechartered bank and



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wholly owned banking subsidiary of Premara Financial Inc., has acquired two branches of The Palmetto Bank. The branches are located in Rock Hill and Blacksburg, S.C.

Carolina Premier Bank's headquarters is at 13024 Ballantyne Corporate Park. The bank also has a branch in Blakeney Professional Center, and a pending new location in uptown Charlotte. Learn more: www.carolinapremierbank.com.

### Ilios Noche, PostNet Expand

Ilios Noche is expanding by 3,550 square feet at Rea Village to give the popular Greek/Mediterranean restaurant a comfortable feel in line with high-end upgrades. PostNet is also taking more space at Rea Village by moving into a new site with 1,200 square feet.

### M/I Homes Offers New Floor **Plans**

M/I Homes in Ardrey Crest has introduced three new home plans designed specifically for the



community. All three layouts have detached garages and give homeowners a lot of outdoor space for entertaining. Learn more at www.mihomes.com/charlotte.





### Rader Golf School Grows, **Elevates** Staff

Dana Rader Golf School has promoted several







Tom Cannarozzo

of its senior staff. Marc Lapointe has been promoted to director of instruction, and Nancy Harvey has been elevated to master professional. Doug Breuer is now director of facility operations, and Molly Tullar has been named director of junior golf.

Molly Tullar

Meanwhile, Tom Cannarozzo has joined the teaching staff of the school. A PGA Class A Professional, he founded the Synchronized Golf Academy in Little Rock, Ark., where he taught at Chenal Country Club and was named Arkansas PGA Teacher of the Year in 2008, 2009 and 2011. He was also Arkansas PGA Player of the Year in 2011.

Cannarozzo is certified as a both a Golf Machine and Medicus Golf Institute instructor and a Titleist Performance Institute golf fitness professional. He is also a member of the Golf Coaches Certification Association.

### NOW OPEN

### Sun & Ski Sports Coming Mid-June

Sun & Ski Sports, a Houston-based specialty outdoor retailer, will open in mid-June at Promenade on Providence. The store sells sporting goods in five categories: ski (snow and water), bicycling, running, skating and camping. James Ferguson of Childress Klein represented the landlord, and Matt Funderburk of The Chambers Group represented Sun & Ski Sports. More info: www.sunandski.com.

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### Rooftop Bar Debuts In Ballantyne Corners

Blackthorne Restaurant & Bar in Ballantyne Corners has opened its European-style rooftop patio with full service bar, menu and live music on selected evenings. The restaurant also is now serving lunch, dinner and brunch.

Details: www.blackthornerestaurant.com

### Sushi Spot to Open Mid-summer

"How do You Roll" custom sushi restaurant is expected to open in Ballantyne Corners mid-summer. In this casual eatery,



THE CUSTOM SUShi SHOP

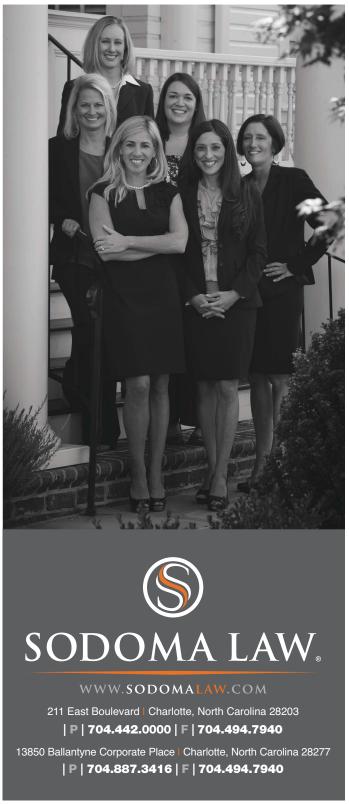
customers choose what they want in their rolls, including nontraditional ingredients such as soy wraps, grilled chicken and strawberries, and the roll is ready at the cash register for dine-in or take-out. The 3 Alarm Roll with jalapenos and sweet chili powder is a popular choice. Open for lunch and dinner seven days a week. Info: www.howdoyouroll.com.

### Fountains at Ardrey Kell Welcomes Japan Cuisine

Japan Cuisine recently opened in The Fountains at Ardrey Kell. The menu focuses on traditional Japanese fare for lunch and dinner, along with a variety of sushi rolls. Dine in, take out or enjoy the patio. Details: 704-321-0011 or www.jcuisine.com.

### Michaels Coming to StoneCrest

Michaels, a national arts and craft retailer, is expected to open this fall in StoneCrest.



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### **SWEET CHARITIES**

### **President** Obama **Honors Local Family**

Seven-year-old Lauren Fleming, whose family resides in south Charlotte, completed her work as 2011 National Ambassador for the March of Dimes with a trip to The Oval Office in February.

She visited with President Barack Obama and then took a tour of the West Wing of the White House.

Accompanied by her entire family on the visit, Lauren was the first African-American female to serve as national ambassador in the program's 64-year history. Founded in



President Barack Obama greets with 2011 March of Dimes ambassador Lauren Fleming, center, in the Oval Office, Feb. 7, 2012. Lauren is accompanied by her parents Densel and Nikki Fleming, her brother Corbin, and her sister Erin. (Official White House Photo by Pete Souza)

1938, the March of Dimes conducts research and develops treatments to help prevent birth defects, pre-term births and infant mortality. More info: www.marchofdimes.com.

### **Stiletto Sprint** Nets Over \$80,000

A good pair of heels can save a life. Hundreds of sprinters, spectators and survivors gathered outside SouthPark Mall on Saturday, April 28 for the Second Annual Stiletto Sprint. Inspired by the Teal Magnolias, the ovarian cancer support group at the Levine Cancer Institute, the event raised over \$80,000 for the Carolinas Ovarian Cancer Fund at the institute.

This memorable event featured women and men of all ages competing in an 80-yard dash wearing at least

2½-inch high stilettos. Many wore teal, the color representing ovarian cancer. Some men wore dresses and wigs with their heels. Young children ran with their parents. And most people ran in honor or memory of loved ones. Smoky Bissell, whose Bissell Cos. organization served as presenting sponsor of the event for the second year, helped kick off the occasion.



Robert Higgins (from left), James Hall, Smoky Bissell, David Tait and Taghi Mostafavi go all out for the Stiletto Sprint.



### **Rotarians to Climb** Mt. Kilimanjaro

Four members of the Mecklenburg County-South Rotary Club are training to climb Mt. Kilimanjaro in September to support the club's effort to end polio. Jim Brown, Deb Corbett, Joni Stanley and Beth Trotter are joining 28 other Rotarians from Rotary District 7680 (the Piedmont Region of North Carolina) to reach the summit in helping to raise \$100,000 for PolioPlus, the most ambitious program in Rotary's history.

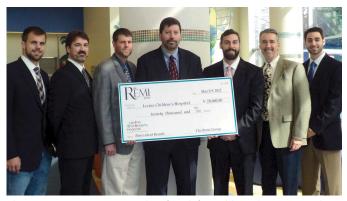
For more than 25 years, Rotary has led the private sector in the global effort to rid the world of the crippling disease. The Mecklenburg County-South Rotary Club meets at 7:30 a.m. Fridays at Skillets in Ballantyne. More information about the club: www.mecksouthrotary.org. To learn more about the climb or to donate, visit www.rotary7680.org.

BALLANTYNE MAGAZINE SUMMER 2012

### Bernie's Tournie Supports Research

The third annual "Bernie's Tournie Benefiting ALS Research" golf event in memory of Bernie Martinelli is June 11 at Ballantyne Country Club. The goal is to raise funds for ALS research. Also known as Lou Gehrig's Disease, ALS is a progressive neurodegenerative condition. Registration is at 9 a.m., with a shotgun start at 11 a.m. Dinner, reception, raffle and silent auction follow. Corporate sponsorships are available at many levels. Info: Todd Slone at berniestourney@yahoo.com or visit www.berniestournie4als.com.





The Remi Group's Tommy Beecher (from left), Todd Huntley, Brian Landon, Dan Schuster, Brent Howison, Dan Glanton and Mike Van Derveer enjoyed the Benevolent Beards fundraiser.

### Remi Group Donates \$20,000 for Children

The Remi Group, a comprehensive equipment maintenance company located in Ballantyne Corporate Park, raised \$20,000 through its Benevolent Beards event for the Levine Children's Hospital Nephrology Special Needs Fund for treatment of pediatric kidney disorders. Seven members of the company management team participated. To learn more about The Remi Group Children's Fund or to donate, visit www.theremigroup.com.





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### BCC Rally No. 1 Nationally Again

BCC Rally raised \$180,000 in 2011 to benefit Rally for the Cure in support of Susan G. Komen for the Cure, and has been named the No. 1 fundraising rally in the country for the fourth consecutive year.

Of the amount raised, \$135,000 goes to local agencies and programs to provide education, treatment, support and diagnostic breast cancer services. The remaining \$45,000 funds research at the national level of the Komen foundation, which includes supporting breast cancer research projects at both Duke and Wake Forest universities.

Blythe Kinsey and Marsha Gale will be the co-chairs for this year's BCC Rally. Planning is underway for "Rally Week," which is Sept. 23-29 at Ballantyne Country Club. It will include men's and women's golf tournaments, women's tennis, a family day and an evening gala. To find out how you, your business, neighborhood or school can help the campaign, visit www.bccrally.org.

### Insurance Professionals Launch Charity Effort

"Community Matters: Insurance Partners of Charlotte" is a new organization designed to provide local insurance and risk-management professionals with an opportunity to give back to selected nonprofits and charities in the area.

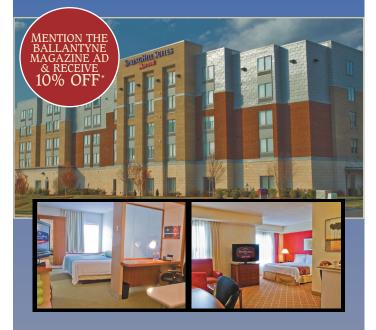


United Family Services is the group's first nonprofit partner, with the goal of supporting a UFS capital campaign to build a new Battered Women's Shelter in Charlotte. The new facility would increase the number of beds from 25 to 80.

Many insurance companies and compliance and risk employees in Ballantyne Corporate Park have joined the organization, including Snyder's-Lance Group Inc., CorVel Corp., Harleysville Group, Liberty Mutual, The Remi Group, Chubb Group, Great American Insurance, Navigators Management Co. and Zenith Insurance.

Community Matters held a dodge ball tournament in April to kick off its efforts. For more info, contact Kimberly Sprott Mauldin at 704-910-9900 or visit www.communitymatterscharlotte.org.

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### UP CLOSE & PERSONAL

Meet your Neighbors

**Photos by Ray Sepesy** 

THEME-SONG FANTASIES of this issue's "Faces" range from "Just Fine" by Mary J. Blige to "Eye of the Tiger" by Survivor and "Let's Get It Started" by the Black Eyed Peas.

Tune in further and you'll find out who is a much-suffering Chicago Cubs fan, who sees double on the tennis court and who wouldn't be caught dead in floral print slacks.

Each issue, Faces offers a glimpse of fascinating people in and around Ballantyne, featuring everyone from business professionals, executives and elected officials to nonprofit leaders, stay-at-home moms, grandparents and community volunteers.

Just as Ballantyne consists of an array of people from all over the globe, so does Faces.
Mattoon, Ill., Forest,
Miss. and the proverbial
City of Brotherly
Love, Philadelphia, are where this edition's personalities hail from.
Now they either live, work or like to hang out in Ballantyne. Meet Keith Haskett, Maggie Jennings and Terri Sanz.



### **KEITH HASKETT**

Birthplace: Mattoon, Ill.

**Job:** Vice president of operations at ATTUS Technologies. Board member of the Charlotte Regional Technology Executives Council.

### What do you like most about your job?

I really enjoy the people I come to work with every day. We try to have fun and make it a priority to give back to our community.

### What's your guilty pleasure?

For the last several years, it's been watching Chicago Cubs baseball — ugh, hours of my life I'll never get back. As a true fan and eternal optimist, I do believe "Next year is our year!"

### Do you live in Ballantyne?

I used to. I miss all that Ballantyne has to offer, but we love our current neighborhood, The Palisades, close to Lake Wylie. There are tons of kids, golf, tennis, soccer fields and the Palisades Episcopal School all within a mile of our house

### What is your favorite Ballantyne-area restaurant?

The Blue Taj, especially the Chicken Tikka Masala. I debated on making this my guilty pleasure above.

#### Describe your dream vacation.

Without kids: eating and drinking my way throughout Italy. With kids: doing the Volkswagen van trip and seeing the Chicago Cubs play in every park we can over a summer.

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

"Eye of the Tiger" by Survivor.

