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Crosstown Traffic

Talking road construction with town officials.

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Milling About

Summer's last stand

BY LINDSAY MARTELL

The dog days of summer are like our five-year-old pup: a bit meandering, a little listless and all about taking things real, real slow. I've wanted to try meditation for years, but I knew it would be a herculean task to corral my scattered thoughts and settle into a place of focus and calm. It's hard to just...be. So when I came across Meditation in Motion — guided sessions that fuse gentle movements and mindfulness — it sounded like a promising way to help me feel less frazzled and more centered.

Led by a practitioner from Limitless Wellness and Neurofeedback, the informal class was held at Robbins Park on a Sunday morning. There, as I unrolled my yoga mat and tried to empty my brain of the mom noise, I allowed myself to find those pauses that elude me.

I loved the simple movements designed to reset the nervous system — things like tapping my collarbone and the space between my eyebrows. It was surprisingly soothing, and I found myself melting into the calm spaces it opened up for me. Sponsored by the Town of Cornelius, free and open to all, it was a refreshing way to start the week.

And since stillness is a forever quest, I thought I'd visit with the ultimate creatures of quiet — tortoises — at Unsheltered Tortoise and Turtle in Huntersville. Founded three years ago by a veterinary technician with a passion for shelled creatures, this mini oasis is a gem for those interested in reptiles and wildlife conservation.

It's a rehab facility for wild box turtles, a tortoise sanctuary and an education center nestled on nearly five acres. The primary species being rehabilitated is the sulcata, also known as the African spurred tortoise. These massive creatures have an average lifespan of more than 80 years and can weigh up to 200 pounds.

We fed them bright green lettuce leaves, which they ripped and chewed like herbivorous dinosaurs. Some of the residents are sponsored by their previous owners, who are currently unable to house them but hope to reunite with them someday. I was touched by this arrangement of care and compassion. It was a reminder that all creatures deserve a safe place to grow and thrive.

On a trek up north to Mount Ulla, I sought a different kind of solace at Patterson Farm, where my daughter and

Unsheltered Tortoise and Turtle in Huntersville is a rehab facility for wild box turtles and more

I hoped to pick blackberries on a morning that wasn't blazing hot.

Instead, we got caught in an epic summer storm. The rain was relentless — swirling around us as we hid out in the farm's on-site market. There, we dodged shrieking summer camp littles in matching T-shirts, and bought a huge basket of berries and peach ice cream cones.

We sat out the storm and snipped the tips of honey sticks, laughing, of course, at all the ways our plans — like the rain — sometimes go sideways.

These are my favorite parts of summer: the creatures and the comfort, and the days that become snapshots, silent and still.

The headline is from novelist Sara Baume, who wrote "This morning, the sun endures past dawn. I realize that it is August: the summer's last stand."

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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Cover photo by
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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.
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Deputy Town Manager Retiring After 38 Years

BY DAVE VIESER

When Deputy Town Manager Wayne Herron leaves Cornelius Town Hall on Aug. 31, his final day of work, he'll be bringing down the curtain on a 38-year career of service to local governments in North Carolina. By any measure, the 59-year-old Charlotte native has left an indelible impression on those who know him.

Prior to his 13 years in Cornelius, Herron spent two years at the Western Piedmont Council of Governments as a local assistance planner, 10 years in planning for the city of Boone and 11 years as planning director for the city of Monroe.

Herron was known to put in many extra hours in his position, especially in recent years as the list of major Cornelius projects continued to grow.

Not surprisingly, Herron says the challenges he has faced in Cornelius have been the most difficult, including coordination with agencies like the North Carolina Department of Transportation and the Charlotte Regional Transportation Planning Organization.

"In Boone and Monroe, I only had one major transportation project to deal with in each city," he said. "In Cornelius, we have seven at the top of the NCDOT priority list and five more waiting in the wings. The coordination with NCDOT and CRTPO on design, funding and timing is ever-changing and nebulous. I really enjoy it, though, and that is why I have remained engaged as long as I have."

Cornelius Town Manager Andrew Grant, who had the difficult job of finding a replacement for Herron, says the town and its residents will greatly miss him.

"We've really benefited from Wayne's wealth of experience and knowledge," said Grant. "His contributions to the town's planning and zoning matters and major road projects are commendable, both of which will bring value to our community for decades. He has had a storied career, and Cornelius has certainly been a major part of it."

However, it's not just his fellow workers who will miss Herron; so will many town residents. He has been the go-to



Wayne Herron and his wife Cindy just marked 35 years of marriage. "She has been my No. 1 supporter from day one," said Herron. "This job has strange hours, but she has always been there and understood the need for night meetings."

there are so many things we can now focus on together, such as exercise, attending events at the Cain Center, community choir, travel and, of course, some quality family time. I think she is going to keep me busy."

Herron said he has received some overtures regarding consulting work from municipalities, both locally and in other parts of the country, but he does not plan to relocate.

"My family enjoys the quality of life and all the wonderful people in the Lake Norman area," he said.

He also admitted to getting sentimental as his retirement nears.

"After doing this for 38 years, one can't help but get sentimental, but it is the right time," he said.

Mayor Denis Bilodeau said Herron was an incredibly important part of the town's leadership for many years, and he will be missed greatly.

"His numerous relationships and experience within the planning and transportation arena have served the town well," said Bilodeau. "I am thankful for his hard work and dedication to our community and wish him all the best in retirement."

town representative on many projects, and taxpayers came to respect his dedication and availability.

"NCDOT plans to do some major work near the entrance to our homes," said Linda Daley, who lives in the Lake Crest community near Knox Road. "Wayne was more than willing to meet with our citizens at a time of our choice and explain how this project could impact them. We were very impressed with that."

Herron started his studies at Appalachian State University playing the French horn as a music major, but quickly shifted to planning and business.

"That's when I realized that I wanted to serve people in some fashion," he said. "I also had a love for the study of how places developed, so I put the two

together to become a local government employee."

On a personal level, Herron and his wife, Cindy, who live in Cowans Ford on the west side of Lake Norman, just marked 35 years of marriage.

"She has been my No. 1 supporter from day one," said Herron. "This job has strange hours, but she has always been there and understood the need for night meetings."

They have one daughter, Madeline, 30, who works as a children's librarian at the Huntersville branch of Charlotte Mecklenburg Library. Cindy is a retired public school teacher.

So how does his wife feel about soon having him around the house on a regular basis?

"Cindy is actually quite happy about my retirement," said Herron. "She says



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State roads, funding delays complicate traffic fixes

BY MARK WASHBURN

Construction of road projects aimed at easing traffic in Cornelius is underway, but delays in the start of those and other projects largely stem from the North Carolina Department of Transportation's inability to fund every approved project at once.

Another challenge: Nearly all of the most congested routes in Cornelius are state roads, meaning the town cannot undertake improvements to those roads or traffic signals without state involvement.

Two Cornelius leaders outlined the challenges during a Cornelius Today Newsmakers Breakfast titled "Roads & Traffic," hosted at The Peninsula Club



Osborne



Herron

in July.

"When the state DOT is doing the construction, we're on their schedule," said Michael Osborne, mayor pro tem and the town's representative on the Charlotte Regional Transportation Planning Organization.

Ten to 15 years often elapses between a project's planning and completion, said Wayne Herron, deputy town man-

ager and liaison between the town and NCDOT.

The town consistently pushes for faster timelines, but the state's definition of "near-term" often differs greatly from the public's expectations.

"Our town board wants something done now," Herron said. "And DOT is like, 'Oh, that's coming in 2031, which to them is just around the corner.'"

Road projects are expensive, and the state's transportation budget is limited and doesn't cover the full list of approved projects, Herron said.

One way to accelerate projects is to add local funding to NCDOT projects. Cornelius plans to spend about \$45 million to help advance \$450 million worth of projects approved by NCDOT.

Nearly \$5 million has been secured to study a potential Exit 27 off Interstate 77 at Westmoreland Road. The new exit is not currently on the state's project list because of its estimated \$100 million cost, but Osborne said he believes the project could advance because right-of-way acquisition costs are expected to be lower than originally estimated.

