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October 2025 • VOLUME 20 NUMBER 12

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Milling about

New column about
life in Lake Norman

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Denis
BILODEAU
FOR CORNELIUS MAYOR



Is the Red Line right for Cornelius?

Our mayor claims the additional 1 cent sales tax will be a “game changer.” Too good to be true? You decide....

- The train will add to the traffic bottlenecks on Hwy 115 and our downtown

- The one cent additional tax is a 13.7% increase... it is regressive and permanent

- The tax increase hurts local businesses

- Rail stations bring high rise apartment buildings (**NODA pictured above**)

- Cornelius residents have been paying a half cent tax for over 25 years, exorbitant tolls and micro transit subsidies

- The \$5.75 million dollars paid to Cornelius is not a gift from the legislature... it comes from your hard earned dollars

- The sales tax cannot be used to advance the timing of our larger NCDOT projects ie: W Catawba widening



The mayor maintains he wants to “preserve the Cornelius way of life.” The Red Line will do the opposite.

Vote for transparent communication, vote Denis Bilodeau the next Mayor of Cornelius.

Visit www.bilodeauformayor.com

Paid for by the Bilodeau for Mayor Committee

When will we see action from the parks and recreation bond?

BY DAVE VIESER

In November 2024, a \$20 million parks and recreation bond was approved by 11,071 Cornelius voters — nearly a 60% majority. Now, almost a year later, residents are asking when they can expect to see action.

Based on the town's financial projections, the first bond sale cannot be considered by the Town Board until Fiscal Year 2027, which begins July 1, 2026, with subsequent sales in Fiscal Years 2030 and 2033.

Town Manager Andrew Grant said the first bond sale is projected to be approximately \$9 million, with subsequent sales projected at around \$5.5 million each.

“There are additional steps before the bonds can be issued or sold, including approval by the Cornelius Town Board and the Local Government Commission,” Grant said. “The Local Government Commission is a unit of the state Department of Treasury that authorizes local governments to issue debt, including bonds. Conditions may also require the town to obtain a new bond rating by a rating agency prior to a bond sale.”

Another major factor as the bond sales occur is the town's debt policy. “We have a debt policy that is applied relative to the amount of debt the town can issue,” Grant said. “Under that policy, the town's annual debt service cannot exceed 20% of General Fund annual expenditures.”

Grant said the town's debt is estimated at 9.2% at the end of the current fiscal year and is projected to rise to 16% by 2031.

“We believe that utilizing a combination of pay-as-you-go and debt methods is appropriate, as long as the debt service ratio remains as low as possible while still allowing the town to fund capital projects,” he said.

In the meantime, the town board recently approved advancing money from the General Fund to pay for so-called “soft costs” like planning, design and permitting so the projects can hit the ground running as soon as the bonds are sold. Those advanced costs will be reimbursed from the sale of the bonds.

“The goal is to complete as much pre-construction work as possible for certain projects and to expedite con-

Potential bond projects

(in no specific order)

- Parkland acquisition
- Shared-used recreation center at the new Cornelius Elementary School
- Multi-purpose field improvements at JV Washam Elementary
- New phase at Robbins Park, including a 5K trail and redesigned disc golf course
- Greenways including Westmoreland and Stratford Forest
- Completion of the Bailey Road Park court complex



struction or acquisition once the bonds are sold,” said Troy Fitzsimmons, the town's parks director.

Fitzsimmons added that his department is working to prioritize potential bond projects based on feedback received last year following extensive input from residents.

“Currently, our town and park staff are assessing all potential projects based on their readiness, timely opportunities, partner investment, grant opportunities and overall demand,” Fitzsimmons said. “We're already in discussions with various partners and grant organizations to help offset construction and land acquisition costs and stretch our park bond funds further.”

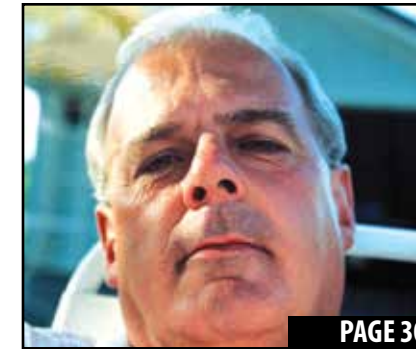
Details on potential bond projects and more information can be found at cornelius.org/park.

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Jason Benavides

STAFF

**Cornelius
TODAY**

Owner/Editor: Jon Show, jon@corneliustoday.com

Creative Director: Jason Benavides, production.todaypubs@gmail.com

Contributors: Catherine Sherman, Jon Show, Dave Vieser, Dave Yochum, Mark Washburn, Max Gallagher

Communicate with us: corneliustoday@gmail.com

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Re-Elect
Woody
WASHAM
MAYOR



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- Improved Roads, Enhanced Public Safety and Strengthened Our Police and Fire Departments
- Kept Our Taxes the Lowest in the Region

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Thursday, October 23rd to Saturday, November 1st

Paid for by Campaign to Elect Woody Washam

Guide to physical health through mental fitness

Fitness expert and renowned mind-body coach Dave Morrow was sitting in a West Virginia hospital fighting for his life two years ago. The longtime fitness enthusiast had multiple broken bones and lacerations from a car accident on a snowy night in December, and doctors told him he might lose his arm.

Flash forward to today and he's built himself back up both emotionally and physically, and this fall published Mental Fat Burning, a 224-page self-help guide that promises to transform the approach to health, fitness and weight loss by unleashing the untapped power of the mind.

The Cornelius author sat for a Q&A with *Cornelius Today* to talk about his new book.

What sparked the idea for Mental Fat Burning?

My motivation in life has always been to help other people. Knowing that I have this great information that can help other people, I had to give it an outlet. I figured the best thing I could do would be to put a book out there.

How does the mind influence metabolism?

We have an internal bridge that is available to us that most people do not have an awareness of. I train my reader how to use the conscious mind to communicate with the subconscious to build the bridge to meet all their health and fitness goals.

Explain the mental fat burning process to our readers.

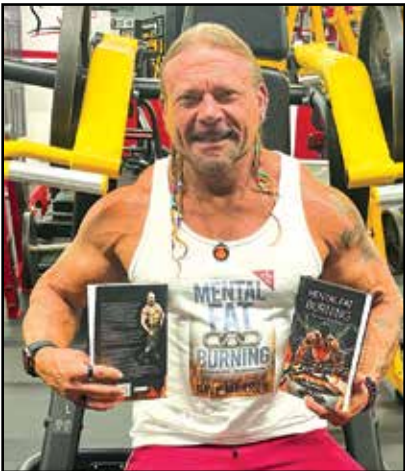
It's a simple technique that people can learn quickly. To build confidence, I start the book with examples from history, science, religion and research that show the mind's influence on the body. Then I connect those examples to my process and guide readers through their first training session. The book includes three easy training sessions that teach readers how to put their metabolism into fat-burning mode, which creates higher energy and a greater enthusiasm for life.

Does mental fat burning go beyond weight loss?

Yes. Once my reader has a firm grasp on utilizing my mental fat burning process, the same principles can be applied to muscle building, muscle toning, energy levels, reducing stress, staying calm, becoming a master of forgiveness and letting go of negative entities. The mental fat burning process teaches you how to shift your entire being into a productive, positive and efficient environment.

What's the biggest myth about the mind-body connection?

It's one of the most overlooked aspects of health. When people think about improving metabolism or living healthier, they usually look to diet and exercise. I teach readers to go deeper — using the power of the mind to create a positive metabolic environment. By harnessing that energy, you can build a healthier metabolism, more energy and greater success in whatever you pursue.



Dave Morrow

“Mental Fat Burning”
On sale at Amazon and Barnes & Noble online.
Paperback - \$26.99
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Celebrating the end of summer around Lake Norman

BY LINDSAY MARTELL

I get it. Everyone loves summer. Vacays at the beach, treks to the mountains, weekend days at the lake. It's idyllic and bright and photo roll scroll-worthy. We undoubtedly have no shortage of awesome ways to kick back and soak in the deliciousness of it all.

