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## Live at the LAKE

Introducing a one-stop shop  
listing of live music in the  
Lake Norman area. **PAGE 24**

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# CorneliusToday.com

## New year, new look

BY JON SHOW

In keeping with the season's spirit of renewal, CorneliusToday.com is getting a full makeover as we turn the page on the new year — a fresh look designed to better serve our growing, highly engaged community.

The redesigned website will continue to deliver the daily news and community voices you rely on, covering everything from town government and business to local sports, events and more. Content will now be presented in a cleaner format and organized into intuitive verticals, making it easier than ever to find what matters most to you.

This month, we're also introducing what we believe will become the Lake Norman area's most comprehensive live entertainment guide. Live at the Lake will provide monthly print listings of live music and weekly online updates.

With the new design comes expanded advertising opportunities for local businesses looking to grow their reach. New sponsorship options are available for key sections — including business, high school sports and real estate — along with additional online advertising inventory designed to foster deeper connections with readers.

Our newsletter is also getting a refresh. We might be biased, but we truly

believe there's no better daily resource for staying informed about Cornelius. If it happens inside our town limits, chances are you'll hear about it first by subscribing.

### New to you


The changes put a bow on many of the new features we've launched in recent months, including expanded coverage of high school sports; columns like Milling About; food and dining tips from What's Delicious; seasonal fashion advice from LC Styled; and book recommendations from the Cornelius Public Library.

As always, Town Hall reporter Dave Vieser keeps you informed about roads and development. Business Today spotlights new and exciting local businesses. Our real estate listings keep you up to date on the housing market, and Sound-Off offers a glimpse into what matters most to our readers.


We hope you'll take a moment to explore the new website, check out the newsletter and let us know what you think. After all, we exist to keep you informed and connected to the town we all call home.




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Cornelius Today, PO Box 1226, Cornelius, NC 28031-1226.

**Telephone:** 704-953-3381

*Cornelius Today is locally owned and operated and proudly based in Cornelius.*


**Back issues:** Payable by VISA and MASTERCARD ONLY. \$5.00 (if available); \$10 to mail.

**Reprints:** Reprints on high-quality, framable stock are available, starting at \$65

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## Cornelius Cares

# Bringing together veterans for fellowship

A new monthly gathering for active-duty service members, veterans and first responders will begin this month in Cornelius, offering fellowship, support and a shared meal.

The program is a partnership between Cornelius Parks and Recreation and the On My 6 nonprofit. It will be held from 10 to 11 a.m. on the second Saturday of each month at Bailey Middle School. Attendance is free.

Participants will hear from town leaders and guest speakers who will share perspectives and offer practical takeaways, organizers said.

At the inaugural event Jan. 10, the featured speaker will be U.S. Army veteran Natasha Nadeau, a Davidson resident and former Sikorsky UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter pilot. Robbie Westmoreland of American Legion Post 86 is also scheduled to attend.

On My 6 was founded by Cornelius resident Christie Shein, a Wells Fargo executive and longtime supporter of military and veterans causes. Shein served as the keynote speaker at the Cornelius Veterans Day program earlier this year.

Shein's nonprofit focuses on fostering connection, understanding and advocacy within the military community. Its name refers to protecting someone's most vulnerable position — "having someone's back."



She founded On My 6 to honor her late brother, Master Sgt. Scott Joy of the U.S. Army's 82nd Airborne Division and Special Forces.

"My main inspiration for this was my brother because he always said he just didn't know how to meet his community," Shein said.



Shein

The entrance to the event is on the west side of Bailey Middle School at 11900 Bailey Road

and will be marked with signage. Attendees can enter the cafeteria through the designated entrance at the back of the bus lot.



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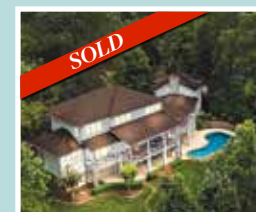
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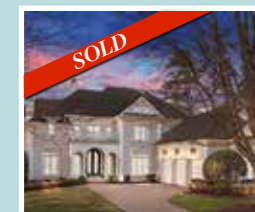


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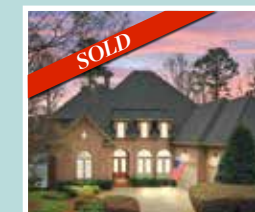
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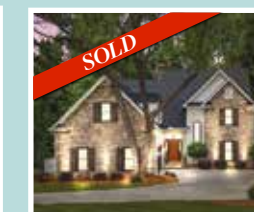
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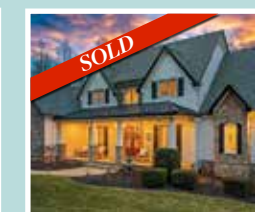
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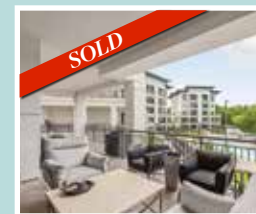
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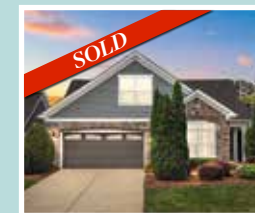
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Our good friend and food correspondent **Cloyd Burke** is always asking bartenders and servers around town...

# WHAT'S DELICIOUS?

This month he'll tell you about **H2 Public House**

Well, it's here again. January. That time of year when my diet takes a turn for the delicious. The only thing I'm resolving to do in the new year is eat more fried stuff.

Now, I've never been to Canada, but I consider myself a connoisseur of the culinary dish many of us consider the Great North's finest contribution to the gastronomic world.

No, not Timmie Hortons. I'm talking poutine — the only thing from Canada I love more than John Candy.

If you're looking for the grand master of fried stuff in a bowl, look no further than the starchy, cheesy goodness they're slinging at H2 Public House. My buddy Allen ate so much of it a few

years ago the doc tried to send him to a special camp, but don't let that deter you.

H2, located in Jetton Village, has a bunch of tasty things on the menu and rotating specials that always hit the spot.

When I feel like gnawing on some bones, I order the pub sauce wings tossed on the grill so the sauce bakes into the skin. The dry-rub lemon pepper wings — ordered extra crispy — taste like how it must feel to ride on the wings of an eagle.

If I'm feeling a little guilty about my fried food consumption, I'll eat a plate of veggies, but only if there's bacon and bleu cheese dressing on it. You can never, ever go wrong with the H2 wedge

salad.

But let's get back to why we're here. The poutine — pronounced "poo-teen," but don't let that scare you away.

The history of the dish is hotly debated. No one can agree on where it originated — other than Quebec — and no one agrees on what the word actually means.

It's just made up, which is exactly how it should be.

At its core, poutine seems like something my ol' Navy buddies and I would have concocted after coming home from a night of drinking, opening the fridge and finding containers of leftovers from three different meals.

French fries. Cheese curds. Gravy. That's it. Three ingredients. But there's a

lot more that goes into making it memorable.

It starts, in my humble opinion, with H2's perfectly salted fries that arrive — and remain — crispy despite the luxurious brown gravy slathered on top.

That gravy? Oh my. Chef's kiss. I would drink it with a straw.

The *pièce de résistance*, as they say up in Quebec, is the spice on the cheese curds. Cheese curds are good. H2's spicy cheese curds are next level.

Wash it down, as usual, with an ice-cold beer. Labatt's, if the mood strikes you. H2 has some of the coldest beer in town, always served with a smile. You don't see that as much as you used to.

Check them out sometime, and if you do, tell them ol' Cloyd sent you, eh?



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Woody and Sharon Hobson Washam with Lily Mae

# LIVING A LIFE OF SERVICE

BY DAVE VIESER

For many Cornelius residents, former Mayor Woody Washam is best known as the man at the dais who introduced agenda items and conducted town board meetings twice each month, always with a smile and a kind word.

That perception is accurate but incomplete for a man who has dedicated much of his life to serving others and the town he loves.

Washam recently concluded 12 years as an elected official, including eight years as mayor. Beyond his public role, he has contributed to the community in countless ways that are less visible during political campaigns or Town Board meetings.

