



Sign up for our daily e-newsletter and get the latest LKN news sent directly to your inbox.



Giving Month

Affordable housing and the legacy of George Searle
PAGES 4-6

INSIDE

www.CorneliusToday.com

November 2026 • VOLUME 22 NUMBER 1

POSTAL CUSTOMER
CORNELIUS NC 28031



Lost the Rudder

Remembering the legendary lakeside haunt

Pages 10-11

PERMIT NO. 319
WINSTON-SALEM, NC
US POSTAGE PAID
PRST STD

DATED NEWS - POSTMASTER
PLEASE DELIVER BY 10/30

Cornelius Today
P.O. Box 1226
Cornelius, NC 28031-1226

LET US HOST OR CATER YOUR

Holiday Party!

THE **SERVE**
PICKLEBALL + KITCHEN
NO MEMBERSHIP REQUIRED

704.851.1800 x5 | TheServePickleball.com
20220 Chartown Dr | Cornelius, NC 28031

Game, Set, Match (Someday)

A photograph of a bakery display case filled with various pastries and breads. Above the case is a banner that reads "WELCOME" in colorful letters. The background wall is decorated with floral patterns and a clock.

I have a shirt that proudly declares my favorite sport is reading. And that is very true. But as I slide into the final months of 2026, I repeat a line widely attributed to novelist George Eliot, correctly or not: "It is never too late to be what you might have been."



Martell



**CRACKING
THE
COSMETIC
CODE**
by Susan M. Gorman



**Cover: Kris Fountain and
Connie Searle,
photo by Jason Benavides**

Cornelius
TODAY

www.corneliustoday.com

DUTCHMANS

CASUAL LIVING

**NEW
LOCATION!**

Directly behind the Cain
Center for the Arts

A photograph of a bedroom interior. In the center is a four-poster bed with a dark wood frame. The bed is dressed in a white duvet cover featuring a delicate floral pattern of green leaves and small purple flowers. Several pillows are on the bed, including two with a green and white plaid pattern and two plain white ones. At the foot of the bed is a large, rectangular ottoman with a green, white, and yellow plaid pattern. The walls are covered in wallpaper with a light-colored background and a pattern of thin, dark green branches and small purple flowers. To the left of the bed is a dark wood nightstand with a purple ceramic lamp and a small vase of purple flowers. To the right, another similar nightstand holds a purple lamp and a small white container. The floor is covered with a light-colored, textured rug.

THIBAUT

Mon - Sat 10am - 5:30pm | Sun 12pm - 5pm
19725 Oak Street Suite 1, Cornelius, NC 28031

Be Thirsty for Turkeys

2pm - 8pm

Silent Auction

Saturday

November 7th, 2026

Lost Worlds Brewing

Proceeds to benefit LKN Kiwanis Club Thanksgiving Dinner Project

Our Goal is to Feed 450 families

Enjoy a fun evening with live music

Become a vendor for \$50


venmo

50/50 raffle!

THE CONNECTOR

Kris Fountain and the LKN CDC tackle affordable housing

BY JON SHOW

It's hard to go to any community event in Cornelius and not see Kris Fountain with a smile on his face, often adorned with something that sparks a conversation.

At the Rotary meeting? Fountain is there with a green flower on his lapel — his mom's favorite color. Cain Center dedication? Red flower — another tribute to his mom. He doesn't wear cuff links as often as he used to, but they were his father's.

Fountain is at home in any networking environment, and now he's working to build a network of organizations that can provide affordable housing services to more people in his role as CEO of the Lake Norman Community Development Corporation.

Growing up

The importance of taking care of his community was handed down to Fountain by his grandmother, "GG," while growing up in southwestern Michigan.

During the school year, Fountain and his two younger brothers were raised by their single mother, who worked 12-hour shifts, six days a week, in a manufacturing plant.

Starting in elementary school, they spent summers with GG, a native of Mississippi who became the area's first licensed African American female general contractor.

She owned two dozen rental units, and during the summers GG taught the boys carpentry, drywall, painting and basic electrical and plumbing skills. When a licensed professional was needed, they were told to sit and watch.

Through GG, they learned the value of hard work and job skills and how to take pride in what they did.

"GG told us our work represents you, your family, and the God you worship. She raised the standard and it stuck with me," he said. "The principles were far greater than the lessons."

Their grandmother valued them enough to eventually pay them for their services. By the time college rolled around, Fountain managed a team of workers 20 years his senior and put himself through college.

Armed with a degree in real estate finance from Western Michigan Uni-



Kris Fountain at The Puckett Pottery House ribbon cutting / Photos by Jason Benavides

versity, he began his career managing a low-income housing department before joining the American Cancer Society.

He returned to affordable housing with The Affordable Housing Group and eventually with Habitat for Humanity upon relocating to the Charlotte area in 2009, and joined the Lake Norman CDC in 2025.

"He's a gentle spirit and has so much love and

respect for folks with challenges in our community," said Woody Washam, who helped create the organization and sits on the board of directors. "He just doesn't give up."

History

The Lake Norman CDC was founded as the Cornelius CDC in 2022 when the Rev. Michelle Hoverson came to Washam — then mayor — to help a single

mom with four school-age children who could no longer afford to live in Cornelius.

Washam and Hoverson enlisted the help of Cornelius resident George

Searle, whose life passion was affordable housing. They formed a task force on the issue, and the CDC was born, led in its early years by Hoverson and later rebranded as the

Lake Norman CDC.

When Hoverson retired, Searle turned to Fountain — a fellow board member — to take the organization to new heights.

Connie Searle recounted something her husband told her after Fountain interviewed for the job that spoke to his passion for giving.

"It was something he learned from a pastor," she said. "The first 30 years of

life is learning, the next 30 is earning, and the last 30 is about returning."

On his first day on the job, Fountain and George Searle ate breakfast at Famous Toastery, and Searle handed Fountain a note on a napkin with his equation for success, "Activity x Effectiveness = Results."

"I told him I agree, but I needed to expand that equation to include strategy," Fountain said.

Building the network

The CDC now serves residents throughout Cornelius, Huntersville and Davidson, and has further regional growth in its sights.

Under Fountain's leadership, the organization implemented an expanded approach to housing assistance that puts collaboration among local nonprofits at the center of its work.

"There isn't one nonprofit that's big enough to address all of these issues," he said.

Continued on PAGE 6



ANITA DIXIE
SABATES & DEAN

LUXURY PORTFOLIO INTERNATIONAL

HOWARD HANNA

ALLEN TATE REAL ESTATE



1890 YACHT CLUB
DENVER | WATERFRONT
\$6,500,000



REBECCA'S RESERVE
DENVER | WATERFRONT
Pricing available upon request



20334 BETHELWOOD LANE
CORNELIUS | WATERFRONT
\$3,000,000



18416 PENINSULA CLUB DRIVE
CORNELIUS | GOLF COURSE
\$2,160,000



20011 CHAPEL POINT LANE
CORNELIUS | WATERFRONT
COMMUNITY
\$795,000



18731 SILVER QUAY DRIVE
CORNELIUS | WATERFRONT
COMMUNITY
\$335,000



18710 PENINSULA COVE
\$2,995,000



19223 STABLEFORD LN
\$1,575,000
BUYER REPRESENTATION



**20711/20721
BETHEL CHURCH RD**
\$6,900,000
BUYER REPRESENTATION



19506 MARY ARDREY CIR
\$3,750,000



8052 WEST BAY DR
\$2,695,000



17210 JETTON RD
2,595,000



22537 JOHN GAMBLE RD
1,950,000
BUYER REPRESENTATION



17836 JETTON GREEN LOOP
1,550,000
BUYER REPRESENTATION



17413 ROBBINS RIDGE RD
1,500,000
BUYER REPRESENTATION



18607 JOHN CONNOR RD
\$1,320,000
BUYER REPRESENTATION

Please contact **Anita or Dixie** for a Personalized Marketing Consultation.

704-562-2515
Anita.Sabates@allentate.com

Visit our website
anitasabatesdixiedean.com

704-641-1465
Dixie.Dean@allentate.com

Continued from **PAGE 4**

Lake Norman CDC's programs span several points on what Fountain calls the housing continuum. Its Rental Bridge program provides temporary assistance to cost-burdened renters, while its critical home repair program helps older homeowners remain safely in their homes. The organization also provides down payment assistance to first-time homebuyers.

The CDC also assists homeowners facing financial difficulties, including past-due property taxes and homeowners insurance.

"The secret sauce" is not simply the rental assistance, Fountain said, but the financial education that helps participants manage, protect and eventually grow their money.

The two-year Rental Bridge program, for example, requires participants to take part in financial education. Participants who complete the program have increased their credit scores by an average of 56 points, reduced their debt by about \$4,200 and increased their savings by approximately \$2,000.

Fountain said the need extends across the housing spectrum, from homeless-

ness and emergency shelter to transitional and permanent housing, affordable housing and market-rate housing.

Remembering George Searle

That network philosophy is at the heart of the George Searle Memorial Initiative (GSMI), which launched last summer in memory of Searle, who died in October 2025.

Fountain described Searle as a "gentle giant" and someone who was widely known to combine quiet leadership with a commitment to service.

The initiative, primarily funded by the Peninsula Community Foundation, which Searle once led, provides one-time microgrants, along with coordinated support from eight nonprofit organizations, to help individuals and families facing short-term housing crises maintain stable housing.

The eight participating organizations are Lake Norman CDC, Ada Jenkins Center, Beds for Kids, Hope House Foundation, Neighborhood Care Center, One Huntington Green, Pottstown Heritage Group and Smithville Community Coalition. Fountain said Searle had been directly or indirectly involved with all of them.



Kris Fountain and Connie Searle

The program serves seniors, working families, essential workers, renters, homeowners, people with disabilities and households facing unexpected financial hardship.

Fountain regularly offers the example of a Huntersville mother who works as a convenience store cashier in Cornelius and was spending 53% of her household income on rent. The woman was struggling to keep up with bills but wanted to remain in Huntersville because of the support her 8-year-old son, who has autism, was receiving at his public school.

Through the Searle initiative, Lake Norman CDC coordinated enough assistance to cover one month's rent and a past-due electric bill. Other participating organizations provided additional support, including financial education and coaching, furniture for the boy's bedroom and a dining room table.

"That's what collaboration looks like," Fountain said. "It's not a buzzword. You're seeing it in action."

Lake Norman CDC coordinates the initiative, including processing and screening applications, distributing payments and connecting recipients with participating organizations.

"In a very real way, GSMI is a living map of George's community service and relationships," Fountain said.