#### What is your favorite news source?

Using the social media dashboard, HootSuite, I get a lot of my news through Twitter, LinkedIn and Facebook.

### I would be rather caught dead than wear \_\_\_\_\_

A St. Louis Cardinals jersey.

#### What charitable organizations are you involved with? Why?

My favorite charities give back to children and families who are less fortunate. Sharon and Wendy do an amazing job with Kids First of the Carolinas. Some of my other favorites are the Urban Ministry Center, Second Harvest, Hands On Charlotte and the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation.

### What would people never guess about you?

I wouldn't say I am a thrill seeker, but I don't avoid adventures either. I have been sky diving, bungee jumping and zip lining. I love roller coasters and have hiked the Grand Canyon. I am going to Belize this spring and hope to add to the list.





### **MAGGIE JENNINGS**

Birthplace: Forest, Miss., the 10th of 11 siblings. Job: Financial services representative at First Citizens Bank.

What do you like most about your job?

I love the relationship-building aspect of my job.

What's your guilty pleasure?

My brother's homemade pecan pie.

Do you live in Ballantyne?

No, but I work in the area.

What is your favorite Ballantyne-area restaurant? Ruby Tuesday.

What is your favorite outdoor activity? Running.

Describe your dream vacation.

A trip to Hawaii with my nieces and my sisters.

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

"Just Fine" by Mary J. Blige.

What is your favorite news source? News14 Carolina.

I would be rather caught dead than wear\_ Floral print pants.

What charitable organizations are you involved with? Why?

I visit the elderly in low-income and governmentsupported housing through an outreach ministry at my church. I love putting a smile on the faces of people who seldom or never have visitors. They need to know they are not forgotten.

What is your biggest pet peeve?

People questioning me about why I didn't answer my cell phone when they called.

What is a hidden gem in Ballantyne? The greenways.

What would people never guess about you? I was a tomboy growing up. I loved to fish and climb trees.

### **TERRI SANZ**

Birthplace: Philadelphia. Moved to Charlotte as a 5 year old.

Job: League coordinator for the Charlotte Tennis Association's challenge ladder.

### What do you like most about your job?

Getting new players addicted to the game of tennis — a sport for a lifetime. I also enjoy running the playoff tournament at the end of each season and seeing the camaraderie from new friendships created during the season.

### What's your guilty pleasure?

A massage once a month from Shannon at Massage Envy in Ballantyne Village. Although it may not be "pleasurable" at times when she works on my muscle knots, it's good for my health.

### Do you live in Ballantyne?

Yes, Ballantyne Country Club.

#### What is your favorite Ballantyne-area restaurant?

Firebirds in StoneCrest.

#### Describe your dream vacation.

It would include a tropical island for lounging as well as playing tennis with my tennis idol, Andre Agassi. Believe it or not, a few months ago my husband pulled off half of that fantasy by surprising me with a trip to Philadelphia (not exactly a tropical island) to play tennis with Agassi and Jimmy Connors. Then I got to watch the two of them, plus Pete Sampras and Jim Courier, play some matches. It was awesome! Now we'll work on the tropical island part.

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

"Let's Get It Started" by the Black Eyed Peas.

#### What is your favorite news source?

Fox News.

#### What is your biggest pet peeve?

People who don't follow through on commitments. I would rather someone say "no" to me upfront than make a promise he or she can't (or doesn't intend to) keep.

#### What is a hidden gem in Ballantyne?

Although the movie theater in Ballantyne Village doesn't appear hidden, many people still don't know about it. It's a gem because it's not crowded, you can have a glass of wine while watching a movie and sit in a premium, comfy seat.

### What would people never guess about you?

I have double vision. During my first year in college, I contracted a rare disease that caused a blood clot under my retina, close to my center of vision in my right eye. By burning a hole in the retina to stop the bleeding and save my vision, it created a permanent blind spot that causes me to see double. This would amaze some people since I play a great deal of tennis, which is difficult to do with double vision!



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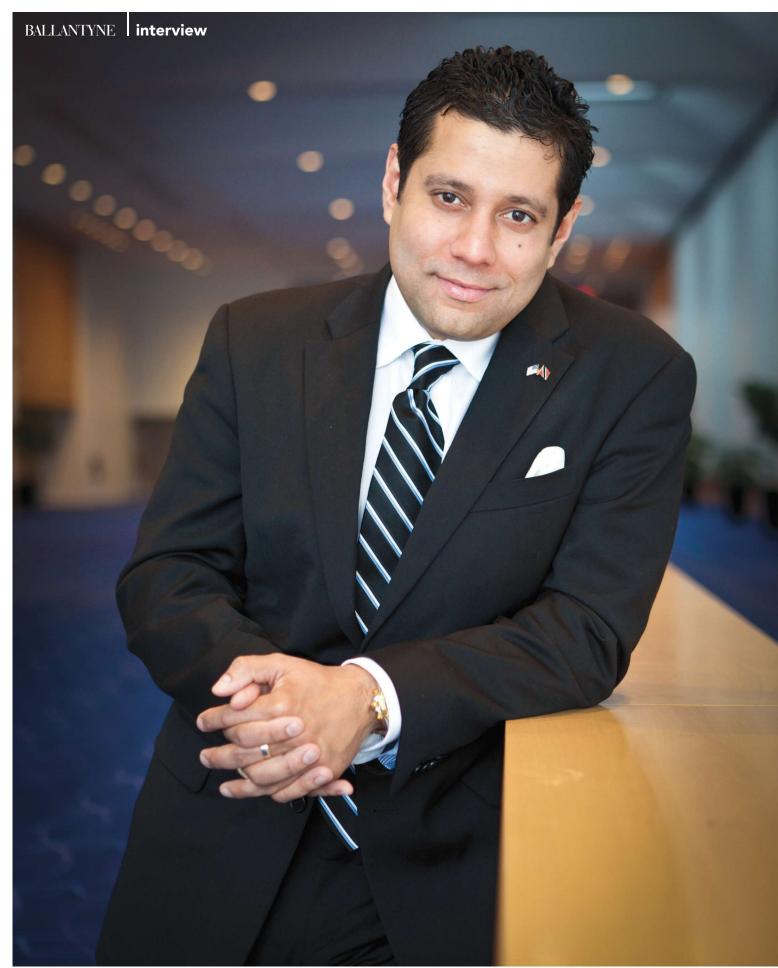


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### Caribbean Connector

### Trinidad and Tobago Ambassador Drops by Ballantyne

By Tony Mecia Photos by Jessica Milligan

WHEN YOU'RE AN AMBASSADOR, connecting people is a big part of the job.

That's just what Dr. Neil Parsan did during his visit to Charlotte in late February. Parsan, 40, serves as ambassador to the United States for the country of Trinidad and Tobago. His two-day whirlwind visit included a series of speeches, meetings and tours — including a stop in Ballantyne.

At first blush, Parsan's small island country off the Venezuelan coast might seem to have little in common with Charlotte. But in an interview, Parsan said he sees many connections between the two — and he is working to build them up. He has served as ambassador for a year, following private-sector stints in business and medicine.

"What is particularly interesting about Charlotte is Charlotte is a microcosm of our environment in the Caribbean, in terms of its cultural diversity, its people diversity, in terms of leverageable business opportunities," he says. "Charlotte surely has opportunities to gain from interacting with the Caribbean."

Underscoring the diversity of Charlotte's international population, Parsan met with Caribbean nationals, many of whom are successful entrepreneurs and business owners.

#### **Business Commonalities**

Then there are the economic similarities. Like Charlotte, Trinidad and Tobago has booming energy and financial sectors that have contributed mightily to its wealth. As the Caribbean's leading producer of liquefied natural gas, the country is a major U.S. energy supplier.

At the same time, Parsan's country — like Charlotte — wants to broaden its economy. It's building a racing industry. "We have nothing like what you have here, but it's an active sport," he says. In Trinidad and Tobago, cricket rules the day.

The country also wants to increase tourism, which is why Parsan toured the NASCAR Hall of Fame uptown and the SpringHill Suites on Johnston Road in Ballantyne — to learn how tourist attractions and hotels are organized in Charlotte.

"Culturally, there is a fit. We're both business-centric," he says. "We are looking for American business opportunities in Trinidad and Tobago, and I also want to know what can I sell on behalf of the city for people to come and invest here."

### Breaking the Ice

Those relationships are still in the early stages, he says, but his visit was designed to break the ice and start discussions.

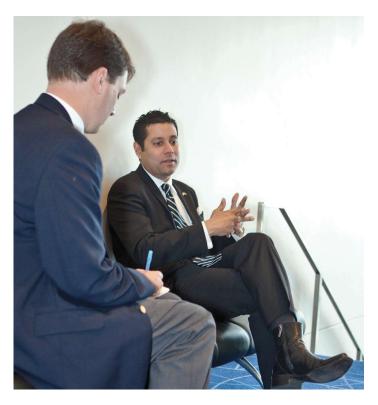
One of the final connections Parsan made on his Charlotte trip was a personal one, with Charlotte Mayor Anthony Foxx. Parsan discovered he and Foxx are the same age — Parsan is just four months younger. "We chatted about our interest in looking at collaboration on tourism and economic issues," he says.

Parsan says he invited Foxx to visit Trinidad and Tobago, but he understands that Foxx is busy this year helping plan for the arrival of the Democratic National Convention, so he understands if there's no trip in the immediate future.

After Charlotte, Parsan was returning to Washington, where he is posted and his wife and children live. Then it's off to other cities, where he'll have a goal similar to the one he had in the Queen City: forging connections.

"What is particularly interesting about Charlotte is Charlotte is a microcosm of our environment in the Caribbean."

- Ambassador Neil Parsan



SUMMER 2012

BALLANTYNE MAGAZINE

# SUITING UP

COMPANY SPORTS TEAMS IN BALLANTYNE TAKE THE FIELD

BY NAN BAUROTH











eing a team player at many Ballantyne corporations today is taking on new meaning — playing on a company sports team. Football, basketball, softball, volleyball, cricket, golf — you name it, employees at area businesses are suiting up at the end of the day, ready to play.

"Our inaugural season was last fall," reports Bill Houser, manager of corporate accounting, business unit operations at SPX Corp. He led a grassroots effort with co-workers to start a softball team. "We began with 11 players, and then we got SPX sponsorship. Now we've developed to 25 employees, with 30 players on the roster, including friends and family."

To Houser's surprise, their initial season in the SportsLink softball league at Park Road Park turned into an "almost" championship season.

"In our first game, we were a little like the Bad News Bears," he recalls with amusement. "We swung at everything that came across the plate and made our share of errors in the field." But afterward, an opposing player advised that if they stuck with it, the team would eventually gel. "We began chalking up wins, and by postseason we won a couple of games back-to-back and went all the way to the championships. We didn't win, but we made a strong run at it."

An inaugural season turning into a championship season isn't all that rare for Ballantyne companies.

#### **ESPNU Debuts Strong**

ESPNU, which started a softball team in 2006, won the Charlotte Park and Rec league championship in its division that year. "We were just trying to get out and exercise, but we had so much fun," says Jim Reed, supervising director of the network, who organized the team. "We had a great team — two former college baseball players, plus a lot of good athletes, so we ran away with the league. Every game we would win by slaughter rule."

Reed adds that the night they won the championship, they trotted into the bar at the Fox & Hound restaurant in Ballantyne toting their huge trophy. "That's the only time I've ever done anything like that," he laughs.

The men's softball team at Snyder's-Lance also made it to the SportsLink championship its debut season. "Our first year we made it to the finals," says Derek Wong, an associate brand

**Left**: Six Premier teams played in a flag football tournament at Bank of America Stadium. Ken Hoying (from left), Scott Pope, Alven Weil, Marcellus Summerville were among the players.

manager for the company, who currently plays pitcher and outfielder. "We finished near the bottom during the regular season, but then we beat two top teams in the playoffs to get us to the finals."

The team — now dubbed "The Cape Cod Potato Chips" for one of the brands that Wong markets — has a mix of employees from the Ballantyne office and the manufacturing plant. Snyder's-Lance also has a coed softball team made up of employees and friends that participates in the SportsLink leagues. You can learn more about the leagues at www. sportslinkus.com.

#### **Playing for Health**

Premier, a national health-care alliance, puts its money where its mouth is by sponsoring its own football, basketball, kickball and volleyball leagues, along with pickup soccer and cricket games. The company contracts with the Y to schedule, staff and run the leagues on Field 7 behind its building in Ballantyne Corporate Park or at the Morrison YMCA. Premier pays for employees to participate in hopes they will stay healthier

Ashley Watts, product support specialist at Premier, was one of two females who played on one of the company's five hoops teams. "I played volleyball and basketball in high school and college, so I like to stay active," she says.