## Sunday service

Washam's presence is perhaps most

evident on Sunday mornings at Mt. Zion United Methodist Church, where he has been a member for decades and has served as the church's official organist for more than 50 years. His long-standing role makes Sunday mornings especially busy, a commitment that has not gone unnoticed by fellow congregants.

"I sit in our Sunday class watching out

the window as Woody makes his way between the education building, where Sunday school services are held, and our beautiful church," said Mt. Zion member Theresa Schwab. "He plays both the organ and piano and adds the beauty of his music to our services. He works so hard to make our Sundays very special, and his talent is deeply appreciated."

Sunday school teacher Debbie Johnson agreed and recalled the role Washam's father played before him in the church community.

"Woody was at the organ when we joined Mt. Zion in the late '90s, and our Sunday school class — the Woody Washam Friendship Class — is actually named after Big Woody, his father," she said. "I understand that he served as the

face and heart of Mt. Zion, greeting everyone as they entered the church. His dad may have greeted congregants with a handshake, but Woody greets them with his wonderful music."

Washam's absence is rare enough to draw concern. That was the case during a recent Christmas cantata service when he was not at the organ. Congregants later learned he had fallen and been briefly hospitalized, then expressed relief when word spread the following day that he was resting comfortably at home.

"Just wanted to assure everybody that I am at home and healing up after a trip and fall last Friday," Washam posted on social media days later. "Sharon and

Continued on PAGE 9

Continued from PAGE 8

Lily Mae (their Aussiedoodle) are great nurses with lots of rules. My sincere appreciation to so many that have reached out to check in. Thank you all so much."

## Cain Center approach

The Cain Center for the Arts opened during Washam's tenure as mayor, and many involved with the project credit his leadership as instrumental to its success.

"I can confidently say that while this project was the result of many people and an entire community coming together, the lynchpin may well have been Mayor Washam," said the center's executive director Justin Dionne. "He championed the idea before we even knew what it would become, insisting that performing arts be a central part of the vision."

Dionne said Washam's relationships were key to opening doors, particularly with donors and experts who helped navigate the public-private partnership needed to build the center.

"I can think of several moments when the project hung in the balance, and without his leadership and influence, it might not have survived," he said.

Dionne added that Washam always had Cornelius and its future top of mind.

"He always seemed to be at multiple events stacked on top of each other," Dionne said. "In the early days of Cain Center planning, whenever we met with stakeholders, Woody would always have a second or third topic to discuss after we finished talking about the arts center. He was never single-issue focused; he was single-location focused — on



Dionne

Cornelius and Lake Norman."

## Looking back—and forward

Asked to reflect on his time in office, Washam first emphasized the role of his family, especially his wife of 26 years, Sharon.

"She's been by my side all the time, and I couldn't have done all this without her," he said.

Washam pointed to several accomplishments during his tenure, including state transportation projects. When he first took office, Cornelius had no approved state road projects. Today, the town has 13 approved projects, four of which are under contract or construction, with two more expected to begin early next year.

He also cited expansion of the town's parks system, including progress on the Emerald Necklace greenway system; recruitment and opening of the North Regional Recreation Center; renovation of Legion Park; and the opening of Bailey Road's synthetic turf fields, along with a new tennis and pickleball complex.

Major community events — including Symphony in the Park, Laketoberfest and Light Up Cornelius — were expanded, and the town completed the purchase of 36 acres on Bailey Road for potential future green space.

Public safety improvements were another focus, Washam said, including strengthening the police and fire departments, the town's takeover of lake patrol operations, the opening of the Joshua Murray Boating Safety and Education Center, acquisition of a new armored emergency response vehicle, and the ongoing transition of the fire department to a full-time operation.

Washam also acknowledged frustrations during his tenure, particularly the pace of government action and a desire for residents to become more engaged earlier in the decision-making process.

"I found the amount of time it takes to get important things done at all levels of government frustrating," he said.



Cain Center ribbon cutting 2023

## Living a life of service



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**Cornelius Town Mayor:** 2017-2025

- Board member of Little Smiles of NC, a charity benefiting children who are in hospitals, hospices and shelters
- Member and past president of Rotary Club of North Mecklenburg
- Former chair of the Lake Norman Chamber of Commerce
- Former chair and vice chair of Visit Lake Norman
- Former chair of the South Iredell Chamber of Commerce

*Washam has been a banker in the Lake Norman region for the last 50 years and currently services as a senior vice president at United Bank. He is married to Sharon Hobson Washam and they have two children, Bryan Washam and Kristin Washam Lachapelle, and six grandchildren.*

"That mainly involves building roads and solving our problems with gridlock more quickly. With so much work in progress, the negativity of some citizens and misunderstandings about available information were often disappointing."

Asked what advice he would offer future elected officials, Washam returned to the importance of collaboration.

"Progress has to be made through relationships at every level of government," he said. "Elected officials must understand they are chosen to make very difficult decisions to best serve all the people of Cornelius. They should be determined to leave the town in a much better place than they found it." "I hope that I did."



Veterans Day ceremony 2021



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This year's event is scheduled for July 18 / Photo by Captain Ozzie Wiese

# Big Day at the Lake launches 22nd year with lofty goal

BY DAVE YOCHUM

Big Day at the Lake XXII is already underway with an ambitious fundraising goal: \$125,000 for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Carolinas. As of late December, nearly \$75,000 has been raised.

Since its founding, the event has brought people together from all walks of life. Many of the children have never had the opportunity to enjoy Lake Norman except through Big Day at the Lake, making the experience especially meaningful.

Big Day at the Lake is more than a fundraiser. The ad hoc, citizen-driven organization has three goals:

— Provide a full day of fun on Lake Norman for at-risk children involved with Big Brothers Big Sisters, which offers fully vetted mentors.

— Recruit "Bigs," or mentors, for Big Brothers Big Sisters.

— Raise money for Big Brothers Big Sisters, a well-run, nationally recognized nonprofit organization.

Cornelius Mayor Denis Bilodeau is a 20-year veteran of Big Day at the Lake and serves as its finance chair. Over 22 years, the event has raised nearly \$2 million for Big Brothers Big Sisters.

"Big Day at the Lake has been the perfect way for my family to contribute to an effective and well-run organization that makes a difference for many children in need," Bilodeau said.

## Thanks to our sponsors

Big Day at the Lake sponsors will be recognized in thank-you advertise-

ments in *Cornelius Today*.

Presenting sponsors this year include Ericka and Bill Cain, Champion Tire & Wheel, Freedom Boat Club, and Norma and Rod Short.

Admiral sponsors include Cashion's, Bridget and Don Rainey, Robin and Jack Salzman, and South Creek Construction.

Captain sponsors include North Main Financial Group.

Duke Energy has provided picnic grounds and site support at no charge for 21 years.

## Day at the Lake

The morning boating and tubing portion of Big Day at the Lake is made possible by dozens of boat hosts who open their homes, marinas or clubs to Big Brothers Big Sisters children, accompanied by their built-in chaperones—their Big Sisters or Big Brothers.

At lunchtime, everyone gathers at the Duke Energy Explorium for a large picnic staffed by 75 volunteers.

Boating was canceled in 2025 due to toxic algae in the lake, but the traditional picnic at the Duke Energy Explorium continued as planned.

This year's event is scheduled for July 18.

Donations, which are tax-deductible, may be mailed to:

Big Day at the Lake  
c/o Denis Bilodeau  
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Learn more at [BigDayAtTheLake.com](http://BigDayAtTheLake.com).

# The Upside Down is Cozy Side Up

January, in all its cold, dark glory, is my favorite month. The hurried, unrelenting pace of the holidays has dissolved into a slow crawl of all the winter things I crave: slow nights, inky dark mornings, bottomless cups of tea, and, this year, binge watching the final season of *Stranger Things*.

The latter is fueling my fondness for the '80s and its cartoonish monsters are filling my nights with a weird kind of haunted happiness.

Before the temps took a nosedive, though, I crashed an audiobook walk at Fred & June's Books in Mooresville. It's yet another funky twist on book club culture (I wrote about Silent Book Club last month) and I get giddy about events that nurture my geeky, awkward self.

This delightful escapade brought out roughly twenty audiobibliophiles (Oi, that's a mouthful) to slip in their earbuds, hit play on their book of choice (I was deeply engrossed in *The Book Club for Troublesome Women*), and walk for thirty minutes down Main Street and through the revamped Liberty Park.