The broader goal, he said, is to move away from fragmented services and toward a coordinated network in which nonprofits communicate and work together.

"Programs can spark a change, but you need a network to have lasting change," he said.



THANK YOU, CORNELIUS

FOR ALLOWING US TO SERVE
YOU FOR 24 YEARS.

As we gather with family and friends this Thanksgiving season, we want to pause and say a simple, heartfelt thank you. For 24 years, we have been proud to serve Cornelius and our neighbors across the Lake Norman community.

Thank you for choosing local. Here's to many more years of serving you.



MASTER
TITLE AGENCY
Communication | Culture | Commitment

mastertitleagency.com

Serving Mecklenburg County
Since 2002



PRESENTING SPONSOR
NOVANT
HEALTH

15th Annual Light Up CORNELIUS

SANTA • PERFORMANCES • SLEDDING •
HOLIDAY VENDORS • MORE!

FREE EVENT!
SATURDAY
NOVEMBER 28
4 - 7 PM
DOWNTOWN CORNELIUS

 **TREE
LIGHTING
6:30 PM**

cornelius.org/pr

I'LL CHALLENGE THE I-77 TOLLS & WORK FOR GENERAL PURPOSE LANES TO REDUCE TRAFFIC CONGESTION IF ELECTED.

ELECT JOHN RHODES

NC HOUSE - 98TH DISTRICT

EXPERIENCE MATTERS!

WATCH LIVE REPLAY - NC HOUSE DISTRICT 98
DIGITAL TOWN HALL
AT ELECTJOHNRHODES.COM

HEAR FMR NC REP JOHN RHODES ON THE I-77 TOLLS,
PUBLIC SAFETY and PLANS TO MAKE PUBLIC EDUCATION/
CMS IN NORTH MECKLENBURG MORE RESPONSIVE AND
MANAGEABLE FOR STUDENTS AND PARENTS IF ELECTED.

For nearly 40 years, John Rhodes has lived, worked, and served the citizens of North Mecklenburg. As a small business owner, former Mecklenburg County medic, Cornelius firefighter, Cornelius Town Commissioner and multiple terms as North Mecklenburg's former State Representative in Raleigh, John brings experience and knowledge to best represent the citizens of Cornelius, Davidson, and Huntersville in the North Carolina House. As a constitutional conservative and patriot John believes North Mecklenburg, North Carolina, and America are worth preserving and fighting for!



- ★ North Carolina Legislator of the Year for the House and Senate
- ★ Citizens designated March 22nd "John Rhodes Day" in North Carolina for his efforts to clean up corruption in Raleigh in which powerful politicians went to prison.

ELECTION NOVEMBER 3RD
Early voting through Saturday, October 31st
North County Regional Library / Cornelius Town Hall

ElectJohnRhodes.com



FAITH ★ FREEDOM ★ NORTH MECKLENBURG FIRST!

A proven conservative patriot who will continue to fight for citizens because North Carolina and America is worth fighting for!

North Mecklenburg First!

Paid for by John Rhodes NC House Committee

Cornelius
TODAY

NEWSMAKERS

B R E A K F A S T

INSIDE OUR SCHOOLS



Charlitta Hatch

Elected representative on the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education

November 19, 7:30-9 a.m.
The Peninsula Club
\$19 | RSVP: 704-953-3381

PRESENTING SPONSOR

Stimson and Francomano
Merrill Wealth Management Group

BREAKFAST SPONSORS

ANITA & DIXIE
SABATES & DEAN
LUXURY PORTFOLIO INTERNATIONAL
HOWARD HANNA
ALLEN HITE REAL ESTATE

Williamson
WEALTH GROUP
RAYMOND JAMES

COFFEE SPONSORS

Davidson
WEALTH MANAGEMENT
& PARTNERS

WASTE PRO
Caring For Our Communities™

Development News

Town updates on West Catawba widening

BY DAVE VIESER

A mid resident uproar over tree clearing, staggered removal and debris cleanup, Cornelius town staff made a presentation to the town board last month to provide further details and clarify the timeline for The North Carolina Department of Transportation's widening of West Catawba Avenue.

The trees lining West Catawba Avenue between Jetton Road and Sam Furr Road must be removed as part of the NCDOT's planned road widening and utility relocation, town officials said. That would have occurred whether or not the utility lines along the road were buried underground.

"Even if the town and NCDOT had decided years ago to bury the numerous utility lines on West Catawba, the widening would have still required tree removal," Deputy Town Manager Cynthia Broomfield said. "Most of the tree removal is needed to make room for the wider four-lane road infrastructure,



Broomfield

along with the pedestrian and bikeway paths and sidewalks."

The 2.7-mile project will widen West Catawba from two to four lanes, with center medians and 10-foot-wide

sidewalks, called multiuse paths, on both sides of the road. The project will expand the right-of-way width from 90 to 200 feet, including easements.

Cost was the major factor working against burying the utility lines, as was done along West Catawba between I-77 and Jetton Road.

"In today's dollars, it would cost in excess of \$60 million to bury all the utilities along that portion of West Catawba Avenue," Broomfield said. "And still the trees would have to come down."

The town has said it would have to cover the \$60 million cost. For comparison, the town budget this year is \$40.7 million.

Modifying the project to bury the lines also would move it down NC-DOT's priority list and likely delay it for years, said town officials. The project was initially approved more than a decade ago and has faced numerous delays related to state financing issues and reprioritization.

Removal process

Broomfield said tree removal has occurred in stages because the tree work — topping, removal and stump grinding — is being conducted by different contractors.

The utility work will take roughly one year to complete. New electric poles will be erected this February, and gas line relocation will be completed in the second half of 2027. Contractor bidding will take place in December 2027, with road work scheduled from 2028 to 2030.

Broomfield provided several other details about the project in response to concerns from residents and commissioners:

- The town will work with NCDOT as they near completion of the project on a landscaping design and implementation. Replacement trees are not expected to be large, mature trees because of their extensive root systems.

- NCDOT said there is limited funding for post-construction landscaping, and the town said it will continue to discuss options with the state.

- Town commissioners explored the possibility of having segments of the newly widened road adopted by local civic groups. Discussions about how that could be accomplished are expected to follow.

- Town proceeds from the recently implemented county transportation sales tax have already been earmarked for debt service on future road bond sales.

NCDOT is also in the process of retiming the traffic signals from I-77 to Sam Furr Road, which should be completed before the end of the year, said an NCDOT spokesperson.



Premier | Sotheby's
INTERNATIONAL REALTY

WITH GRATITUDE FOR ANOTHER WONDERFUL YEAR ON LAKE NORMAN

The best spring sales *start in November*

This season, I'm thankful for the clients who trusted me with their biggest moves, and for a community that makes every sunset on the lake feel like a gift.

As we gather this Thanksgiving, Lake Norman's luxury buyers are already planning their moves for 2027. The homes that sell for top dollar in spring are prepared this winter: the right updates, the right pricing strategy, and a marketing plan ready to launch.

Let's talk about your home's value and what it could bring next season.



Marzia Mazzotti

Top-Producing Global Advisor | Lake Norman
Lifestyle & Waterfront Property Specialist
Top 1.5% Nationwide by Sales Volume | RealTrends Verified 2026
Top 50 Lake Norman Women in Real Estate

704.497.6599
Marzia.Mazzotti@PremierSIR.com
Sweet-Home-Carolina.com

19825-D North Cove Road, Cornelius, North Carolina 28031

SCAN FOR
YOUR INSTANT
HOME VALUE



Sotheby's International Realty® and the Sotheby's International Realty logo are registered service marks used with permission. Each office is independently owned and operated. Equal Housing Opportunity.

Lightning in a (Corona) bottle

BY JON SHOW

For nearly 15 years, the Rusty Rudder was one of Cornelius' best-known gathering places, combining a waterfront bar and restaurant with live music, boating and a reputation for a great party.

Its legend has only grown since it closed 10 years ago this fall. For longtime Lake Norman residents, it stood at the edge of an era — one that began with lakeside mobile homes, ranch houses and johnboats and gradually gave way to mansions, fine dining and yachts.

Around the turn of the century, Lake Norman weekends revolved around Midtown Sundries, Vinnie's and the Rudder, tied together by cold beer, shots, poker runs and tie-ups at the old Sandbar.

When the Rudder opened in 2002, the old lake life was waning, but the restaurant managed to preserve that world on its decks and inside its doors. At its heart were Eric Paul and Brian Johnston, who ran it until they closed their doors for the final time in 2016.

"We were the red-headed stepchild of Lake Norman," Paul said.

"And we were proud of it," Johnston added.

Something for everyone

What made the Rudder the *Rudder* was that it never catered to just one crowd. On any given day, the bar could be filled with CEOs, bikers, mayors, brunch-going moms and NASCAR drivers.

For families, it was a lunch stop on a boat day. For young adults and retirees, it was a place to move the party from the lake to land, grab a burger and cold beer, listen to live music under the tiki hut and see where the night went.

It was a haven for celebrities and public figures who could pull up, hang out and listen to music without being pestered. Rule No. 1 for employees: no autographs.

And when the sun went down, the Rudder earned its reputation as a "some-holds-barred" late-night destination.

Some people miss the live music on the lake. Others miss the cheap beer and food after a day on the water, or the late-night haunt for singles, soon-to-be singles and probably-should-be singles.

"It was almost two different restaurants," Johnston said. "There was the



When the Rusty Rudder opened in 2002, the old lake life was waning

Rudder until 10 o'clock and there was the *Rudder* from 10 to 2."

Manning the helm

Paul and Johnston met at a fundraiser while Johnston, then 25, was beginning his career in events with Center City Partners and Paul, then 32, managed an oyster restaurant in uptown Charlotte.

Their parents provided seed money, and on April 15, 2002, they signed the lease on what had been South Shore Grill, and previously Jack's fish camp.

They stained the massive deck themselves, and their mothers reupholstered the chairs. Six weeks later, they opened on the Friday of Memorial Day weekend, while they were still hanging the front doors, and recorded \$160,000 in sales.

"When we looked at the books on Tuesday, Eric looked at me and said, 'Hey man, this isn't normal,'" Johnston said.

Paul had restaurant experience; Johnston did not and spent the early months busing tables. They hired experienced bar staff from successful Charlotte establishments, and one or both owners were in the building at all times.

Summer staffing eventually grew to around 175 employees. Busboys became servers, bartenders and general managers, and many went on to become leaders in Charlotte's restaurant scene.

