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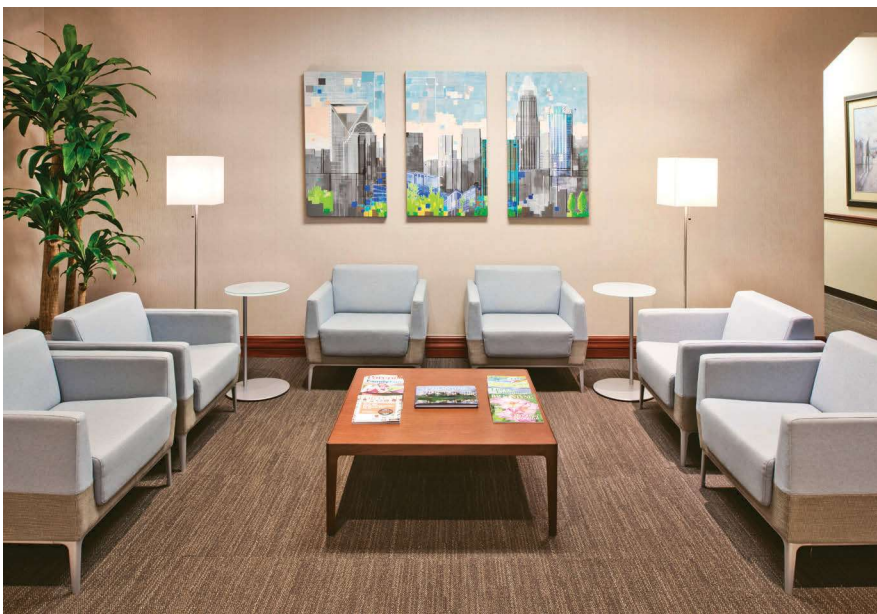
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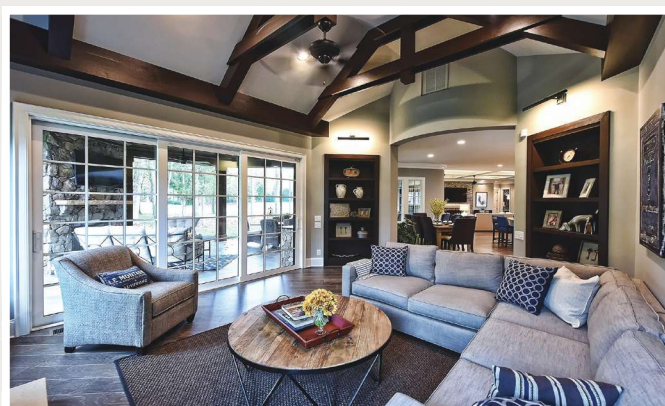
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Savor the season by taking your meal outdoors.



ON THE COVER:
Engrid Roberson, Gary Ross and Heidi Syswerda exercise in the outdoor fitness yard at Sara's YMCA. Photo by Shane Baskin/Blackbox Studios

'Newest Gem'

Sara's YMCA debuts as a workout magnet and community amenity.

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The Golf Club at Ballantyne celebrates 20 years.

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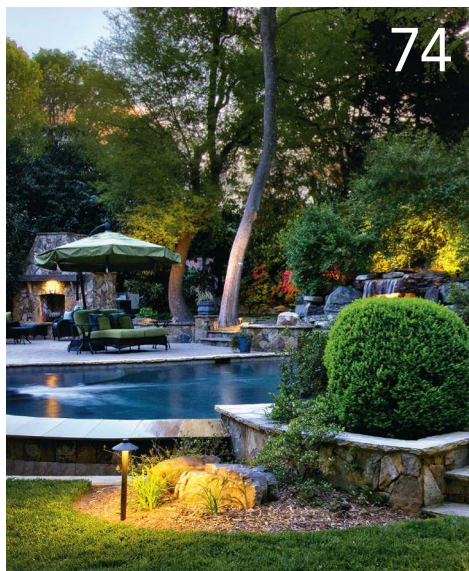
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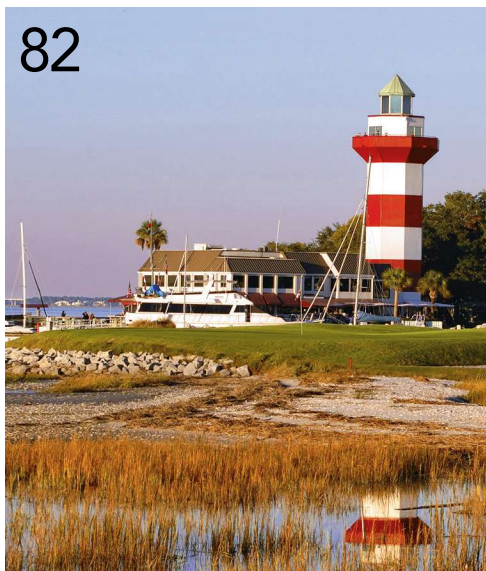
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Summer 2016 Vol. 16, No. 2

Congratulations to Bill Oliver, Senior Financial Advisor and Managing Director – Investments, on being named to *Barron's* 2016 Top 1,200 Advisors list and for achieving the distinction of the #1 advisor in North Carolina.



From left to right: Thomas McCormick, Financial Advisor; Matt Crowder, Financial Advisor and First Vice President – Investments; Chris Graper, Financial Consultant; Sunshine Edsall, Registered Client Associate; Bill Oliver, Senior Financial Advisor and Managing Director – Investments; Catherine Nason, Registered Client Associate; Taylor Wade, Registered Client Associate; Danielle Hamberger, Senior Registered Client Associate; Thomas McRae, Financial Advisor; Paul Sercher, Financial Advisor and Vice President – Investments

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Summersault

Enjoying the Season, Leading the Magazine



EVERY JUNE AFTER SCHOOL LETS OUT, MY FAMILY AND I DRIVE DOWN TO HILTON HEAD. There's something about biking to breakfast along the trails of Highway 278 and playing in the sand-filled Gregg Russell Harbour Town Playground in Sea Pines that signals the start to summer. That first ice cream at Frozen Moo, that first gator we see on the shores of a plantation, that first walk on the beach — all make it official: Summer is here!

I look forward to exploring my new neighborhood with you in these pages.

In this issue's Escape, we discover the many reasons why last year Yahoo.com named Hilton Head its No. 1 Most Popular U.S. Island for Summer Vacations. A mere 4½-hour drive from Ballantyne, the Lowcountry destination offers something for every vacationer.

To help you prepare for summertime outings, we devote Style Points to the latest sun-savvy products and offer a feature on making picnics easy and fun.

This issue of Ballantyne Magazine marks my first as editor-in-chief. Regina Robertson, the former editor, recently expanded her role as special projects coordinator to assume the position of assistant to Smoky Bissell, chairman of The Bissell Companies. I'm happy to share

that I sit not far from Regina in the office; therefore, the magazine and I personally will continue benefiting from her vast knowledge and experience.

What an auspicious time for me to join the Ballantyne Magazine staff! In this issue, we celebrate the 20th anniversary of The Golf Club at Ballantyne. We also introduce Sara's YMCA, which opened in February and is already being touted as a gem in Ballantyne Corporate Park.

My family and I recently moved to the greater Ballantyne area, and I look forward to exploring my new neighborhood with you in these pages. Together we will tell the story of Ballantyne. Please share with me your thoughts and ideas at jgreenwald@ballantynemagazine.com.

Our goal at Ballantyne Magazine is to share information and insights that enhance your days. In the summer weeks ahead, we hope they'll be filled with sun and packed with adventure.

Jodi Werner Greenwald
Editor-in-Chief



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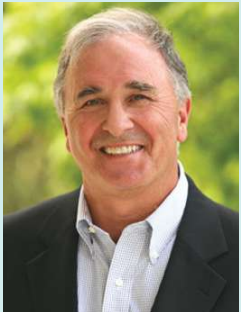
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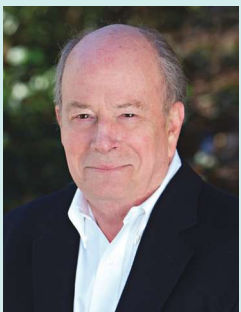
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What's happening in and **around Ballantyne**



Hawk Ridge Elementary School students enjoyed planting a redbud tree this spring.

Schools, TreesCharlotte Honor Arbor Day

TreesCharlotte planted 230 trees at Polo Ridge Elementary School and Flat Branch Park on March 5 to celebrate Arbor Day.

More than 250 volunteers attended, and the North Carolina Wildlife Federation provided children's activities. Keep Charlotte Beautiful and Keep America Beautiful sponsored the event. Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools (CMS) Superintendent Ann Clark and City Council Representative Ed Driggs attended.

Also in recognition of Arbor Day, TreesCharlotte provided educational programming about trees at Hawk Ridge Elementary School, planted a redbud tree on campus and gave away seedlings to students on March 18.

TreesCharlotte, a nonprofit dedicated to planting trees, held similar events at six other CMS locations as part of its Arbor Week celebration, in which it planted or gave away 1,200 trees and 2,500 seedlings. More info: www.treescharlotte.org.

NEWS CUES



Waverly is a large new development at Providence and Ardrey Kell roads.

Horizon Eye Care to Open in Waverly

Horizon Eye Care is opening a new location in Waverly, the multi-use, master planned community at Providence and Ardrey Kell roads developed by Crosland Southeast and Childress Klein.

The office will encompass 8,300 square feet in a 22,000-square-foot medical office building at Waverly and replace Horizon's Arboretum location. The office will offer a full-service optical and contact lens department with offices on the first floor.

Current Arboretum practitioners — optometrists Dr. Kala Brewer, Dr. Marc James and Dr. Paul Marvin and ophthalmologist Dr. Judy Hustead — will relocate to the Waverly office and be joined by the pediatric services of Dr. Stephen Daugherty and retina services of Dr. Miriam Ridley.

The medical building will be located next to Novant Health, which opened in November offering urgent care and family health care, including pediatrics, physical therapy and other services. Details: www.waverlyclt.com.

Ballantyne Rocks! the Village

Ballantyne Rocks! is a new, free summer music event every Wednesday after 6 p.m. at Ballantyne Village. Details: www.ballantynevillage.com.



Community House Hosts Nature Lectures

The Lower Providence Community House 2016 Lecture Series features the following nature-themed speakers this summer at 3 p.m. on Sundays:

July 31: Taylor Piephoff, birding columnist for The Charlotte Observer, will discuss "Species of Concern" in danger of decline in Mecklenburg County over the next few decades.

Aug. 28: Eric Stine, local

biologist and herpetologist, will present an interactive discussion with live specimens entitled "Coexisting Peacefully with Backyard Nature."

Tickets are \$10 at the door. Proceeds benefit preservation and continued restoration of the historic facility at 9735 Community House Road. Info: 704-905-8334 or lowerprovidencecommunityhouse@hotmail.com.



Biking, rowing and running will be the featured sports at this year's Tri! Ballantyne.

Morrison Stages Tri!, Bike Ride

Due to road construction around the Morrison Family YMCA, this year's Tri! Ballantyne will be held indoors on Friday, July 15.

At the Y, participants will row, bike and run as many meters and miles as they can for a child in need. Awards will be given to the fastest rower, cyclist and runner, as well as to the top three in each age group.

The Kids' Tri! and Preschool Tri! will be Saturday, July 16. Youth will be divided into divisions and compete in courses modified for their ages. The addition of a preschool division for ages 3-5 is new this year.

Saturday, Sept. 10, the Y will stage the Morrison Metric bike ride. Cyclists ages 16 and over can enjoy a fully supported ride from the Y with mileage options of 30, 45, 65 or 85 miles winding through Waxhaw and beyond.

Details/registration for all events: www.ymcacharlotte.org/morrison.

Breakfast Club Meets, Round Table Forming

The Ballantyne Breakfast Club will hold meetings in June and August.

The June meeting will feature an update on continued growth in the area. The August meeting will focus on CMS, reviewing accomplishments of the previous year and outlining goals for the new year.

Representatives from Wingate University and Central Piedmont Community College will also present information about educational opportunities at their Ballantyne campuses. Details: www.ballantynebreakfastclub.com.

Ray Eschert, founder of the breakfast club, also is working with several area leaders to form the South Charlotte Round Table, an advocacy group that would present a unified voice in representing the area's needs to the city, county and state. Contact Eschert at 704-651-1237.



Art by Romero Britto.

Gallery Celebrates the Great Outdoors, Introduces Artist

In celebration of June being Great Outdoors Month, Charlotte Fine Art (CFA) Gallery will bring the outside indoors and present landscape paintings through Saturday, June 25. Local artists will attend an evening reception on June 11. During the reception weekend, June 10-11, as a gift to dads, a 10 percent discount will be given.

New among CFA's represented artists is Romero Britto, a pop artist out of Miami. The CFA now represents Britto exclusively in the greater Charlotte area.

The gallery is located in Carmel Commons at 7510 Pineville-Matthews Road, Suite 9-A. Info: 704-541-0741 or www.charlottefineart.com.

Free Class on Heartfulness Meditation

Heartfulness Meditation, a program offered by Sahaj Marg (the Natural Path) Ram Chandra Mission, offers free meditation classes on Tuesdays at 7 p.m. at 7810 Ballantyne Commons Parkway, Suite 300.

Please arrive on time as doors lock automatically at 7:05 p.m. Participants must be 15 years or older.

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Reserve your spot now for summer fun at The Ballantyne Hotel & Lodge. Call 704-248-4100 for tastings, Whiskey Club events and Afternoon Teas.

Tastings

Gallery Restaurant offers weekly tastings on Fridays beginning at 6:30 p.m. with complementing light bites. The first and third Fridays of the month usually feature a type of wine and the second Friday of the month focuses on cocktails. Cost varies: \$25-\$40 per person.



Whiskey Club

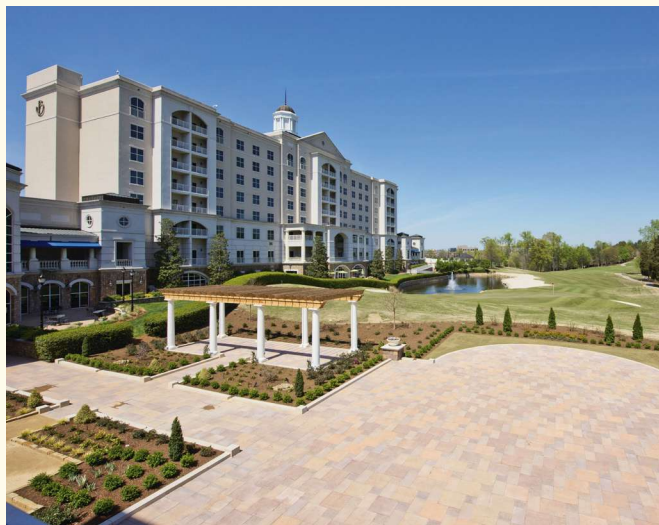
Explore nuances of whiskeys served with complementing small plates at Gallery Restaurant's Whiskey Club of Ballantyne, monthly on Fridays, 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Upcoming events feature Jefferson's Distillery on June 24, Laphroaig Distillery on July 29 and Glenmorangie on Aug. 26. Cost: \$50 per person.



Enhanced South Lawn Venue

The Ballantyne has enhanced its South Lawn. The expansion and elevated design at the garden-inspired venue offer versatile photography options and leisure spaces, sculpture, pergola and event space. The 4,237-square-foot area can now accommodate 400 for theater seating, 350 for receptions and 250 for dinner.