But... I love the end of summer. The slightly less intense heat (yeah, I know all about fake fall but still), rifling through the near-empty school supply bins at Staples (seriously, how early are folks shopping for this stuff?).

Savoring the memories of the summery things we did (s'mores on the Solo Stove, dusky greenway walks, trying not to get beaned in the face by giant noodles at the pool), but there is also a gradual stillness to the slow slide into fall.

A downshift. A reset. Latta Nature Preserve is a favorite reprieve for my family, especially when we all need a break from streets and screens, but we usually avoid it in the



Cain Center for the Arts

heat of the summer.

This year, the day before our daughter returned to school, when a sliver of coolness cut through the humidity, we headed into the foresty oasis that is both familiar and oddly new after so many months away.

Making our way to Buzzard Rock Trail, we joked with our daughter about the downed tree she used to love to clamber up and stand on, like a proud lumberjack.

She may be on the back nine of 12, but she'll always be our little forest sprite; never missing a butterfly's trajectory or

a chance to peer into Mountain Island Lake, her orange Crocs leaving deep prints in the sand.

Another favorite is miles from Latta, but so worth the congestion: Cain Center of the Arts. At the "Perspectives: A Lens in History" exhibition, photography relics like an 8mm Brownie Kodak from 1960, a Polaroid camera from the late 70s, and an awesomely ancient View-Master peered out from pedestals.

It's a poignant nudge at how far we've come with our memory-keeping; before the digital-ness of our lives used up gigabytes of a different kind of memory, when storage was used to describe boxes, attics and basements.

The Cain's vibe is a soothing respite from the back-to-school rush, and I love that it's become an anchor for creative expression in Lake Norman.

After soaking in photographic nostalgia at Cain, I slogged along Catawba until I stopped at Kunu Coffee, nodding appreciatively at the sidewalk sign that reads, "Less Traffic, More Coffee" by its front door.

The customers looked like a mashup

of remote creatives, couples, and off-duty ballet dancers, which is another sign of Cornelius' growth: leaping beyond its label as a tony suburb of Charlotte to a place where everyone can pull up a chair.

I sipped and listened to James Taylor's "Fire and Rain" punctuating the air; a sweet reminder of how summer starts, and ends.

Editors note: We're excited to welcome a new column about life around Lake Norman, written by Lindsay Martell. The column name is a nod to life around the lake and our town's mill history.

Lindsay Martell lives in Birkdale with her husband, daughter, and a scruffy mini mutt named Dug.



Martell



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Re-Elect Woody WASHAM MAYOR



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A Homegrown Leader

- Born and raised in Old Town Cornelius
- Life-long member & organist at Mt. Zion United Methodist Church
- Mayor since 2017 & Mayor Pro-Tem from 2013 to 2017
- Decades of service as a local banker
- Past chair of the Lake Norman Chamber of Commerce & Visit Lake Norman
- Active member and past chair of North Meck Rotary Club

Protecting Our Quality of Life

- Dramatically slowed growth, reducing our town's growth rate to less than 1%
- NO More Apartments
- Proven track record of working with NCDOT to obtain approval and funding for local road improvements securing \$500 Million in funding for Cornelius road projects
- Kept our taxes the lowest in the region
- Created the Downtown Cornelius Master Plan ensuring a vibrant thriving town center for years to come
- Worked diligently to bring new jobs and businesses to our town while championing our homegrown small businesses

Increasing Arts, Parks, & Recreational Opportunities for ALL Cornelius Residents

- Instrumental in bringing the Cain Center For the Arts to life and ensuring it was built debt free
- Built 12 new pickleball courts and 10 new tennis courts
- Opened Antiquity Greenway, McDowell Creek Greenway Phase 2 and Plum Creek Greenway Phase 2
- Summer Day Camp Expanded by 50%
- Increased park maintenance funding and completed improvements, renovations and repairs at Smithville Park, Bailey Road Park and Legion Park

★★★★★ Please Join us in Voting to Re-Elect Our Mayor, Woody Washam! ★★★★★

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Matthew Bock • Megan & Nate Brown • Stell & Sayle Brown • Joan Bustle • Louise Cashion • Joy & Joe Dean • Joshua Dobi • Laura & Jim Engel • Meredith & Bob Fite
Amy & Matt Gallagher • Joyce & Carroll Gray • Judy & David Hodson • Debbie & Mike Jackson • Donna & Dick Johnson • Todd Little • Betty & Randy Marion • Randy Marion II
Steve McLeod • Robin & John Michaels • Larry Riggs • Jamie Rolewicz • Della & Troy Stafford • Sara Thomas • Debbie Tillis • Ann & Greg Wessling

Paid for by Campaign to Elect Woody Washam



WHO'S WHO

Town commissioner candidates respond to campaign issues

- Q1** | *What is your stance on evaluating private and commercial real estate development requests, and what actions do you plan to address roads and traffic issues?*
- Q2** | *Outside of those two issues, outline your three other main priorities for your term?*



Todd Sansbury

Q1 Newly approved developments should provide additions or amenities that the town lacks. I base my decisions on the majority of citizen input. Road improvements should be proactive and efficient. Small changes like the improvements at Westmoreland/Statesville Rd and Jetton Rd extension have a tremendous impact, without relying on NCDOT.

Q2 Outside of improved traffic and controlled development, public safety and green space are my top priorities. I fully support increased compensation for fire, police and school resource officers. Every aspect of our community hinges on safe neighborhoods and schools. Safety also extends beyond crime, and we will continue to focus on pedestrian and bike improvements, new guidelines for electric powered vehicles, and enforcement of current laws such as speed limits. Cornelius is a special community, and everyone's

wish for a "small town feel where every citizen feels safe and content" is possible with the right leadership.

Green space, green space, green space! I voted against projects that would



Sansbury

destroy our precious tree canopy, and voted for initiatives, like the Park Bonds, that will preserve parks and farmland. Once open land is developed, it will never revert back to its natural

state. We need green spaces, parks, and undeveloped land to support wildlife, trees, and our communities natural beauty. If elected, I will fight to protect preserved farmland and drive initiatives that support less development on undeveloped land.

For every proposed town-funded

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project, I always ask "can we do this cheaper and faster." Serving as a Cornelius commissioner is an honor that I don't take lightly. During my first 18 months in office, our board didn't approve any new development or projects, because it was the right thing to do and citizens asked for a pause. Citizens can and should shape the identity of our great town, while holding their elected officials accountable to take actions that benefit everyone, not a select few. I would be honored to continue to serve on the town board and strive to represent every voice in Cornelius!

Michael Osborne

Q1 Follow the land use plan – residential stays residential and commercial stays commercial. No exceptions. My record proves commitment: only no vote on Cashmere apartments. Strategic parks bond use prevents apartments. Hiring a Cornelius-focused EDC director to recruit appropriate businesses. Continue pursuing funding for infrastructure after record spending of \$20 million.

Q2 Community life and gathering places (neighborhood connections). Building on my track record of leading our first citizen-driven land use plan and organizing North Carolina's first community-driven AI summit, I will advocate for Cornelius' first business prosperity task force – bringing business leaders, residents, and commissioners together to uncover new opportunities. I will support expanding walkable gathering places by listening to business owners already leading this effort and using my role to accelerate their ideas. I will push for new social districts, outdoor dining parklets, food truck nights, and coordinated events – bringing options right into our neighborhoods and making community life more connected beyond downtown. Growth and identity (townwide

gathering and progress). I will fight to hire an economic development director with guidance to protect our identity and manage growth. I will push redevelopment that strengthens Cornelius while minimizing overcrowding and traffic, making downtown a vibrant arts and dining hub where the entire town can gather. I will advocate pursuing alternative funding for Festival Street, the Academy Street connection, and Downtown Master Plan projects that ease traffic and improve parking. I will continue bringing business, government, and community together to deliver results – from walkable gathering places and downtown vitality to green space and family-friendly parks.



