

MOORESVILLE LAKESIDE LIVING

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**The Holiday Issue**



**Home for the Holidays
with the Hathaways**

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Holiday Festivities Around the Lake
Let There Be Light!
The Gift of Organization

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REAL ESTATE UPDATE

Address	Status	Subdivision	Beds	1/2 Baths	Baths	Price	Sq Ft
223 Ruby	Closed	None	4	1	5	\$4,556,000	6,497
134 Cape Cod	Closed	The Point	5	1	6	\$4,100,000	8,887
191 Washam	Closed	None	4	3	3	\$3,750,000	6,555
305 Barber	Closed	none	4	2	3	\$3,500,000	5,223
200 Cape Cod	Closed	The Point	4	1	5	\$3,350,000	6,049
104 Sheets	Closed	Alexander Island	3	1	2	\$2,020,000	3,154
147 Torrence Chapel	Closed	The Point	5	1	4	\$1,850,000	4,602
110 Bunker	Closed	The Point	4	1	3	\$1,695,000	4,618
158 Mayfair	Closed	The Point	4	1	3	\$1,550,000	4,444
501 Grasshopper	Closed	None	3	1	2	\$1,150,000	2,534
148 Torrence Chapel	Closed	The Point	4	0	3	\$1,085,000	3,705
110 Riverwood	Closed	Riverwood Bend	4	1	5	\$960,000	5,357
108 Voyager	Closed	Royal Pointe	3	1	2	\$930,000	3,084
112 Pine Cliff	Closed	The Harbour At The Pointe	4	1	4	\$920,000	3,285
232 Beaten Path	Closed	Shavenders Bluff	3	1	2	\$897,000	3,120
157 Lakeshore	Closed	Lakeview Shores	4	1	3	\$882,000	3,458
191 Crystal	Closed	Crystal Bay	3	0	2	\$850,000	1,362
108 Dunn Ross	Closed	The Farms	4	0	4	\$850,000	3,555
107 McNeil	Closed	None	3	1	3	\$796,962	3,059
8143 Buena Vista	Closed	Sailview	5	1	3	\$780,000	3,505

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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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Hello Neighbors,

As we end the year, I can't help but reflect on all the things that help make
December special. The holidays are approaching, lights and decorations are up,
and there is a general feeling of hope in the air. But for many, this is not a season of
joy. So as we reflect on this past year, and prepare for the one to come, let us also be
mindful that there are many for whom it is a difficult time, for a variety of reasons.

In this issue we are reminded to discuss estate planning sooner rather than later; see
about updating your headshot; find unusual spaces in your home for holiday storage;
give your roof some love this winter; enhance your property by using landscape
lighting; and so much more. Learn about HOPEmatch and the work they do in the
community, read about the origins of the Mooresville Public Library, and find holiday
festivities to brighten up the season around the lake. And, of course, read about our
feature family and how resilience and the support of the community helped a fledgling
business survive through the lockdown.

Thank you to all of our community sponsors for helping us to connect and celebrate
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area non-profit organizations and philanthropists to spotlight in our free "Lakeside
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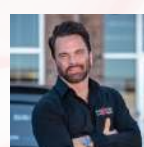
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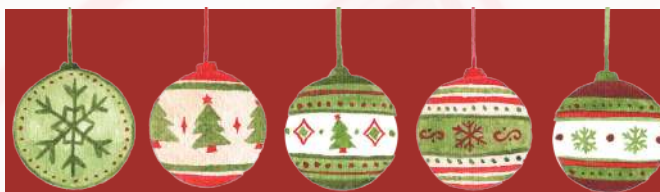


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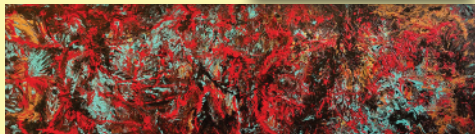


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Estate Planning: The Gift that Keeps On Giving



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



The holidays are a time for families to come together, share meals, make memories and reminisce about the past. Among the laughter and gift-giving, there's also an opportunity to discuss estate planning. It might sound daunting, but approaching the subject during the holidays in the right way can be both informative and supportive.

Estate planning is more than just writing a will. It's about ensuring that your loved ones are taken care of and your wishes are followed when you're no longer around. The decisions made during the estate planning process can significantly impact your family's future financial and emotional well-being.

While the holiday season may seem like an odd time to bring up this topic, it's one of the few times families are gathered under one roof. Plus, the holiday spirit can make it easier to approach such an important conversation. Remember, you don't have to bring up estate planning in the middle of a holiday dinner or when everyone's unwrapping gifts. Instead, find a quiet moment when everyone is relaxed and receptive. Start the conversation with a genuine expression of love and concern. Make it clear that the primary goal of discussing estate planning is to ensure that everyone is protected and that future misunderstandings or conflicts are minimized. If

you've had personal experiences with estate planning, either from planning your own or dealing with a loved one's, share them. Personal stories can make the subject more relatable and underline the importance of being prepared.

Estate planning is deeply personal, and every family member may have different views and concerns. Once you've initiated the conversation, listen actively. Offer everyone a chance to share their feelings, ask questions and express any reservations they might have. By making it a collaborative discussion, you can ensure that everyone's voice is heard.

