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Arthur  Rutenberg
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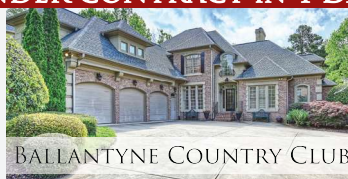


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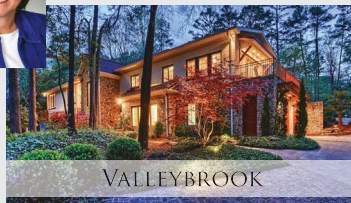
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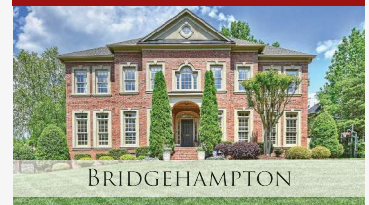


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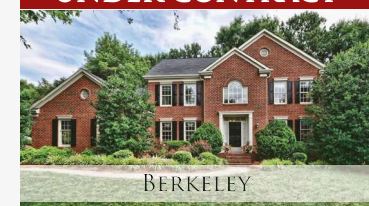


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FEATURES



Gone 50 Fishin'

From urban ponds to area lakes, families angle for fun.



ON THE COVER:
The home's interior transitions easily to the backyard.
Photo by Dustin Peck

Seamless Living

Local homeowners renovate to achieve their indoor-outdoor dream.

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Sit a Spell – Outdoors!

Area restaurants serve up an appealing array of al fresco dining.

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DEPARTMENTS



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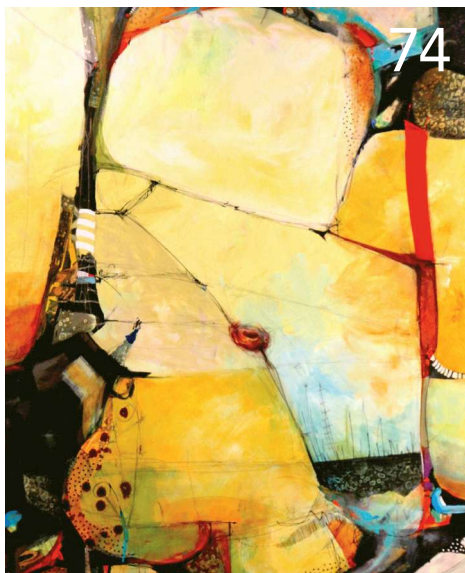
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Linger Awhile

Bask in the Lazy Days of Summer



LIFE TENDS TO MOVE AT A MORE LEISURELY PACE WITH THE LONGER DAYS AND WARM AIR OF SUMMER. Dinner hour and bedtimes extend out as we take full advantage of the extra hours of daylight and time off.

Pleasant summer weather is ideal for outdoor dining, and Ballantyne-area restaurants have discovered that patio seating is a required amenity. From sipping an ice-cold drink, relaxing over a casual meal or simply people watching, we tend to linger longer when dining outside.

In our **Gone Fishin'** feature, three families find it is **not always the biggest fish** that matters but the **simple joys** found in **quiet moments**.

Although there are many options to dine in the open air, we take a close look at five venues, with each offering its spin on the al fresco experience.

Love of open air inspired a couple living in Longview to build an outdoor oasis that combines the elements of fire and water. On completion of the patio, the couple took another big step, fusing their indoor living area with the outside to create a seamless transition. Their vision provides a dramatic statement of year-round enjoyment by pairing two carefully thought-out environments.

In our **Gone Fishin'** feature, three families share their angling joys and find it is not always the biggest fish that matters but the simple joys found in quiet moments. Perhaps their tales will lure you to cast a line and leave daily distractions behind.

If last-minute plans present the opportunity for a long weekend or you're ready for an extended vacation, Kiawah Island offers a nature-filled beach retreat that will appeal to the entire family. While visiting the Lowcountry or simply hitting the gym, sizzle your look with our must-have fashion finds; they will keep you cool all the way around.

If hanging out in AC takes precedence, check out two local art galleries that showcase area artists and their work. One gallery also offers group classes throughout the year for those with a passion to create original works of their own.

Whether reeling in your catch or lounging on your patio, these tranquil days are ripe for savoring a slower, relaxed speed. Turn off the noise, and bask in the lazy days of summer.

Best Regards,

Regina Robertson
Editor-in-Chief

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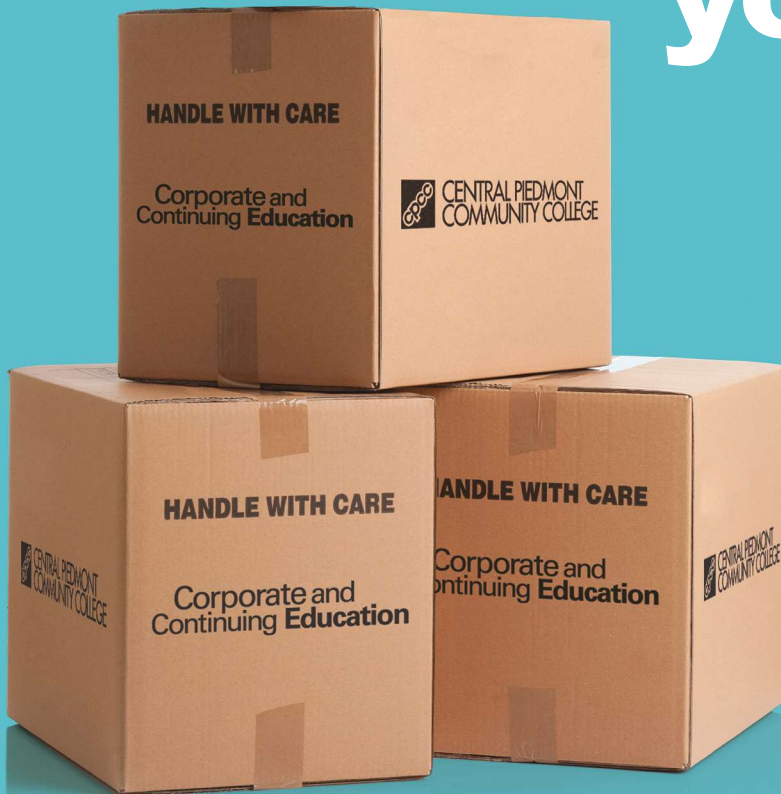
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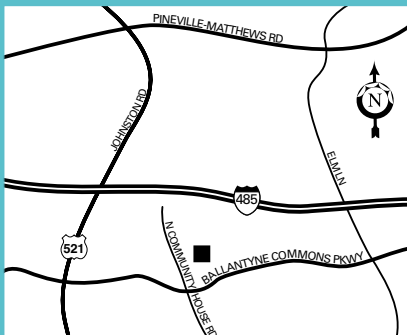
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What's happening in and **around Ballantyne**



The event supported this year's annual campaign at the Morrison Family Y.

Run! Ballantyne Celebrates 11 Years

The 11th Annual Run! Ballantyne 8K, 5K & Fun Run, presented by Bissell and the Morrison and Ballantyne Village YMCAs, attracted more than 2,500 on May 2 in Ballantyne Corporate Park.

Participants included individuals as well as corporate, school and community teams. Activities included music, YMCA Kid's

Zone (inflatables, mascots, activities and face painting), food and refreshments. The event raised over \$78,000 as part of the Morrison Y's annual campaign, which supports after-school summer camp programs for under-resourced children at the Steele Creek Y.

NEWS CUES

CCHS Completes Stadium Renovations

Charlotte Catholic High School has finished renovations to its on-campus football stadium and added a 672-vehicle parking deck.

The renovations increased seating at Keffer Stadium to 4,000 to meet required capacity for 4A competition in the N.C. High School Athletic Association. Other improvements include an upgraded press box, improved stadium lighting, additional concession and restroom facilities, wider walkways and better gate access and signage.

Capital fees from the Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools paid for the projects.



Keffer Stadium now seats 4,000 and has wider walkways and additional concession and restroom facilities.

Longview Marks 10th Anniversary

The Club at Longview celebrated its 10th anniversary as a private country club on Feb. 20. Construction on the Jack Nicklaus Signature golf course and 25,000-square-foot European clubhouse and activity center began in 2001 and was completed in 2005. The club hosted an appreciation reception for members at the clubhouse. Info: www.theclubatlongview.com.



Mel Graham (from left), a Longview founder; Debi Blair, director of membership; and Jim Sutton, general manager and chief operating officer, celebrate at Longview's appreciation reception.

Sara's Y Coming to Corporate Park

The YMCA of Greater Charlotte plans to build a 24,000-square-foot facility in Ballantyne Corporate Park that will be located at the corner of Brixham Hill Avenue and Ballantyne Corporate Place.

The facility will be known as "Sara's Y" in honor of Sara Harris Bissell, the late wife of Ballantyne developer Smoky Bissell. The site will cater to park tenants with group exercise, a yoga studio and indoor and outdoor fitness spaces. A 2016 completion date is scheduled.

The cost of the project is estimated at \$5 million. An initial gift by Smoky and Margaret Bissell provided half of the cost, while the YMCA of Greater Charlotte funded the other half.

NOVANT HEALTH

Novant Signs Lease at Waverly

Novant Health has signed a lease to serve as the medical office anchor for Waverly, the proposed multiuse, master planned development at Providence and Ardrey Kell roads, being developed by Crosland Southeast and Childress Klein.

The health care facility will occupy approximately 23,000 square feet of the first 33,000-square-foot building, which is slated to open in fall 2015. The Novant location in Waverly will offer urgent care and family health care, including pediatrics, physical therapy and other services.



Rhett Brown

Wingate Names Next President

Wingate University named Rhett Brown, the school's vice president for student life and enrollment services, as its 10th president. He takes over for Jerry E. McGee, who retired in May after 23 years at the school. Brown was selected after a nationwide search with more than 200 candidates considered for the position.

Brown received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Wingate in 1989 and his MBA from Wingate in 2001. He earned his Doctor of Education degree from the University of Alabama.

Brown also served eight years in the U.S. Naval Reserve, including active duty in Operation Desert Storm.



Y Hosts Tri! Events, Charity Golf

The 6th Annual Tri! Ballantyne and Kids' Tri! Ballantyne races will be held Saturday, July 18, at Morrison Family YMCA.

The event features a 300-yard swim; 12.7-mile cycling course and 5K run for adults and adjusted lengths and courses for youth age groups. There will also be Tri! Fest activities that include live bands and food trucks.

The Morrison Family Y will also hold its 15th annual Charity Golf Tournament at Ballantyne Country Club on Monday, June 1. This year the event also features a \$25,000 putting contest after dinner.

Proceeds benefit the YMCA Annual Campaign, which supports programs like Y Readers, a nationally recognized literacy program for under-resourced children. Details and registration: www.ymcacharlotte.org/morrison.



School to Open Ballantyne Center

Central Piedmont Community College is opening the CPCC Ballantyne Center to connect the college more closely with the thriving southern Mecklenburg area.