Osborne

deliver new parks for families using the \$20 million parks bond to acquire and preserve land – reducing traffic, expanding recreation, and maintaining our town's character. I will advocate delivering Westmoreland/Alexander Farm's 15-acre park with trails, picnic areas, courts, and a connection to the McDowell Creek Greenway. I will push acquiring land for a future park north of Bailey Road and build a family-friendly greenway linking Smithville Park to JV Washam Elementary – kids can safely walk or bike while protecting an important green corridor.

Susan Johnson

Q1 I support smart, managed growth to slow down new residential developments from being approved until our infrastructure challenges are addressed. I consider commercial developments on a case-by-case basis to carefully weigh both

Continued on **PAGE 10**



**RE-ELECT
SUSAN
JOHNSON**
Town Commissioner

My Priorities

- ☒ **Fiscal Responsibility**
- ☒ **Public Safety Improvements**
- ☒ **Open Communication with Residents**
- ☒ **Infrastructure Improvements**
- ☒ **Smart Managed Growth**

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INSTAGRAM

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I'm running for Cornelius Town Commissioner because I believe in a community that grows with intention—not just expansion. I've served before, I'm serving now and I'm ready to lead again. With your support, we'll keep Cornelius a safe, vibrant and thriving town that we're all proud to call home.

Candidate for Cornelius Town Commissioner

My platform centers on several key priorities

- **Improving Roads and Infrastructure:**
Advancing long-promised transportation and road projects.
- **Expanding Parks and Recreation:**
Promoting a "live, work, play" lifestyle by enhancing local programs and green spaces.
- **Boosting Business Development:**
Bringing more local businesses to the area to support a growing population and tax base.

FOR MORE: www.facebook.com/FurchtForCorneliusCommissioner

PAID FOR BY COLIN FURCHT FOR CORNELIUS TOWN COMMISSIONER

Continued from **PAGE 9**

benefits and impacts to ensure balanced development that truly serves our community.

Q2 Public safety. I'm proud that we advanced the transition to a full-time fire department, supported the Mecklenburg County MEDIC study, and added new crosswalks to improve pedestrian safety all while keeping Cornelius's tax rate the lowest in the region. Infrastructure. When it comes to roads and transportation, our community is seeing more improvement projects underway than at any other time in our town's history, with even more planned to address current and future needs.

Quality of life for our residents is equally important. I've supported greenway expansions and recreational opportunities that give residents safe, enjoyable ways to connect with each other and with our natural surroundings. At the same time, we have worked diligently to slow the pace of residential overdevelopment, while encouraging smart commercial and industrial growth that brings jobs, services, and balance to our community. In addition,



the update to our Downtown Master Plan is an important step toward ensuring Cornelius has a vibrant, thriving town center for years to come. By combining thoughtful planning with fiscal responsibility, we are strengthening the foundation of our community where people want to live, work, and play. Together, these efforts reflect a commitment to keeping Cornelius safe, connected, and positioned for a strong future. I will continue to balance progress with preservation so our community thrives for years to come.

Colin Furcht

Q1 As a former town commissioner and current planning board member, I am proud of the decision we made 4 years ago to slow residential growth and focus on business growth. This is my plan going forward. We need managed growth while remaining diligent on current/future road projects to address traffic.

Q2 I will remain focused on public safety, specifically maintaining and growing our police and fire departments. Residents have always demanded this to be our main priority, and I

will do my best to help them both grow and maintain their current headcount.

Parks and recreation is also a top priority as we have heard from residents year after year. As a former parks and rec liaison during my first term as commissioner, I understand and appreciate the value of public spaces that can be enjoyed by all while maintaining as much of our small-town feel as possible. Finding the best use of the little bit of land we have is paramount.

Keeping taxes low will always be a focus. In my first term we only raised taxes by .01 which allowed us to right-



Furcht

size the pay rate of police and fire to make us more competitive. We enjoy one of the lowest city tax rates in the state and while we are currently able to provide the best services across the town, we need to be open to small and incremental changes in the future. While not a popular sentiment, we all need to realize that without growth, which we all agree is something we want to control, costs never go down. I believe we can continue to provide the best services without yearly or large tax increases.

Michael DeVoney

Q1 I believe growth is inevitable but must be managed in a way that (1) increases affordability in Cornelius and (2) reduces the strain on public funds to keep up with the burden imposed on our infrastructure. Legal impact fees and the wise use of the proposed transportation tax will help.

Q2 One of our biggest issues as a community is to manage a looming budget shortage caused by various bonds we took out to finance roads, parks, and town development (the bonds were approved in 2013, 2018, and 2023). If we don't initiate a



DeVoney

plan to offset the shortage, the state might take over the Town of Cornelius. Our town manager projects that on our current path we are in jeopardy of falling below our restricted fund requirements by

2029. It is incumbent on the town board to both anticipate and solve the issue, which has been well publicized over

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the last two years, although the current board has done nothing to effectively avoid the threat. I am a businessman and a problem solver, and I can help get this done.

I believe our town should pass a non-discrimination ordinance similar to the one in place in Davidson. I think such an ordinance will reinforce constitutional protections and present newcomers with a positive statement about who we are and how we want to treat our neighbors and municipal employees.

Finally, we all benefit from maintaining and improving our public spaces, including roadway landscaping, parks, and greenways. Many improvement plans have been made but current and future projects will benefit from prioritization and an effort to execute those plans already on the books. We live in a beautiful part of our great country – we should become even better stewards of Cornelius and our immediate environment.

Robert Carney

Q1 Communities often grow by market profit, not balance. Cornelius must pursue a strong economic development



Carney

strategy where jobs, housing, and leisure align to protect quality of life. Advancing our current road projects, including Exit 27, is critical to restoring balance and ensuring that growth supports our community.

Q2 I want Cornelius to own its development future. A community that uses creativity, innovation, and discipline to manage growth can ensure tomorrow's demands make us better, not worse. Too often, towns in our situation react to the interests of the private sector, forced into choosing the "least

bad" option. Whether labeled as pro-growth or anti-growth, this reactive mindset allows the market to dictate our future. Instead, we must focus on leveraging development to improve traffic, generate revenue that keeps taxes affordable, and add amenities that enhance our quality of life. I will also focus on quality of life by expanding parks, greenways, and recreational amenities that make Cornelius a place families are proud to call home.

Beyond growth and infrastructure, I will prioritize public safety. As Cornelius grows, we must ensure our first responders are fully equipped and supported. This means balancing community safety needs with fiscal responsibility, while supporting the continued transition to a full-time fire department and enhancing police resources.

Finally, communication is key. I want residents to have clear, transparent updates on town priorities and progress. By opening more channels of communication, we can better share our vision while also listening directly to the concerns and ideas of the community. Together, these priorities will keep Cornelius strong, balanced, and prepared for the future.

John Caldwell

Q1 Infrastructure is needed to manage our previous growth, let alone future growth. We need another exit off I-77, perhaps near the new Atrium hospital. The lights on Catawba Road need to be synced, especially on/off I-77. Also expand Catawba to two lanes each way to Sam Furr.

Q2 I plan to approach all of the priorities with common sense. There is too much divisiveness and I am neither red nor blue – and commit to be respectful and have conversations/debates to find common ground.

Empathetic heart for everyone – fair distribution of wealth for the working



Caldwell

class. Accomplished by fair opportunities and taxes. Justice for all. Nobody is above justice. Capitalism can lead to significant social and economic inequality and can create incentives for businesses to prioritize self and profit over social or environmental concerns.

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Commissioner Osborne

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Strong senior leadership brings out the best in Hough tennis team

The Hough girls tennis team is off to a hot start this fall, highlighted by stellar team performances, strong senior leadership and the solid play of a state title contender.

Hough's record was 5-1 at the time of publication. Its only loss so far this season came against rival Myers Park, a perennial contender for the state title.