It's crucial to acknowledge that while starting the conversation is a step in the right direction, professional advice is invaluable. Encourage family members to consult with an estate planning attorney to get clarity on legal nuances and ensure that all documents are appropriately drafted.

While discussing estate planning during the holidays might seem out of place amid the festivities, it's a necessary conversation that can offer peace of mind to every family member. Approached with care and empathy, it can be a meaningful gift of foresight and love that protects and unites the family for years to come.



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Winter Roof Care: Protecting Your Home from the Cold

By Keren Hutchinson,
Eastern Roof Technologies



As winter approaches, homeowners across our community prepare for plummeting temperatures, icy winds and dream of snow-covered landscapes. While we may enjoy the picturesque scenes that winter brings, our roofs bear the brunt of the harsh weather. Winter can be particularly tough on roofs, leading to a variety of issues if not properly maintained. We'll review the challenges winter presents for roofing and provide tips on how to protect your home during the cold months.

The Impact of Winter on Roofing

• Snow accumulation and ice dams

One of the most obvious challenges winter presents is snow accumulation.

Snow is heavy, and when it piles up on your roof, it can place excessive weight on the structure. While not common in the piedmont of North Carolina, we have had a few storms with snow accumulation in years past. The issue with this accumulation is the resulting ice dams that can occur when snow on the roof melts, runs down and refreezes at the eaves or in the gutters. This creates a barrier that prevents further melting snow from draining properly. The trapped water can then seep under the roofing materials, causing leaks and water damage to your home's interior. Proper insulation, ventilation and roof maintenance can help mitigate the risk of ice dams.

• Freezing and thawing

We've all seen the memes of how we Southerners dress for winter—a heavy coat in the morning and shorts with flip flops by the afternoon. This constant expansion and contraction can weaken the integrity of roofing materials over time, leading to cracks and leaks. Regular roof inspections can help identify and address any potential issues before they become major problems.

• Tips for Winter Roof Maintenance

Tip #1: Inspect your roof. Before winter arrives, conduct a thorough inspection of your roof. Look for damaged or missing shingles, signs of wear and tear, and any areas that may need repair. Addressing these issues before winter sets in can help prevent more extensive damage.

Tip #2: Clean gutters and downspouts. Clearing debris from your gutters and downspouts is essential to ensure proper drainage. Clogged gutters can lead to ice dam formation and water damage. Make sure water can flow freely away from your roof.



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Tip #3: Trim overhanging branches.

Overhanging branches can pose a threat to your roof during winter storms. Heavy snow or ice can cause these branches to break and fall onto your roof, potentially causing significant damage. Trim back any branches that hang over your home.

Tip #4: Check attic insulation and ventilation.

Proper attic insulation and ventilation are crucial for regulating temperature and moisture in your home. Ensuring that your attic is well-insulated and

ventilated can help prevent ice dams and reduce heat loss, ultimately extending the life of your roof.

Winter can be harsh on your roof, but with proper maintenance and precautions, you can protect your home from the elements. Regular inspections, cleaning gutters, trimming branches and addressing issues promptly are essential steps in winter roof care. By taking these measures, you can ensure that your roof stays strong and secure throughout the cold months,

providing shelter and protection for your family and belongings. Remember that safety should always be a priority, and if you are unsure about any aspect of winter roof maintenance, it's best to seek the assistance of a professional roofing contractor.



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How to Know When You Need a New Head Shot...



By Kathleen Martin, Photographer and Owner, LKN Images



There have been a bunch of changes over the past few years... Work from home, back to the office, no travel, lots of travel. When you look back at 2018 and 2019, the world was a much different place. Are you still using a head shot from that time or before? Here are a few reasons you might need to update that head shot.

- You've changed your hair color or your hair style has changed dramatically. More hair, less hair? Same goes for facial hair – is that a new beard?
- You've gotten... taller. (Yes, I realize we aren't growing taller but it's nicer than saying wider!)
- Your last photo was cropped from a group photo. Is that someone's arm you cut off?
- You're using the head shot from your fraternity and you just celebrated your 10th college reunion.
- You're too dressed up or too casual for your industry.
- You've changed industries entirely and need a head shot that's more on-brand.
- The photo is just bad – out of focus, grainy, poorly lit. Or, you've lost the original file and you're using a screen shot from your LinkedIn profile.
- You want to use different photos for different platforms – LinkedIn, Facebook, Instagram, etc.
- You want to make a better first impression.
- And the best reason – currently, people don't recognize you when they meet you in person!



2023 is almost over. Give a call to your local photographer and schedule a session for January. It's quick and painless and you'll be excited to finally have a new photo for those Zoom calls.



HOPEmatch Brings HOPE for the Holidays to Local Families in Need

By Erin Blackmore, Executive Director

Many families in our local community struggle silently and go without because they do not meet the federal poverty limit but do not make enough money to fully support their family. HOPEmatch is a local nonprofit serving the Greater Charlotte area that is all about serving those who are overlooked within our community. Many families work hard to make ends meet, yet do not qualify for government financial aid. These are the people HOPEmatch is dedicated to serving through various programs that intentionally meet physical and personal needs. The mission is to provide HOPE by matching local needs with compassionate givers. HOPEmatch aims to bring lasting hope and encouragement to the unseen and underserved in our community.