The Golf Club at Ballantyne

Enjoy special offers this summer, and remember to mention them when reserving your tee times at 704-248-4383.

- Father's Day: On June 19, dads play for half price with one paid round of golf at the daily rate.
- National Family Golf Month: Junior players receive half off the regular golf rate throughout July.
- Community Service Providers Week: Teachers, police and firefighters play 18 holes free with one paid round from Sunday, July 31, through Saturday, Aug. 6. Golfers must present valid employment identification on arrival.



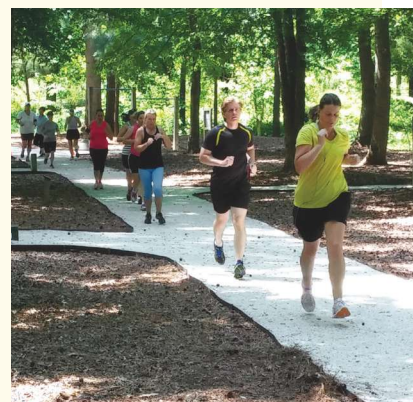
Afternoon Teas

Afternoon Tea is served Wednesday through Saturday from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. year-round. The following special tea will be available this season during Afternoon Tea: "Summer in the Carolinas Tea," July 20-23. Cost: \$36 for adults and \$18 for junior patrons (plus tax and gratuity).

Summer Shredder Bootcamp

Led by personal trainers Nick Bucci and Beth Storlie, a four-week bootcamp will be held July 12 to Aug. 6. Attend three hourly sessions per week on Tuesday and Thursday at 6 a.m. and Saturday at 7:30 a.m. Cost is \$150, and all fitness levels are welcome.

Advance registration and payment are required. The Ballantyne's fitness team offers complimentary facility tours and fitness assessments upon request. Info: 704-361-2799. Registration: 704-248-4348.



YOUNGER SET

West Point Taps Student for Seminar

Samuel Austin McGee, a junior at Grace Academy in Matthews who lives in Ballantyne, has been selected as one of 1,000 attendees at West Point's Summer Leaders Experience (SLE) in June.



Sam McGee

More than 5,000 juniors nationwide applied for the opportunity to experience life at the military academy. The one-week seminars are designed to help juniors with their college-selection process and give them an idea of the importance of leadership and sound decision-making in their lives.

Girls Complete Silver Scout Award

Girl Scouts Jordan Riter and Jenna Segmiller from Troop 440 in Ballantyne recently completed their silver award. The two focused their award efforts on helping students in the sixth to eighth grades adjust to middle school.



Jordan Riter and Jenna Segmiller

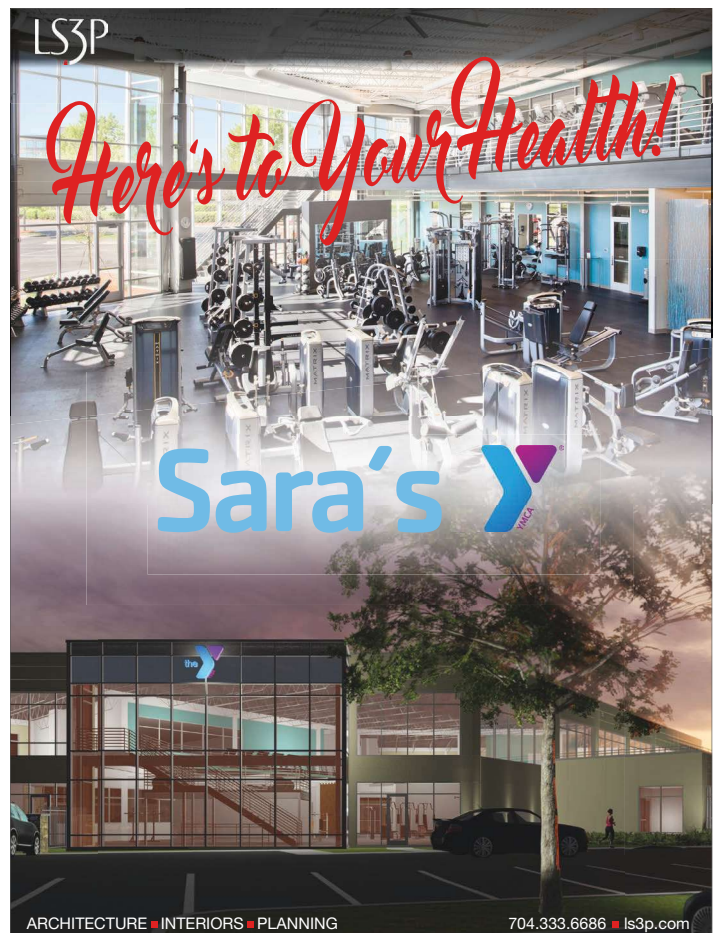
Jordan partnered with a Community House Middle School teacher to create a weekly "Girl Power" club that created a safe environment for middle-school girls to discuss topics such as bullying, gossip, making new friends and fitting in. Jenna developed a middle-school survival booklet that is currently being used by Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools for newly enrolled students.



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Premier Receives National Award

Headquartered in Ballantyne Corporate Park, Premier Inc. has received the 2015 John M. Eisenberg Patient Safety and Quality Award from the Joint Commission and the National Quality Forum.

The award recognizes Premier for improving patient safety and care through its national quality improvement initiative, QUEST, launched in 2008. Approximately 350 health systems volunteered to share data and define a common framework with consistent measures. To date, QUEST participants have prevented more than 176,000 deaths, reduced health care spending by more than \$15 billion and improved re-admission rates by 32 percent.

Financial Expert Becomes Wealth Advisor

Jeremiah C. Fitzpatrick of Fitzpatrick, Zodtner & Associates,



Jeremiah Fitzpatrick

located in Ballantyne Corporate Park, has become an Ameriprise Financial private wealth

advisor. Fitzpatrick is among the 12 percent of approximately 10,000 Ameriprise financial advisors to achieve this status. Contact him at 704-916-6894.



Michael Naifeh, Sarah Ingle, Rob Mautz, Jim Bentubo, Andrew Madey and Martin Walsh celebrate the naming gift.

Sara's YMCA Honors Sonic Automotive

Sara's YMCA, the newest branch of the YMCA of Greater Charlotte and located in the heart of Ballantyne Corporate Park, has named its Wellness Center after Sonic Automotive to honor the Charlotte-based company's naming gift.

This is the first time Sonic has partnered with the Y. "Sonic Automotive wanted to be a part of this project since a big part of our culture is the promotion of health and fitness," says Rachel Richards, the company's vice president and chief marketing officer.

Sonic Automotive operates more than 100 dealerships across 14 states and 25 major metro markets.



Providence Country Club

McConnell Golf Buys Country Club

McConnell Golf, an independent private club ownership company, recently purchased Providence Country Club, making it the 12th private golf club property in the McConnell Golf portfolio.

McConnell Golf plans to spend \$4 million the next few years renovating the golf course and also looks to make other club improvements.



Whitney Clancey



Zubin Shroff



Annalies Stewart



Christine Hotham

Adams Adds Agents, Honors Hotham

The following agents have joined the Helen Adams Realty's Ballantyne office: Whitney Clancey, Zubin Shroff and Annalies Stewart.

Christine Hotham in the Ballantyne office has achieved the Platinum Level Quality Service Award from Quality Service Certification and ranked as a Platinum Level Sales Leader companywide in 2015. Reach her and the others agents at 704-341-0279.

BCC's GM Leads National Group

Jill Philmon, general manager



Jill Philmon

and chief operating officer of Ballantyne Country Club, was recently elected president of the Club Managers

Association of America, a large professional organization for managers of membership clubs in the U.S. and internationally.



Jamie Bingham



Heather Cobb



Patricia Coleman



Melinda Corns



Linda Jo Mastrangelo



Craig Smith

Agents Join Allen Tate Co.

The following realty associates have joined Allen Tate Co. at Ballantyne: Jamie Bingham, Heather Cobb, Patricia Coleman, Melinda Corns, Linda Jo Mastrangelo and Craig Smith. Contact them at 704-541-6200.

Chamber Holds Bash, Luncheons

The Ballantyne Chapter of the Charlotte Chamber of Commerce will hold its annual Ballantyne Business Bash on Thursday, June 2, 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.

Chapter luncheons this summer are Thursday, August 4, and Thursday, September 1, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Ballantyne Country Club. Registration: www.charlottechamber.com. Fee is \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door for chamber members and \$45 for nonmembers. Info: cwalker@charlottechamber.com.



SignUp Genius

Parents Magazine Touts Local Company

SignUpGenius, a company based in Ballantyne Corporate Park that offers a free online software tool for event planning and volunteer management, was named one of Parents Magazine's 50 Best of the Web for 2016.

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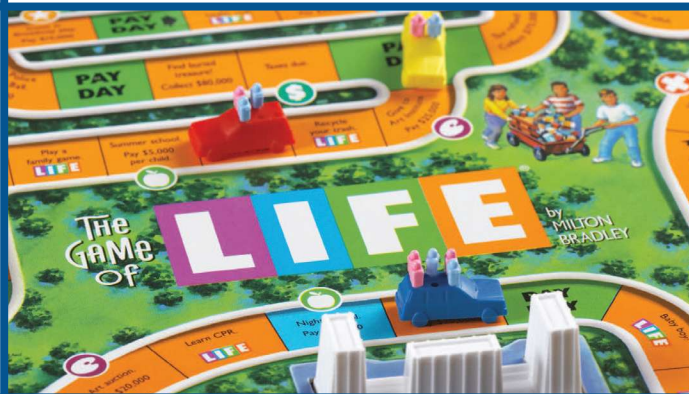
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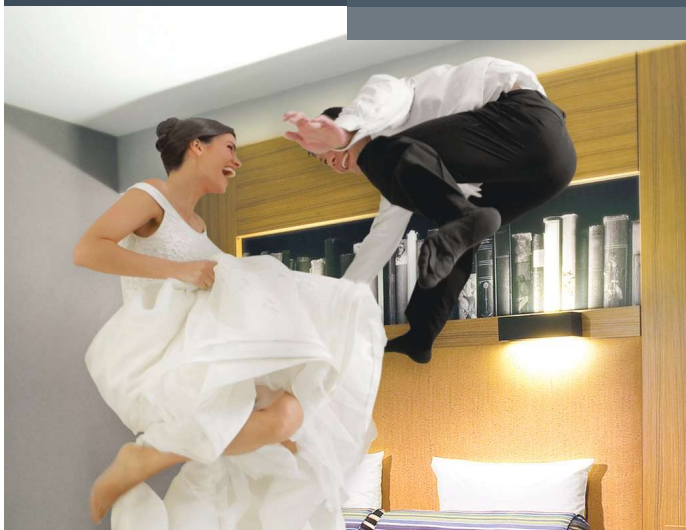
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BALLANTYNE | wire



Lindsey Scheumeister



Marshall Walker



Kathryn Frias



Nancy Niehous

Bissell Organizations Hire, Promote Staff

Lindsey Scheumeister has joined Ballantyne Magazine as account executive, and Marshall Walker has joined Bissell as property assistant.



Jonathan Grab



David Moore

Ballantyne Business Center welcomes Kathryn Frias as executive assistant and Nancy Niehous as client services representative.

Jonathan Grab was promoted to first assistant at The Golf Club at Ballantyne.

At The Ballantyne Hotel & Lodge, David Moore has been promoted to executive sous chef and Chris Shatto has been named director of outlets.



Chris Shatto

OPENINGS

Juice Bar Now in StoneCrest

Clean Juice, an organic juice and smoothie bar, has opened its second Charlotte location in StoneCrest. Clean Juice specializes in freshly made juices and cold-press juices sold by bottle or six pack, as well as protein smoothies and wellness shots. Details: www.cleanjuicebar.com.

BBQ Spot Now in Hunter's Crossing

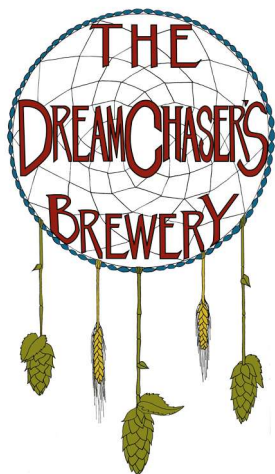


Queen City Q has opened its fourth Charlotte location in Hunter's Crossing on Lancaster Highway.

The popular eatery features fresh pork, brisket, ribs, chicken and sausage barbecue smoked daily on-site as well as fresh house-made sides, salads, appetizers and desserts. Kid's menu, craft beers and a selection of bourbon, scotch and wine are also available. Details: www.queencityq.com, 704-334-8437.

Vaporium Opens in Quad

KÛRE Vaporium and Lounge is now open in Ballantyne Quad. It offers e-liquids on tap and vaporizing hardware for electronic cigarettes. Customers can also purchase freshly made e-juices made by mixologists who can blend more than 90,000 flavors from the juice bar.



Brewery Arrives In Waxhaw

The Dreamchaser's Brewery is now open in the old volunteer firehouse on Main Street in Waxhaw. Twelve taps of flavored, brewed-on-site beers include jalapeno cream ale, a lager infused with ginger, and Thomas Jefferson's original recipe he brewed at Monticello. Details: www.dreamchasersbrewery.com.

Networking Group Targets Personal Branding

Ballantyne Briefings, a local networking group, meets Tuesday, Aug. 30, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Aloft Charlotte Ballantyne. Featured speaker is Tim McCleary of The Involvement Practice.

McCleary will hold an interactive discussion on how to identify the ways people experience your personal brand and how to create a 30-second ad to help build your brand. Info: Allen Starrett at ars@starrettlawfirm.com or www.facebook.com/ballantynebriefings.



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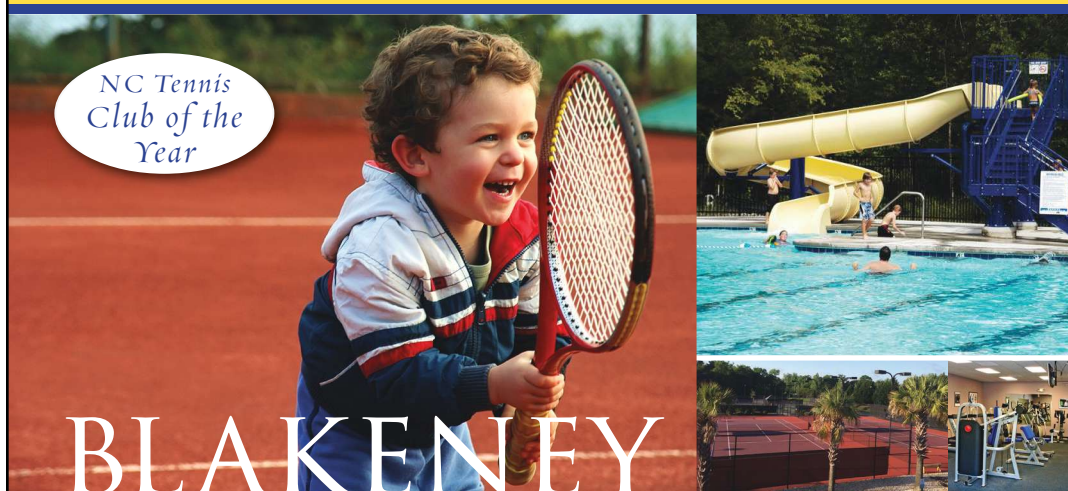
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SWEET CHARITIES

Zitel Encourages Food Donations

Zitel Family Chiropractic is encouraging food donations to Loaves & Fishes — a nonprofit emergency food pantry that experiences a spike in demand during summer months when children are not receiving meals at school.