The 10,000-square-foot space, located in the Gibson Building at 11430 N. Community House Road, is scheduled to open in July.

The center's activities will focus on preparing individuals for career and professional success through corporate and continuing-education courses. Most courses will be short term and targeted to specific knowledge and skills, including industry-based certifications.

Courses at Ballantyne include a new offering, "Understanding and Using Drones," as well as high-demand topics such as project management, insurance pre-licensing, notary training and QuickBooks.

CPCC will also support learning and development needs for area employers with flexible, custom programming to suit group needs and work schedules. Learn more about CPCC Ballantyne Center at www.cpcc.edu/campuses/ballantyne.

Village Offers Variety of Summer Events

Ballantyne Village offers a host of summer events featuring art, shopping and family-friendly activities.

On Fridays, families can enjoy a DJ, games and other fun.

The shopping destination also provides a free membership club for children, Village Kids, that offers monthly

family programs as well as discounts and specials with the membership card.

Every Tuesday and Saturday from noon until 6 p.m. Ballantyne Village presents "3H Shoppes," selling homemade, handmade and homegrown items, including candles, soaps and beaded jewelry.



On the fourth Friday of every month from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., the site showcases local art paired with a wine bar and soft jazz for its Art in the Village series.



Okra and tomatoes are among the many fruits and veggies at the market.

Farmers Market Open for Season

The Village at Robinson Farm Market is open every Wednesday and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. through pumpkin-carving season this fall.

Breakfast Club Meets June, August

The Ballantyne Breakfast Club will host meetings this summer on Saturdays in June and August.

Representatives from the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department will speak at the June 27 meeting. The August meeting will focus on the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools, including potential new schools in the area.

Also in August, the club will host a live broadcast at The Ballantyne Hotel & Lodge of a Charlotte mayoral debate among Democratic candidates. The doors open at 6 p.m., and the debate is from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m.

The club's regular meetings are also at The Ballantyne Hotel & Lodge starting at 9 a.m. The social hour begins at 8:30 a.m. with complimentary coffee and refreshments. Meetings are free, and the public is invited. Dates and details: www.ballantynebreakfastclub.com.

Kick Back at The Ballantyne Hotel & Lodge

Savoring fine food and beverages, or relaxing on the links or at the spa, are memorable experiences offered this summer at The Ballantyne Hotel & Lodge. Check out the opportunities.

Gallery Restaurant

This well-known destination offers weekly wine and cocktail tastings on



Fridays beginning at 6:30 p.m. with complementing light bites.

The first and third Friday of the month usually feature a particular wine, while

the second Friday of the month generally focuses on cocktails.

On Sundays, the restaurant offers half off bottles of wine under \$100.

Scotch, July 31; and Bourbon Whiskey (dinner event), August 28. Reservations required: 704-248-4100.

Afternoon Tea

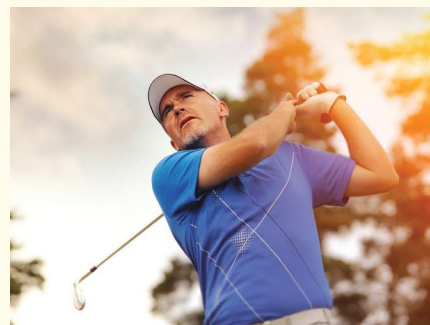
Year-round, sip your favorite tea on Wednesday through Saturday from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. at The Ballantyne Hotel & Lodge.

Special afternoon teas include



Queen Elizabeth's Birthday Tea, June 3-6, and Summer in the Carolinas Tea, July 22-25.

Reservations required: 704-248-4100.



During July, National Family Golf Month, the club is offering half off the regular golf rate for juniors.

Aug. 2-15, in honor of Community Service Providers Weeks, teachers, police and firefighters can play 18 holes free with one paid round at the club. Golfers must present valid employment identification upon arrival.

Whiskey Club

Gallery Restaurant's Whiskey Club of Ballantyne meets monthly this summer on the last Friday of the month.

Gatherings are from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.

The selections are: American Whiskey, June 26; Highland Single Malt



The Golf Club at Ballantyne

The club offers specials throughout the summer. When you are reserving a tee time at 704-248-4383, please mention the special offer you're interested in.

On Father's Day, June 21, dads play for half price with one paid round of golf at the daily rate.



Spa at Ballantyne

The Spa at Ballantyne has partnered with La Bastide des Lavandes, a private farm in York County,

S.C. to provide an array of treatments using the farm's homegrown lavender, including body wraps and massages. Info: 704-248-4141.

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Community House Presents Nature Lectures

The Lower Providence Community House 2015 Lecture Series features two speakers on nature this summer. Meetings are at 3 p.m. on Sundays.

On June 28, Taylor Piephoff, birding columnist for The Charlotte Observer, will discuss "A Year of Birding in Mecklenburg County" and address questions about backyard birds from the audience.

On July 26, Eric Stine, local biologist and herpetologist, will present an interactive lecture, "Learning to Live in Harmony with Wildlife." He will bring an assortment of reptiles, amphibians, insects, spiders and small mammal species to help dispel fears about them.

Tickets are \$10 at the door. Proceeds fund continued restoration of the historic facility. For info, call 704-905-8334 or email lowerprovidencecommunityhouse@hotmail.com.

School Selected by Yamaha Music



The Yamaha Music Education System has selected Ballantyne School of Music as an authorized Yamaha Music School. The

Ballantyne site is the first independent (non-Yamaha) music school in the Carolinas to offer this well-known program.

Over 50 years, more than six million students in over 40 countries have studied the Yamaha method. For more information and class offerings, call 980-819-6998 or go to www.ballantyneschoolofmusic.com.



Country Club Acquired by ClubCorp

Firethorne Country Club has been acquired by ClubCorp. The Dallas-based company owns 200 golf, business, sports and alumni clubs throughout the U.S., Mexico and China. Membership in its Optimal Network Experiences Program (O.N.E.) enables members to enjoy benefits, including complimentary greens fees and dining, at clubs throughout the world. Info: www.clubcorp.com.

Hotel Adds Smartphone Room 'Key'

Aloft Charlotte

Ballantyne has launched SPG Keyless, a room-entry system that allows travelers who belong to the Starwood Preferred Guest loyalty program to use their smartphone to access their room in lieu of a key.

The SPG smartphone app enables guests to bypass the front desk (where available), avoid waiting in line and ultimately unlock their room with a simple tap of their smartphone. Info or to enroll in the loyalty program: www.spg.com.

THE YOUNGER SET

Girls Learn Golf, Plant Tree at Course

Dana Rader Golf School is Charlotte's site for LPGA-USGA Girls Golf, a nationwide developmental golf program that encourages girls ages 7-17 through instruction and events that foster growth and golf education.

The local program has 20 participants, and sessions take place every other Friday

afternoon through Aug. 7, with a final event on Aug. 16.

At a recent session inspired by Earth Day, Erik Kennelly, assistant superintendent at The Golf Club at Ballantyne, met with girls in the program to plant a pine tree at the course's first hole. Learn more by calling 704-542-7635.

In honor of Earth Day, LPGA-USGA Girls Golf participants planted a pine tree on the first hole at The Golf Club at Ballantyne.



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Country Day Hosts Special Olympics

Country Day hosted the Special Olympics Mecklenburg County Spring Games in April for the 32nd consecutive year. Classes were suspended for two days while more than 500 students and 60 faculty and staff volunteered for the event.

Student Chosen Library Ambassador

Félicité Hangyas, a fifth grader at Ballantyne Elementary School, was recently chosen as one of 10 students in North Carolina to participate in the second annual Student Library Ambassador's Program, sponsored by the North Carolina Library Association.

She received an all-expense paid trip to Washington, D.C. in the spring and met with members of the N.C. congressional delegation to emphasize the importance of libraries.

BIZ BUZZ

Sutton Joins MetLife Premier Client Group

Casey Sutton has joined MetLife Premier Client Group of the Carolinas, an office of MetLife, as a financial services representative. Sutton has worked in the financial services industry for 15 years and has earned designations as a chartered life underwriter and a chartered financial consultant. The company is located at 11215 N. Community House Road in the Woodward Building. Info: www.metlifeofthecarolinas.com.

Advisor Attains Chairman's Council



Jeremiah Fitzpatrick

Jeremiah Fitzpatrick, a financial advisor with Ameriprise Financial, was recently named to the 2015 Chairman's Advisory Council. He qualified for the council based on distinguished performance and client service.

He joins other top-ranked advisors to discuss current issues and business opportunities with Ameriprise Financial Chairman and CEO James Cracchiolo and other company leaders. The council was established in 1984, and advisors qualify each year based on superior business results. Info: www.ameripriseadvisors.com/jeremiah.c.fitzpatrick/.



Susan DeVore (second from left), president and CEO of Premier, won the 2014 Charlotte BusinessWoman of the Year Award. Also pictured are Madelyn Caple, Wells Fargo; Dr. Pamela Davies, president of Queens University; and Lynn Good, CEO of Duke Energy and 2013 Charlotte BusinessWoman of the Year.

DeVore Named BusinessWoman of Year

Queens University of Charlotte presented the 2014 Charlotte BusinessWoman of the Year award to Susan DeVore, president and chief executive officer of Premier Inc., a health care improvement company headquartered in Ballantyne Corporate Park.

The award celebrates the achievements of exceptional women professionals who exhibit leadership defined by the values of the McColl School of Business at Queens.



Remi General Counsel Honored

The Charlotte Business Journal recently awarded Robert Fleischacker, vice president, general counsel and chief compliance officer of The Remi Group, its corporate counsel award for Outstanding Solo General Counsel, which honors top legal talent of corporations and nonprofits in the Charlotte region.

Robert Fleischacker (right) receives the award from local attorney Mel Garofalo.

Tate Co. Announces Sales Manager



Diane Kuiper

Diane Kuiper has been named sales manager of the Allen Tate Ballantyne office at 13526 Johnston Road. In her new role, Kuiper will help manage and train more than 100 agents and staff. She joined the company in 2013 and most recently worked as an agent in the Lake Wylie office.

Tate's Ballantyne office also announces the following associates have joined the office: Mary J. Bradley, Kendell Burruss, Jeff Cline, Jamie Dunkel, Nathan Fesnak, Mickey Gold, Rene Hawkins, Fred Kinney, Maria Lee, Steven Lorimer, Paul Mattos, Cathy Miller, Esteban Pena, Linda Ruggiero, Zach Sparks, Eric Thompson and Jennifer Thompson.

Club-Fitting Specialist, School Touted



Stan Roach

Stan Roach, club-fitting specialist at Dana Rader Golf School, has been named a Top 100 National Fitter for 2014 by club-fitting pioneer and leader PING.

The May 2015 issue of Golf Digest also lists Dana Rader Golf School as one of America's 100 Best Clubfitters. Golf Digest reviewed nominations from more than 700 locations to determine the 100 Best. For info: www.danarader.com.