The organization was founded 14 years ago by Erin Blackmore, who through her background as a Food Stamp Case Manager at DSS, noticed how hopeless families would get when they tried to work harder but instead got less support from the community. Creating a safety net of support for families going through temporary challenges became Erin's interest, and what started as an Adopt-a-Family Christmas program has now expanded to a year-round system of care for the local families the organization serves.



Families come into the care of HOPEmatch through a nomination process where members of the community let the organization know who needs HOPE for the holidays. From there, the families that are selected are contacted and offered holiday support, serving each member of the household. Donors adopt families and shop for the gifts, then drop them off at the seasonal office in December. Volunteers inventory, wrap and package the gifts for pick up or delivery the weekend before Christmas.

Unique to HOPEmatch, the families then receive follow-up care throughout the year in the form of personal essentials support, celebration assistance for birthdays, women's support groups, back-to-school help and access to food assistance. HOPEmatch is looking to add mental health services in the future and is looking for connections to provide affordable care for the families served.

Holiday volunteer opportunities will take place between December 1-16. Opportunities to inventory gifts, wrap gifts, help with office logistics and deliver gifts to families are available. Please visit www.HOPEmatch.org for more information and to get involved.



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Home for the *Holidays* with the Hathaways

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

Stephanie Hathaway knows a thing or two about making a house a home. She is the owner of Southern Notions, a unique home shopping experience located in Downtown Mooresville, where you'll find home décor, furniture and interior decorating services, all inspired by the southern way of life. Stephanie opened Southern Notions in 2020, one of the most difficult times in history for retail stores everywhere, and fills it with unique home decor for every season. At the end of October, she closes for a few days, and with the help of family and friends, she transforms her store into a holiday wonderland. From beautiful trees filled with unique ornaments to holiday table settings and jolly home decor, the store is exploding with Christmas joy.

As an interior designer, she also offers her design services to area homeowners, where she can order custom furniture, drapes, hardware and decor, along with consultations on tile and paint and complete room and home design services. Whether you need temporary holiday decor advice or full design services, Stephanie can help you create the home you have always dreamed about.

The Hathaway family is made up of Stephanie, Aubrey, 12, Silas, 10, and 7-year-old twins Peyton and Greyson, as well as their beloved golden retrievers, Maverick and Goose. The children are active in Scouts, cross country, basketball, swimming and baseball. The family loves to get outside as much as possible, and they enjoy day trips to places like Grandfather Mountain, hiking excursions and swimming – anything to get out of the house and away from technology. Aubrey is also a talented artist, and all the children are avid readers.

After having lived in Charlotte since 2007, they moved to Mooresville in the spring of 2019. Originally from the Midwest, Stephanie had lived in Las Vegas for 10 years before moving to Charlotte. She loves everything about the area, and the proximity to the beach and mountains from Mooresville can't be beat! This is going to be her forever home, she says.

The family attend St. Therese Catholic Church in Mooresville. Stephanie also serves her community as a member of the Exchange Club of Lake Norman, a service organization dedicated to improving the Mooresville/Lake Norman area through various service and fundraising projects geared toward helping youth and veterans.

In addition, she serves on the board of the Mooresville Downtown Commission (MDC), a partnership of merchants, property and business owners, volunteers, neighbors and local leaders who work together to promote, cultivate, advocate and care for Downtown Mooresville. The MDC acts as a conduit between property owners, businesses, community leaders, and state and national organizations to ensure the "Downtown" remains a vibrant asset for the Town of Mooresville. This year, Stephanie won the Russ Crimi Above & Beyond Award, an annual award named in honor of a beloved Mooresville police officer and downtown Mooresville supporter. It is bestowed on a citizen who demonstrates consistent and valued commitment to the growth and revitalization efforts in Downtown Mooresville.

The Hathaway family's favorite place to vacation is Kiawah Island, South Carolina. The kids love playing on the beach and splashing in the waves, and Stephanie loves the quiet island life that Kiawah provides, along with the close proximity to Charleston.

They strive every day to live their family motto, which is "Be kind, always." What a lovely addition to our Mooresville community!



"What do you love about Mooresville?"

I signed a lease in 2019 and opened my business in Downtown Mooresville on March 3, 2020, only to have to close several weeks later due to Covid. But, I'm proud to say that not only did

Southern Notions make it through the pandemic, we are stronger for it. The people of Mooresville came together in a big way to support the small businesses in the downtown sector. So many of those customers have become great friends. From that first month in business through today, this community has felt like a family to me. The business owners work together, collaborate on projects and events, and genuinely love being a part of Downtown Mooresville!



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Shop Local This Holiday Season!

By Joanie Baker

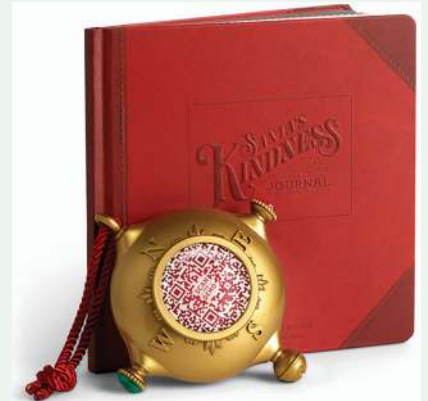
If you're searching for unique gifts, look no further than our Lake Norman small retail businesses. Our local retailers and restaurants count on residents for support. Why shop online when you can find what you need in our community and support local families?