After having a child last summer, the matches helped get her back into shape. Each team had a roster of 10 players, but if only five showed up, she played the entire game. Teams played one or two nights a week, and held their own version of March Madness.

Last summer Morgan Bridges, public relations specialist for Premier, joined one of the company's four sand volleyball teams, "Serves You Right." The team played one night a week for an hour. "You get exercise with your co-workers and see their personalities in a different light," she says. "Before, we'd walk by one another and never say hello, but now we have conversations."

For David Nottingham, manager of technical services at Premier, pickup soccer games are a way of enjoying the game and keeping his blood sugar in check. "I love to watch the sport, play the sport — everything about it," he says. "I play here for the camaraderie and to meet new people but also for my health." Depending on who shows up, the team plays two vs. two, up to nine vs. nine.

This spring, a group from Premier's six flag football

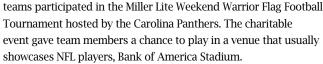




"In our first game, we were a little like the Bad News Bears. We swung at everything that came across the plate and made our share of errors in the field."

- SPX's Bill Houser





#### **Corporate Park Leader Board**

The Ballantyne Corporate Park Tenant Golf League has grown in popularity over the past four years. Running Wednesday nights for 10 weeks each spring and fall, the event kicks off at 5 p.m. as players hit range balls, enjoy a complimentary drink and then head out with their foursome to play nine holes. Social time in the Gallery Bar follows,



**Upper Left**: Premier's Alven Weil hauls in a pass.

**Center Top**: SPX team players celebrate during an evening game. **Right**: Jason Myers tosses the ball to warm up with a Snyder's-Lance teammate.

**Bottom Left**: Premier's employees keep fit with outdoor volleyball.

ending at 7:30 p.m.

"We created this league to create a sense of community, to allow tenants to network and de-stress from work during mid-week," says Woody Allen, golf director at The Golf Club at Ballantyne. "Players become relaxed and engaged, which is great because these people are competitive but with a fun spirit."

Tenants e-mail Allen their list of players by Friday and he pairs everyone up, mixing and matching as best he can. He also switches the format around to keep it interesting for all levels.

State Farm has the largest group. "I'm a golf enthusiast, and The Golf Club at Ballantyne has one of the best public courses in

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Charlotte," says Byron Nickens, State Farm claims representative, who has played since the inception of the league. He also loves the convenience. "In the business world you don't have time for 18 holes of golf on weekdays or weekends, when you have family commitments. Here, you get to play, but it only consumes two hours, and at a great price. It's a win-win."

State Farm Claims Supervisor Dennis Ward, who has participated for two years, found the league a great way to meet people when he first arrived. "I developed relationships with my co-workers and others in Ballantyne," he recalls. "The first few weeks we had some guys from Bank of America on our team, and it was a blast getting to know them." Ward also appreciates the attention to players' needs. "Bissell does a first-class operation. They are on top of anything we need."

#### This is Cricket!

Another sport that has become popular with local employees is cricket. "One of the great things about living in this area since I relocated from New Jersey has been having the opportunity to play cricket again," recalls Anu Dixit, an assistant vice president in information technology for AXA Equitable Life Insurance Co.

After participating on one of Charlotte's 10 cricket teams, Dixit discovered that 7 percent of the population in ZIP code 28277 hails from Southeast Asia, so he formed the Charlotte Ballantyne Cricket Club. Of the 18 members, four currently work at AXA, several are employed at Wells Fargo and Bank of America, one is an eye doctor and one owns a small business.



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#### BALLANTYNE | feature

Plantation Park Apartments has been a boon to the club, which returns the favor by referring students and families from Southeast Asia who are finishing their degrees here and need somewhere to live. EmbroidMe in Ballantyne has also given support for jerseys.

The club plays a "30 overs" game, meaning each match can last six hours on a Saturday or Sunday. The team will play 18 matches this season in the Carolina Cricket League, which is comprised of teams from North Carolina. Most of the teams are in the Greensboro and Charlotte areas. The 10 teams in Charlotte also include the Ballantyne Chasers Cricket Club, which formed this year. Dixit founded the Charlotte Ballantyne Cricket Club several years ago.



The softball team at Snyder's-Lance is known as The Cape Cod Potato Chips. Team member Derek Wong relays the ball from outfield.



The Ballantyne Cricket Club plays an 18-game season.

"You get exercise with your co-workers and see their personalities in a different light. Before, we'd walk by one another and never say hello, but now we have conversations."

> — Premier's Morgan Bridges



Basketball is one of several employee sports teams sponsored by Premier, a national health-care alliance.

"I have a real passion for this sport," says Deepak Shenoy, who has been playing with the older club since last May. He's particularly excited that the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools now offer cricket in their physical education syllabus.

Ketal Patel, who owns a motel near Ballantyne, says his fellow cricketers are fantastic. "They like to play hard and enjoy the game. We have also become good friends."

Talk with anyone playing a sport in Ballantyne that is filled with corporate employees and they'll tell you that getting exercise, building relationships and indulging their love for a sport are a winning combination.

The teams also can inspire a sense of teamwork at the companies themselves. "I've been surprised that people at SPX who are not on our team have banded together to support us," Houser says. "It's grown from a group of employees who wanted to play softball, into water-cooler conversations and comments before meetings, to employees actually coming out and sitting in the bleachers to root for us."

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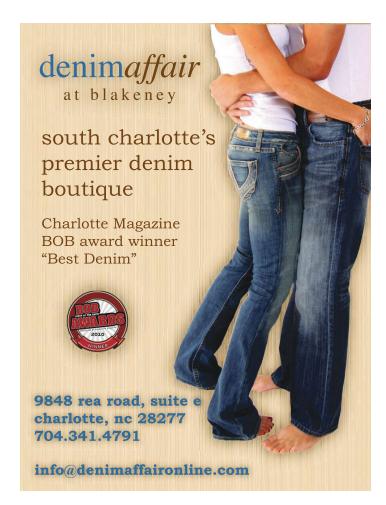
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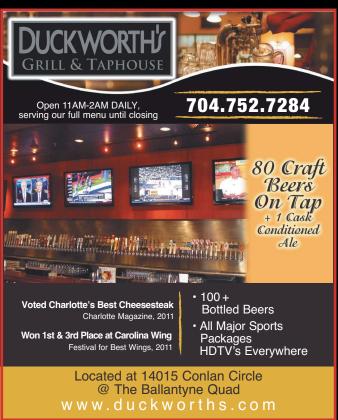
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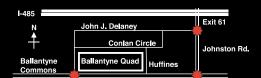
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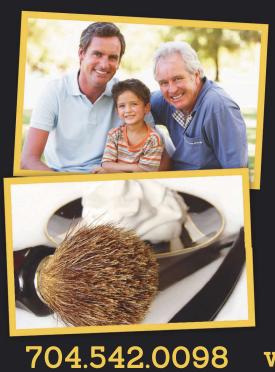
















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# Drink In the Fun

#### Create Your Own Signature Summer Cocktail

By Alison Penland, Charlotte Mixologist Photos by Ray Sepesy

IF RECORD-HIGH SPRING TEMPERATURES were any indication of what to expect during the coming months, Charlotteans had better prepare for a sweltering summer. As the heat index rises, keep your outdoor entertaining cool with signature libations that pack a refreshing punch and take summer socializing to the next level.

Creating a signature cocktail is easy — tinker with a standard favorite drink and incorporate a splash and a dash of your personality. It adds an element of fun to parties that your guests won't soon forget.

When devising your signature drink during these humid, hot months, think about infusing fresh fruits, vegetables and herbs and using lighter spirits such as gin and vodka to make brightly colored, refreshing combinations. A drink can go terribly wrong if there are too many flavors, so choose one or two liquors with one or two fruits and maybe an herb or spice. Be adventurous but stay within the comfort zone of your guests.

There are three primary components to a great cocktail: sweet, sour and the spirit. While you can always add subtle nuances to a drink, the foundation of all cocktails is the same, and balance is the key. Consideration should also be given to the season and what occasion the drink is for. Are you celebrating a specific holiday? Is someone graduating or getting married? Perhaps one of your guests

A common summertime favorite, Bellinis are typically prepared with peaches. But you can change up the ingredients and create a "Bellini Blast" that will fire up a Fourth of July celebration. The drink's simple syrup provides sweetness; fruits add an element of tartness; and Prosecco serves as the spirit.

is jetting to an exotic vacation spot.

Set this up as a help-yourself Bellini bar, and guests can show their patriotism with their choice of red or blue-hued drinks (or a combination of both). For a nonalcoholic version, just replace the Prosecco with chilled sparkling water or club soda.

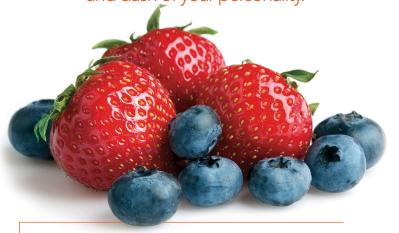
Get your juices flowing and start thinking outside the glass to create your own signature cocktails — and have a cool, refreshing summer.



**ALISON PENLAND** 

A former personal chef and caterer, Charlotte resident Alison Penland enjoys sharing her love of food and drink with friends and family.

Tinker with a standard favorite drink and incorporate a splash and dash of your personality.



#### **BELLINI BLAST**

Serves 4 to 6

2 cups sugar

1 cup water

- 1, 16-ounce bag, frozen blueberries, thawed
- 1, 16-ounce bag, frozen strawberries, thawed
- 1-2 bottles Prosecco

Fresh strawberries and raspberries, for garnish Orange-peel twists, for garnish

Prepare a simple syrup by stirring the sugar and water in a large saucepan over medium heat until the sugar dissolves, in about 5 minutes. Set aside to cool completely.

Puree the blueberries in a food processor with  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup of the sugar syrup until smooth. Transfer to a glass bowl, cover and refrigerate until ready to use.

Clean the bowl of your food processor, then puree the strawberries with ½ cup of the sugar syrup until smooth. Transfer to another glass bowl, cover and refrigerate.

For each serving, scoop 2 to 4 tablespoons of the desired fruit puree into a champagne flute. Slowly pour enough Prosecco into the flute to fill. Gently stir to blend. Garnish as desired with the whole berries or orange-peel twists. Enjoy!



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"Buy me some peanuts and Cracker Jacks. I don't care if I never get back."

> From "Take Me Out to the Ball Game,"
>  Jack Norworth and Albert Von Tilzer

was a first. And they had so much fun, they actually do care if they ever get back.

In case this is your first time picking up Ballantyne Magazine (Welcome!), Date Night is one of our most popular regular features. The story follows a local couple over the course of a planned evening as they explore — and share with us — some of the entertainment and dining options available to residents of the neighborhood.

Come baseball season, plenty of Ballantyne residents make the short hop to Fort Mill to take in a game. So the magazine sent the aptly named Knight and his companion to Knights Castle for a heated contest between Charlotte's own AAA team and the rival Durham Bulls.

Play ball!

#### The VIP Treatment

Professional baseball has been an integral part of Charlotte since 1901, when the Charlotte Hornets played for the North Carolina League (and later the South Atlantic League) and brought numerous baseball titles to the Piedmont. Legendary players like Cal Ripken, Eddie Murray, Curt Schilling, Steve



COUPLE ENJOYS EVENING AT THE OLD BALL GAME

By Sean O'Connell Photos by Shane Baskin

THE IRONY OF THE LYRICS to baseball's unofficial anthem wasn't lost on William Knight and Jennifer Hippert, the latest couple to participate in a Date Night on behalf of Ballantyne Magazine. Though the two had been to minor league baseball games in other states, their visit to Charlotte Knights Stadium for an evening of sports, entertainment and ballpark cuisine

Finley, Jim Thome, Manny Ramirez, Mark Lewis, Albie Lopez and Chad Ogea have all played for Charlotte baseball teams during the city's illustrious history with Major League Baseball.

The Charlotte Knights, an affiliate of the Chicago White Sox, joined the International League in 1993. Over the years, they have been a farm team for the Cleveland Indians and the Florida Marlins, teaming with the White Sox in 1999.

Though they regularly draw steady crowds, providing excellent entertainment for families seeking a night at the ballpark, the Knights hosted a pair of newcomers in William and Jennifer.

"I used to live in Charleston, and we would go to RiverDogs games all the time," Jennifer says. "I don't know why we have never been to the Knights. We're active people, but we like to backpack or go to a concert. This was a first."

It won't be a last. Jennifer and William say the evening was magical, making for a surprisingly engaging date.

Jennifer says she was into the vibe of Knights Castle from the moment that she entered the gates. "Just that feeling when

#### BALLANTYNE | date night

What's baseball without hot dogs? Jennifer and William don't want to know.