Anyone who donates food June 13-24 at Zitel will be entitled to a free comprehensive consultation and free x-rays, a \$109 value. The office is at the corner of Johnston Road and I-485 in Toringdon Market. Call 704-544-881 to schedule an appointment.



Alex's Lemonade Days raises funds for childhood cancer research.

Firebirds Backs Lemonade Days

Firebirds Wood Fired Grill is participating for the third consecutive year in Alex's Lemonade Days, the annual fundraiser that encourages communities to host lemonade stands to raise funds for childhood cancer research.

On June 7-8 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Firebirds will sell Alex's freshly squeezed lemonade for \$3 a cup in Ballantyne Corporate Park, at Knotts Green (June 7) and Dalton Green (June 8).

June 10-12, lemonade will be sold outside of all Firebirds restaurants. Proceeds go to Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation. More info: www.firebirdsrestaurants.com/welcome.

'Casino Royale' Benefits School



Photo by CRYan Photography

Assistant Principal Suzanne Beasley, Dr. Janice T. Ritter, superintendent of schools for The Diocese of Charlotte, and Principal Kevin O'Herron posed during the "Casino Royale" gala in support of St. Matthew Catholic School.

St. Matthew Saturday Night, a fundraiser supporting educational programs and enrichment at St. Matthew Catholic School, hosted a "Casino Royale" gala on April 30 at TPC Piper Glen.

The signature annual event included heavy hors d'oeuvres, live and silent auctions, music, dancing and casino games. Guests also enjoyed bidding on a wine pull and a 50/50 jackpot raffle.



Attendees at the fundraiser enjoyed food, fellowship and a raffle.

Realty Firm Raises Scholarship Funds

Helen Adams Realty held its first Spring Fling Open House in its Ballantyne office to raise money for a UNC Charlotte scholarship funded by Helen Adams Realty.

Mainstream Boutique and Plume Jewelry brought merchandise to sell and donated 10 percent of proceeds to the scholarship fund. The Olive Tap also provided samples of their olive oils and bread. Robin Woods and Christine Hotham, agents at Helen Adams Ballantyne, coordinated the event.

Pancake Event Aids Cancer Research

Applebee's at Piper Glen hosted the 6th Annual Pancakes for a Purpose on Feb. 27 to support pancreatic cancer research. Part of Applebee's Flapjack Fundraiser program, the event was held in memory of Dave Anstadt, who died of pancreatic cancer in 2002, and in memory of John Bradley, who died of the disease in 2014. Attendees also enjoyed a raffle.



The handbag sale benefited Relay For Life.

Purses with Purpose Tops \$10,000

Purses With a Purpose, a charitable event featuring gently used handbags at great prices, was held this spring at The Lodge at Ballantyne. Proceeds from the annual sale benefit Relay For Life of Charlotte. This year's event raised more than \$10,000.

Tenants Support 'Cans for a Cause'

Ballantyne Corporate Park collected 75,649 pounds of donations during its Cans for a Cause Food Drive to benefit Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina. Carlisle Cos. made a substantial contribution of \$10,000. The drive ran April 11-20.



Gala to Support Trafficking Victims



Ballantyne Ball has selected Lily Pad Haven as the beneficiary of its third annual masquerade ball to be held Feb. 11, 2017, at The Ballantyne Hotel & Lodge.

Net proceeds will go to

Lily Pad Haven to help house and support victims of human trafficking. Ballantyne Ball, a nonprofit charity, partners with the community to aid local charitable causes.

In its first two years Ballantyne Ball donated \$151,000 in support of its mission, including a \$50,000 gift to The Sandbox. For more info, go to www.ballantyneball.org, or email event chair Allen Starrett allen@ballantyneball.org.



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Teeing up as a MetLife foursome were Michael Botto, Kumar Das Gupta, Bryan Strickland and Andrew Paul.



MetLife's Theresa Foust, Marcus Bryant and Barbara Dare (fourth from left) join Pat Millen of E2D and Valerie Truesdale of Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools in celebrating the donation of 157 laptop computers to needy students.



Women who work for MetLife, their families and friends are building this house to support Habitat for Humanity.

MetLife Steps Up for Charities

MetLife hosted the 2nd Annual MetLife Community Golf Classic March 12 at The Golf Club at Ballantyne. More than 150 MetLife associates, family members, friends and community and business partners participated, raising more than \$27,000 for The Relatives, an organization dedicated to keeping children and young adults safe, stable and on a path to successful futures.

Also recently, the MetLife Third Party Distribution team donated 157 laptops to E2D (Eliminate the Digital Divide), an organization founded by a 12-year-old student who realized many of her classmates did not have computers to complete homework assignments.

This summer MetLife Foundation joins Habitat for Humanity to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Women's Build by constructing a home that will be completed entirely by women who work for MetLife, their family members and friends. The Women's Build started in Charlotte and is now a global venture for Habitat for Humanity.



Meck-South has three members who have been honored as "Distinguished Rotarians," Daniel Beckman and most recently, Bill Woodruff and Bill Burnham.

Rotary Exceeds \$40,000 to Charities

Mecklenburg County-South Rotary (Meck-South) has enjoyed a stellar year of fundraising that has enabled the 40-member club to give more than \$40,000 to local charities.

Beds for Kids received \$33,955, while Driven Minds received \$4,200 to inspire a new generation of entrepreneurs. The club also donated \$2,500 to Charlotte Tool Bank and \$250 to TanzaCare to provide rural public schooling in Tanzania.

Distinguished Rotarians for the year are Bill Burnham and Bill Woodruff, both of whom have served as past presidents of Meck-South.

Meck-South meets Friday mornings at 7:30 at Another Broken Egg Cafe in Ballantyne.

Sept. 17-23 is BCC Rally

BCC Rally, an all-volunteer nonprofit organization in Ballantyne that



raises funds and awareness to fight breast cancer, will host its 13th annual weeklong series of fundraising events Sept. 17-23 at Ballantyne Country Club. Major events are:

- Caribbean-themed Evening Fundraiser: **Saturday, Sept. 17**
- Ladies' Golf and Luncheon: **Tuesday, Sept. 20**
- Men's Pink Ball Golf Event: **Thursday, Sept. 22**
- Make a Racquet for Rally Tennis Event: **Friday, Sept. 23**

Proceeds go to Rally for the Cure to support the Susan G. Komen organization. Registration begins Aug. 1 at www.bccrally.org. Events are open to the public.



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TANGO OF TWO'S

These Personalities Keep It Interesting

Photos by Ray Sepesy



WANT TO MEET
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INSPIRATIONAL SPEAKER,
someone whose favorite
outdoor activity is bocce ball
and yet another person who
wouldn't be caught dead in
cheap shoes?

Then check out this issue's
fascinating "Faces" in the
Ballantyne community.

You'll find two of them
hail from Cincinnati, two
are in the financial services
industry (a big Charlotte
surprise, right?) and two
who aren't tapped into major
news sources — unless
Facebook counts.

You're invited to turn the
page and meet Stephanie
Melish Neuman, Chris Hobart
and Larry Huelsman.

STEPHANIE MELISH NEUMAN

Birthplace: Cincinnati.

Job: Inspirational Speaker and Business Consultant.

What do you like most about your job?

I have the privilege of helping audiences and clients achieve success, no matter how they define it.

What's your guilty pleasure?

Snapchat. If you want to see people in a more authentic way on social media, it's the best app. Just ask a tween to give you a tutorial first because it's not very intuitive.

Do you live in Ballantyne?

No, Indian Land, S.C.

What is your favorite Ballantyne-area restaurant?

I'm currently crushing on Smoke Modern Barbeque. The folks there have killed it from concept and branding through to execution.

What is your favorite outdoor activity?

I enjoy taking my executive assistant and resident #dogboss, Dunkin, for neighborhood strolls. If we walk during happy hour, you may see me double fisting, leash in one hand and glass of wine in the other.

Describe your dream vacation.

Taking my entire Melish family to Sicily to experience where our family began. It would be an unforgettable trip full of love, laughter and extremely loud talkers.

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

A mashup of "Girl On Fire" (Alicia Keys), "Rise Up" (Andra Day) and "Anything Could Happen" (Ellie Goulding).

What is your favorite news source?

Am I allowed to say Facebook? If not, then I'll go with "Morning Joe."

I would rather be caught dead than wear ____.

A perm. Been there, done that. Thanks, Mom!

What charitable organizations are you involved with?

I have been working with the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society on its Man and Woman of the Year campaign, and I'm on the board of Ballantyne Ball — both since 2014.

What is a hidden gem in Ballantyne?

Cast Iron Waffles. Owned by a fantastic local couple, Chris and Krista. Chris makes the best espresso drinks, and the waffles are to die for.

Share something that someone would never guess about you.

Even though I thrive when I'm on stage inspiring people, I'm actually quite introverted.



CHRIS HOBART

Birthplace: Corona, Calif.

Job: CEO and Founder,
Hobart Financial Group.

What do you like most about your job?

Working with a team of great people to help guide our great clients to a solid financial future.

What's your guilty pleasure?

Anything chocolate and peanut butter!

Do you live in Ballantyne?

Yes.

What is your favorite Ballantyne-area restaurant?

Ilios Noche or Blue Taj depending on the day.

What is your favorite outdoor activity?

Working on projects in my yard, in particular tending my koi pond.

Describe your dream vacation.

Location is less important than experience. Let me experience "new"—new cultures, new foods, new hidden gems, new information, new stories to share.

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

"Forever Young" by Bob Dylan. It's also the song I danced to with my mom at my wedding (sung by Joan Baez, mom's choice).

What is your favorite news source?

I run from most major news sources in an attempt not to be pulled into things that don't truly affect me and my family. Boutique local interest papers get my vote.

I would rather be caught dead than wear ____.

Cheap shoes.

What charitable organizations are you involved with?

I am a board member for Junior Achievement because it inspires and prepares young people to succeed in a global economy. I am also active with Blumenthal Performing Arts.

What is your biggest pet peeve?

Being late.

Share something that someone would never guess about you.

I have any and all forms of music on my phone and love to mix it up. Give me opera, rap, country, African tribal music or some guy playing the spoons and I will joyfully listen to it!

LARRY HUELSMAN

Birthplace: Cincinnati.

Job: Senior Financial Services Representative, The Principal Financial Group.

What do you like most about your job?

Working with business owners and their employees in developing financial strategies for their circumstances.

What's your guilty pleasure?

Drinking a lot of sweet iced tea at one sitting.

Do you live in Ballantyne?

No, but close.

What is your favorite Ballantyne-area restaurant?

No particular favorite as we are fortunate to have a variety of great restaurants. Being a value guy, I check out www.goballantyne.com for the latest discounts and new restaurants.

What is your favorite outdoor activity?

Bocce ball. I also like playing golf — just don't get to play as much as I would like.

Describe your dream vacation.

Heading west and enjoying our national parks.

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

"It's Five O'Clock Somewhere" by Jimmy Buffett.

What is your favorite news source?

Nationally, CNBC Business and Fox Business News. I try to avoid bias and look for facts so I can form my own opinion.

I would rather be caught dead than wear ____.

A tank top or sleeveless T-shirt.

What charitable organizations are you involved with?

Partners for Parks and Junior Achievement. Partners for Parks promotes sustainability of parks and recreation throughout the region. Junior Achievement promotes entrepreneurship. I met my wife in high school through Junior Achievement.

What is your biggest pet peeve?

Dishonesty.

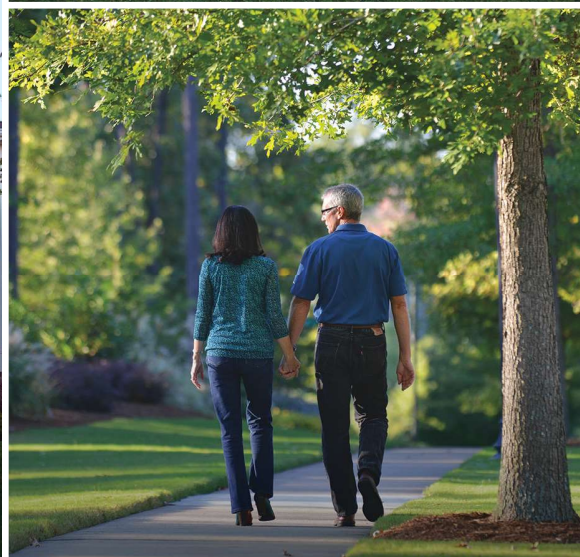
Share something that someone would never guess about you.

I am a competitive badminton player.





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Savor the Season By Taking Your Meal Outdoors

By Erin Carroll

Photos by Landon Jacob Photography

AS THE DAYS GET LONGER AND THE SUN WARMS THE DAY INTO THE NIGHT, it's time to get outside and make the most of the time. Going out to eat takes on a whole new meaning in the warmer months with a picnic.



The best part of a
family picnic isn't the food;
*it's the time
spent together.*



Opposite: Keeping meals and snacks easy puts the focus on family fun.

The great thing about a picnic is that you can make it as elaborate or as easygoing as you want depending on where you're going, whom you're going with and how much time you have to prepare. The true beauty of a picnic is the lovely scenery and the opportunity to enjoy the fresh air.

Before planning your outing, you should consider a few things, such as how many people will be there, where you're going, what is the seating situation and are there any restrictions on glass containers.

For Families: Simplicity

For a memorable picnic that's fun for the whole family, it's best to keep it simple. Planning to take kids out to eat always requires packing extra of everything. Keeping the food easy to eat and transport assures mom and dad will have a good time on the picnic as well.

Pack peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, individual bags of chips or popcorn, cheese, grapes and juice boxes. Throw these items together in 10 minutes as you pack your picnic basket. Be sure to include plenty of extra napkins, paper plates and even some wipes for cleaning up sticky little hands and faces.



Hanging out together sets the stage for all kinds of family enjoyment.

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The true beauty of a picnic
is the *lovely scenery* and the
opportunity to enjoy the *fresh air*.



Opposite: A picnic offers a fresh twist on girls' night out, a book club meeting or any gathering of friends or co-workers.

The best part of a family picnic isn't the food; it's the time spent together. Big games that are simple to transport, like an oversized checkers game or Twister on a large mat, are real crowd-pleasers. Bring a ball for a family game of kickball or a baseball and gloves to play catch. And a big bubble wand will be a hit with everyone!

The key to a family picnic is being prepared to have fun and not over-preparing the food. Keep things simple.