SOUTHERN NOTIONS:



Greenery & Candles

Take a trip to Downtown Mooresville to see the holiday lights and stroll the shops and boutiques lining the streets, especially during the Mistletoe Sip & Shop (December 1 & 15) and the Classic Christmas Weekend (December 8) events. **Southern Notions** on Main Street, owned by Mooresville resident and interior designer Stephanie Hathaway, is filled with beautiful holiday and Southern-inspired home décor. Shop for candles, Oyster Shell Magnolias from Charleston, unique ornaments and holiday décor, charcuterie boards, wall art, silk flowers, soaps, lotions, votives and vases. Many of her items sold out well before Christmas last year, so make sure you visit her shop soon!



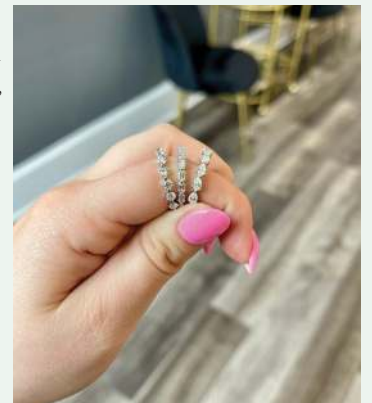
Santa's Kindness Ornament & Journal Set

JEWELERS ON MAIN:



Diamond Cocktail Rings

Jewelers On Main, owned by jeweler Alan Allman and his family, is a Mooresville downtown destination, going on 20 years. They're stocked up and ready for holiday shoppers, offering fine jewelry of all varieties, custom pieces, repairs and remounting, and watches. Whether it's an engagement or celebration of many years or repurposing a family heirloom, they can help you find or create the perfect piece of jewelry for anyone. This year, stackable rings and bracelets and layered necklaces are very popular, along with vintage pieces, and diamonds never go out of style. Don't miss their second business, **Guns On Main**, on the lower level, where they offer guns and other weaponry, along with knowledgeable staff to help with any questions.



Stack Rings

FOUR CORNERS:



Original Pottery

Four Corners Framing & Gallery, also in Downtown Mooresville, is Lake Norman's top destination for unique local art and frames. Kim Sargoni and her team can frame family photos, personal artwork and create shadowboxes for items and family heirlooms you wish to showcase. In addition to local art, they carry unique gift items like sculptures, custom ornaments, pottery and beautiful leather game frames and game tables.



Leather Game Tables

RICHARDS COFFEE SHOP:



Jim Luke in his workshop

Most of us know **Richard's Coffee Shop** as a haven for veterans and its amazing military museum, but did you know they also have a gift shop? If you have military family members, their hat selection is second to none, along with t-shirts and unique items like handcrafted military branch birdhouses made by local woodworker and former Santa's helper, Jim Luke. Jim played Santa for many town and social events for over 20 years and, like Santa, has a workshop set in a beautiful garden behind his house where he spends hours building. To top off all his hard work, he donates all proceeds from the birdhouses back to Welcome Home Veterans, the nonprofit organization associated with Richard's. With Jim, the holiday spirit lasts all year, and shopping at Richards helps to support our local veterans.



Military Birdhouses

BLUMENGARTEN:



Charcuterie & Cutting Boards

For an annual gift that keeps on giving, consider a monthly flower subscription or beautiful live plants from **Blümengarten Fine Flowers and Gifts** in Cornelius. Local Mooresville resident and owner Denise Uhlhorn and her design team take pride in creating tasteful unique arrangements and can deliver them every month or biweekly. In addition to gorgeous holiday floral arrangements, centerpieces and plants, her retail shop offers artsy planters, pottery, candles and customized gift baskets,



Engraved Candles

Monocle Eye Care & Eyewear Gallery in Old Town Cornelius offers Ray Ban, Ovvo, Prada, Eco, Modo and Orgreen brands for cool new frames for your eyeglasses and sunglasses. For those who have been dreaming since last March about getting away, let **Explore More Family Travel** help you create a trip of a lifetime with all the extras as a surprise gift for 2024 or 2025.



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Many of us forget to capture our families each year with photo sessions. **LKN Images**, *Lakeside Living's* amazing photographer, Kathleen Martin, will not only set you up with beautiful family and personal photos, but they also offer products and unique gift with your favorite images like canvases, metallic wall designs and storyboard collages.

Last but not least—and one of the easiest gifts around—are gift cards for area retailers, restaurants, personal training (by **Your Personal Best Fitness Studio** or **The Carolina Factory**), salons and spas (like **Hand & Stone Massage & Facial Spa**), for easy, useful and appreciated spa day gifts. Lake Norman is filled with resident-owned businesses that appreciate and need our support more than Amazon. Supporting local business owners buys dance lessons, soccer gear, college tuitions, needed surgeries, mortgage payments and other necessities for our local families instead of rockets and yachts for billionaires. Happy holiday shopping!



Tips For Visiting Elderly Relatives During The Holidays

By Anthony Cirillo, President, The Aging Experience

//////

Elder care touches everyone. Elder abuse is rampant. And social isolation is on the rise. Caregiving at a distance can be difficult, stressful and time-consuming. And often the only time caregivers see a loved one is on a family visit, more often around a holiday.