Chamber Hosts Annual Bash, Meetings

The Ballantyne Chapter of the Charlotte Chamber of Commerce holds its annual Ballantyne Business Bash on Thursday, June 4, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Ballantyne Corporate Park at the Brixham Green Tent.

The event features entertainment, food, networking and free items from corporate

sponsors. Tickets are \$10 in advance, \$12 online at www.charlottechamber.com or \$15 at the event.

The chapter's summer luncheon meetings are on Thursdays, Aug. 6 and Sept. 3, at The Ballantyne Hotel & Lodge from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. The fee is \$20 in



advance, \$25 at the door for members and \$45 for nonmembers. Register at www.charlottechamber.com. For info, email cwalker@charlottechamber.com

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Bissell Organizations Promote, Hire Employees

Kirsten Cavallo has joined Bissell Cos. as shared services specialist.

Benjamin Kallenbach was named executive pastry chef at The Ballantyne Hotel & Lodge.

Dana Rader Golf School welcomes new personnel: Steve Bogdanoff, PGA professional; Jon Meyers, PGA apprentice; and Elizabeth Belote, administrative assistant.

The Spa at Ballantyne has promoted Samantha Moore to guest services manager; Theresa Calloway to assistant spa director; Lindsey Woodruff to front desk supervisor and Melissa Todd to lead massage therapist.



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Kirsten Cavallo



Benjamin Kallenbach



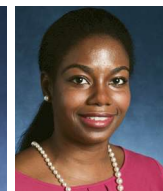
Steve Bogdanoff



Jon Meyers



Elizabeth Belote



Theresa Calloway



Lindsey Woodruff



Melissa Todd

Exec Wins National RE/MAX Award



Hadi Atri

Hadi Atri, president and CEO of RE/MAX Executive, was named Broker/Owner of the Year, Multi-Office.

This award recognizes only one multioffice broker in the U.S. within the RE/MAX network.

RE/MAX Executive is a locally owned and operated full-service brokerage in Charlotte. The firm has eight locations and more than 200 Realtors® specializing in residential and commercial real estate. Info: www.charlotteproperty.com.

Networking Group Meets Aug. 25



Ballantyne Briefings, a local networking group, will meet Tuesday, Aug. 25, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Aloft Charlotte Ballantyne. Featured speaker is Stacey B. Randall, creator of the "Take Control of Your Days" concept and founder of Brown-Randall Group.

Her topic is "Referability is a Long-Term Game, But Are You Even Playing?" Info: Allen Starrett at ars@starrettlawfirm.com or www.facebook.com/ballantynebriefings.

OPENINGS

Burrito Eatery Coming to StoneCrest

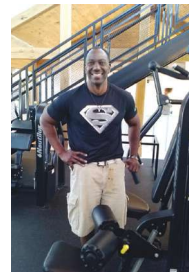


CHIPOTLE
MEXICAN GRILL

Chipotle Mexican Grill, a national chain of burrito restaurants focused on fresh ingredients, will open this summer in StoneCrest. The menu includes tacos, burrito bowls (a burrito without the tortilla) and salads made from ingredients that are sustainably grown and raised responsibly. Info: www.chipotle.com.

Fitness Firm Moves to Toringdon

Antonio Henry, owner of Carolina Conditioning, has moved his personal training and fitness boot camps to Atkins Circle Fitness Center in Toringdon. Henry earned his personal trainer certification from the National Academy of Sports Medicine. Info: 704-280-5080.



Antonio Henry

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SWEET CHARITIES

Corporate Park Hosts Food Drive


Ballantyne Corporate Park collected 140,055 pounds of food during its Cans for a Cause Food Drive to benefit Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina.

Food Lion, through its Food Lion Feeds program, donated 5,000 pounds to kick off the drive. Carlisle Companies challenged other tenants to collect up to 11,605 pounds (the number represents its address on North Community House Road). The company also donated \$18,674 to the cause, which is equivalent to 130,718 pounds of food. The drive ran from April 15 through April 24.



Bissell employees load food-drive items destined for Second Harvest Food Bank.

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Endhaven staff and children are proud of the new playground equipment at their school.

Endhaven Playground Complete

In December, Bissell donated \$25,000 to Endhaven Elementary on behalf of Ballantyne Corporate Park tenants. Putting the funds to work during its spring break in early April, Endhaven updated its playground equipment to provide a more enjoyable and safer environment for its students and local children.



Wally Olson was recognized at the Rotary District Conference as the Distinguished Rotarian for Meck South Rotary Club for 2014-2015. The conference was in Greensboro, N.C. in late April.

Meck South Rotarian Honored

Wally Olson, secretary of the Meck South Rotary Club, was recently recognized as the Distinguished Rotarian for the club for 2014-2015. Olson has been involved in Rotary since 1992.

In other news, Meck South Rotary members volunteered for Tree Charlotte's planting on March 15 and the Queen's Cup Steeplechase on April 25.

The club will sponsor its second annual golf tournament to support Beds For Kids at TPC Piper Glen on Monday, Sept. 28. Last year the inaugural tournament raised \$56,000 for the charity. For info and registration, go to www.bmo5.com. To make a silent auction donation, contact Beth Trotter at 704-458-0688 or rodbeth@carolina.rr.com.

Meck South Rotary meets every Friday morning from 7:15 to 8:30 at Another Broken Egg on Ballantyne Commons Parkway. Details: www.mecksouthrotary.org.



Dana Mathews, Scott Lever and Randy Good (from left) recently spent time in Seacrest Studios at Levine Children's Hospital.

Good's Supports Levine Children's Hospital

Owners of Good's Home Furnishings, Randy Good and Scott Lever, enjoyed a recent visit to Levine Children's Hospital. During the visit they presented a \$3,200 check to the hospital.

The gift represented customer donations from the organization's annual fundraiser along with a corporate match. Good's Home Furnishings has a store in Pineville.

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Tanksley Golf Tourney June 15

The 6th Annual Adam Faulk Tanksley Golf Tournament will be held on Monday, June 15, at Providence Country Club with a 1 p.m. shotgun start. Cost is \$200 per player or \$800 per team. Two winning players will advance and play in the Hyundai National Final tournament. Money raised supports finding a cure for childhood cancer. Info: www.chompchildhoodcancer.org.



BCC Rally Schedules Events

The 2015 BCC Rally evening gala, Unmask the Night, a masquerade ball and auction, will be held at Ballantyne Country Club on Saturday, Sept. 12. Maureen O'Boyle, anchor for WBTV, will emcee. Attendees are encouraged to wear black, white or shades of gray. Other events include:

Ladies Golf and Luncheon:
Tuesday, Sept. 22

Men's Pink Ball Golf Event:
Thursday, Sept. 24

Tennis Event: Friday, Sept. 25,
or Saturday, Sept. 26

Pink Bow Campaign:
All of October

To register for events or learn more about BCC Rally, go to www.bccrally.org.



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MetLife's Eric Steigerwalt (far right) presents an \$18,000 check from the tournament to the Santos Foundation. Also pictured are Nate Mills (far left) and Stuart Santos.

MetLife Stages First Golf Classic

The 1st Annual MetLife Community Golf Classic, held at The Golf Club at Ballantyne in March, raised \$18,000 for the Isabella Santos Foundation.

The Charlotte MetLife campus also recently participated in the Isabella Santos 5K Run for Kids Cancer.

MetLife's U.S. Retail division was a presenting sponsor for the Ballantyne Ball in February, which helped raise over \$100,000 for the Isabella Santos Foundation. 






Photo courtesy of Ray Simpson

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LOVIN' LIFE

These Personalities Show It

Photos by Ray Sepesy



ONE WON A HULA-HOOP CONTEST, one tears up the dance floor at weddings and one barks “woof!” when people drive with Fido in their lap.

These intriguing personalities either live or work in Ballantyne. They share their views on a variety of topics — their dream vacation, what they wouldn’t be caught dead wearing, their guilty pleasure and more.

See who sells cotton candy (truly), whose theme song for walking into a room is “Hey Ya!” and who loves Fantasy Football.

Meet Marc Kantor, Catherine Beheler and Barrett Brown.

MARC KANTOR

Birthplace: Boston.

Job: Tennis and athletic director,
Raintree Country Club.

What do you like most about your job?

Having the opportunity to help people and seeing the excitement of them achieving their goals. Oh, and playing tennis for a living isn't so bad either.

What's your guilty pleasure?

Fantasy Football or Las Vegas. Any outlet that allows me to be competitive.

Do you live in Ballantyne?

Yes.

What is your favorite Ballantyne-area restaurant?

Hickory Tavern on a Sunday afternoon during football season.

What is your favorite outdoor activity?

Anything with my kids. A day on the beach, jumping on the trampoline and helping them with their gymnastics — even though I have no clue what I'm talking about.

Describe your dream vacation.

Austria to ski and Australia to attend the Australian Open.

What is your favorite news source?

In my world — ESPN.

I would be rather caught dead than wear ____.

A suit.

What charitable organizations are you involved with?

Cystic Fibrosis, Autism Speaks, Carolina Breast Friends, Carolinas HealthCare Children's Fund.

What is your biggest pet peeve?

People that drive with dogs in their lap. Just doesn't seem safe and not sure it's legal.

What is a hidden gem in Ballantyne?

The summer music series at Blakeney.

Share something that someone would never guess about you.

That I never played tennis growing up. I liked to play every other sport. And it was not until the day I could beat my mother that I started to enjoy tennis. That was a major accomplishment unto itself.



CATHERINE BEHELER**Birthplace:** Concord, N.C.**Job:** Marketing manager, Aligned Energy.**What do you like most about your job?**

I work with smart people who work incredibly hard but can always share a good laugh with me. We work for a company that is creating a sustainable solution for data centers.

What's your guilty pleasure?

It's a tie between New Kids on the Block and casinos.

Do you live in Ballantyne?

Yes!

What is your favorite Ballantyne-area restaurant?

Kabob Grill.

What is your favorite outdoor activity?

Used to be skiing or kickball. Now it's more like eating a big meal and drinking a glass of wine on the patio. That's outdoorsy, right?

Describe your dream vacation.

I was on my dream vacation on my honeymoon. We went to South Africa and spent time in a couple of cities. We went on a safari, stayed in the wine lands, hung out with cheetahs, went cage diving with great white sharks and had some amazing food. My dream would be to do it all over again with additional safaris in perhaps Tanzania or Botswana.

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

"Hey Ya!" by Outkast.

What is your favorite news source?

Facebook. I get all the news I need from people's shared links and posts.

I would be rather caught dead than wear ____.

A Duke shirt. (Go Heels!)

What is your biggest pet peeve?

Mean people.

Share something that someone would never guess about you.

I can basically outlast anyone on the dance floor at a wedding. Give me a good DJ and I will tear that floor up!

BARRETT BROWN

Birthplace: Winston-Salem, N.C.

Job: Digital marketing and communications specialist, SPX Corp.; owner, Cotton Queen.