New Take On Girls' Night

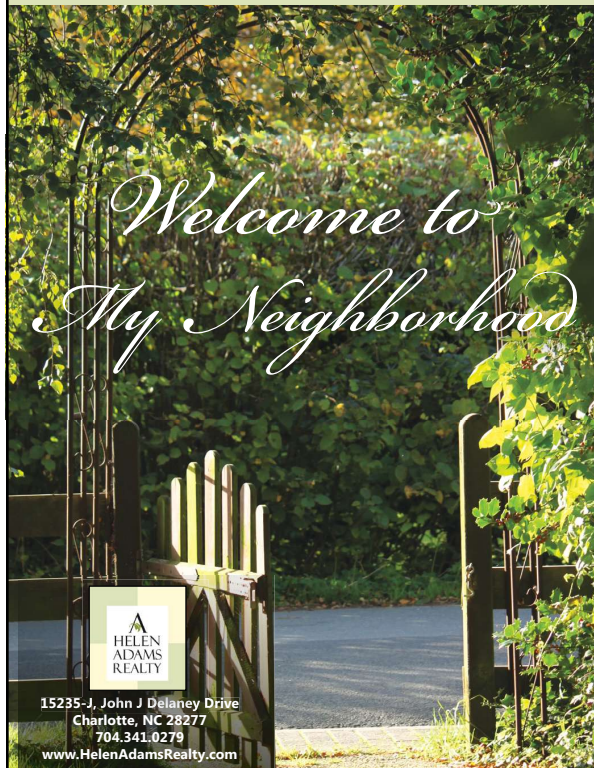
If you're part of a book club, bunco group or just have a regular monthly girls' night on your calendar, a picnic is a refreshing option to switch it up for the summer. You and your girlfriends get a change of scenery and do something new together. You can divide up the responsibilities and have each person contribute something for the night.

Someone will need to bring a blanket or quilt and a few cushions to sit on, while others can be responsible for snacks or drinks. Some festive macarons are ideal for a girls' night, and you can pick them up on the way at almost any grocery store. Just display them on a pretty tray and share.

Be sure to keep the cocktails casual. A bottle of wine to share is a good option, or you

continued on page 43

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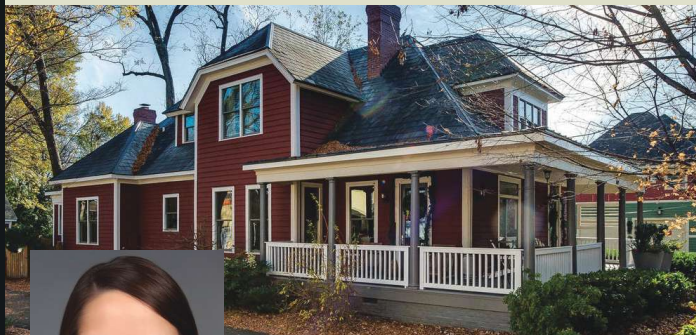
Charlotte-SouthPark
704-363-2938
Jean.Benham@allentate.com

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MLS#3169707

1619 EUCLID AVENUE
Charlotte, NC 28203



Jordan Miller

Charlotte-SouthPark
704-989-0408
Jordan.Miller@allentate.com

Offered at \$1,195,000

Classic Dilworth home with great attention to detail. Home boasts an open floor plan, hardwoods throughout, heavy custom moldings, chef's kitchen with farm sink, Thermador/Bosch appliances, surround sound, tons of storage, Pella windows, wraparound porch, butler's pantry, two-car garage with storage, the list goes on. Master suite on main with sitting area, walk-in-closet, claw-foot tub and dual vanities. Private fenced yard with lush landscaping and an outdoor kitchen with Viking appliances.

MLS#3135117

616 IDEAL WAY
Charlotte, NC 28203



Jean Bridges

Charlotte-SouthPark
704-533-2498
Jean.Bridges@allentate.com

Offered at \$874,900

Craftsman style home with attached two-car garage. Extensive upgrades throughout including hardwood floors, decorative moldings and "eco" friendly finishes. Tremendous attention has been given to inviting outdoor living spaces including, covered front and rear porches and a screened porch. You will be impressed with the quality of this home.

MLS#3080188

5630 ROYAL TROON COURT
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Glenda Gravatt

Charlotte-SouthPark
704-421-2302
Glenda.Gravatt@allentate.com

Offered at \$819,000

Unique and wonderful home on golf course. Main level master suite with gas fireplace and updated bath. Fabulous renovated kitchen features custom Spanish Cedar cabinetry with hand turned corners, wine cooler, Sub-Zero Total Refrigerator and Sub-Zero Total Freezer, Wolf Dual Fuel range and a 54" x 112" furniture island featuring double layer granite and hammered copper sinks. Kitchen opens to gathering room with gas fireplace and many custom built-ins.

MLS#3152766

1301 BILTMORE DRIVE
Charlotte, NC 28207



Huntley Team

Charlotte-Steele Creek
704-650-3677
Huntley.Team@allentate.com

Offered at \$975,000

This beautiful home is located on Biltmore Drive, one of Charlotte's most sought after addresses. Gorgeous hardwoods throughout. Gourmet kitchen with granite counters, custom cabinets and stainless steel appliances. Huge great room with custom bookcases and moldings, wet bar, gas fireplace with decorative mantle. Sunroom perfect for an office. Fabulous master suite with jetted tub and separate shower with tile surround.

MLS#3128520

1200 LOST OAK ROAD
Charlotte, NC 28270



Marlyn Jamison

Charlotte-SouthPark
704-363-4432
Marlyn.Jamison@allentate.com

Offered at \$799,900

Stunning custom-built all-brick home with exquisite detail and upgrades on prime interior lot with mature landscaping, large deck overlooking gunite saltwater pool and wooded setting - gorgeous. Gourmet kitchen with custom cabinetry, large center island, granite and stainless steel appliances/gas cooktop. Sunroom with vaulted ceiling, two laundry rooms, hardwood floors on main and upper level, finished walk-out basement with guest suite, exercise, billiards, rec room with fireplace and three-car garage. This home has it all.

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With long days
and warm evenings,
you and your date can
watch the
sunset together
from your picnic spot.



■ continued from page 39

can make it even more chic with sparkling lemonade as a mixer for your pinot grigio. It's simple and delicious. Make sure that someone is in charge of bringing ice and glasses or cups.

Romantic Date Night

If you've been looking for a date night idea that goes beyond dinner and a movie, a picnic is the perfect solution. With long days and warm evenings, you and your date can watch the sunset together from your picnic spot.

Opposite: Change up the typical date night by venturing outdoors for a relaxing meal.

Pick the location ahead of time based on crowds and other events that may already be scheduled. You and your date can stop by the grocery store or deli on the way to your destination and select your favorite picnic foods. Cold pasta salad, charcuterie, cheese, fruit, wine, and desserts that are portable, such as cannoli, are effortless options that also make for a fun night.

Pack the blanket to sit on and an extra blanket in case it gets chilly when the sun goes down. Bring utensils, a wine opener, plates, napkins and glasses. Create your favorite playlist on Spotify to add a personal touch, and pack a Bluetooth speaker to enhance the sound and ambiance.



Picking up favorite picnic foods from a deli or grocery store can be part of the date night together.

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- ☐ Food and snacks
- ☐ Cold drinks
- ☐ Bottle opener
- ☐ Utensils
- ☐ Plates
- ☐ Napkins
- ☐ Glasses or cups
- ☐ Bug spray
- ☐ Sunscreen
- ☐ Trash bag

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Remember the Basics

Whether your picnic is with the family, your girlfriends or a date, don't forget essentials like bug spray, a trash bag and sunscreen. The long summer days and nights will pass by too quickly, and there's great pleasure in taking an everyday meal outside and experiencing these special days with people you enjoy. ☺



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Beat Summer's Swelter

Cool

By Whitley Adkins Hamlin
www.thequeencitystyle.com

SUMMER IS UPON US, AND HERE in the South, there is no better way to beat the heat than to do it in style.

We welcome with arms wide the return of the cutout monokini as this season's "It" swimsuit. Keeping practicality and style at the forefront, Flagpole's Vera swimsuit is a modern and elegant choice, made in NYC, USA.

Reach for Flagpole's cheerful Kane Dress and you're ready to make the most sophisticated fun transition from pool to strolling around town. Prefer something a little younger or perhaps your personality is a tad more free-spirited? For the pool, beach, music festival and everywhere in between, a raffia cowboy hat paired with a white cotton romper exudes straight cool.



Flagpole Vera Swimsuit, \$375,
www.flagpoleswim.com



San Diego Hat Co. Raffia Cowboy Hat, \$32.35,
www.overstock.com



Flagpole Kane Dress, \$375,
www.flagpoleswim.com



Mignonne Gavigan Parakeet Necklace, \$825,
www.mignonnegavigan.com



O'Neill Bungalow Romper, \$44.50,
www.overstock.com

Nature's Gate Aqua Broad Spectrum SPF 50 Sunscreen, \$11.50, Whole Foods

PhytoPlage Protective Sun Veil, \$30, Sephora

Protect your hair from oxidation and fading with a sun veil.

Dermaflage ScarScreen SPF 30, \$25, www.dermaflage.com

This is superb for non make-up wearers who still desire a sun-kissed glow.

Nature's Gate Sunless Tanner, \$10.29, Whole Foods

SkinClinical Extreme Healing Repair, \$24.95, www.skinclinical.com

Keep those toes looking soft, moisturized and polished.

PediSpa Intensive Moisturizing Foot Mask, \$9.99, Target or www.amazon.com

Plotchy skin has never been more out of style. While skin and laser centers across Charlotte appreciate sunshine lovers keeping their sites jam-packed, there are more skin-saving products on the market than ever to help us in our quest for that flawless glow.

Sunless tanners are great not only for those who work hard to protect their fragile faces from the sun, but they're a superb option for non make-up wearers who still desire a sun-kissed glow.

If you simply cannot live without ol' sol, always, always bring your thinking cap along with your sun hat and apply a great product with Sun Protection Factor, a.k.a. SPF. If you have recently made a visit to your dermatologist or cosmetic surgeon for a pretty pick-me-up, keep in mind that scar tissue is fragile and particularly susceptible to harmful rays of the sun. Doctors recommend sun protection for minimizing a scar and preventing hyperpigmentation.

Also, exposure to the sun, sea and swimming pool can fade hair color so be sure to use a sun veil. Remember as well to keep those toes looking soft, moisturized and polished.

Whether hitting the pool with the entire family in tow,

BALLANTYNE style points

Add some color to your look with a threaded necklace.

enjoying time with girlfriends or relaxing solo, we Southern folk simply cannot make it anywhere without a great bag to corral our belongings.

Paige Gamble's beach bags and clutches are dancing diamonds among a sea of choices for your favorite summer tote. The premium pebbled leather tote features a gorgeous beach print, interior pocket and clip closure. You can even customize a zip-top pouch with your favorite postcard! Don't you dare think of strolling around the pool deck without the perfect accessory adorning your sunscreen-lathered limbs.

Paige Gamble Custom Postcard Pouch, \$145, www.paigegamble.com



Hard Candy Chrome Lash Tinsel, \$6, Walmart and www.walmart.com

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Melvin Threaded Bar Necklace, \$40, www.shopmelvin.com



Paige Gamble Soft Clutch, \$295, www.paigegamble.com




Paige Gamble Resort Beach Bag, \$495, www.paigegamble.com



Mignonne Gavigan Pom Pom Drop Earrings, \$195, www.mignonnegavigan.com



Top off your look with brightly colored earrings.

Top off your look with a brightly colored necklace, earrings or beaded scarf. And if you really, really want to wow, and yes we do, Hard Candy's Chrome Lash Tinsel will sparkle you straight into the night. You are now officially cool for the summer! 

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Heritage's brown butter strawberry shortcake features sponge cake, strawberry sorbet, brown butter crema and graham cracker crumble, topped with meringue and fruit dice.

Seasonal Serendipity

Heritage Food & Drink Provides Twists on the Traditional

By Amy Rogers | Photos by Ray Sepesy

THE DECISION WAS GOING TO BE TRICKY: Open a new restaurant in the Elizabeth neighborhood of Charlotte, in view of uptown skyscrapers, or set it 30 miles away in the tiny town of Waxhaw.

Paul Verica, a 15-year Ballantyne resident, made a decision not everyone would understand. He chose Waxhaw for the small restaurant he would call Heritage Food & Drink. The accomplished chef had something to say and didn't want to blend into "the white noise" of the center city.

And there's plenty to say this time of year, when warm-weather crops abound. A regional and seasonal Southern aesthetic means a single ingredient can drive an entire dish, such as spring's green garlic that starred in a rich panna cotta. Now it's time for lush tomatoes and sweet English peas to appear. "Summer is a playground," Verica explains.



Eating with Our Eyes

Despite its old-school-sounding name, Heritage uses modern and hi-tech methods: foams, fluid gels, compression and the vacuum-cooking technique known as "sous vide." Believing that "we eat with our eyes," kitchen artisans make each plate a visual pleasure.

This seasonal — and often serendipitous — menu means offering few regular items. In fact, Heritage has only one: deviled eggs that have been on the menu since opening day.

Pastry chef Ashley Boyd is well known for her work at 300 East in Dilworth, and she shares her talents at Heritage. Here a standout dessert is her brown butter strawberry shortcake made from sponge cake, strawberry sorbet, brown butter crema and graham cracker crumble, topped with meringue and fresh fruit dice.

Berries also make their way into summer cocktails, such as a concoction of fresh strawberry syrup, vodka, Chambord and St. Germain elderflower liqueur. An eclectic wine list highlights selections from small, family-owned American producers. Six rotating taps of N.C. beers reflect the upsurge of brew culture across the state.

Above: Deviled eggs have been on the menu since the restaurant opened.

Right: Creative dishes include miso-glazed duck with a bourbon teriyaki sauce and seasonal vegetables.


Verica delights in the dynamic growth of the food community. He commends the work of groups such as the Piedmont Culinary Guild for bringing together and promoting the value of chefs, farmers and artisans.

Family Flourish

That attitude seems to be contagious. When 20-year-old Alex Verica expressed interest in learning the business a few years back, his father tried to talk him out of it. Failing that, Paul sent his son to work in the kitchens of restaurant colleagues. Alex excelled, so Paul brought his son on board at Heritage, where he rose from the ranks of dishwasher to prep cook to line cook.

Despite its old-school-sounding name, Heritage uses modern and hi-tech methods.

"I couldn't operate the business without him," his dad says today. "I'm so amazingly proud of him. It's fun to watch his leadership skills develop." Younger siblings Paige and Andrew haven't committed to the restaurant life — yet. Wife Kit's supporting role in the business is unofficial but essential.

Our region's restaurant scene continues to evolve and mature, along with the community that supports it. In less than three years, Heritage has landed on several "Best of" lists. "We're about one thing and one thing only, and that's trying to be the best we can all the time," says Paul. For those who appreciate inventive ways of interpreting traditional cuisine, that's truly a "heritage" worth celebrating. 



Heritage Food & Drink

Dinner: Tuesday-Saturday, 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Sunday Brunch: 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

201 W. South Main Street
Waxhaw, N.C. 28173
704-843-5236
www.heritagefoodanddrink.com



Sara's YMCA opened in February, in Ballantyne Corporate Park. Among the Y's features are an outdoor fitness yard suitable for a wide range of training activities.



LYNN TUCKER IS AT SARA'S YMCA FIVE TIMES A WEEK. From invigorating cardio to socializing with her regular exercise group, Tucker relishes the exercise that keeps her fit and the camaraderie that welcomes her when she walks in the door.

'Newest Gem'

Sara's YMCA Debuts
As Workout Magnet,
Community Amenity

By Kerry Singe
Photos by Shane Baskin/Blackbox Studios



Sara's YMCA is designed to act as an adult 'student union,' a gathering place for members and nonmembers.