This holiday season, be aware of your older loved one's physical and mental capacity and take notice of their environment.

Where do you start?

First use your senses. Observe with your eyes, ears, and with your senses of taste, touch and smell. Look at the house/apartment. Is it being kept up? Is the environment unsafe, unsanitary? Track the chores you do while there as they could point to services your loved one needs. Is there anything obviously missing or new purchases? This could indicate some type of exploitation.

How can you tell if a loved one has been abused?

There are different types of abuse, some initiated by others and those of self-neglect.

Observe physical or other abuse.

Is there a new best friend around?

Emotional abuse — is a loved one being emotionally upset or agitated; being extremely withdrawn and non-communicative? These are signs that something is up.

Is mom or dad just slowing down or is there more going on?

Has there been excessive weight gain, weight loss, decline in general hygiene? How is their strength and balance? Does it prevent them from doing things? Will they accept help? Check for dehydration or undernourishment.

Are your parents eating nutritious meals regularly? Are they able to prepare meals? Are they wearing inappropriate clothes? Is their clothing inadequate? Check that they have all of their medical aids — eyeglasses, hearing aids, dentures.

Look for signs of declining memory. Are loved ones placing items in wrong places, missing appointments? Are they forgetful?

Check expiration dates on medications. Are loved ones forgetting to take medications? Can they afford their medications? Has the number of prescriptions increased significantly?

Signs of Financial Stress

Unopened mail could indicate memory problems, vision problems or hint at financial problems. Sweepstakes circulars could indicate they or someone is responding to offers. Are there overdue bills? Are bill collectors calling or showing up at the house?

Check for any changes in the loved ones bank account. Check for any additional names on a bank signature card. Check their bank statements. Is there unauthorized withdrawal of funds?

What Do I Do If They Need Care?

First, there is a delicate art on how to communicate with an elder loved one. You want to enjoy the time you have with them and ease into the conversation. Gather information on community services that can meet their needs.

Schedule a visit with your elder's physician. Identify a social support system such as friends, neighbors, clergy and others in regular contact.

Enjoy your time with an elderly parent, relative or friend this season but be watchful of their needs. They will not let on or ask for help. So be a good observer, listener and friend.

Anthony Cirillo, FACHE is a health, aging and caregiving expert who speaks internationally, writes for U.S. News and World Report and is a frequent television guest on Charlotte Today. A graduate of the University of Pennsylvania, he has served as Chair of the Lake Norman Community Health Clinic and is an active Rotarian. He also is a board member of the Institute for Music and Neurologic Function. Anthony is a musician who gigs locally and has created Sage Stream, a live-stream entertainment network for isolated older adults. Find out more about Anthony here - <https://linktr.ee/anthonymcirillo>.

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Give Yourself the *Gift of Organization* this Holiday Season



**By Annie Hanson, CEO,
The Closet Niche**

One thing you notice right away moving to or living in the South is the lack of storage space. Most homes here do not have basements, and storage seems to be an afterthought or not well thought out, with odd, short under-the-stair closets or little rooms with doors under the eaves. Those of us lucky enough to have large closets and storage spaces still might face poorly designed spaces with few shelves and awkward arrangements. This is where custom organizational solutions come in.

It's now the holiday season. In previous months, you were pulling out and putting away Halloween décor, wrapping up Thanksgiving wreaths and stuffing the scarecrows back into bins on Saturday and then heading back into storage on Sunday to find the Christmas tree and dozens of tubs full of holiday home décor. We all have those holiday closets or corners in the garage or room in our walkout basement, that try as we might, are a nightmare to access and organize each year.

Here are some tips for getting organized this holiday season:

- Carve out extra garage space or space under the porch to create an organized section just for your outdoor décor items like flags, patio décor and holiday lights. There are many garage storage options like overhead garage storage, wall cabinets and shelving that can be installed in space-saving ways.
- Use hanging rods to hang your flags, keeping them wrinkle free and organized by season.
- Take advantage of those odd-shaped closets and unused angled spaces under the staircases or in entryways to create functional storage closets. Custom organizational solutions can provide open, adjustable shelving that wraps around corners, and heights can be adjusted at any level or stair stepped for angled ceilings to provide maximum efficiency. Hanging options can be incorporated and drawers added that are wide and deep enough to hold rolls of wrapping paper with smaller drawers for gift tags and bows.
- Customized closet solutions can be easily installed in your attic as well, where most homes have tons of unused storage attic space that just needs the help of a creative organizational designer.



- Use slatwall with hooks on a wall that is too shallow for shelving to hang wreaths or a hanging gift wrap organizer. If you don't have the space for slatwall in the closet but have more hanging space, put your wreaths on a hanger in the closet with a trash bag on top to keep them from getting dusty.
- For large items like Christmas trees, holiday planters or those giant nutcrackers who guard your entryway, larger custom closets can be installed that hide holiday décor off season.
- Use clear totes instead of solid totes that are labeled for each holiday. That way, you don't have to guess what is inside and pull out 10 tubs to find the right one is the last one you open.
- Organize similar-themed items in the same totes, and make your labels more specific, e.g., one tote for all your placemats, napkins and rings labeled "Christmas tableware" instead of just "Christmas."