The Huskies are led by a group of seniors: Devin Gilroy, Savannah Davis and Alara Cankutaran in the top three positions, with Morgan Pensler at No. 6. "Anytime you can lean on senior leadership is a great thing," head coach Laura Taylor said. "It's nice to have seniors in those roles because they have more match experience."

Sophomores Lillian Bracksieck and Chloe Ketner round out the top six at Nos. 4 and 5, respectively.

Gilroy, ranked the No. 6 singles player in the state and a contender for the state singles title, returned to Hough this sea-



The Hough girls tennis team

son after training in Spain during her junior year. Her only loss came against Myers Park rival and friend Teagan Riley. The two are set for a rematch Sept. 29 at Hough.

Hough has posted wins this season against South Mecklenburg, Berry and East Lincoln. Taylor said she was im-

pressed with the team's resilience in the narrow victory over South Meck, when a deep bench stepped up due to player absences.

Hough, one of the top programs in greater Charlotte, last won the state championship in 2021 and was state runner-up in 2019. The Huskies won an individual doubles title in 2019 but have not won a singles title in recent memory, something Gilroy hopes to change this season.

A year ago, the team finished 14-5 overall and won the conference championship with a 6-0 record. That title marked the sixth consecutive conference championship during Taylor's tenure as head coach.

Realignment this school year by the North Carolina High School Athletic Association placed Hough and Myers Park in the same conference, creating a tougher path to the postseason. Changes to the postseason format may also

limit the number of individuals and teams advancing to the state rounds.

"We always want to go deep into the state playoffs, and that's the expectation every year," Taylor said. "Things are different now, and it's going to be tough in this new conference."

Hough plays its final regular-season match Oct. 2 with a doubleheader against Hopewell before learning its postseason seeding.

"We want to go several rounds in the state playoffs each year but recognize the strength of our new conference," Taylor said. "We will always show up to compete and look forward to showcasing that in the postseason."

Fall Sports Roundup

Cross Country

The boys team placed second at the Pfeiffer Invitational and fourth at the Hare and Hounds Invitational. At Hare and Hounds, the first through fifth runners averaged 16:49, the fastest in school history. Jack Bennett, Aiday Malloy and Grant Collum have the second-, fourth- and fifth-fastest times in school history, respectively.

The girls team won the Pfeiffer Invitational and is improving every race. Freshmen Aleksa Camodeca and Resse Sazama are leading the way. Juniors Rachel Griffith, Jenna Beyrle, Juliana Mills-Zacapa and Sophia Hoogsteen have been strong contributors.

Boys Soccer

The Huskies are 9-3-2 overall and 2-1-1 in conference play. Senior Dylan Cox leads all scorers with 19 goals, followed by senior Piercon Selland with 8. Selland, who is also the kicker on the Hough football team, leads in assists with 15.

Senior goalkeeper Nolan Bosche has three clean sheets and is allowing 1.7 goals per match.

Football

The No. 1-ranked Huskies are undefeated in nonconference play with wins against South Pointe, Mooresville and Highland Springs. Quarterback Ethan Royal, wide receivers Tyran Evans and Jahmere Anderson, and running back Jamarion Morrison lead a potent Hough offense.

On defense, Micah Bright and Samari Matthews set the tone in the backfield. Safety Jackson Heath leads the team with 8.4 tackles per game, followed closely by Ryan Peterson and Jason Wilkerson.

The offensive and defensive lines have also been dominant to start the season.

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Bailey Road court complex comes online

The new pickleball courts at Bailey Road Park were to officially open during a dedication ceremony on Sept. 27, with the tennis courts expected to follow on Oct. 21.

The project includes 12 lighted tennis courts and 10 lighted pickleball courts, making it one of the largest collections of courts in the Charlotte area.

The town has partnered with Modern

Strike and Lake Norman Pickleball Association to manage the tennis and pickleball courts, respectively.

Scibelli's Little Mama's coming to Cornelius

Little Mama's, an offshoot from restaurateur Frank Scibelli, is headed to the space formerly occupied by G.O.A.T. Pizza in Cornelius.

The menu will feature scratch-made pastas, fresh made-to-order mozzarel-

la, brick oven pizzas and many Mama Ricotta's favorites such as the penne alla vodka, lasagna and giant meatballs. One big defining feature of Little Mama's – most menu items are available in two different sizes and price points.

Scheduled to open early next year after renovations, the 4,300-square-foot space will include a dining room, bar and sunroom, with seating for 140 guests.

"Little Mama's is a heartfelt project for me, built on the simple yet delicious flavors of my childhood in New En-

gland," said Frank Scibelli, founder of FS Food Group. "We're excited to bring that tradition to Cornelius and Lake Norman."

Little Mama's also has locations in SouthPark and Rea Farms. A restaurant spokesperson said the menu will be similar to the Rea Road location.

Peninsula Prime supporting guests with sensory sensitivities

Peninsula Prime has a new special dining experience to serve children and adults with sensory sensitivities.

Families and individuals who request one will be provided with a free kit that includes earplugs, a stress ball, a puppet, and a fidget spinner, as well as a menu with pictures to ease the experience of ordering. Diners can also request seating in quieter areas of the restaurant to offset noise typically associated with a busy dining environment.

For Robin Gordon, managing partner at Peninsula Prime, creating the unique dining experience is personal. Her adult daughter is autistic, and as a family they have dealt with the challenges some people face while dining out.

"We wanted to make sure that people know we understand some of the difficulties and that we're happy to support them," she said.

Nighttime Farmers Market

Shoppers have two more opportunities to visit the new evening North Meck Community Farmers Market, including Oct. 1 and Oct. 8 from 5–7:30 p.m. at Cornelius Town Hall.

The markets are normally held on Wednesday mornings, but organizers added evening dates that proved popular over the summer.

In addition to the usual mix of farmers, meat producers, specialty goods, flowers and plants, chefs and live music, the evening markets are expected to feature local breweries including Eleven Lakes.

CMS reports record academic gains in 2024-25

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools released its annual academic progress report this week, showing across-the-

Continued on **PAGE 15**



Jace Thompson's name adored the passenger side of Ty Gibbs' No. 54 car to help promote The Warrior Jace Thompson Foundation.

Continued from **PAGE 14**

board gains for the 2024-25 school year.

CMS said 89% of schools met or exceeded growth expectations, the highest percentage in district history. Of that total, 66% of schools exceeded growth — also a record.

Cornelius schools posted strong results. Bailey Middle School exceeded growth expectations for the fourth straight year. Cornelius Elementary and Hough High School also exceeded growth expectations. J.V. Washam Elementary met growth expectations.

Jace Thompson honored at Bristol NASCAR race

Jace Thompson, who passed away at age 5 from an aggressive form of pediatric brain cancer, was honored by Joe Gibbs Racing during the NASCAR Cup Series race at Bristol Motor Speedway.

Jace's name adored the passenger side of Ty Gibbs' No. 54 car to help promote The Warrior Jace Thompson Foundation and its mission and raise awareness for pediatric cancer awareness.

To date, the foundation has raised nearly \$350,000 to help fund clinical trials for pediatric brain cancer treatment. Visit warriorjace.org to donate and learn more about Jace's story.

Jace's mother, Jennifer, is the deputy chief of the Cornelius Police Department.

Town hires firm to assess future facility needs

Cornelius Town commissioners unanimously approved spending \$249,800 for a long-term facilities study.

ClarkNexsen, a Charlotte-based architectural firm, will lead the eight-month assessment of town hall, as well as the town's police and fire stations.

Assistant Town Manager Tyler Beardsley said the firm will meet with staff to review operations, growth trends and comparisons with similar municipalities to project future space needs. The study will also develop high-level cost estimates for renovations or a possible expansion of town hall and the police department.

The study is expected to be completed by May 2026.

Town hall opened in 1999, and the new police station followed in 2002. Fire Station No. 2 on Charles Towne Lane was dedicated in 2000 and the Cornelius-Lemley Station No. 1 opened in 2008.