Sara's YMCA, the newest branch of the YMCA of Greater Charlotte, opened in February to rave reviews. The 24,000-square-foot, adult-only facility features the newest machines, a padded floor in the yoga room and spa-like bathroom amenities (goodbye clunky, metal locker doors!). But gym-goers and YMCA supporters say Sara's YMCA is positioned to become much more than an exercise hub.

Michelle Miller, executive director of Sara's YMCA and the nearby Morrison Family YMCA, says Sara's YMCA is designed to act as an adult "student union," a gathering place for members and nonmembers. Supporters envision people hosting business meetings or social gatherings there. One day

this spring, for example, dozens of volunteers met in the community room and packed fire safety kits to be distributed to at-risk neighborhoods, while other volunteers donated blood.

Real estate agent and YMCA board member David Huss hosted a sales meeting there to introduce fellow Allen Tate agents to the facility. He hinted at the Y's wider role in the community in a pun he posted on Facebook after it opened: "Early morning workout in Ballantyne's newest gem."

Like 'Coming Home'

The YMCA of Greater Charlotte is a network of branches and camps that offer programming for residents throughout the region. While the YMCA's reach extends across



The fitness yard's turf flooring allows for unusual exercises such as flipping tires.



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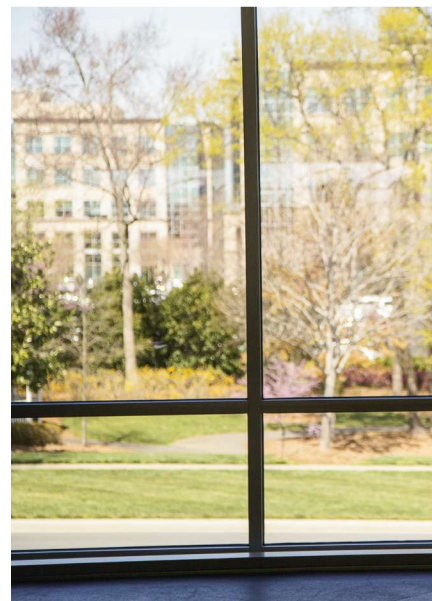
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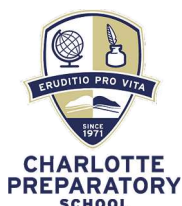
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all communities, individual
branches can foster a culture
unique to its location.

Sara's YMCA, known as
simply "Sara's Y," replaces a
smaller facility formerly at
Ballantyne Village. When the
lease came up, the YMCA
sought a larger space with
more parking, Huss says.
Margaret and Smoky Bissell
donated \$2 million to help
fund construction for the
Y, named in honor of the
developer's late wife, Sara
Harris Bissell.

The Ballantyne Village
location had devoted
members, such as Tucker
and Ballantyne resident
Kathy Piejak. Piejak and her
dedicated workout group
of eight friends now can be



The variety of venues and activities at Sara's YMCA helps keep exercise interesting and social.

found Monday through Friday at Sara's Y, practicing yoga in the heated room or, as Piejak jokes, "solving the world's problems on the elliptical."

The new equipment is great, Piejak says, but it's the welcoming environment and friendships she's building that make the space more than a gym. "I describe it as coming home," she says. "It's a place that always raises my spirits."

Harnessing Corporate Spirit

Located in the heart of Ballantyne Corporate Park,

SARA'S YMCA AT A GLANCE

WHAT

Named in memory of Sara Harris Bissell, the late wife of developer Smoky Bissell, the 24,000-square-foot, adult-only workout facility serves more than 1,700 people.

WHERE

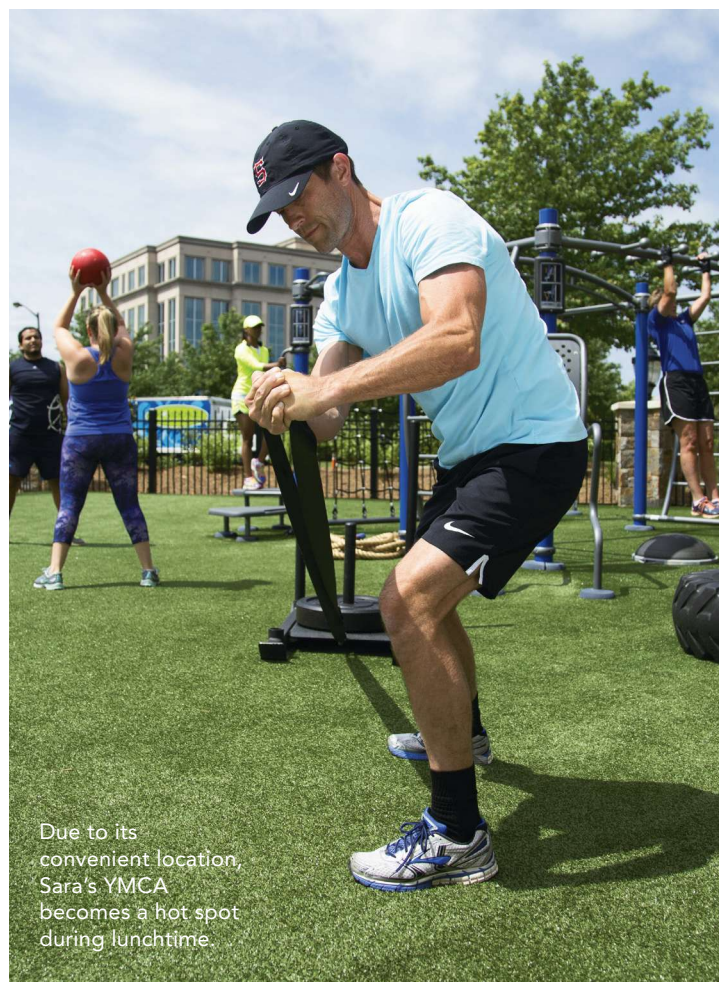
At the heart of Ballantyne Corporate Park, 15940 Brixham Hill Ave., Charlotte, 28277

PROGRAMS AND AMENITIES

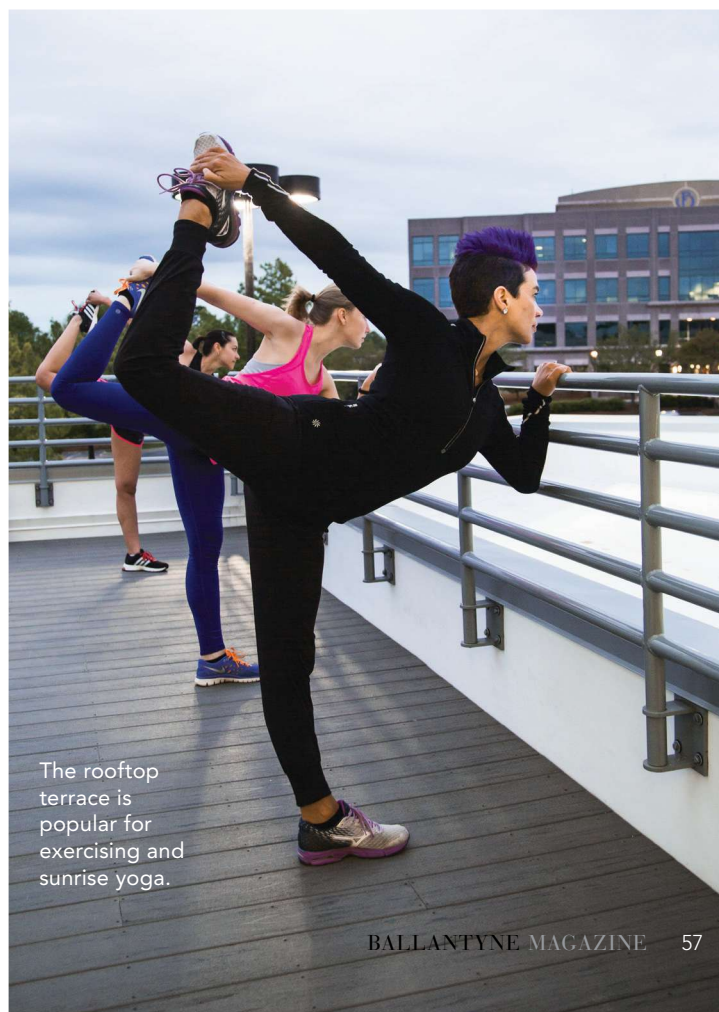
- Group exercise classes
- Mind/body studio with a state-of-the-art flooring and heating system
- Outdoor fitness yard featuring turf flooring suitable for activities that include sled pulls and tire flips
- Rooftop terrace for exercising and sunrise yoga
- Sonic Automotive Wellness Center offering cardio/strength machines and workout space
- Studio with TRX and Pilates reformer equipment for private training and group classes

COMMUNITY AND CORPORATE OFFERINGS

- Wellness seminars
- Boot camps
- Outdoor corporate fitness events
- Corporate adult sports, such as sand volleyball and softball
- Community meeting room
- Togetherhood, a member-led volunteer program and the YMCA's signature program for social responsibility



Due to its convenient location, Sara's YMCA becomes a hot spot during lunchtime.



The rooftop terrace is popular for exercising and sunrise yoga.



Sara's YMCA offers educational programs in addition to exercise facilities.

Sara's Y offers a range of benefits for tenants and their employees.

Premier Inc., for example, has partnered with the Y to provide employee perks such as on-site workout classes, walking and running clubs and classes such as yoga and meditation, all geared toward employee interests. Premier's mission is to improve the health of communities, and Jill Ulmer, the company's health and wellness program administrator, says the new Y helps the company achieve its mission close to home.

"It's important for us to recognize our own health and wellness and walk the talk," Ulmer says. "If someone works out during the week, they will take those behaviors

home to family and friends. I think that is how the ripple effect starts with health and wellness in communities."

The Y is also ideally situated to harness the spirit of nearby companies for the betterment of the community, supporters say. Sara's Y, for example, is home to Togetherhood, a national, member-led volunteer service program dedicated to strengthening the community. Other YMCA branches offer volunteer opportunities, but Sara's Y is the first Charlotte location to launch the initiative.

Ulmer is involved in Togetherhood alongside Hailey Rorie, community director with The Bissell Companies. One of Rorie's jobs is to create a sense of community within the

"It's important for us to recognize our own health and wellness and walk the talk."

— Jill Ulmer, Premier Inc.





Engrid Roberson, membership and corporate partnership director for Sara's YMCA, participates in Togetherhood, a national, member-led service program.



Brad Newcomb from the American Red Cross assists volunteers with packing fire safety kits.

Corporate Park. Rorie put together the March blood drive at Sara's Y to benefit the American Red Cross, and Togetherhood organized the assembly line-style project in the community room, where volunteers packed 5,000 fire safety preparedness kits.

"It's a really unique opportunity to network with other individuals who are seeking convenient volunteer initiatives for themselves or their company," Rorie says. "Ultimately, Sara's Y will enable Ballantyne Corporate Park to

make a greater local impact, and we're excited to see what's in store for our community."

Potential to Spur Growth

YMCA board member and State Farm agent Wil Brooks got to know the Y decades ago when he joined the Harris branch for his kids' activities.

He soon was impressed by how the Y shares its resources so kids in less affluent areas have access to the same programs. He believes Sara's Y has a special opportunity.

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- July 11 – Tableau Essentials
- July 12 – Access Basic
- July 13 – Analyze with Pivot Tables
- July 13 – Analyze with VLOOKUP
- July 18 – Excel Advanced
- July 19 – Core Java Series – Object Oriented

New fall classes coming in July. Visit our website for a full list of classes.

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The character of Sara's YMCA will ultimately be shaped by those who embrace the facility.




Greg Reese signs up to donate blood, and volunteer Kay Johnston provides information. At left, volunteer Michaela Vestal lends a hand as part of a Togetherhood activity.

"Located in an area of Charlotte that a lot of people are moving to, Sara's Y can be where people gather, get the exposure to the Y and find out what's going on," he says. "We think it can be a catalyst of bringing new people, new talent and new skills to the Y and to the greater community."

While goals for the facility are set and programs and equipment

are in place, supporters say the Y's character will ultimately be shaped by those who embrace the facility.

"You can always build the brick walls, but you don't know what the character of the inside is going to be until you get going with it," says board member Huss. "What will the identity of Sara's YMCA be? I think it has yet to be decided." 



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The South County Regional Library has transformed its underused patio into a garden and learning space.

Planting a Love of Mother Nature

Interactive Learning Space and Community Garden Now Open at Library

By Nan Bauroth | Photos by Ray Sepesy

THANKS TO THE GENEROSITY OF THE BISSELL COMPANIES, children in the Ballantyne area can now get hands-on experience in growing plants and food sources at the new Interactive Learning Space and Community Garden at South County Regional Library.

With Bissell's gift of more than \$36,000, the local branch library closest to Ballantyne Corporate Park has transformed its underused patio into a place where children and adults alike can enjoy the wonders of Mother Nature.

Honoring Tenants

The ribbon-cutting on the new garden took place in late March. "To honor our tenants and customers in Ballantyne Corporate Park during the last holiday season, we were happy to contribute to the Charlotte Mecklenburg Library Foundation for the creation of an experimental and enriching space to be enjoyed for years to come," says

As part of her goal setting, she came up with the notion of turning the patio space that was seldom used by patrons into a garden learning center. "At that time we didn't have the money to accomplish it, but Bissell wanted to contribute to the library and they chose the garden project."



Inspiring Children

Now that the garden is complete, Nichols is hopeful it will inspire children to become excited about gardening and continue in the programs she has begun. She also plans on holding story time there during the warmer months. "This experience has been so awesome," she says. "I've been here 15 years and this absolutely is the highlight of my working for the library."

Lenoir C. "Lee" Keesler, CEO of Charlotte Mecklenburg Library, is equally encouraged by the possibilities inherent in the public-private initiative.

"This is a great example of where an individual's vision — in this case Sandy Nichols' — intersected with the philanthropic interest of a caring donor,

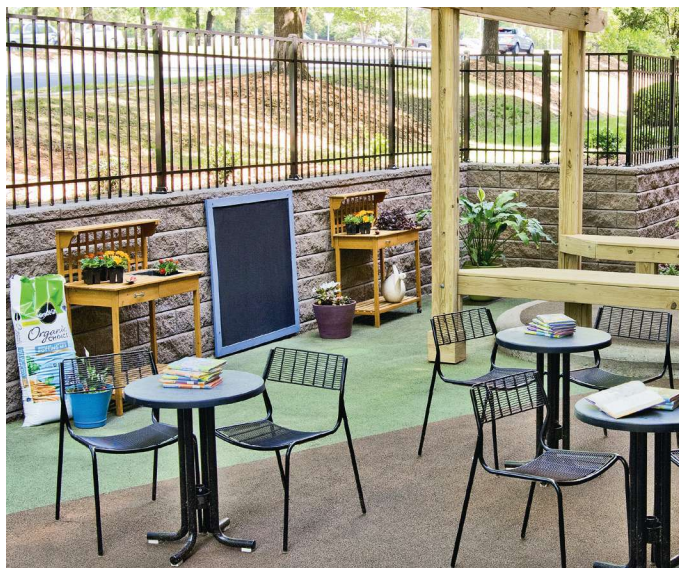
"I've been here 15 years and this absolutely is the highlight of my working for the library."

— Sandy Nichols
Children's Library Specialist


Smoky Bissell, chairman of Bissell. "Investing in our youth and advancing the community in which we work are valued priorities for Bissell."