Jennifer says she was into the vibe of Knights Castle from the moment that she entered the gates.



walking in, everything seems so big and so alive," she recalls. "The grass is so green, and you really get that happy, electrical feeling in the air. You just felt that energy, that everyone was there to have a great time."

"I've never been to a Major League Baseball game," William adds. "I prefer the minor league games because everything's much more accessible, from the field to the concessions. You can have fun without it being a production."

The couple praised the Knights staff for the hospitality and VIP treatment that evening. Their first stop was the team's official pro shop, where they picked up Charlotte Knights shirts for the game.

From there, they grabbed hot dogs and pints of Olde Mecklenburg Brewery beers from the official OMB Beer Garden at the stadium

before heading to their seats.

They soon had company. "Homer came right over to our seats," Jennifer says, adding with a laugh that the team's mascot "doesn't have very nice manners."

"He was picking his nose! He tried to eat me by biting my head," she says.

Homer is but one attraction for families heading to Knights Castle, but Jennifer says without hesitation that it's also an ideal spot for couples looking for something different to do. "It definitely was. And for people who enjoy an adult beverage, Thursday nights are a great time to go because

# The Charlotte KNIGHTS

2280 Deerfield Drive Fort Mill, S.C. 29715 704-357-8071 (N.C.) 803-548-8050 (S.C.) http://www.milb.com/index.jsp?sid=t494 they have \$1 beers and the Olde Meck brews, which were absolutely wonderful.

"You know what it was? Living in a big city, it can be hard to find your niche," she continues. "And being there, we really felt like we were a part of a larger community, of this big city. It was really nice."

#### **Uptown Knights**

And both Jennifer and William say it would be even nicer if they could see the Knights in the actual city of Charlotte. They totally support the effort to build a new stadium for the team in uptown Charlotte, and think they'd definitely attend more games if the team played there.

"If you look at the towns that have done that (moved a team to a downtown area), Durham and Greenville included, it has really done a lot," Knight says. "Not just for the team, but for the town, in general. I know that it would give a lot more fans the opportunity to get to the park. I know we'd get down there and go to games more often."

And they'd be attending as Mr. and Mrs. Knight. As it turns out, days before the couple went to Knights Castle for Date Night, William popped the question and Jennifer accepted.

"They actually put our names up on the jumbotron at the stadium," Jennifer recalls. "They put 'William and Jennifer, here for Date Night.' It was really sweet."

Almost as sweet as this: The night they went to the game, the Knights topped the Bulls by the score of 5-2.

Root, root, root for the home team — indeed.  $\Box$ 

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State Farm, Home Office, Bloomington, IL

hen Sammy Koenigsberg left his architecture career in 1991 to become a farmer, people figured he was some kind of hippie.

He started growing vegetables on five acres in Waxhaw. Restaurants didn't understand why they should buy from him instead of from their big suppliers, and there were few ways for him to sell directly to the public. Even Koenigsberg's own parents were skeptical of his career move.

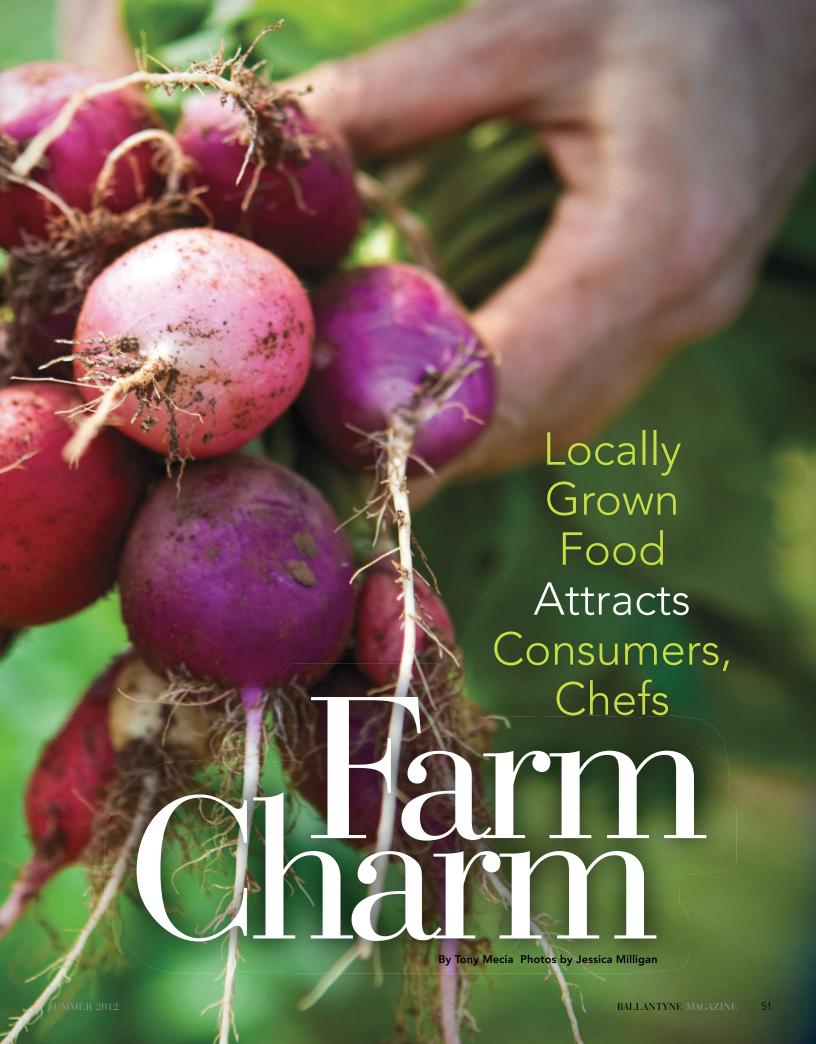
Fast forward to 2012. Today Koenigsberg, 48, is at the center of one of the hottest culinary trends of the last few years: locally grown food. The economics of a family farm remain tough, he says, but demand for his crops is way up from where it was two decades ago. Now, he supplies some of Charlotte's top restaurants with fresh vegetables. People swarm his booth at the Matthews Community Farmers' Market.

And because he sells so much of what he grows, he has capped his weekly deliveries of produce at about 60 families a year, even though he could sell dozens more at an annual cost of \$650. His parents even brag on him now.

Koenigsberg says consumers are becoming increasingly aware of how locally grown foods are healthier and better tasting than food from far away. "Eating is such an anonymous thing we have no idea where it came from or how it was grown," he says. "As soon as people started learning more about it, I went from being laughed at to having a calendar full of speaking engagements all over the place."

To be sure, the market for farm-





#### BALLANTYNE | feature





The number of farmers markets nationally has exploded — a trend reflected in the Charlotte area.





to-table food is still small. Direct-to-consumer sales of agriculture account for less than one-half of 1 percent of all agriculture sales, up only slightly from 10 years earlier, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

#### Signs of Growth

But there are signs of growth. The number of farmers markets nationally has exploded, nearly doubling to more than 5,200 in 2009 — a trend reflected in the Charlotte area. A survey by the National Restaurant Association found that 89 percent of fine-dining restaurants served at least some locally sourced items. And even big-chain grocery stores have started calling attention to their fruits and vegetables that are locally grown.



Alexis Weaver (left) and Carolyn Erickson pick up weekly produce at Bird House on the Greenway in Piper Glen.



Koenigsberg and people in south Charlotte who work with local food say consumers have become more interested in the source of their foods in recent years.

Contributing to that movement, they say, were the 2006 book "The Omnivore's Dilemma" by Michael Pollan and the 2008 documentary "Food, Inc." — which examined the environmental consequences of the modern U.S. food supply network. Occasional recalls of such items as strawberries, spinach and broccoli have also played a role, they say.

That's the path Carol Buie-Jackson took. She read "The Omnivore's Dilemma," which started her thinking about the environmental costs of food traveling all over the country en route to her table.

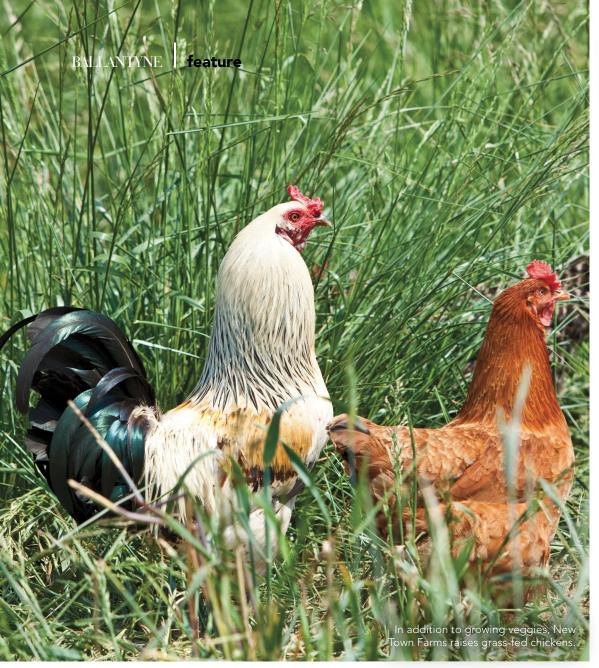
She started looking for locally produced vegetables and

meats. She joined Koenigsberg's co-op, New Town Farms, and even let him distribute his crops to Ballantyne residents and others through her Piper Glen wild-bird supply store, Bird House on the Greenway. She knew her transformation was complete when she received a gift card for Ruth's Chris Steak House and just couldn't bring herself to eat there.

#### Eating 'In Season'

Buie-Jackson, 50, says she tries to eat local foods as much as possible. She has learned to "eat in the right season." This isn't Florida or California — fruits and vegetables grow only certain times of year, which can create dilemmas of its own.

"It's really hard when it's November and you're craving blueberries on your pancakes," she says. "You have to make



There are about 25 farmers markets or roadside stands in Mecklenburg County, with most springing up in the last three to five years.





**Above**: Radishes at New Town Farms are readied for market.

**Left**: Cooking demos at the Matthews farmers market show consumers how to use local foods. Here, Chef Joe Bonaparte makes breakfast tacos.



# **VEG OUT:**Try the Unfamiliar

The idea sounds nice: Buy a share of a local farm, support a local farmer and receive a beautiful bounty of fresh, locally grown vegetables every week in the summer.

But the truth is, when those vegetables arrive, they're probably not the same ones you've been buying at the store for years to feed your family. Many people have never cooked a lot of the vegetables routinely grown at small farms in the Charlotte region.

"Rutabaga, bok choy, ichiban eggplant ... these are typically some of the things people say they have no idea what to do with," says Kristin Davis, an extension agent with N.C. State University's cooperative extension program, which works with farmers.

Carol Buie-Jackson, who owns a shop in Piper Glen that's a delivery point for vegetables from Waxhaw's New Town Farms, says she's learned to experiment. "I eat my weight in kale," she says.

"Each week you get your box of vegetables, and it's going to go to waste if you just eat the same old things," she says. "It forces you to explore a lot of different foods."

For the record, she prefers her kale chopped, sautéed in onions and olive oil and seasoned with salt and pepper. She uses a similar preparation for Swiss chard and Brussels sprouts.

"The beauty of buying fresh is you don't have to do much to it," she says. "Don't dress it up, and don't smother it in gravies or cheeses. Lightly cook it." The freshness and flavor come through.

a decision: Am I going to get blueberries even if I don't know where they came from? I won't say that I'm perfect. I cave. But I'm much more aware of it."

Like many people with Ballantyne-area ties, Buie-Jackson sees more local food at restaurants. She also gets her vegetables from New Town Farms and buys local meat at the Matthews Community Farmers' Market on Saturday mornings.

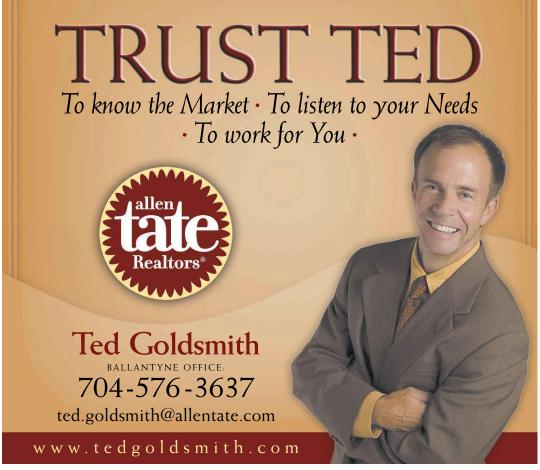
Pauline Wood, the market's manager, says the philosophy of eating local food really took off about five years ago. She sees the growth in customers and farmers. Today the market has as many as 45 vendors selling produce, meat, honey, bakery items and crafts. The Matthews market is one of the only ones in the Charlotte area that requires everything sold to have been grown or made within 50 miles of the market, as opposed to markets where distributors sell produce from other parts of the country.

