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MOORESVILLE LAKESIDE LIVING

THE BEAVER FAMILY

Building Legacy and Community



INSIDE:

Why Estate Plans Fail Every Day

Lake Norman Hospital Celebrates 100 Years!

Modern Acoustic Wall Panels—Where Style Meets Everyday Function

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September North Carolina Festivals

Compiled by Jayne Deku

Festival Name	2026 Dates	Location	Website / Contact Info
North Carolina Apple Festival	September 4–7	Downtown Hendersonville, NC	ncapplefestival.org
Matthews Alive Festival	September 4–7	Stumptown Park, Matthews, NC	matthewsalive.org
Hellbender Festival	September-26	Downtown Spruce Pine, NC	hellbenderfestival.org
John Coltrane International Jazz & Blues Festival	September 5–6	Oak Hollow Festival Park, High Point, NC	coltranejazzfest.com
Hopscotch Music Festival	September 10–12	Downtown Raleigh, NC	hopscotchmusicfest.com
Historic Morganton Festival	September 11–12	Downtown Morganton, NC	morgantonfest.org
NC Freedom Fest	September-26	Downtown Goldsboro, NC	ncfreedomfest.org
North Carolina Mountain State Fair	September 11–20	WNC Agricultural Center, Fletcher, NC	wncagcenter.org
North Carolina Folk Festival	September 18–20	Downtown Greensboro, NC	ncfolkfestival.com
Blue Ridge Mountain Heritage Festival	September-26	Downtown Sparta, NC	alleghanycountychamber.com
International Festival Morrisville	September-26	Morrisville Community Park, Morrisville, NC	townofmorrisville.org
Beer, Bourbon & BBQ Festival	September-26	Winston-Salem Fairgrounds, Winston-Salem, NC	beerandbourbon.com
CenterFest Arts Festival	September 19–20	Downtown Durham, NC	durhamarts.org
Breakaway Music Festival (Carolina)	September 25–26	zMax Dragway at Charlotte Motor Speedway, Charlotte, NC	breakawayfestival.com
Festival in the Park	September 25–27	Freedom Park, Charlotte, NC	festivalinthepark.org
Yadkin Valley Pumpkin Festival	September-26	Downtown Elkin, NC	yadkinvalley.org
Carrboro Music Festival	September-26	Various venues, Carrboro, NC	carroboromusicfestival.com



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Content Due:	Edition Date
September 25	November
October 25	December
November 25	January
December 25	February
January 25	March
February 25	April
March 25	May
April 25	June
May 25	July
June 25	August
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August 25	October

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Hello Neighbors,



It's September! This month leads the transition into the season of harvests, apples, cooler weather, falling leaves, boots, firepits, cozy gatherings and exciting new beginnings with students, parents and teachers settling into a new school year. There are festivals we can enjoy without sweating now that the weather is cooling down, and for those who are fans, you can officially bring on pumpkin spice "everything" without being judged! This past summer has been a scorcher, and while I don't want to complain about the heat, autumn IS my favorite season and I am ready for it all!

We appreciate all of our community sponsors for helping us to connect and celebrate our Mooresville residents and resources! Without our business partners, we would not be here, so please support our marketing sponsors by using their services when you can and mentioning *Lakeside Living* when you call or visit. We are continuing to schedule our 2027 neighbor feature stories, so contact us if you know of interesting or unique people we should showcase, especially those reflecting the diversity of our community from all walks of life and ages. We welcome all couples, families, groups and individuals. Our publication is nonpartisan and positive, so we will always avoid political, religious or other hot-button topics.

Non-business-related articles are always welcome from our resident writers and from young authors who want to write about fun places to visit within a day's drive as well as photos of your pets, Lake Norman photos, your favorite recipes and suggestions for area non-profit organizations and philanthropists to spotlight in our free "Lakeside Giving" feature. Please visit and like our Facebook page, *Mooresville Lakeside Living* - Best Version Media, to see updates, announcements and more.

– Jayne





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THE BEAVER FAMILY

Building Legacy and Community

By Jayne Deku | Photos provided by Kathleen Martin, LKN Images and the Beaver family

Do you know the ABBA song lyrics that start "Take a Chance on Me"? That is exactly what Jessica and Nick Beaver did when their paths crossed, and they have been together since then.

Jessica was working as a flight attendant based in Detroit when she took a chance and got onto Christian Mingle. She met Nick, and less than a year later they were married. She made the move and joined him in North Carolina to start their new life together.

Nick, 38, and Jessica, 40, are the parents of twins born two years apart. Just kidding—although their daughter Kate, 10, and son Carter, 8, were born on the same date (September 11) two years apart. Their family would not be complete without their dog, Maisie, who joined the family as a surprise to the kids last Christmas, along with their two cats, Pumpkin and Twix.

Nick attended Catawba Valley Community College and earned an associate's degree in industrial engineering management, while Jessica attended a small Christian college in Indiana and earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education. Nick worked for several local race teams after graduation, with his most recent job building quarter midget race cars for children. They have a family hot dog business, The Dog House Hot Dogs, and a few years ago Nick stepped away from the racing world to run the business.

Jessica, a woman of many talents and interests, attended cosmetology school after graduating from college. Upon completing her cosmetology certification, as fate would have it, life had other plans for her. When Friendship Christian School offered her a teaching position, it gave her the opportunity to fulfill a childhood wish. She had visited Hawaii twice as a young girl and had always said she wanted to live there someday. Who wouldn't jump at the opportunity to make a dream come true?

Without knowing a soul in Hawaii, she drove her car to California and had it shipped over. She lived in Ewa Beach, on Oahu Island. She had a wonderful experience and met many amazing people. After teaching first grade for a couple of years, the traveling bug bit her and two years later she was a flight attendant based in Detroit. It was during this time in her life that she and Nick met.

Once she moved to North Carolina, she returned to her roots in education and spent several years teaching second grade at a local school.



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The cosmetology bug had never left her, however, and two years ago she was drawn to open Haven Head Spa. Jessica had always had a gift for head massage, which she discovered when she worked at a salon. Her clients would not want to leave the shampoo bowl because she was so good at it. Haven Head Spa started out in a small solo suite and last November, they were blessed to expand into their own brick-and-mortar location.

In case you are wondering what it is, a head spa treatment helps to address scalp issues, such as product buildup and dry scalp, and keep scalp conditions like psoriasis or dandruff under control. It is also deeply relaxing as there are thousands of nerve endings on our scalp and back of neck. "Many new clients have said that they feel more fully relaxed after a head spa treatment than a full body massage," says Jessica.

With the expansion, they have been able to add a small variety of additional holistic services such as a zero-gravity pedicure, which apparently is the most relaxing pedicure you'll ever receive. They take their time with each client, so they never feel like just a number.

The spa also offers facials with a focus on Korean skincare, botanical foot soaks with up to 40 minutes of massage, and a hand spa ritual which provides anti-aging and brightening benefits. All of their products from nail polish to shampoos are holistic based, vegan and do not contain synthetic fragrances.

As a family, their interests are varied—Nick is a history buff who loves to learn about the past, while Jessica loves to read and will also happily go on just about any hike, as long as there's a waterfall at the end. Kate loves to draw and has a beautiful singing voice, and Carter is currently fascinated with Pokémon cards and enjoys martial arts. They are members of and have attended Calvary Baptist Church in Statesville for about nine years and are very grateful to be part of such a wonderful church family. They truly enjoy being active in various community outreach ministries through their church and are constantly finding ways to serve others together as a family.