Custom organizational systems have become a game changer for holiday storage and organization, allowing you to actually use and maximize every space in your home—even those awkward, odd spaces. A creative organizational storage designer can help you create order out of chaotic space, taking the hassle out of the holidays and leaving you more time to enjoy the season.



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Holiday Festivities Around the Lake and Charlotte Region

By Caroline Campbell

There are so many ways to get into the holiday spirit around Cornelius, Lake Norman, Charlotte and the surrounding areas. Grab your family, friends and create your own list of must-do activities this holiday season!

In Cornelius...

Light Up Cornelius

Sat., November 25 from 4-7pm
@Downtown Cornelius
www.cornelius.org/165/Light-Up-Cornelius
Festivities will include holiday songs by local performers, children's activities, carriage rides, train display, s'mores station, food vendors and a visit from Santa himself! The tree lighting ceremony will take place around 6pm.

41st Annual North Mecklenburg Holiday Parade

Sat., December 2 at 1pm
@Main Street, Davidson and Cornelius
www.ci.davidson.nc.us/889/North-Mecklenburg-Parade
The towns of Cornelius and Davidson proudly present a community favorite! Come out and cheer along as you're

entertained by high school bands, horses, tractors, school groups, dance companies, civic organizations and, of course, Santa! The parade begins in Davidson at the corner of Griffith Street and Highway 115 and ends in Cornelius at the intersection of Highway 115 and Catawba Avenue. Find your spot and watch the fun!

Santa Paws in the Park

December 3 from 12-2pm
@Robbins Park
cornelius.org/618/Santa-Paws-in-the-Park
Cornelius Parks and Rec offers this fun, pet-loving family event each year! Your pup can enjoy a visit with Santa, you can shop for unique dog gifts and more.

Christmas in Cornelius

Sun., December 3 from 12-5pm
@Old Town Cornelius by Oak Street Mill
www.facebook.com/events/238913358737399
Christmas is coming! Join the community for a fun-filled, action-packed afternoon of holiday cheer including shopping from over 80 local artisans and small businesses, Christmas-themed inflatables and activities, local craft brews, ciders and food trucks, a

candy cane quest scavenger hunt, letters to Santa station, carolers, a DJ, photo ops and even a visit from St. Nick himself!

2nd Annual Flashlight Candy Cane Dash

Sat., December 9 from 5:30-7pm
@Cain Center/Town Hall
cornelius.org/774/Flashlight-Candy-Cane-Dash

Mark your December calendar for the 2nd Annual Flashlight Candy Cane Dash where Parks and Rec will fill the lawn with candy canes to be found and enjoyed! Children also enjoy stories read by Santa Claus, crafts, hot chocolate and more!

5th Annual Lighted Christmas Boat Parade

Sat., December 15 from 5:30-7pm
@Begins at Blythe Landing Park
www.facebook.com/events/103726386134240
Celebrate the season and take in the amazing light show on the water with a fleet of decorated vessels full of toys and neighbors looking to give back. All proceeds from the event go to Little Smiles. There are three key spots to watch the event: Blythe Landing Park, Ramsey Creek Park and then the big finale at the Duke Energy Explorium with food trucks and fun.

Around Lake Norman...

Christmas in Davidson

Thurs., November 30-Sat., December 2 from 6-9pm nightly
@Main Street, Davidson
www.christmasindavidson.com
Kick off the holiday season in Davidson, as Main Street is transformed with all the joys of the season—holiday light shows, roving entertainment, a live nativity, live music, great food, holiday shopping and more.

Downtown Mooresville Mistletoe Sip & Shop

Fri., December 1 and 15 from 6-8pm
@Main and Broad Streets, Mooresville
www.downtownmooresville.com/signature-events
Our unique shops and businesses will be offering open houses, store specials, sumptuous sips, divine deals, yummy

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appetizers, gifts, treats and more! Bring your favorite people and enjoy shopping small this holiday season in the heart of Mooresville. Whether it's sparkly, sweet, handy, special, savory or a thingymajiggy that you need, you'll find it in downtown Mooresville!

Classic Christmas in Downtown Mooresville

Fri., December 8 from 6-9pm
@Downtown Mooresville
www.downtownmooresville.com/signature-events

Venture to Downtown Mooresville and enjoy holiday festivities from Santa visits, horse-drawn wagon rides, a life-size snow globe, Victorian carolers, ice skating, a petting zoo, unique shopping and dining, hot cocoa, popcorn, cotton candy, s'mores, crafts and more! There's something to get everyone in the holiday spirit!

In Charlotte and Surrounding Areas...

Speedway Christmas

Fri., November 17-Sun., January 7 from 6-10pm nightly
@Charlotte Motor Speedway
www.charlottemotorspeedway.com/events/speedway-christmas

This Christmas light show is huge with over 3 million lights and a lights-to-music drive-thru section along the 3.5-mile course! Be sure to buy your tickets in advance.

Holidays at the Garden

Fri., November 24-Sat., December 23 from 5-10pm nightly (closed Mondays)
@Daniel Stowe Botanical Garden, Belmont
dsbg.org/visit/holidays-at-the-garden
The Garden's cherished annual holiday event offers a magical experience for guests. Sing along to your wintertime favorites at our popular topiary display, take in the rolling lights of the Piedmont Prairie and stroll among the twinkling cherry trees. There will be food trucks, fire for roasting

marshmallows and cold and warm beverages to help you soak up the season's cheer.