What do you like most about your own business?

I started Cotton Queen as a creative outlet and have been pleasantly surprised by the excitement I've encountered — sometimes the most unsuspecting people LOVE cotton candy.

What's your guilty pleasure?

Going to Target and buying fun stuff I don't need. I try not to go more than once a week!

Do you live in Ballantyne?

No, I live on Selwyn Avenue.

What is your favorite Ballantyne-area restaurant?

Vine American Kitchen. The roasted chicken mac and cheese is so good.

Describe your dream vacation.

Lounging on a tropical island with nothing on my agenda besides three delicious meals a day and plenty of cocktails, books and beautiful scenery.

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

"Born to Run" by Bruce Springsteen.

What is your favorite news source?

Charlotte Agenda has become one of the first emails I open in the morning. It's quick and funny, and I learn so much about the city from it.

I would be rather caught dead than wear ____.

A baseball cap. It's not a cute look for me.

What charitable organizations are you involved with?

I'm a member of the Young Affiliates of the Mint. We raise money to sponsor exhibits and also organize cultural/education programs.

What is your biggest pet peeve?

Passive aggressive behavior.

What is a hidden gem in Ballantyne?

The walking trails around Ballantyne Corporate Park. I love to get some fresh air and stretch my legs during my lunch break.

Share something that someone would never guess about you.

I won a hula hoop contest when I was in sixth grade. They made me stop after 48 minutes!





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Let's Vase It

Tips from a Pro Make Creating Beautiful Arrangements Easy

By Fredda Smith Photos by Ray Sepesy

SUMMER IS HERE AND EVERYWHERE YOU LOOK GORGEOUS flowers are in bloom. Each day, new blossoms catch my eye and remind me of the beauty surrounding me. My love affair with flowers began when I was 12 years old and has been with me ever since. Entering a garden club flower show was the beginning of my career as a florist, and now, 30 years later, arranging flowers is still a labor of love.

Fresh flowers brighten any room, but not all of us have a natural gift for arranging them. Creating flower arrangements can be frustrating if you lack the gift, but here are a few tips that can help everyone.

The Right Container

The first thing is to find the right container. Most of us have vases or other vessels sitting around the house that will work — like Mason jars, julep cups, pitchers or even old bottles. The secret to finding the right one is the opening of the container. A perfect vase is one with a cinched-in mouth, so your flowers do not fall out or flop.

If you like the aesthetics of square, rectangle or cylinder vases, they will work just as well with a large bouquet or by using a florist's technique of "gridding it off." That means using tape to create a grid at the opening of the vase, a step that will keep your flowers upright and in your preferred arrangement. This can be done best with clear florist tape, but Scotch tape will work if you are careful not to get it wet.

Choosing your flowers is the fun part! Your local florist or even grocery store should have a good selection, and some of us are lucky to have yards to gather flowers from hydrangeas, Lenten roses, sedum, roses and forsythia to make quick, beautiful arrangements. You can put together a simple arrangement by using just one variety of flowers (such as roses or carnations) and mounding them on the top of the vase. Carnations are back in vogue, and they come in vibrant colors, cost less than many other varieties and last a long time.


Carnations are back in vogue, and they come in vibrant colors, cost less than many other varieties and last a long time.



Want Texture?

If you want to assemble a mixed arrangement, choose several kinds of flowers to add texture. Select colors that complement each other, and use something tall and spiky like snapdragons, Bells of Ireland or the stock flower, which mix well with round flowers like gerberas, ranunculuses (commonly known as buttercups) and roses.

Your color palette is a matter of taste. I love bright hues of pink, purple and orange, but white and greens can be just as interesting if you find the right texture combination. Greenery is optional; I never incorporate it into my vase arrangements. I suggest staying away from filler flowers like baby's breath and Monte Casino asters. Although baby's breath by itself in a vase can be pretty, let your flowers make their own statement.

Always change out your water every few days. Your flowers should be conditioned before you purchase them so it is really not necessary to add anything else to the water. Just have fun, and remember that beauty is truly in the eye of the beholder. 



Fredda Smith is owner and creative director of Buy the Bunch, a floral design company. Learn more at www.buythebunch-fortmill.com.

Seamless Living

Inviting the
Outside In

By Nan Bauroth
Photos by Dustin Peck



Glass doors in the living room provide great views and easy outdoor access.



THE WALLS BETWEEN HOME INTERIORS AND EXTERIORS are doing a disappearing act. The idea in home renovation 2.0 is to create a seamless environment between the formal living space inside and the informal area outside. Ballantyne residents are on the leading edge of this trend to redefine the distinction between

“The big thing right now is owners wishing to incorporate the kitchen, living room and their nice outdoor space into one viewing area.”

— Andrew Roby Project Manager Dominick Thompson



these spaces and transform their houses into next-gen homes ideal for today's casual entertaining style.

A couple residing in Longview recently completed an exterior and interior home facelift to achieve their vision of creating a space with no barriers. "We wanted an integrated living

In opening up the kitchen to the living room, the homeowners added an island that houses the stove and is topped with quartzite-studded granite.

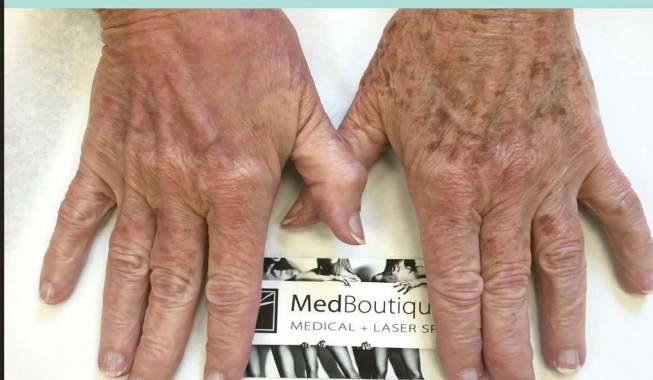
space," one of them explains. "But what we had was very distinct areas because of the way the house was constructed. We were seeking the feeling of enjoying the

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At dusk, the patio is a beautiful place to unwind.

outside from the inside, but everything was so separate.”

Dominick Thompson, project manager for Andrew Roby, a Charlotte custom residential contractor currently managing several major home renovations in Ballantyne Country Club, says his company’s clients are seeking this same sense of connection. “The big thing right now is owners wishing to incorporate the kitchen, living room and their nice outdoor space into one viewing area.”

In his experience, when a home is segmented into many rooms and people cannot see everyone, they feel as if they are not interacting with friends or families. “But if you are in the kitchen cooking and can look across the living room and talk to a friend, or turn a little the other way and look through the patio doors to where others are congregating, it makes you feel totally engaged,” he observes.

‘Just Fire and Water’

In the case of the Longview couple, the two had built their dream home in the Midwest only to be uprooted here for a career move. After touring 57 homes that didn’t match their wish list, they instantly knew the Longview house possessed good bones and their desired location — on a golf course and in a gated, guardhouse community. But the backyard

continued on page 43



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An exclusive display from local contemporary art provider Shain Gallery establishes an authentic gallery feel. The art is available for purchase and rotates regularly.





“We have doubled our square footage by creating this outdoor oasis where we can relax, entertain and enjoy the outside as an extension to our home.”

— Longview homeowner

The homeowners extended an existing covered patio with a pergola that leads to more patio seating.

■ continued from page 40

was not finished, so their first mission was to redesign the exterior living space.

The plan they ultimately implemented was inspired by a trip to a resort in Cabo, Mexico, where the couple was enthralled by the outdoor walkways and common areas lit entirely by natural firelight. "We wanted that look for our own backyard — no artificial lighting. Just fire and water."


They extended the existing covered patio via a pergola that leads to a more spacious patio seating and entertaining area in the backyard, where

Taking out the wall between the kitchen and living room and retaining an existing walnut countertop were renovation priorities.



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a fountain flanked by two fire bowls serves as the main focal point. To complete the resort feel, a two-sided fireplace lights a sunken hot tub on one side and group seating on the other.

Linking to the Outside

Once the couple completed the backyard, they realized they could not easily see or access it from the interior because the living room wall facing the backyard only had three small windows and a standard door leading to the patio. The kitchen was also blocked off from the family room by a massive wall.

The solution was to install floor-to-ceiling sliding glass doors in the living room, creating a continual transition between the interior and exterior and a flood of natural light.

To provide an even greater sense of openness, they removed the wall between the kitchen and living room — no small feat given it was load-bearing, with one side containing the stove and kitchen cabinets. The owners' inventive concept was to retain the stove, surrounding it with a striking countertop fashioned of mirror-image granite slabs studded with quartzite.

The original kitchen island with its beautiful walnut countertop, which the owners loved, was also retained. To address storage, cabinets around the stove were repurposed into a new butlery on one side of the kitchen desk, a space that had not been fully utilized. The other side of this space was converted into one of the

A 350-bottle wine room with glass doors became part of the new kitchen.



A trip to Cabo, Mexico inspired the homeowners to make fire and water the focal point for their backyard.

“We realized our vision had worked out perfectly. Everything flowed so well.”

— *Homeowner*

homeowners’ dreams — a spectacular 350-bottle wine room with floor-to-ceiling glass doors that showcase their vintage collection.

The change in the home’s look and feel is dramatic. “Now we have an elegant inside and outside,” one

owner says. “We have doubled our square footage by creating this outdoor oasis where we can relax, entertain and enjoy the outside as an extension to our home. We can open the two floor-to-ceiling glass

continued on page 47



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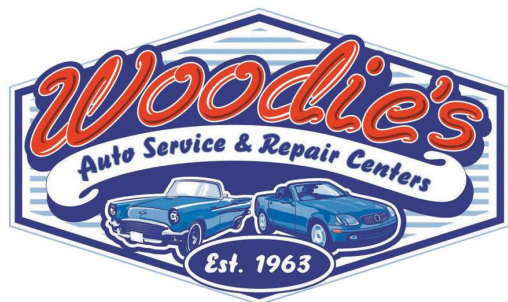


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■ continued from page 45

doors and just enjoy the upper-level patio or remotely raise the floor-to-ceiling, upper-patio screens and be fully extended into the backyard.”

The couple christened their newly redesigned home during the holiday season, hoping it would prove everything they had imagined. “We realized our vision had worked out perfectly,” the owner continued. “Everything flowed so well. Now we can cook inside or outside or both at the same time, and also socialize inside or out, yet we’re all still together. We are thrilled.”

Renovation Tips

Thompson of Andrew Roby advises that the trend to remake space often involves knocking down walls, so expertise in this area of construction is critical. “We’ve done some pretty technically challenging wall removals where wood or steel I-beams are being put in. Sometimes we are talking about a 20-foot span supporting a second story, which is a really big wall opening.”

The challenge is working with a good architect or designer, engineer and builder to understand exactly what needs to be executed before doing anything, he says. “The guidance and creativity they offer will prevent problems and the investment will pay for itself.” 