The Beavers have called Mooresville home for the past 13 years and truly love being part of the community. They feel blessed with incredible neighbors who have helped them in countless ways over the years, from babysitting their children, pet sitting, and lending them the occasional cup of sugar. A defining family memory took shape shortly after they moved







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to Mooresville, when a heavy snowfall gave them an early glimpse of the neighborhood's generosity. They were stuck without a snow shovel, and before they knew what happened, a group of neighbors came together to shovel their driveway. In that moment, they knew they had found the right place to call home.





The family loves taking time off from their busy schedules and have enjoyed vacations in many different places over the years. Some of their favorite vacations have been right here in North Carolina, including camping in Nantahala and their most recent family trip to Carolina Beach.

As a family with two businesses, they are working to instill the value of hard work in their children. The kids often tag along with them to help at The Dog House Hot Dogs and are learning how a family business is run. Giving back has always been important to them, and they are grateful that through their hot dog business they have been given opportunities to support local schools and rescue organizations whenever they are booked for community events.

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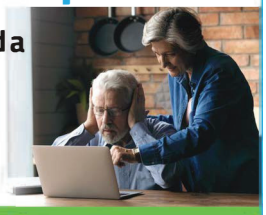

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What Do You Love About Mooresville?

"We love being a part of Mooresville because we feel a strong sense of community here," says Jessica. "The family friendly events downtown to meeting other local business owners really make us feel at home here. We now see people we know everywhere we go!"



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Why Estate Plans Fail Every Day

(And What You Can Do About It)

By Eddie Tarantino Jr., Owner, Tarantino Law, PLLC

Here's something you don't often hear from an estate attorney: having an estate plan isn't the same as having one that actually works.

I see it all the time around Lake Norman. Someone did the responsible thing years ago—signed a will, maybe set up a trust—filed it in a drawer and felt good about checking the box. Then life kept moving. And when the family finally needed that plan, it didn't do what everyone assumed it would.

Most plans don't fail because they were poorly written. They fail for reasons that are surprisingly ordinary.

The plan gets old and nobody notices. A will you signed back in 2009 reflects the life you had in 2009. Since then, maybe you bought a place on the water, sold a business, welcomed grandkids, remarried or lost the person you'd named to handle things. The document didn't change, but everything around it did. An outdated plan can be worse than none at all, because it sends your family down the wrong path with total confidence.

The trust was never actually filled. This one's common and completely avoidable. Folks set up a trust to keep their family out of probate, then never move the house, the accounts or the lake property into it. An empty trust is like a beautiful boat that never touches the water—looks great at the dock, does nothing when you need it.

Beneficiary forms quietly override everything. Your retirement accounts and life insurance don't care what your will says. They pay whoever is listed on the form. I've seen ex-spouses inherit accounts and kids accidentally left out, all because a form never got updated. Those little forms often move more money than the will itself.

Nobody knows the plan exists. If your family can't find the documents, doesn't know who to call or has no idea what you wanted, even a perfect plan stalls at the worst possible moment.

So what can you do about it?

Treat your estate plan like your boat or your HVAC—something you check on now and then, not something you finish once and forget. A good rule: pull it out every three to five years, or after any big life events. A birth, a death, a marriage, a divorce, a move or a major financial change. Those are your cues.

Then take 15 minutes and answer three questions. Does this still reflect my life today? Have I actually moved my assets where they belong? Would the people I trust know what to do and where to look?

If you're unsure about any of those, that's not a failure. It's just a sign it's time for a conversation.

Estate planning isn't about predicting the future. It's about making sure the people you love aren't left guessing. And honestly, getting it right is simpler than most folks fear—it just takes a little attention before it's needed, rather than after.



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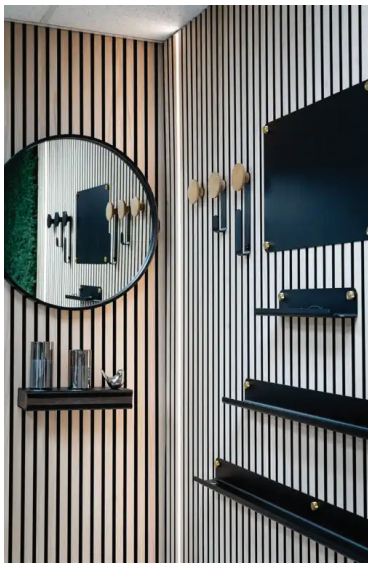
Modern Acoustic Wall Panels —Where Style Meets Everyday Function



By Annie Hanson, CEO, The Closet Niche

Today's homes are designed to be both beautiful and practical, and modern acoustic wall panels are the perfect example of that balance. Once viewed simply as a solution for reducing noise, acoustic wall panels have evolved into a sophisticated design feature that enhances the look, feel and functionality of any space. With clean lines, contemporary finishes and endless customization accessory options, they have become an essential element in modern home design.



The Closet Niche offers a variety of wood species, stains, paint colors and finishes so your acoustic wall panels can complement virtually any interior style—from warm, rustic farmhouse aesthetics to sleek, minimalist designs. Whether installed in an entryway, home office, living room or bedroom feature wall, they create a striking architectural feature while improving the acoustics of the space by helping reduce echo and unwanted noise.

What truly sets today's acoustic wall panel systems apart is their versatility. They're no longer just decorative walls...they're customizable organization systems that adapt to your lifestyle. We have a growing selection of movable and interchangeable accessories that allow homeowners to reconfigure their wall whenever their needs change. Instead of committing to permanent shelving or hooks, accessories can be repositioned in seconds, creating a solution that evolves with your family.

One of the most practical applications is transforming an entryway or drop zone into an organized command center. Adjustable coat hooks provide a convenient place for jackets, hats and umbrellas, while floating shelves hold keys, wallets, sunglasses or decorative accents. Add a stylish planter box to introduce greenery or install adjustable lighting or a lamp to create a warm and inviting welcome as you enter your home. Because every accessory is movable, refreshing the layout is simple whenever you want a new look or additional storage.

Garage entry walls have also become a popular location for these multifunctional systems. Busy families know how quickly backpacks, lunch bags, sports equipment and everyday essentials can pile up near the door. Acoustic wall panels provide an organized



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solution by giving every item its designated place. Hooks can be arranged for backpacks, shelves can store essential items and shoes, and black magnetic boards can keep important notes or tasks written neatly for reminders as you exit to start your day. Everything is visible, organized and ready to grab on the go, making hectic mornings far less stressful.

The flexibility extends beyond organization. As seasons change, accessories can be swapped to suit different needs throughout the year. This adaptability means your wall continues to serve your family instead of becoming outdated or cluttered.

Modern acoustic wall panels prove that great design should work as hard as it looks. They combine sophisticated aesthetics, improved sound control and customizable organization into one innovative solution. Whether you're creating a stylish entryway, an efficient garage entry drop zone or an elegant feature wall, these panels offer a timeless design that grows with your home. Beautiful, practical and endlessly adaptable, modern acoustic wall panels redefine what functional wall décor can be.









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Lowrance Hospital
100th Anniversary

Submitted by Andy Poore, Historian & Archivist and Sara McKee, Library Services Specialist, Mooresville Public Library

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the founding of Lowrance Hospital on April 20, 1926, on West Center Avenue by S.A. Lowrance. This September marks the 96th anniversary of the second hospital building on East Center Avenue on September 22, 1930, now home of the Government Center South. Over the past century, Lowrance (now Duke Health Lake Norman) Hospital has provided Mooresville and the surrounding community with service and care that can only be described as "Mooresville Proud." In honor of the 100th anniversary of the hospital, we thought we would take a look back at the history of the hospital and the nursing school.