Charlotte Ballet: Nutcracker

Fri., December 8-Sat., December 23 with various showtimes
@Belk Theatre at Blumenthal Performing Arts Center
www.blumenthalarts.org/events/detail/charlotte-ballet-nutcracker-6

Celebrate the sights and sounds of the holidays at Nutcracker! Join Clara as she encounters an epic battle between the Mouse King and Nutcracker, a breathtaking snowfall, jumping candy canes and the iconic Sugar Plum Fairy. It's sure to put the whole family in the holiday spirit!

Holidays with the Charlotte Symphony Orchestra

Fri., November 24 & Sat., November 25: Elf in Concert
Tues., November 28: Majestic Brass
Fri., December 1-Sun., December 3: Handel Messiah

Fri., December 8: Soulful Christmas
Sun., December 10: A Very Thorgy Christmas
Fri., December 15-Sun., December 17: Holiday Pops
Wed., December 20-Sat., December 23: Cirque De Noel
www.charlottesymphony.org/holidays
The soundtrack to your holiday season! Spend the holidays with the Charlotte Symphony this season, and enjoy annual traditions, like Handel's Messiah, and festive fare that's sure to make your season bright.

66th Annual Christmas Town USA

Fri., December 1-Tues., December 26 from 5:30-10pm nightly
@McAdenville, NC
www.mcadenville-christmastown.com
Enjoy thousands of holiday lights and decorations in this charming Southern town. You can drive through the town to see the lights or walk through to view the details and

hear the chimes. A few highlights include over 100 decorated houses, a large nativity scene in front of the McAdenville Baptist Church, over 250 evergreens covered with more than half a million red, white and green lights and much more.

Please note, event information is subject to change at any time.



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The Mooresville Public Library

By Andy Poore, Librarian, Local Historian and Archivist, Mooresville Public Library | Photos Courtesy of Mooresville Public Library Archives

There is a building in Mooresville where you can follow a rabbit down a hole to meet a queen; or walk through a looking glass to play a game of chess; sail straight ahead to the second star on the right and lock swords with a pirate who has a hook for a hand; or open a wardrobe door to follow a faun to a lamppost in the woods; take a wild ride with a toad in his car; or meet a nanny who can pop in through paintings in the sidewalk—all in the most supercalifragilisticexpialidocious building in the town. What is this building you ask? Why, it is the library of course, and this one has a unique history all its own.

The Mooresville Public Library was started in the late 1870s by a group of citizens who gave books to what was then called the Lending Library. This was a subscription-based library where people had to pay to be members to rent the books. The books were stamped with the rental cost (typically a nickel at that time). By the 1880s the library had grown and had moved above a store on Main Street. By the 1890s it had grown in popularity, and by 1899 the Town Board of Commissioners hired the first librarian and changed the library from a lending library to a free library.

The library then moved into a new home above Miller Drug Store where it stayed until about 1910, when the first Town Hall was built, and the library moved into a room on the second floor of the new building. With a larger space, the library added more books to its collection and the first library board was formed to be the governing body for the library. By the late 1920s space was needed in Town Hall for other departments and the library had to move once again, this time to a space above another store on Main Street. By the 1930s the library had grown in popularity and was desperately in need of a home to call its own. In 1939 Mrs. LuTelle Sherrill Williams came to the rescue.

An avid book lover/reader, Mrs. Williams felt it was time for the library to have a new and permanent home. Married to Clay Williams, who was at the time president of R. J. Reynolds, Mrs. Williams and her husband lived in Winston-Salem, leaving her home on Main Street vacant. With help from her husband and R. J. Reynolds, she razed her house and built a library building on the site. The new library was the first fireproof building in town, with the walls made of brick, steel and concrete with a steel and concrete roof topped with slate shingles. The building was state of the art at the time, with central heat, electric lighting and elegant architectural work and wood shelves. The delivery of the shelves was delayed, as the company had to cut the trees first, but the new library finally opened in December of 1939.

In 1964 a children's room was added to the building and the basement was expanded. Over the years the library continued to grow and by 2000, the library had grown to the point that a new building was needed. In 2003 the Friends of the Library began a fundraising campaign and the town Board started making plans to expand the library building. With the help of patrons, the community, businesses and a generous donation from Lowe's corporation, the library expansion was completed, and in 2005 opened its new 30,000 square foot addition. The new addition included space for meeting rooms, study areas, a floor devoted to the children's library and more shelves for books.

In the fall of 2022, the library opened its first branch, located on the West side of town. Today the library continues to be a vital part of the Mooresville community and surrounding area, with both branches offering quality programs, materials and top-notch service to all who visit.



Mrs. LuTelle Williams and her son Clay 1939



Christmas program in front of fireplace in old library building



Library staff and volunteers at old circulation desk



Group in front of old library building



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Let There Be *Light!*

By Evan McCord, Owner, TruDream Landscaping



3 Reasons You Need to Add Landscape Lighting at Your Property

Landscape lighting, like many technologies today, has become much better, more flexible and more affordable. Adding landscape lighting will enhance the value and curb appeal of any home or business, and your investment will also make your property safer. Finally, the new LED technologies available for landscape lighting can be FUN!

