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MOORESVILLE LAKESIDE LIVING

A Legacy of Service:
How the Zarybnicky Family Honors Country and Community



INSIDE

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- Accessible Bathroom Remodeling
- History of the Mooresville Christmas Parade

HONORING OUR LOCAL VETERANS

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Cover photo by Kathleen Martin, LKN Images

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NOVEMBER NORTH CAROLINA FESTIVALS

2026 Dates	Festival Name	Location	Key Highlights
Nov 6–7	NC Poultry Jubilee	Rose Hill, NC	Live music, food vendors, street dance and meals cooked in the world's largest frying pan.
Nov 7	NC Pecan Harvest Festival	Whiteville, NC	Pecan-themed cooking contest, car show, parade, live music and children's activities.
Nov 21	Flannel Fest	Cramerton, NC	Fall/autumn celebration with local food, drinks, crafts and outdoor activities.
Saturdays & Sundays (Nov 1–22)	Carolina Renaissance Festival	Huntersville, NC	Outdoor 16th-century artisan market, jousting tournaments, live music and games.
Mid-Nov – Early Jan	NC Chinese Lantern Festival	Cary, NC	Dozens of hand-crafted, illuminated LED lantern displays and cultural performances.

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

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Standing Together for Those Who've Had Our Backs

By Christie Shein, Founder, On My 6



In military language, "on my six" means "I've got your back." Six o'clock is the spot directly behind you, the one you can't see. At On My 6, that's exactly what we want our community to be for the active-duty service members, veterans, first responders and their families who live among us.

How We Started

On My 6 was founded by Cornelius resident Christie Shein in honor of her late brother, Master Sgt. Scott Joy, who served with the U.S. Army's 82nd Airborne Division and Special Forces. Scott often said he just didn't know how to meet his community. Too many who serve feel the same way. They come home, take off the uniform or finish a shift, and find it hard to connect with the civilian neighbors around them. Christie started On My 6 to change that.

In partnership with the Town of Cornelius Parks and Recreation Department, we held our first gathering in January 2026, and we've met every month since.

Who We Serve and What We Do

On My 6 is a nonprofit dedicated to connection, understanding and allyship. We serve active military, veterans, first responders and their families, along with





the neighbors who want to know them.

Our monthly gatherings are simple: pull up a chair, enjoy a complimentary hot breakfast and get to know the people who have served and still serve our town. Each meeting includes updates from local town leaders on community initiatives and ways to get involved, plus a guest speaker who shares their story. Most of all, it's a chance to listen: to hear what our veterans and first responders have lived through and to let them know their community is behind them.

Join Us in November

At our November meeting on Saturday, November 14, members of the American Legion Post 86 will demonstrate the traditional folding of the American flag and walk us through the meaning behind each of the 13 folds. It's a moving tradition, especially in the month we celebrate Veterans Day, and a wonderful morning to bring the whole family.

Get Involved

Our meetings are open to everyone:

Second Saturday of each month, 10–11am at Bailey Middle School Café, Bailey Road Recreation Center 11900 Bailey Road, Cornelius

You don't need to be a veteran or first responder to belong. You just need to show up. We're always looking for assistance:

- Volunteers to greet guests and help set up on meeting mornings
- Veterans, service members and first responders willing to share their stories as guest speakers
- Neighbors to spread the word and bring a friend

Learn More

Visit *www.OnMy6.com* or email OnMy6Mission@gmail.com. We'd love to save you a seat at the table.



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A Legacy of Service:

How the Zarybnicky Family Honors Country and Community

By Jayne Deku | Photos provided by Kathleen Martin, and the Zarybnicky family



Casey & Maddison Zarybnicky


Zack & Brooke Zarybnicky

From supporting local youth sports to being part of the Mooresville business community, the Zarybnicky family has built a multi-generational legacy anchored by two unwavering values: service to their country and commitment to their community.

For Bob Zarybnicky, 59, that commitment began with serving in the United States Marine Corps, where he was in the security forces from 1987 to 1990. When a hip injury prematurely ended his military career, Bob pivoted and adapted the discipline, leadership and grit he learned in the Marines to carry on his trade. After working in plumbing in South Florida, Bob and his wife Kim moved to the Mooresville area in 2001 and launched Allstar Plumbing Inc., establishing what has become a trusted local pillar for over two decades.


Granddaughter Rory

"My sports and military background directly influence how I run my plumbing company and serve the community," Bob said. Between 2004 and 2016, Bob was a staple on local courts and fields, coaching youth basketball, baseball and football, while also serving for years as an active member of the Top of the Lake Rotary Club.

Working right along with Bob from the beginning is Kim, his wife of nearly 28 years. Kim works in local banking while helping keep the family business thriving behind the scenes.

The Allstar Plumbing legacy is poised to continue with the couple's 26-year-old son, Zack, who after playing college baseball, committed to mastering the family trade. Having worked with Allstar Plumbing for over five years, Zack is preparing to eventually take the reins

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of the family business. Service runs deep in Zack's household as well, as he and his wife, Brooke, give back to local youth as coaches for middle school football and cheer respectively at Selma Burke Middle School. Together, they are the proud parents of Bob and Kim's one-year-old granddaughter, Rory.