Lake Norman Regional



Lowrance Hospital 1932

In the summer of 1925, Lowrance was confined at home after an operation, and while recovering, he decided it was time for Mooresville to have a hospital of its own. Working with local attorney Zeb Turlington, Lowrance Hospital, Inc. was created. Lowrance gave his home on West Center Avenue to the new corporation to use for the hospital. Drs. W.D. McLelland, G.W. Taylor, A.E. Bell, A.M. Lackey, A.B. Sloan and W.E. Wilson were elected as the first board of directors. Their first task was to raise $12,000 by selling stock at $25 a share, for a 24-bed hospital with eight private rooms and separate wards for both white and Black patients. The community was asked to help furnish the rooms. The hospital was to be a brick building beside Lowrance's home.

Sadly, Lowrance died on October 31, 1925, and did not live to see the completion of the project he set in motion, but the hospital opened on April 20, 1926. An enclosed breezeway connected the hospital to the Lowrance home, which was used for doctors' offices and nursing quarters. Around the same time, Lowrance Hospital School of Nursing was organized, and the first class of nursing students was admitted in June 1926.



Lowrance Hospital

On May 9, 1929, plans for a new hospital were announced, at which time the hospital was reorganized from a stock company to a non-profit. The town helped raise funds for the project by selling the electric lights system to Southern Power Co. on March 7, 1929, and unanimously approved $30,000 in funding for the hospital. The Duke Foundation provided $62,000. On August 22, 1929, a site was chosen for the new building on East Center Avenue on land given by Mr. and Mrs. George C. Goodman. Additional land purchased from the Goodmans, and donations received from many other individuals, churches, businesses and organizations led to successful completion of the project.

On September 22, 1930, the new four-story hospital opened with much fanfare. The new building had 104 beds, two solariums, a kitchen, dining room, heating plant, elevator, white ward and Black ward. The dormitory for student nurses was housed on the fourth floor until 1939, when a dedicated residence hall was built adjacent to the hospital; the old nurses' quarters then became the new surgical floor.

Through the years, the hospital grew and expanded in size with new wings, buildings and services. In 1987, the name changed to Lake Norman Regional Medical Center. In 1999, a larger, more modern hospital was built on Fairview Road. In April 2025, Duke Health acquired the hospital and the name changed to Duke Health Lake Norman Hospital.

The Archives at the Mooresville Public Library holds a collection of photographs, yearbooks and newspaper clippings related to the hospital and the nursing school, including the Lowrance Hospital Archive.



Main Entrance to the Hospital circa 1970s

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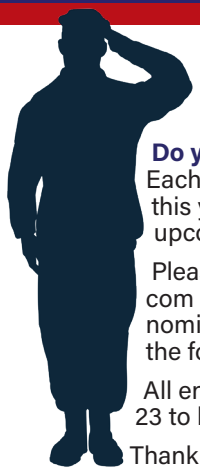

HONORING VETERANS IN OUR NOVEMBER ISSUE

Do you know a Veteran, or are you one yourself?

Each year, we honor Veterans in our community, and this year we would like to continue that tradition in our upcoming November issue.

Please reach out early to jdeku@besteversionmedia.com or jbaker@bestversionmedia.com to share any nominations or to nominate yourself. We will send you the form to complete and send back to us.

All entries must be received by Wednesday, September 23 to be included in the November 2026 issue.

Thank you!

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HOME THEORY:

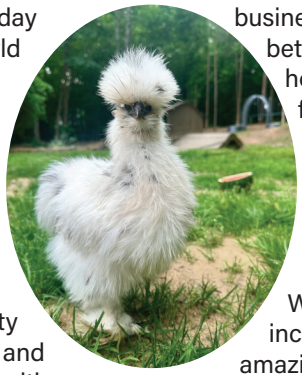
We Create Spaces You Want to Come Home To

By Sarah Fiel, Owner



When you need to hire a contractor, what's your first thought? Dread? Fear? Anxiety? Yep, we completely understand... that's why we decided to do construction differently. Hi, we're Home Theory, your Boutique Design + Renovations Company. To earn your trust, we know we have to be different than the rest. There's no dishonest contractors or back-of-the-napkin sales pitches here. We cross every "t" and dot every "i" so you can rest assured knowing your home and your investment are in great hands. From the moment we start talking about your wish list until we reveal your new space, you have a full team by your side—even if you just need someone to talk to. Construction is inherently stressful, and we are here to take that off your plate. All you have to do is approve your plans, sign your documents and pay your invoices. We handle everything else. Imagine home renovations being that simple. They absolutely can be.

Part of our magic is the structure of our team. I'm Sarah, Owner of Home Theory and Professional Interior Designer. You'll always start the renovation journey with me. We can keep it quick and simple, or chat away like old friends while we dream up your new space. I'm married to our incredible Licensed General Contractor, Eric. I'm not just saying he's great because we've been married 20 years; if you know Eric, you love Eric. Because we are under the same roof, we're always on the same page. We keep that flowing to the client by offering a portal that is updated regularly with messages and photos and a team lead on site for day-to-day questions. That makes a world of difference when it comes to renovations where there are surprises around every corner, and the budget, timeline and scope of work are always shifting. Plus, we've been doing this forever. Eric's been working in the industry in one capacity or another for over 30 years, and I've been renovating houses with him since we got married.



At our core, we're just a small-town pair of old souls from Wisconsin who jam out to 90s country music. We both have a deep Midwest work ethic that doesn't quit. I spend my limited free time digging into the 'grandma hobbies' as our teenagers call them. Sewing, gardening, baking, crafting up herbal concoctions, reading and a newly acquired hobby, embroidery. Eric is a diehard outdoorsman—fishing, hunting, target shooting and mountain biking. Together, we live on a full-blown homestead complete with ducks, chickens, bees, three homeschooled free-spirited teenagers and a labradoodle. The kids all have their own businesses too, so I guess entrepreneurship runs in our blood. There are a total of seven businesses under our roof. In between the businesses and the homestead, there's very little free time, but when we get antsy, we hop on a plane to who knows where (usually on a whim) because why not. Life is too short to not live an adventure.

We can't wrap up without including a shout out to the amazing staff and subcontractors on our team. These guys keep the wheels rolling. We only hire teammates with strong values of integrity and excellence, people we would invite into our own home, so that we can be 100% confident in providing our clients with the best of the best in the industry.





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We Want to Feature Your Family



We Want to Feature Your Family! We are always looking for interesting neighbors to feature in our 28117 community magazine. Does your family have an interesting story you would like to share with our *Mooresville Lakeside Living* community? Or, do you know a neighbor with a great story to tell? Please share any recommendations with Joanie Baker at jbaker@bestversionmedia.com. We can't wait to hear from you!