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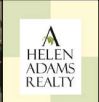


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NORTH CAROLINA IS WELL KNOWN FOR ITS PRIME CATCH in mountain streams and off the coast. But you don't have to travel far to drop a line, enjoy the weather and reel in a fish or two. Mecklenburg County and Charlotte are filled with spots that anglers find perfect for family fun.

South Charlotte resident Ted Mueller grew up fishing with his dad and older brother in Ohio and has fond memories of time spent together baiting hooks and waiting for a nibble. He hopes to make similar memories with his children, Henry, 5, and Bo, 3, both of whom he takes fishing locally.

Local ponds provide the perfect opportunity to lure young ones into the sport, Mueller says. Even the days when

Gone Fishin'

FROM URBAN PONDS TO AREA LAKES, FAMILIES ANGLE FOR FUN
By Kerry Singe
Photos by Ray Sepesy

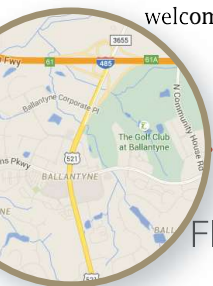


Ted Mueller enjoys fishing with sons Bo (left) and Henry in the pond near the 17th hole of The Golf Club at Ballantyne.

the fish aren't biting create valuable family moments. "You talk about things, you don't just fish," he says. "There's a lot of time sitting without distractions. You're really talking with them and can see them learning and thinking and drinking it all in."

Ideal for All Ages

Fishing has been allowed in Mecklenburg County streams and ponds for "probably forever," says Jeff Robinson, division director of park operations. Some ponds have playgrounds, ideal for when wee fishermen want to take a break. Restroom facilities and picnic tables are also welcome amenities. Visitor



LOCAL FISHING SPOTS: THE LIST

Ballantyne Corporate Park

Colonel Francis Beatty Park

Freedom Park Lake

George Poston Park

Hornets Nest Park Pond

Lake Norman/Blythe
Landing/Jetton Park/
Ramsey Creek Park

Latta Plantation Nature
Preserve/Mountain
Island Lake*

McAlpine Creek Park Pond

McDowell Nature
Preserve/Lake Wylie*

Mountain Island Lake

Park Road Park

Reedy Creek Park &
Nature Preserve*

Squirrel Lake

* Nature preserves sell bait and offer a tackle loaner program, where people can borrow fishing equipment.



Bo, 3, revels in catching a fish with his dad, Ted.



Mueller likes being able to fish near where he works in Ballantyne Corporate Park. Son Bo (top) delights in a close-up view of the catch, and he and brother Henry, 5, learn how to handle a reel.



FISHING RULES AT **BALLANTYNE CORPORATE PARK**

- Fishing is available dawn until dusk.
- Only catch and release.
- No fishing license required.
- Must use artificial (not live) bait and barbless hooks.
- No swimming or wading.
- Children must be accompanied by an adult.

centers at Latta Plantation Nature Preserve, McDowell Nature Preserve and Reedy Creek Nature Preserve sell bait and can loan tackle.

Victor Criswell searched for a local fishing spot shortly after moving to Charlotte from New Mexico in 2008. The retiree wanted a place nearby that he could easily get to so he could fish for an hour or so before heading home. He often visits Freedom Park in Dilworth. Having a local spot lets him call up his son and daughter-in-law who live close by to invite grandsons Jack, 7, and Wyatt, 4, to accompany him.

He took his 5-year-old granddaughter when she was visiting and, with some help, she “caught” her first fish.

“She was thrilled to death,” he recalls. “I was looking for something where I could go out in the summer evenings and fish for an hour or two and think about all the wonderful things in life. I didn’t want to drive three hours to go to a place where I’ll only be for a short time.”

Those who enjoy fishing off a boat have ample opportunity,

too. Ryan Prentice grew up boating and fishing with his dad in Florida. He was so eager to continue the tradition with his family that he bought his sons life jackets when they were born.

Prentice enjoys spending the

continued on page 56



TIPS: TIMING AND BAIT

Fish tend to bite most during the first three hours of daylight and the last two to three hours of daylight.

Bream and catfish are the easiest to catch. For bream, attach a cork or bobber to your line, a small hook and anything edible, such as bread or cheese. Catfish swim on the bottom and will eat almost anything. Suggested baits include shrimp, chicken livers or anything delicious rolled into a ball.



Ryan Prentice, who loved fishing with his dad, bought life jackets for sons Max (center) and Michael when they were born.

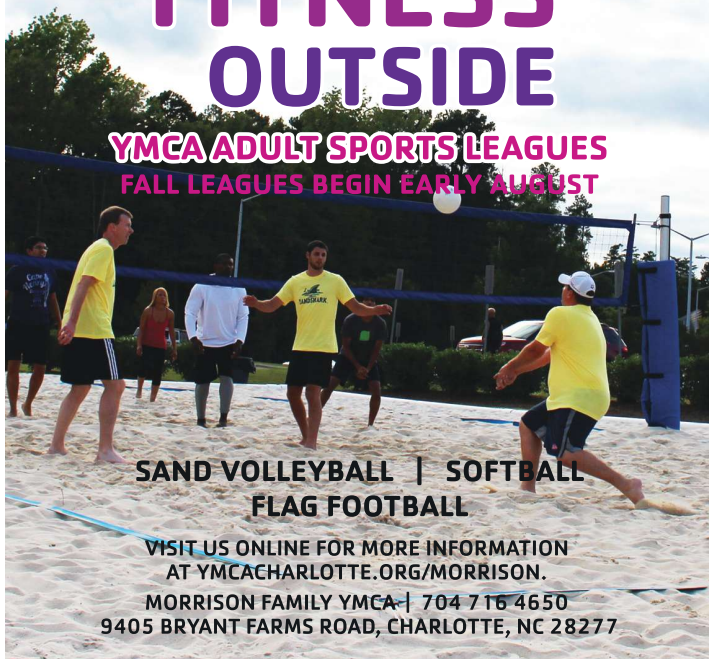


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■ continued from page 54

day with Michael, 6, and Max, 5, at Mountain Island Lake, about 40 minutes from his home in Marvin. He practices casting with them on his lawn and came up with a fun family activity to fuel his children's interest.

Prentice buys blank lures, which he lets his children paint. He adds a clear-coat epoxy to make it waterproof and then they fish with their art project together.

"It's a sport you can do your entire life, whether you're young or old," Prentice says. "It's just a lot of fun."

Urban Gems

Sometimes a favorite fishing hole is nestled in a seemingly unexpected spot.

In south Charlotte, Ballantyne Corporate Park is home to more

WHAT CAN YOU CATCH?

The type of fish available varies by pond. Bass and bream can be found at Reedy Creek Park & Nature Preserve and Colonel Francis Beatty Park, while catfish dominate at Freedom Park.

The state stocks some ponds for free. Sometimes, fish find their way in naturally, either through water birds who bring in fish eggs stuck on their feet, or if a creek floods and fish or fish eggs end up in a nearby lake.

Ponds at Ballantyne Corporate Park are stocked with hybrid striped bass, largemouth bass, minnows, shellcrackers and bluegill. Grass carp aren't for fishing; they are there to eat algae.



The Prentices enjoy spending the day fishing at Mountain Island Lake, about 40 minutes from their home.



FAMILY FUN: MAKING LURES, ETC.

- Buy blank lures and let the kids paint them. Cover with a clear-coat epoxy.
- Outfit the kids with their own tackle boxes.
- Go with the flow. If a child would prefer to observe nature or run in the grass, put down your pole and enjoy the moment together.
- Have children wear sunglasses to protect their eyes should a hook get flung their way.

than 300 companies, including Fortune 500 headquarters. But local residents also include bass, bluegill and shellcrackers swimming in the ponds in the pocket parks. Grass carp live there too, grazing on the algae.

Near the 17th hole of The Golf Club at Ballantyne's course, you can find a pond complete with a fishing dock and fish food. Cullman Park features patio tables with chairs and umbrellas, a peaceful waterfall and a charming bridge. At the aptly named Kid Pond, there's a boardwalk for fishing and three wooden benches conveniently located for anglers needing a break.

Mueller enjoys casting into these urban gems and favors the pond near the 17th hole. In the past, he's helped families bait their hooks and enjoyed watching them reel in bass and bluegill.

He advises parents to have patience during their time at the pond. He knows firsthand that a day of fishing can often turn into something

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else — such as a leisurely stroll around the water's edge or an intense discussion about the lifespan of a bug. When that happens, he puts down his pole to enjoy the moment.

"It's a relatively low-cost, easy and fun way to learn about nature," he says. "You learn about fish and bugs and talk about the weather. It's just a great experience." 

ANGLING FOR MORE INFO?

- www.go-ballantyne.com/thingstodo/recreationandleisure.aspx.
- www.charmeck.org/mecklenburg/county/parkandrec/stewardshipservices/outdoors/pages/fishing.aspx.



Max (left) and Michael like the handpainted fishing lures they create at home for their fishing trips.



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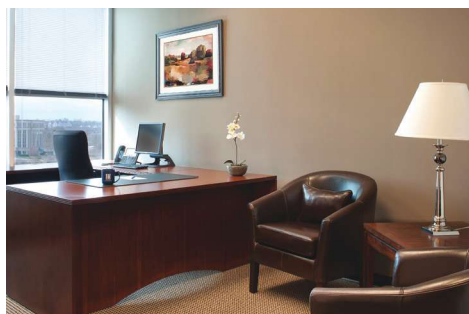


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The most strenuous of workouts or errands can now be run in something chic and comfortable. Pair your plain summer whites with a patterned or strappy sports bra. Zip about Ballantyne in a running skirt with an extra pop of color. Easing through workouts hands-free is a must — these skirts can be pretty practical with hidden pockets. Polish off your post-workout look with a sleek jacket.

For men on the go, sport shorts will give you the versatility you need, taking you from the golf course to the greenway, even to the neighbor's backyard cookout. As for shirts — whether you're working out at the Y or out for drinks — choose one that wicks away summer sweat.

And don't forget — accessorize every step of the way with an activity tracker. 