After we wrapped, I hit up Summit



QT with a handful of alpacas

Coffee for a matcha latte – a frothy splurge that seemed to fit my post-walk mood perfectly. The caffeine blitz didn't hurt, either.

And because walking around with strangers listening to books we aren't sharing isn't awkward enough, my daughter and I spent some QT with a handful of fluffy, hungry alpacas with an endless fervor for snacks and zero concept of personal space.

We found Good Karma Ranch – a

family-run farm in Lincoln County's Iron Station – five years ago, when the pandemic was still raging, and we were all eager to escape the sameness of our neighborhood. Iron Station is an unincorporated community that feels rural in that cool off-the-grid kind of way, and we dug it – and the farm – immediately.

There is just something about those goofy camelids with their smooshed-in faces and enthusiasm for snacking that made our COVID-weary hearts swoon. They still do. GKR is a yearly pilgrimage for us, and hanging out with floofy creatures will always be a sacred and silly thing we look forward to as the temperature dips.

Although I keep my introverted side fiercely guarded, I appreciate the festive nature of all that winter entails, including endless football games and soccer matches that keeps families huddled around their TVs, or sipping pints in one of the many sports pubs in Lake Norman.

We spent one chilly Friday evening at Jack's Corner Tap, a favorite haunt,

sharing fried cheese curds topped with sriracha honey, and toasting to the winter chill that finally set in. We felt the sweet buzz of happy people around us, reminding me how connection (furry and otherwise) is what allows us to thrive.

For a bit.

But then I craved my Comfy. And my dog. And the flickering lights of Hawkins, Indiana, and the stranger things I love.

*Milling About* is a 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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# Decorated fall season for local athletes

BY RYAN MOXON

As we turn the page on the calendar and look toward the winter sports season, here are some highlights from the last few months.

### Fall honors

Nine Hough athletes received all-state honors this fall, highlighted by cornerback Samari Matthews being named Mr. Football, an award given to the top player in the state.

In football, first-team all-state selections included Ethan Royal, Jarvis Potts and Matthews. Second-team honorees were Jamarion Morrison, Jayden White, Amaree Lawrence-Broom, Jackson Heath and Sincere Brewster.

In men's soccer, Dylan Cox was named to the all-state team.

The following Hough athletes were named all-conference this fall in the Greater Charlotte Conference:

Women's golf: Reagan Sokol, Avery Gordish, Addison Chaffin and Emma Nostrom. Jim Haughey was named coach of the year.

Women's tennis: Devin Gilroy (co-player of the year), Savannah Davis, Alara Cankurtaran, Lillian Bracksieck and Chloe Ketner.

Women's volleyball: Sterling Schmidt, Riley Lewis, Anna Roth and Joi Tinsley.

Women's cross country: Aleksa Camodeca, Sophia Hoogsten and Jul Mills-Zacapa.

Men's cross country: Aidan Malloy, Grant Collum and Jack Bennett.

Men's soccer: Dylan Cox, Lukas Patrignani, Piercon Selland and Santiago Giraldo.

Football: 15 all-conference players. DeShawn Baker was named co-head coach of the year, LJ Porter was named defensive specialist of the year, Matthews was named defensive player of the year, and Royal was named offensive player of the year.

### Hough football champions

The Huskies wrapped up an undefeated season with a 21-0 win over the Millbrook Wildcats to capture the school's first football state championship.

"We had our ups and downs, and offensively we kind of got stagnant a little bit, but at the end of the day we pulled it out and the defense pitched a shutout," head coach DeShawn Baker said after the game.

The Huskies opened the scoring on their first possession with a five-minute, 12-play, 66-yard drive capped by a rush-



Hough captured the school's first football state championship / Photo by Max Gallagher



The Lake Norman Giants claimed a Pop Warner national championship

ing touchdown from junior quarterback Ethan Royal.

Both teams then played 37 minutes of scoreless football until a fierce 26-yard run after the catch by sophomore Jamarion Morrison on third-and-10 set up an 8-yard rushing touchdown by junior Jahmere Anderson, giving Hough a 14-0 lead early in the fourth quarter.

The game was the defensive battle everyone expected, and the tenacity from both teams could not be overstated.

Millbrook kept Hough from advancing beyond the 50-yard line on all but one possession in the first half. The Wildcats failed to score despite starting several drives in Hough territory.

The Wildcats repeatedly threw at Hough senior cornerback Samari Matthews, hours after he was named North Carolina's top high school football player, to no avail.

Fittingly, senior defensive back Jason Wilkerson's interception with less than seven minutes remaining sealed the victory. It was Hough's sixth defensive shutout of the season. The team surrendered just 33 points over its final nine games.

Royal, who had a breakout year and offered a glimpse of what may be ahead next fall, closed the scoring with a 74-yard rushing touchdown in the final moments and was named MVP.

### Pop Warner championship

The Lake Norman Giants claimed a Pop Warner national championship in December, the highest title in the nation's largest youth football organization.

The 10U Giants, who lost in the championship tournament last year, defeated the Mt. Hope Cowboys of Rhode Island 20-0 after earlier playoff wins over teams from Pennsylvania and Ohio. The team finished the season with a 13-2 record.

Quarterback Trey Johnson threw three touchdown passes — two to Apollos Thompson for 45 and 35 yards and a third to Nash Keppler for 68 yards. Max Thornton added two extra points.

The defense recorded six sacks and multiple tackles for loss, including an interception by Adrian Parks.

The Pop Warner national championship features teams from eight regions competing across six age levels. To advance, teams must win both their league and regional championships. This year's title game was held at Matthews Sportsplex Stadium in Charlotte.

This season marked the first time the Giants sent two football teams and three cheer teams to the national stage. The 8U football team and the Pee Wee, Jr. Pee Wee and Jr. Mites cheer teams were eliminated in early rounds. The season also included three city championships for the organization's football teams — a first.

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## Suffolk Punch opens in Birkdale Village

Suffolk Punch's long-awaited opening in Birkdale Village is finally here.

The Charlotte-based brewery opened its doors last month as construction continued on the remainder of the building.

The menu features a rotating selection of beers and seltzers priced from \$6.50 to \$8, along with wines available by the glass or bottle at prices generally lower than those at nearby restaurants. Signature cocktails, non-alcoholic options, and THC-infused drinks are also offered. Seasonal cocktails include Butter Pecan Pie and Apple Pie, priced around \$12.

The menu is smaller than Suffolk Punch's larger Charlotte locations and includes appetizers, sandwiches, salads and flatbreads priced from \$8 to \$12. Vegetarian options are available, and gluten-free flatbreads are expected to be added soon.

One side of the brewery will open for outdoor walk-up service, allowing the business to take advantage of Birkdale Village's social district, which permits consumption within a designated perimeter as long as beverages are served in approved social district cups.

## Citizens provide feedback on new bike and pedestrian plan

Cornelius residents and members of the town's volunteer advisory boards attended events last month to help guide the development of a new bicycle and pedestrian plan, *Connect Cornelius*, which town officials and consultants hope to adopt next year.

The town's most recent pedestrian plan was adopted in 2012, and the latest bicycle plan was approved in 2016. Those plans led to the construction of additional sidewalks and multiuse paths, the installation of lighted crosswalks, and safety enhancements such as road-share signs and dedicated bike lanes.

The Woody Washam Jr. Community Room was reserved for a two-hour public drop-in session for residents, while community planning consultants from Charlotte-based McAdams and Bolton



Suffolk Punch in Birkdale Village / Photos by Jason Benavides

& Menk met with elected officials and members of advisory boards to help shape a strategic vision for the plan.

The six-month planning process will include community engagement, a needs assessment and development of a draft plan. The plan is expected to be presented to residents for feedback in the spring, followed by review and approval by the town board, with formal adoption planned for the summer.

## New development group takes over Alexander Farms

River Rock Development, a subsidiary of River Rock Capital Partners, along with an investment group that includes several Cornelius residents, has acquired the commercial portion of the Alexander Farms project. The group has officially taken over the final 16 acres of the project, 10 of which are buildable commercial parcels.