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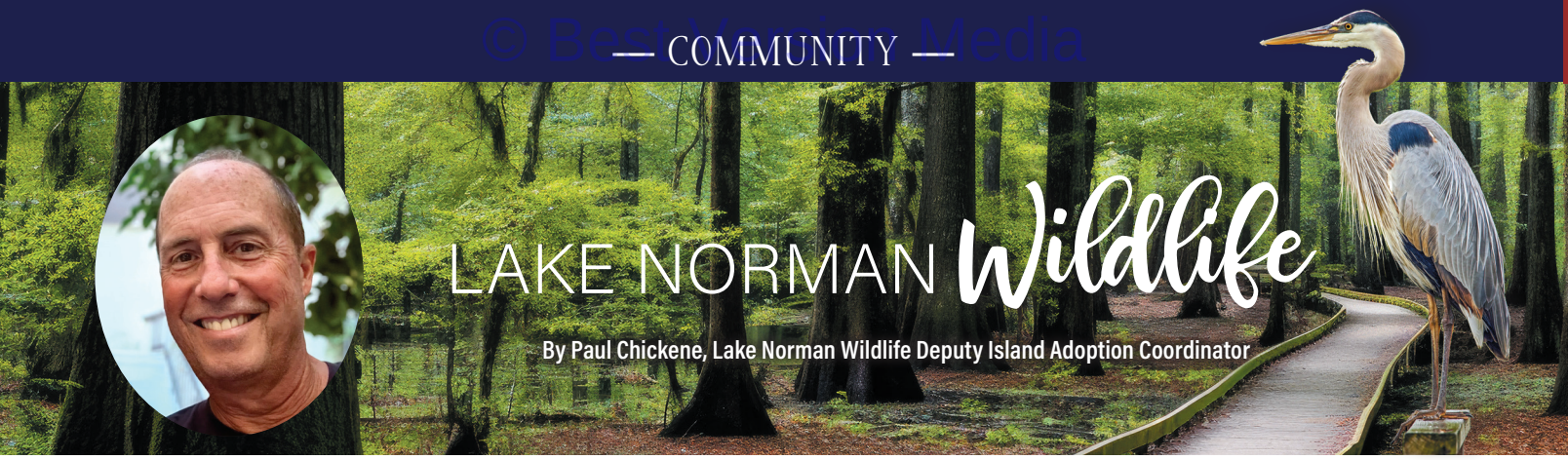

LAKE NORMAN Wildlife

By Paul Chickene, Lake Norman Wildlife Deputy Island Adoption Coordinator

"Lake Norman Wildlife" is a community-based, volunteer, non-profit organization whose mission is to protect, conserve and restore wildlife and habitat on and around Lake Norman.

In partnership with the North Carolina Wildlife Federation (NCWF) and Duke Energy, our flagship Island Habitat Program invites community members to help keep Lake Norman's islands clean. By adopting an island, volunteers help reduce litter, protect wildlife and raise awareness about conservation. An added benefit is the opportunity to enjoy fellowship with like-minded conservationists.

Lake Norman Wildlife has installed more than 80 Osprey and Great Blue Heron nesting platforms throughout the lake, helping support these iconic bird species for decades. The organization also enhances Lake Norman's fisheries through innovative fish habitat reef projects, including both permanent artificial reefs and annual Christmas tree reef installations. Following Hurricane Helene, Lake Norman Wildlife led one of the lake's largest volunteer cleanup efforts, mobilizing community members to remove more than 50 tons of storm debris from the shoreline and islands. In recognition of its outstanding conservation leadership and community impact, Lake Norman Wildlife was honored with the NCWF's 2026 Governor's Conservation Achievement Award for Chapter of the Year.

Lake Norman Wildlife operates as a chapter of the NCWF. By joining us through the NCWF, you'll support local conservation efforts on Lake Norman while also enjoying the benefits of NCWF membership, including statewide programs, advocacy initiatives, and subscriptions to the *Quarterly Journal and Annual Report*.

We're always looking for passionate individuals to become part of our leadership team. Whether your strengths lie in event planning, project coordination, volunteer management, fundraising, communications or community outreach, there are meaningful opportunities to help shape the future of Lake Norman Wildlife while making a lasting impact on conservation in our community.

We invite you to peruse our website and follow us on Facebook at www.LNWC.org.

If you like what you see and would like to learn more or get involved, we'd be delighted to welcome you and help you find the opportunity that's right for you.

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Apple Butter

Submitted by Boleyn Willis

Apple picking is fun! But now you have a dilemma: what are you going to do with all those apples? This is a delicious and easy recipe that's sure to please.

Ingredients

3.5 pounds assorted apples (Gala, Empire, Cameo and/or Honeycrisp; a mix is great!), peeled, quartered and cored

3 cups unsweetened apple cider

1 cup packed dark brown sugar

1 teaspoon ground cinnamon

1/2 teaspoon ground cloves

Directions

1. In a large, heavy pot or Dutch oven over medium-high heat, bring apples, apple cider and brown sugar to a boil. Reduce heat to low and simmer, stirring occasionally to prevent burning, until apples are stewed and start to resemble applesauce—about 40 minutes.
2. Remove from heat. Using an immersion blender or potato masher, puree apple mixture until it's smooth.
3. Return pot to low heat. Add cinnamon and cloves, stir to combine and bring to a simmer. Cover pot and cook, stirring occasionally, until butter has significantly reduced and turned from a honey color to a dark golden hue, about 90 minutes. The mixture may boil at some points, so keep stirring until the apple butter is significantly thickened. You'll know it's done cooking when it doesn't run off a wooden spoon.



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Early Action vs. Early Decision:

What is the Difference?



Compiled by Joanie Baker, M.A. Secondary English Education & Gifted Education (The Ohio State University), Certificate in College Admissions

Early Decision vs. Early Action: What is the difference?

With the Common App open since August 1, seniors should be busy working on their college applications and should already have chosen their decision deadlines for the schools on their list. The first decision deadlines to arrive are Early Action (EA) and Early Decision (ED) deadlines in early fall, followed by Regular Decision deadlines in the new year. EA and ED options are often confused and used interchangeably, but they are VERY different and not fully understanding the differences can cause big issues for you and your high school.

Early Action (EA)

The Early Action deadline is offered by many schools and is that school's earliest deadline for submitting applications; you can submit your application anytime between August 1 and that deadline. Most schools offer EA or ED but not both, although a few offer both. You want to make sure that you make that deadline for any schools offering it, as most schools admit a larger percentage of students at that deadline as opposed to the Regular Decision deadline, so you have a better chance of getting in if you are early. You also find out more quickly if you are accepted, which can alleviate a lot of anxiety and help you make decisions about where you want to go faster. If you are rejected, it allows you to apply to other schools before the Regular Decisions deadlines. If you are deferred, all you can do is wait for RD to find out where you stand. You can apply to as many schools as you want by the EA deadlines. If you are accepted EA, you do not have to accept right away and it is non-binding, meaning you are not required to go there if you get in. Applying EA also allows you to compare offers from multiple schools well before the official acceptance deadline of May 1. There is really no downside to applying by the EA deadlines.

Some schools have multiple EA deadlines, and some have Restricted EA (or Single-Choice EA), which means you cannot apply ED elsewhere or EA at other private schools if you apply there, but you can apply EA at public institutions and RD elsewhere, even if you get admitted at the REA school.

Early Decision (ED)

The Early Decision deadline is the one where you need to be careful. ED means if you apply early and get accepted, you MUST ATTEND that school and you agree to pay whatever they offer in terms of Cost of Attendance (COA). This is a **binding agreement** you sign (along with your school counselor) committing to attend no matter what, so making sure you have completed the Net Price Calculator (NPC) for that school and have confirmed your COA with the college before submitting an ED application is imperative. The only way to get out of this commitment is for the NPC to not to match your offer or to have some other uncontrolled circumstance arise. While the college cannot make you attend, if you renege on the agreement, your school can be blackballed from future admits and/or you can be rejected from other schools to which you apply.

ED is often a good way to prove that a certain school is your number one and more students are accepted at ED than at RD, so if you have just one dream school, can afford the estimated COA, and meet the requirements of a top candidate for their school, it is a great option for some students, especially students with no financial barriers or low-income students who apply to schools that cover 100% of demonstrated need. On the downside, ED does not allow you to compare multiple offers and merit opportunities from other great schools, to apply by other schools' earlier deadlines, and may reduce your chance of getting any financial aid or scholarships from the school. While you can apply EA to any other schools as fallback options for your ED school, you cannot accept any of the other schools' EA offers if admitted.

Whatever option you choose, submitting early is always a good idea because it shows initiative and responsibility, gives the best chance for acceptance, and gets a lot of work out of the way so that you can enjoy your winter break and your senior year with most of your applications behind you.