The Zarybnicky tradition of military service extends to Bob and Kim's middle child, 27-year-old Casey, who served in the U.S. Navy from 2020 to 2023 as a helicopter repairman with rescue diving training. Today, Casey and his wife Madison live in Tampa, Florida, where he is a project manager in commercial property production.

Bob and Kim's daughter, 34-year-old Jessica, is married to Bryan Stanks, with whom she owns a gunsmithing dealership. Jessica has also had the opportunity through banking to volunteer with initiatives supporting local military organizations and honoring vets, participating in 9/11 flag memorials, mortgage home and vehicle donations, school supply drives and sending care packages to active-duty service members. Additional support goes to homeless veterans through fundraising golf tournaments and volunteering with the Valor Games, a multi-day adaptive sports competition for disabled veterans.

Beyond their commitment to veterans and youth athletics, the Zarybnickys share a unanimous love for four-legged family members. Bob and Kim have four "granddogs." Jessica and Bryan are parents to two rescues, a German shepherd named Dixie and a Terrier named, while Casey and Madison share Jax, a white Lab, and Henry, a rescue pit bull mix.

At the central home office, Bob's trusty sidekicks are Diesel, an 8-year-old chocolate Lab (and former magazine pet calendar model) and Bullet, a 4-year-old black Lab. They are local celebrities,



Daughter Jessica Stanks



Son Casey Zarybnicky



Jessica & Bryan Stanks



Son Casey Zarybnicky



The All Star Plumbing Team

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known to clients as the official "Allstar Plumbing dogs" and ride along with Bob on daily service calls, his constant companions on the job.

Whether through military duty, youth mentorship, veteran advocacy or running a family-owned business, the Zarybnicky family continues to leave a lasting mark on the Mooresville area and beyond. They are proud of their country, devoted to their trade and always ready to serve.

What do you love about Mooresville?

We love Mooresville for its small-town charm, welcoming community and central location within the state. With the lake, state park and countless outdoor activities nearby, it offers the perfect balance of adventure and a slower pace of life. Mooresville is more than just a town to us—it's where we raised our family, built our plumbing company and found a community that will always feel like home.



Casey with Jax & Henry


Diesel


Adrian


Bullet


Dixie

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— HONORING LOCAL VETERANS —

Compiled by Jayne Deku

Each November, we are honored to share the accomplishments of our military veterans who live and work in the Mooresville area. We are fortunate to have them as our friends and neighbors and want to thank them for their service and honor the work they have done serving and protecting our country. There are hundreds more heroes living in our community, and we encourage you to get to know them and their inspiring military stories. We would love to include and honor them in future issues.



Matt and Cathy Reyes

Both Matt and Cathy are U.S. Army Veterans, West Point graduates and local business owners. They are active in many organizations in the Lake Norman community and volunteer as local admission representatives for the United States military service academies. Cathy and Matt both left the Army in 1994 after serving the 101st Airborne Division at Fort Campbell, Ky. Their service also included deployments to Saudi Arabia and Iraq as part of Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. For their exemplary service to our country, Matt was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for his actions during Desert Storm, and Cathy received an Army Commendation Medal for her service. The Reyes family history began when they met in 1986 in the beautiful rolling hills of West Point, N.Y. Graduating in 1989 and 1990 respectively, the couple moved forward together, serving their country with honors until 1994. Matt and Cathy are proud parents of six children, including Matt Jr. who followed in his parents' footsteps, graduating from West Point in 2016. Matt Jr. is now an Airborne Ranger company commander with the 10th Mountain Division at Ft. Drum, NY, and daughter Maria (Ria) is at West Point.





Clint Belk

Captain H. Clinton (Clint) Belk served in the U.S. Air Force from 1972-1977. Clint was stationed in San Antonio, Tex., and was honored to spend his military time at Wilford Hall Medical Center. He was able to help many military personnel to recover from their injuries. He was awarded the National Defense Service Medal. He lives on Barber Loop and is a retired surgeon.



Photo by Kathleen Martin, LKN Images

Matt Peck

Matt Peck is a retired U.S. Air Force E/7 master sergeant (1992–2015) with deployments across the U.S. and internationally (South Korea, Afghanistan, Italy, and the UAE). He was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal, and Air Force Achievement Medal. Holds an MBA (University of Phoenix), a B.S. in occupational education (Wayland Baptist University), and associate degrees in avionics systems, computer engineering technology, and instructor of technology & military science. He is currently a weapons duty officer with ITILITY LLC at Aviano Air Base, Italy, and vice president of Platinum Collective Group at Epique Realty (a boutique brokerage led by his wife, Michelle Peck). His past roles include IT instructor (CNC Consulting), installation sales manager (Lowe's), and electronics maintenance instructor (IOMAX USA, Dubai).

He also served seven years on Squadron Advisory Councils and led community repair projects for elderly residents through Habitat for Humanity (Ft. Walton Beach, FL) and Christmas in April (Wichita Falls, TX).