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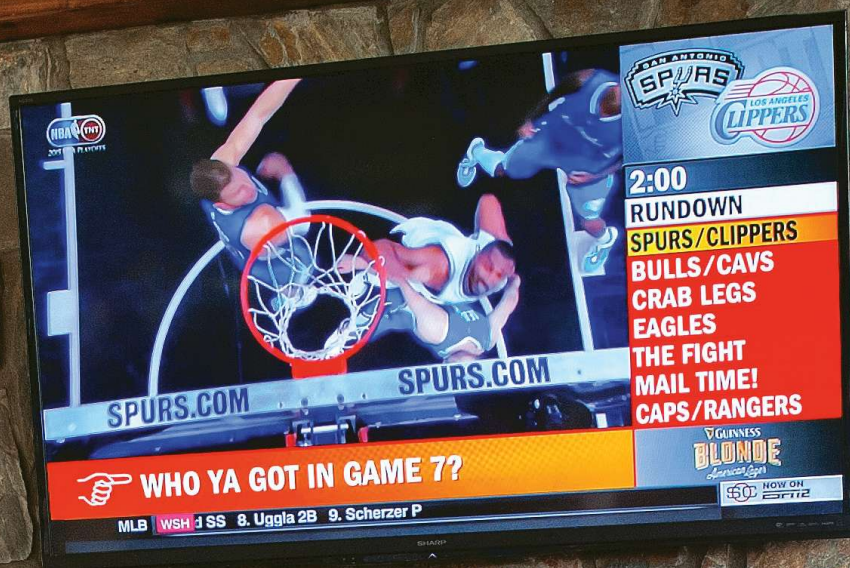
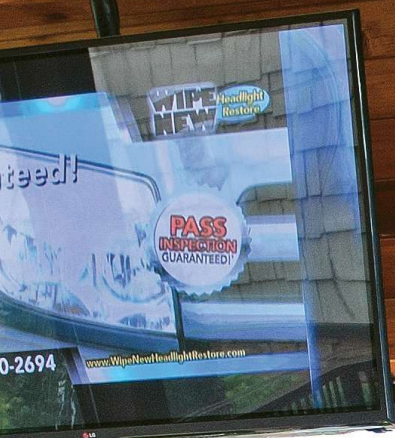
Sit a Spell Outdoors!

By Dawn Liles
Photos by Ray Sepesy
and Mary-Alice Warren

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Ballantyne is home to restaurants that offer intimate outdoor patios, creative cocktails and live music, creating an upscale, convivial atmosphere while

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Enjoying drinks after work is a popular pastime.

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Stone Mountain Grill is located in Ballantyne Corporate Park.

remaining true to the mission of providing delicious cuisine.

Come along for a tour of a few popular eateries, and make a plan for a fun date, family outing or friends' night out.

Mountain Escape

Stone Mountain Grill, located in Ballantyne Corporate Park, provides a setting reminiscent of a Colorado mountain escape, complete with a stone fireplace, a spacious patio for private parties, five large-screen TVs and a diverse menu — from a salmon and goat cheese salad to jerk chicken tacos and steak.

Owner Rob Curtin, whose resume includes corporate chef for Harper's Restaurant Group, developed the 75 items on the menu, crafting a broad selection for varying tastes. "Everything on the menu is available all day," he says, "so customers can enjoy a steak at lunch or a sandwich and salad for dinner."

The full-service bar offers a martini special every month.

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The restaurant clientele is a mix of business people in suits and tennis players and golfers in game attire.

Meanwhile, diners seeking to replicate a wine-tasting experience in Napa or Tuscany will find D'Vine Wine Café offers an intimate setting for savoring live music, fine wines, entrees and tapas. The menu includes charcuterie, farro salad and fra diavolo pasta.

Located upstairs in Ballantyne Village, D'Vine hosts two to three events per week during the summer, including a Tour of Italy dinner and Bourbon, Brews and Barbeque nights. With 550 bottles for sale and 43 wines by the glass, diners can experience wines from all over the world.

Live Music, Open Mic

Live music nearly every night is a big draw, with offerings from pop to acoustic to blues and jazz. "In the summer, during open-mic nights on Tuesdays, we move the mic onto the patio and everyone in the village can hear us, so we have to uphold a reputation for quality musicians every night of the week," says owner Terry Miller.

"We welcome and encourage a wide range of ages to dine with us — and we're proud to be a comfortable, safe place for single women to come enjoy a drink. I think we probably lead the pack in Match.com meetups!" Miller says.

For an upscale escape without ever leaving town,



Above: D'Vine Wine Café offers 43 wines by the glass from around the world. **Left:** The cafe, located upstairs at Ballantyne Village, hosts two to three events per week during the summer, including a Tour of Italy dinner.



head to The Ballantyne Hotel & Lodge. Diners can enjoy sweeping views of the golf course and the hotel's signature 18th hole while enjoying drinks and dinner from Gallery Restaurant.

The award-winning restaurant offers a farm-to-table inspired menu — think kale salad, wild mussels, trout and lamb chops — and hosts Friday night wine and cocktail tastings in addition to Whiskey Club events.

Seasoned mixologist Greg Voss creates handcrafted cocktails using house-made syrups and sodas in addition to fresh ingredients enhanced by culinary innovations and techniques. Patrons can also

continued on page 69

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Above: At The Ballantyne Hotel & Lodge, guests enjoy a view of the signature 18th hole at The Golf Club at Ballantyne. **Bottom Left, Right:** Custom burgers and tater tots are a big draw at Bad Daddy's, where families and others frequent the patio.

One of Bad Daddy's latest offerings is a chuck/brisket burger with Comté and raclette cheeses.



■ continued from page 66

enjoy the hotel's terrace, complete with ambient music, a classic cocktails menu, patio furniture and menus fitted with back lights to make menu browsing easier while dining by candlelight.

"You definitely won't feel like you're in Charlotte when you're enjoying a beverage on our terrace," says Cameron Brobst, director of outlets at The Ballantyne Hotel & Lodge.



Bad Daddy's Burger Bar is on John J. Delaney Drive.

Laid-Back Ambience

Seeking laid-back ambience while enjoying award-winning burgers and craft brews? Make a trip to Bad Daddy's Burger Bar off John J. Delaney Drive.

Not your typical burger joint, Bad Daddy's offers custom-blended beef patties, in addition to veggie burgers, tuna burgers, shrimp burgers and free-range chicken burgers. One of its latest offerings is a chuck/brisket blend with Comté and raclette cheeses.

"Our gourmet burgers have a broad appeal," says owner Frank Scibelli, a Charlotte culinary fixture responsible for Mama Ricotta's, Paco's Tacos & Tequila and Midwood Smokehouse, among others. Bad Daddy's hosts ladies

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who lunch as well as kids and families coming off soccer and little-league fields. "Our patio is very popular," Scibelli says. "It has a great open feel and is an extension of our dining room. Customers enjoy the TVs and the great sound system."

To bring back memories of rowdy fun and great times shared with friends in college, venture into Bradshaw Social House off Rea Road in Robinson Farm. Enjoy watching multiple games on large-screen TVs while enjoying warm nights on the outdoor patio and listening to live music.

Live music is offered Wednesday, Friday and Saturday nights and Sunday afternoons. "We think our live music is second to none," says owner Jim Sprowles. "Many of the popular bands in town have played here, including Simplified, as well as a number of bands who are based in Atlanta."



Bradshaw Social House has live music several nights a week.

The inside of Bradshaw's has an intentional industrial look, and the menu offers typical bar food as well as healthier options. The venue offers 17 craft beers on tap, with another 40 to 50 bottles and drink specials every week. Sprowles also owns adjacent oyster bar Lure, which is opening a rooftop

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balcony this summer. With Bradshaw, Lure and several other restaurants, Sprowles hopes to make Robinson Farm a “destination” dining area. Buon Appetito! 🍷

Located in Robinson Farm, Bradshaw's offers 17 craft beers, 40 to 50 bottled beers and weekly drink specials.



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One of the mouthwatering rotisserie favorites is the half chicken with two sides.

Peruvian Panache

Viva Chicken Serves Dishes Inspired by Centuries-Old Cuisine

By Amy Rogers Photos by Ray Sepesy

IMAGINE THE BEST CHICKEN YOU'VE EVER TASTED. Something Southern and fried probably comes to mind. But keep traveling south — another 3,000 miles or so to Peru — and you'll find a style of chicken cookery that just might change your mind.

Viva Chicken in Charlotte boasts mouthwatering Peruvian rotisserie chicken, prepared by a time-tested method and made nearly irresistible with authentically spiced side dishes.

Peru is a country of diverse geography that includes coastal, highland and jungle climes. Add to that a mix of cultural influences from Europe, Africa and Asia. The result is a centuries-old cuisine that experts predict will use its foothold as a modern trend here in the U.S. to grow rapidly in popularity. If Viva Chicken is any measure, those experts are right.

'Gringo Killer'

By 6 each morning, prep cooks arrive to chop vegetables and make the sauces for lunch and dinner. The aji amarillo sauce is creamy and mild; the huacatay is spicier and contains Peruvian mint; and the rocoto pepper is affectionately dubbed the "gringo killer." The free-range chickens that have been marinated are slow-roasted in the rotisserie oven specially built in Peru.

The most-ordered menu item is pollo a la brasa, served as a quarter, half or whole chicken accompanied by dipping sauce and each diner's choices from a list

of 10 side dishes (four words of advice: try the canary beans.).

For lighter fare, a quinoa-stuffed avocado, made with organic grains, is both satisfying and guilt-free. Like the Inca Wrap, pastas and rice dishes, it's vegetarian. Classic saltado features stir-fried sirloin steak atop fries and rice with Peruvian soy sauce. There's plenty of ingredient flexibility on a menu that includes appetizers, salads, sandwiches and wraps.

Viva Chicken serves beer, wine and the Peruvian soda called Inca Cola. But the perfect summer beverages are traditional and vibrant in color: chicha morada, made from purple corn and spices; maracuya, a golden, passion-fruit punch; and sunny green lemonade with basil and mint. Uninitiated diners are encouraged to sample them.

Service is brisk
as customers
crowd into Viva
Chicken, but this
is emphatically
not fast food.




Good Choices for Kids

Parents of picky kids will be happy to know Viva Chicken offers mainstays such as chicken tenders and green beans, although it's a safe bet kids will be willing to try colorful fried sweet potatoes or plantains. They'll want to leave room for dessert, especially alfajores. These are chewy, buttery Peruvian cookies sandwiched around a caramel dulce de leche filling and dusted with powdered sugar.

Randy Garcia is one of Viva Chicken's owners. He "grew up" at Villa Antonio, the eatery his parents owned on South Boulevard. Bruno Macchiavello was a chef at that restaurant, and the two men discussed opening their own place for a couple of years before moving forward with Dennis Thompson as a partner.

With a cozy location on Elizabeth Avenue near downtown Charlotte and this more expansive space opened locally in the Shops at Toringdon last November, Viva Chicken plans to open a third restaurant in Huntersville this summer.

Service is brisk as customers crowd into Viva Chicken, but this is emphatically not fast food. As families, shoppers and business people dine side by side, they may not know or care that the meal they're enjoying is fashionable. But they'll probably all agree that it could become their new favorite dish — "Southern" style. 

Viva Chicken


Monday-Saturday - 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Sunday - 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

The Shops at Toringdon
12206 Copper Way, 28277
704-341-8174
www.vivachicken.com



Quinoa-stuffed avocado is among the restaurant's lighter selections.



Wan Marsh created this artwork on display recently at Art in the Village Gallery.

Picture This

Original Art, Local Galleries Attract Enthusiastic Local Support

Photos by Kevin Douglas

IF LIFE IMITATES ART, IT'S NO SURPRISE THAT BALLANTYNE is rapidly making a name for itself as a hot new nexus in Charlotte for venues showcasing the best in creative expression. With a high degree of education and penchant for traveling to worldly destinations, many who live and work here possess a sophisticated artistic palate that eagerly welcomes outlets to indulge their appreciation for works that inspire the imagination.