Waterside life

The lake was vital to the business. Next to Holiday Marina, the Rudder

became a destination for boaters and day-trippers from Charlotte.

Inside, the dark-wood interior featured televisions, Panthers memorabilia and a U-shaped bar ringed with drop-storage cabinets. Chalkboards displayed daily deals and sometimes random musings.

On land, customers often ignored signage and parked wherever they could find a spot, sometimes at the neighboring apartment complex, then walked through the woods and a hole in a chain-link fence.

Water-sports equipment hung from the ceilings. Tallboy tables made from large Red Bull cans stood at the tiki bar, and tables were topped with six-packs filled with salt and pepper shakers and hot sauce.

The menu evolved over the years but the kitchen was a challenge: options were limited with the 15-foot cooking line containing only a flat top, two fryers and a grill.

Bathroom repairs were an ongoing chore. The owners kept a half-dozen toilet seats in the office because they broke so often in the women's bathroom.

"We had a plumber on call," Johnston said.

What's on special?

Corona logos were more prominent than the restaurant's own branding.

"I think we were one of the top sellers of Corona in the state," Johnston said, before being corrected by his former beer representative. The Rudder ranked

in the top 25 in sales in the country.

They bought so much Coors Light from their local reps that the company's corporate office thought they owned more than one establishment.

Specials were a daily fixture: Mexican Monday, College Night, Fish Fry Friday, all-you-can-eat crab legs on Thursday and \$5 Bloody Marys on Sunday.

One daily special included \$1 tacos with \$1 domestic beers. As a friend once summarized it: "It's the only place you can get drunk and fed for \$10. Maybe \$15 if it's a weekend."

After their second year, the owners switched from glassware to plastic because every Monday morning they had to run a cart down the marina dock to recover unreturned pint and wine glasses.

Ahead of its time

The Rudder's identity evolved as much through grassroots marketing as deliberate planning.

While Midtown Sundries was known for live music in the early 2000s, the Rudder was the first restaurant in the area to book live bands nearly every weekend. Music became central to the business and helped bridge the slower winter months.

Local and regional acts filled the calendar, from up-and-coming bands such as Simplified, U-Phonik and Blue Monday to established artists including O.A.R., Cravin' Melon and Darius Rucker.

"We spent \$250,000 to \$300,000 a year on entertainment, and we never charged a cover," Paul said.

Themed events like the Valentine's PJ party became another staple. If there wasn't an occasion, the owners invented one, like Christmas in July and the White Trash Bash.

Community ties

Charity was another focus, though much of the Rudder's generosity happened quietly, without fanfare or publicity.

The owners helped families go to Walt Disney World, hosted a Navy SEAL swim and golf tournaments, supported children with disabilities, donated to poker runs and Lake Norman Wildlife, and helped establish a fund in memory of five local high school students killed

Continued on **PAGE 11**

Continued from **PAGE 10**

in a 1997 car accident.

Sometimes the gestures were more personal. On a Monday night in 2004, they closed the bar and invited friends to remember Ricky Hendrick, who died in a Hendrick Motorsports plane crash on the way to a NASCAR race in Martinsville.

The reunion

Last month, Paul and Johnston returned to Cornelius for an impromptu 10-year reunion at Boatyard LKN, owned by longtime friend Chris Boukedes. The party came together at the last minute after Boukedes learned Johnston was coming to town for a Panthers game.

Johnston, who has lost 175 pounds in the past decade, lives in Mount Pleasant, S.C., with his wife, Caroline. Paul, who suffered a stroke in 2018, lives with family north of Raleigh on Lake Gaston and often returns to visit his brother and reconnect with Rudder friends.

"I can pick up my phone and call so many hundreds of people and say, 'Hey, can someone come pick me up and take me somewhere?'" Paul said. "I have the most amazing support system in this



The Rusty Rudder owners Eric Paul (left) and Brian Johnston

town because of that place."

Boukedes and the former Rudder owners have shared a friendship for 25 years. The former owner of the Brickhouse in Davidson entered the Rudder through the kitchen so often that some employees thought he worked there.

Their early days included a running

prank in which employees of each establishment stole random items from the other. One late-night stunt prompted Davidson police to call the Brickhouse owners when someone reported that the Brickhouse sign was being taken.

Bidding farewell

The Rudder announced its closing on social media Sept. 6, 2016, saying the property owner had declined to renew the restaurant's lease. The announcement drew thousands of comments and shares, an online petition to "Save the Rudder" and a wave of media coverage.

During its final month, favorite bands returned for farewell performances, and the staff threw a year's worth of holiday-themed parties. A month later, the Rudder closed for good rather than remain open through the slow winter until its lease expired in the spring.

Johnston said the old wooden front doors, which they hung on opening day, were moved to the back of the original Tropicana and destroyed in a kitchen fire in 2022.

Ten years later, Johnston and Paul still recount the good times with smiles.

While many stories cannot be told here, at the heart of each are the people and sense of community built one Corona at a time.

"That time will always be forever in our hearts," Paul said. "The legend of the Rudder is probably gonna live longer than the reality of the Rudder."

"It was lightning in a bottle."

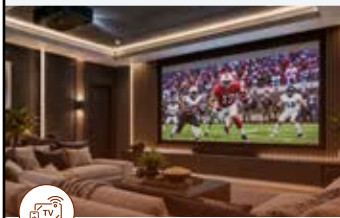
SoundVision

simplifying life through technology

Game Day, Better at Home

THE ULTIMATE HOME VIEWING EXPERIENCE

From stunning video and immersive audio to intelligent lighting, automated shades, and seamless control, we design integrated entertainment spaces that make every game day more exciting, comfortable, and unforgettable.



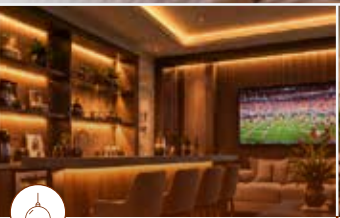
Premium Video

Experience every play with stunning picture quality and displays designed for your space.



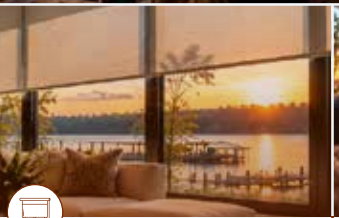
Immersive Audio

Hear every tackle, cheer, and call with audio professionally designed for your space.



Lighting Design

Set the perfect mood for the occasion with layered lighting and personalized scenes.



Automated Shades

Reduce unwanted glare and enjoy a clear view, even during afternoon kickoffs.



One-Touch Control

Bring all your entertainment, lighting, and shades together for a seamless viewing experience.



Visit Our Experience Center
124 Poplar Pointe Dr. Suite 101
Moorestville, NC 28117



Let's View
Something
Extraordinary
Together



(704) 696-2792



info@svavnc.com



svavnc.com

Huskies aim to build on first season under Maye

BY RYAN MOXON

The Hough boys basketball team enters the upcoming season with a new standard, a challenging schedule and a coach who wants his players to be the toughest team in the gym every night.

Head coach Beau Maye, beginning his second season at the helm, is looking to build on a first year that established the foundation for what he hopes will become a lasting culture at Hough.

The Huskies finished 20-7, their first 20-win season since 2013-14 when Maye's older brother Luke played a starring role in the frontcourt.

Maye said he was proud of his players despite how last season ended, with a loss to South Mecklenburg after the Huskies beat the Sabres three times in the regular season. He singled out a senior class that navigated considerable coaching turnover.

"They fully bought in and made my job super easy," Maye said. "I hate how it ended for us, and it still makes me mad thinking about it, but they fought like heck all year and set the standard for what the new Hough basketball is

going to be about."

That foundation is about more than winning games. Maye said one of his biggest lessons was the importance of investing in every player in the program, from varsity to junior varsity.

"We want to win ball games, but also build young men," he said.

Ratliff leads returning group

Hough must replace five graduating seniors, including John Slusher, an all-conference selection.

But the Huskies return senior Tre Ratliff, a 6-foot-4, 200-pound guard who earned all-conference honors last season while averaging 15 points a game.

"He's really talented and continues to get better," Maye said. "He can score a lot of different ways and he is versatile."

Maye also identified Ratliff as potentially the team's best defender.



Ratliff

Senior guard Christian Coleman led the team in assists per game last season and brings a physical edge. He also plays football and will join the basketball team after the opening stretch of the season.

Junior guard BG Beshears offers size in the backcourt, scoring versatility and a willingness to rebound. Seniors Alex Swartzendruber and Nolan Lydeka also impressed the coaching staff in the offseason and are expected to be major contributors.

Faster pace, more defensive pressure

Hough plans to play faster, getting out in transition more often and using defensive pressure to disrupt opposing ball handlers.

"We'll get out and run more," Maye said. "We have some dynamic backcourt players that we think will make that a pretty seamless transition."

With a smaller lineup across the board, Hough also plans to extend its pressure and make opponents work to initiate their offenses. Maye said he has

been encouraged by the team's offseason attention to detail and sees last season's lessons carrying over.

Challenging schedule ahead

Maye expects a competitive conference season and deliberately assembled a challenging nonconference schedule to prepare the Huskies for the postseason.

One early game to watch comes Nov. 19, when Hough hosts Mooresville. The Huskies lost by three points to Mooresville to open Maye's first season.

Hough also will travel to the Triangle in December to play Riverside-Durham and Chapel Hill. Myers Park and South Mecklenburg remain tough conference matchups.

Maye said the team has three priorities: compete from the opening tip, win and lose with class, and bring a physical, relentless approach every night.

"We'll win some and lose some — hopefully more of the former than the latter — but Hough is always going to be the toughest team in the gym," Maye said. "Plain and simple, period, the end."



Space for Lease

from 1,150 - 3,600 ft

Attention hair stylists!
Elegant and established hair salon in the heart of Cornelius!
Price includes real estate, furniture, fixtures and 20 years of goodwill!
Owner financing option!



Kimberly Thaxton
704-564-4333

Remote Controlled Flags and Banners

Recently provided flags for the World Cup event in CA/TX and GA; now we are offering residential and commercial product.

Sale Price \$269 • Features:

- ✓ Attractive cassette in a variety of colors to protect from the weather
- ✓ No need to fight the wind or rain; Can operate from your living room arm chair
- ✓ Easy installation; 2 tap screws and clip in brackets
- ✓ Recharge is similar to an iPhone with USB port
- ✓ No wiring required as the unit is battery charged which lasts 6 months.
- ✓ Operates with a hand held remote
- ✓ Flags or banners can easily be replaced with a spring loaded tube and material
- ✓ Standard size of the USA Flag is 36" x 60"; other sizes are available
- ✓ Mounts on a ceiling/wall, window or door jamb or aluminum siding

813-404-2816
www.autoflagbanner.com
Email: CJHLimitedLLC@gmail.com

MADE IN USA

Show your patriotism & respect for your favorite sports team or school.