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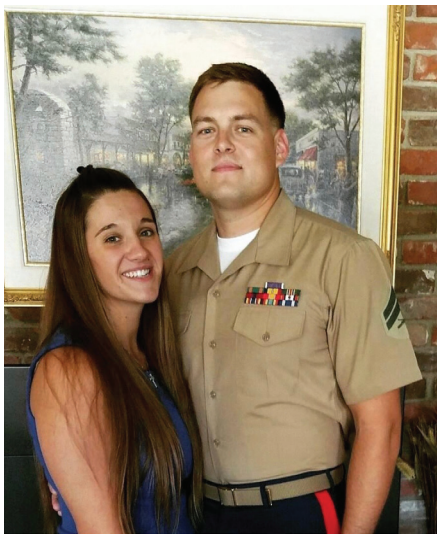

Austin Scott Johnson

Austin Scott Johnson served in the U.S. Marine Corps as a Corporal @ 1st Tank Battalion, November 2009 to November 2013. He deployed to Afghanistan from 2011-2012. He was awarded the Navy Achievement Medal for going above and beyond during their deployment (the only one that received this in his company). He was also awarded a Purple Heart for being wounded in combat. Austin is a 2007 graduate of Lake Norman High School. He lives in the Bells Crossing subdivision in Mooresville and is currently working as a project manager at Row Boat Dock and Dredge.



Holly Self

Lieutenant Holly Self served five years in the U.S. Navy as an intelligence officer, with assignments that included Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan and the U.S. Fleet Forces Command. A 2004 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, she now works as an auto liability insurance adjuster for Travelers Insurance. Holly lives in Edgewater Park with her husband, Kevin and their four children: daughters Kiley, Reagan and Jameson and a son, Jackson.



Kevin Self

Kevin Self proudly served 21 years in the U.S. Navy, achieving the rank of commander. A skilled mission commander for the EA-6B aircraft, he completed two tours in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and held notable assignments including Navy section chief at the U.S. embassies in Honduras and Chile, as well as senior defense official and defense attaché to The Bahamas.

His distinguished service earned him multiple honors, including two Defense Meritorious Service Medals, five Air Medals and a Joint Service Commendation Medal. Now retired, Kevin lives in Edgewater Park with his wife Holly (also a Navy veteran) and their four beautiful children. He remains active in the community as a volunteer youth football and basketball coach.

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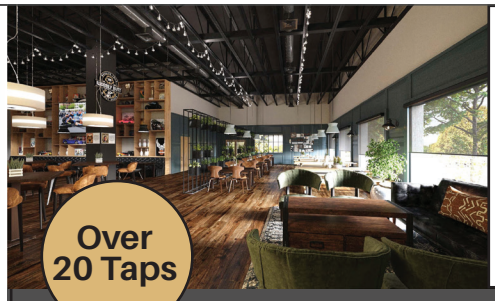

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Ellen J. LaMar

Capt. Ellen LaMar served in the USAF for five years active-duty. She graduated the U.S. Air Force Academy in 1988 and was based at Loring AFB, Maine. She is currently a logistics officer and lives in the Devonshire neighborhood.



Jonathan G. LaMar

Jonathan LaMar served in the USAF for a total of 28 years. His highest rank was lieutenant colonel.

He is a 1987 Air Force Academy graduate and mainly served as a pilot in the KC-135 air refueling aircraft and was based in Loring AFB, Maine, McConnell AFB, Kans., Altus AFB, Okla., and N.J. Air National Guard at McGuire AFB. He currently lives in the Devonshire neighborhood and is a pilot with American Airlines.



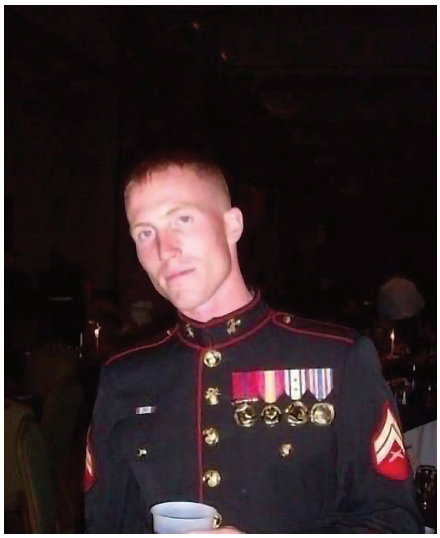
Rick Olsen

Coming from a family with a legacy of military service—including a father who flew 70 WWII missions as a B-25 pilot and squadron commander, and an older brother who served as an Air Force sergeant during the Vietnam era—Rick Olsen served on active duty in the U.S. Air Force from December 1967 through June 1971, reaching the rank of sergeant.

After basic training at Lackland AFB and Munitions Specialist training at Lowry AFB, he completed two tours at Tuy Hoa, Vietnam, along with 90-day temporary duty assignments in Da Nang and Okinawa. He finished his enlistment at Yokota Air Base in Japan, where his work focused on assembling, handling and delivering ordinance—including bombs, rockets, napalm, Agent Orange and 20mm cannon ammunition—to the flight line.

His decorations include the National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, Small Arms Expert Marksman Ribbon and Air Force Good Conduct Medal.

He lives in the Meck Neck area of Mooresville with Donna, his wife of 53 years. They are both retired dentists who passed their Williamson Road practice (Taylor'd Smiles) to their daughter, Laura Taylor. Their son, Erik, works as a financial planner.





Curtis Croft

Curtis Croft served eight years in the United States Marine Corps (USMC), reaching the rank of sergeant. He completed three tours in Iraq and served as a tank crewman, marksmanship instructor and martial arts instructor. Curtis now lives in Beech Tree Forest and is the owner of Semper Fi Lawns.