There are about 25 farmers markets or roadside stands in Mecklenburg County, with most springing up in the last three to five years, according to the N.C. Cooperative Extension Service.

#### **Chefs Buying Local**

But not only consumers are buying local produce
— local chefs are, too.
The National Restaurant
Association's annual survey of chefs revealed that the
Top 10 "hot trends" of 2012 include locally sourced meats and seafood, locally grown produce and locally produced beer and wine.





#### BALLANTYNE | feature



A national survey of chefs revealed that the Top 10 "hot trends" of 2012 include locally sourced meats and seafood, locally grown produce and locally produced beer and wine.



Gallery Restaurant features Baucom's Best in their Chicken Duet.



"Being able to see where it comes from and purchase it and have a story for our guests, that's huge for us," says Kelly Morrow, chef de cuisine at Gallery Restaurant. Gallery buys a wide variety of local foods, including beef, chicken, herbs, greens, baby squash, tomatoes and mushrooms. One local woman even sells the restaurant figs that she grows, which the Gallery chefs use to make jams and jellies.

The most popular locally sourced dish is Gallery's burger, the

six-ounce Baucom's Burger, made from natural grass-fed beef from rural Union County, and placed on an onion roll made at a Fort Mill bakery.

Bernard Brunet, chef/owner of Global Restaurant off Johnston Road, says there's no comparison in taste between a beet or baby turnip he receives from New Town Farms and one he buys at a supermarket. "It's just more earthy," he says. "It explodes in your mouth." He likes the idea of buying locally, he says, because it helps him put the highest quality food on his customers' plates. "They appreciate it because they see we support local," Brunet says. "It's a commitment to making sure it tastes the way it's supposed to taste."

Koenigsberg, the farmer, says that despite the big increase in popularity of local food over the years, he's not seeing many new farms. Land around Charlotte is expensive, the work is hard and small farms typically cannot produce food as cheaply as larger, mechanized operations.

"It's got to be something you really want to do and you love," he notes. His employees consist of two part-time workers and his family, including his and his wife's eight children.

He says there's more work to be done to increase local food options available to consumers, starting with the production of more local agriculture.

But, he says, "We've come a long way in 20 years."

## Want a Farm Share?

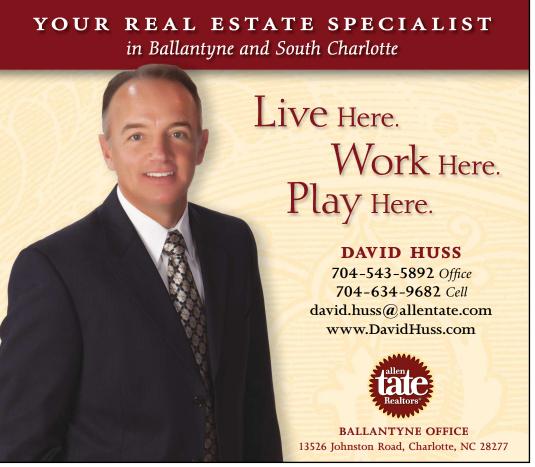
There are plenty of resources to find out more about local farms that sell directly to consumers, an enterprise collectively known as Community-Supported Agriculture, or "CSAs."

Typically, people pay a set fee for a share of the crops produced on a farm and receive weekly deliveries from spring into fall.

On the Internet, go to:

- www.localharvest.org
- www.nc10percent.com
- www.mecklenburg.ces.ncsu.edu





# **BISTRO ON WHEELS**

#### Roaming Fork Food Truck Makes Ballantyne Stop

By Sean O'Connell Photos by Ray Sepesy

WHEN ORLANDO, FLA., RESIDENT KELLI CRISAN looked at Charlotte from a distance, she recognized a need.

She'd recently moved to the Queen City after spending nearly 40 years in central Florida. But she couldn't find a decent food truck, like the ones she enjoyed back home.

"I asked a friend, 'Where are the food trucks here?' They are the trend," Crisan recalls. Two weeks after that conversation, Crisan read an article in Creative Loafing about Charlotte's need for more food trucks. For this entrepreneur, it was a sign from above.

Crisan and her business partner, Lanka Bazantova, then poured their time and resources into Roaming Fork, a mobile food truck that caters to hungry Charlotteans on the go. They found a truck for sale in Mooresville, and have kept the pedal to the proverbial metal ever since. They opened their business in May 2010.

The Roaming Fork stops in the Ballantyne Corporate Park at the Brixham Tent on Thursdays between 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. It also serves the University area, Plaza-Midwood and SouthPark. The schedule can be found at www.RoamingFork.net. Roaming Fork is also active on social media, so be sure to follow it on Facebook or @roamingforkNC on Twitter.

#### **Eclectic Cuisine**

"We came up with a concept for eclectic-styled food — not one particular dish except for our blackened fish tacos, which seem to be the dish that everybody loves," Crisan says.

After the tacos, the two staples of the Roaming Fork menu appear to be barbecue chicken and grilled cheese — sometimes even mixed together to create a sandwich.

"It's crazy good," Crisan says. "Calorie count? Don't look at that part. But if you just want to have a breakaway lunch, to try something that's unique and different that you can't find in restaurants, that's where Roaming Fork is the key."

It wasn't always this way. Two years ago, Crisan was working as a regional sales director for a builder in Florida. "(I was) making six-plus figures. I had been in the real estate business for more than 25 years," she says.

But she was unhappy, and she was looking for something different. Most notably, she was looking for a change in seasons. The Florida sun was too much. She started researching new cities, found Charlotte and fell in love.



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The food truck visits Ballantyne and other Charlotte sites.



Blackened fish tacos are Roaming Fork's most requested order.



If it's Thursday lunch, then Roaming Fork is at Ballantyne Corporate Park's Brixham Green.

# **ROAMING FORK**BISTRO ON WHEELS

WWW.ROAMINGFORK.NET

@roamingforkNC

#### BLACKENED FISH TACOS: TWO POPULAR STYLES

No matter when you visit the Roaming Fork, you are likely to find the blackened fish tacos. It's the most popular dish on the bustling food truck's menu, says owner-operator Kelli Crisan.

But, depending on the season, the taco might have a different flavor. "In the summertime, we do a roasted corn salsa with tomatoes and all kinds of goodness in it," Crisan says. "But in the winter and spring, we do the mango slaw, the peach salsa and ingredients like that.

"We take a dish that everybody loves, and we create it two different ways," she notes.

The day this writer tried the tacos they came with the mango seasoning. It was delicious. Served with a heaping side of Parmesan fries, the tacos were tangy and cool yet mildly spicy and loaded with flavor.

Part of the reason for the dish's popularity might be that many of the ingredients are grown locally.

"We try to use a lot of the different farmers markets around the area," Crisan says. "Plus, Friendship Trays (the nonprofit that helps Roaming Fork with its operations) has a garden that in the summertime we'll actually buy from. That money then goes right to the nonprofit as a donation."

So as you are helping yourself to a tasty, memorable lunch, know that you are also helping support one of Charlotte's well-known Meals on Wheels programs.

#### Charlotte's Friendliness

"Everywhere we went Charlotteans were so friendly," she recalls. "I loved the fact there was a culinary school, so that meant good restaurants."

But when she moved here in August 2009, there was one culinary aspect missing: the food trucks. "I'm a huge foodie. I love travel, food and wine," Crisan says.

Her father ran a pizza restaurant while she was growing up. Her passion for preparing and serving food extended to dinner parties and events as she matured. And now, it's her professional calling.

The Roaming Fork, like all food trucks, has a built-in kitchen for fresh food prep. The truck once hauled race cars but later was upfitted with what Crisan calls a small kitchen with a retro finish. That's how the truck was when she and her business partner bought it.

Crisan's day starts around 6:30 a.m. at the commercial-sized kitchen at Friendship Trays. The nonprofit, located in South End, does a lot of work for Meals on Wheels, and Roaming Fork hires workers from that kitchen. "We donate time and materials to that program as well," Crisan says.

Eventually, she and her partner might expand the operation, but not soon. "At this point in time, I'm just enjoying this," she says. "I'm doing very well. If it's meant to be, to do a Roaming Fork 2.0, then we'll do it."

Until then, hit the road and find the truck — before the culinary option rolls on to the next lucky location.  $\Box$ 









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# Picturesque Public Fountains Flow Widely in Ballantyne

By Nan Bauroth Photos by Cameron Triggs

rrivederci, Roma! When it comes to fountains, Ballantyne could rank as The Eternal City of the South. No matter where you go, an enchanting fountain beckons with a tranquil splash. These decorative water features adorn every major Ballantynearea shopping complex, designed to create a place for the people who live, work and play here to congregate.

Even Ballantyne's office parks have a love affair with fountains. Blakeney Professional Center showcases a fountain featuring native rock formations, while Ballantyne Corporate Park incorporates water jets spraying in a peaceful arc from lakes and ponds, lending a soothing element to the view.

You could spend an evening at a different fountain in Ballantyne every weekend of the summer, and at some, enjoy al fresco dining and free music. If you do, be sure to engage in the Roman tradition of throwing a coin over your shoulder into the fountain, knowing that since the coin goes to charity, your wish for happiness will be blessed.

#### The Fountains At Ardrey Kell

The Rococo fountain at The Fountains at Ardrey Kell is the Ballantyne equivalent of the Trevi Fountain in Rome. "We wanted to create a piazza with a European flair," says Bransen Patch of B.L. Patch & Associates, developer of the complex.

Designed by the late Robert
Freese of McGregor Fountains, the
decorative fountain features lions'
heads resembling gargoyles that
cascade water into descending
vasques (French for bowl). In
addition, four seated lions act as an
ornamental pedestal. Floodlights
illuminate the fountain, providing
a perfect backdrop for patio dining
and entertainment.

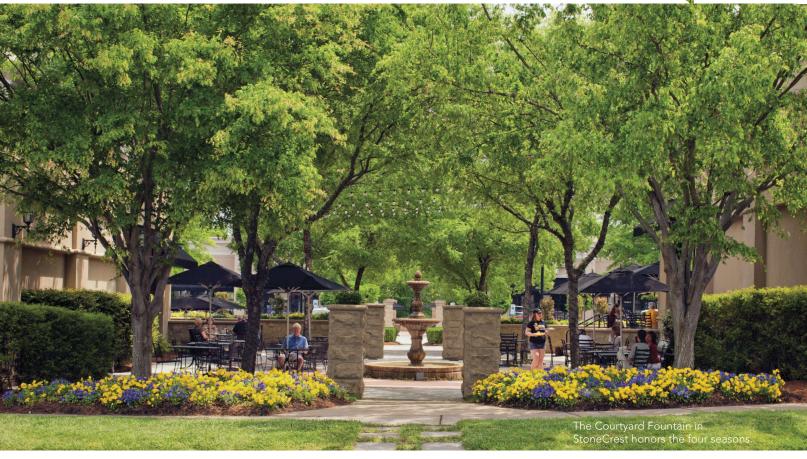


Patio dining is an option at The Fountains at Ardrey Kell.

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#### BALLANTYNE | feature







A second, smaller fountain with three jets shooting from an opening in a retaining wall into the lower pool provides another serene gathering spot within the complex. Patch notes that as the piazza concept emerged, Stephen Overcash of Overcash Demmit Architects suggested calling the complex "The Fountains at Ardrey Kell."

#### The Fountain Plaza, StoneCrest

Set on a promontory overlooking Rea Road, The Fountain Plaza in StoneCrest is the largest fountain in terms of number of jets — a parade of 63 shooting streams emanating from one pool. "When Crosland developed StoneCrest, the fountain was a way to create

attention but also buffer noise from traffic so people could enjoy outside dining," says Susan McGuire, principal with CNL Crosland Commercial Real Estate.

Crosland's plan worked to perfection. Bucolic lawns with stands of river birches, hollies and seasonal blooms flank the pool, making it an ideal children's play area. In addition to patio seating on both sides of the fountain, a sunken inner courtyard provides tables and chairs, along with a pavilion for bands that play during summer. At dusk, antique street lamps and twinkling tree lights light the space, imparting a romantic feel.

#### The Courtyard Fountain

Tucked away in a quiet courtyard garden between The Flying Biscuit and Boneheads, a second fountain in StoneCrest celebrates the four seasons of the year. Look closely and you'll find a snowflake, tulip, sunburst and autumn leaf sculpted on the pedestal and vasque. Water gurgles from the finial in teardrop fashion, gradually falling into the bottom bowl.

The Courtyard Fountain was constructed four years ago when Crosland, then serving as property manager for StoneCrest, converted the Children's Village into a more traditional retail mix.