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TUNES AT TRULIANT

By Tessa Rosenberg, Teen Reporter

Hello there! Happy September! I'm so excited to report on my favorite excursion of my summer. As an incredible graduation gift, a family friend invited me to the Windy Cities Tour concert with STYX and Chicago at the Truliant Amphitheater (formerly PNC Pavilion) in Charlotte. She failed to tell me until the day before that these tickets were actually VIP, involving the best seats in the house and meeting one of the bands. This was an absolutely incredible experience and a great opportunity to report on Truliant's excellent venue.

We arrived extra early because of our meet-and-greet session with Chicago and were taken care of in a tent to stay out of the blazing July sun. After early admission into the venue, we enjoyed the vast selection of food and drink stations, and even got some authentic merch. The fans and water sprays located throughout the area helped make guests feel much more comfortable in the heat. The long wait to meet Chicago was more than worth it after getting the coolest picture, which we gushed over as we went to find our seats. I've been to the arena many times prior (and always had a great view), but never walked so close to the stage. My mouth dropped as she turned into the very first row, and I couldn't believe that I would be standing right in front of the band members.





Truliant is a fabulous and accessible venue because of its many seating options, including lawn seats that are incredibly affordable while still offering a great view and experience. While I was honored to be so close to the band members, I would have enjoyed the concert no matter where I was sitting in the arena. That being said, this new perspective was incredible. Making eye contact with the band members is amazing when you know the lyrics and a bit awkward when you don't! The lead singer of Chicago locked eyes with me for a few verses of "You're the Inspiration," and I think I felt my soul leave my body.

STYX performed first, and it was a familiar feel given I saw them in the same venue a year prior. Their voices are so timeless, and I loved hearing my favorite hits live once again. I caught a guitar pick from my favorite band member before they said goodbye and Chicago came out for their time to shine. This was my first time seeing them perform, and they did not disappoint. I found it so impressive how both bands had such great stage presence without extreme choreography or an ultra-large venue. Even from further back, every Truliant concert feels so intimate while still allowing for a large audience.

The concert ended right around 11pm to comply with both Charlotte's noise ordinance and my bedtime, leaving us driving home in awe from such an incredible experience. Truliant hosts many concerts, comedians and other tours each month, so you're bound to find a visiting performer who interests you.

If you want to experience a live performance, whether right at the stage or relaxed on the lawn, Truliant is excellent for making memories no matter your entertainment taste or budget. Check out their website for the upcoming lineup, because I can almost guarantee you will see something that catches your eye, but certainly guarantee that you will leave the arena with a huge smile on your face and memories to last a lifetime.





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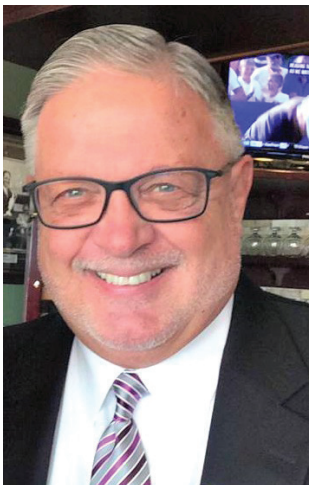
The Danger of Silence

By Jim Vogel

The phone rang Thanksgiving Eve afternoon as we readied the house for a big family dinner the next day. It was my urologist. The call was brief. My prostate biopsy came back positive for cancer. It is moderately aggressive, and I need to immediately get bloodwork done that day. I would need a bone scan and a CT scan early the next week.

I never had a symptom other that bathroom visits. The prostate is very quiet—I never had a clue. The positive news was that my cancer was contained within the prostate, and there were a few options to consider in the next week or so. I needed to call his office on Monday.

After waiting a long and stressful 18 days for the biopsy results, things now were very real. Surrounded by family the next day, I felt fortified to accept what was happening.



My choices were simple. I could have 25 days of external beam radiation therapy (EBRT) and then Brachytherapy, a type of internal radiation surgery in which radioactive seeds are placed directly into the prostate where they remain for life. The other choice was radical prostatectomy, the complete removal of the prostate. Removal contains many risks and a longer recovery. As a small business owner, keeping the prostate was the best choice.

The external radiation took its toll with severe bladder issues and extreme fatigue. It is important to note here that that everything takes a long time. With each procedure that readied me for the surgery, there were two to three weeks between to give the body a rest.

I had my brachytherapy surgery on March 21, 2022. Almost six months after the biopsy, they planted 93 radioactive titanium seeds, with each seed delivering a powerful close-range dose that slowly declines over time. I could not be physically close to anyone, including my spouse and little dog. I could not be near my two grandboys or pregnant women for two months. The "social distancing" aspect was very tough to handle.

Although these seeds are permanent physical reminders of this journey, my fatigue has been the biggest problem. Safe to say my bladder was one unhappy organ, but as time goes by, it is becoming more normal.

My story is not the point of this article. You are. Awareness and education can save lives. One guy in every eight gets prostate cancer. In 2021, approximately 31,000 men died from this cancer [and in 2025, it is up to 38,000]—about the population of Cornelius, NC.

How can this slow-growing cancer kill so many? First, the prostate is a very quiet organ, much like the appendix. There is danger in silence. Secondly, men are very good at two things. They do not share personal medical concerns, and they do not like going to the doctor. This is a very deadly combination.

Prostate cancer is the only cancer that takes a simple PSA test to detect problems. PSA (Prostate-Specific Antigen) is an important signal. Although there are no absolutes, deviation from the normal scale is a true indicator that something is not right. Do not hesitate to get a yearly blood test. Know your family history. I did not know two of my uncles, both age 72, died from prostate cancer. I never asked.

Join me in this fight for life. We want to save all of you, one at a time. It is an intimate journey through awareness. Finding it early is lifesaving.

Join our Facebook group page Prostate Cancer Awareness USA at www.facebook.com/groups/prostatecancerawarenessusa.

I am now a Prostate Cancer Spokesperson and invite you to reach out to me at Prostatecancerawarenessusa@gmail.com.



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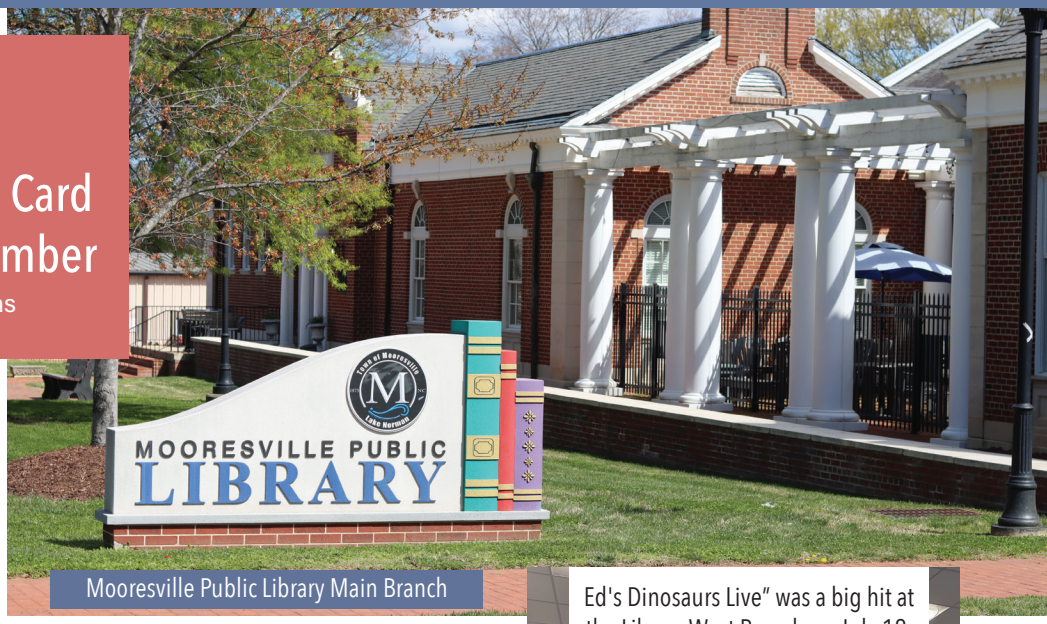
A Library Card Hits All the Right Notes: Celebrate National Library Card Sign-Up Month This September

Submitted by Judi Rossabi, Communications Specialist, Town of Mooresville



Mooresville Public Library Main Branch

For a child, a library card can be a passport into discovery and a key to academic success. For adults, a library card can provide access to many resources beyond books. September is National Library Card Sign-Up Month, and the Mooresville Public Library invites community members to stop by and "check us out."