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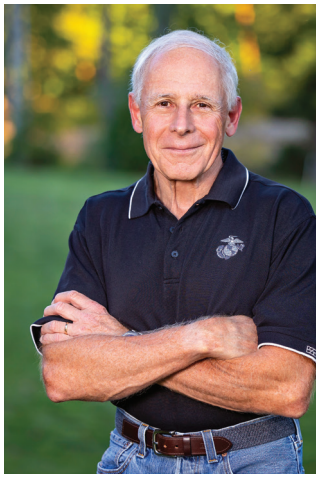



Mitchell R. Perkins

Mitchell (Mitch) Richard Perkins honorably served in the U.S. Army for 21 years, achieving the rank of staff sergeant (SSG) before retiring in 2022. His service included deployments in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Spartan Shield. Over his military career, he earned numerous awards, including the Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal and the Iraq Campaign Medal, among others. He also held roles such as unit movement officer and earned the Driver and Mechanics Badge with Wheeled Vehicle. Now residing in Mooresville with his wife, Suzy, and their five dogs, Mitch works as regional general manager, Southern U.S., for Cherokee Manufacturing. Their son, Tristan, is continuing the family's tradition of service in the Army while studying at East Carolina University. In his free time, Mitch enjoys cheering for the Ohio State Buckeyes and spending time with friends.

Major General Melvin G. Spiese

Major General Spiese served 37 years in the U.S. Marine Corps, retiring in 2013. Commissioned in 1976, he held numerous key roles, including director of the Expeditionary Warfare School, commander of both the Marine Air Ground Task Force Training Command and the Training and Education Command in Quantico, VA, and deputy director for Strategy, Policy, and Assessments at U.S. European Command. He also served as a policy officer for U.S. Special Operations Command, focusing on counter-WMD efforts. His decorations include the Navy Distinguished Service Medal, Defense Superior Service Medal, three Legions of Merit, and other commendations. A military freefall parachutist and Marine combatant diver, Spiese holds master's degrees from the University of Southern California and the U.S. Army School of Advanced Military Studies.

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Joe Ready

Joe Ready is a veteran of the United States Army who served four years as an airborne infantryman stationed at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. He rose to the rank of sergeant in the 3rd Battalion of the 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment, completing 44 jumps from various aircraft. Over the course of his service, he earned the M-16 Sharpshooter Badge, Army Good Conduct Medal, Parachute Badge and the Expert Infantry Badge. His military training and operations took him to Egypt, Puerto Rico and numerous locations across the U.S.

Following his military service, Joe attended Catawba College, where he graduated magna cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Business Administration. He went on to build a successful 33-year career in the grocery retail industry before launching his own business, Two Maids of Lake Norman, alongside his wife Karen.

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Mike Seibert

Mike Seibert served in the United States Navy from 2007-2012. He was an aviation machinist's mate 3rd Class, receiving multiple awards—Navy "E" Ribbon x3, Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Sea Service Deployment Ribbon. He currently lives on Culpeze Road in Mooresville. He and Pete Baldus run MNS Construction Inc. which has been in business for 11 years in Mooresville, 40 Years in NY. They offer commercial and residential framing, decks, crawl space solutions, structural repairs and helical piers. In 2007, Mike graduated bootcamp in Great Lakes, IL, went to Aviation Machinist's Mate "A" school in Lemoore, CA, and served on the USS Harry S Truman "CVN 75" from February 2008 through July of 2012. He completed two deployments supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom (2007-2008) and Operation Enduring Freedom (2010) in the Arabian Gulf.

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Ken Osterhus

Ken Osterhus proudly served in the U.S. Army for three years, achieving the rank of specialist 4th class. During his service, he was part of the Airborne and Military Police units, with assignments in Germany, Vietnam and New York City. Ken now resides in Salisbury, North Carolina, where he is a licensed general contractor. He and his wife, Cyndi, own and operate Osterhus Outdoors Fiberglass Pools.



Robert Zarybnicky

Robert "Bob" Zarybnicky served in the U.S. Marine Corps for four years. He served as a corporal in Desert Storm. His training included security force training. He is also a pistol and rifle marksman and expert. Bob has lived in Mooresville since 2001 and has been the owner and operator of All Star Plumbing Inc. for more than 2 decades.

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LAKESIDE PETS

Submitted by Jayne Deku

Meet the furry family members of our featured family, the Zarybnickys.

Adrian, a terrier, and Dixie, a German shepherd, belong to Jessica and Bryan Stanks. Jax, a white Lab, and Henry, a pit mix, complete the home of Casey and Madison. Bullet and Diesel, both Labs, are Bob's daily work companions.



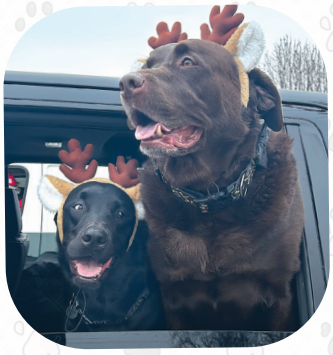
ADRIAN



DIXIE



JAX & HENRY



BULLET & DIESEL

Lake Norman Humane Spotlight

Submitted by Dana Kelley, Operations Director, Lake Norman Humane | Photo by staff



Snoop Catt is a lovable 5-year-old boy with the cutest ears and a charming personality all his own. He's past the kitten chaos and ready to enjoy the peaceful life he deserves.