River Rock said it is actively seeking a "marquee grocer and medical tenant" to anchor the development. The approved rezoning allows several commercial uses, including restaurants, general retail and a grocery store. The town is

Continued on **PAGE 15**

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Continued from **PAGE 14**

awaiting clarification on whether plans for a medical tenant would fall under the approved rezoning or require additional consideration.

The remaining six acres will be used for common areas, including ponds and other open space. The project also includes the donation of three acres for a public park, the creation of a new walking trail connecting to town greenways, and the preservation of the tenant home on the site.

Cornelius residents Stuart Ross and David Dupree are part of the investment group.

The Alexander Farms development also includes two residential components — River Rock Village and River Rock Manor. River Rock Village is complete, and site preparation has begun on River Rock Manor, which is expected to open in early summer 2027.

## Town issues FAQ to address downtown plan concerns

The Town of Cornelius posted an FAQ on social media to address concerns raised by residents during a recent public hearing on the Downtown Master Plan.

At the Nov. 17 meeting, many speakers said they supported the idea of a new master plan but opposed its current form, citing impacts on traffic, safety and private property.

The town's response addressed road concerns, impacts on private property, police presence and traffic issues around Cornelius Elementary School. The full FAQ is available on the town website.

Town commissioners delayed a vote on the master plan until their Jan. 20 meeting and urged residents to review the plan and continue providing feedback.

## Candidates set for state House and Senate elections

Elections for both houses of the North Carolina General Assembly will feature competitive races next year. The candidate filing window closed Dec. 19.

The two-person race for the N.C. House in District 98 includes incumbent Democrat Beth Helfrich of Davidson and Republican John Rhodes of Cornelius.

Helfrich is serving her first term. Rhodes previously served on the Cor-



Helfrich

nelius Town Board of Commissioners and represented District 98 in the N.C. House from 2003 to 2007.

In the N.C. Senate race, incumbent



Sawyer

Republican Vickie Sawyer will face Democratic challengers Precinda Bjorgen and Raygan Angel for the District 37 seat. All three candidates are from Mooresville.

The primary is March 3, and the general election is Nov. 3.

## Esquire recognizes Cornelius restaurant

Esquire singled out Seaboy restaurant in Cornelius on its annual list of the 25

Best New Restaurants in America.

Seaboy, located on North Main Street near the Davidson town line, is owned by chef Jonathan Cox, who previously led kitchens for restaurateur Jon Dressler of Rare Roots Hospitality. Cox has said he built the seafood restaurant on a love for good food, community and sustainability.

Esquire cited two North Carolina restaurants on the list. The other was Tamasha in Raleigh.



# Advice for what matters most, when you need it most

Congratulations to **Scott Stimson** for being ranked **#1 on the Forbes "Top Next-Gen Wealth Advisors Best-in-State" 2025 list.** *Published on August 6, 2025. Rankings based on data as of March 31, 2025.*



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# HOME SALES

**Editor's 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**

11/24/2025, \$695,111, 17405 Springwinds Dr, 3BR/2.5BA, The Peninsula, 1908 sq ft, built 1994

11/25/2025, \$290,000, 19404 Center St, 3BR/1BA, Meridian, 957 sq ft, built 1970

11/25/2025, \$461,000, 20437 Willow Pond Rd, 3BR/2.5BA, Willow Pond, 1683 sq ft, built 1994

11/25/2025, \$540,000, 18643 Harborside Dr #36, 3BR/2BA, Harborside, 1431 sq ft, built 1998



\$2,325,000 | 19624 Meta Road, Cornelius

11/26/2025, \$335,000, 9053 Rosalyn Glen Rd, 2BR/2BA, Edinburgh Square, 1540 sq ft, built 2005

12/01/2025, \$492,250, 18810 Coachmans Trce, 4BR/2.5BA, Glenridge, 2497 sq ft, built 2003

12/01/2025, \$774,175, 12432 Meetinghouse Dr, 3BR/2BA, Baileys Glen, 2565 sq ft, built 2011

12/01/2025, \$279,000, 19813 Washam St, 2BR/1BA, Cornelius, 1252 sq ft, built 1926

12/02/2025, \$515,000, 20918 Brinkley St, 4BR/2.5BA, Victoria Bay, 2488 sq ft, built 2001

12/02/2025, \$458,000, 20803 Brinkley St, 4BR/2.5BA, Victoria Bay, 2465 sq ft, built 2002

12/02/2025, \$460,500, 10415 Danesway Ln, 3BR/2BA, Wellsley Village, 1450 sq ft, built 1991

12/02/2025, \$772,500, 14019 Cameryn Elise Dr, 3BR/2BA, Baileys Glen, 2537 sq ft, built 2023

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111 AQUA DRIVE,  
MOORESVILLE, NC | \$1,100,000

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15815 LAVENHAM ROAD,  
HUNTERSVILLE, NC | \$715,000

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21300 CARINA LANE,  
CORNELIUS, NC | \$1,250,000

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12/03/2025, \$525,000, 17925 Coulter Pkwy, 3BR/2BA, Baileys Glen, 1675 sq ft, built 2015

12/03/2025, \$1,075,000, 2224 Lantern Way Cir, 5BR/3BA, Weatherstone Manor, 4062 sq ft, built 2004

12/03/2025, \$2,325,000, 19624 Meta Rd, 4BR/3.5BA, Diane Shores, 2901 sq ft, built 1990

12/04/2025, \$775,000, 20324 Middletown Rd, 5BR/4BA, Jetton Cove, 3861 sq ft, built 2002

12/05/2025, \$286,000, 17668 Caldwell Track Dr, 2BR/2.5BA, Caldwell Station, 1378 sq ft, built 2003

12/08/2025, \$1,185,000, 17728 Jetton Green Loop, 3BR/3.5BA, Jetton Place, 3027 sq ft, built 2019

12/08/2025, \$415,000, 10606 Danesway Ln, 3BR/2.5BA, Shelton, 1615 sq ft, built 1987

12/09/2025, \$1,350,000, 18337 Harbor Light Blvd, 4BR/3.5BA, The Peninsula, 3061 sq ft, built 2000

12/09/2025, \$700,000, 19005 Northport Dr, 4BR/2.5BA, Jetton Cove, 2784 sq ft, built 2005

12/11/2025, \$650,000, 17931 Kings Point Dr Unit G, 3BR/2BA, Biscayne, 1396 sq ft, built 1991



**\$2,900,000 | 20428 Island Forest Drive, Cornelius**

12/11/2025, \$1,695,000, 19226 Stableford Ln, 4BR/3.5BA, The Peninsula, 3776 sq ft, built 1991

12/11/2025, \$569,000, 20807 Willow Pond Rd, 3BR/2.5BA, Willow Pond, 2307 sq ft, built 1989

12/12/2025, \$424,000, 19603 Whitehaven Ct, 3BR/2.5BA, Wellsley Village, 1666 sq ft, built 1987

12/15/2025, \$380,000, 20607 Church St, 4BR/2.5BA, Cornelius, 1786 sq ft, built 1951

12/15/2025, \$1,735,000, 21319 Baltic Dr, 4BR/4.5BA, Captains Point, 3310 sq ft, built 2010

12/16/2025, \$695,000, 15029 Reese Finley Ln, 3BR/3BA, Baileys Glen, 2235 sq ft, built 2020

12/16/2025, \$260,000, 10324 Bon Meade Ln, 3BR/2BA, Wellsley Village, 1129 sq ft, built 1990

12/16/2025, \$500,000, 18119 Coulter Pkwy, 3BR/2BA, Baileys Glen, 1944 sq ft, built 2012

12/16/2025, \$664,000, 19403 Greentree Way, 2BR/2BA, The Courtyards at Jetton, 1826 sq ft, built 2015

12/16/2025, \$2,900,000, 20428 Island Forest Dr, 5BR/3.5BA, Island Forest, 5612 sq ft, built 1996

12/17/2025, \$1,315,000, 18210 Nautique Dr #159, 4BR/4.5BA, The Peninsula, 3361 sq ft, built 2001

12/17/2025, \$508,000, 19732-A School St, 3BR/2.5BA, Cornelius, 1954 sq ft, built 2025