In parallel, the town is also finalizing a new downtown master plan that is expected to be unveiled to the public in the coming months.



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08/22/2025, \$800,000, 17931 Kings Point Dr Unit E, 3BR/2.0BA, Kings Point, 1490 sq ft, built 1991

08/22/2025, \$412,500, 10708 Danesway Ln, 3BR/2.0BA, Wellsley Village, 1635 sq ft, built 1987

08/22/2025, \$975,000, 10315 Wash-am Potts Rd, 4BR/4.0BA, Cornelius, 3460 sq ft, built 1984

08/25/2025, \$540,000, 10614 Quarrier Dr, 4BR/2.5BA, Oakhurst, 2440 sq ft, built 2001

08/25/2025, \$795,000, 21254 Sandy Cove Rd, 4BR/3.0BA, Rockridge Shores, 2416 sq ft, built 1979

08/25/2025, \$561,500, 17711 North Shore Cir, 3BR/2.5BA, Westmoreland, 2144 sq ft, built 2006

08/25/2025, \$660,000, 18733 Bluff Point Rd, 3BR/2.5BA, Bluff Point, 1908 sq ft, built 1988

08/25/2025, \$840,000, 11621 Mount Argus Dr, 4BR/3.0BA, Baileys Glen, 3013 sq ft, built 2016

08/26/2025, \$580,000, 18909 Victoria Bay Dr, 3BR/2.5BA, Victoria Bay, 1703 sq ft, built 2002

08/26/2025, \$900,000, 9212 John Hawks Rd, 4BR/3.5BA, Weatherstone Manor, 4187 sq ft, built 2005

08/26/2025, \$605,000, 18700 Nautical Dr #203, 3BR/2.0BA, Admirals Quar-ters, 1308 sq ft, built 1991

08/27/2025, \$535,000, 18439 Victoria Bay Dr, 3BR/2.5BA, Victoria Bay, 2059 sq ft, built 2003

08/28/2025, \$2,550,000, 18718 Penin-sula Cove Ln, 5BR/5.0BA, The Penin-sula, 4947 sq ft, built 2006

08/28/2025, \$485,000, 10712 Trolley Run Dr, 4BR/3.5BA, Caldwell Station, 2448 sq ft, built 2008

08/21/2025, \$530,000, 19455 Smith Cir, 4BR/2.5BA, Wyndmoor, 2218 sq ft, built 2014

08/21/2025, \$387,000, 8230 View-point Ln, 3BR/2.5BA, Harborside Townhomes, 1989 sq ft, built 2011

08/22/2025, \$338,000, 17758 Cald-well Track Dr, 3BR/2.5BA, Caldwell Station, 1512 sq ft, built 2007

Continued on **PAGE 20**

HOME SALES

Editors Note: We have expanded our real estate sales to include additional information like bed/bath and square footage. Due to privacy considerations we will no longer publish the names of buyers and sellers.

Cornelius

08/19/2025, \$410,000, 8245 View-point Ln, 3BR/2.5BA, Harborside Townhomes, 2095 sq ft, built 2012

08/19/2025, \$285,000, 20016 Walter Henderson Rd, 2BR/1.0BA, Hidden Hills, 775 sq ft, built 1964

08/19/2025, \$405,000, 18723 Vine-yard Point Ln, 2BR/2.0BA, Arbors, 978 sq ft, built 1990

08/19/2025, \$370,000, 19416 Fridley Ln, 3BR/2.0BA, Heritage Green, 1279 sq ft, built 2006

08/19/2025, \$595,000, 18631 Vine-yard Point Ln, 3BR/2.0BA, The Moor-ings, 1382 sq ft, built 1990



08/20/2025, \$485,000, 17916 Cald-well Track Dr, 4BR/2.5BA, Caldwell Station, 2161 sq ft, built 2007

08/20/2025, \$799,000, 22103 Market St, 4BR/2.5BA, Antiquity, 2963 sq ft, built 2014

08/21/2025, \$390,000, 19731 Denae Lynn Dr, 3BR/2.5BA, Heritage Green, 1707 sq ft, built 2005

08/21/2025, \$530,000, 19455 Smith Cir, 4BR/2.5BA, Wyndmoor, 2218 sq ft, built 2014

08/21/2025, \$387,000, 8230 View-point Ln, 3BR/2.5BA, Harborside Townhomes, 1989 sq ft, built 2011

08/22/2025, \$338,000, 17758 Cald-well Track Dr, 3BR/2.5BA, Caldwell Station, 1512 sq ft, built 2007

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08/28/2025, \$575,000, 8215 Houser St, 3BR/2.5BA, The Retreat At West Catawba, 2325 sq ft, built 2024

08/28/2025, \$390,000, 18224 Taffrail Way, 3BR/2.5BA, Villages at Harborside, 1374 sq ft, built 1999

08/28/2025, \$2,275,000, 19614 Meta Rd, 4BR/3.5BA, Diane Shores, 3090 sq ft, built 1990

08/28/2025, \$960,000, 20115 Chapel Point Ln, 3BR/4.0BA, Chapel Point, 3979 sq ft, built 1968

08/28/2025, \$502,000, 21005 Brinkley St, 4BR/2.5BA, Victoria Bay, 2612 sq ft, built 2004

08/29/2025, \$600,000, 10610 Washam Potts Rd, 3BR/2.5BA, Lawyers Station, 2069 sq ft, built 1985

08/29/2025, \$540,000, 17514 Harbor Walk Dr, 3BR/2.5BA, Westmoreland, 2354 sq ft, built 2007

08/29/2025, \$314,000, 21322 McCall St, 2BR/2.0BA, Cornelius, 1102 sq ft, built 1978

08/29/2025, \$360,000, 21614 Colina Dr, 2BR/2.0BA, Bahia Bay, 1056 sq ft, built 1985

09/03/2025, \$1,800,000, 19329 Watermark Dr #241, 3BR/3.5BA, WATERMARK, 2887 sq ft, built 2020



\$2,275,000 | 19614 Meta Road, Cornelius

09/03/2025, \$573,880, 19728-B School St, 3BR/2.5BA, Cornelius, 2088 sq ft, built 2025

09/03/2025, \$430,000, 11434 Heritage Green Dr, 3BR/2.5BA, Heritage Green, 1813 sq ft, built 2005

09/03/2025, \$354,000, 9651 Bailey Rd, 4BR/3.5BA, Oakhurst, 1856 sq ft, built 2000

09/04/2025, \$825,000, 18716 Nautical Dr #3, 4BR/3.0BA, Admirals Quarters, 1721 sq ft, built 1990

09/04/2025, \$356,500, 18460 W Catawba Ave, 3BR/2.5BA, Harborside Townhomes, 1981 sq ft, built 2012

09/04/2025, \$365,000, 18832 Nautical Dr #44, 2BR/2.0BA, Admirals Quarters, 1087 sq ft, built 1999

09/05/2025, \$605,000, 17745 Morehampton Ave, 3BR/2.0BA, Baileys Glen, 1930 sq ft, built 2017

09/11/2025, \$2,920,000, 18805 Flat Shoals Dr, 6BR/4.5BA, The Peninsula, 5830 sq ft, built 1997

09/05/2025, \$305,000, 10446 Trolley Run Dr, 3BR/2.5BA, Caldwell Station, 1412 sq ft, built 2006

09/08/2025, \$310,000, 18637 Shawnee Ridge Rd, 3BR/2.5BA, Oakhurst, 1238 sq ft, built 2000

09/08/2025, \$330,000, 936 Gardners Way, 2BR/2.5BA, Cornelius, 1435 sq ft, built 2011

09/08/2025, \$525,000, 19780 Playwrights Way, 3BR/2.5BA, Antiquity, 2140 sq ft, built 2014

09/08/2025, \$520,000, 20827 Brinkley St, 4BR/2.5BA, Victoria Bay, 2453 sq ft, built 2003