Snoop recently spent time in a foster home where he did wonderfully. He lived successfully with other cats and a dog, making him a great candidate for a home with furry friends. He's calm, easygoing and happy to relax nearby while you go about your day.

Snoop may need a little time to settle in and build trust, but once he feels comfortable, he'll show his affection in his own gentle and special way. If you appreciate a cat who connects quietly and meaningfully, Snoop may be the perfect companion for you.

Come by Lake Norman Humane to meet Snoop and see if he's your perfect match! Learn more and view adoptable pets at https://www.lakenormanhumane.org.





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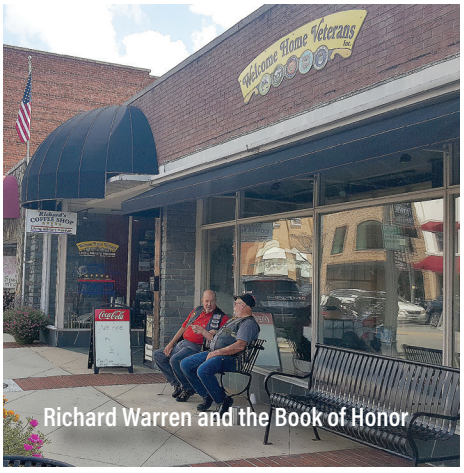
Richard's Coffee Shop

By Joanie Baker



Thursday meeting

On Main Street in Mooresville, you will find a national military gem, Richard's Coffee Shop. Both a traditional and living museum, the one-of-kind Richard's Coffee Shop has been called the "most patriotic coffee shop in America" and is named in honor of Richard Warren, who was a combat helicopter pilot in Vietnam. Richard had opened a coffee shop in downtown Mooresville in the 90s called Pat's Gourmet Coffee Shop, named after his wife Pat. With a focus on "welcoming" and attracting local veterans, Pat's quickly become a gathering place for area veterans, and the shop began accumulating military artifacts from its patrons, like articles, photographs, military models, uniforms and weaponry. Richard Warren passed away in 2009 from complications from exposure to Agent Orange.



Richard Warren and the Book of Honor

Before passing, Richard had started the formation of a nonprofit organization called Welcome Home Veterans (www.welcomehomeveteran.org) to welcome veterans home from service and to provide a "home away from home" where they could socialize, relax and heal. The organization's mission is "to ensure the memory of and support to those who serve" through its living military museum. Board members and patrons honored Richard by keeping his spirit, dream and coffee shop alive. With generous community donations and volunteer support, they renamed the coffee shop in his honor and were later able to move to a much larger space across the street at 165 North Main Street. Its grand opening was on July 4, 2012. According to the Welcome Home Veteran website, Richard's Coffee Shop "serves as both a place of respectful respite for veterans to gather and as a historical museum lovingly crafted to provide tribute to veterans of all conflicts and all branches of the military. Vets and their families encounter sincere camaraderie and fellowship, as well as assistance in finding resources that may offer aid and support."


Gift shop



Richard's Coffee Shop

100% of the funds generated by the coffee shop go back to the veteran community, and all coffee shop workers are volunteers. Outside, the large picture windows house military displays, and inside, you will find artifacts dating back to the Revolutionary War. Upon entering, you will be immersed in colorful displays of various military uniforms and large corps flags. The kitchen and coffee shop are in the back. All space is packed with artifacts, and along the perimeters, various cubby holes honor the different eras, wars and conflicts (the Revolutionary War, the World Wars, the Korean War, Vietnam, Desert Storm and 9-11, to name a few). There is also a POW Memorial, a Blue Star and Gold Star Family display, a library and a gift shop packed with gift items representing all the branches of military service. There is a pastor on site, as well. The "Book of Honor" is prominent when you walk in and serves as a record of the military regulars and patrons who have visited. Service men and women who visit are invited to sign the book and are given a key chain with colored beads that represents their branch of service. So far, over 17,000 service men and women have visited Richard's!

Every Thurs. from 8am-1pm, veterans from every branch as far back as WW2 from all over the Lake Norman and Charlotte area, and often even farther, gather for free coffee and camaraderie. Considered by most patrons as more therapeutic than counseling, they eat, drink coffee and socialize. The morning culminates in a meeting where they say the Pledge of Allegiance and share news and information. Many come dressed in their branch gear, and often, there are theme days. On Saturday mornings from 9am-12pm, veterans gather at the coffee shop for entertainment in an open mic set up.

Although Richard's Coffee Shop serves hundreds of area veterans each week as a social gathering place, the funds they

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raise also support dozens of area organizations that assist veterans. A few years ago, a generous anonymous donation paid off the mortgage, so now all funds generated go directly toward museum improvements (with media capabilities) and extending their services to directly assist our area veterans. Richard's Coffee Shop is open six days a week from 8am-1pm and does not charge admission. It is a fantastic place to take out of town guests, especially those with military ties, and a great place to stop for a cup of coffee and inspirational conversation. You will be awed by the array of artifacts, mesmerized by the stories told and humbled by the American heroes you will find inside.