The renovated patio featuring vegetable and butterfly gardens, planting tables and watering trays is designed to serve as a learning lab for children and families by teaching about plants, gardening, environmental sustainability, beneficial insects and related topics. In addition, the new space has a gazebo with seating and portable work benches.

The concept was the dream of Sandy Nichols, children's library specialist at the site. "I have a love of gardening passed on by my grandmother, so I have been conducting garden programs here for the children, many of whom have never grown anything," she explains.



The library's new garden has a space for environmental education.

in this case Bissell," he says. "This intersection will make possible a wonderful learning experience for the younger patrons at South County Regional Library and their families. It's a formula we'd like to repeat many times over." 

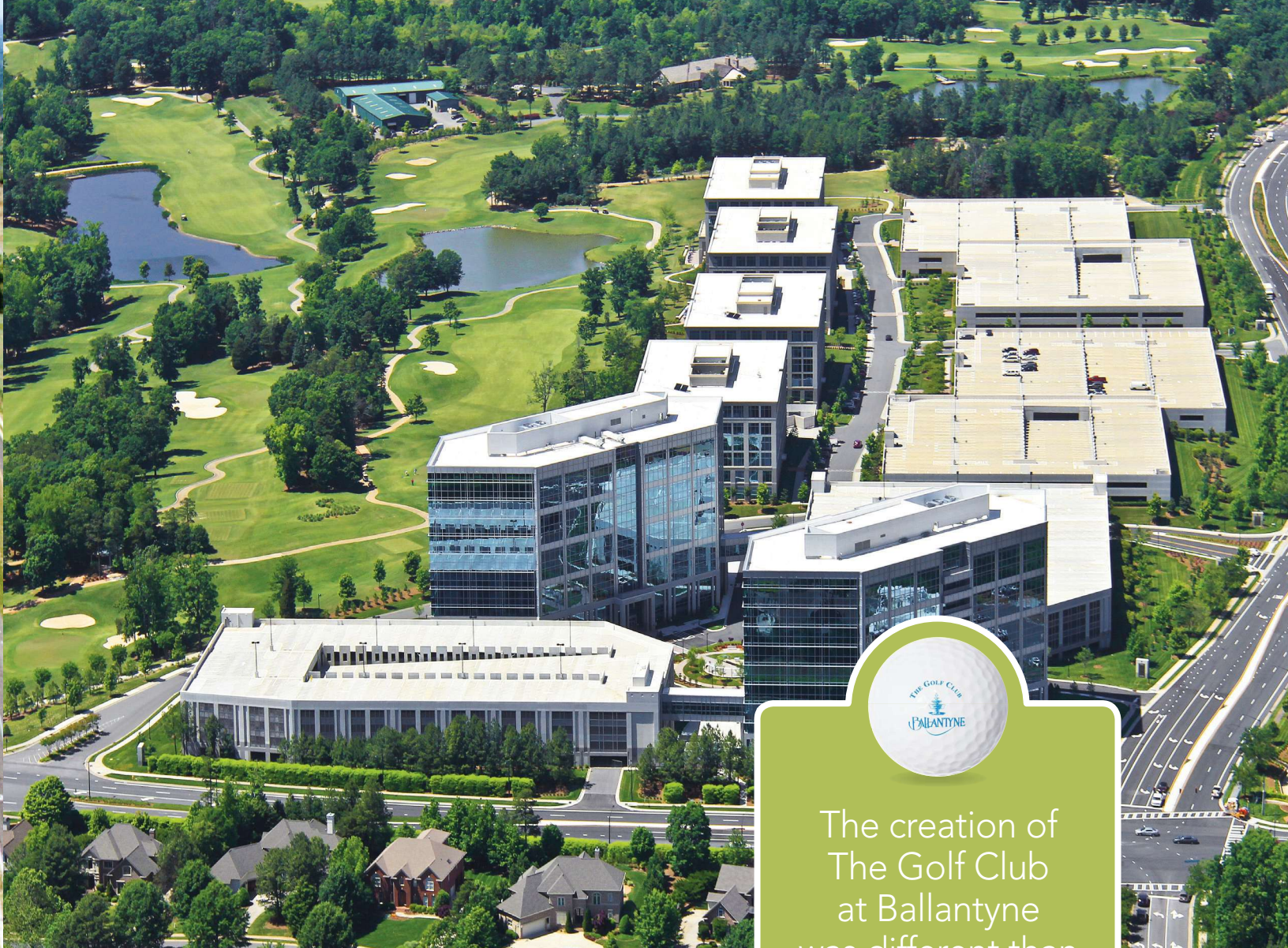


Clearing land for The Golf Club at Ballantyne overall began in 1996. Today the 12th fairway (at right) is flanked by buildings in Ballantyne Corporate Park.

The Golf Club at Ballantyne Celebrates 20 Years

By Ron Green Jr.

No Par for this Course



The creation of
The Golf Club
at Ballantyne
was different than
the way most
new courses are
designed and built.

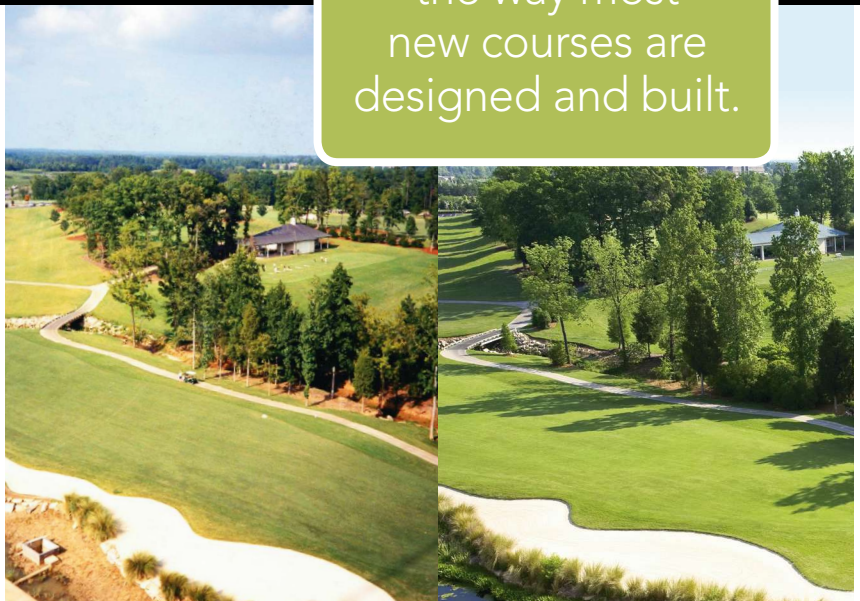
TWENTY YEARS AGO, The Golf Club at Ballantyne was waiting to be created.

Like most golf courses, its bones lay in the land, sitting amid the brush and trees that had to be cleared, shaped and molded into a course that would become the foremost daily-fee layout in Mecklenburg County and the surrounding area.

Ballantyne itself, now a thriving hub of activity on Charlotte's southern edge, was more vision than reality two decades ago. Developer Smoky Bissell had a plan and a mission, envisioning a community that would reshape the city in many ways.

One of the centerpieces of Bissell's vision was a golf course.

Not just any course but one that would work in the midst of what would become Ballantyne Corporate Park, where office buildings would overlook fairways and give golfers a reason to come to Ballantyne.



Overlooking the 18th hole, one can see how the course and Dana Rader Golf School have evolved over time.



Above: Construction of the course, including the 14th green, took place over 18 months.


Below: In 1999, the Clubhouse (pictured) was connected with The Ballantyne Hotel & Lodge.

The creation of The Golf Club at Ballantyne was different than the way most new courses are designed and built. Rather than hire a golf course architect, Bissell turned to LandDesign Inc. to create the routing for the course. Larry Best, who led the LandDesign team, understood the layout was there to enhance the office park. The routing plan had to account for a hotel, parking decks, office buildings and a golf school.

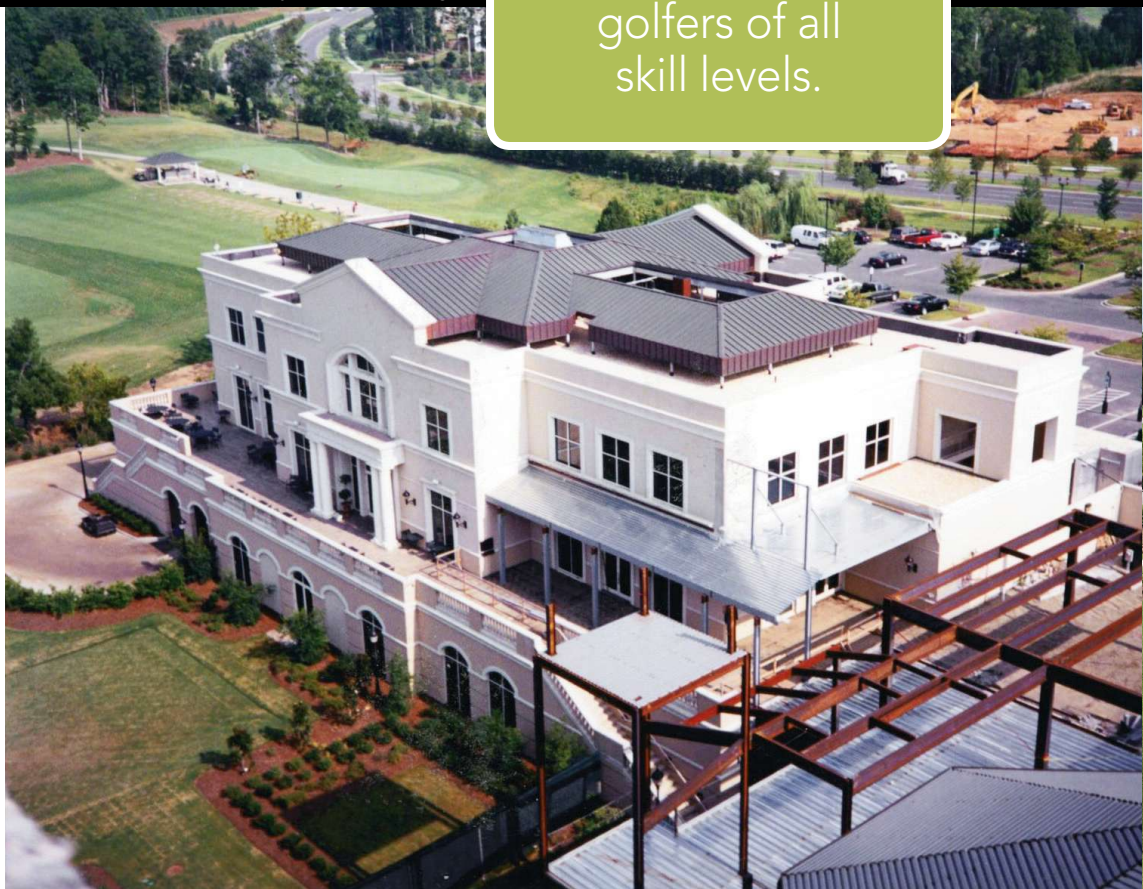
Fine-tuning Design, Clearing Woods

With a layout in place, a group of prominent golfers around Charlotte joined the design review committee and spent months helping to fine-tune the course design.

The original committee



The designers had to keep in mind they were creating a course that needed to be enjoyable for golfers of all skill levels.





Above: From the back of the 11th green, you can see a pond on the 17th hole and the green on the 14th. **Below:** Adjacent to The Ballantyne Hotel & Lodge, the Clubhouse (at left) has been updated over time. Both facilities face the 18th hole and are shown in spring 2016.



included Stacy Gibson, Ede Graves, Joe Hallow, John Harris III, Bailey Patrick, Edward Pell, Dana Rader and David Strawn.

“Mr. Bissell wanted to get all kinds of input,” Strawn recalls. “We would go out and hit to where they were going to put holes. It was a lot of fun. We had an architect but not a golf architect. He had laid it out in a general sense; then, we’d look at it and say where things should go.”

Clearing began on the course in November 1996, approximately 18 months before it would open.

“There was nothing out here,” Rader says. “It was just woods. It’s hard to even picture that now with what has happened here. There were 18 holes that had been graded, but nothing was shaped.



This bridge today and in its early days (below) links holes 13 and 14.



Where my golf school is now there was nothing but woods.

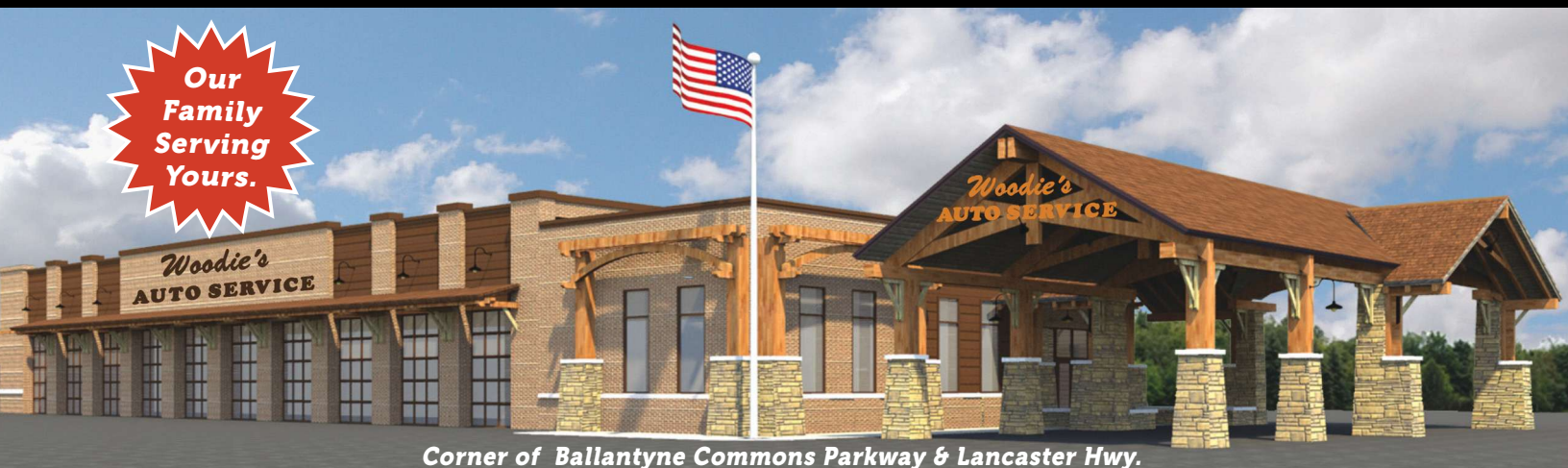
"I remember walking to where the practice range would be located and going through the woods," she continues. "We went where the 18th tee would be, and I remember walking through briars to get there. They pointed out where the hotel was going to be. It's incredible to see it now."

At approximately the same time as The Golf Club at Ballantyne was being built, the Arnold Palmer-designed Birkdale Golf Club was being constructed on the northern side of Charlotte. Daily-fee golf, which badly needed an upgrade in Charlotte, was getting a dramatic improvement.

continued on page 70



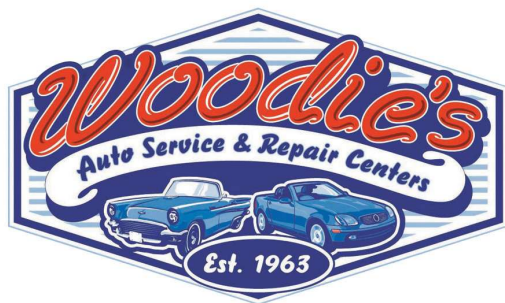
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The Golf Club at Ballantyne features two tunnels. Here is the one under North Community House Road.