With a library card, patrons gain access to online education resources, streaming media, events for all ages, and more. Getting a library card is free and easy for Mooresville residents and can be completed during your first visit to the library.

Mooresville Public Library features two locations: Main Library and West Branch. Main Library is conveniently located in downtown Mooresville at 304 S. Main Street and West Branch is located at 614 Brawley School Road. Both locations feature easy onsite parking and a welcoming atmosphere.

HOW TO GET YOUR LIBRARY CARD

To get a library card, stop by either Main or West Branch and bring official photo identification, such as a North Carolina Driver's License with a current address, or a Passport, Military ID, College ID or Work ID—plus proof of address.

Children and teens also can get their own library card. Children age 15 years or younger must have a parent or legal guardian present to sign the application card. Teens age 16 and older with a photo ID may apply for a library card without the presence of a parent or guardian.

If you have questions, call the library at 704-664-2927.

ABOUT LIBRARY CARD SIGN-UP MONTH

This special month started in 1987 as an initiative of the American Library Association (ALA), and the 2026 theme, "A Library Card Hits All the Right Notes," is a reminder that libraries offer something for everyone—no matter your age, background or interests. There's a seat in the front row at the library for you, and a library card is the ticket.

A LOVE OF READING KEEPS GROWING IN MOORESVILLE

Over the past decade, Mooresville Public Library's total checkouts have grown 21% to nearly 600,000 checkouts in the past year. Digital checkouts have more than tripled since 2017, increasing from 51,131 to 184,861. Physical books still account for nearly 70% of everything patrons borrow, showing that print is still popular in this community.

At Mooresville Public Library, every new or renewed card, every checkout, and every book shared with a neighbor or a child helps keep residents reading. Want to add to the momentum? Stop by the Main Library or West Branch this September, or visit us online, to get a library card and check out your next book.

Ed's Dinosaurs Live" was a big hit at the Library West Branch on July 18. The program featured an interactive puppet show about dinosaurs, plus photo opportunities with the dinosaurs



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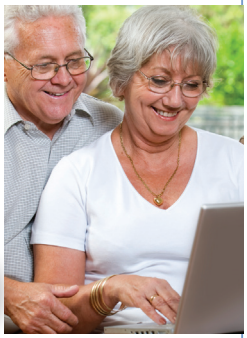



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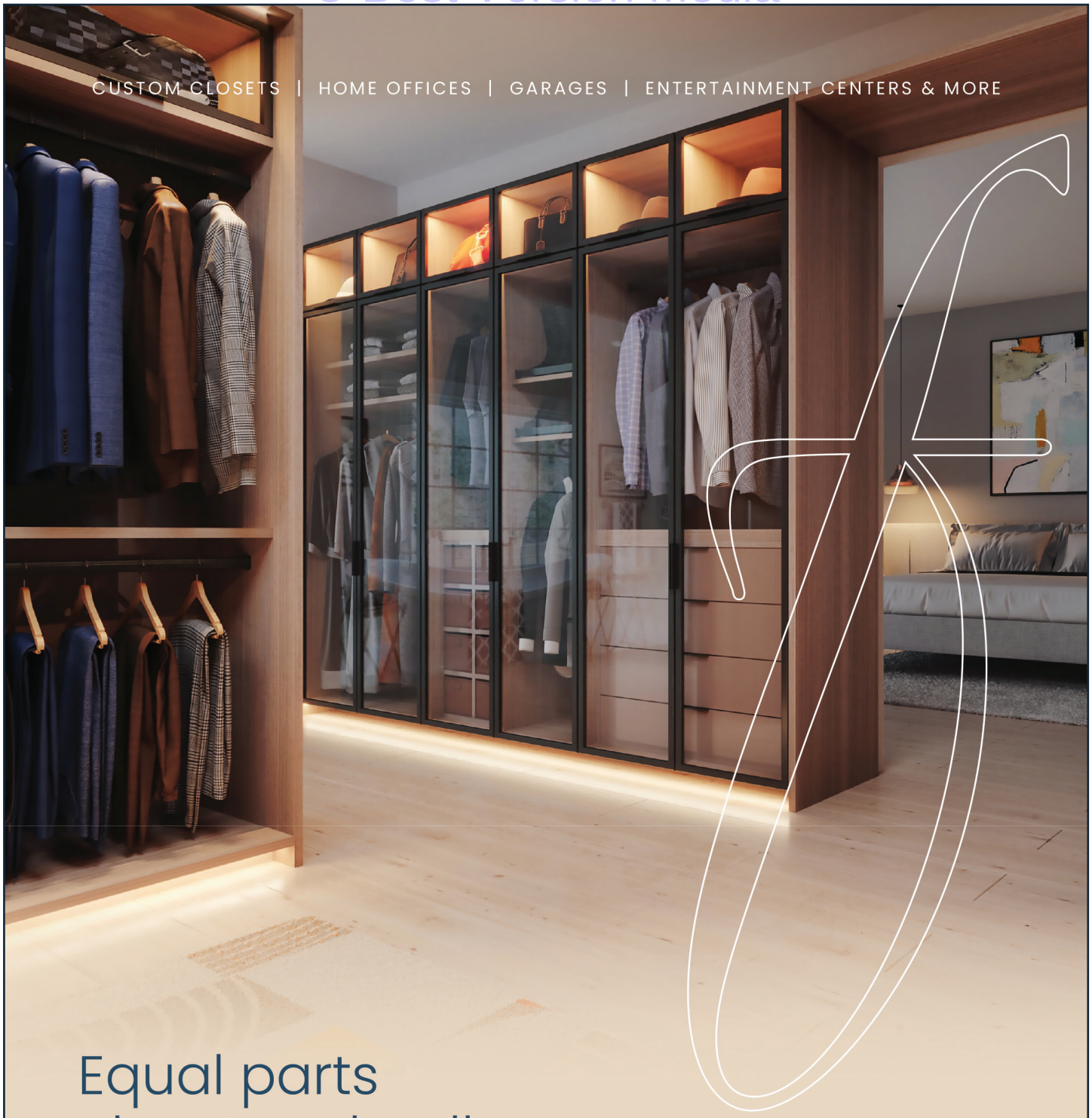

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EMBRACING CHANGE

By Hope Andersen

Summer is over, and once again we find ourselves with a change of season. For some, the change is dreaded; for others, welcome. No matter what our stance, the reality is: change is inevitable. According to Maxime Lagace, a Canadian ice hockey goalie, "To live is to change. To change is to suffer." Spoken like a true millennial.