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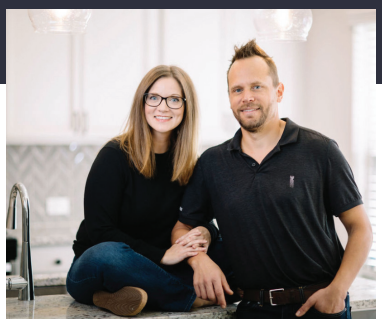

Accessible Bathroom Remodeling: Creating a Safe Space for Aging in Place

By Sarah Fiel, Owner, Home Theory

More homeowners are choosing to age in place, updating the home they love rather than moving. The goal isn't to make your home feel clinical or institutional. It's to create a space that's safe, easier to navigate and still beautifully you.

At Home Theory, we approach accessible remodeling the same way we approach every project—with thoughtful space planning, elevated finishes and details that support real life. The best accessibility features are often the ones you barely notice until you need them.

Zero-Threshold Showers

A shower curb can become a significant trip hazard as mobility changes. A zero-threshold shower, also commonly called a curbless shower, creates a seamless transition from the bathroom floor into the shower, making it easier to enter and exit whether you're walking or using a walker or wheelchair.

Achieving a true zero-threshold shower may require significant structural and subfloor modifications. In some homes, the floor system can be recessed to accommodate the required slope and drainage. On a concrete slab, achieving the necessary elevation may require concrete slab modification. While this can add considerable cost and complexity to a renovation, it's an important detail to plan for early in the design process.





Grab Bars That Look Like Design Details

Grab bars provide valuable stability in one of the home's most slip-prone spaces, but accessibility doesn't mean settling for institutional-looking hardware. Today's designer grab bars are available in finishes and styles that coordinate with bathroom fixtures. Some can even double as towel bars, allowing an important safety feature to become part of the overall design.

Proper installation is just as important as the grab bar itself. Plan for structural backing or blocking so grab bars can be securely fastened to the wall structure—skip the wall anchors.

A Vanity Designed for Independence

The bathroom vanity is an area where small design decisions can make a meaningful difference. Ergonomic cabinet hardware, such as larger pulls that are easy to grasp, can be more comfortable to use than small knobs or hardware that requires a tight grip or significant dexterity.

We consider the shape, size and placement of hardware so everyday tasks—opening a drawer, reaching for toiletries or accessing towels—require less effort.

Counter height can also be adjusted to how the bathroom will be used, including providing comfortable access from a seated position when appropriate.

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Mirrors Designed for More Than Standing

A mirror doesn't have to be designed solely around standing height. Tilt-adjustable mirrors provide visibility from multiple positions, making them particularly useful in an accessible bathroom.

Whether you're standing at the vanity, sitting on a stool or using a wheelchair, thoughtful mirror placement can make everyday routines easier while still creating a beautiful focal point in the room.





Lighting and Electrical Placement

Good lighting becomes increasingly important when navigating a bathroom safely. We layer ambient, task and accent lighting to minimize shadows and improve visibility throughout the space.

The placement of electrical controls deserves consideration, too. Appropriately positioned light switches, dimmers and outlets can make everyday tasks easier from a seated position and reduce unnecessary reaching.

Flooring That Balances Beauty and Safety

A beautiful bathroom shouldn't require choosing between style and safety. Polished surfaces and loose rugs can become slippery, particularly around water. We recommend textured or slip-resistant tile with appropriate traction while maintaining the sophisticated look and feel of a thoughtfully designed bathroom.

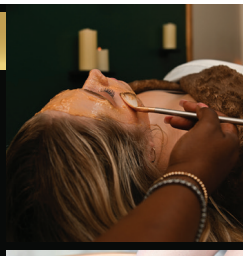
Accessibility That Looks Like Good Design

The most successful aging-in-place bathrooms don't announce their accessibility features. Instead, thoughtful details are integrated into the design from the beginning—creating a space that's comfortable and intuitive today while allowing it to adapt as needs change.

Whether you're planning a bathroom renovation now or preparing your home for the future, designing with accessibility in mind can be one of the most valuable investments you make in your home.

LAKE NORMAN'S PREMIER HOLISTIC HEAD SPA







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History of the Mooresville Christmas Parade

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

The Mooresville Christmas Parade as we know it today began from humble beginnings in 1946. In an effort for life to return to normal after World War II, the Mooresville Merchants Association decided to start the Yuletide shopping season that traditionally began the first week of December by running ads in the *Mooresville Tribune* featuring items that could be purchased without a ration card. Items such as clothing, furniture and toys that were not cardboard once again filled the shelves of local stores. The idea was to encourage people to shop local and to "get Christmas once again in their bones."

In 1949, with several years of success, the association added a new feature to the shopping experience: a visit from Santa. The ads stated that Santa would be downtown on Dec. 19 to greet shoppers. As a further incentive, the association also added weekly drawings for cash prizes. Held once a week for the four weeks leading up to Christmas, shoppers could pick up tickets for free from Merchants Association member stores. The amount of the cash prizes was dependent on the number of tickets the stores bought from the association. By 1950, hundreds of people were coming out to see Santa, and in 1951, the first parade was held.