CAIN CENTER FOR THE ARTS

OUR SPRING 2027 SEASON IS HERE

SERVING THE LAKE NORMAN REGION THROUGH EXCEPTIONAL VISUAL ARTS, PERFORMING ARTS, AND SOCIAL EXPERIENCES.

CAINARTS.ORG



Adopt your own island on Lake Norman

BY JON SHOW

Have you always dreamed of “owning” your own island but don’t have millions in your bank account? Lake Norman Wildlife is offering the next best thing.

The uninhabited islands scattered across Lake Norman are becoming increasingly important refuges for wildlife as development and recreational activity continue to reshape the lake’s shoreline.

To meet the need, the organization has expanded its Island Habitat Program to give those islands more consistent stewardship, from litter removal and habitat restoration to wildlife monitoring and nesting projects.

The program currently includes 74 islands, with 22 adopted by volunteers. The organization’s goal is to eventually have an active steward or stewardship team assigned to every island.

Island adopters are encouraged to visit their islands at least three times a year to remove litter, document conditions, photograph wildlife and report habitat concerns. Volunteers also can participate in native plantings, nesting-box

installations and other restoration projects.

The program was reorganized following Hurricane Helene, when more than 100 volunteers helped remove more than 50 tons of storm debris from Lake Norman. The effort, which included dock sections, lumber, foam and household trash, highlighted the need for a more coordinated approach to island stewardship.

The revamped program divides the lake into geographic districts supported by county coordinators, with a central coordinator overseeing the program. Volunteers use an online reporting system to document visits, hours worked, litter removed, wildlife observations, photographs and habitat concerns.

“Hurricane Helene showed the need for a more organized network capable of responding both to routine habitat needs and major disasters,” said Billy Wilson, president of Lake Norman Wildlife. “It also demonstrated that more residents throughout the Lake Norman community are ready to take an active role in protecting the lake.”

During 2025, 24 volunteers reported removing about 400 pounds of routine litter. Another 27 volunteers participated in larger debris-removal efforts that removed about 8,500 pounds, according to Lake Norman Wildlife. The organization expects to more than double the amount removed by the end of 2026.

Common debris includes beverage containers, food packaging, fishing line, foam, abandoned floats and pieces of dock material. Larger debris can include pressure-treated lumber, damaged dock sections and flotation foam.

The islands provide nesting, feeding and resting habitat for great blue herons, ospreys, green herons, waterfowl, turtles and songbirds. They also provide shoreline and nearshore habitat for fish and other aquatic species.

Heron Island in Cornelius is among the lake’s most significant wildlife habitats. About 25 years ago, it supported the lake’s only known natural great blue heron rookery.

Lake Norman Wildlife said the colony remains vulnerable to erosion and the effects of concentrated nesting activity,

which can damage trees and vegetation. The organization has documented additional heron colonies on other islands and said some birds may have been displaced from Heron Island.

The group also has installed more than 80 osprey and great blue heron nesting platforms around Lake Norman, along with dozens of nesting boxes for species including wood ducks, brown-headed nuthatches, prothonotary warblers and owls.

Lake Norman Wildlife said increased boating and recreational use can put additional pressure on the islands through litter, campfires, vegetation damage and disturbance during nesting season.

The organization hopes the expanded program will eventually provide regular documentation of every island while reducing litter and disturbance, improving habitat and allowing faster responses to storm damage and erosion.

• *More information on the island program is available at www.lnwc.org.*

PRIVATE COUNTRY-LIKE SETTING!
1.4 ACRES, DETACHED BARN/STUDIO

13033 Asbury Chapel Road



\$899,000
MLS# 4426602



DEBBIE MONROE
Broker/REALTOR®, SFR

- 2013-2024 Top Sales Associate
- 38 Years of Superior Service

704.533.0444 
DebbieM@LakeNormanRealty.com
Because Experience Counts, Call Debbie Today!



Matheson
LAW FIRM, P.A.

9624 Bailey Rd., Suite 292
Cornelius, NC 28031

Real Estate Transactional Firm

Contact us for:

- Real Estate Closings
- Title Searches
- Document Preparation

(704) 439-1350 • www.mathesonattys.com

Edward Jones > edwardjones.com | Member SIPC



Happy Thanksgiving!

We're thinking of you this season and hope you have a wonderful Thanksgiving.



Christian W Burns, CFP®, AWMA®
Financial Advisor

16610 Old Statesville Rd Ste A
Huntersville, NC 28078
704-948-0422

EJB-9811F-A-E-DA AECSPAD 30297596

Available Listings in Lake Norman

The Knox Group | Commercial Real Estate (704) 896-1911



FOR SALE
20212 N. Zion Ave.
Cornelius, NC 28031
Restored 1906 two-story office, 2,400 SF on .52 acre. Wood floors, new HVAC, ample parking in the heart of Cornelius Town Center. Zoned TC. \$895,000



FOR SALE
19525 Greentree Way
Cornelius, NC 28031
Developed .79 acre pad just off Jetton Rd Ext, approved for 12,000 sq ft. Water, sewer and parking in place. Zoned VC. \$426,000



FOR SALE
20216 N. Zion Ave.
Cornelius, NC 28031
Level .43 acre building lot with utilities, minutes from Town Hall, the Cain Center and Oak Street Mill. Zoned TC. \$350,000



FOR SALE
10100 Bailey Rd.
Cornelius, NC 28031
3.88 acres at the new Bailey Road Extension with city water and sewer available. Zoned IC. \$1,250,000



FOR SALE
20108 Zion Ave.
Cornelius, NC 28031
2.36 acre wooded development site, near Antiquity. Great mixed use or multifamily opportunity, all utilities available. Zoned TC. Was \$800,000, REDUCED to \$600,000!



FOR LEASE
19824- E W Catawba Ave.
Cornelius, NC 28031
2,300 SF, 7 offices, conference room, kitchen and Catawba Ave signage. Included \$35,000 of luxury furniture. Available immediately. \$26.52/SF NNN



FOR SALE
20108 Zion Ave.
Cornelius, NC 28031
3.63 adjacent acres in the heart of Cornelius Town Center, steps from Harris Teeter, the Cain Center and Town Hall. Zoned TC. \$750,000



FOR SALE
21000 Torrence Chapel Rd.
Cornelius, NC 28031
Fully leased office building for sale just off I-77 Exit 28, walking distance to restaurants, banks and shopping. \$3,695,000

For more information, please visit our website at www.knoxgroupinc.com



FOR LEASE
19725 Oak Street,
Cornelius, NC 28031
Historic 41,000 SF mill with a Class A renovation underway. Restaurant, brewery, retail and office space. Call for pricing.



FOR SALE
Northbrook-Sam Furr, Lot B
Huntersville, NC 28078
5.48 acre commercial site with utilities on site. Zoned Huntersville CB. Was \$2,500,000, REDUCED to \$2,000,000!



FOR LEASE
20409 Zion Ave.
Cornelius, NC 28031
5,040 SF fully air-conditioned warehouse/office on 2.65 acres. 1,100 amps of power, drive-in door, lots of parking. Zoned BC. \$7,000/month NNN



FOR SALE
Northbrook-Sam Furr, Lot C
Huntersville, NC 28078
3.64 acres approved for 99,300 SF of conditioned storage, Zoned Huntersville CB. Was \$2,000,000, REDUCED to \$1,500,000!



FOR LEASE
18809 W Catawba Ave
Cornelius, NC 28031
1,440 RSF, 6 offices, reception area, elevator and new LVP flooring. Available immediately. \$25.00/SF



FOR LEASE
480 S Main Street
Davidson, NC 28036
First-class new retail and office space on Main Street, joining Novant Health, UCBi, and Lagniappe. 123 on-site parking spaces. Zoned Conditional.



FOR LEASE
445 S Main Street
Davidson, NC 28036
2,000 SF to 6,667 SF of Main Street office space, walking distance to Town Hall, banks, restaurants and shops. \$28.00/SF NNN



FOR LEASE
575 Davidson Gateway
Davidson, NC 28036
2,000 SF former law office with 5 offices, conference room, kitchenette, hardwood floors and two stone fireplaces. \$28.00/SF



DENVER | \$6,500,000
1890 Yacht Club Drive
Lee Ann Miller & Anita Sabates | 704.562.2922



CORNELIUS | \$2,160,000
18416 Peninsula Club Drive
Anita Sabates | 704.562.2515



MOORESVILLE | \$1,189,000
164 Bayberry Creek Circle
Becky Boan | 980.721.4312



MOORESVILLE | \$1,145,000
105 Alder Springs Lane
Solomon Fleckman | 201.874.6590



SCAN TO
VIEW MORE
LUXURYLISTINGS



IN LUXURY IN
THE CAROLINAS

 **HOWARD HANNA**
ALLEN TATE REAL ESTATE

#1 FAMILY-OWNED IN THE U.S.

 LUXURY
PORTFOLIO
INTERNATIONAL®

Experience the next level in luxury
real estate when you partner with us.