Diverging diamond

The diverging diamond interchange over Interstate 77 has delivered on its safety goals, Herron said, resulting in a 67% reduction in crashes at the Catawba Avenue/I-77 interchange, with injury crashes falling 91%. He said the bridge carries about 78,000 vehicles on

Continued on **PAGE 9**

Continued from **PAGE 8**

a typical weekday.

Even so, the interchange remains a frustration for tens of thousands of motorists. The design has been implemented elsewhere since it was introduced in 2014, but Cornelius' interchange remains the smallest in the nation, constrained by the state's decision not to widen the bridge over Interstate 77.

The diverging diamond and associated roundabouts were initially approved as a single project, Herron said, but the state split construction into multiple phases, extending the timeline for traffic improvements.

Osborne said he expects traffic flow to improve once the roundabouts are operational. Traffic signals along West Catawba Avenue also will be adjusted following the state's scheduled retiming this fall, which should further improve traffic flow, he said.

West Catawba Avenue

The widening of West Catawba Avenue has been delayed for years because of state funding issues and longer-than-expected right-of-way acquisition, Osborne said.



Full house for the July Newsmakers Breakfast / Cornelius Today Photo

Construction was originally scheduled to begin in 2018 and is now scheduled to begin in 2028, according to NCDOT's website.

Bailey Road

Bailey Road on the east side of Cornelius poses another challenge because sections are owned by either the town or the state.

Traffic routinely backs up along the road during student pickup and dropoff at Hough High School and Bailey Middle School. School buses also delay traffic because they must stop at the railroad crossing.

Osborne said the town is working with Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools on possible solutions, but any solution must be coordinated with NCDOT, CMS and the town. Conflicting state and school district regulations governing traffic queues have complicated those efforts.

The Charlotte Regional Transportation Planning Organization board approved \$64,000 for a study beginning this summer to improve traffic flow at the N.C. 115 intersection.

Up next

Newsmakers Breakfasts are attended by hundreds of local business executives, elected officials and residents.

Previous speakers this year have included elected officials, small-business owners and transportation officials discussing issues considered important to Cornelius residents.

The next event, on Sept. 17, will focus on the new Downtown Master Plan.

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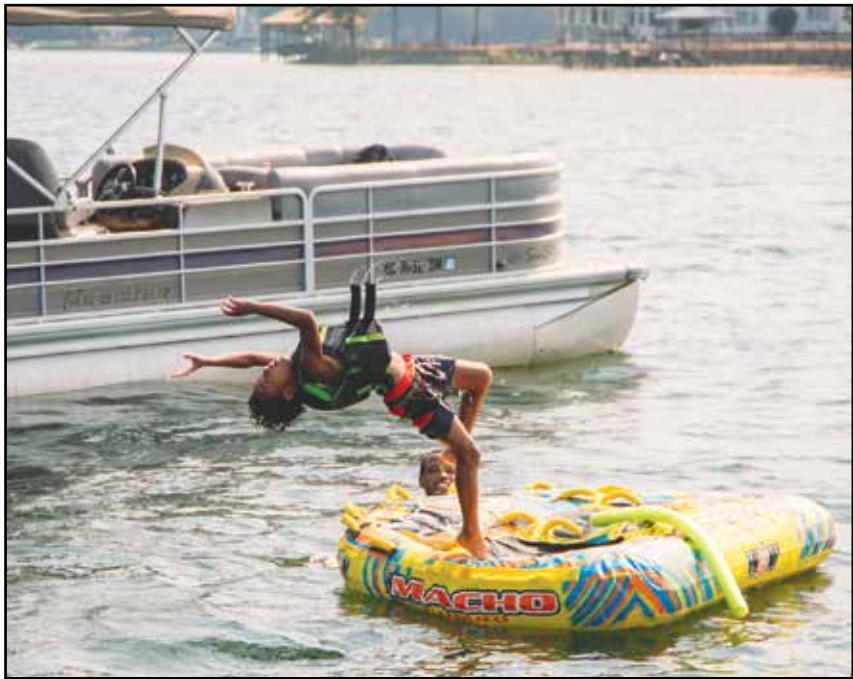
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Big Day at the Lake 2026

Big Day at the Lake marked its 22nd annual event on July 18, hosting Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Central Carolinas for a day of boating, swimming, fishing and community connection on Lake Norman.

The event provided nearly 100 children, known as "Littles," and their mentors, known as "Bigs," the opportunity to experience activities on the lake hosted by local families serving as "Boat Hosts."

Big Day at the Lake was founded by Cornelius residents Tracy and Dave Yochum. The event raised more than \$100,000 this year and more than \$2 million for Big Brothers Big Sisters since it began.

The day concluded with a picnic attended by about 350 people, including boat hosts, Bigs, Littles, volunteers and sponsors. The celebration included food, games, a water slide and music donated by local vendors.



The annual event relies on support from sponsors, volunteers and the local community. More than 75 volunteers from area businesses and organizations provide fundraising and volunteer assistance throughout the year, while dozens of sponsors provide monetary and in-kind donations.

Photos by Jon Show and Harris Jeter



Voices

Opinion: Show up, speak up and be heard

BY TODD SANSBURY

Before I was elected to the Cornelius Town Board, I often complained about local government, so my neighbor, David Hansen, challenged me to stop bellyaching and run for local office.

I was honored to win the election and quickly learned I was grossly uninformed. The municipal services provided by the town of Cornelius are delivered in an organized and fiscally responsible manner, which was much different from my pre-election rants about arbitrary decisions and clueless elected officials.



Sansbury

Town staff are experienced, intelligent and approach the town as they would any business. Staff provides direction and recommendations, while the town board casts the deciding votes.

Keyboard warriors often complain that decisions are made in a vacuum or influenced by some mysterious "bag of cash" from developers. Quite the opposite. Decisions are made based on countless hours of research, vetting each scenario, considering impacts on residents and budgets, and ultimately moving forward in the most pragmatic and productive manner.

Sphere of influence

Many people don't realize that town and county governments can exercise only the powers granted by the North Carolina General Assembly.

Local governments do not have broad authority on many issues. For example, they cannot legally impose impact fees on developers without authorization from the state.

The town's sphere of influence is mostly limited to public safety, parks and recreation, local infrastructure, land use and, to some extent, economic development. Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools has authority over public schools, Charlotte Water manages water and sewer services, and the North Carolina Department of Transportation controls nearly every major road in Cornelius.

Every service in our town — whether public safety, preservation of green space, or the transition to a full-time fire department, all highly popular issues with voters — must be funded. With voters demanding reduced residential growth, that burden must often fall on citizens.

Willing to listen

The commissioners I served with are hardworking, intelligent and caring individuals. They have families and work in the area, their children attend local schools, and they sit in the same traffic and experience the same congestion.

They are available to meet with any resident about any topic, and they make decisions based on what they believe is the best outcome for the town. If you ever have questions or need insight into any town-related topic, I encourage you to reach out to town staff or elected officials and seek clarity before repeating false rhetoric.

I also encourage you to attend town meetings, which are open to the public. Citizen input has tremendous influence on outcomes.

Step up and serve

Representing the town of Cornelius was the privilege of a lifetime. The hours are long, praise is nonexistent, insults and complaints are frequent, and nearly every decision angers someone.

But you learn to navigate the challenges, improve your technique and avoid hurting others. Your elected officials are ordinary citizens who placed themselves in an uncomfortable position because they were willing to step up and represent their community.

Campaigning and running for office are exhausting and expensive, especially while maintaining a full-time career, which applies to most local candidates. I encourage you to be willing to step up and put yourself in that awkward, uncomfortable and visible position.

As Theodore Roosevelt is often quoted as saying, "In any moment of decision, the best thing to do is the right thing. The worst thing to do is nothing."

Todd Sansbury served three terms on the Cornelius Town Board before stepping down in June because of a career-related relocation.

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Hough Chasing Back-to-Back State Titles

BY RYAN MOXON

In his postgame press conference following Hough's first-ever state championship in football last season, Hough head coach DeShawn Baker reflected on his first state championship as a head coach.