The first parade was marked by the Mooresville Senior High and Dunbar School bands playing as Santa's car arrived at McLean's Supermarket on the corner of Main Street and Statesville Avenue. From there, he was escorted to the Johnston home a block down where he greeted people and handed out treats. The bands marched with him as he was driven down Main Street greeting shoppers along the way. The event ended at the park beside the Depot where the bands played, choirs sang and the Mooresville Women's Club gave a tree to the town. Five thousand people participated in the parade.

In 1952, the term Christmas Parade was used for the first time in reference to this event, as the size of the parade had grown significantly to include three marching bands, the "Princess of Mooresville," Miss Joy Overcash (who also represented Mooresville in the Carousel parade in the Charlotte Thanksgiving Day event), floats created by businesses and individuals, and the VFW Color Guard who led the parade. Ten thousand people showed up to watch the procession, held at 10 a.m. on Saturday. The parade ended at Mooresville Baseball Park, and that location remained the end point for the next 10 years. In 1953, the size of the parade had tripled and was sponsored by the Mooresville Merchants Association and supported by the Mooresville Chamber of Commerce. Over the years, town officials, dignitaries, the fire department and others were added to the front. The official day of the parade was eventually set on the Tuesday before Thanksgiving to coincide with the traditional start of the shopping season and to allow



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for those participating in the parade to participate in other parades held during the season.

Today, the parade remains a tradition in Mooresville with several thousand attending each year to watch the procession of floats, people and fire trucks down Main Street and getting "Christmas in their bones."







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Thankful for the Moments That Matter



By Cyndi Osterhus, Owner, Osterhus Outdoors Fiberglass Pools



As the leaves change and Thanksgiving approaches, it is a time to be thankful for the simple blessings of everyday life. Gatherings of family and friends fill our lives.

For many families, these holiday gatherings replace their summer ones, those around their backyard swimming pool. A swimming pool draws people together for lazy summer afternoons, birthday celebrations, neighborhood get-togethers and quiet evenings spent together. It is where children play, grandparents relax, friends linger a little longer and simply enjoy being together.

While spring and summer are the busy seasons for swimming pools, late fall and winter are ideal to begin a pool project. Installing a fiberglass swimming pool during the cooler months gets you ahead of the spring rush, and your backyard will be ready when warm weather arrives.

Instead of spending next spring waiting, imagine stepping into your backyard as the weather turns warm—ready for the first swim, the first cookout and a whole season of family memories.

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Fiberglass pools offer another advantage: their installation process is faster than other pool construction methods. With proper planning, homeowners can use the off-season to create a backyard that is ready to enjoy when warm days arrive.

This Thanksgiving season, we are reminded that life is not really measured by things. It is measured by the people we share them with and the moments we create together.

A backyard pool won't create those memories, but it can create a place where they happen—year after year.







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We only seek out highly-rated, neighbor-preferred, neighbor-owned local businesses in our area as sponsors and are proud to promote and showcase these high-quality businesses.

Please consider and support our business sponsors by calling them first for your service and retail needs, and be sure to tell them you saw them in *Lakeside Living Magazine*.

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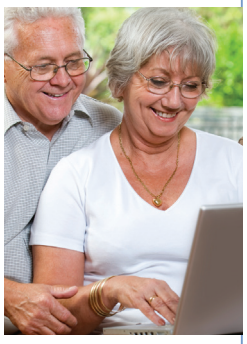



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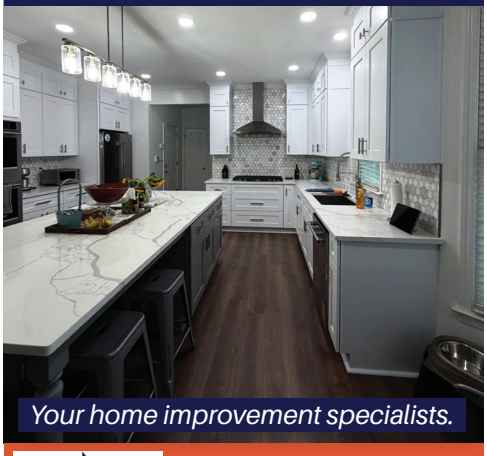

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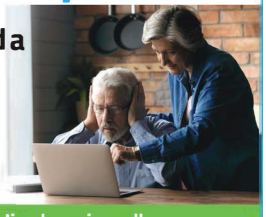

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Decoding the Dashboard:
What Your Check Engine Light Is Really Trying to Tell You

By Doug Vidler, Owner/President, Christian Brothers Automotive

As a Lake Norman local and a Certified Auto Repair shop owner, I've seen just about every driver reaction imaginable when that dreaded yellow symbol illuminates on the dashboard.

Over the years, our customers generally fall into three camps:
The Panic Drivers: They call in a sweat, convinced their vehicle is moments away from failing on Charlotte Highway or coasting to a dead stop along I-77.
The Unconcerned Drivers: They spot the light, shrug and continue commuting for another six months—or until the engine starts sounding like a blender full of marbles.
The "In The Middle" Drivers: They see the light and think, *"I should probably do something about that… maybe tomorrow."*

The truth about your Check Engine Light (CEL) lies between these extremes. It isn't an immediate death sentence for your car, but it certainly isn't something to ignore.