The course was built around high-quality service, superior conditioning and giving golfers a country-club experience at a daily-fee site.



The tunnel under North Community House Road links holes 3 and 4.

■ continued from page 68

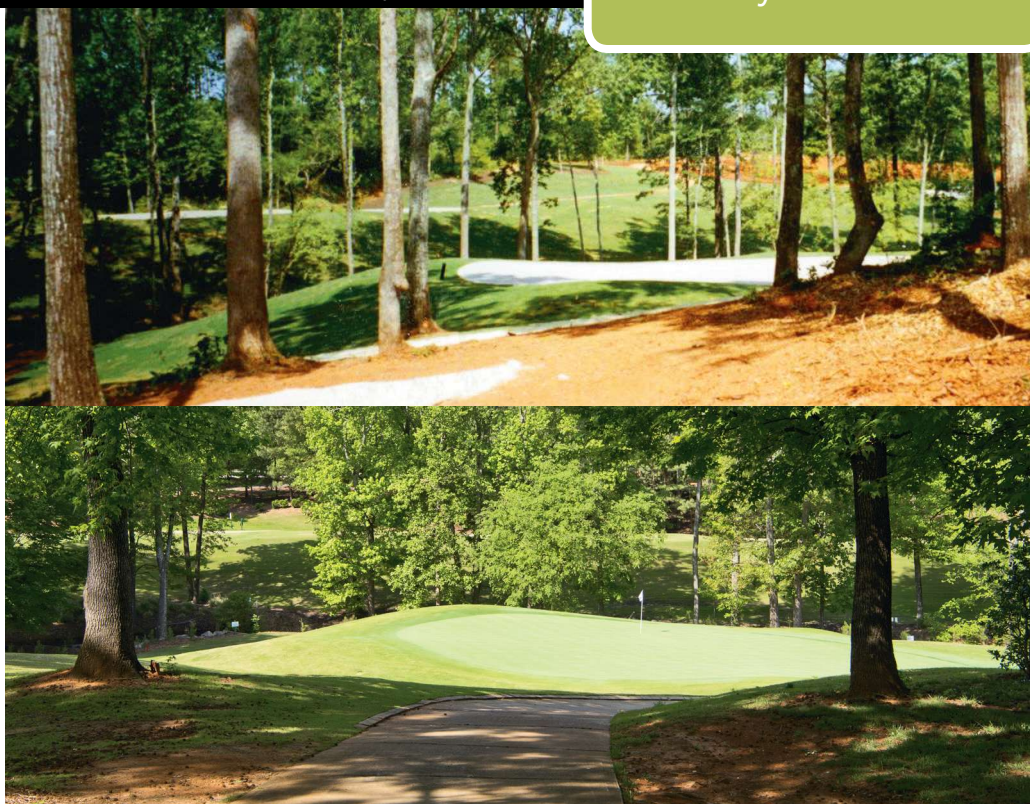
Blending the Course With the Park

In Ballantyne, there were parameters the design committee had to consider in bringing the course to life.

"Smoky made it very clear we were not to mess up his office buildings," Harris says. "We were very cognizant of how it would be laid out."

At one point, Bissell proposed literally blending the course with the buildings surrounding it, suggesting the tee for the second hole be built atop a parking garage. It was, if nothing else, a novel concept.

"We had to explain to Smoky how that was going to slow things down," Harris says.



Above: The 15th green during construction is almost complete. **Below:** Trees were removed to create a cart path leading to the 16th tee.



The second hole has evolved perhaps more than any other over time. Originally, it was intended to be a par 3 with a tee located in a low spot with the green guarded by a creek. Ultimately, that plan was scrapped and a par 4 was created. The hole was later changed again to accommodate a parking garage and to improve the overall playability of the course.

In August 1997, ground was broken for Dana Rader Golf School, which would be a key element in conjunction with the course. Rader, ranked among the country's top 100 teachers according to multiple publications, became an anchor and an attraction for The Golf Club at Ballantyne.

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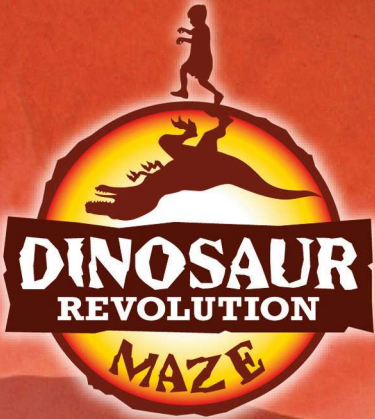

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The 16th hole came to life as the rest of The Golf Club at Ballantyne did — sculpted from clay soil and nurtured into a lush, daily-fee golf course.



The designers also had to keep in mind they were creating a course that needed to be enjoyable for golfers of all skill levels. Multiple tees were built, and long, forced carries that would be too difficult for many players were avoided.

"It's a fun course to play," Harris says.

Seeking 'the Total Golf Experience'


The course was built around high-quality service, superior conditioning and giving golfers a country-club experience at a daily-fee site. It has been hugely successful in hosting outings of all sizes, with almost 30 percent of its business coming from events.

"We opened with two things in mind," Rader says.

"We wanted to provide good customer service and give golfers a good product with the course. We wanted it to be the total golf experience."

She and the rest of the design committee delivered what Ballantyne needed.

"There is no daily fee where you can get the service you get at Ballantyne as a result of the hotel being there," Harris notes. "The job the people do and the amenities only enhance the environment."

"So much of building a course like this is about the environment," he adds. "You want a great course but having the right environment makes a big difference. It complements the course, and the course complements the hotel and Dana Rader's teaching center. It all feeds together." 

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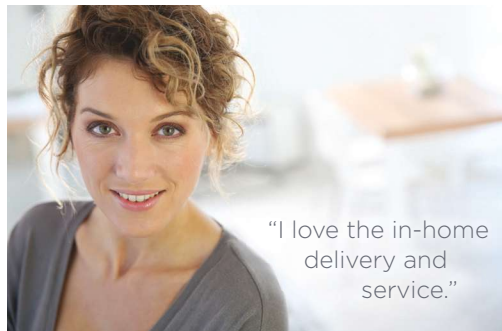


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To determine the best spots for outdoor lighting, consider viewing perspectives from your outdoor living spaces.

Nighttime Nuance

Illuminate Outdoor Living Spaces for Ambiance and Safety

By Tom Fenig | Photos by Ray Sepsey

CREATING WARM, SAFE AND INVITING OUTDOOR LIVING SPACES is a practical and increasingly popular trend that adds significant value to your home.

Such projects include not only decks and patios but elaborate outdoor dining areas, walkways, fireplaces, water features and more. The last thing you want are high-wattage floodlights ruining the nighttime ambiance of an outdoor celebration with family and friends.

Remember to allocate some of your project funds for well-thought-out outdoor lighting because you are most likely to enjoy your new outdoor “living room” when the day has cooled and night has fallen.

The first rule is to consider viewing perspectives. This concept is important to understand before starting any outdoor lighting project. Otherwise, you can buy the wrong fixtures, install them in the wrong locations or even buy more fixtures than are necessary. You can even make your property less safe if lights are not placed strategically.

The viewing perspective for lighting the front of homes is typically simple — it’s looking at your house, not looking from your house.

However, effectively lighting outdoor living areas is far more complex. Goals should include safety, beauty and functionality.

Living areas include sitting spots, dining spaces and more. It is from these locations that your viewing perspective should be defined.


Energy-efficient LED fixtures produce a warm, yet subtle lighting effect that is ideal for outdoor spaces. Imagine more than simply uplighting that gorgeous crepe myrtle tree or scattering path lights along your otherwise dark and unsafe



Imagine more than simply uplighting that gorgeous crepe myrtle tree or scattering path lights along your otherwise dark and unsafe walkway.

walkway. New choices in LED allow you to splash light below a stone or wooden bench or even safely illuminate a step with a hidden 1.5-watt fixture.

It’s important to be mindful of safety too. The light that creates a perfect effect may be far from ideal if it produces a blinding glare from some angles. Lights should be indirect and subtle without compromising safety.

As with any home improvement, “the devil is in the details,” as the cliché goes. Select a company that specializes in lighting outdoor living spaces. As a percentage of your overall outdoor budget, professional lighting is a modest investment that will provide years of enjoyment. 



The viewing perspective for lighting the front of a home is typically determined by looking at the house, not from the house.



Tom Fenig, owner of Imagine Outdoor Lighting, started his first outdoor lighting company in Charlotte in 1995. He added 80 locations worldwide and sold the company in 2008. He recently came out of retirement to focus on professional outdoor lighting in the Carolinas.

ANNUAL HOPE GALA HELPS FAMILIES

Hundreds of guests honored the memory of Hope Stout at the annual Celebration of Hope Gala in support of the March Forth with Hope Foundation on March 5 at The Ballantyne Hotel & Lodge.

Hope's parents, Shelby and Stuart Stout, founded the nonprofit in Hope's memory to raise money for families battling life-threatening diseases. The "Great Gatsby" themed event included a cocktail reception, dinner, silent auction and dancing.

Photos by Hayley Watson

1. Gwen Nix, Cindy Spain
2. Lydia and Ken Lyon
3. Denise Davis, Marcel Hebert
4. Frankie Noor, Sunny Mazandarani
5. Stuart Stout, Dennie Hall, Shelby Stout
6. Ed and Darlene Putz, Janet and Bob Hamilton
7. Lara and Don Bailey
8. Katie and Mat Rogers
9. Mike Hall, Tammy Gillette
10. David, Lyndsey (behind) and Lacey Stogdill, McKenzie Nesta
11. Neil and Tiffany Crapo, Krystle and Jamie Jones
12. Kyle and Morgan Petty
13. Danette Rutherford, Nina Wheeling
14. Michael and Lori Nguyen
15. Madeline Kamp, Jan Harper, Cornelia Price



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GOLFERS BENEFIT ALPHA-1 VILLAGE

The 5th Annual Birdies & Bagpipes Golf Tournament was held March 18 at The Golf Club at Ballantyne. In addition to hitting the links, participants enjoyed bagpipe players, boxed lunches, a helicopter ball-drop raffle, dinner and more.

The event raised awareness for Alpha-1 antitrypsin deficiency, a severely under-diagnosed genetic disorder of the liver. Proceeds from the event support the Alpha-1 Village, which exists to provide educational, emotional, financial and medical support for patients and their caregivers.

Photos courtesy of
Birdies & Bagpipes

1. Michael Simpson, Bob Beard, Ben Hund, Zach Beard
2. Scott Echols, Chuck Wingo, Ben Hund, Jay Brigel, Kelly Stimart
3. Lee Edmonson, Bart Haines
4. Scott Patterson, Greg Hurdle, Collin Sinclair, Brey Curtis
5. Cat Stamper, Rick Addis, Ben Hund, Brittany Shelley, Jay Johnson, Mary Andujar, Paul Harrold, Robin Dorfer, (kneeling) Mike Maynard
6. Lindsey Yee, Myanni Pfisterer
7. Rick and Beth Addis, Donovan Quill
8. Leslie Hunter, Betty Huggins, Erin Collins
9. Brittany Shelley, Mike Maynard, Mary Andujar
10. Christian Audersirk, John Allen, Chris Logan, Bill Melugin



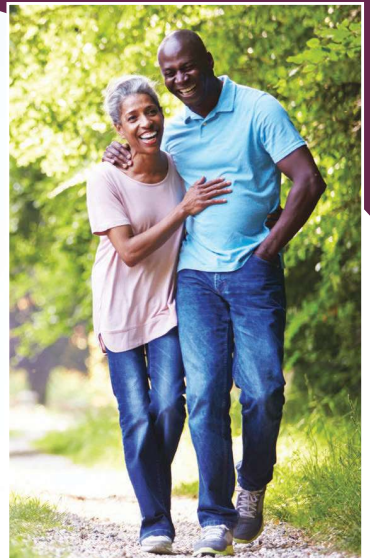
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l to r: Mark Smith, MD, John Welshofer, MD, Sameer Vemuri, MD, Michael Cowan, MD, Kevin Cahill, MD, Taylor Jarrell, MD, Sanjiv Lakhia, DO



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GALA AIDS DANCERS, CIRCLE OF HOPE

Miller Street Dance Academy presented its inaugural Baubles and Bowties Gala to benefit Dancers Against Cancer and the Circle of Hope Dancers Foundation on March 12 at Ballantyne Country Club.

The foundation is committed to creating an alliance in the dance community to provide financial support and inspiration to dancers and their families who have been impacted by cancer. Attendees enjoyed a formal dinner with cocktails, a silent auction and dancing.

Photos by Ray Sepesy



1. Mary Margaret Coleman, Amanda and Michael Gunn, Charlotte Mott, Ashley and Sean Ilharramendy

2. Mike and Cindy Griffin, Courtney and Tom Spencer

3. Tara and Chloe Frank, Kathryn Landen, Ann Holmes

4. Heidi and Joe Povinelli

5. Chad and Janelle Harrell

6. Rupri Desai, Cullen Jones

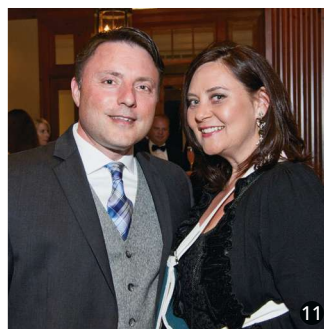
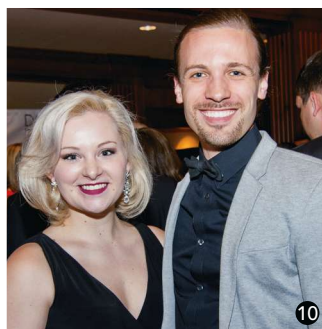
7. Katie Montalto, Michelle Colon, Rick Lands, Michelle Rogers

8. Katherine Cestrone, John and Helen Bakos, Jackie Anderson, Frank DiMura

9. Shawna Heum, Mara Tabor

10. McKenna Haywood, Mac Thompson

11. Michael and Michelle Stewart



TEERING UP TO FIGHT HUNGER, POVERTY

On May 2, the 6th Annual Common Cupboard Golf Classic was held at Firethorne Country Club. The tournament benefited Common Heart, a grass-roots organization that drives volunteer community action to address hunger and poverty issues in the Charlotte region.

In addition to a great day of golf, the event featured lunch, contests, door prizes, a silent auction and an awards dinner.

Photos by Ray Sepesy



1. Rodney Wynn, Steve Bueche

2. Ron Gacek, Bill Casey, Randal Jordan

3. Barbara Anglin-Law, Kim Gomme

4. Anna Dowdy, Don Hall

5. Luke Smith, Lucas Nowocin

6. Jerry Rollins, Chris Souk

7. Evan Albertyn, Mike Canady, Larry Greene

8. Ron Saggio, Gary Sharpe, Quentin Streater

9. Matt Streater, Matthew Hilton, Josh Morrison, Carrell Linker

10. Hank Pressley, Jim Short, Neal Davis, Vance Sonnenburg

11. Travis Keziah, Cody and Kyle Padilla

Intriguing Isle

Natural Beauty,
Outdoor Fun Lure
Vacationers to
Hilton Head Island

Courtesy of the Hilton Head Island Visitor & Convention Bureau



By Nan Bauroth

IT ALL BEGAN AS THE DREAM OF A BEACHCOMBER. In 1956 Charles Fraser, a Yale law student who had strolled most of the commercially developed beaches on the Atlantic Coast, bought his father's holdings in The Hilton Head Co. to create a visionary concept of a master planned, environmentally conscious retreat and residential community called Sea Pines Plantation.