Still, many here are not aware the arts scene in Ballantyne is thriving. Art in the Village, a social event begun in Ballantyne Village last fall, now attracts 100 art lovers a month, while Charlotte Fine Art Gallery in Carmel Village, owned by artist Joni Purk, is luring growing crowds with monthly exhibitions of noted artists from around the country, including a recent retrospective featuring pop art guru Peter Max.

Art in the Village

When Ed Camp became general manager of Ballantyne Village last year, he parlayed his two years as director of The ArtsCenter in Carrboro near Chapel Hill into Art in the Village, a reception on the fourth Friday of every month. Ballantyne residents who appreciate art can relax and spend an evening enjoying original works by 13 local artists who are there in person. Housed next to TCBY, the Art in the Village gallery displays 100 of their works, which are for sale.

"One of our hopes is to support local artists and show there is a vibrant art scene here in Ballantyne," Camp explains. "Artists are selling work, which is wonderful for them. We are getting repeat customers, surprised by the quality of art created here in Charlotte. We will always be committed to doing this kind of event in some shape or form at a space here because it fits our village atmosphere."

In March, Art in the Village saluted arts in education by showing works by students at the Northwest School of the Arts in Mecklenburg County, as well as a compilation of tiles individually designed by members of the Ballantyne Village Kids Club.

Charlotte Fine Art Gallery

When artist Joni Purk founded Charlotte Fine Art Gallery in 2011 at Carmel Village, it didn't take long before people driving by saw the sign and ventured inside.

She has since moved to larger space in Carmel Village to accommodate the crowded receptions for her monthly exhibits, which feature works in 2-D and 3-D media by




Art in the Village is a public reception the fourth Friday of the month in Ballantyne Village.

"We will always be committed to doing this kind of event in some shape or form at a space here because it fits our village atmosphere."

— Ballantyne Village General Manager Ed Camp

noteworthy American artists, as well as art classes, camps and workshops in the gallery's studio space. Carmel Village is located at the corner of Carmel Road and Highway 51.

"The response has been fantastic," Purk says. "This is now a large metro area with a diverse culture, so clients often purchase art that reminds them of a place they have lived or been before. Visitors to the gallery are drawn to everything from abstraction to photorealism and large works spanning three to four feet." Purk often helps them assemble a complement of artwork that could include two smaller paintings and a piece of sculpture.

In addition to managing the shows, Purk still paints (her work was the featured exhibit in May) and teaches as well. "The best part for me is the thrill of holding these special exhibits and meeting the artists. And I absolutely love to teach," she adds. "It's wonderful when it clicks with a beginning artist, and they are so proud of finishing a piece. There's nothing more rewarding than watching people develop their understanding and appreciation of art." 

These artists are among the ones who show work at Art in the Village.



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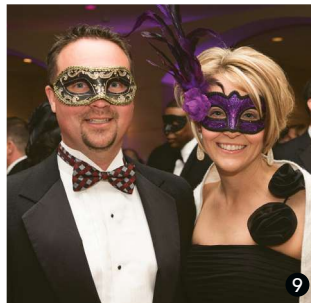
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BALLANTYNE BALL RAISES \$101,000

Over 350 people enjoyed the inaugural Ballantyne Ball on Feb. 14 at The Ballantyne Hotel & Lodge.

Attendees enjoyed a masquerade theme, dinner, dancing, live music by The Dickens and an auction. The event raised \$101,000 for neuroblastoma research and treatment. The funds went to the Isabella Santos Foundation to be used at Levine Children's Hospital.

Photos by Hayley Watson



1. Rodney Sims, Christy Durbin, Mike Chill, Kate Chill
2. Allen and Hillary Starrett, Sarah and Dan Hebb
3. Erin and Omar Reyes, Trace and Kristen Banks
4. Rahul and Puja Naik
5. Brenna Campbell, Lanetra Jackson
6. Craig and Mary Schroeder
7. Christine Kline, Pam Moody
8. John and Amy Marszalek, Alisa and Brad McKeiver
9. Andrew and Callie Dobbins
10. Jonathan and Amanda Desrochers
11. Tino and Jaclyn Sunseri
12. Al and Kelly Fifield, Loretta and Carlos Pruitt

OVER 300 ATTEND HOPE GALA

More than 300 guests attended the 12th annual Celebration of Hope Gala presented by Felix Sabates' Mercedes-Benz of South Charlotte on March 7. The event raised more than \$162,000 for the March Forth with Hope Foundation, a nonprofit that provides financial support to families battling cancer or other life-threatening diseases.

An "Evening with James Bond" was the theme of the gala, held at The Ballantyne Hotel & Lodge and featuring a martini reception, dinner, dancing and auction. The guests also enjoyed the evening dressed in Bond-inspired attire.

Photos by Hayley Watson



1. Jesse Sossamon, Austin Stout, Magdalyn and Mark Stiver
2. Ken Ray, Ashley and Dusty New
3. Gavin Staton, Kimberly Collins, Mason Staton
4. Denise Bucey, Sam Lograsso, Stuart and Shelby Stout
5. Stone Marcham, Heidi Swope
6. Chris and Sandra Spivey, Chris and Nathalie Long, Renee and Ray Breazeale
7. Tony and Jamie Leonard, Pete and Linda Grekusz
8. Jason and Beatrice Teller, Karen and Mark Crews
9. Sharon Buckner, Erica Donnalley
10. Ann and Mike Cochrane
11. Arsalan and Arezo Hafezi, Nikki Lowery, Jenny Sharp
12. Alan Barnes, Christopher James, Payton and Pepper Pounds
13. Paul and Chris Ryskiewich
14. Christa Hooper, Katie Defrancisci
15. Nathan and Ty Bescher
16. Bill and Sheila Laffoday, Wendy and Garth McGillewie
17. Riley Fields, Kevin Donnelly



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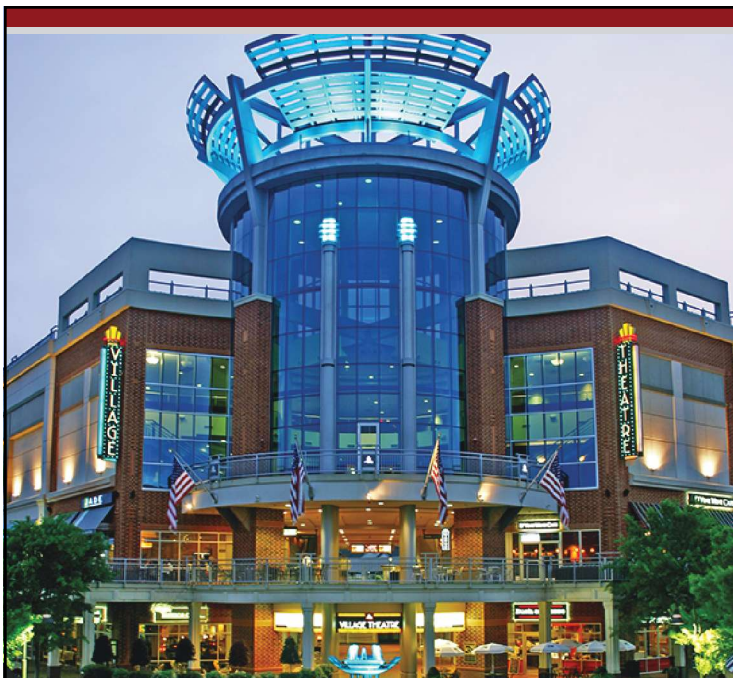
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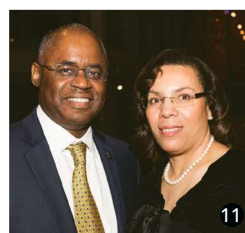
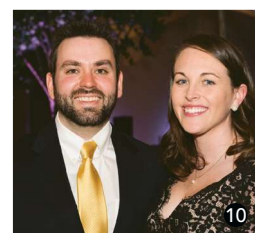
ST. JUDE EVENT AIDS RESEARCH

The 2nd annual St. Jude Evening of Hope occurred Feb. 7, at the Urban Garden in 1 Bank America Center in uptown Charlotte. A committee of financial investment professionals from Charlotte hosted the event, which featured tasting stations with celebrity chefs, cocktails, music and a luxury auction.

St. Jude Evening of Hope benefited research and treatments at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

Photos by Hayley Watson

1. Tricia and Chris McCain
2. Jessica Fisher, Angela Arno, Megan Hannnon
3. Megan Walton, Blake Whitman
4. Will Krowchuk, Stacey Katziff
5. Becky Conneen, ClareAnne Anastasi
6. Angela Arno, Scott and Julie Galvin, Karen Lyon, Stephanie and Robert Nehlsen, Deb Dahn, Tom Desmond
7. Dave and Amy Dusseault, Courtney and Donato Montanaro, Ofelia and Philip Claxton, Paul McCudy
8. Ashley Trotter, Christine Nelson-Sperow
9. Kareem and Crystal Barnes, Heather Mitsopoulos, Peter Benzie
10. Joe North, Emily Buchanan-Wright
11. George and Maxine Simms
12. Dana Lorick, Thomas Mattapallil
13. Pamela and Eric Reilly
14. Theresa McCutcheon, John Mollohan, Nathan Speicher
15. Eric and Jennifer Nusbaum, Amy and David Dusseault, Jason and Jessica McLeod
16. Kate Marcus, Michele Adams, Jodi Eppler



FUNDRAISER IS '80s FLASHBACK

St. Matthew Saturday Night, a fundraiser supporting St. Matthew Catholic School, was March 28 at The Ballantyne Hotel & Lodge.

Guests dressed in '80s prom and formalwear and enjoyed cocktails, a buffet dinner, dancing and live auction. The school's parent-teacher organization sponsored the event.

Photos by Lindsey Armstrong



1. Angela and Jack Seeley, Chris and Jami Herzberg, Bill and Diane Segarra
2. Stephanie Murphy, Kristina Nichols
3. Christine and Michael Carberry
4. Tami Duggan, Michelle Smarz
5. Blaise and Erin Woeste, Ben and Tricia Canon, Amy Simsic
6. Shawna Best, Laura Lengers
7. Sara and John Waldron
8. Clay and Lane Helher, Jackie and Matt McFee, Becky and Wilson Carey
9. Erin and Jason Dummert
10. Sabrina and Tim Winters
11. Ken Marasco, Dawn Nacional, Cindy and John Baxter



SEASIDE SOJOURN

Kiawah Beckons with Outdoor Adventure, Lowcountry Luxe

By Nan Bauroth
Photos courtesy of Kiawah Island Golf Resort

THE LURE OF KIAWAH

ISLAND has long been its 10 miles of pristine, secluded beaches that offer a respite for vacationers seeking to escape everyday life. Now this barrier island off South Carolina is capitalizing on plentiful recreational opportunities afforded by the Atlantic Ocean lapping its white sands, coupled with the maze of inland waterways lined in tropical foliage that make this resort an outdoor paradise.