"It gives you the taste that you want to be back," he said with a smile.

This season, Baker will look out at a Huskies team that is very different from the undefeated, senior-laden state championship roster of a season ago.

Graduated are four members of an offensive line that was so dominant the offense averaged nearly 15 yards per completion and 130 rushing yards per game last season. Four of the team's top five receivers also graduated.

On the defensive side of the ball, Baker rattles off so many names that he loses track of who has graduated, but it includes much of the defensive line and secondary, among them star cornerback Samari Matthews, who will suit up for the University of Texas this fall.

So how do the Huskies enter the



Hough quarterback, Ethan Royal (1) / Photo by Max Gallagher

ing Josh Dobson, Davion Jones and Sincere Daye in the defensive secondary. On the offensive line, the additions of Moreno Fisher and Nori White should help the Huskies maintain the massive size advantage they had last season.

Front-loaded schedule

The Huskies' 10-game regular-season schedule includes matchups against five teams ranked in the top 20 in their respective states and four ranked in the top 10, including No. 1 Northwestern (S.C.), No. 3 Providence Day, No. 6 Cardinal Gibbons, No. 10 Myers Park and No. 16 Mooresville.

On paper, Hough will open with its three toughest games. Baker credits the adversity the team faced against skilled teams early last season with helping pave the way for a dominant finish.

"We just want to come out and challenge ourselves and make sure that we are prepared for later in the season," Baker said. "I think that helped us a lot last year, playing tough games early and being down, having to come back, having to execute and having each other's backs. I think that goes a long way."

Hough has posted a 70-9 record over the last six seasons, including a 28-2 mark over the last two. The last time the Huskies lost a regular-season game was a 45-44 defeat to Northwestern on Aug. 23, 2024, a team they open the season against.

"We're just keeping our heads down at work," Baker said during summer workouts. "We still have a long way to go. We have the talent. We just have to make sure it all adds up and gels together."

Trending upward

Baker is hoping to buck a trend in Charlotte-area football, where the mantle of the dominant program has shifted over the last 30 years from Independence to Butler, then Mallard Creek, Chambers and now Hough.

He said focusing on connecting with his players, rather than simply hoisting trophies, is how he hopes to sustain more long-term success.

"I want to win as much as the next coach, and yes, I want to win the state championship this year," he said. "But for me, it's bigger than football."

"We want to continue to have kids mature in school and get a good education in college. A lot of kids don't get a lot of nurturing and love at home, and I want to make sure that this program is a fun, loving place with a family atmosphere."

preseason ranked as the top team in the state and among the top 40 nationally in most major polls?

"It always helps to get your state championship game MVP, offensive MVP and defensive MVP coming back," Baker said, referring to senior quarterback Ethan Royal, junior running back Jamarion Morrison and junior linebacker Ryan Peterson.

Morrison was the team's leading running back a season ago, while Peterson joins senior safety Jackson Heath as the team's two top returning tacklers.

Royal accounted for the most combined passing and rushing yards in Class 8A, throwing for 29 touchdowns and rushing for 14 more.

Baker hopes Royal will build on his success from a season ago without feeling the added pressure of carrying a less-experienced team.

"I expect for him to keep playing his game and not feel like he has to put the weight of the team on his shoulders," he said. "We're not putting pressure on him. We want him to be him. To be free and loose."

Baker also expects big things in the passing game from two returning wide receivers — senior Jahmere Anderson and sophomore Mason Pearsall-Brown.

Another boon to the roster is the arrival of several high-profile players who moved into the Hough district, includ-

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Downtown master plan approved

The Cornelius Board of Commissioners unanimously adopted the town's downtown master plan, establishing a long-term vision for approximately 220 acres in the town center.

The plan provides guidance for future redevelopment, transportation, public spaces and land use but does not change existing zoning.

Officials described it as a living document that will continue to evolve as redevelopment occurs.

Starlight Bakery opens storefront

Starlight Bakery has opened on Catawba Avenue, bringing naturally fermented sourdough bread and oversized stuffed cookies to downtown Cornelius.

Owner Raven James turned a longtime passion for baking into a business after selling from her home and at farmers markets.

The bakery specializes in traditional and flavored sourdough loaves, sandwich bread, sourdough discard muffins and specialty stuffed cookies, with an emphasis on small-batch quality over a large menu.

Planning Board backs Cornelius Inn

The Cornelius Planning Board voted 5-3 to recommend approval of the proposed Cornelius Inn, a 40-room hotel planned for 6.3 acres at the intersection of N.C. 73 and Mayes Road. The proposal includes seven cottages, a spa and a clubhouse.

The request now moves to the Town Board for a final decision. The public hearing is August 17.

The Planning Board also recommended denying a request to rezone property on Westmoreland Road for highway commercial use, instead supporting Neighborhood Mixed Use zoning.



“Save Our Trees” signs posted on the Alexander Farms property

Alexander Farms: Trees, tenant house

River Rock Development is redesigning the public gathering space surrounding the historic tenant house at Alexander Farms after receiving approval to relocate the structure to Huntersville.

Town officials said the revised plan must preserve as many mature trees as possible while reimagining the corner property.

The relocation of the home has been delayed because of a contractor health issue.

New Mixed-Use Building

A new 10,773-square-foot, three-story mixed-use building called The Refinery is planned at 19711 Bethel Church Road on a vacant lot near the intersection of West Catawba Avenue.

The Refinery is part of the Cornelius Village Center development approved in 1999. The lot is zoned Village Center, which is intended for mixed-use development, and is surrounded by commercial buildings.

According to the site plan submitted to the town, the first two floors will contain commercial space with a mix of medical spa services. The third floor will contain three residential units.

Pure Olive opens downtown

Pure Olive has opened on Catawba Avenue in downtown Cornelius, offering premium extra virgin olive oils, aged balsamic vinegars and gourmet pantry items. Owner Elsa Lekovic spent more than a year building the business through pop-up markets before opening a permanent storefront.

The shop features olive oils from small producers in Spain and Portugal, balsamic vinegars from Italy and a variety of locally made products. Lekovic also plans to host tastings, cooking demonstrations and workshops, including collaborations with neighboring Starlight Bakery.

Record home sale set in Cornelius

A waterfront estate on Regatta Island Drive has set a new record for the highest residential sale in Cornelius. The home sold for \$15.25 million, surpassing the previous record of \$11.5 million set in 2024. The six-bedroom estate spans more than 12,000 square feet on approximately three acres.

Ace Hardware postal counter closes

The U.S. Postal Service has permanently closed its Contract Postal Unit inside Ace Hardware on North Main Street after more than a decade of operation. Customers seeking postal services now must use the Cornelius Post Office or the Davidson Post Office.



1126 Concord Road, Davidson | \$2,200,000

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17626 Spinnakers Reach Drive, Cornelius | \$1,750,000

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DAVIDSON | \$1,650,000
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\$15,250,000 | 20221 Regatta Island Drive, Cornelius

HOME SALES

Cornelius

6/24/26, \$450,000, 19531 Denae Lynn Dr, 4BR/3BA, Heritage Green, 2,020 sq ft, built 2006

6/24/26, \$269,000, 16809 Doe Valley Ct, 2BR/2BA, Alexander Chase, 1,137 sq ft, built 2002

6/25/26, \$1,190,000, 18421 Doves Crest Rd, 5BR/4.5BA, Beverly, 4,000 sq ft, built 2019

6/25/26, \$675,000, 18413 Neville Ave, 3BR/2BA, Baileys Glen, 2,026 sq ft, built 2015

6/25/26, \$1,735,000, 18823 Peninsula Cove Ln, 4BR/4.5BA, The Peninsula, 4,222 sq ft, built 2000

6/25/26, \$950,000, 21016 Molly Harper Dr, 4BR/3BA, Baileys Glen, 3,615 sq ft, built 2021



\$7,000,000 | 16439 Jetton Road, Cornelius

6/25/26, \$450,000, 1123 Inn Keepers Way, 3BR/2.5BA, Antiquity, 1,801 sq ft, built 2012