"We needed to have a gathering spot for that side of the shopping center," says McGuire. The fountain and garden supplanted a playground, creating a surprising sanctuary in the midst of the busy retail center. Diners look out on a petite lawn with flowers, while tall planters provide a visual buffer from parking. Topiary trees

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and overhead lights create the impression of a Tuscan wine garden.

#### **Ballantyne Village**

With its neon lights and dancing jets, the fountain at Ballantyne Village is definitely the coolest around. The contemporary design of the stainless steel fountain mirrors Art Deco influences throughout the complex and complements the monumental crown topping the theater building. At night, the fountain puts on a neon show in concert with the crown's lights, which include two candlesticks and chasing lights encircling the tower.

Leon Putnam, director of technology and facilities for Ballantyne Village, says the LED lights can display more than one million color combinations and are programmed to suit the occasion. During summer the lights create a bright rainbow effect. On July 4, the show celebrates a red, white and blue theme. For Panthers games, the lights glow turquoise, and during Breast Cancer Awareness Week, pink.

The fountain's central jet, along with 24 smaller jets in the circular ring at its top, can send the water dancing in formations five-feet high. The dancing jets run from 8 a.m. to midnight, except in high wind. Light shows run each night year-round, from dusk to midnight, weather permitting. The semi-annual Mix at Six music series takes place around the fountain, which is also a venue for patio dining and other outdoor entertainment.

#### Ballantyne Commons East

The fountain at Ballantyne Commons East ranks as the largest single jet fountain in



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#### BALLANTYNE | feature

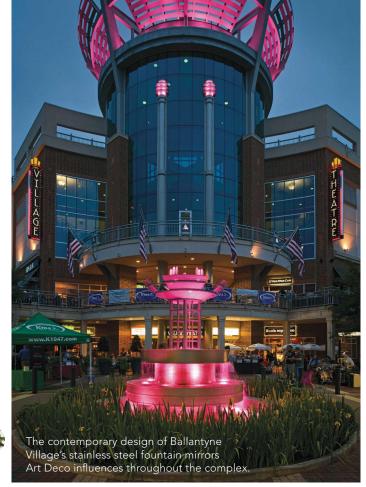
Ballantyne. Centered between two buildings, the three-tiered fountain is encircled by holly bushes in formal garden style, and bordered by roses and a spacious lawn with flowering trees. The fountain is lighted, and water turned pink during Breast Cancer Awareness Week.

#### The Ballantyne Hotel & Lodge

An elegant cast stone, cream-colored fountain greets visitors and guests at the entrance to The Ballantyne Hotel & Lodge. Designed with four tiers, the fountain has eight jets set inside its pool that spout water into the lower tier. A classic pineapple finial tops the fountain. Large vases of seasonal blooms grace the corners of the pool's seating edge, while crepe myrtles and other greenery landscaped around the fountain give it the feel of a lush garden.

#### The Brixham Green Connector

A four-tier fountain forms the center of attention at the Brixham Green Connector, one of the "pocket parks" within Ballantyne Corporate Park. This green space, designed as a gathering spot for employees at three nearby office buildings, includes a walking trail, picnic tables under a grove of trees and seasonal plantings. In summer, a tent is erected on one side of the fountain to provide





additional patio seating. The expansive lawns serve as the stage for a free family movie series sponsored by Crosspoint Church.

## Promenade On Providence

The sophisticated fountain in the Town Square at Promenade on Providence features a large sunken pool with steps leading down to eight center jets that create an eight-foot-high display. In addition, jets shoot water into it from seven imposing pillars ringing one side of the pool. The pool floor features a "Mother of Pearl" plaster finish.

During summer, Music and Movies on the Green is held under a pergola to one side of the fountain, providing free entertainment in a laid-back atmosphere. Opposite the Green, patio seating and esplanades lure shoppers and strollers.

#### Blakeney Professional Center

The most architecturally striking fountain in Ballantyne is in front of Blakeney Professional Center at Ardrey Kell and Rea roads. "We wanted to capture that corner with something that would be a focal point for the community," says George Macon, development partner for Merrifield Patrick Vermillion, developer of the center.

"The fountain represents a combination of hardscape in use with the walkways, pavers and indigenous rocks, with the softness of a fountain," he says. Charlotte artist and sculptor Boris Tomic, who designed the Ballantyne Arches, directed placement of the indigenous granite boulders within the pool. Ian Bruce, property operations

continued on page 95

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# The Right Stuff

For the Morins, It's Not the Years in their Life, But the Life in their Years

By Nan Bauroth Photos by Jessica Milligan

BALLANTYNE IS KNOWN TO ATTRACT achievers, but Laurent E. "Lon" Morin, his wife, Ann Morin, and their two children reside in the stratosphere of overachievers.

For starters, Lon survived four major World War II invasions as a Navy small boat commander ferrying troops to the beaches: D-Day at Normandy, St. Tropez in the south of France, and Iwo Jima and Okinawa in the Pacific. His vivid recollections are preserved for posterity in the Library of Congress.

Back in 1943 when Lon had proposed to Ann, he promised, "Marry me and I'll show you the world!" He was true to his word.

Following the war, he joined the U.S. Foreign Service and the two spent the next 50 years posted in Algiers, Algeria; Le Havre, France; Paris; Kobe, Japan; Baghdad and back to Algiers. In intervening postings back home, Lon earned a master's degree in economics



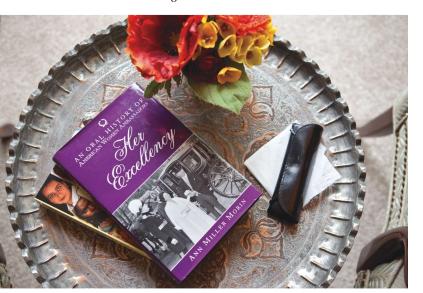
Ann Morin

Back in 1943 when Lon had proposed to Ann, he promised, "Marry me and I'll show you the world!"

at Yale and served in the Department of State's African, economics and human rights bureaus in Washington, and as a foreign service inspector examining embassies and consulates.

Ann, with an English degree and master's in education and human development, taught in Paris and Kobe at the U.S. military schools, and in Baghdad and Algiers was principal of international schools. She is the author of four novels, and in 1995, after 10 years of research, parlayed her knowledge of the diplomatic world into "Her Excellency: An Oral History of American Women Ambassadors." Her





Ann has written a book on American female ambassadors, pictured here, and four novels.



Lon Morin

entire research archive is housed at Smith College Library, and many of the oral histories reside in the Library of Congress.

This "Greatest Generation" couple also passed their high-achieving genes on to their children. Daughter Ann E. Levine, who has a degree in classical Greek and did graduate work in Greek, Latin and Assyrian, ran a kindergarten in Baghdad when she was a teen. After being stranded for a day at the school

by the outbreak of a revolution, she was rescued by a taxi driver who rowed her across the Tigris River. Fluent in French, Ann is the co-author of "Where Women Stand: An International Report on the Status of Women in 140 Countries." She and her husband now reside in Charlotte.

Her brother Lee Morin, however, tops his entire family when it comes to seeing the world. After obtaining a bachelor's of science

BALLANTYNE MAGAZINE SUMMER 2012



#### BALLANTYNE | who knew?

in mathematics and electrical engineering, a master's of science in biochemistry, a medical degree with residency in heart surgery and a doctorate in microbiology, he joined the Navy.

During the Gulf War, he served as a flight surgeon, flying 11 combat missions. In 1996, he set his sights on the stars and was selected by NASA to be an astronaut. In 2002, the Morins experienced the terrifying thrill of watching their son blast off in Atlantis to the International Space Station, where he took two

spacewalks totaling 14 hours. "When we talked to him via TV, he was somersaulting around as if he were a boy," Ann recalls with delight.

Lee also holds patents for medical and military equipment. In 1994, he received the \$50,000 Joint Chief's Award for Excellence in Operational Medicine for his medical translator enabling doctors to converse with patients in 45 foreign languages. In 1995, he was a finalist for the JFK/Harvard/Ford Foundation Award,



The Morins reveled in their son Lee's two spacewalks.



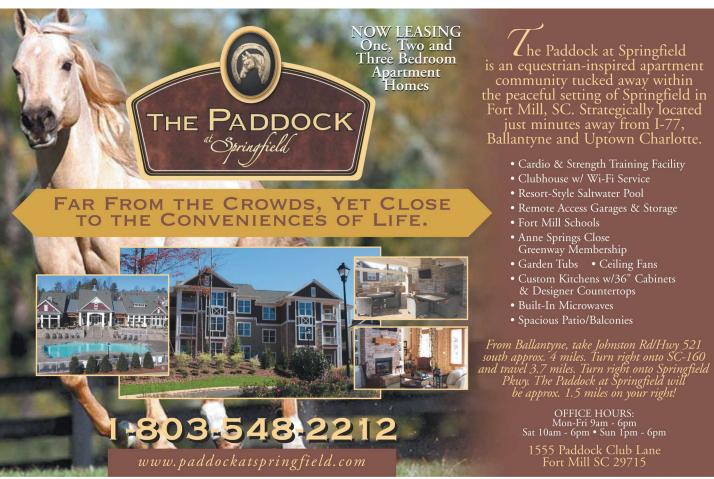
After living around the globe for many years, the Morins moved to Ballantyne to be near their daughter.

receiving \$20,000 for "Innovations in Government." At present, Lee heads a team designing the cockpit controls for NASA's newest spacecraft, The Orion.

Not a bad legacy for this family of four. But today, Lon, 91, and Ann, 87, continue their happily-ever-after journey together. Surrounded by cherished mementoes of their globetrotting days, their family's published works and a photo of their son giddily floating 220 miles above the earth, they are enjoying home, sweet, home in Ballantyne. They moved to Charlotte to be near daughter Ann.

"It's such a pretty city with the canopy of trees," says mother Ann, noting that their favorite pastime here is Sunday dinners with their daughter and her husband, David, at New South Restaurant in the Arboretum. "The food is excellent," Lon says enthusiastically. "We love it!"

For the Morins, it's a wonderful life, indeed.





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NOW LEASING





# Chill Out

Summer is here! And if you're anything like me, you've got at least one trip to the beach jotted on the calendar. The problem? You gather the gear only to realize the swim trunks are too small, you only have electronics for the ride and the sand buckets still contain dead marine life from last summer.

This beach guide will help swap stress for quality time spent with the family, well before you even hop into the car.

# De-stress the Family Beach Trip Beach Trip Beach Trip

By Missy pinkpistachio.com

Men's Swim Trunk, Target, \$18;

Men's Flip Flops, Flip Flop Shop, \$22;

www.Target.com/In-Store

www.FlipFlopShops.com/Blakeney In-Store





SUMMER 2012 BALLANTYNE MAGAZINE 73

### BALLANTYNE | style points



## suitcase essentials the kids



SUMMER 2012 BALLANTYNE MAGAZINE 75



## at the beach

#### Melissa & Doug Cupcake Beach Toys,

\$15; www.MelissaAndDoug.com/ Brilliant Sky Toys at Blakeney Cupcake, anyone? Aspiring bak-

cupcake, anyone? Aspiring bakers old and young enjoy these beach toys.

### Episencial Sunscreen,

\$15; www.Episencial.com

Top rated by an environmental working group and with adorable Eric Carle packaging, this sunscreen will have your kids begging to be lathered up.

#### Eco Extreme All Terrain Speaker Case,

\$40; www.Amazon.com

Be smart — keep your smart device (iPhone, Blackberry, MP3 players, etc.) safe from the elements. This nifty case allows you to lug around your electronic sidekick without the worry of damaging it, and even play it through the case's speaker, depending on the model. Plus, there's extra inside storage space for carrying a few credit cards and cash.

### Liquid Image Camera Mask,

\$50; www.Amazon.com

Make sure to capture all the fun—even under the water. This cool camera/snorkel mask will make sure you don't miss any of the action.

### Collapsible Beach Picnic Basket,

\$54; www.Beachmall.com

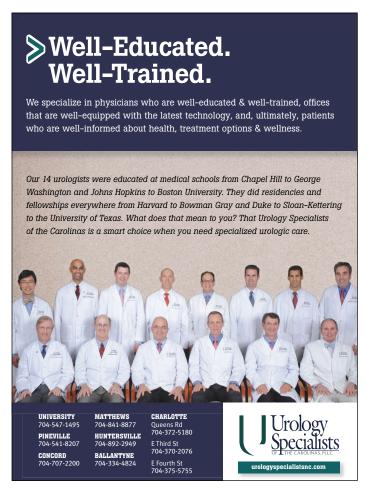
With a waterproof lining and an easily cinched drawstring, this basket keeps wind, waves and sand away from your yummies. Plus, it's perfect for stowing in the car because it's collapsible.