09/08/2025, \$385,000, 9204 Washam Potts Rd, 4BR/3.0BA, Oakhurst, 1901 sq ft, built 2003

09/09/2025, \$410,000, 8710 Arrowhead Place Ln, 3BR/2.0BA, Alexander Chase, 1296 sq ft, built 2006

09/10/2025, \$590,000, 19421 Beau-fain St, 4BR/3.5BA, St Philip Square, 2404 sq ft, built 2006

09/10/2025, \$915,000, 21514 Gulfstar Ct, 4BR/2.5BA, Blue Stone Harbor, 3231 sq ft, built 1994

09/10/2025, \$645,000, 8221 Houser St, 3BR/3.5BA, The Retreat At West Catawba, 2634 sq ft, built 2024

09/11/2025, \$2,135,000, 20400 Rainbow Cir, 5BR/4.5BA, Biscayne Park, 4060 sq ft, built 2025

09/12/2025, \$310,000, 9545 Glenashley Dr, 3BR/2.5BA, Glenridge, 1490 sq ft, built 2004

09/12/2025, \$345,000, 8925 Rosalyn Glen Rd, 3BR/2.0BA, Edinburgh Square, 1581 sq ft, built 2006

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Mecklenburg County to vote on 1% sales tax increase

Mecklenburg County voters will decide in the November 2025 election whether to approve a 1% sales tax increase, raising the county's rate from 7.25% to 8.25% starting as early as October 1, 2026.

Proponents argue that the tax is essential to address traffic congestion attributed to the region's growth and commuting traffic that passes through north Mecklenburg, and emphasize that the funding stream would support critical infrastructure and safety projects that have been delayed for years, such as road widening, intersection improvements, road extensions, and sidewalk and multi-use path construction.

If the increase passes, the three North Mecklenburg towns are projected to receive over \$100 million in road money over the first five years, creating a funding solution to the backlog of road construction and improvement projects.



In year one, Cornelius is projected to receive approximately \$5.75 million for road improvements, with funding increasing annually as the economy

grows. Year one projections are \$12.5 million for Huntersville and \$3.125 million for Davidson.

The tax would also help facilitate the development of the Red Line commuter rail, connecting North Mecklenburg towns to Uptown Charlotte and Charlotte-Douglas Airport (via Gateway Station and the Silver Line), and enhance bus and micro-transit services.

Opponents of the tax increase express concerns about the financial burden on residents, particularly those with lower and middle incomes. They argue that the sales tax is regressive and would disproportionately affect these groups.

Critics also question whether the Charlotte Area Transit System (CATS) can effectively manage the substantial funds, citing past challenges in project delivery and oversight.

Others are skeptical about the timely completion of large-scale projects like the Red Line.

Opponents of the tax increase express concerns about the financial burden on residents, particularly those with lower and middle incomes.

The proposed tax is expected to generate approximately \$19.4 billion over 30 years, with the average household contributing an estimated \$240 annually, or \$20 per month, according to a recent presentation by the city of Charlotte.

The revenue would be allocated as follows: 40% for road improvements, 40% for rail transit, and 20% for bus and micro-transit services.

It is estimated that year one sales tax revenues (for roads) will be \$12.5 million for Huntersville, \$5.75 million for Cornelius, and \$3.125 million for Davidson, leading to more than \$100 million of new road funding injected into north Meck in the first five years of the sales tax.

While these funds could support local projects such as the West Catawba Avenue widening and the Catawba Avenue/US 21 intersection improvements, the existence of the funds will not automatically advance the timing of those projects at the state level.



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4292940 The crown jewel of Lake Norman, this cherished Belle Isle waterfront cottage boasts breathtaking three-mile views, nearly an acre of land, and 200 feet of pristine shoreline. Including a highly sought-after grandfathered boathouse with its own kitchen and loft, perfect for a second living quarters. This 1.5-story base-ment home is a timeless retreat. **\$4,250,000**




4301706 Nearly 13 acres with sweeping Lake Norman views, including two waterfront lots. Build your dream estate, divide the land into parcels, or enjoy the ultimate farm-and-lake lifestyle—all just minutes from I-77, Highways 150, 16, and 321. A rare opportunity in a highly sought-after location. **\$2,875,750**




4298908 Quiet cul-de-sac home in Atwater Landing offers 4 bedrooms, 3 baths, and a bright, open layout ideal for entertaining. Relax outdoors or take advantage of resort-style amenities: pool, clubhouse, fitness center, walking paths, and private Lake Norman kayak launch. Enjoy a peaceful setting with an active, vibrant community lifestyle. **\$560,000**




4300570 Set on nearly 2 private acres in Autumn Woods, this home blends comfort and serenity. Highlights include a 2-story great room with stone fireplace and main-level primary suite with spa bath. Enjoy the screened porch, large deck, fire pit, and oversized 2-car garage with RV/boat storage. **\$750,000**




4300961 Well-appointed 2-story townhome with walk-out basement near Lake Davidson. Open-concept main level with gourmet kitchen, cozy gas fireplace, and screened porch with lake views. Finished basement includes guest suite and 2-car garage—perfect for stylish, convenient living. **\$564,900**




4297980 Stunning 2022 Craftsman-style ranch in Country Club Heights, just minutes from NoDa and Plaza Midwood. Boasting a chef's kitchen, luxurious primary suite, custom mudroom, and expansive entertaining spaces with a back deck fireplace/grill. Every detail shines—from high-end finishes to manicured corner landscaping! **\$935,000**



4301488 Spacious Heritage Green home in Cornelius, currently leased through August 2026. Convenient to shopping, schools, restaurants, and parks, with one of the neighborhood's best pool areas. A versatile opportunity for investors or future homeowners seeking to be close to Lake Norman. **\$459,999**




4298854 Charming Cornelius home on a flat lot just steps from Lake Cornelius and the Lake Norman Y. Featuring 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, hardwood floors, and updated systems including a 2025 roof, this property combines comfort, convenience, and potential. Enjoy an active lifestyle with nearby shops, restaurants, and A-rated schools. **\$400,000**



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Denver	704.483.1518		
Mooresville	704.663.3655	Relocation	800.706.6049 800.315.3655



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October Events

Things to do

Here are some of the best bets around Lake Norman.

WEDNESDAYS STARTING OCT. 1

Torrence Chapel AME Zion Church Family Month

7-8 pm | Wednesdays in October. Torrence Chapel AME Zion Church will host their Family Month activities. Adult series and adolescents/young adult series. Q&A and dinner. Register in advance at torrence-chapel@bellsouth.net or 704-892-0412.

FRIDAY, OCT. 3

First Fridays

5-7 pm | Oct. 3. A gallery crawl showcasing artwork from local artists, music and shopping; most businesses will stay open. Main Street and South Main Street, Davidson.

Tom Sandoval And The Most Extras

8:30 pm | Oct 3. Music by cast member of Vanderpump Rules and America's Got Talent contestant. Tickets on sale now. Boatyard.

SATURDAYS AND SUNDAYS

OCT. 4 - NOV. 23

Carolina Renaissance Festival

Open rain or shine. Tickets required; dates may sell out. No pets. Fairgrounds, 16445 Poplar Tent Rd., Huntersville.

TUESDAY, OCT. 7

National Night Out (rescheduled)

5:30-7:30 pm | Oct. 7. Join the Cornelius Police and Parks & Recreation Departments for this free public event promoting community safety and crime prevention. Cornelius Town Hall Parking Lot.

THURSDAY, OCT. 9

One Irish Rover: Van Morrison Tribute

7 pm | Oct. 9. Putting together the best of the old, new and eclectic songs of Van Morrison. Pricing from \$30.78 to \$52.88. Cain Center for the Arts.

FRIDAY, OCT. 10

Jim Florentine

7:30 pm | Oct. 10. Jim Florentine is a stand-up comedian, TV host, actor, podcaster and voice artist. Pricing from \$30.63 to \$52.73. Cain Center for the Arts.