Leading REAL ESTATE COMPANIES IN THE WORLD®

howardhanna.com 



HOME SALES

Cornelius

9/23/26, \$720,000, 18027 Northport Dr, 4BR/2.5BA, Jetton Cove, 2610 sq ft, built 2013

9/24/26, \$4,438,203, 18326 Nantz Rd, 6BR/6.5BA, Cornelius, 5703 sq ft, built 2026

9/24/26, \$395,000, 19901 Burton Ln, 3BR/2.5BA, Cornelius, 1504 sq ft, built 2025

9/25/26, \$780,000, 20605 Autumn Breeze Ct, 4BR/2.5BA, Town Heights, 2645 sq ft, built 1999

9/25/26, \$280,000, 19763 Deer Valley Dr, 2BR/2BA, Alexander Chase, 1252 sq ft, built 2003

9/28/26, \$1,960,000, 7310 Swansea Ln, 4BR/4BA, 100 Norman Place, 3528 sq ft, built 1989



9/28/26, \$276,550, 19715 Feriba Pl, 3BR/2BA, Mill Creek, 1416 sq ft, built 2003

9/28/26, \$512,800, 18418 Torrence Chapel Estates Cir, 4BR/2BA, Torrence Chapel Estates, 2161 sq ft, built 2004

9/29/26, \$685,000, 18421 Neville Ave, 3BR/2BA, Baileys Glen, 2207 sq ft, built 2014

9/29/26, \$540,000, 21021 Entrada Dr, 2BR/2BA, Bahia Bay, 1620 sq ft, built 1973

9/30/26, \$655,000, 18525 Harborside Dr, 3BR/2BA, Harborside, 1434 sq ft, built 1998

10/1/26, \$444,531, 20114 Lamp Lighters Way, 3BR/2.5BA, Antiquity, 1886 sq ft, built 2015

10/1/26, \$275,000, 16917 Doe Valley Ct, 2BR/2BA, Alexander Chase, 1484 sq ft, built 2004

10/2/26, \$750,000, 18609 Harborside Dr, 3BR/2BA, Harborside, 1383 sq ft, built 1998

10/2/26, \$2,870,000, 18710 Peninsula Cove Ln, 5BR/5BA, The Peninsula, 5348 sq ft, built 2005

10/5/26, \$1,400,000, 19223 Stableford Ln, 5BR/3.5BA, The Peninsula, 3895 sq ft, built 1991



YOUR REAL ESTATE ADVISORS FOR LIFE

Being voted **Cornelius' Best Real Estate Agency for 2026** is an honor made possible by you—our clients.

To everyone who has shared their experience and left us a five-star Google review, **thank you!** Your trust, kind words, and continued support mean so much to us.

We're grateful to serve the Lake Norman and Greater Charlotte communities, building lasting relationships along the way.

This recognition belongs to you as much as it does to us. Thank you for allowing The Sarver Group to be your real estate advisors for life.



kwlake norman
KELLERWILLIAMS REALTY

Each Office Is Independently Owned and Operated

KELLERWILLIAMS
Luxury
INTERNATIONAL

(704) 626.7007
THE SARVER GROUP.COM

Discover Your
Next Home



10/8/26, \$1,140,000, 9223 Robbins Preserve Rd, 4BR/3BA, Robbins Park, 2797 sq ft, built 2015

10/9/26, \$720,000, 21410 Pinecrest Pl, 3BR/2.5BA, Island Forest, 2730 sq ft, built 1997

10/13/26, \$993,500, 16620 Redding Park Ln, 4BR/3BA, Robbins Park, 2763 sq ft, built 2012

10/14/26, \$2,075,000, 21617 Rio Oro Dr, 4BR/4.5BA, Bahia Bay, 4971 sq ft, built 2026

10/8/26, \$1,250,000, 21253 Sandy Cove Rd, 4BR/5.5BA, Rockridge Shores, 4175 sq ft, built 2003

10/13/26, \$1,750,000, 19329 Watermark Dr #521, 3BR/3BA, Watermark, 2672 sq ft, built 2019

10/13/26, \$728,000, 21816 Chapel Way, 3BR/2.5BA, Antiquity, 2477 sq ft, built 2008

10/16/26, \$2,115,000, 16717 Yardarm Ln, 5BR/3.5BA, The Peninsula, 4159 sq ft, built 1998

10/9/26, \$221,500, 21108 Brinkley St, 1BR/1BA, Cornelius, 500 sq ft, built 1993

10/13/26, \$750,000, 12728 Meeting-house Dr, 3BR/2BA, Baileys Glen, 2712 sq ft, built 2015

10/13/26, \$4,500,000, 19329 Watermark Dr #261/262, 5BR/6BA, Watermark, 6328 sq ft, built 2021

10/16/26, \$1,226,250, 20392 Queens St, 4BR/3.5BA, Cornelius, 3624 sq ft, built 2026

10/19/26, \$1,950,000, 19608 Olde Spring Ct, 4BR/3.5BA, Shadowcreek, 4056 sq ft, built 2018

10/21/26, \$2,055,000, 17825 Spinners Reach Dr, 5BR/3.5BA, The Peninsula, 4200 sq ft, built 1995

Davidson

9/23/26, \$975,000, 605 Portside Dr, 3BR/2BA, Davidson Landing, 1369 sq ft, built 1985

9/30/26, \$975,000, 744 Amalfi Dr, 4BR/4.5BA, Davidson Bay, 3146 sq ft, built 2017

9/30/26, \$1,075,000, 144 Walking Horse Trl, 4BR/4.5BA, Anniston, 3888 sq ft, built 2020

10/1/26, \$893,750, 11811 Bradford Park Dr, 5BR/4BA, Bailey Springs, 3781 sq ft, built 2016

10/6/26, \$2,417,373, 329 Goodrum St, 5BR/5.5BA, Davidson, 4451 sq ft, built 2026

10/7/26, \$950,000, 11615 Hidden Forest Ln, 4BR/4.5BA, Hamilton Crest, 4434 sq ft, built 2005

10/15/26, \$1,055,000, 224 N Kimberly Rd, 4BR/2.5BA, McConnell, 2825 sq ft, built 1995

10/19/26, \$1,400,000, 216 Catawba Ave, 3BR/3.5BA, Davidson, 2790 sq ft, built 2015

More transactions online at www.corneliustoday.com



4429389 Wake up to Lake Norman views and your own private floating pier at this Sherrills Ford waterfront retreat. Multiple levels of finished space, a screened porch, expansive deck, and potential for a pool create the perfect setting for lakeside enjoyment. With no restrictions and the option to purchase the adjoining waterfront property, this home presents exciting possibilities for a personal getaway or vacation rental investment. **\$1,149,995**



4426602 A rare Huntersville find where a beautifully remodeled home, approximately 1.4 acres, and a finished barn/studio come together for room to live, work, create, and entertain. Tucked into a country-inspired setting near Birkdale Village and Lake Norman, this property delivers a sense of seclusion while remaining well-connected to the area's amenities. Brand-new roofs, no HOA, and exceptional versatility make this a standout opportunity in the heart of Huntersville. **\$899,000**



4423341 Timeless all-brick architecture and modern enhancements define this impressive Abbington residence on nearly half an acre. A three-season sunroom overlooking the wooded backyard, three-car garage, whole-house generator, smart-home technology, and EV charging station elevate everyday comfort. Freshly painted interiors and substantial upgrades make this meticulously maintained home a compelling choice for buyers seeking quality and convenience. **\$819,900**



4425673 Set on a generous .36-acre lot in Covington of Lake Norman, this Denver home combines classic comfort with a versatile floor plan. An open kitchen and great room, French-door study, expansive upstairs loft, and spacious primary suite to accommodate everything from productive workdays to lively gatherings. Unwind in the fenced backyard beside the firepit, with the community pool and neighborhood amenities just a short distance away. **\$519,900**



4428377 Modern finishes and thoughtfully designed spaces make this Avalon ranch a standout, just minutes from downtown Mooresville. Quartz countertops, an oversized kitchen island, a private primary suite, and an upstairs guest suite deliver style and functionality under one roof. The level, fenced backyard features a patio, storage shed, and potential for a future pool, creating even more possibilities for outdoor enjoyment. **\$515,000**



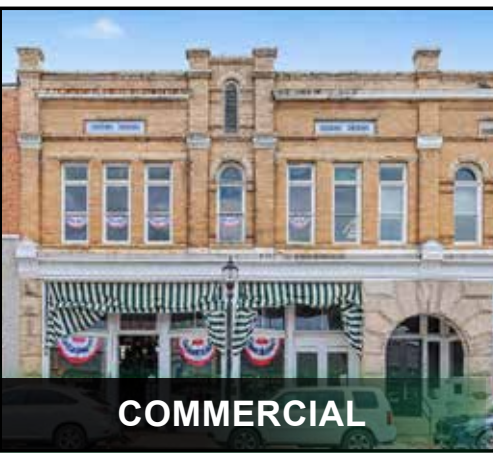
4431755 Tucked away on a quiet cul-de-sac, this all-brick home pairs a generous .80-acre lot with the relaxed feel of a private retreat. A main-level primary suite, sunroom, and oversized garage offer plenty of options for hobbies and everyday routines. Spend sunny afternoons beside the in-ground pool or enjoy the peaceful front porch, all while remaining convenient to shopping, restaurants, and major roads. **\$480,000**



4424866 Wake up above the city and end the day with panoramic Charlotte skyline views from your private 17th-floor balcony. This one-bedroom Trademark residence pairs floor-to-ceiling windows and an open layout with recent enhancements, assigned parking, and an impressive collection of building amenities. From stadium events and Uptown dining to light rail and Charlotte Gateway Station, the best of the city unfolds just beyond your doorstep.! **\$355,000**



4422376 A renovated one-story bungalow, a generously sized backyard, and no HOA put this charming Mooresville property in a category of its own. Inside, original heart-pine character meets a refreshed kitchen, renovated bath, new flooring, recessed lighting, and a modernized electrical system. With Main Street restaurants, coffee shops, shopping, the new baseball park, and Lake Norman a short drive away, this is an exciting opportunity near the heart of Mooresville. **\$259,900**



COMMERCIAL

COMMERCIAL
Lake Norman Realty offers dedicated commercial real estate broker services for buyers, sellers, landlords, and tenants. If it's commercial, we've got you covered.
800-315-3655
Featuring **111-115 N Main Street, Mooresville, North Carolina 28115**: Own a piece of Mooresville history with this iconic downtown commercial landmark, home to the historic D.E. Turner Hardware building. This rare property offers unmatched character and potential. A true cornerstone of Downtown Mooresville, opportunities like this rarely come available.



VACATION RENTALS

LAKE VACATION
Escape to breathtaking Lake Norman for an unforgettable vacation this summer. Enjoy water sports, fishing, and stunning scenery.

Discover exceptional vacation rentals at **www.lakenormanvacationrentals.com**, from luxurious waterfront homes to cozy retreats. Experience boating, kayaking, charming towns, and delicious cuisine.

Let Lake Norman Realty Vacation Rentals help you plan your dream getaway. Visit our website today!

OFFICE LOCATIONS

Cornelius 704.892.9673
Davidson 704.655.2600
Denver 704.483.1518
Mooresville 704.663.3655

Statesville 704.881.0771
Rentals 704.662.6049
Relocation 800.315.3655



SCAN TO
LEARN MORE

LAKE NORMAN REALTY, INC.
Our Experience Runs Deep.
www.LakeNormanRealty.com

Protecting LKN Businesses with Cyber Liability

Today, cyber coverage is a standard line of insurance for all types and sizes of businesses. Therefore, your business disaster recovery plan should extend to cyber incidents.

WHO NEEDS CYBER INSURANCE?