6/29/26, \$1,530,000, 12016 Cambridge Square Dr, 5BR/4BA, Cambridge Square, 3,845 sq ft, built 2022

6/29/26, \$485,000, 10724 Trolley Run Dr, 4BR/3.5BA, Caldwell Station, 2,257 sq ft, built 2007

6/29/26, \$410,000, 18709 Nautical Dr #305, 2BR/2BA, Admirals Quarters, 940 sq ft, built 1986

6/29/26, \$360,000, 9648 Bailey Rd, 3BR/3BA, Oakhurst, 1,836 sq ft, built 2000

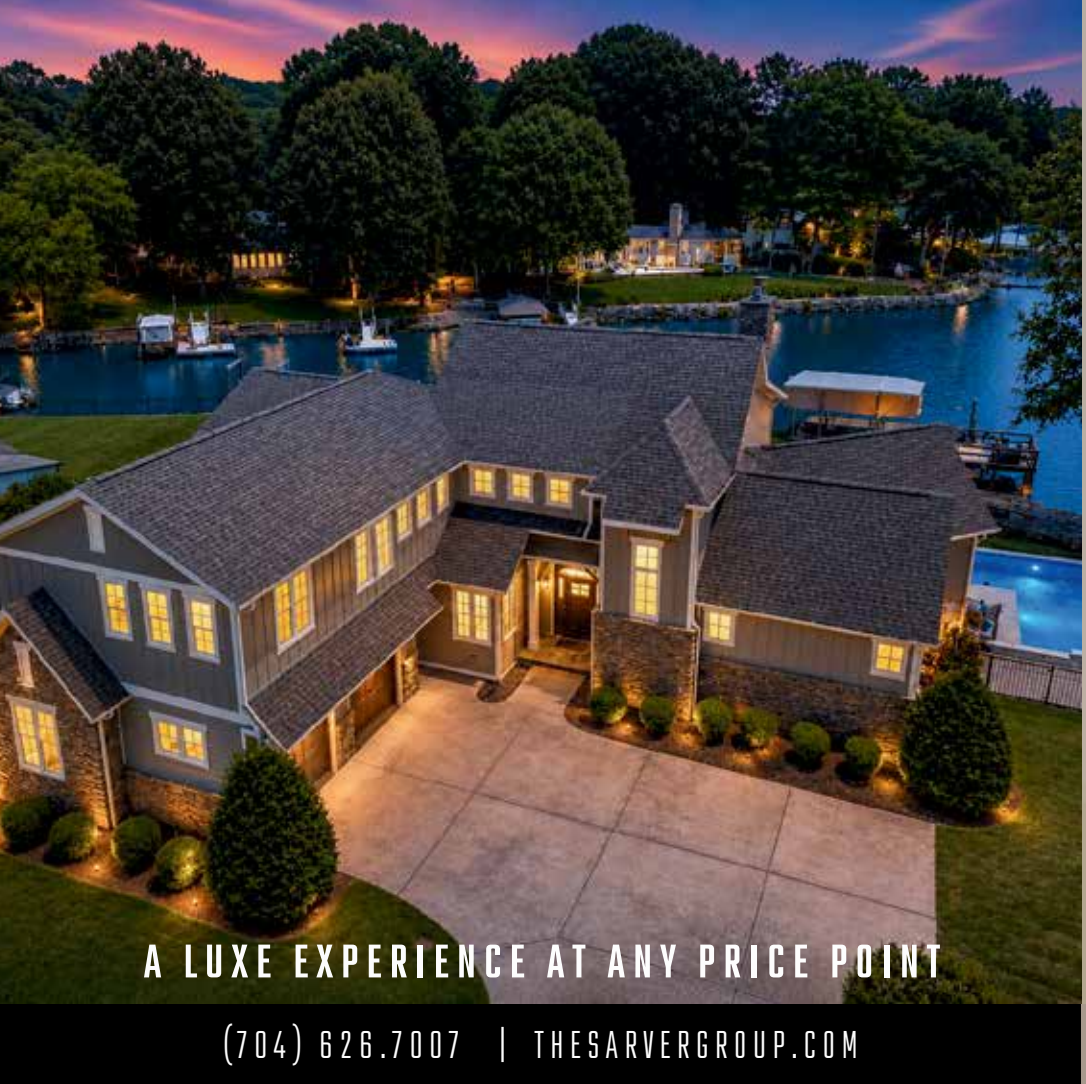
6/30/26, \$749,000, 19138 Brookgreen Garden Pl, 4BR/3.5BA, Magnolia Estates, 2,846 sq ft, built 1992

6/30/26, \$647,000, 1212 Inn Keepers Way, 3BR/2.5BA, Antiquity, 2,083 sq ft, built 2014

6/30/26, \$700,000, 19147 Brookgreen Garden Pl, 5BR/3.5BA, Magnolia Estates, 3,261 sq ft, built 1989

6/30/26, \$6,000,000, 18394 Nantz Rd, 6BR/7.5BA, Cornelius, 10,320 sq ft, built 2007

6/30/26, \$365,000, 972 Gardners Way, 2BR/2.5BA, Antiquity, 1,186 sq ft, built 2008



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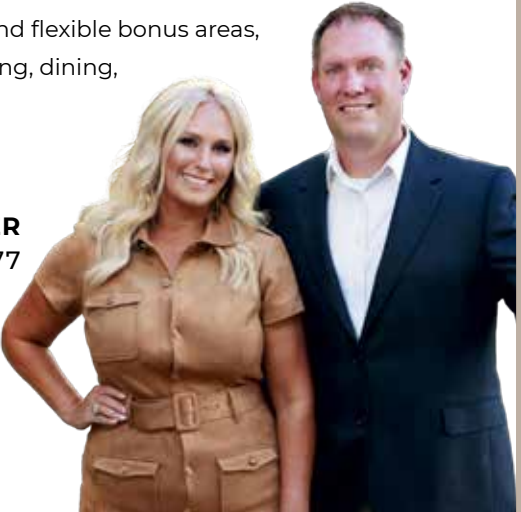
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6/30/26, \$1,760,000, 20337 Norman Colony Rd, 3BR/3BA, Norman Colony, 2,801 sq ft, built 1971

6/30/26, \$3,055,000, 16318 Belle Isle Dr, 3BR/3.5BA, Cornelius, 4,148 sq ft, built 1972

7/2/26, \$512,000, 19812 Madison Village Dr, 3BR/2.5BA, Madison Village, 1,625 sq ft, built 1998

7/6/26, \$1,200,000, 20101 Coachmans Wood Ln, 6BR/5BA, Weatherstone Manor, 4,853 sq ft, built 2003

6/30/26, \$315,000, 10430 Trolley Run Dr, 4BR/2.5BA, Caldwell Station, 1,488 sq ft, built 2006

7/1/26, \$345,000, 16209 Peachmont Dr, 3BR/3BA, Oakhurst, 1,919 sq ft, built 2001

7/2/26, \$735,000, 20131 Tailwind Ln, 4BR/2.5BA, Sawyers Landing, 2,663 sq ft, built 1998

7/6/26, \$300,000, 19830 Oak Leaf Cir, 2BR/2BA, Twin Oaks, 1,528 sq ft, built 1995

6/30/26, \$7,000,000, 16439 Jetton Rd, 7BR/5.5BA, Cornelius, 8,048 sq ft, built 2000

7/2/26, \$1,500,000, 17732 Jetton Green Loop, 4BR/3.5BA, Jetton Place, 3,415 sq ft, built 2019

7/2/26, \$525,000, 21012 Entrada Dr, 3BR/2BA, Bahia Bay, 1,502 sq ft, built 2000

7/7/26, \$4,590,000, 18408 Harbor Light Blvd, 5BR/6.5BA, The Peninsula, 6,013 sq ft, built 1996

7/8/26, \$344,700, 17730 Delmas Dr, 2BR/2.5BA, Oakhurst, 1,420 sq ft, built 2001

7/8/26, \$490,000, 17815 Steel Horse Rd, 4BR/3.5BA, Caldwell Station, 2,388 sq ft, built 2006