I disagree. I subscribe to the Buddhist philosophy popularized by authors like Haruki Murakami that "[change] is inevitable. Suffering is optional." We create our own suffering, or pain, by resisting, regretting or resenting change as it occurs. We fight our new schedule which demands that we get up earlier to get the kids off to school. We wrestle with our bodies as we experience the natural limitations that come with aging. We rail against the weather, the price of gas and groceries, the neighbors' new floodlights that prohibit us from seeing the stars. We suffer because we allow ourselves to suffer. Sometimes we actually wallow in our suffering, ranting and fuming in the face of change, feeding our self-righteous anger. As if being angry can do anything to change the circumstances. It doesn't. It just keeps us in Victim Mode. What is an alternative to suffering in the face of change? I like this Chinese proverb that states, "When the winds of change blow, some people build walls and others build windmills." I'm a windmill builder. And I am in good company. Author and entrepreneur Jim Rohn wrote, "Your life does not get better by chance, it gets better by change." In his words, I hear a message of empowerment. Change, as a choice, can often be the thing that sets our lives on a new course for the better. But what about those things we can't change, like the weather, disease or sudden job loss? Here I turn to the great motivator Norman Vincent Peale, who reminds us that if you "change your thoughts, you change your world." What we think, we are. We are not responsible for the first thought that comes to mind, but we can choose our second and third thoughts. And what we choose to think is demonstrated in our actions. Embracing change doesn't require anything dramatic. In fact, the most effective way to transform from seeing change as an adversary and the root of suffering is quite simple. Change your perspective. Look at the change as an opportunity to practice patience, compassion and courage. A tall order, I know, and that is why I use the word practice. None of us are saints! But I guarantee you if you embrace change as a friend, not a foe, your life will be much more peaceful and serene. The seemingly huge problems—how to juggle diverse family schedules or how to cope with chronic illness—will diminish.

None of us can avoid change. It is happening all the time, every day. But we can choose how we are going to respond to changes as they come.





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LAKESIDE PETS

Submitted by Jayne Deku

Meet the other members of our feature family, the Beavers.



Maisie was born on Halloween and will be 2 this year. She was a Christmas Day surprise and is a wonderful addition to the family!



Pumpkin, 3, was found in a box after being dumped out in the country, and was adopted the next day by the Beavers.



Twix, who is 6, was a "foster fail" and the family adopted him from the Iredell Animal shelter. He is a big boy at 16 pounds!

Lake Norman Humane Spotlight

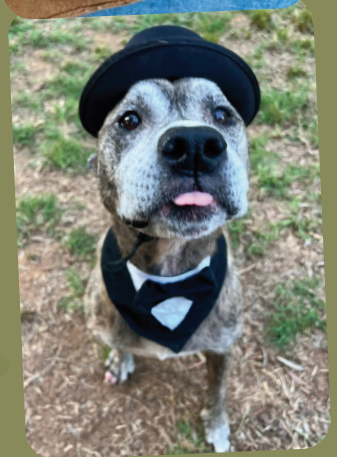
Submitted by Dana Kelley, Operations Director, Lake Norman Humane Photos by staff



Duncan

Meet Duncan! When he was found, he was severely emaciated and in desperate need of care. Thanks to the help of some amazing people, he has gained more than 20 pounds, gained a ton of love and made so many incredible friends along the way. He loves sniffing around on adventures, chewing on a good bone, stopping for the occasional pup cup and curling up for cuddles. Duncan has also never met a stranger. Don't let his age fool you; at 16 he can still keep up with the best of them. He is gentle, affectionate, easygoing and happy just being by your side. If you've ever thought about giving a senior dog a chance, I promise he will fill your home with gratitude, love and plenty of smiles. Think you might want to give a sweet senior a chance? Reach out to info@lakenormanhumane.org for more info or visit their website at www.lakenormanhumane.org.





Visit Lake Norman Humane during their open hours or email info@lakenormanhumane.org for more information.

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Where to Pick Apples

By Caroline Campbell

September is apple season in North Carolina. Enjoy everything apple (apple donuts, apple slushies and good ol' apple pie) at the 2026 North Carolina Apple Festival in Hendersonville from Friday, September 4 to Monday, September 7. It's just 85 miles away! It is one of the best-known street fairs in North Carolina with arts and crafts, live entertainment and, of course, festival food. For more festival information, visit *www.ncapplefestival.org.*

Here's where to go apple picking:

Carrigan Farms, Mooresville, NC
Beginning in September
Market and U-pick or pre-picked apples
www.carriganfarms.com/the-farm/apples

Apple Hill Orchard and Cider Mill, Morganton, NC
Beginning mid-August
Market and U-pick or pre-picked apples
www.applehillorchard.com

Justus Orchard, Hendersonville, NC
Beginning early August
Market, petting zoo, U-pick or pre-picked apples
www.justusorchard.com

Sky Top Orchard, Hendersonville, NC
New this year, U-pick apples by reservation only
Mountain views, barnyard animals, playground, U-pick or pre-picked apples
www.skytoporchard.com

Stepp's Hillcrest Orchard, Hendersonville, NC
Beginning August 15
Market, wagon rides, corn maze, apple cannon, nature trail, U-pick or pre-picked apples
www.steppapples.com

Granddad's Apples and Such, Hendersonville, NC
Beginning early August
Barnyard animals, corn maze, trampoline, cow train, pre-picked apples and pumpkin patch
www.grandadsapples.com

Coston Farm & Apple House, Hendersonville, NC
Check for opening date
U-pick and pre-pick, market, bakery
www.costonfarm.com

Jeter Mountain Farm Apple Orchard, Hendersonville, NC
Thursdays-Sundays from September 3 through November 1
U-pick or pre-pick, wedding venues, market, hard cider tap rooms, live Bluegrass music, play area
www.jetermountainfarm.com

Mountain Fresh Orchards, Hendersonville, NC
Daily beginning August 19
Pre-pick, market, bakery, train rides, pumpkins
www.mtnfreshorchards.com

Perry Lowe Orchards, Moravians Falls, NC
Opens Labor Day weekend (tickets required)
U-pick or pre-pick, market, cider
www.perryloweorchards.com

Please visit each location's website for the most current information, dates and hours of operation.



NC APPLE FESTIVALS

September 4-7 North Carolina Apple Festival, Downtown Hendersonville
September 26 Apple Fest at Historic Bethabara Park, Winston-Salem
October 3 Brushy Mountain Apple Festival, North Wilkesboro
October 17 Lincoln County Apple Festival, Downtown Lincolnton
October 17 Taylorsville Apple Festival, Main Street, Taylorsville

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september

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Please confirm events through the event, venue or school websites; all information is subject to change.