**\$1,075,000 | 2224 Lantern Way Circle, Cornelius**



**\$1,695,000 | 19226 Stableford Lane, Cornelius**



**4330179** Luxury and functionality shine in this five-bedroom home located in the desirable Anniston subdivision. The main-level primary suite, chef-inspired kitchen, and oversized flex room offer exceptional everyday convenience. A screened porch, heated lap pool, and spa create a private backyard retreat designed for entertaining. **\$1,475,000**



**4329145** Thoughtfully updated and well-appointed, this two-story home delivers spacious living with refreshed hardwoods and fresh paint throughout. The main-level primary suite and open kitchen flow into inviting living areas. Outdoors, a screened patio with an outdoor kitchen, fireplace, saltwater spa, and nearby boat access create a standout retreat. **\$975,000**



**4330524** Set on 1.7 acres, this nearly new custom residence offers privacy, craftsmanship, and timeless design. Vaulted ceilings with cedar beams highlight the great room, while rich hardwoods and brand-new appliances enhance the home's upscale feel. A perfect balance of warmth and architectural presence. **\$700,000**



**4324519** Surrounded by acreage and open pastureland, this brick home delivers rare privacy with added parcels included. Cozy living spaces with wood accents and a fireplace pair beautifully with expansive outdoor potential. Enjoy peaceful sunsets, multiple outbuildings, and a location convenient to everyday essentials. **\$585,000**



**4326214** This expansive five-bedroom home combines flexible living with fresh interior paint and sun-filled spaces. Entertain in the open main floor or retreat upstairs to private bedrooms, bonus areas, and a loft. Covered patios, a fire pit, and nearby lake access complete the lifestyle appeal. **\$549,000**



**4329782** Modern comfort meets easy living in this well-maintained ranch located in Bell Farm. The open layout highlights a stylish kitchen with quartz countertops, gas cooktop, and oversized island. New flooring and a fenced backyard enhance both function and everyday enjoyment! **\$349,000**



**4325153** Move-in-ready in Statesville's coveted Larkin Golf Community, this townhome offers bright, modern living and a main-level primary suite. Granite countertops, stainless steel appliances, and a large kitchen island anchor the heart of the home. Residents enjoy golf, pool, tennis, and quick access to Mooresville and Lake Norman. **\$300,000**



**4322485** Now priced to move, this three-bedroom home presents a strong investment opportunity in a growing Statesville location. Tenant occupancy allows for immediate portfolio integration. Easy access to shopping, dining, and major interstates adds long-term value. **\$169,000**



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**\$2,700,000 | 708 Amalfi Drive, Davidson**



**\$2,225,000 | 229 Brook Street, Davidson**

12/18/2025, \$512,000, 8722 Westmoreland Lake Dr, 3BR/2.5BA, Westmoreland, 2385 sq ft, built 2006

11/24/2025, \$534,000, 113 N Faulkner Way, 3BR/3BA, Old Davidson, 1986 sq ft, built 2002

12/03/2025, \$442,000, 795 Peninsula Dr, 2BR/2BA, Boardwalk at Deer Park, 1228 sq ft, built 2001

12/17/2025, \$1,900,000, 11681 Mooresville Rd, 3BR/2.5BA, Davidson, 2525 sq ft, built 2009

12/18/2025, \$475,000, 7845 Village Harbor Dr, 2BR/2BA, Villages at Harborside, 1102 sq ft, built 1999

11/24/2025, \$617,500, 330 Armour St #46, 3BR/3.5BA, Davidson Walk, 2337 sq ft, built 2022

12/08/2025, \$675,000, 215 Junaluska Dr, 3BR/3.5BA, Davidson Walk, 2390 sq ft, built 2022

12/17/2025, \$1,400,000, 18730 Floyd Ct, 5BR/4.5BA, River Run, 5361 sq ft, built 2002

12/19/2025, \$4,850,000, 18900 Balmore Pines Ln, 5BR/4.5BA, The Peninsula, 4683 sq ft, built 1992

11/25/2025, \$1,215,000, 14104 Ryker Way, 4BR/3.5BA, Narrow Passage, 3379 sq ft, built 2023

12/09/2025, \$460,000, 3427 Streamside Dr, 4BR/2.5BA, The Farm at Riverpointe, 2395 sq ft, built 2014

12/18/2025, \$570,000, 4654 Rocky Hollow Rd, 4BR/3BA, Davidson, 2959 sq ft, built 2008

12/19/2025, \$513,000, 19560 Makayla Ln, 3BR/3.5BA, Lake Norman Cove at Jetton, 2376 sq ft, built 2004

12/01/2025, \$400,100, 3550 Catherine Creek Pl, 3BR/2.5BA, The Farm at Riverpointe, 2414 sq ft, built 2013

12/11/2025, \$1,925,000, 17504 Gilligan Overlook Rd, 5BR/5.5BA, River Run, 4896 sq ft, built 2018

12/18/2025, \$522,500, 10687 Sapphire Trl #251, 4BR/2.5BA, Waterford, 2739 sq ft, built 2013

12/19/2025, \$515,000, 10125 Meadow Crossing Ln, 3BR/2.5BA, Glenridge, 2463 sq ft, built 2013

12/01/2025, \$2,700,000, 708 Amalfi Dr, 5BR/4.5BA, Davidson Bay, 5893 sq ft, built 2019

12/11/2025, \$1,131,200, 14116 Ryker Way, 4BR/3.5BA, Narrow Passage, 3400 sq ft, built 2023

12/18/2025, \$489,990, 308 Catawba Ave, 3BR/3BA, Parkside Commons, 1964 sq ft, built 2025

12/19/2025, \$570,000, 20209 Floral Ln, 3BR/2BA, Cornelius, 1771 sq ft, built 1983

12/01/2025, \$1,695,000, 110 Lynbrook Dr, 5BR/4BA, Kimberly, 4521 sq ft, built 2003

12/12/2025, \$2,300,000, 707 Hudson Pl, 7BR/6.5BA, Davidson Woods, 6381 sq ft, built 2018

12/19/2025, \$400,000, 725 Southwest Dr, 2BR/2BA, Windjammer, 970 sq ft, built 1989

12/22/2025, \$392,000, 9204 Washam Potts Rd, 4BR/3BA, Oakhurst, 1891 sq ft, built 2003

12/02/2025, \$355,000, 3425 Market View Dr, 3BR/2.5BA, The Farm at Riverpointe, 1350 sq ft, built 2005

12/16/2025, \$1,399,900, 17006 Piermont St, 5BR/4.5BA, River Run, 4965 sq ft, built 2000

12/19/2025, \$470,000, 707 Hoke Ln, 3BR/3BA, Parkside Commons, 1964 sq ft, built 2025

Davidson

11/24/2025, \$818,000, 13542 Helen Benson Blvd, 4BR/3.5BA, Summers Walk, 3998 sq ft, built 2007

12/02/2025, \$545,000, 415 Magnolia St, 4BR/2.5BA, Davidson Bay, 2510 sq ft, built 2007

12/16/2025, \$880,000, 17514 Julees Walk Ln, 5BR/4.5BA, Davidson East, 3655 sq ft, built 2018

12/22/2025, \$1,390,000, 522 Potts St, 5BR/3.5BA, Davidson, 3246 sq ft, built 2015

11/24/2025, \$365,000, 20017 Metaphor Mews, 3BR/2.5BA, Davidson, 1695 sq ft, built 2010

12/03/2025, \$520,000, 329 Spring St, 3BR/3.5BA, Walnut Grove, 2252 sq ft, built 2008

12/16/2025, \$2,225,000, 229 Brook St, 4BR/4.5BA, Davidson, 4381 sq ft, built 2009

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Visit [CorneliusToday.com](http://CorneliusToday.com) for a comprehensive list of all live music and comedy events. Details are subject to change – visit venue websites for up-to-date information.