The answer is simple. If your business has any of the below, you need cyber liability insurance:

- Customers
- A bank account
- Information about current or past customers and prospects
- Information about current or past employees
- Direct or indirect reliance on operational technologies

WHAT IF I'M A SMALL BUSINESS?

As a small business, you may think cybercriminals won't target you, but that is not the case. It's the local restaurant, contractor, pizza shop, doctor's office, or retailer down the street that holds important information with far less control and protection, making them a more vulnerable target.

HOW AI IS CHANGING CYBER ATTACKS

The rise of AI is making cyberattacks more accessible and scalable as AI enables cybercriminals to detect vulnerabilities and execute attacks at machine speed—accelerating the pace of cyberattacks faster than traditional security systems can handle. Threat actors can use AI to quickly spoof real websites, create false invoices, and send convincing emails with malicious links.

WHAT CAN CYBER LIABILITY COVERAGE PROVIDE?

Cyber liability insurance provides a vast array of protections against the many costs of a cyber loss.

Costs that a cyber policy can help with include:

- Notifying affected customers
- Recovering compromised data
- Repairing damaged computer systems
- Lost income
- Lawsuits, and more

Cyber insurance can also provide access to professionals who help businesses respond to an incident, address security issues, and manage reputational fallout. Cyber coverage can provide immediate guidance on what to do next.

Doug Fogle
Vice President
« Talk with Doug about cyber liability and get a quote for your business.



(704) 875-3060 • www.foglegroup.com
10105 Hickorywood Hill Avenue, Suite A
Huntersville, NC 28078



Sound Off

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

Local Artist Lends Talents to School

Thank you Justin! You are truly exceptional!

— Kristin Lester

Town Deploys Radar Trailers to Address Speeding

The more the better, perhaps write some tickets as well.

— Chris Smith

K-9 Kilo Follows Officer to Georgia

Wonderful news! We need more of that these days. Thanks for capturing this heartwarming story.

— Yasmin Loft

New Speakeasy in Town

We just need a secret entryway with a password to put the bow on it as a true speakeasy.

— Scott Revis

Town Staff Provides Updates on West Catawba

Sam Furr Road ... part two.

— Sherry McManus

NCDOT Signal Retiming Underway

With all of the technology available why does it take a person to be physically present to do this? For that matter, why is a human involved at all? Seems antiquated.

— Josh Lovekamp

Cornelius Police Chief David Baucom to Retire

Congratulations and thank you! Enjoy your retirement!

— Brian Kenna

Looking Back at the LKN Business Expo

Thank you Cornelius Today for being a sponsor of the Business Expo and helping our small business community to tell their story!

— Bill Russell



Not just Luxury. Statement-making. Legacy-worthy. Always next level. Real estate elevated, *Above All*.



THE POINT
124 Lightship Drive \$6,395,000
Ben Bowen 704.572.6070



NEW LONDON
172 & 186 Tuckertown Road \$5,250,000
Michelle Rhyne & Rob Drag 704.622.0626



BAHIA BAY
21506 Rio Oro Drive \$4,300,000
Christy Walker 704.439.5300



WESTMORELAND FARM
12851 Westmoreland Farm Road \$3,995,000
Ben Bowen 704.572.6070



NORMAN ESTATES
8515 Norman Estates Drive \$17,900,000
Ben Bowen 704.572.6070



SHADOWCREEK
21314 Olde Quarry Lane \$2,150,000
Ben Bowen 704.572.6070



WATERMARK
19329 Watermark Drive #342 \$1,775,000
The Petrenko Group 910.916.4305



THE PENINSULA
17626 Spinnakers Reach Drive \$1,675,000
Marzia Mazzotti 704.497.6599



JETTON PLACE
17728 Jetton Green Loop \$1,400,000
Michelle Rhyne 704.622.0626



BAHIA BAY
21200 Rio Oro Drive \$1,224,900
Christy Walker 704.439.5300



The Mountains Are Calling

This rare residential collection brings the incomparable service and lifestyle of Auberge Resorts to ownership at Primland.

AUBERGE RESIDENCES
25 three-to-five-bedroom homes
from \$5.8 million

THE ESTATES
26 Custom Homesites
from \$1.2 million

© 2025 Sotheby's International Realty. All Rights Reserved. Sotheby's International Realty is a registered trademark and used with permission. Each office is independently owned and operated, except those operated by Sotheby's International Realty, Inc. Artist and computer renderings, floor plans, and depictions are for illustrative purposes only and may differ from the final product. Dimensions, features, finishes, and amenities are approximate and subject to change without notice. No representation is made regarding future views or surrounding development. This is not an offering where prohibited by law. Any offering may be made only through the applicable disclosure or offering plan. Equal Housing Opportunity.



Scan to view
Open Houses, listings,
offices, and advisor details.

No.1

Sotheby's International Realty® Affiliate Company in the World

LAKE NORMAN OFFICE
704.727.4170
19825-D NORTH COVE ROAD, CORNELIUS, NC 28031

Sotheby's International Realty® and the Sotheby's International Realty logo are registered service marks used with permission. Each office is independently owned and operated. Equal Housing Opportunity. Property information herein is derived from various sources, including, but not limited to, county records and multiple listing services, and may include approximations. All information is deemed accurate.

INVENTORY HOT SHEET

Special opportunities on select in-stock inventory

61" Stander ZK
WSZK61SFX820
SN: 189128VV
21% OFF!
MSRP: \$11,999
SALE PRICE: \$9,399

52" Stander X
WSX52SFX730E28
SN: 184273JF
23% OFF!
MSRP: \$11,999
SALE PRICE: \$9,199

36" Stander B
WSB36SFX6001
SN: 188829MN
18% OFF!
MSRP: \$11,999
SALE PRICE: \$9,799

52" ZTS
WZTS52SFT730
SN: 189096ML
18% OFF!
MSRP: \$11,999
SALE PRICE: \$9,343

Z-Spray MAX
ZSK5260
SN: 418113591
29% OFF!
MSRP: \$11,999
SALE PRICE: \$8,599

61" VRIDE II
SVRII-61V-38FX
SN: Y6400004
16% OFF!
MSRP: \$11,999
SALE PRICE: \$10,199

Quest E 50"
QZE722GKC50200
SN: 418261943
15% OFF!
MSRP: \$11,999
SALE PRICE: \$10,199

Lazer E 52"
LRE730GKA524A3
SN: 418115323
18% OFF!
MSRP: \$11,999
SALE PRICE: \$9,499

• Sale price reflects CASH price and does not include taxes or financing fees • Sale price is only applicable on these select serial numbers, while supplies last

(704) 237-4383 | www.swle.pro 18309 Statesville Rd, Cornelius, NC • Next door to Tenders

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.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 4

Harp & Crown | 6-9 p.m. — Tim Cook Band — (Pop) — Free

Peninsula Prime | 6 p.m. — Coconut Groove Band Duo — (Acoustic) — Free

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5

Chili Willi's | 6 p.m. — Neal Carter — (Acoustic) — Free

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

The Alleyway | 7-10 p.m. — Gio's Jazz Trio — (Jazz) — Free

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6

Royal Bliss | 6:30-9:30 p.m. — Bailey Marie — (Country) — Free

★ **Boatyard LKN** | 7 p.m. — Emo Kids — (Emo Rock) — Paid

Cain Center for the Arts | 7:30 p.m. — Abacab: The Music of Genesis, Phil Collins and Peter Gabriel — (Tribute) — Paid

Rudder & Rose | 10 p.m. — Kindred Cult — (Pop) — Free

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7

Primal Brewery | 5 p.m. — Aerial View — (Rock) — Free

Royal Bliss | 6:30-9:30 p.m. — My Better Half — (Rock) — Free

Cain Center for the Arts | 7:30 p.m. — Tom Cotter — (Stand-up Comedy) — Paid

★ **Boatyard LKN** | 8 p.m. — Julio & The Saltines — (Party Rock) — Paid

Rudder & Rose | 10 p.m. — Jake Sutton Band — (Country) — Free

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10

Cain Center for the Arts | 7 p.m. — Spyro Gyra — (Jazz) — Paid

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11

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

The Alleyway | 7-10 p.m. — Michelle Renee — (Pop/Keyboards) — Free

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12

The Alleyway | 6-9 p.m. — LS Brown — (Jazz Guitar) — Free

Chili Willi's | 6 p.m. — John David Tice — (Acoustic) — Free

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

Cain Center for the Arts | 7 p.m. — Simply the Best — (Tina Turner Tribute) — Paid

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13

Harp & Crown | 6-9 p.m. — Ryan Winters — (Keyboard & Vocals) — Free



Friday, November 27 | Uptown Dueling Pianos

High-energy, all-request show packed with sing-along hits, comedy and interaction. You pick the songs, they bring the party. Tickets on sale now. Boatyard LKN, 8 p.m. Paid.

Lost Worlds Brewing | 6 p.m. — The Vel Crows — (Rock/Country) — Free

Royal Bliss | 6:30-9:30 p.m. — Just Serendipity — (Rock) — Free

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

★ **Boatyard LKN** | 8 p.m. — Bearly Dead — (Grateful Dead Tribute) — Paid

Rudder & Rose | 10 p.m. — 3rd Rail — (Rock) — Free

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14

Harp & Crown | 6-9 p.m. — Travis Grubb Trio — (Blues) — Free

Lost Worlds Brewing | 6 p.m. — Rearview Rock — (Rock 'n' Roll) — Free

Royal Bliss | 6:30-9:30 p.m. — String Theory — (Classic Rock) — Free

The Alleyway | 7-10 p.m. — Rose & Thorn — (Pop) — Free

★ **Boatyard LKN** | 8 p.m. — Unknown Artist — (Rock) — Paid

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18

Harp & Crown | 6-9 p.m. — Brad Ratledge — (Acoustic) — Free

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

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19

Chili Willi's | 6 p.m. — Justin Mintun — (Country) — Free

Peninsula Prime | 6 p.m. — John Sullivan — (Acoustic) — Free

The Serve Pickleball + Kitchen | 6 p.m. — Keith Wilson — (Rock) — Free

Cain Center for the Arts | 7 p.m. — Jamie Lissow — (Stand-up Comedy) — Paid

The Alleyway | 7-10 p.m. — Holly Hopkins — (Jazz) — Free

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20

Harp & Crown | 6-9 p.m. — Ben Gatlin Trio — (Blues) — Free

Lost Worlds Brewing | 6 p.m. — Matt Walsh — (Blues/Americana) — Free

H2 Public House | 7 p.m. — Jared Evans — (Rock) — Free

★ **Boatyard LKN** | 8 p.m. — Orange Plush & DialUp Radio — (Alternative Rock) — Paid