Although a good beach read is still the goal for some visitors, families are discovering Kiawah is an ideal summer destination for the nonstop adventure it promises all ages — from surfing, paddleboarding, fishing, kayaking, cycling and birding to golfing 'til the gators come home. Located approximately 20 miles south of Charleston, Kiawah is known for golf and tennis opportunities as well.

Kiawah is a S.C. barrier island known for its natural beauty and wildlife.

But Mother Nature is the reason The Travel Channel ranked the island “America’s Best Wildlife Getaway Beach.” While many hotels offer nature walks, Kiawah Island Golf Resort goes all-out for the outdoors. Families can experience the thrill of spotting a bobcat prowling the underbrush, going on a loggerhead crawl or wiling away the evening at a program featuring songs and snakes.

The centerpiece of Kiawah Island Golf Resort is The Sanctuary, a 255-room luxury oceanfront hotel with AAA Five Diamond and Forbes Five Star ratings. Designed with the look of an opulent seaside mansion, The Sanctuary is the epicenter of social life for locals, guests and vacationers who enjoy its restaurants and elegant spa. Other lodging options at the resort include 500 villas and private luxury homes.

Outdoors Galore

Action is in the offing everywhere, starting with Kiawah’s new 14-passenger eco-tour boat. It’s perfect for families wishing to dolphin-watch, photograph nature or kick back on a sunset cruise. Beachside activities include surfing and stand-up paddleboarding rentals and lessons, as well as boogie boarding and a tidal dip for little ones. Kayaking rentals and lessons are also available,

Ocean kayaking is one of many water activities at Kiawah.



Seeing a bobcat is a possibility on one of the nature tours through Kiawah Island Golf Resort.

Mother Nature is the reason The Travel Channel ranked the island “America’s Best Wildlife Getaway Beach.”

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MLS#3069853

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MLS#3078561

5621 GLEN FOREST DRIVE
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Shellie.Maddux@allentate.com

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Exquisite and unique home. This is truly a one of a kind home. The beautiful addition was done in 2010. No expense was spared. Circular drive, two in-ground fire pits, outdoor kitchen, large back yard with rear brick fence, two master suites, one has a built-in office, beautiful home theater and gym, bonus room on first floor could be an in-law suit with fireplace, full bath and kitchen. This home has too many features to mention...a must see.

MLS#3043633

3821 CHURCHILL ROAD
Charlotte, NC



David Deal
Charlotte-SouthPark
704-906-0886
David.Deal@allentate.com

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New Craftsman's community in Cotswold. Less than 10 minutes to uptown or Southpark, this home has tons of storage space, a large two-car attached garage and a level back yard that is fenced on three sides. The home features a large dining room, a formal living room with French doors. The oversized kitchen with a center island with a gas cooktop and downdraft. Large butler's pantry with glass door cabinets. Breakfast room will accommodate a table for six comfortably.

MLS#3064466

4420 GREENBRIAR HILLS
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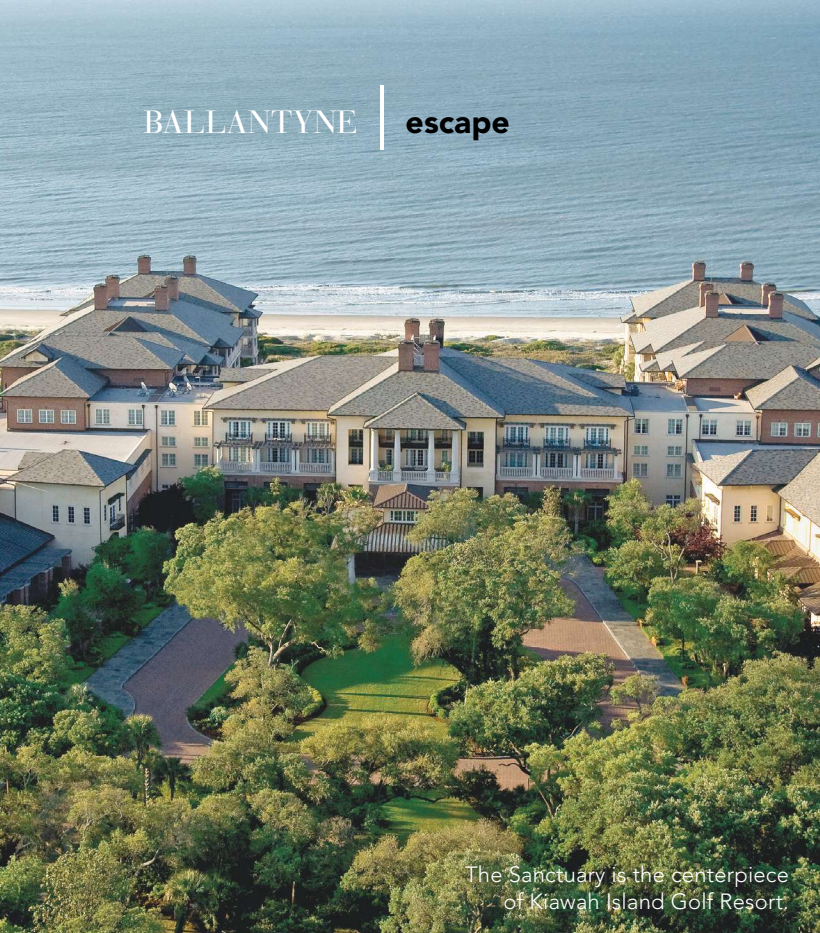
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The Sanctuary is the centerpiece of Kiawah Island Golf Resort.



Hotel guests enjoy a view of the shoreline from their room.

along with a naturalist-led pluff mud paddle that introduces children to the sport.

At Night Heron Park youngsters find plenty to occupy them at Kamp Kiawah's supervised activities, which can include a Reptile

Birthday Party. Teenage fun features Extreme Laser Tag and GPS Island Hunts.

Splashing around is another major pastime at Night Heron Park's two open-flume slides and the toddler alligator slide in the

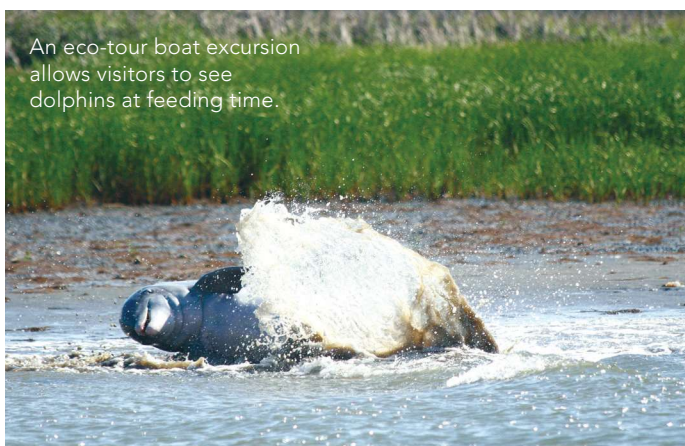


The outdoor pool at The Sanctuary is perfect for lounging or taking a dip.

Hérons are among the many spectacular birds at Kiawah.



Boat tours are a great way to see the natural features of the Lowcountry.



An eco-tour boat excursion allows visitors to see dolphins at feeding time.

renovated children's pool. The large aqua playground for kids offers water cannons and slides and a closed flume slide with a 90-foot run. Adults can get into the swim at the Night Heron family pool with its aqua lounge, morning lap swim and basketball hoop.

Cyclists, runners and walkers have their pick of 30 miles of trails and 10 miles of expansive dunes or a guided historical sunset or wetland

wildlife ride. Families can join a butterfly, Kiawah creature or night beach walk or take lessons together in cast netting, seining and birding. Fishing charters and cruises of every kind also abound.

July Fourth weekend, Kiawah celebrates with two firework shows, and in September, the island hosts an annual triathlon that is an intermediate distance competition sanctioned by the USA Triathlon Association.



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West Beach Pool is a good choice for family fun.



Cycling on the beach draws riders of all ages.



Renting kayaks provides an up-close view of water plants and wildlife.

Cyclists, runners and walkers have their pick of 30 miles of trails and 10 miles of expansive dunes.



Nonstop Golf

With five top-notch courses, Kiawah is a golfer's dream. The spectacular Ocean Course, named by Golf Digest as America's toughest course, dares players with a mind-numbing 7,873 yards from the extreme back tees.

Turtle Point, a Jack Nicklaus course, is best known for its challenging 412-yard 15th hole and its 24,000-square-foot teaching facility.

Popular for scenery and tough holes, Osprey Point underwent restoration by designer Tom Fazio in 2014, including conversion to paspalum, the salt-tolerant grass praised by tournament players. Cougar Point by Gary Player boasts a three-hole stretch on the front nine with panoramic views of the Kiawah River and marsh birdlife. (Oak Point, Kiawah's fifth golf course, is currently closed for renovation.)

Coastal Cuisine

Kiawah Island Golf Resort has expanded its restaurant options to cater to every taste — from Monday night oyster

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Golf Digest named the Ocean Course at Kiawah America's toughest. This is the 16th hole.

roasts at Mingo Point to the Cherrywood BBQ and Ale House at Osprey Point, where diners can tuck into house-smoked, Southern barbecue while relaxing on a veranda overlooking the fairway and Osprey's famous alligators.

An absolute-must foodie stop is the Jasmine Porch at The Sanctuary, where the

Ribs and more can be savored at Cherrywood BBQ and Ale House.



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Above, Right: Oyster lovers like taking in the roast on Monday nights at Mingo Point.

fried green tomatoes are a perennial favorite. The Atlantic Room, Kiawah's premier seafood restaurant overlooking the Ocean Course, is another mealtime mecca for its crispy fried shrimp and local redfish, which chef Jonathan Banta selects daily off the docks on nearby Wadmalaw Island.

A four-star steakhouse experience is on the menu at the Ocean Club at The Sanctuary, which is also drawing crowds to its new Sushi Lounge with a Southern spin. Lovers of Italian food can savor inventive pastas,



Jasmine Porch, located at The Sanctuary, is known for its fried green tomatoes and other Lowcountry cuisine.



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Sometimes the best thing about Kiawah is just hanging out together.

sauses and pizza at Tomasso's at Turtle Point.

Golfers and tennis players appreciate the all-day breakfast at Southern Kitchen at the Straw Market, while busy families have a variety of casual choices, including Night Heron Poolside Grill & Bar, West Beach Cantina and West Beach Café, as well as the Market at Town Center. When everyone screams for ice cream, the Inn Side Scoop dishes up locally made Wholly Cow ice cream treats.

At the end of the day, Kiawah Island is one of those rare destinations that seems to please everyone in the family, offering opportunities for quality time in the great outdoors and memorable moments that last a lifetime. 

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Cardinal Virtue

While enjoying the greenway, Colin Hocking captured this lovely creature. We appreciate his sharing this summertime sighting with us.

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