The Harbour Town Lighthouse is an iconic symbol for South Carolina and a favorite spot for selfies.



Photo courtesy of Montage Palmetto Bluff

Above: Montage Palmetto Bluff, located near Hilton Head in Bluffton, S.C., offers this award-winning inn and many other accommodations. **Below:** Cycling Hilton Head's 12 miles of beaches is a favorite pastime.




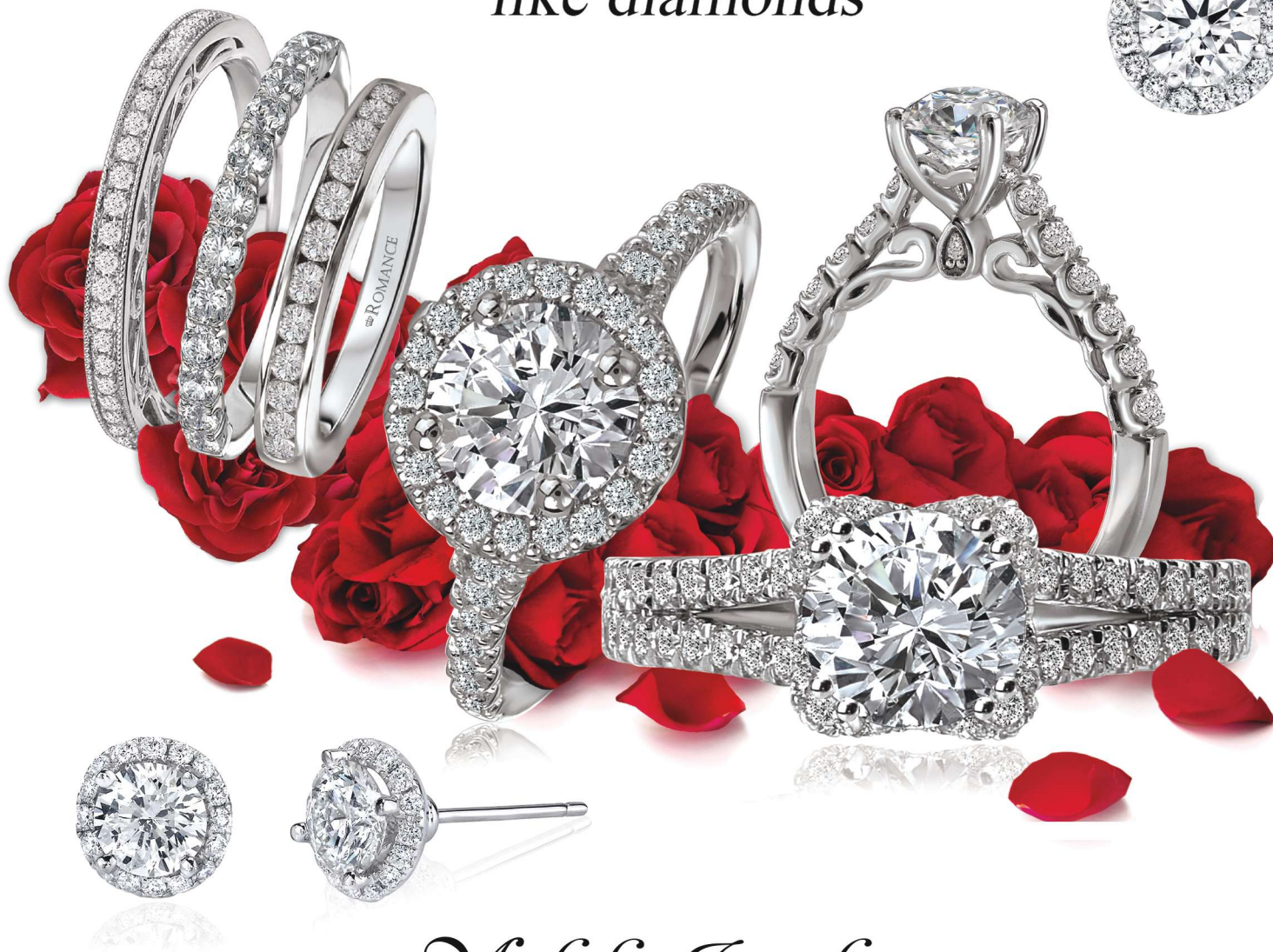
Courtesy of the Hilton Head Island Visitor & Convention Bureau

Today Fraser's legacy endures in the natural beauty of Sea Pines Plantation on Hilton Head Island, one of the nation's most desirable destinations. His determination to preserve 25 percent of the 5,200 acres of Sea Pines with its virgin pine forests, massive live oaks and pristine beaches — as well as to encourage bicycling instead of driving — is a main reason vacationers return year after year.

That's not to say Hilton Head Island, S.C., is lost in time. In the past four years alone, \$500 million has been invested in new restaurants, shopping plazas and developments, and many oceanfront resorts have received a facelift. As a result, Hilton Head has developed a chic Lowcountry vibe without compromising the area's ecological sensitivity that visitors love.

continued on page 86

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Hilton Head is known as an upscale getaway, but 6,000 homes and villas and 3,000 hotel rooms at all price points make it an ideal family escape as well.



The May River Guest House encompasses 14 units at Montage Palmetto Bluff in Bluffton.



■ continued from page 84

Recreational Eden

Named for British sea captain William Hilton who sighted the area in 1663, Hilton Head is known as an upscale getaway. But 6,000 homes and villas and 3,000 hotel rooms at all price points make it an ideal family escape as well. Luxe options include

the Sea Pines Resort homes and villas, the Inn and Club at Harbour Town, other island resorts and Montage Palmetto Bluff in nearby Bluffton. Families can also choose from four beachfront hotels or rent lodgings for up to 16 people.

An easy 4½-hour drive from Charlotte or a short flight to nearby Savannah, Ga., Hilton Head is an outdoor lover's



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Photo courtesy of Montage Palmetto Bluff

A balcony at May River Guest House offers a relaxing view.

paradise. Ensclosed on the island, visitors can kick back on 12 miles of white sand beaches, cycle 60 miles of multi-use paths, practice forehands and backhands at 300 tennis courts or play golf at 20 semi-private courses. This spring the RBC Heritage marked the 48th year that Hilton Head hosted a major golf tournament at Harbour Town Golf Links in Sea Pines.

Water sports enthusiasts get their fix kayaking Broad Creek or the Intracoastal Waterway, stand-up paddleboarding or even trying yoga on a paddleboard, as well as sailing, surfing, water skiing, jet skiing and parasailing. Hilton Head also offers a zipline where riders zoom through the maritime forest and view the beauty of Broad Creek from the treetops.

Thanks to Fraser's foresight, nature seekers can hike and picnic in Sea Pines Forest Preserve, checking out the 4,000-year-old Indian Shell Ring and taking a scenic ride down the rice dike, once used for water management to make rice cultivation possible several centuries ago.

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Kayaking on a marsh is one of many outdoor adventures at Hilton Head.

Courtesy of the Hilton Head Island Visitor & Convention Bureau

An easy 4½-hour drive from Charlotte or a short flight to nearby Savannah, Ga., **Hilton Head** is an outdoor lover's paradise.



tours to watch dolphins or alligators or set out for Pinckney Island National Wildlife Refuge, an unfettered stretch of salt marsh and tidal wetlands that boasts walking trails as well as wildlife watching that includes ibises, egrets and gators.

Oyster Mariculture

Hilton Head is a leader in the mariculture movement, led by Andrew Carmines,

manager of Hudson's Seafood House on the Dock, one of the island's oldest and most famous restaurants. He maintains the tradition of harvesting oysters alive through his Shell Ring Oyster Company, ensuring diners enjoy the freshest oysters while reducing environmental impact. You can also buy fresh seafood to cook at home at Benny Hudson's, a small seafood market not far

from the restaurant.

Another top seafood destination is Coast restaurant at the newly redesigned Sea Pines Beach Club. Featuring spectacular oceanfront views and a fresh shellfish bar, Coast is also popular for its shrimp and grits at Sunday brunch. Hole-in-the-wall favorites include Up the Creek, known

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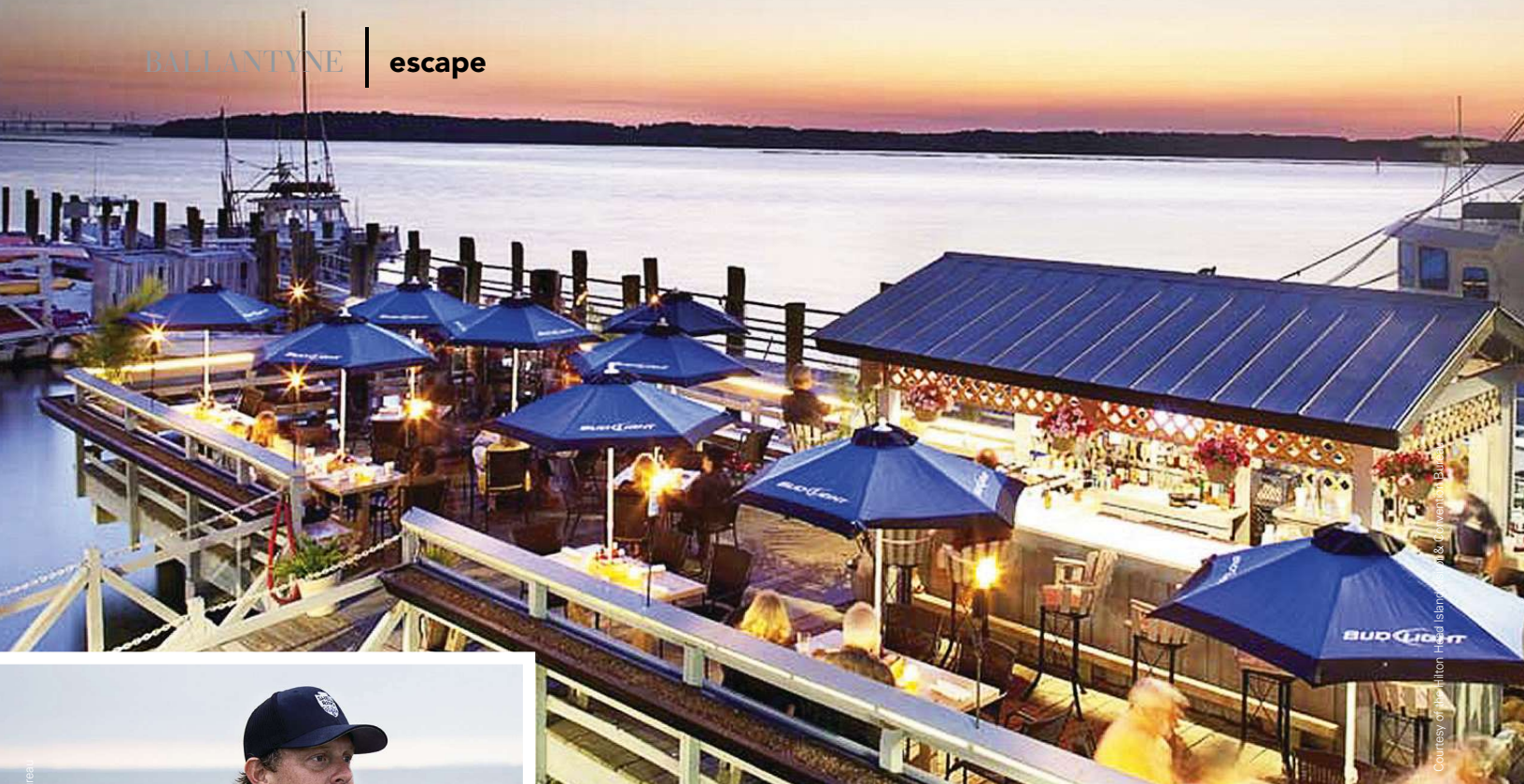
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Courtesy of the Hilton Head Island Visitor & Convention Bureau

Courtesy of the Hilton Head Island Visitor & Convention Bureau

Hilton Head is a leader in the mariculture movement, led by Andrew Carmines (left), manager of Hudson's Seafood House on the Dock, one of the island's oldest and most famous restaurants.



Hilton Head has a chic Lowcountry vibe without compromising the area's ecological sensitivity that visitors love.



Courtesy of the Hilton Head Island Visitor & Convention Bureau

This shop in Bluffton is one of many charming places to explore along the May River.

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for its bloody marys and fish tacos, and the Sea Shack, where patrons line up to order blackened seafood plates. Breakfast lovers staying in Sea Pines pedal to The Harbour Town Bakery & Cafe, a quaint spot to savor coffee and pastries under the island's ubiquitous Spanish moss-draped trees.

Excursions, Entertainment

Hilton Head also offers two excursions worth a day trip. The first, accessible only by boat, is Daufuskie Island, where descendants of slaves still speak Gullah (also known as Geechee) — a language with roots in Africa and depicted in the 1974 movie "Conrack," starring Jon Voight and based on the Pat Conroy book "The Water is Wide." An afternoon on Daufuskie is a

step back into the sea islands of yesteryear, best seen on a two-hour golf cart tour of historic sites and artist galleries, accompanied by an interpretive guide.

The second excursion is Bluffton, which Forbes just ranked as one of the Best 25 Places to Retire in 2016. Twenty minutes by car from Hilton Head and just across the Intracoastal, Bluffton is perched on the May River. It exudes many charms, including a historic district, pottery and art galleries, and fine locavore dining at The Cottage, NEO and The River House at Montage Palmetto Bluff, currently on the national media radar for its elegant accommodations and cuisine.

On the shopping front, Hilton Head's newest attraction is Shelter Cove Towne Center, a \$129 million open-air

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market featuring boutiques and restaurants, along with a waterfront playground and open park providing a stunning view of the sunset over Broad Creek.

Retail opportunities are also available at two Tanger Outlets in Bluffton. On the island, shoppers flock to the Village at Wexford and Harbour Town — the center of activity in Sea Pines, where Fraser built his candy-striped lighthouse.



Strolling in Harbour Town renders lovely scenery as well as opportunities to shop and eat.

Once dubbed “Fraser’s Folly,” the lighthouse is now one of the state’s iconic emblems and a favorite for selfies.

In summer, singer Gregg Russell entertains children and adults weeknights at 8 under the spreading arms of the Liberty Oak Tree, which Fraser chose to preserve despite the necessity of reducing the size of the harbor. But Fraser had a heartfelt conviction that mature trees give people a sense of wholeness, and that protecting the native Lowcountry seaside habitat would prove the right decision. “There’s no law of economics that says ugliness pays,” he once told Southern Living magazine. “I selected beauty and set out to make it work economically.”

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SUMMER SCOOP IN BALLANTYNE!

A close-up photograph of a pond filled with lily pads. The lily pads are large, green, and have prominent veins. Several yellow flower buds are visible, some on tall stems and others lower down. The water is a deep blue color, and the overall scene is bright and sunny.

Water Dance

Carrie Stryker captured a quintessential image of the season while walking alongside a pond in Ballantyne. Fresh lily pads are primed for their annual flowery flourish, which we enjoy throughout summer.

See Your Photo Here!

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

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