7/9/26, \$576,000, 18840 Nautical Dr #72, 3BR/2BA, Admirals Quarters, 1,367 sq ft, built 1999

7/9/26, \$975,000, 20106 Dowry Ct, 5BR/4.5BA, Antiquity, 3,438 sq ft, built 2014

7/10/26, \$710,000, 12409 Cranberry Glades Dr, 5BR/3BA, Avery Park, 3,192 sq ft, built 2017

7/14/26, \$490,000, 19917 Marina Village Dr, 3BR/2.5BA, Victoria Bay, 1,681 sq ft, built 2004

7/14/26, \$1,825,000, 20609 Queensdale Dr, 4BR/4.5BA, Wrights Emerald Cove, 4,589 sq ft, built 2007

7/15/26, \$1,000,000, 21425 Crown Lake Dr, 4BR/4.5BA, Crown Harbor, 4,168 sq ft, built 2002

7/15/26, \$15,250,000, 20221 Regatta Island Dr, 6BR/7.5BA, Pointe Regatta, 12,471 sq ft, built 2024

7/15/26, \$930,000, 17206 Players Ridge Dr, 4BR/3.5BA, The Peninsula, 2,713 sq ft, built 1994

7/16/26, \$375,000, 18009 Kings Point Dr, 2BR/2BA, Kings Point, 1,096 sq ft, built 1992

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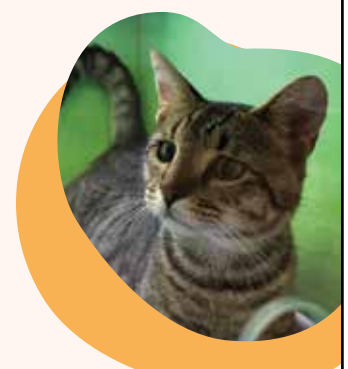
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7/16/26, \$685,000, 1110 South St, 4BR/3.5BA, Antiquity, 2,581 sq ft, built 2007

7/17/26, \$3,575,000, 20114 Norman Colony Rd, 6BR/6.5BA, Norman Colony, 7,246 sq ft, built 2025

7/20/26, \$600,000, 7912 Village Harbor Dr, 3BR/2.5BA, Villages at Harbor side, 2,141 sq ft, built 1999

6/25/26, \$1,850,000, 709 N Main St, 5BR/5.5BA, Historic District, 4,537 sq ft, built 1926

7/16/26, \$520,000, 12811 Hazelbrook Ln, 3BR/2BA, Baileys Glen, 1,762 sq ft, built 2016

7/20/26, \$885,000, 21903 Riddles Ct, 4BR/3.5BA, Antiquity, 2,789 sq ft, built 2010

7/21/26, \$1,175,000, 18726 Bluff Point Rd, 4BR/2BA, Bluff Point, 1,891 sq ft, built 1987

6/25/26, \$626,900, 417 Delburg Mill Aly, 3BR/3.5BA, Davidson Cottages, 1,830 sq ft, built 2026

7/17/26, \$505,000, 10732 Trolley Run Dr, 4BR/3.5BA, Caldwell Station, 2,515 sq ft, built 2008

7/20/26, \$997,000, 16615 Redding Park Ln, 4BR/3BA, Robbins Park, 3,071 sq ft, built 2012

7/21/26, \$3,000,000, 20320 Havenview Dr, 5BR/6BA, Cornelius, 5,926 sq ft, built 2023

6/30/26, \$525,000, 714 Northeast Dr #52, 3BR/2BA, Spinnaker Reach, 1,373 sq ft, built 1999

7/22/26, \$430,000, 18735 Ramsey Cove Dr, 3BR/2.5BA, Harborside, 1,723 sq ft, built 1998

6/30/26, \$1,575,000, 612 Walnut St, 5BR/4.5BA, Davidson Springs, 3,169 sq ft, built 2026

7/1/26, \$2,010,000, 18502 Green Knoll Trce, 5BR/5BA, River Run, 6,296 sq ft, built 2005

7/2/26, \$985,000, 170 Clemens Pl, 4BR/2.5BA, New Neighborhood/Old Davidson, 3,068 sq ft, built 2004

7/6/26, \$711,000, 1989 Topaz Plz, 6BR/4.5BA, Waterford on the Rocky River, 4,558 sq ft, built 2018

7/9/26, \$475,000, 424 Catawba Ave, 3BR/3BA, Parkside Commons, 1,972 sq ft, built 2024

7/9/26, \$555,000, 13603 Helen Benson Blvd, 4BR/3.5BA, Summers Walk, 2,727 sq ft, built 2011

7/10/26, \$894,000, 20039 Verlaine Dr, 5BR/3.5BA, Bradford, 3,964 sq ft, built 2005

7/10/26, \$1,187,500, 138 Woodland St, 3BR/2BA, Davidson, 2,176 sq ft, built 1921

7/10/26, \$302,500, 772 Cotton Gin Aly, 2BR/2.5BA, Condos In South Main Square, 1,202 sq ft, built 2008

7/10/26, \$614,900, 433 Delburg Mill Aly, 3BR/3.5BA, Davidson Cottages, 1,830 sq ft, built 2025

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6/24/26, \$250,000, 10372 Singletree Ln #21, 3BR/2BA, Frazier Acres, 1,610 sq ft, built 1997

6/24/26, \$1,490,001, 18616 Maplecroft Lake Ln, 5BR/3.5BA, River Run, 3,811 sq ft, built 1993

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Visit 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.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 1

Lost Worlds Brewing | 5 p.m. — Retro Road Band — (Rock) — Free

760 Craft Works | 6:30 p.m. — Brian English — (Acoustic) — Free

Torrence & Knox | 7 p.m. — Dirt Truck Beer — (Country) — Free

Harp & Crown | 7-10 p.m. — Pluto for Planet — (Acoustic Duo) — Free

Royal Bliss | 7-10 p.m. — Scandal — (Rock) — Free

★ **Boatyard LKN** | 8 p.m. — Rattle & Hum — (U2 Tribute) — Paid

Rudder & Rose | 10 p.m. — Four Warned — (Pop) — Free

SUNDAY, AUGUST 2

The Serve Pickleball + Kitchen | 10 a.m. — Mike Hagar — (Rock) — Free

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5

Peninsula Prime | 6 p.m. — Ephraim Sommers — (Acoustic) — Free

THURSDAY, AUGUST 6

The Serve Pickleball + Kitchen | 6 p.m. — John Sullivan — (Rock) — Free

FRIDAY, AUGUST 7

Torrence & Knox | 7 p.m. — Kristy Scheirer — (Acoustic) — Free

Harp & Crown | 7-10 p.m. — Union Groove — (Classic Rock) — Free

Royal Bliss | 7-10 p.m. — Bailey Marie — (Country) — Free

H2 Public House | 7 p.m. — Little Johnny Trailer Trash — (Rock) — Free

★ **Boatyard LKN** | 8 p.m. — Red Not Chili Peppers — (Tribute) — Paid

SATURDAY, AUGUST 8

Primal Brewery | 5 p.m. — Grateful Dudes — (Tribute) — Free

Lost Worlds Brewing | 6 p.m. — FlipSide — (Rock) — Free

760 Craft Works | 6:30 p.m. — Dugi B & Burl — (Acoustic) — Free

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

★ **Boatyard LKN** | 8 p.m. — Thomas Road Band with Bailey Marie — (Country) — Paid

Rudder & Rose | 10 p.m. — Wild Canyon — (Country) — Free

SUNDAY, AUGUST 9

The Serve Pickleball + Kitchen | 10 a.m. — Acoustic Solutions — (Jazz) — Free



Friday, August 21 | A1A Jimmy Buffett Tribute Show

A show full of energy, fun, excitement, authenticity, musicianship, originality, and continuous honest dedication to preserving Jimmy Buffett's legacy. Boatyard LKN, 8 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12