FRIDAY, JAN. 2

**Bin110** | 9 p.m. — John Sullivan ('70s-'00s) — Free

**Lost Worlds Brewing** | 5 p.m. — Analog Crash Rocks (Rock) — Free

**Royal Bliss Brewing Co.** | 6:30 p.m. — Neal Carter (Rock) — Free

**Harp & Crown** | 6 p.m. — Chris Montgomery (Acoustic) — Free

SATURDAY, JAN. 3

**Bin110** | 9 p.m. — Velvet Edge ('80s–Today) — Free

**Lost Worlds Brewing** | 5 p.m. — Jesse DeVelis (Rock) — Free

**Royal Bliss Brewing Co.** | 6:30 p.m. — Garrett Huffman (Country) — Free

**Torrence & Knox** | 7:30 p.m. — Nathan Davies (Rock) — Free

THURSDAY, JAN. 8

**Bin110** | 8 p.m. — Acoustic Soultion (Dance tunes, '80s–Today) — Free

FRIDAY, JAN. 9

**Bin110** | 9 p.m. — Kids in America ('80s) — Free

**Royal Bliss Brewing Co.** | 6:30 p.m. — Dave & Therese (Rock) — Free

**Torrence & Knox** | 7:30 p.m. — John Tice (Rock) — Free

**Cain Center for the Arts** | 7:30 p.m. — Petty Rewind (Tom Petty tribute) — Paid

**Harp & Crown** | 6 p.m. — Ben Gatlin (Blues/Rock) — Free

SATURDAY, JAN. 10

**Bin110** | 9 p.m. — Save July ('90s) — Free

**Lost Worlds Brewing** | 6 p.m. — Brett Milstead (Rock) — Free

**Torrence & Knox** | 7:30 p.m. — Steve Brown (Rock) — Free

**Harp & Crown** | 6 p.m. — Dave & Therese (Acoustic) — Free

THURSDAY, JAN. 15

★ **Boatyard Lake Norman** | 7 p.m. — Dale Jones (Comedy) — Paid

**Bin110** | 8 p.m. — Ryan Winters ('70s–Today) — Free



Boatyard Lake Norman | No Diggity Band

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FRIDAY, JAN. 16

★ **Boatyard Lake Norman** | 8 p.m. — Julio & the Saltines (Multi-genre) — Paid

**Bin110** | 9 p.m. — Josh Holland ('90s) — Free

**Lost Worlds Brewing** | 5 p.m. — Matt Walsh (Blues) — Free

**Royal Bliss Brewing Co.** | 6:30 p.m. — Stolzwagon (Rock) — Free

**Torrence & Knox** | 7:30 p.m. — Fred Heintz (Rock) — Free

SATURDAY, JAN. 17

★ **Boatyard Lake Norman** | 8 p.m. — Pushh w/ Krak'd Vinyl (Rock) — Paid

**Bin110** | 9 p.m. — Josh Holland ('90s) — Free

**Lost Worlds Brewing** | 5 p.m. — Chris Clark (Rock) — Free

**Royal Bliss Brewing Co.** | 6:30 p.m. — String Theory (Rock) — Free

**Lake Norman Brewery** | 6 p.m. — Delta Fire Duo (Rock) — Free

**Cain Center for the Arts** | 7:30 p.m. — The Slocan Ramblers (Bluegrass) — Paid

**Harp & Crown** | 6 p.m. — Tim Cook Trio (Acoustic) — Free

THURSDAY, JAN. 22

**Bin110** | 8 p.m. — Brian English ('80s–Today) — Free

FRIDAY, JAN. 23

★ **Boatyard Lake Norman** | 8 p.m. — Brightside ('90s and beyond) — Paid

**Bin110** | 9 p.m. — String Theory ('70s–Today) — Free

**Lost Worlds Brewing** | 5 p.m. — Keith Wilson (Rock) — Free

**Royal Bliss Brewing Co.** | 6:30 p.m. — Bailey Marie (Country) — Free

**Torrence & Knox** | 7:30 p.m. — Isaac and Adele (Rock) — Free

**Harp & Crown** | 6 p.m. — My Better Half (Acoustic) — Free

SATURDAY, JAN. 24

**Bin110** | 9 p.m. — Hey L80s ('80s) — Free

**Lost Worlds Brewing** | 5 p.m. — Reece Brendle (Rock) — Free

**Royal Bliss Brewing Co.** | 6:30 p.m. — Josey Wails Band (Rock) — Free

**Torrence & Knox** | 7:30 p.m. — John Sullivan (Rock) — Free

**Cain Center for the Arts** | 7:30 p.m. — Captain Mike & the Shipwrecked (Jimmy Buffett tribute) — Paid

THURSDAY, JAN. 29

**Bin110** | 8 p.m. — Pluto for Planet Duo ('70s–Today) — Free

**Cain Center for the Arts** | 7 p.m. — Bronwyn Keith-Hynes (Bluegrass) — Paid

FRIDAY, JAN. 30

★ **Boatyard Lake Norman** | 8 p.m. — Thomas Road Band (Country) — Paid

**Bin110** | 9 p.m. — Townley Road (Rock) — Free

**Lost Worlds Brewing** | 5 p.m. — Tim Hong (Covers) — Free

**Royal Bliss Brewing Co.** | 6:30 p.m. — John Sullivan (Rock) — Free

**Cain Center for the Arts** | 7:30 p.m. — Bad Momz of Comedy (Comedy) — Paid

SATURDAY, JAN. 31

★ **Boatyard Lake Norman** | 8 p.m. — Bad Romeo w/ Chasing Phoenix (Rock) — Paid

**Bin110** | 9 p.m. — LJTT (Rock) — Free

**Lost Worlds Brewing** | 5 p.m. — Chris Vercauteren (Rock) — Free

**Royal Bliss Brewing Co.** | 6:30 p.m. — Retro Road Band (Rock) — Free

**Torrence & Knox** | 7:30 p.m. — Kristy Scheirer (Rock) — Free

**Cain Center for the Arts** — 7:30 p.m. — Spank the '80s ('80s tribute) — Paid

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Sound Off

*Stories with the most comments are marked with a fire emoji. Spelling and punctuation errors were corrected.*

Lake Norman Giants win Pop Warner national championship

Great job by the players and coaches. We are so very proud of you guys. This took a lot of hard work and dedication from all parties – players, coaches and parents. Congratulations to you all!

—Reginald Smith

New roundabouts scheduled for exit 28

Two wrongs don't make a right.

—Donna Rand

No, but as the jug handle turn at exit 25 demonstrates, three rights can make a left.

—Anthony Navarro

Alexander Farms back on track

Yes! A Trader Joe's would be wonderful!

—Linda Gallucci

I'm concerned that a Trader Joe's in this location would attract too much traffic.

—Elizabeth Carlson



Seaboy gets nod from Esquire magazine

Seaboy deserves recognition. The young rising chef there is a star.

—Andrew Waterworth

Suffolk Punch opens in Birkdale Village

Can't wait to try it and can't wait to drive around for 30 minutes trying to find a parking spot.

—Heather Cooper

Hough football wins 8A state title

Awesome that these kids have come to play great as a team. Cornelius area has been a great bed for area players starting with Pop Warner programs. Lake Norman Giants! Keep it going, proud of Hough!

—Randy Dalton

Lighted boat parade hits Lake Norman

Great event! Happy we got to be a part of it!

—Derek DeBord of TowBoatUS

MPTA holds inaugural meeting

Congratulations to Mr. Bob Menzel who will be Cornelius' voting member on the new Transit Authority. A truly outstanding appointment by our Town Board!

—Jeff Tarte, former Cornelius mayor

Friends, neighbors share holiday traditions

Memorable family Christmas Eve and Day traditions! Thank you for sharing.

—Scott Higgins, former Cornelius commissioner

Buying land a priority for Cornelius Parks & Rec

It's grand to hear about the emphasis on more parks!

—Marilyn Campbell

There's a reason West Catawba backups have been worse

Why don't we have police directing traffic then at these broken lights during high traffic times? Seems like the town should find a solution short-term until NCDOT fixes the problem long-term.

—Akiba Green



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# Collaboration is the backbone of Russell’s 30 years at the chamber

BY JON SHOW

Bill Russell sits behind his desk at the Lake Norman Chamber of Commerce, surrounded by mementos from his decades at the helm: a beach ball commemorating the opening of Ramsey Creek Beach, awards from volunteer organizations such as the Kiwanis Club and Ada Jenkins, and countless handwritten notes.