SATURDAY, OCT. 11

Pups & Pints

2-5 pm | Oct. 11. Pet food drive with Fogle Insurance Group to benefit The Foster Dog House. Beer, adoptions, raffle prizes and more. Lost Worlds Brewing.

13th Annual Laketoberfest

4-9 pm | Oct. 11. Live music, local beer and wine vendors and food trucks. Admission and parking are free. Coolers, blankets and chairs are permitted. Bailey Road Park.

SUNDAY, OCT. 12

Novant Health Lake Norman 15K & 5K

7:45 am | Oct. 12. Event by RunCharlotte. Choose from a fun, family-friendly 5K with just a few turns, or a 15K that stretches out across the fingers of The Peninsula. Jetton Village.

THURSDAY, OCT. 16

LaLaCaboosa - Downtown Music Series

6-9 pm | Oct. 16. Live music, food trucks, beverage vendors and more. Veterans Park in downtown Huntersville.

FRIDAY, OCT. 17

How Sweet it Is: James Taylor Tribute

7:30 pm | Oct. 17. Steve Leslie performs the music of James Taylor. \$36.30 to \$58.40. Cain Center for the Arts.

MiniKiss

8 pm | Oct. 17. A Tribute to KISS. \$20 in advance; \$25 at the door. Boatyard.

SATURDAY, OCT. 18

HEARTS Catawba Nation

2 pm | Oct. 18. Live music, live ancestral dance performances and more. Cedar Grove, 8229 Gilead Road, Huntersville.



The 13th Annual Laketoberfest is Oct. 11 at Bailey Road Park

Philip Sayce

7:30 pm | Oct. 18. Sayce blends powerful songwriting, masterful guitar work, soulful vocals, and an electrifying stage presence. Pricing \$41.83 to \$72.48. Cain Center for the Arts.

SUNDAY, OCT. 19

Mona's DeliFest

Noon - 3 pm | Oct. 19. The annual Lake Norman Jewish Council Deli Fest is all about the food. Kosher-style, authentic, traditional, delicious Jewish Deli favorites. Perfect for kids of all ages. The Green in Davidson, downtown.

Charlotte Symphony Orchestra

4 pm | Oct. 19. Charlotte Symphony returns to Cain Center for the Arts for a program led by resident conductor Christopher James Lees. Pricing from \$52.88 to \$73.48. Cain Center for the Arts.

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 22

Jail & Bail

5pm | Oct. 22. Charity event to help women succeed in tech. NASCAR drivers will be locked up and race to raise bail. Special performance by 20 Ride. \$80 in advance; \$100 at the door. Boatyard.

FRIDAY, OCT. 24

Big Bad Voodoo Daddy

7:30 pm | Oct. 24. Swing, jazz, and Dixieland, performed with high-energy flair. Pricing from \$63.43 to \$83.53. Cain Center for the Arts.

SATURDAY, OCT. 25

Trick or Treat at Birkdale Village

10 am - noon | Oct. 25. SPOOK-tacular Halloween celebration for the kids. Come dressed in your costumes and trick or treat. The Parkway at Birkdale Village.

Collector's Vault Statesville Toy and Collectibles Con

10 am - 4 pm | Oct. 25. Hot Wheels, anime, comics, Tonka, model kits, cosplayers, sports cards, NASCAR, diecast cars, action figures, Pops and cosplay contest. Statesville Civic Center.

Trunk or Treat

4 pm | Oct. 25. Come dressed in your favorite costume for an evening of treats, fun and community joy in a safe and inclusive space for all children. Free family fun and sensory-friendly. Gisele's World, Cornelius.

Halloween Treat Trail

5:30-8 pm | Oct. 25. Local businesses will hand out candy to kids ages 12 and under in costumes. Festive games, crafts and activities. Free for residents, \$3 for non-residents. Register in advance with Cornelius Parks & Rec. Bailey Road Park.

Tell Me Lies: The Fleetwood Mac Experience

7:30 pm | Oct. 25. Tell Me Lies recreates the beloved sounds and visuals of one of the world's most adored best-selling bands. Pricing from \$41.83 to \$63.43. Cain Center for the Arts.

THURSDAY, OCT. 30

Fright Night at the Farm

5-7 pm | Oct. 30. Eerie fun, delicious treats, themed drinks, dancing and a chance to shine in the costume contest, which starts at 6 pm. River Rock at Alexander Farms, Cornelius.

FRIDAY, OCT. 31

Are You Ready for It? A Taylor Experience

7:30 pm | Oct. 31. A G-rated, family-friendly experience that is a tribute to ERAS by Taylor Swift. Pricing from \$47.35 to \$68.45. Cain Center for the Arts.



OCTOBER HIGHLIGHTS



One Irish Rover: Van Morrison Tribute

OCT. 9 | 7 pm

Take a Celtic ride through Van Morrison's collection of ballads.



Charlotte Symphony

OCT. 19 | 4 pm

Another exciting concert led by Resident Conductor Christopher James Lees.



Jim Florentine

OCT. 10 | 7:30 pm

For nearly 25 years he's been making audiences around the world laugh out loud.



Big Bad Voodoo Daddy

OCT. 24 | 7:30 pm

A signature blend of swing, jazz, and Dixieland, performed with high-energy flair.



Philip Sayce

OCT. 18 | 7:30 pm

A blend of masterful guitar-work, soulful vocals and an electrifying stage presence.



Are You Ready For It? A Taylor Experience

OCT. 31 | 7:30 pm

A family-friendly tribute to Taylor Swift's ERAS tour.



Want more?

Full event calendars are updated twice weekly on corneliustoday.com.

Shout it out!

• Send your event information to corneliustoday@gmail.com.

• Deadline is the 15th of the month for the print calendar; one week in advance for online.

LEARN MORE & JOIN US



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Cornelius incubator brings tech smarts to the chicken yard

BY JON SHOW

In a high-tech lab better known for microfluids and electromechanical systems, Cornelius-based business incubator First Turn Innovations is turning its attention to the barnyard.

This month, one of First Turn's clients will debut a new product that blends engineering know-how with down-to-earth agriculture: a device designed to deliver clean, efficient water to backyard chickens.

Madder than a wet hen

Any chicken tender knows happy, stress-free birds are key. When flocks only have access to dirty irrigation or limited water systems, they grow smaller and lay fewer eggs.

The idea for The Chicken Fountain hatched more than a decade ago, when then-Davidson residents Laura and Frank Cardaropoli needed an easier way to keep their flock hydrated while traveling. Laura Cardaropoli's moth-



Laura and Frank Cardaropoli / Photo by Jon Show

er agreed to feed the animals in their absence, but refused to deal with the messy job of cleaning and refilling the

waterers.

"Chicken water is so gross," Laura Cardaropoli said. "You have to clean and refill it at least twice a day. We needed to come up with something."

Ruffling feathers

Frustrated by flimsy products sold online, the Cardaropolis designed a

system that connected to a garden hose and used PVC pipes and drippers to deliver a continuous supply of clean water.

They dubbed it The Chicken Fountain in 2012 and quickly found demand from friends and neighbors. But by 2018, with young children and full-time jobs, the couple shelved the project.

In late 2023, they turned to their friend Kevin Mahl, co-founder of First Turn Innovations, for help reviving the business.

"The stuff they're working on is pretty complex," Laura Cardaropoli said. "But they were looking for new products, so we decided to give it a go."

Coming home to roost

Now back on the market, the new consumer version of The Chicken Fountain includes snap-on arms for quicker setup and easier cleaning, improved sightlines for the birds, and a patent-pending valve compatible with both rain barrels and garden hoses.

Manufactured in the United States by Stanford Manufacturing in Clemmons, the device serves up to six chickens at a time. It retails for \$99.99 plus shipping and is available at thechickenfountain.com and other major farm and poultry supply websites.

"We want to make backyard chicken ownership more accessible to people who are getting back to the basics and want to know where their food comes from," Laura Cardaropoli said. "We believe the Chicken Fountain will open up this hobby to people who wouldn't otherwise be able to live this lifestyle."