Peninsula Prime | 6 p.m. — Daniel Smith — (Acoustic) — Free

THURSDAY, AUGUST 13

760 Craft Works | 7 p.m. — Jared Evans — (Acoustic) — Free

FRIDAY, AUGUST 14

Lost Worlds Brewing | 6 p.m. — Sarah Vieira — (Pop) — Free

H2 Public House | 6:30 p.m. — Jared Evans — (Rock) — Free

Torrence & Knox | 7 p.m. — Erin Maynor — (Acoustic) — Free

Royal Bliss | 7-10 p.m. — This Year's Model — (Pop/Rock) — Free

★ **Boatyard LKN** | 8 p.m. — Completely Unchained — (Van Halen Tribute) — Paid

SATURDAY, AUGUST 15

760 Craft Works | 6:30 p.m. — John David Tice — (Acoustic) — Free

★ **Boatyard LKN** | 8 p.m. — The Ledbetters — (Pearl Jam Tribute) — Paid

Rudder & Rose | 10 p.m. — Throwdown Jones — (Rock) — Free

SUNDAY, AUGUST 16

The Serve Pickleball + Kitchen | 10 a.m. — Acoustic Solutions — (Jazz) — Free

Harp & Crown | 6-8 p.m. — Irish Session — (Traditional Irish Music) — Free

MONDAY, AUGUST 17

Harp & Crown | 6-9 p.m. — What the Funk — (Funk) — Free

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 19

Peninsula Prime | 6 p.m. — Late Night Special Duo — (Acoustic) — Free

FRIDAY, AUGUST 21

760 Craft Works | 6:30 p.m. — Heidi Sidelinker — (Acoustic Indie/Rock) — Free

Harp & Crown | 7-10 p.m. — Travis Grubb — (Rock) — Free

Royal Bliss | 7-10 p.m. — Neal Carter — (Americana) — Free

H2 Public House | 7 p.m. — John Sullivan — (Rock) — Free

Primal Brewery | 7 p.m. — Next Stop Comedy — (Comedy Show) — Paid

Cain Center for the Arts | 7:30 p.m. — Are You Ready For It — (Taylor Swift Tribute) — Paid

Lost Worlds Brewing | 7:30 p.m. — John Waite — (Rock) — Paid

★ **Boatyard LKN** | 8 p.m. — A1A – Jimmy Buffett Tribute Show — (Tribute) — Paid

SATURDAY, AUGUST 22

Primal Brewery | 5 p.m. — Crystal Fountains — (Bluegrass) — Free

Lost Worlds Brewing | 6 p.m. — Kristen Toole — (Country) — Free

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

★ **Boatyard LKN** | 8 p.m. — 80z Nation — (80s Tribute) — Paid

Rudder & Rose | 10 p.m. — Hot Pocket — (R&B) — Free

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26

Peninsula Prime | 6 p.m. — Justin Mintun Duo — (Acoustic) — Free

THURSDAY, AUGUST 27

The Serve Pickleball + Kitchen | 6 p.m. — Acoustic Solutions — (Jazz) — Free

Cain Center for the Arts | 7 p.m. — Charlotte Jesters — (Comedy) — Free

FRIDAY, AUGUST 28

760 Craft Works | 6:30 p.m. — Mike Rajewski — (Acoustic) — Free

Harp & Crown | 7-10 p.m. — Ben Gaitlin — (Rock) — Free

★ **Boatyard LKN** | 8 p.m. — Legends of New Country: Wallen & Wilson — (Tribute) — Paid

Rudder & Rose | 10 p.m. — Off The Record — (Pop) — Free

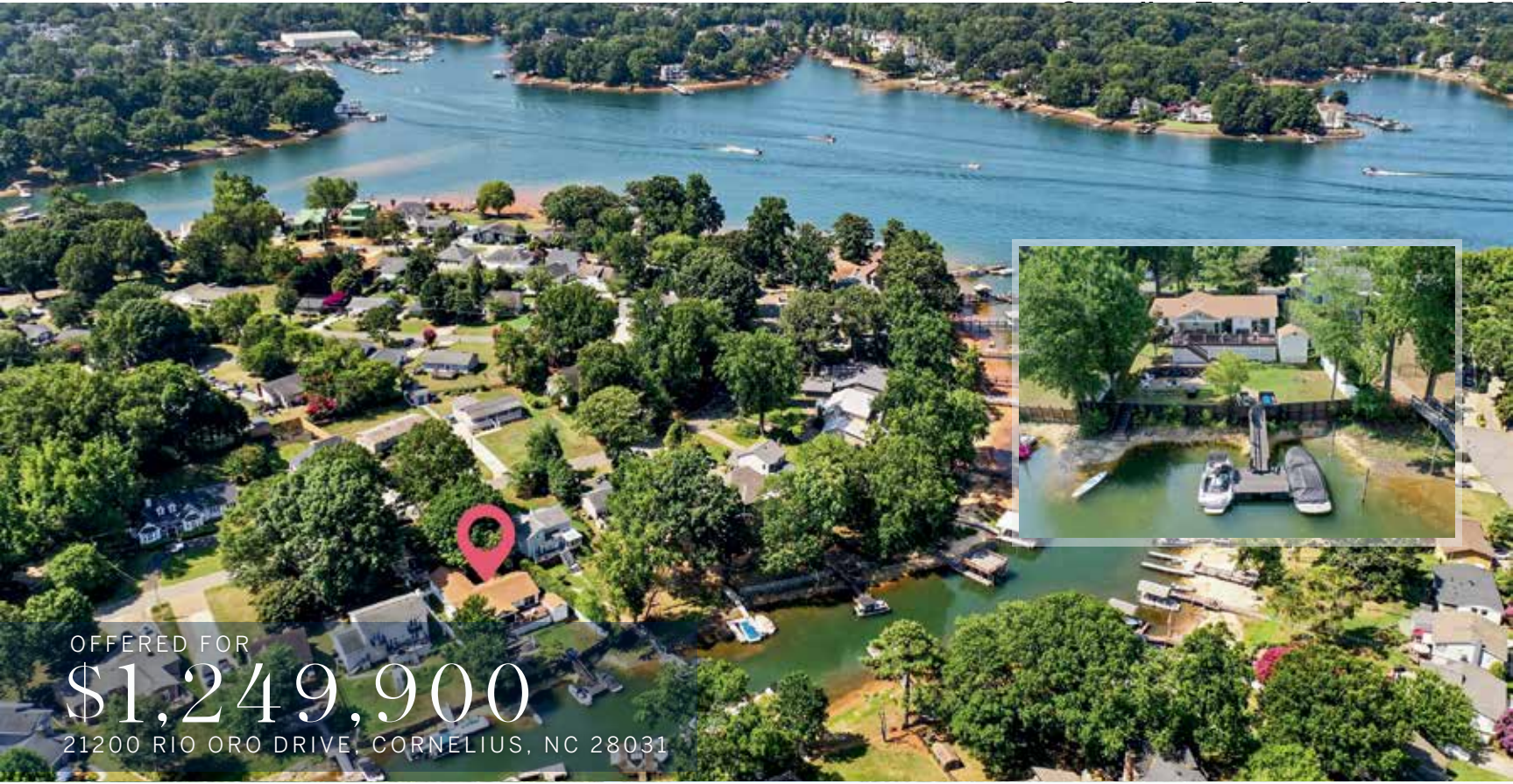
SATURDAY, AUGUST 29

Lost Worlds Brewing | 5 p.m. — Lake Norman Bluegrass — (Bluegrass) — Free

Royal Bliss | 7-10 p.m. — Josey Wails Band — (Blues / Rock) — Free

Cain Center for the Arts | 8 p.m. — Stand-Up For Good — (Comedy) — Free

★ **Boatyard LKN** | 8 p.m. — Unknown Artist with This Year's Model — (Modern Rock) — Paid





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Bagel Shop Brings a Taste of Brooklyn to Cornelius

BY JON SHOW

Hunter's Bagels opens this month in Cornelius from a brother-in-law duo familiar with a common refrain from Northeastern transplants now living in the Lake Norman area.

"They don't know how to make bagels down here."