Steady vs. Flashing: The Golden Rule
Understanding what your light is telling you comes down to one simple distinction:



Solid Yellow Light: This is your car saying, *"I've detected a glitch and need a check-up."* It signals a necessary fix, but not an immediate emergency. You can safely finish your errands, but schedule an inspection within a few days.

Flashing Light: This is a genuine red alert signaling an active engine misfire. Unburnt fuel is dumping into your exhaust, which can destroy your catalytic converter in minutes—turning a minor repair into a multi-thousand-dollar overhaul. Pull over safely, turn off the engine and call for a tow.

What Triggers the Light?
Each malfunction stores a related fault code in memory, but knowing the code isn't the same as knowing the cause. Today's vehicles rely on a network of 30 to 50 individual computers monitoring 100 to 200 sensors, processing roughly 20 Gigabits of internal data every second. The light turns on whenever readings fall outside normal parameters. Because one code can result from several failures, an accurate diagnosis is essential.



Common culprits include:

A Loose Gas Cap: A loose cap disrupts pressure in the evaporative emission control (EVAP) system, though it's only one of several components that trigger this code.
Oxygen (O2) or Mass Air Flow Sensors: Worn sensors prevent the computer from properly balancing the air-to-fuel ratio, reducing fuel efficiency and acceleration.
Ignition Coils or Spark Plugs: Worn plugs cause misfires, leading to rough idling and loss of power.
Catalytic Converter Failure: Often the result of ignoring lesser issues for too long.

The True Cost of Waiting
Ignoring a steady light might seem harmless if your car feels fine, but internal systems suffer silently. An unaddressed problem forces your engine to run inefficiently, burning extra fuel and accelerating wear on major components.

Think of your Check Engine Light as an early-warning communication tool. Addressing a minor warning promptly keeps fixes simple and prevents major repairs down the road—ensuring your drives around Lake Norman remain smooth, safe and stress-free.

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Thank you for your service and God bless. As always, we offer our veterans a 10% discount (up to $500 off) on all services and repairs! Share your story and let us know about your service, military branch, any areas of specialty and where you were stationed!

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— NOVEMBER CALENDAR —

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

FARMERS MARKETS

Every Saturday in November

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

CAIN CENTER FOR THE ARTS LIVE PERFORMANCES

November 4-5: OldTimers: The Musical
November 6: ABACAB: The Music of Genesis, Phil Collins, & Peter Gabriel
November 7: Tom Cotter
November 10: Spyro Gyra
November 12: Simply The Best
November 15: Jeki Yoo
November 19: Jamie Lissow in support of Brad Keselowski's Checkered Flag Foundation, A Hero's Homecoming
November 20: Johnny Folsom 4
November 21: Masters of Soul
For showtimes and tickets, visit cainarts.org.

CHARLES MACK CITIZEN CENTER EVENTS

November 5: Free Movie Screening & Q&A A public screening of The [M] Factor 2: Before the Pause, followed by a women's hormone health Q&A session.
November 21 & November 22, 2026: 2nd Annual Mooresville Fine Arts Festival
For showtimes and tickets, visit experiencecmcc.com.

MOORESVILLE ARTS EVENTS

November 20: Arts on Main Kick-Off Night
November 21-22: Mooresville Fine Arts Festival
For event details and registration, visit mooresvillearts.org.

TOWN OF DAVIDSON EVENTS

November 6: First Fridays on Main St.
November 7: Davidson Cookie Crawl
November 8: Pumpkin Smash & Shoot
November 11: Veterans Day
November 25: Jack Burney Service Award Ceremony
For times and tickets, visit townofdavidson.org.

TOWN OF MOORESVILLE EVENTS

November 21-22: Arts on Main / Fine Arts Festival
November 27: Plaid Friday
November 28: Small Business Saturday
For event details and tickets, visit downtownmooresville.com.

WOBBLY BUTT TAP ROOM & EATERY LIVE EVENTS

November 1: Sage Fire Band
November 8: Breaking Point Band
November 15: TrueRiders
November 16: Lake Norman Big Band
November 22: Copperline Reboot (trio)
November 29: Ben Gatlin Band
For event details and reservations, visit victorylanes.com

WHITEWATER CENTER EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

Mid-November (TBA): Ice-skating Opening (Winter at Whitewater)
November 13: A Shot in the Dark Night Trail Race
For event details and registration, visit whitewater.org.
Events at M@SA
November 22: Kruger Brothers
For event details visit https://www.masaconcerts.org.

BIRKDALE VILLAGE EVENTS

November 22: Lighting of Birkdale Village (Tree Lighting Ceremony & Festival Parade) November 22 – January 11: Birkdale on Ice (Outdoor Ice-skating Rink Opening)
For event details and schedule updates, visit birkdalevillage.com.

LAKE NORMAN REGION VETERANS EVENTS

November 7: Huntersville Veterans Day Parade & Ceremony
November 11: Town of Cornelius Veterans Day Program
November 11: Town of Davidson Veterans Day Ceremony
November 11: Town of Mooresville Veterans Day Parade & Celebration
November 19: Jamie Lissow in support of Brad Keselowski's Checkered Flag Foundation (A Hero's Homecoming at Cain Center for the Arts)
For event details and schedules, visit cornelius.org or townofdavidson.org.







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