At the front of his desk is a plaque from the Jaycees, where he served in a leadership role before joining the chamber 30 years ago this month.

“There is no limit to what can be accomplished if it doesn’t matter who gets the credit,” the plaque reads.

## Working together

Collaboration has been at the core of Russell’s career as he marks a milestone anniversary this month as president and CEO of the Lake Norman Chamber of Commerce — three decades of leadership at one of the region’s most influential business organizations.

Russell joined the chamber in January 1996, when it was known as the North Mecklenburg Chamber of Commerce.

Under his leadership, the chamber rebranded to better reflect the region it serves. The change emphasized collaboration among the municipalities surrounding the lake and allowed the organization to expand its membership and influence.

Russell has positioned the chamber as a key partner in regional economic development, extending its reach to help guide local infrastructure and transportation planning, civic engagement and workforce development. The organization hosts forums, legislative briefings and networking events that connect business leaders with elected officials and community stakeholders.



Bill Russell / Photo by Jason Benavides

During his tenure, Russell oversaw initiatives such as the Lake Norman Regional Economic Development Corp., aimed at attracting and retaining employers; Visit Lake Norman, which promotes tourism; and Leadership Lake Norman, a community leadership development program.

He also spearheaded the creation of the Lake Norman Chamber Business Expo, which brings together hundreds of businesses and thousands of attendees each year.

While it has been a lot of work, Russell admits he has had some fun along the way.

“I think that’s the magic of anything that you do in your life,” he said. “You’ve got to love what you do, do what you love and deliver more than you promise. And if you can do those three things, you’ll be great at any job.”

“I’m thinking, what town did I come to?” he recalled. “It was a little bit different in 1996 than it is in 2026. The town kind of grew up a little bit, but it’s still a great community.”

Cornelius and the greater Lake Norman region have changed dramatically over the past three decades and continue to evolve as the area transitions from what it was to what it will become.

## Outside looking in

In short, more change is coming, and the 66-year-old Russell has no plans to step away from advocating for the Lake Norman business community to tend to his family farm in South Carolina.

“I never expected to be here for 30 years, but where can you possibly go that would have a better opportunity for business and development than right here?” he said.

“I feel like I’m working in the Garden of Eden.”

Over the past 30 years, the chamber has evolved from a local networking organization into a central voice in the Lake Norman business community. Russell’s tenure reflects both his personal dedication and the chamber’s growth into a cornerstone of the region’s economy.

## What’s next?

When Russell arrived 30 years ago and first visited downtown Cornelius, he was greeted by grazing goats outside the police station.

Colleagues describe Russell as strategic, steady and relationship-focused. He has worked with a generation of board members, elected officials and business owners, providing continuity as the region’s population and economy have grown.

Richard Pappas, a former chamber board president and an executive at First National Bank in Cornelius, said Russell’s dedication sets him apart.

“He’s so good because he is so passionate about advocating for our members and working to improve our community,” Pappas said. “He does that better than anyone I’ve ever seen because he loves it. It’s his passion.”

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11/4/25 Renew Wound Care Center PLLC, Coral Kirscher, 18805 W. Catawba Ave. Ste. 205A, Cornelius

11/7/25 Grateful Meds LLC, Jeffrey Nagle, 19701 Bethel Church Rd. Ste. 103-109, Cornelius

11/7/25 La Manga Colombian Grill LLC, Edwin Oswaldo Marin, 11007 Will Knox Rd., Cornelius

11/7/25 My Shark Team CRE Inc., Carolyn Louise Chason, 21600 Rio Oro Dr., Cornelius

## New Corporations

These businesses registered with the North Carolina Secretary of State

11/3/25 Carrier IQ Inc., Scott Schubert, 17039 Kenton Dr. Ste. 200, Cornelius

11/5/25 Jennifer Steger Consulting LLC, Jennifer Steger, 10700 Trolley Run Dr., Cornelius

11/3/25 Londry & Modlin XV DDS PLLC, David Michael Modlin Jr., 19810 W. Catawba Ave. A1, Cornelius

11/5/25 Kenzie’s Crayons, Mackenzie Ann Smart, 19135 Ruffner Dr., Cornelius

11/6/25 9521 Stoney Hill LLC, Jennifer Torpey Szakaly, 9619 Willow Leaf Ln., Cornelius

11/10/25 Care Cottage on Stoney Hill LLC, Jennifer Torpey Szakaly, 9619 Willow Leaf Ln., Cornelius

11/10/25 Specialty Speech & Consulting PLLC, Lindsay C. Mahoney, 20412 Greenway Heights Dr., Cornelius

11/12/25 ABJ Solutions LLC, Juan Mauricio Reyes Giraldo, 19510 One Norman Blvd. Apt. E, Cornelius

11/12/25 Pelican Realty LLC, Michelle Julie Watermeyer, 8115 Houser St., Cornelius

# Top priorities for the \$20 million bond

The Cornelius Parks & Recreation Board is forwarding its recommendation to the Town Board outlining which capital projects should be prioritized as part of the \$20 million bond approved by voters in 2024.

Bond sales are expected to total about \$10 million in January 2027, \$6 million in 2030 and \$4 million in 2033. The bonds must be issued over time to comply with debt ratio laws governing the town.

## Phase I

The top priority in the 2027 bond allocation is \$7 million for land acquisition on the east side of town. The parks master plan calls for two parks larger than 100 acres in areas east of Highway 115, in the general areas north and south of Bailey Road.

The town has no immediate plans for the acreage, and its final use will largely depend on topography. Flatter parcels could be developed into athletic field complexes, while more varied terrain would likely be preserved as passive recreation areas.

Second on the list is \$1.9 million for improvements to the multipurpose field at JV Washam Elementary School, including lighting and a restroom facility. The grass playing surface could be replaced with artificial turf through partnerships with the town’s youth sports operators.

The third priority is \$90,000 to construct the 0.4-mile Stratford Forest Greenway connection between the McDowell Creek Greenway and Northcross Drive Extension. Mecklenburg County would also contribute to the project.

Finally, \$950,000 in bond funds would be used to design and construct restroom and shade structures to complete the new tennis and pickleball court complex at Bailey Road Park.

## Phase II

Priorities for the 2030 bond sale begin with \$3 million for additional park land acquisition in the same area of town as the first phase.

Another \$2.5 million would be allocated for construction of a new recreation center at Cornelius Elementary School. That project is being coordinated with the construction of a new elementary school, and its timing could be affected by county scheduling.

Remaining funds include \$500,000 million for design work for the next



The third priority is the 0.4-mile Stratford Forest Greenway connection between the McDowell Creek Greenway and Northcross Drive Extension.

phase of Robbins Park and \$60,000 to design the 0.7-mile Westmoreland Greenway connection between the Alexander Farms development and Rosalyn Glen Road.

## Phase III

The recommendation in 2033 includes \$3 million for construction at Robbins Park, which would feature

two multipurpose grass fields, a 5K cross-country course, a disc golf course, parking lots and a restroom facility, as well as \$450,000 for construction of the Westmoreland Greenway.



## What’s next

The recommendation spans nearly 10 years into the future, and priorities could shift — particularly in phases two and three — based on several factors.

For example, phase two land acquisition could move up or be delayed depending on land availability and other market conditions.


On the positive side, additional projects could be added to the plan. The town previously supplemented funding from a \$5.25 million bond sale in 2013 by securing more than \$5.25 million in grants, resulting in additional construction projects.

Parks & Recreation will present the recommendations to the Town Board at its Jan. 5 meeting, with a vote expected Jan. 20.



# New Year Checklist

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☐ Review your home’s market value to ensure your dwelling coverage is sufficient for replacement

☐ Speak to your agent about possible environmental perils, such as if your area is prone to flooding, to get additional coverage

☐ Review Life Insurance coverage, along with your assets, liabilities, and stage of life. Make sure beneficiaries are up to date

☐ Brush up on your Health Insurance knowledge

☐ Check vehicles and drivers and make sure all are covered on your Auto policy

☐ Review your Auto deductibles for comprehensive and collision coverage to consider any changes

☐ Upon Auto insurance renewal, make a copy of your insurance card and your agent’s contact info for your vehicle

☐ Talk with your agent about Personal Umbrella insurance for an extra layer of liability protection



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# Dream a little dream

Future Man and I returned from Florida late last fall on one of our final travel lacrosse trips. It's spanned nearly 10 years. Some 60 tournaments. Maybe 300-plus games.