New Corporations

These businesses registered with the North Carolina Secretary of State

Cornelius

8/18/25 Good Morning Rentals LLC, Thomas C. Jeter III, 18525 Statesville Rd. Ste. D02, Cornelius

8/20/25 Kazbar Holdings Inc., Dennis Kazmierczak, 17516 Sail View Dr., Cornelius

8/20/25 Pencil Out LLC, Christopher B. Murray, 18300 Invergordon Ln., Cornelius

8/21/25 Muirfield Properties LLC, Matheson Law Firm, 9624 Bailey Rd. Ste. 292, Cornelius

8/21/25 VM Trading School Corp., Fernanda M. Santana, 21407 Catawba Ave., Cornelius

8/22/25 Fleet Truck Service of the Carolinas LLC, Scott Allan Crawford, 20428 Havenview Dr., Cornelius

8/22/25 Nussmat LLC, Daniel Christmann, 20808 N. Main St. Ste. 103, Cornelius

8/25/25 Apex MHP Fund II GP LLC, Jeffrey R. Wakeman, 16930 W. Catawba Ave., Cornelius

More new corporations at www.businesstodaync.com



18201 Mainsail Pointe Drive, Cornelius | \$5,500,000



168 Brownstone Drive, Mooresville | \$2,250,000



410 Catalina Drive, Mooresville | \$1,720,000



4290 Barbrick Street, Sherrills Ford | \$1,649,900



19205 Hidden Cove Lane, Cornelius | \$1,190,000



167 Greenbay Road, Mooresville | \$940,000



13624 Harvest Point Drive, Huntersville | \$425,000

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Little Mama's

The stories receiving the most comments online are marked with a fire emoji.

Bailey Court complex opening

What a wonderful addition to our community. Thank you for being proactive with the pickleball courts.

— Barbara Magnal

Little Mama's coming to Cornelius

Outstanding! Little Mama's food is delicious and so reminding of Italy. It's like the best Italian restaurants in NYC all rolled into one. Excellent news for those who relish in authentic Italian food. Just don't say sauce. Congratulations and best of luck.

— Robert Krok

I've eaten there many times at their South Park restaurant and also Mama Ricottas. They give you more than enough to eat and very good. I lived in Cornelius and my friends will love it, hopefully.

— Arlene Mazurek

Music to my ears! I have sent them numerous emails over the last several years to bring one of his concepts up here. Next maybe a Pacos tacos?

— Grady Peterson



Officer Gabriel Stainback

Cornelius Police officer dies in biking accident

Deepest condolences to his wife and family. A tragic loss to our small town police department. Keeping you all in my thoughts and prayers.

— Torrie Thompson

This is terrible news. Is there a sup-

port page for his family?

— Joel Olsen

• From the editor: There is a GoFundMe page to raise money for his family <https://gofund.me/eb7a919e5>

Peninsula Prime supports guests with sensory issues

Lovely. Could you do a perfume-free area too?

— Kyle Queen

Q&A with the mayoral candidates

This series is very important for all of us to make educated decisions on who will represent us in the upcoming years. Thank you.

— Glen Hoffman

Cornelius upgrades 911 system

Excellent. You all do a great job and it is appreciated. Dispatchers/Call Takers are a pleasure to deal with (as are the responders).

— Alan Glickman



NCDOT updates on roundabouts

Roundabouts can be extremely beneficial in addressing traffic problems. Look at Carmel, Indiana (pop 99,000), which has eliminated most intersections with traffic circles. Most communities and residents don't embrace the benefits because they're different from stoplights and cross streets.

— Kevin McDeet

I totally agree with you. But what can you expect after the rich people toll road was done instead of widening Rt.77 for everyone.

— Karen Asche

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Saying goodbye to my dad

BY JON SHOW

Burke Show, 83, passed away at the Rest Stop in Cornelius last month.

The Rest Stop is what I called his nursing home because I hated thinking of him in there. He lived too great a life to slowly die in an assisted care facility.

Burke deserved to go in a manner that produced a much better story, like in a fiery car crash, smoking a Benson & Hedges while evading the police.

In his obituary I tried to include things that told his story but it ultimately offered the most mundane details of his time on this planet. An outline. The names of chapters in a book that don't offer any of the colorful words to fill the pages that make his story a book.

Please, if you will, allow me to share some of my dad's favorite stories.

Burke Show never made anything up when he told a story. He was a storyteller who was blessed with a life filled with great stories. He also had a knack for being in the right place at the right time.

Burke played basketball in the largest high school fieldhouse in the world, located in New Castle, Indiana. And played in one of the most exciting high school basketball games in Indiana history—the Church Street Shootout in 1959.

He played basketball at Butler for the great Tony Hinkle, but had to leave after his first year when his parents ran out of money or he failed out. I never got a straight answer.

After leaving Butler he worked in the mail room of the FBI and once stole a cigarette from the office of J. Edgar Hoover. He auditioned for, but did not land, the role of the Marlboro Man.

He served his country in the Navy in Puerto Rico where he drank rum and played softball. While on the island he only learned two Spanish sentences: "Tú eres muy bonita;" and, "Dame una cerveza fría por favor."

My dad taught me those phrases the night before my first Spanish class, which did not amuse my seventh-grade teacher when I repeated them after she asked if anyone could speak Spanish.

After being honorably discharged from the Navy he was briefly jailed in Michigan on a dubious charge of public littering after he put a beer can on the edge of a dock while getting off a fishing boat. When released, hours later, he crossed over the state line into Indiana, stopped, and tossed a bag of trash back



into Michigan.

He returned to college on the GI Bill and graduated from Ball State, where he met Melinda Herberger while tending bar at Bea's Lounge.

Melinda's mother, Betty, upon meeting my mom's much older boyfriend, informed her that he would "never amount to a hill of beans." Later in life Betty loved to admit she was wrong about that one.

Burke and Melinda married on his birthday so he would never forget his anniversary. They honeymooned in a fishing lodge because they had no money.

His sons grew up thinking the family had embossed "S" towels, but it turned out Burke loved to steal towels from Sheraton hotels. He also curated a giant drawer of tiny hotel soaps, shampoos, conditioners, shower caps and sewing kits, but never used any of them.

A lifelong salesman who received a company car every three years, he once chose between three different models by having his eldest son figure out which trunk best fit his golf clubs.

To his sons he was the world's greatest

conditioning was running, and he responded, "Because it only costs a little more to go first class."

He bought his favorite snacks, cookies, ice cream and lottery tickets at the BP on Westmoreland.

Getting old sucks and Burke wasn't active in his final years. His trips to the pool subsided and he quit golfing because he couldn't walk well.

When he could manage, he still loved going to the field or the courts to watch his grandkids play sports. He would sit in the stands and tell anyone who would listen about the accomplishments of his own kids.

It was hard to write this. Beyond words. But I wasn't going to let my hero go out with a funeral home obituary.

I'm out of space but I have a lifetime of stories to tell about my dad. Catching the dock on fire. Pissing off Howie Mandel. Making a hole-in-one on the wrong green. Belting out "My Girl."

He could tell stories for hours and I could go on for pages. He used to tell me that I got the writing knack from him but he was wrong. He liked to tell stories. I like to write them.

He wasn't well for a long time and I thought that would make it easier to mourn his death. But after he died I realized I stayed so sad for so long afterwards because it was finally okay to mourn the person he used to be but hadn't been for a long time.

In my soul is a hole that I hope will someday heal but I know will never be filled.

My dad lived a great life. He was a legend and he made the world a better place. His laugh. My goodness his laugh. There will never be another equal.

And I am so sad I'll never be able to hear it again.

Jon Show lives in Robbins Park with his wife, who he calls "The Mother of Dragons." Their 16-year-old son is "Future Man" and their 13-year-old daughter is "The Blonde Bomber." Their dog is actually named Lightning.



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