Well, Hunter's Bagels are made from co-owner Brandon Kurz's 60-year-old family recipe that traces its roots to a Brooklyn kitchen.

Co-owner Andrew Roth was raised by parents who operated a bagel shop for nearly two decades, and the duo invested six figures in bagel-making equipment, including an Empire oven about the size of a stand-up shower designed to produce a chewy bagel with a crispy shell.

"Everyone microwaves the eggs for the breakfast sandwiches."

Nope. There is no microwave on the premises, and everything is made from scratch.

"Yous don't have the right worter down here."

Not much anyone can do about that.

The South Florida transplants with New York roots relocated to North Carolina this year after Kurz sold his custom golf cart dealership and set their sights on starting a small family business in the Lake Norman area.

After a few months of tossing around ideas such as a bar and grill or a deli, they settled on a bagel shop.



Hunter's Bagels owners Andrew Roth and Brandon Kurz / Jon Show Photo

"I went to a lot of the bagel places," Kurz said. "I looked at Andrew and said, 'They don't have a good bagel here.' We said, 'Let's open a bagel store.'"

Hunter's Bagels is located in the former Coffee Republic & Bakery space on West Catawba Avenue. The entire space has been fully renovated, and Kurz's mother handled the interior design, helping create the warm, lodge-inspired atmosphere that sets the shop apart

from a traditional bagel store or deli.

The menu features breakfast and lunch sandwiches, wraps and salads, but the focus is on producing fresh bagels in a kitchen designed to deliver a consistent product at any time of day.

"We invested the money into making sure that the bagel, no matter if you come in once a month or every single day or a year from now because you're on vacation, you're getting the same

product," Kurz said.

The store is named for Kurz's one-year-old son, Hunter. Deer antlers in the logo and menu items with names such as the Hunter, Buck and Doe follow the outdoor design aesthetic.

Kurz believes in the product enough to put his son's name on the sign out front.

"If I'm putting our names on something, it needs to be honest," Kurz said.

A focus on a quality finished product, elevated customer service — and even the lack of laptop power outlets — is intended to recreate the feel of an old-school deli and bakery, with the owners slathering schmears alongside their employees.

"I know customer service, and I know how to make people feel welcome," said Roth, who has spent his entire career in the hospitality business. "You have to make every guest happy. Even if it costs me an extra cup of coffee or an extra bagel, you're going to go home happy."

The owners were putting finishing touches on the shop in late July, with a grand opening expected later this month.

As for the quality of the bagel? Kurz and Roth recently hosted a reunion with family members from New York to sample their product.

"I told them, 'Tell me your honest opinion. If you think it sucks, just say so,'" said Kurz.

"They said, 'If we close our eyes, we are back in New York City.'"



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—A Member

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New Learning Studio Opens on North Main Street



From Left: Joy Warner, Lora Shealy, Leslie Bragg and Susan Ban

BY JON SHOW

HeartHaven Education, an educational consulting company founded by a well-known group of Lake Norman-area educators, will open a new "learning studio" this August.

The studio is not a school, according to its founders. It will instead serve as a home base for HeartHaven's mission to fill the void of real-world education in today's schools. Think new-world applications such as investing and entrepreneurship, similar to old-world subjects like wood shop and home economics.

That could include full-time, in-person learning or working with students already enrolled in private, public, charter or home schools.

"We don't want to compete with schools," said Joy Warner, a HeartHaven

co-founder. "We're not in the business of competing. But we do want to show people in bureaucratic systems that we can do it better for everybody."

HeartHaven's founders previously helped build Community School of Davidson, a local charter school. The partnership includes Susan Ban, Leslie Bragg, Lora Shealy and Warner.

HeartHaven began as a consultancy working with educational institutions, but welcomed its first students last year after two families asked for help getting their children through senior year, the founders said.

One student remained enrolled at his local public high school while HeartHaven designed supplemental courses that counted toward school credit.

A second student, who had left the area for a residential arts program, returned without a path to graduate in time from his home school. HeartHaven designed a full personalized senior year for him, including dual enrollment at Central Piedmont Community College, and an entrepreneurship course built around his interest in art and dance.

As part of that course, the student formed his own LLC, built a business website and learned to invoice clients.

Warner said a year later the individual "functions like a third- or fourth-year college student."

The involvement of a company like HeartHaven is permitted under a North Carolina law that allows parents who register as homeschools to pay outside companies to help educate their children. The founders said the provision is a recent change; in past years, the practice was common but not technically legal.

Families pay for HeartHaven's services on a sliding scale. A single coaching session costs \$150. A full personalized academic year, the option chosen by the two aforementioned students, costs \$15,000, which is below typical private school tuition.

That revenue will help cover salaries for HeartHaven's first two hires, a science teacher and a math teacher, along with rent on the new building.

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

Cornelius Inn Heads to Town Board

Looks super nice, and somewhere decent to stay while visiting this area is hard to find.

—Becca Miller

Vote no Town Council. It's not consistent with the land use plan. Period. Send a message to developers. Here is our plan, present us with projects that fit. Not projects that fit developers' pockets.

—Gary Taylor

Town Lands Grant for Exit 27

Has anyone thought this through? You're going to build an on ramp right next to an elementary school? Unless you make it a toll entrance and exit like near Blythe Elementary you obviously don't care about our youth.

—Linda Linfoot

Oh, no, they are "helping" us again...

—Anna Samra

Cornelius Parks & Rec Outperforms Peers

Awesome work by great people!

—Jeff Jones

Sourdough Bakery Opens on Catawba

So looking forward to the opening! Best wishes to you. We needed a bakery so thank you!

—Deb Coppa

Continued from PAGE 28

HeartHaven also offers a "junior launch" program for high school juniors, consisting of monthly sessions over 10 months and priced around \$1,500.

Under the model, students typically spend about three hours a day on academics at the learning studio. The rest of their school day is built around activities outside the studio, such as internships, jobs or athletics, which the founders count as part of each student's education plan.

The founders said they consider themselves supporters of traditional public education and pointed to teacher burnout as a concern shaping their work. Several of HeartHaven's founders previously taught in public school systems before leaving to start the company.

HeartHaven's founders said they hope other schools will adopt elements of the personalized approach they're

testing with their current students.

"We're not trying to detract from all those great schools out there," said Ban. "One thing we notice is most of those schools work by a system, and we want what works for the human instead of pushing that human into the system."

HeartHaven is structured as an LLC rather than a nonprofit, which the founders said gives them more control over the company's direction rather than answering to an evolving board of directors.

"We're not trying to be millionaires," said Warner.

She added that improving education

HeartHaven's founders said they hope other schools will adopt elements of the personalized approach they're testing with their current students.

is the primary focus and not profit, and that they believe public school education should remain a cornerstone of society.

"The reality is, it's changing," said Warner. "It's already changed. So we need to make sure that we take care of every kid in the process."

"We just want to make it better, and starting in our community is our strategy."

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—Gail Williams

Future of Trees, House at Alexander Farms

How much taxpayer money has been spent on this silly topic?

—Thomas Tragesser

I do not consider this to be a "silly topic." The preservation of an historical artifact of our agricultural heritage and the preservation of our tree canopy contribute to the quality of life of our community.

—Jeanie Welch

Continued on PAGE 29

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It is August: The summer's last stand

BY JON SHOW

Our family text thread this summer can be categorized in four silos:

Our teenage daughter asking to be picked up or dropped at an inconvenient time and place.

My wife demanding the kids pick up a messy bedroom/kitchen, etc.

Me asking who will be home for dinner.

Our teenage son begging to extend his curfew for no reason whatsoever.

As I sit at my desk at 9 a.m. on a Tuesday, the Mother of Dragons has not yet sent her daily ... wait ... here it is.

"Kids did you fold their laundry like I asked?"

She knows they haven't but she still sends the same text nearly every day, along with a request that one of them fold a pile of towels that's been sitting in the bonus room since, I don't know, June?

Future Man, as always, does not respond to her text. On this most recent occasion, the Blonde Bomber responds thusly, "Did you know if you sleep with a fan on all night you die."