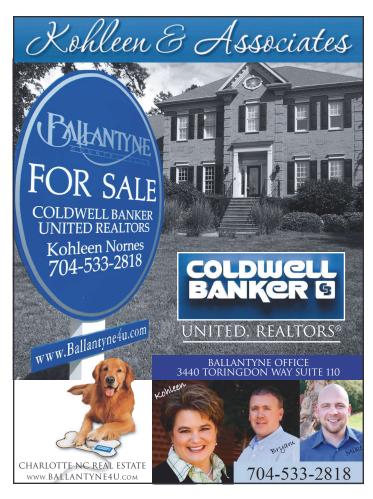
### Haba Ice Cream Cones,

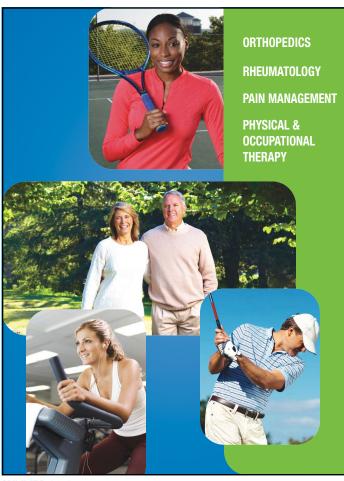
\$4; www.Amazon.com

Leave the cool picnic dessert to the kids. These fun, food-inspired beach toys are the perfect accompaniment to Melissa & Doug's cupcakes above.

Bon appetit!







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## SPRING FLING PROMOTES AWARENESS

Aloft Charlotte Ballantyne and Teal Toes Inc. teamed up to host this year's Spring Fling celebration. Held April 13, Spring Fling brought together area residents and Ballantyne Corporate Park professionals to enjoy live musical performances and sample food from local vendors.

The event promotes awareness for ovarian cancer and the ovarian cancer awareness month of September. Teal Toes encourages women to use teal-colored toenail polish (the official color for ovarian cancer awareness), and then share the symptoms of ovarian cancer when others inquire about their nails.

Photos by Ray Sepesy

- 1. Michael Ott, Robbi Ott, Gregg McKay
- 2. Lana Imhof, Leni Brigham, Kiran Kedar, Cynthia Spera, Kari McGregor
- 3. Susan D'Ambra, Stacey Rhodes, Dennis D'Ambra, Toni Dashko, Terri McLaughlin, Jenny White
- 4. Laura Stephens, Cindy Zidaroff, Jean Sienkowski
- 5. Lisa Murphy, Mary Kay Eisel, April Harbin
- 6. Shanon Routh, Kaye Ackermann, Tangela Williams, Erica Bell, Catina Scott, Keesha Carter
- 7. Donna Todd, Katie Brueske, Colleen Brueske, Kim Ponitz
- 8. Anu, Malvika, Venky and Meghana Venkatesh







































## CRYSTAL BALL GALA TOPS \$250,000

More than 400 attended the Crystal Ball Gala, Charlotte Catholic High School's annual event to support its foundation. The March 3 occasion at The Ballantyne Hotel & Lodge brought together alumni and others to honor Sister Mary Rosalind Picôt and to discuss plans for a new fine arts building.

The night also featured a fundraiser that included both a live auction and a raffle. Prizes ranged from a collection of 52 wines to a vacation of the winner's choosing. The event brought in over \$250,000 to fund school needs not covered by tuition.

Photos by Kim Barkley

- 1. Traci Lamoth, Anjali Arnold, Sheryl Jensen
- 2. Darron Meares
- 3. Cami Tepper, Lisa Thorton, Sue Dupuis, Jennifer Menzel Cramer
- 4. Claudia De La Mora, Jerry
- 5. Kelly Manion, Mike Manion
- 6. Tom Jette, Megan Jette
- 7. Sister Rosalind Picôt
- 8. Sally Wise Howell, Jennifer Johnson, Patsy DiNome
- 9. Linda Stevenson, Theresa Hintze, Tracy Tolbert
- 10. Sheryl Jensen, Marc Jensen
- 11. Sister Rosalind Picôt, Sister Agnes Cousins, Jim Oddo, Sister Mary Hugh Mauldin

### GALA ATTRACTS RECORD CROWD

The March Forth With Hope Foundation held its third annual MFWH Gala on March 10 at The Ballantyne Hotel & Lodge. The fundraiser, organized by Stuart and Shelby Stout, is held in memory of their philanthropic daughter, Hope, who passed away in 2004. Hope Stout captured the collective heart of the city when she helped raise over \$1 million to aid the Make-A-Wish Foundation in granting the wishes of the 155 children preceding her on the list.

Close to 400 people attended this year's gala, marking the largest turnout to date. Guests included Carolina Panthers head coach Ron Rivera, former Panthers player Kevin Donnalley, WBTV News anchor Molly Grantham and local radio host Keith Larson.

The fundraiser held a silent auction containing over \$25,000 in items, and earned a profit of around \$97,000. The proceeds go toward helping families battling cancer and other life-threatening illnesses.

Photos by Matthew Benham

- 1. Kathy Nesbitt, Shelby Sout, Lisa Tavares
- 2. Kevin Donnalley, Shelby Stout
- 3. Keith Larson, Molly Grantham
- 4. Emily Kaplan, John Kaplan, Jack Napoli
- 5. Stuart Stout, Dr. Bradley McCall, Anna McCall, Claire McCall, Lee McCall, Shelby Stout
- 6. Silent auction items
- 7. Jim Benham, Lisa Sweet, Morgan Castano
- 8. Kevin Donnalley, Erica Donnalley, Tracey Chaffin, Brian Chaffin



















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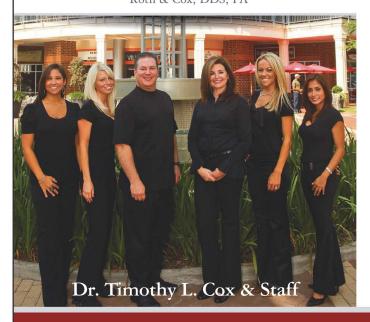
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## SOMPO JAPAN BRINGS IN OVER \$70,000

On April 10, Sompo Japan held the first Remember Japan Golf Tournament at The Golf Club at Ballantyne. The tournament was organized to collect donations to benefit the Japan Society's "Japan Earthquake Relief Fund." All proceeds went to organizations helping victims of last year's earthquake and tsunami.

In addition to the round of golf, Sompo Japan offered other fundraising activities as part of the tournament. These included a raffle, silent auction, putting and longestdrive competitions, a helicopter ball drop and an opportunity to meet NASCAR driver Akinori Ogata. The event collected over \$70,000 to benefit the cause.

Photos by Ray Sepesy

- 1. Kaori Matsumoto, Junsi Hamada, Shino Fujita
- 2. Kim Burch, Linda Walker, Cathy Stacey, Ruth Killian, Joyce Pettigrew, Mary Briercheck
- 3. Taka Matsuyama, Yuki Tanemura
- 4. Carlos Edes, Pearl Bailey, Ed Murray
- 5. Hiro Tsukamoto, Keiji Itoh, Hiroyuki Tamaguchi, Tet Morito, Tomo Fujimoto
- 6. Steve Lindsley, Jim Campbell, Jeff Rausch
- 7. Jared Ezzell, Caroline Comer, Michael Fletcher, Clark Holmes
- 8. William Wong, Randy Leger























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SUMMER 2012 BALLANTYNE MAGAZINE

## FASHION SERIES KICKS OFF

March 29 marked the kickoff celebration for Charlotte Seen's second annual Passport for Fashion series. The event, held at the Aloft Charlotte Ballantyne, was the first in a month-long series aimed at establishing Charlotte as a hub for fashion.

Over 200 people turned out for the meet-and-greet, providing an opportunity for show attendees and participants to network. Two notable guests were Luis Machicao, the show's premier designer, and Kevin Carter, an up-and-comer who will soon be the youngest designer to have his creations featured at the Mint Museum.

Photos by Ray Sepesy

- 1. Brian Wilburn, Chad Smith
- 2. Anna DeGrauw, Rita Miles, Luis Machicao, LeAnna Haggist
- 3. Victoria Speer, Nesha Pai, Mckenna Mcgarry, Alexandra Reed
- 4. Liza Jant, Donielle Porter
- 5. Aubrey Harley, Stephanie Latham, Jackie Blackburn, Coco Callahan
- 6. Olivia Schaver, Kevin Carter, Ashlyn Bowers
- 7. Ivey Moore, Griffin Williams
- 8. Tracy Jenkins, Jen Wouters, June Ruff

















# Let's "Pink-Up" Charlotte this October!









Start a Pink Bow Campaign in your neighborhood, business or school to support Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

Last year, our campaign raised \$50,000 to support women in the greater Charlotte region.

For additional information or to order bows contact pinkbow4rally@gmail.com or call 704-612-4106.

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# SMOKY MOUNTAINS Output Description:

MAKE BRYSON CITY YOUR BASE FOR SUMMER ADVENTURE



Ballantyne to Bryson City - 187 miles - 3 hrs., 15 min.

JUNE HERALDS THE HALCYON DAYS OF SUMMER vacation, that glorious week or two of freedom when time stretches endlessly from dawn to dusk. The goal is to pack as much leisure activity as possible into those golden hours and make memories that will last a lifetime. A great place to do that is North Carolina's Bryson City, gateway to the Great Smokies, one of America's favorite summer playgrounds for children and adults alike.

Located only three hours and change from Ballantyne, Bryson City is the epicenter of all things "great outdoors" — from whitewater rafting and kayaking to mountain biking, high country golf, zip-line canopy tours, freshwater fishing and communing with Mother Nature on backwoods hikes. The possibilities for summer fun in the Smokies are so endless that all you need is appropriate clothing, sun protection and a camera, and you're good to go from morning 'til night.

### The '2013 Wave'

First up on the agenda is Nantahala Outdoor Center, a premier whitewater rafting outfitter and outdoor resort, located about 12 miles southwest of Bryson City. An especially compelling reason to visit is the 2013 Wave designed for freestyle kayakers who perform aerial acrobatics like snowboarders. The wave-shaping device was installed in anticipation of hosting the World Cup of freestyle kayaking September 7-9. That event is a prelude to the World Championships of freestyle kayaking at NOC in September 2013. For now, though, amateurs and professionals alike can try freestyle kayaking tricks in the Wave while spectators watch the daredevil show from the riverbank.

Those seeking more tranquil waters can rent a kayak at NOC and drop it in Fontana Lake for flat-water paddling (no lessons required). "If you have





BALLANTYNE one tank trip

An especially compelling reason to visit the Nantahala Outdoor Center is its new thrill ride, the Wave, designed for freestyle kayakers who perform aerial acrobatics like snowboarders.



two or three hours, there's a really cool waterfall you can paddle out to," notes Charles Conner, director of NOC. "At one point the lake comes up to the river and you can paddle under the trees, and even fish. It's a great place to see wildlife." Kayakers can also paddle the entire river out to where it meets the lake.

### Jet Boats, Rafting

The high-octane way to traverse the pristine waters of Fontana Lake is by jet boat with one of NOC's partners, Smoky Mountain Jet Boats. The ultra-fast crafts seat 12 and offer an exhilarating experience. When they make sharp turns, the boat spins, making you feel as if you are on a rollercoaster, with the added fun of getting splashed.

NOC is best known for whitewater rafting trips up Nantahala Gorge. Visitors can choose a guided half-day tour through Class II or Class III rapids, and then navigate the rapids on their own if they choose. "Nantahala is one of the top three rivers in the country for rafting for several reasons," says Conner. "The water is clean and clear, and the river runs through a wonderful mountain environment, but there's also a road beside it the entire way so you're not locked into the trip if you get uncomfortable."

The center now offers 80 adventures in all. Fans of "The Hunger





Spectators enjoy seeing kayakers maneuver in the waves on the Natahala River.

Games" may want to investigate NOC's weekend wilderness survival course taught by an ex-Army Ranger, while youngsters can go for the Alpine Tower, which is half climbing wall and half jungle gym.

The NOC also recently enhanced its amenities, adding changing rooms with hot showers and a river bar that opens at 3:30 p.m. with live music on weekends. Three restaurants on the property satisfy appetites worked up by all the outdoor activity. According to Conner, June is a perfect time to visit because the rhododendron is in bloom and crowds are smaller than in the peak summer months.

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The tortuous route, "The Dragon," has 318 curves over 11 miles.

### Hiking, Cycling

Over 800 miles of easily accessible trails make the Bryson City area a hiker's dream. The 1.5-mile Oconaluftee River Trail is a favorite. Other top choices include the Deep Creek area's loops of varying levels and "The Road to Nowhere," a scenic byway that runs eight miles into Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

Karen Wilmot, director of the Bryson City-Swain County Chamber of Commerce and Visitor's Center, notes that the road ends at a "spooky tunnel," and that from there you can walk for three miles along an off-the-beaten-path trail rich in wildlife, or keep going 42 miles on Lakeshore Trail leading to Fontana Dam.