There have been a lot of fun moments, for sure, and I remember all of them. There have been some frustrating ones too, and I remember all of them as well.

You don't appreciate the highs if you don't get some lows.

There was the night before his first travel tournament in the third grade when I set out my "uniform" of flip-flops, SPF shirt and sunflower seeds next to his uniform, which included blue cleats so I could figure out which kid he was on the field.

The next morning, playing on a team with older kids, he only played five minutes in three games. He cried on the car ride to lunch, and I cried with him. It's hard to see someone you love feel sad about something they love so much.

The next year, playing with his own age group, we started off the summer in Chapel Hill.

We were staying in a quality of hotel that I've come to term as a "lacrosse hotel," and began our tradition of grabbing an Outback steak the Friday night before tournaments when one was nearby.

The next year, tradition firmly entrenched, and when he was still too young to know the difference, we got steaks at a Ruby Tuesday because there was nothing else nearby. He took bites of the rubbery sirloin and pasty mashed potatoes, smiled, and confidently said, "Just as good as Outback, Dad."

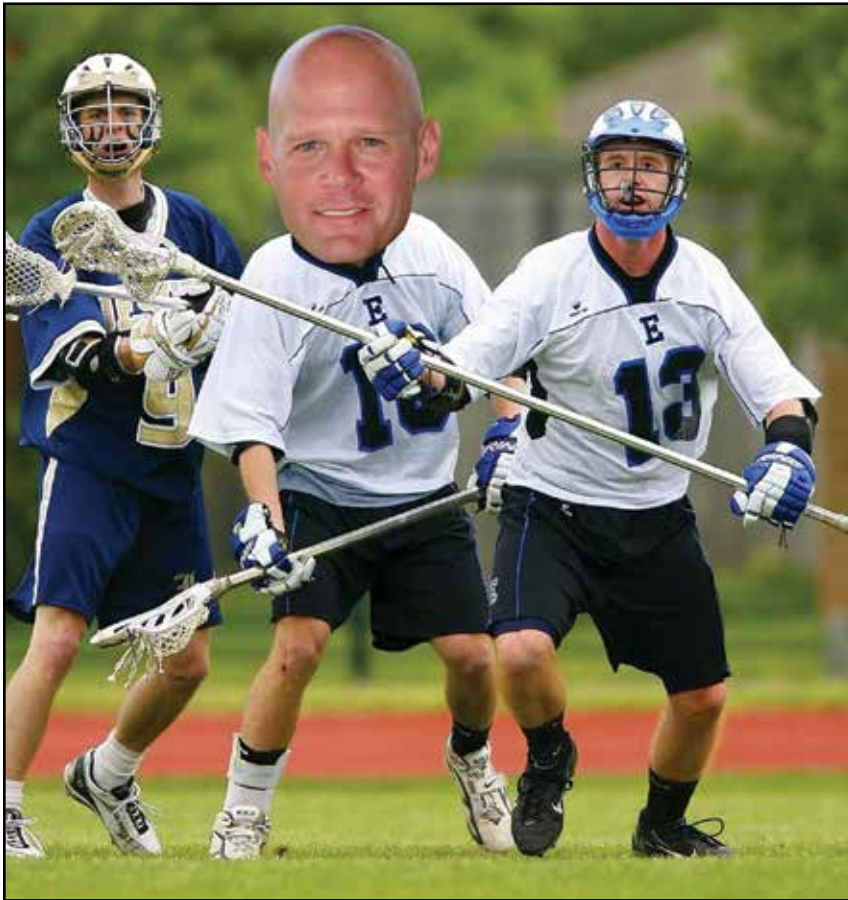
## Win and you're in

There were certainly losses over the years, but always enough wins to keep things fun.

One win I'll always remember was a championship game played on horse fields near Charleston, when he scored four goals, including the tying goal before the final whistle, and his teammate won it in overtime.

It was Father's Day, and he gave me the game ball his coach gave him. I think I still have it somewhere. I'm not much into mementos. I prefer the actual memories.

There were a lot of parent personalities on the sidelines over the years and really a surprising amount of booze. I never understood why someone wanted to get drunk on IPAs on a 90-degree summer morning.



It took me a few seasons of being a lacrosse parent, but eventually I found my place, as we all do in life. Turns out mine was located as far away from the midfield line as you could sit.

I preferred fall travel over summer. We could pack up supplies and elaborate tailgate meals into the truck, throw up a 10-foot tent and live like kings in places where royalty would never dare visit.

Oh, the places we've gone. Rarely were we anywhere you'd actually want to be, but you almost always enjoyed being there in some capacity. Sometimes the hotel lobby beers helped.

I wasn't always the easiest to be around on our trips. I've never been the car ride home dad who yelled or overanalyzed his kid's performance. I had no problem, however, corralling a less-than-stellar attitude or demanding obnoxiously early arrival times.

My performance as a parent often failed to live up to the standard of his play on the field. No one's perfect, and I never claimed to be close to it. I tried.

## Summer lovin'

I rarely talk about my kids' sports with others. I sit by myself, content to watch

them play without thoughts or opinions on the coaches or the referees or playing time.

Please allow me some grace, maybe just this once, to tell you about my favorite lacrosse season.

Last summer he was a rising junior, which is the first recruiting window for kids who want to play lacrosse in college.

We spent 24 days on the road in six weeks. Something like eight states up and down the Eastern Seaboard, staying in discount hotels and rentals that would make the country club crowd blush.

He produced a month of highlight reels that gave him the opportunity to spend six more weeks in the fall going through a recruiting process that was so turbulent it made the entirety of youth sports feel like a prosaic trance.

Before his first school visit this fall, he said goodbye to his lifeless grandfather in a nursing home and then drove straight to the airport with the Mother of Dragons, who rescheduled her life at the last minute to take him in my place.

After a couple of visits that didn't go the way he hoped over those six weeks, he spent a cool late-autumn Saturday on

a field outside Washington, D.C., torching two top teams filled with high-level recruits on a field surrounded by college coaches.

A short time later, on the seven-hour car ride home, came a phone call from a coach that made it all worth it to him, and he accepted an offer to play college lacrosse.

## Dream on

He later remarked that I didn't seem excited for him at the time, even though I was. The more I thought about it, I guess he was right, but it was because playing in college was always his dream. It was never mine.

My dream was just to go on the journey with him. To raise a man and not a lacrosse player.

I got to spend hundreds of hours on car rides making small talk with him. Got to lay around in who knows how many hotels watching Shark Tank and Adam Sandler movies when he was younger, and South Park now that he's older.

We spent years discovering some of the best pizza and some of the worst. We can spot a good or a bad Outback from the parking lot.

We discussed countless life lessons like loyalty, resilience, respect, accountability and, ultimately, happiness. The game you love should put a smile on your face.

He may have never heard me yelling or obnoxiously cheering from the sideline, but he put countless smiles on mine.

His journey will continue — like every kid who grows up and leaves the nest — and mine, at his side, will come to an end next summer with his final travel season.

Looking back on it all, I guess he got his dream, and I got mine.

Jon Show lives in Robbins Park with his wife, who he calls "The Mother of Dragons." Their 17-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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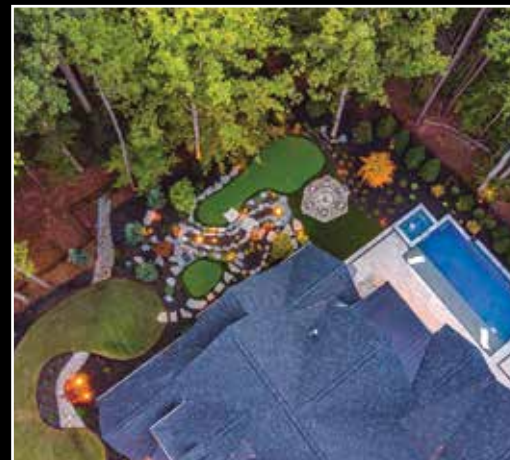
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