Period. Not a question mark. This confuses me because she sleeps with a fan on every night, so I reply:

"Working from home in the summers is a memory that I will cherish forever."

Girl power

The Blonde Bomber is 14 years old and does not have a regular job this summer. She babysits every couple weeks, which fills her account with enough cash to last exactly four-and-a-half days because Starbucks is bleeding American families dry.

Summers mean more sleepovers, which is awesome because the nighttime volume level created by four 14-year-old girls is on par with a murder of crows being murdered.

Also, the amount of discarded wrappers and soiled dishes that teenage girls can amass between the hours of 11 p.m. and 7 a.m. is only surpassed by the amount of food they can eat between sunset and daylight hours.

Chips. Popsicles. Frozen pizzas. Chicken nuggets. Mozzarella sticks. All gone. During one sleepover this summer, one or more of them had access to DoorDash, and at some point Taco Bell and I think Raising Cane's was delivered to our home.

Do we even have Raising Cane's? A



quick Google search shows the nearest location is in Rock Hill.

Boy band

Future Man has a job for the second straight summer. He helps work sports camps for the parks and recreation department.

Each morning he arises, grabs his egg and sausage sandwich off the counter, and heads to work. He returns each day around noon acting as if he was returning from a month-long stint in a coal mine.

"We rode 15 miles today at bike camp. 15 MILES. FIFTEEN!"

I just smile and quietly laugh and hope he didn't steal my underwear out of my closet, which I hide in different locations each week to lessen the likelihood that he'll find them. He, of course, denies taking them.

Me: "Stop taking my underwear."

Him: "I don't take your underwear bro."

Me: "Then why were there five pairs laying on your pile of clean laundry in the hallway?"

One afternoon I took my broke daughter to lunch at Jimmy John's and asked my son if he wanted anything, and he requested a loaf of bread so he could carbo-load before the gym.

For some reason they sold me a frozen

loaf, and rather than wait 10 minutes for it to thaw, he just broke it in half and walked out the door shirtless holding half a frozen cylinder of bread.

Each night around 11 p.m. he commandeers a piece of furniture from our home so he can play Grand Theft Auto in his room and eat the remainder of his 200 grams of daily protein.

Dinner time

I make dinner each night for our family, and in the summer I get the unwelcome task of trying to guess if the kids will be here to eat it or not.

More often than not they won't, which is fine. They're teenagers and they shouldn't want to be at home. I just want to know before I cook dinner.

But one day last month, with our fish-hating daughter at a sleepover, I texted my wife and son and offered to make his favorite dish of blackened cod if he was going to be home.

He responded with a heart emoji, so I defrosted three pieces of cod, but then three hours later he told me he wouldn't be home for dinner.

I expressed confusion as to what, exactly, the heart emoji meant and he said this:

"I meant I appreciate it and I'll eat at home if I have nothing else going on but my friends and I are going to grab some

food tonight."

This is what happens when a society reverts to communicating in hieroglyphics.

The next day the girl texted me a picture of some Chinese food she was eating in a restaurant and asked if I knew how to make it. In the picture was a meal I stopped making five years ago because she told me she didn't like it.

Oh sinner man

I know there are so many of you with grown children reading this who are thinking things like, "What awful children!" And you're right. But they're still my awful children.

Or perhaps you have young children and, like I once thought, this reality will never become yours. Just know that I, too, once held your pie-in-the-sky dreams, but those are dead now. Fully receded, like my hairline.

Someday you'll have a text thread, or whatever godforsaken method of communication replaces a poop symbol, middle finger and five colors of hearts, and you will likely experience the atomic bomb that is summer vacation with teenagers.

The background noise of your weekends will be arguments about piles of laundry and dirty rooms. You will add "clean the kitchen" to your morning to-do list. You will be certain that your daughter's friends are stealing your phone chargers.

Every. Damn. Day. Until summer ends.

If you see me in Target buying a bedside fan please know that I could use a hug.

The headline is a nod to this month's Milling About column. Lindsay is having a much different summer than I am.

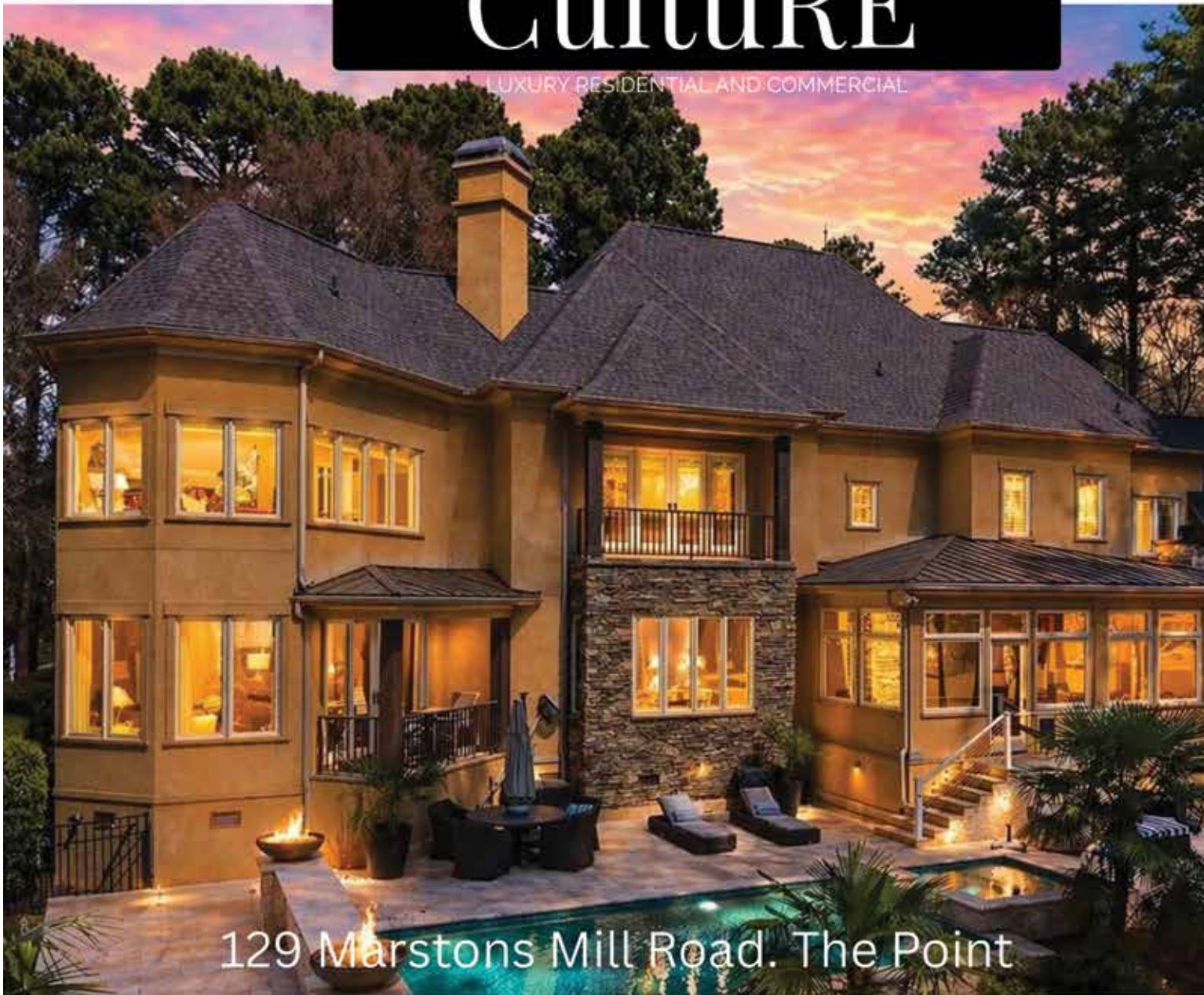
Jon Show lives in Robbins Park with his wife, who he calls "The Mother of Dragons." Their 17-year-old son is "Future Man" and their 14-year-old daughter is "The Blonde Bomber." Their dog is actually named Lightning.





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