Indian Creek Falls provides a nice repose for hikers.

The possibilities for summer fun in the Smokies are so endless that all you need is appropriate clothing, sun protection and a camera, and you're good to go from morning 'til night.

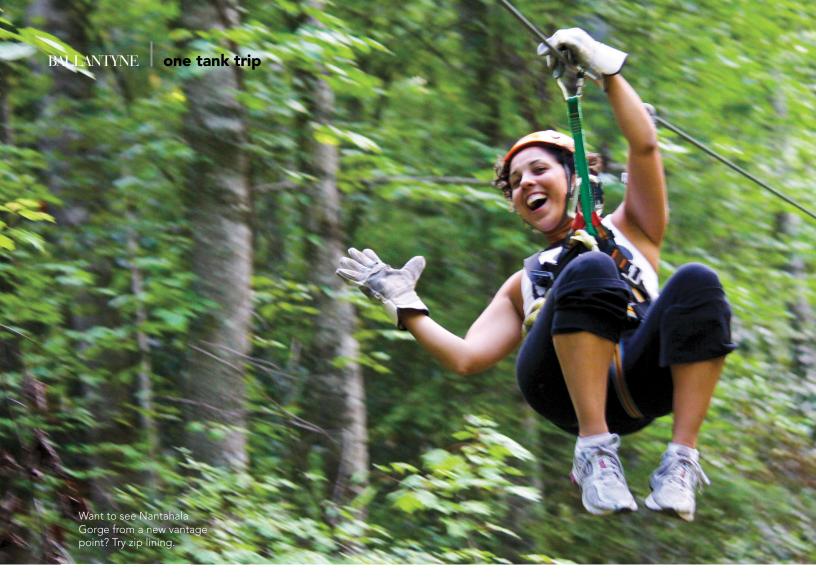
Cycling enthusiasts love Bryson City for its uncrowded backcountry roads. Wilmot recommends that families with children ride the Deep Creek Loop that runs a fairly level four miles and passes by two waterfalls. More experienced riders can cycle the Nantahala River Bike Trail TR368, a flat 1.5-mile scenic ride, or the 13-mile Alarka loop with views of Fontana Dam and



The Bryson City area has over 800 miles of easily accessible hiking trails.



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the Tuckasegee River. Serious mountain bikers like to take on the 42 miles of multiuse trails of tough terrain in the worldrenowned Tsali Recreation Area System.

If cruising on four wheels is more your style, you have several good options. The Cherohala Skyway, a spectacular 50-mile drive, has 15 overlooks along its twisting route. The drive offers cool summer breezes and great picnicking as you ascend to 5,400 feet and then descend seven miles to the other side (Tip: There are no gas stations, so tank up before you leave).

The most famous local drive is "The Dragon," a tortuous mountain route that contains 318 continuous curves in 11 miles. (Another tip: Avoid weekends, and carry Dramamine in case you get a little queasy).

### 'Adventure Golf'

In Whittier, not far from Bryson City, Smoky Mountain Country Club gives avid golfers a chance to experience true uphill lies. The par-71 mountain course

The Fryemont Inn, a historic B&B, is known for its five ways of preparing trout.



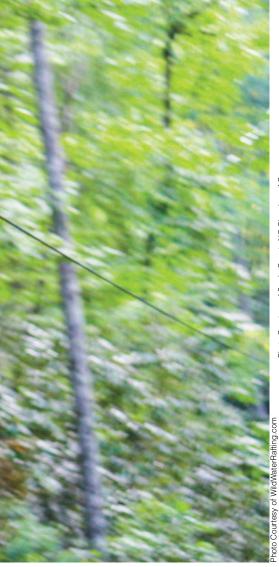
has nearly 400 feet of elevation change on its 5,987 yards. Wilmot says her husband refers to playing there as "adventure golf" for its hairpin cart-path turns, challenging holes and amazing overlooks.

Zip-line canopy tours are another way to experience the beauty of the mountain scenery. Adventure America's Nantahala Gorge Canopy tour sends you across 13 zipline sections that provide a birds-eye view of the forest, waterfalls and Fontana Lake.

For those seeking less of a rush, a day of fly-fishing may fit the bill. The rivers around Bryson City are rich in bass and Rainbow trout. Depending on the license, you may even be able to keep your catch for a memorable dinner.

### **Main Street**

The small-town atmosphere along Bryson City's Main Street with its historic train depot strikes many visitors as familiar. Perhaps because it served as the backdrop for "The Fugitive" starring Harrison Ford. Notable shopping venues include Humanité,





### **HOW TO GET THERE**

Take I-485 West to I-85 South. South of Gastonia, take U.S. 74 west toward Shelby. Continue west on U.S. 74 to I-26. Go north on I-26 to I-40 in Asheville. Get off I-40 at Exit 27 (U.S. 74, the Great Smoky Mountains Expressway). Continue west on U.S. 74 past Waynesville, Sylva and Dillsboro to Exit 67 for Bryson City. The trip takes three hours and 15 minutes.



a women's clothing store whose owner donates 10 percent of proceeds to charity. The Bryson City General Store is a popular stop for buying gear you forgot to pack, while the Cottage Craftsman features regionally handcrafted items by local artisans.

Dining focuses on casual fare suited to the outdoorsy environment. In addition to Pasqualino's Italian Restaurant, natives recommend Jimmy Mac's for its 20 types of burgers. Caffeine and Wi-Fi addicts can get their fix at Bryson City Cork & Bean, situated in a picturesque 1908 bank building (the shop also sells gluten-free baked goods). For entertainment, tote your lawn chair to the train depot and catch the free summer music concerts every Saturday night.

Lodging options in the Bryson City area fall into three categories: bed-and-breakfasts, cabins and small motels.

For a rustic Adirondack feel, try the Fryemont Inn, a B&B on the National Register of Historic Places. It is also popular for its five ways of preparing mountain trout. Watershed Cabins is your best bet for luxe log homes, chalets and cottages, many of which have their own family rec rooms and hot tub.

If you prefer more back-to-nature accommodations, go "glamping" — short for glamorous camping — at the Yurt Village

in Falling Waters Adventure Resort. Featured on "The Today Show," the Mongolian-style tents let you sit around a campfire or listen to a creek and waterfall, but sleep on a four-poster bed. Shared restrooms and showers are located in a separate structure.

No matter where you stay, you'll be surprised at all the Great Smokies has to offer so close to home. Maybe that's because North Carolina has more square acreage of the Smokies within its borders than it does of the Blue Ridge Mountains. To kick-start your vacation planning, visit www.greatsmokies.com and download their extensive destination guide. Once you get there, stop at the Oconaluftee Visitor's Center near Cherokee or Gil's Bookstore in Bryson City for maps of hiking and biking trails, plus detailed information on everything to see and do. Your summer adventure awaits.



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### BALANCING **ACT**

### Improve Your Stability for Better Ball Contact

By Molly Tullar, LPGA/PGA Class A Teaching Professional, TPI Certified Golf Fitness Instructor, Dana Rader Golf School Photos by Ray Sepesy



Teaching Pro Molly Tullar demonstrates the lateral hop sequence that strengthens the stability and balance of your golf swing.

IF YOU TEND TO HAVE a lot of lateral motion in your swing, also known as a sway or a slide, use the following fitness exercise to improve your stability and balance. Then go to the range and perform the Single Leg Swing Drill to get a feel of how to transfer the feeling to your golf swing.

### At Home: Lateral Hops, Shoulder Turns

Get into your golf posture and cross your arms across your chest with just your right foot on the ground. Hop sideways

and land on your left foot, trying to stick your landing and hold your balance on your left leg before hopping back onto your right foot. Now, from this position, make a few shoulder turns and then repeat the hop. Only one foot should be on the ground at any given time.



Molly Tullar

Also, if you're a lefthander and would like to start this exercise with your left foot on the ground,

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that's fine. Just "reverse" the instructions.

With practice, this exercise becomes easier, and builds a lot of strength, balance and stability for your swing.

### Take it to the Range: Single Leg Swing

This is a great drill to help transfer your exercise to your golf swing. Using a 7 iron, balance on your lead foot only (left foot for right-handed golfers), and tilt forward until you are in your golf posture. Set your trail foot (right foot for right-handed golfers) behind you to help your balance if needed. Try not to put any weight on it.

From this position hit balls off a short tee using a one-half swing and working up to a three-quarters swing. Hold your follow-through and feel how much work your lead leg does to keep you balanced.

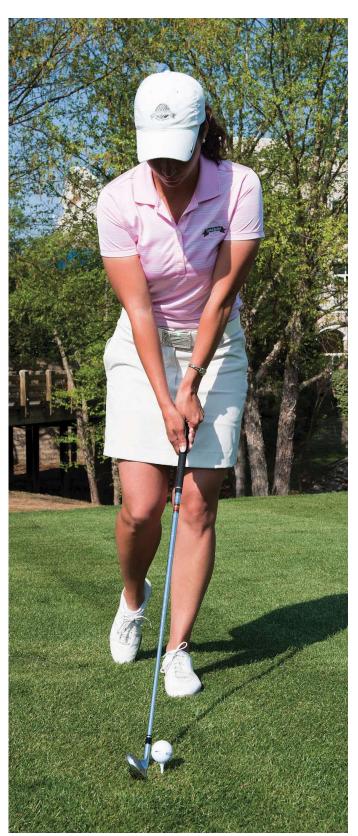
If you want to improve your game, call the Dana Rader Golf School at 704-542-7635 to schedule a lesson or a Titleist Performance Institute assessment. A TPI assessment gauges mobility, stability and balance. For more information, email me at MTullar@danarader.com or visit www.danarader.com.



For the Single Leg Swing, start by balancing on your lead foot. Try not to put any weight on your other foot.



Check out the video version of this tip at www.ballantynemagazine.com and www.danarader.com.



After balancing on your lead foot, go into your golf posture and work your way from a one-half to three-quarters swing.

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continued from page 67

partner for Merrifield Patrick Vermillion, notes that a single cascade jet, five-feet high, pushes 90 gallons a minute through the fountain, recirculating the 3,500 gallons in the pool. The fountain is lighted, and runs 365 days a year, 24/7, weather permitting.

"Everybody likes and appreciates the sight and sound of a fountain as a calming and relaxing influence," Bruce says. "This fountain is one of those signature elements we incorporate to provide amenities for the benefit of owners and tenants in our developments."

### The Fountain Plaza, Blakeney

The Fountain Plaza in Blakeney is the most elaborate fountain in total design. Four elliptical-shaped pools, each with three water jets, act as entrée to the shopping area's plaza, which is anchored by an interactive centerpiece fountain. Three jets within its top tier move water into succeeding tiers, ending in a

sizeable vasque. Within its pool, 10 water jets continuously gush, while two spouts send a stream of water back into the top tier.

Lawns dotted with tulip trees, red maples and flowers surround the plaza. Behind the central fountain, benches topped with an arbor support tendrils of fragrant Carolina jasmine. The children's playground is off to one side so families can enjoy both areas simultaneously.

### The Esplanade Fountain

The Blakeney shopping area's second fountain, featuring four tiers, makes an eye-catching endpoint for the esplanade in the shopping area. "We wanted to create a place where people felt comfortable walking," explains CNL Crosland's Susan McGuire. "The fountain provides connectivity between buildings, but is also a device to slow internal street traffic."

At night, floodlights showcase The Esplanade Fountain. During the holiday season, it is the site of Blakeney's Christmas tree.  $\square$ 

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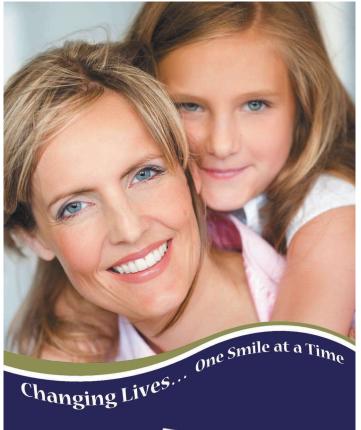
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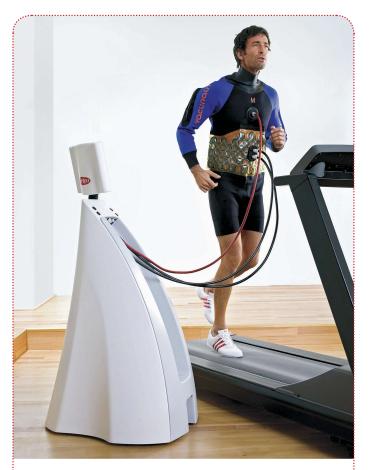
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