Primal Brewery | 8 p.m. — Next Stop Comedy — (Stand-up Comedy) — Paid

Rudder & Rose | 10 p.m. — Steel Caravan — (Pop) — Free

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21

Primal Brewery | 5 p.m. — Tonya Wood Trio — (Singer Songwriter) — Free

Harp & Crown | 6-9 p.m. — Britney Lee & Gary — (Country) — Free

Lost Worlds Brewing | 6 p.m. — Reece Brendle — (Rock 'n' Roll) — Free

Cain Center for the Arts | 7:30 p.m. — Masters of Soul — (Motown) — Paid

The Alleyway | 8-11 p.m. — Bobby Thomas Trio — (Jazz) — Free

★ **Boatyard LKN** | 8 p.m. — Diamond Dixie with Bailey Marie — (Country) — Paid

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25

Harp & Crown | 6-9 p.m. — Dave Maiorino Band — (Rock) — Free

Peninsula Prime | 6 p.m. — Caleb Davis — (Acoustic) — Free

Royal Bliss | 6:30-9:30 p.m. — Hot Pocket — (Funk) — Free

★ **Boatyard LKN** | 8 p.m. — 20 Ride — (Zac Brown Band Tribute) — Paid

Rudder & Rose | 10 p.m. — Krak'd Vinyl — (Pop) — Free

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 27

Primal Brewery | 3:30 p.m. — Dan Staton Trio — (Rock) — Free

Lost Worlds Brewing | 6 p.m. — Keith Wilson — (Classic Rock/Country) — Free

H2 Public House | 7 p.m. — Jesse & John Acoustic — (Rock) — Free

★ **Boatyard LKN** | 8 p.m. — Uptown Dueling Pianos — (Dueling Pianos) — Paid

Rudder & Rose | 10 p.m. — Stormin' Norman — (Pop) — Free

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 28

Lost Worlds Brewing | 4 p.m. — Heidi Sidelinker — (Folk/Americana) — Free

The Alleyway | 8-11 p.m. — Pluto Duo — (Acoustic) — Free

★ **Boatyard LKN** | 8 p.m. — Blue Monday — ('80s) — Paid

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

Bee-stly brings attitude to the honey aisle

BY JON SHOW

You catch more flies with honey than with vinegar, the old saying goes. But a Cornelius business owner is betting that a little vinegar, in the form of grit and perseverance, can sell honey too.

Elise Redmond, a longtime attorney specializing in real estate, launched Bee-stly in August. The honey brand



Redmond

emphasizes motivation and energy rather than the rustic farm-house look that dominates store shelves.

“I saw a stale honey industry where most brands are either folksy or plainly named and labeled and that’s just boring,” Redmond said.

Redmond operates CultuRE, a luxury residential and commercial real estate firm serving the Lake Norman area. She said she saw an opening as consumers move away from artificial sweeteners

and toward foods marketed for wellness.

A name with a message

The name is a play on the word “beastly.” The brand’s slogan, “Be Bee-stly,” is meant to honor people who give everything to their families, jobs, workouts, sports or community work.

“We see the grit, the determination, the sacrifice and the effort people put into their lives to make an impact, and we honor that,” Redmond said. “Bees-t’ mode, if you will.”

She said the branding also draws on how a honeybee colony operates, with each bee working tirelessly toward a collective goal. Redmond said the lesson applies to people too.

“We have to work hard, work together and keep our goals in mind if we want to reach success,” she said.

Products and production

Bee-stly’s first product, DBK Select



Reserve Small Batch Honey, is sold at retail stores, including all North Carolina Lowes Foods stores, Reid’s Fine Foods, Ace Hardware and New York Butcher Shoppe. Smaller retailers include Starlight Bakery, Patterson Farm and The Village Store.

The product is sold only in stores, not online. Redmond hopes to reach other major retailers in early 2027.

“Our goal is to become a national brand,” she said.

Three more products are rolling out now: Bee-stly Raw Honey, Bee-stly Hot Honey and Bee-stly Performance.

Redmond said the honey is sourced from the Appalachian region and produced by an established honey co-packer. It is not ultra-filtered and contains no synthetic blends.

She said the target customer base is broad, including health-conscious shoppers, foodies, pitmasters and older

adults who turn to honey for its nutritional value and traditional remedies.

Designing the look

Redmond said finding the right look took several tries. After parting ways with several artists whose designs did not fit the brand, she connected with a tattoo artist who lives in Serbia and previously worked in Los Angeles.

“Sometimes it’s hard to put into words how you envision your brand,” she said. “He understood what I was looking for and sketched it as we spoke.”

Redmond said their differences made the partnership meaningful.

“While we may all look different on the outside, if you take the time to get to know each other, you might discover that you are a lot more alike than you think,” she said.

Giving back

Bee-stly donates a portion of its proceeds to support bee health, food insecurity and military initiatives.

Continued on **PAGE 26**

River Rock at Alexander Farms

is a vibrant 55+ active adult community offering beautifully designed luxury ranch-style homes in Cornelius, NC. Ideally located and complemented by our signature Easy Living, maintenance-free lifestyle, River Rock at Alexander Farms gives you the freedom to spend more time enjoying what matters most.

Enjoy 8-Weeks Base Rent FREE on a 14-Month Lease!

COMING SOON!

River Rock at Alexander Farms – The Manor, a new collection of apartment-style residences thoughtfully designed with the same exceptional quality, craftsmanship, and attention to detail as our luxury ranch-style homes.

Experience a lifestyle centered on comfort, convenience and everyday enjoyment.

www.riverrockatalexanderfarms.com

Contact Us Today for a Tour! **(919) 913-6043**

Now Serving Veterans and First Responders & Families

FREE REAL ESTATE SERVICE

Offered to Sellers & Buyers Saving Thousands of Dollars in Commissions

855-iServed (855-473-7833)

Get Your FREE Benefits ID at **www.BecauseYouServed.com**

20460 Chartwell Center Dr., Ste 2, Cornelius

Cornelius doctor pens new thriller

BY JON SHOW

A local doctor has branched into the literary world with her debut novel, a thriller about genetics and the promise of eternal youth.

Dr. Minni Saluja, owner of Saluja Cosmetic and Laser Center in Cornelius, is board-certified and has advanced training in cosmetic skin treatments. She wrote the biotech thriller set in the world of regenerative medicine.

“Cracking the Cosmetic Code” tells the story of Bela Arora, whose scientist father dies in India under suspicious circumstances. Bela moves to West Virginia for a scholarship program, bringing her father’s encrypted research journals, which contain his work on extending human life.

After college, Bela takes a job with a New York skincare company and comes

to believe its technology is connected to her father’s research. She discovers the company is hiding a research project that could affect more than aging, and the story follows her efforts to decode a warning her father left behind before his work can be misused.

Origin story

The novel is Saluja’s first book and took three and a half years to research, write and publish. The idea developed during her pursuit of a master’s degree in regenerative medicine at Wake Forest University, where she studied emerging technologies and scientific advances that could eventually influence cosmetic medicine.

Her original manuscript focused heavily on the science. After about 70 rejections from literary agents, one agent encouraged her to reshape it into a mystery with elements of romance, letting readers discover the science as the plot unfolded. Saluja spent another year revising, developing characters and working with an editor, producing what

she estimates were 100 versions.

“It really is amazing how it’s almost like marble and you chisel away your story as you go,” she said.

Saluja, who was born and raised in the United States to immigrant parents from India, said the father-daughter relationship in the story is a tribute to her own father.

“It was kind of like an ode to my dad in a way, so I wanted it published because I wanted it kind of as a gift to him,” she said.

She was determined to see the book published, even if she had to do it herself. Kohler Books ultimately accepted the final version and published it in October.

Saluja was involved in every detail,

including the design of the cover.

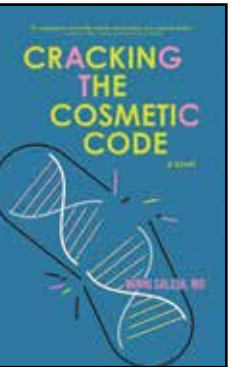
She said she was inspired by the concealed arrow in the FedEx logo, and asked the publisher to work the four DNA bases — A, C, T and G — into the design. The final cover was chosen through a public vote among four proposed designs.

On the shelf

The novel is available online through Amazon, Books-A-Million and Walmart. Saluja is pursuing placement in local bookstores and libraries and is promoting the book through social media and community events, including a planned reading at an event with women from the Cornelius area.

The project let her combine her professional interest in emerging science with storytelling, but she is unsure whether a second novel is in her future.

“Everybody’s got one book in them because so much of your life is in there,” she said. “I don’t think I’ve got two, though.”



Continued from PAGE 25

Redmond is involved in several community efforts, including lake safety. After a 2022 drowning near her Cornelius home, she and her son Cade helped launch Float It Forward, an effort to place life rings on private docks.

She has continued to advocate for boating safety and has helped raise money for the Joshua Murray Boating Safety Education and Awareness Center.

Asked whether her legal and real estate experience has helped, Redmond pointed to a common thread.

“It all comes back to one thing — people. I like people, I learn from people, I seek to be of help to people,” she said. “So, I combine all of that and am thankful for the opportunities and connections that come from others.”

Redmond said the next chapter is scaling the business. In five years, she hopes Bee-stly will be on the shelves of major retailers and funding causes that make an impact.

“We’ve decided to be the first honey in the industry to really showcase the importance of individual perseverance and the teamwork it takes to accomplish great things while we are on this Earth,” she said.

“We get one lap around the track — make it count.”

WWS Welborne, White & Schmidt
EXCELLENCE IN DENTISTRY

Providing more than beautiful smiles



Mercury-free dentistry

Serving Lake Norman since 1993

Certified general cosmetic sedation dentists

We are now offering invisalign

Comprehensive dental care services for the entire family

Experienced, caring service in a comfortable and relaxing atmosphere

9700 Caldwell Commons Cir.
Cornelius, NC

704-896-7955
www.wwsdental.com

Share More
Holiday Moments



With festively-fast TDS internet this holiday season, no centerpiece, celebration, or cherished tradition will go unshared.

HelloTDS.com | 1-833-845-0054

Services are subject to all applicable terms and policies at hellotds.com/policies. TDS Telecom®, TDS TV®, and TDS® are registered trademarks of Telephone and Data Systems, Inc. Copyright © 2026, TDS Telecommunications LLC, All Rights Reserved. 214162e/8-26/12974



Sign up for our
daily e-newsletter:
corneliustoday.com

Estimated Finish for West Catawba Retiming

Signal retiming on West Catawba Avenue is underway, with completion targeted by the end of December.