FARMERS MARKETS

Every Saturday in September
DAVIDSON FARMERS' MARKET
@Downtown Davidson near Town Hall
Come out and support local with the Davidson Farmers' Market. No pets allowed.
Time: 9am-12pm
www.davidsonfarmersmarket.org

Every Thurs., Fri. & Sat. in September
RIVER JAM
@U.S. National Whitewater Center
Enjoy a talented lineup of national musical acts each night in a fun, outdoor setting.
Time: 7-10pm
Cost: $12 parking
whitewater.org

Sat., September 5
CONCERTS ON THE CIRCLE
@Jetton Street near Clean Juice (605 Jetton Street), Davidson
Rivermist: Variety is scheduled to perform at the Town of Davidson's Concert on the Circle.
Time: 5-6:30pm An acoustic artist will perform
Time: 7-9pm Headline artists
Cost: Free

Sat., September 12 & 26
CONCERTS ON THE GREEN
@Davidson Town Green
Bring your family, friends, picnics and chairs, and join the community for the spring, summer and fall concert series. Dancing optional!
September 12: The Chain: Fleetwood Mac Tribute
September 26: Envision: R&B/Variety
Time: 6-8pm
Cost: Free
concertsonthegreen.com



Fri., September 4
BIG 80S TRIBUTE BAND
@Liberty Park – Rock the Park Summer Concert Series
The Big 80s Tribute Band delivers a high-energy performance that captures the iconic sound and spirit of 1980s rock and pop. Featuring electrifying guitar work, dynamic keyboards and a driving rhythm section, the band recreates the era's biggest hits with authenticity. Their engaging stage presence and nonstop energy make every show a full-scale throwback party.
Time: Show: 6:30pm (6:30-8:30pm)
Cost: Free

September 2 through September 25
PERFORMANCES
@Cain Center For the Arts
Wed., September 2: La Profesora
Time: Show: 7:30pm
Cost: $0.00 to $107.50

Fri., September 11: **TUBA SKINNY**
Known as world-class interpreters of traditional jazz who also explore jug band music, spirituals, country blues, ragtime and New Orleans R&B, Tuba Skinny bring an organic, street-born energy that makes their music feel irresistibly alive.
Time: Doors open: 6:30pm, Show: 7:30pm
Cost: $43.78 to $66.20

Sat., September 12: **GOOD TIMES BAD TIMES**
Good Times Bad Times channels the iconic and raw power of Led Zeppelin, capturing the thunderous kick drum, soaring vocals and guitar-driven classics that defined the glory days of the 70s. Rooted in the band's deep connection to delta blues and fueled by fiery passion, this unmistakable show transports audiences through rock-and-roll nostalgia while honoring the legendary creativity and freedom of the era.
Time: Doors open: 6:30pm, Show: 7:30pm
Cost: $46.25 to $67.45

Thu., September 17: **MARTY MANOUS**
Marty Manous is a blues rock powerhouse, delivering soul-shredding guitar riffs and raw, heartfelt vocals that channel the spirit of Stevie Ray Vaughan, Eric Johnson, Joe Bonamassa and The Allman Brothers. Join Marty for an unforgettable night of foot-stomping, soul-stirring music that'll leave your theater buzzing.
Time: Doors open: 6pm, Show: 7pm
Cost: $30.78 to $52.88

Fri., September 18: **THE PLAYERS**
Featuring Keith Howland (Chicago), Jeff Coffey (Chicago), Rob Arthur (Peter Frampton) and Ed Toth (The Doobie Brothers), The Players bring a powerhouse live show built on real-deal musicianship and decades of stage experience. Together with a blazing three-piece horn section, The Players capture the spirit, energy and youthful fire of these legendary artists at the height of their powers. As actual members of Chicago, The Doobie Brothers and Peter Frampton's band, these musicians bring the music to life from the inside out, drawing on real-world experience performing for audiences around the globe.
Time: Doors open: 6:30pm, Show: 7:30pm
Cost: $64.80 to $87.90

Sat., September 19: **BAD MOMZ OF COMEDY**
Get ready for a hilarious, laugh-out-loud comedy showcase presented by the Bad Momz of Comedy. This performance highlights the sharp, witty and unapologetically honest humor of moms who take the stage to share their relatable takes on parenting, family life, marriage and all the chaos that comes with it. Perfect for a night out, it brings top-tier comedic talent together for an evening that will leave parents and comedy lovers alike roaring with laughter.
Time: Doors open: 6:30pm, Show: 7:30pm
Cost: $46.10 to $67.30

Wed., September 23: **CLIFFORD THE BIG RED DOG**
Everyone's favorite Big Red Dog, CLIFFORD, bounds onto the stage in a brand-new musical comedy adventure that celebrates friendship, imagination and the magic of unconditional love! Clifford The Big Red Dog: The Musical is full of extra-large laughs, joy and love, the paw-fect show for Clifford's growing young fans—and nostalgic parents who remember him too.
Time: Doors open: 11am, Show: 12pm
Cost: $19.58 to $25.10

Fri., September 25: **SALISBURY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**
This program explores theatricality, character, and the blurred line between performer and performance. Marche pour la Cérémonie des Turcs opens with ceremonial flair, followed by the Trombone Concerto by Grøndahl, featuring Evelyn Carlson, Principal Trombone of the Kansas City Symphony. The Suite from Petrushka (1947 version) closes the concert with its vivid carnival world, where puppets come to life and spectacle takes over. Audience members are invited to join the atmosphere with a masquerade, bringing the spirit of the program off the stage and into the hall.
Time: Doors open: 6:30pm, Show: 7:30pm
Cost: $52.88 to $73.48

Sat., September 19
BANDS, BREWS & BBQ FESTIVAL
@Liberty Park – Downtown Mooresville
The annual Bands, Brews & BBQ Festival presented

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by deBotech returns to light up Downtown Mooresville on Saturday, September 19. Bands, Brews & BBQ brings together the best of food, fun and community spirit. Enjoy barbecue from a variety of regional food vendors, family rides in the Family Fun Zone and craft brews in the Beer Garden. Headlining the festival is the country music duo Big & Rich, who have been entertaining audiences for more than two decades with their genre-defying sound, high-energy performances and chart-topping hits like "Save a Horse (Ride a Cowboy)" and "Comin' to Your City."
Time: Festival hours: 4-9pm
Cost: Free admission

Sun., September 20
CIOMPI AND LARKSPUR QUARTETS
@M@SA - St. Alban's Episcopal Church
The Ciompi String Quartet returns to Music at St. Alban's and will be joined by the Larkspur Quartet for Mendelssohn's stunning Octet. The Ciolmpi Quartet will also play works by J.S. Bach, Charles Ives and more.
Time: 3pm
Cost: Cost: $16.30 – $21.40 (free for students)

Mon., September 21
BIG BAND SEPTEMBER 2026
@Wobbly Butt Brewery at New Victory Lanes
Join in on the fun to dine and enjoy the sounds of The Lake Norman Big Band. These performances occur every third Monday of each month, offering a lively evening filled with fantastic music, great food, and community spirit.
Time: Dinner served: 6pm, Band starts: 7pm (6pm-8:30pm)
Cost: Free admission (Food and drinks available for purchase)

Through Thu., September 24
"FACE OFF" & "HEAVEN ON EARTH" EXHIBITIONS
@Mooresville Arts Gallery (Historic Train Depot)
Two unique exhibitions are on display simultaneously in the gallery. Face Off is a captivating portrait-focused exhibition showcasing a diverse range of artistic styles and media. Running alongside it is Heaven On Earth, a specialty exhibit highlighting selected featured artists exploring scenic and breathtaking perspectives.
Time: Gallery open hours (Tuesday–Thursday)
Cost: Free admission

Tue., September 29 – Thu., November 12
ARTOBERFEST JUDGED SHOW & COMPETITION
@Mooresville Arts Gallery (Historic Train Depot)
Mooresville Arts hosts its annual premier fall judged show and community competition. This highly anticipated exhibition features original, competitive works submitted by local and regional artists across multiple fine art mediums, all competing for top honors and judge recognitions.
Time: Gallery open hours (Tuesday–Thursday)
Cost: Free admission to view

SCHOOL CALENDAR

ISS: 9/7, 9/21-9/22, No School, 9/23, 9/25, Early Release

CMS: 9/7, 9/21, No School

Davidson Day: 9/7, 9/14-9/15, 9/18, 9/21, No School

Cannon: 9/7, 9/21, No School

Community School of Davidson: 9/7, No School



Lake Norman Charter: 9/7, 9/21, No School

Langtree Charter: 9/7, 9/18, No School

Pine Lake Prep: 9/7, 9/21, No School

Woodlawn: 9/7, 9/21, No School

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