A North Carolina Department of Transportation spokesperson said the engineering firm will observe traffic, collect vehicle counts and adjust signal timings for morning, midday, afternoon and weekend peak periods.

The firm is “anticipating having this work completed before the holidays in December,” the spokesperson said.

Town Deploys Radar Trailers to Address Speeding

Cornelius Public Works has deployed two solar-powered speed-feedback signs that display approaching vehicles’ speeds and flash a “Slow Down” mes-

sage to drivers exceeding the limit. The signs started on Jetton Road Extension and will move every few weeks to areas with speeding concerns, including locations where a speed study is pending or did not meet traffic-calming criteria. They also collect traffic data to help staff determine where additional traffic-calming or enforcement efforts may be needed.

Wegmans Seeks Rezoning

Cornelius officials outlined an expedited review process that could lead to a February 2027 vote on a proposed Wegmans grocery store near Atrium LKN.

Wegmans proposed using zoning approved in 2008 for the 104-acre Augustalee development, but town attorneys said significant changes prevent an amendment. The town instead proposes conditional zoning for the entire site and has asked Wegmans to file an application by Nov. 2.

The plan would reserve separate acreage for future economic development. A traffic impact analysis and required road improvements would follow, with the analysis expected later in 2027.

Thompson Named Police Chief

Jennifer Thompson, a 25-year veteran of the Cornelius Police Department, has been named the town’s next police chief, becoming the first woman to lead the department.

Thompson has spent her entire career in Cornelius, rising from cadet in 2001 through officer, detective, sergeant, lieutenant, captain and deputy chief.

Thompson said her priorities include supporting employees and improving officers’ mental and emotional well-being.

Police Chief David Baucom will retire Dec. 31 after nearly 28 years with the department.

Local Artist Lends Talents to Cornelius Elementary

Cornelius artist Justin Christenbery completed a mural in the Cornelius Elementary School gymnasium evoking the school’s cougar mascot and its “Big Three” motto: Be responsible. Be respectful. Be an active learner.

Christenbery, who has two children at the school, had planned to donate his talent to the new school approved in a 2023 bond referendum, but with no formal timeline, he worked with the school and its PTO to do it now.

Christenbery said the project “means far more to me than having my work in a prestigious gallery.”

He has also painted murals for Lucky Box Sports Cards and the retail complex that is home to 131 Main.

Wher-Rena Owner Testing Concepts

The vacant Wher-Rena Boatland site on West Catawba Avenue is seeing new life as its owner explores future uses.

Fil Maciolowski, who owns the CLT Wholesale warehouse on Bailey Road, hosted a community yard sale in October with yard sellers, local boutiques, retail vendors and food trucks.

Maciolowski, a Cornelius resident, purchased the property in 2025 and plans to work with the town on a long-term, retail-focused development. He plans more events to gauge interest in potential uses, which could include restaurants, coffee shops and office space.

Among Lake Norman’s
most significant sales of 2026

I am honored to have represented clients in
two of Lake Norman’s 10 highest sales this year.

\$12.3 million
in combined sales



7861 Live Oaks Drive
Denver, North Carolina
Represented buyers



18394 Nantz Road
Cornelius, North Carolina
Represented sellers

ACCULIFT
FOUNDATION & CONCRETE REPAIR
WE LIFT IT!

Advanced Polyurethane Foam Injection
Strong. Long Lasting. Cost Effective.

- Foundations
- Walkways
- Driveways
- Steps
- Pool Decks

Schedule Your **FREE**
Evaluation and Estimate!

Michelle & Trae Olsen
Owners & Operators

Contact Us
704-785-7470
Trae@AccuLiftUSA.com
AccuLiftUSA.com

Davidson
WEALTH MANAGEMENT
& PARTNERS

Happy Thanksgiving
from our family to yours!

480 S. Main Street, Suite 300
Davidson, NC 28036

(704) 997-7550

davidsonwm.com

Securities and investment advisory services offered through &Partners, LLC, registered broker-dealer and investment adviser, member FINRA and SIPC.

Results at the highest level.

Whether you’re considering selling a distinctive Lake Norman property or searching for your next home, experience at this level makes a difference.

Let’s talk about your next move.

Michelle Rhyne
Real Estate Advisor & Elite Sport Network Group
704.622.0626
Michelle.Rhyne@PremierSIR.com

Premier
Sotheby’s
INTERNATIONAL REALTY

Sotheby’s International Realty and the Sotheby’s International Realty logo are registered service marks used with permission. Each office is independently owned and operated. Equal Housing Opportunity.

Talking Turkey

BY JON SHOW

At some point in November, I always get stuck in a conversation with someone about family Thanksgiving traditions.

Inevitably, it turns to me, and I shrug and say we don't have any. Our Thanksgivings have always been largely ad hoc, and I much prefer it that way.

It's not that we haven't tried. Traditions just don't stick with us, or they don't make things any better.

The ones that didn't

We started off eating at home like everyone else, but during my teenage years we began alternating Thanksgiving dinners with another family, which I did not care for.

My mom has always made outstanding mashed potatoes, and every other year I was handed a plate of runny, lumpy, flavorless tubers. It was the one day a year I was guaranteed delicious mash, and I didn't appreciate having to cut my expectations in half.

My birthday also sometimes falls on Thanksgiving, which I never appreciated either. The few times it landed on the holiday when I was a kid, I was handed a pumpkin pie with a taper candle stuck in the middle.

My parents thought it was hilarious. I did not.

Everything else is improvisation

During college, Thanksgiving weekend was a four-night party, and Thanksgiving Day was about recovering from the night before. We emerged from the basement in the evening to finally eat once the queasiness subsided.

My junior year, my friends — not me — stole a giant trampoline in the middle of the night and got apprehended by the authorities, and my mom had to break up a 4 a.m. scuffle in the basement and nurse someone's broken nose. She says I'm not allowed to tell that full story here.

Thanksgiving really rounds into form once you have a job. Lots of free food? Check. Open bar? Check. Before I learned to cook for myself, I would sample each bite and announce, "Mashed potatoes, delicious. Stuffing, yum. Turkey, maybe a little overcooked."

My mom never liked that, but she nailed five out of six things, and that batting average puts you in the Hall of



Fame before you retire.

The Wednesday night partying ended when I was 25 and the Mother of Dragons discovered espresso martinis and slept through most of Thanksgiving.

From that moment on, she declared we would run a Turkey Trot every Thanksgiving, which ended any Wednesday night revelry.

Once we had Future Man and the Blonde Bomber, the Mother of Dragons took over cooking and hosting, which was terrifying for all of us. She can't cook. We all have talents, and I didn't marry her for her cooking.

But she has one culinary gift: Somehow she cooks a 12-pound bird in an electric roaster in only two hours. It's mathematically impossible, yet she does it every year without giving anyone food poisoning.

We've dabbled in new things in recent years. When my childhood friend The Murph moved here, we hosted his family. He insisted on frying a turkey, but we burned a hole in the pot, wandered the neighborhood to find a new one, then misunderstood the frying process and doused my entire driveway in peanut oil.

I have a picture of him in cardboard-box goalie pads, holding a bird surrounded by flames. It turns out he had attended a turkey fry every year but never actually participated.

I tried a smoked turkey with barbecue sides such as baked beans and collards the next year, but they didn't go over well. Last year, the first holiday without

my dad, we went to the mountains and ate out.

I have no idea what we're doing this year, but I will not be cooking. It's the one day a year I sit it out.

The one that stuck

The only tradition I like has nothing to do with dinner.

When I was a kid, my dad hosted a Bloody Mary party every Thanksgiving morning. By "host," I mean my mom did everything and he held court in the kitchen, telling jokes and declaring, "I'll make your first drink and after that you're on your own."

It started at 9 a.m. as a precursor to the high school rivalry football game, which we always lost by some unwatchable score like 8-5. Then we returned home for a nap and woke in the darkness to eat dinner.

The Shows do not eat Thanksgiving dinner during the day, a tradition I support.

My parents carried the party on with their new friends after we moved here in 1999, and my wife and I took it over when we moved to a home down the street.

Each year I make pimento cheese deviled eggs topped with small pieces of bacon and pickled jalapeños. The bar has three kinds of Bloody Mary mix (normal, spicy and dill) and a mimosa bar with different fresh juices.

A small sign I made years ago reads "Shows Cocktail Lounge," with our motto: "Don't let your meat loaf." I have no

idea what it means. My dad and uncle used to say it to each other before they hung up the phone.

Every year someone asks if we have anything else to drink besides mimosas and Bloody Marys (we don't), and someone stays too long and has to be called home for dinner. Two years ago, Mr. CrossFit made what he thought was a vodka cranberry, only to learn he was mixing the vodka with homemade cherry moonshine. Mrs. CrossFit was not pleased when he got home.

Dinner time

Once the party ends, we clean the kitchen and the day goes on.

My mom, who is always responsible for a couple of items, shows up with store-bought turkey gravy poured into another container, then criticizes my green bean casserole recipe, which she later declares delicious.

The Mother of Dragons pulls off a food miracle akin to Jesus in the Sea of Galilee and presents a bird two hours before it should be ready.

I carve the turkey with a new method I found on TikTok and offer the turkey oysters to the cooks. My wife refuses hers for reasons I have never understood.

We dine, try to shun any drift into politics, and conclude with the dreaded sharing of what we're thankful for. When it's my turn, I shrug and say what I always say: "You people." My mom responds in a sarcastic tone: "Great one, Jon."

Maybe that's our Thanksgiving tradition: hosting friends and gathering as a family, all while navigating the tap dance between a pleasant holiday and controlled chaos.

I guess that tradition is also what makes me thankful.

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.



CultuRE

LUXURY RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL

Redefining
HOW LUXURY REAL ESTATE IS DONE

ELISE A. REDMOND
Owner
(704) 779-2693

www.culture-realestate.com



HOWARD HANNA
ALLEGATE REAL ESTATE

Sold!

17120 Players Ridge Drive, Cornelius
3 Bedroom | 2.1 Baths | 2,456 Sq. Ft.

Closed for \$860,000
Buyer Representation



Christina Stone

LUXURY REAL ESTATE EXPERT

(704) 740-0629 | ChristinaStoneHomes.com
Christina.Stone@howardhannatate.com



LUXURY
PORTFOLIO
INTERNATIONAL