We all desire to protect and increase the value of our investments, and good landscape lighting will accomplish this better than most additions to any property. The lighting, when



done properly, will make your property more welcoming and should highlight the best features of your property. When it is time for installing lighting, you can choose from a variety of lighting fixtures and get assistance with selecting the right look and design. Create layers by utilizing up lights, down lights, path lights and other lighting varieties to wash your property in a warm glow.

Another important aspect of landscape lighting is the increase in safety the lighting provides. Burglars and others looking to do harm are exceedingly less likely to target well-lit properties. Proper lighting

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allows us to maximize the use of our properties at night. The lights prevent trips and falls and create security for all as we enjoy our spaces after dark.

Last, but certainly not least, landscape lighting can be fun! With new lighting fixtures and controls, you can instantly change the color of the light. You can control the mood on demand. Make a statement to celebrate a cause or celebrate your favorite holiday. Show your love for our country by lighting your property in red, white and blue. Light your property in orange lights for Halloween and then change over your lights to celebrate the Christmas season.

Contact TruDream today so that we may help increase your property value, keep you and others safe and celebrate the holidays and seasons with lighting. Let's have some fun creating your dream landscape lighting!



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Join the Town of Mooresville as it Celebrates *A Classic Christmas*, the Final 150th Event

Submitted by Megan Suber, Communications and Marketing Director, Town of Mooresville

The most wonderful time of the year is just around the corner, and there's no better way to kick off the holiday season than by joining us for *A Classic Christmas* in Mooresville Presented by Lowe's! Get ready for a night of festive fun and magical memories in Downtown Mooresville on Friday, December 8th, from 5-9pm.

Here's a sneak peek of what you can expect at this enchanting holiday celebration: roaming carolers, visits with Santa, wagon rides, giant snow globes, ice skating, a giant gingerbread jump, a carousel, holiday sweets and treats, a craft village, performances and so much more!

A Classic Christmas in Mooresville promises to be a festive extravaganza that brings the community together in the spirit of joy and celebration. This annual event is much anticipated every year, and this year it will be even bigger and better to celebrate Mooresville's 150th anniversary. Whether you're a longtime Mooresville resident or just visiting, this event offers something

for everyone. It's a perfect opportunity to create lasting memories and share the holiday magic with family and friends. And not to mention, it's the final Signature Event celebrating the Town of Mooresville's sesquicentennial year.

Don't miss out on this unforgettable evening of classic holiday charm. Mark your calendars for Friday, December 8, to come to Downtown Mooresville from 5-9pm. You can find complete information online at MooresvilleNC.gov. We can't wait to share the magic of the holidays with you!

The winter fun does not stop with *A Classic Christmas* in Mooresville! The annual indoor concert series at Joe V. Knox Auditorium in the Charles Mack Citizen Center is back for the 2023-2024 winter season with a world-class lineup—including the fan-favorite Murder Mystery Dinner show—sure to excite all ages and interests. Shows are occurring now through April. You can find a complete schedule and buy tickets online at OurTownStage.com!

**Breakfast/Brunch
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Be Here Now

By Hope Andersen

When I was in high school, many moons ago, I played 'Emily' in Thornton Wilder's *Our Town*. At one point, Emily, who has died, asks the Stage Manager "Do human beings ever realize life while they live it? Every, every minute?" To which he replies, "Some do. Saints and poets maybe." What trait do poets have that differentiate them from 'normal' human beings? Based on my own experience, I would say that poets are more engaged in the moment than most everyone else. They take the time to observe a flower in its various stages of growth or the goldfinch on the feeder. They aren't in a hurry to move on to the next activity, but allow themselves to be immersed in the present and to hear the messages spoken in that moment.

I believe we can all be poets if we allow ourselves to engage in what Buddhist monk Pema Chodron calls 'open awareness.' Chodron writes, "Practicing open awareness is a gradual process of continually going back to seeing what we are seeing, smelling what we are smelling, feeling what we are feeling. Whatever happens, the method is to keep letting go of the extra stuff and return to just what's here." Another spiritual giant, Ram Dass, puts it this way: Be Here Now.

When we are here, now, in this present moment, not lamenting the past or fretting about the future, we can enjoy all that life has to

offer us. For me, that might be the spicy scent of ginger as I prepare a butternut squash soup. Or the feel of the wind on my cheeks as I take a walk on a late fall morning. The slant of the sun sparkling on the frosty grass. The first sip of my morning coffee. Life is made of moments that we can only fully appreciate if we are aware of what we are seeing, smelling, feeling and not rushing off into something else.

The end of the year tends to be a time of great activity. Everyone has a lengthy list of "Things That Must Get Done." And then comes New Year's and the resolution to "Slow Down. Be More Mindful. Take It Easy." Why not exercise your poetic muscles before you need to resolve to do so? Give yourself an early present of the Present moment. Take a walk, notice the way the magnolia leaves slap in the wind and how the beautiful trees sport hefty rattles with red seeds. Listen for the winter birds that still populate the sky; watch the bright red cardinals dart across the white sky and settle on leafless branches. Feel the cold air heat your cheeks, and make you glad for the cup of hot tea you might drink upon your return home. Be in the moment, not cursing the colder weather, but loving Nature for the respite, the spell of silence that accompanies this season of the year.

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Charlotte *Christmas* Markets

By Joanie Baker

IF YOU'VE BEEN to Europe during the holiday season, you may have stumbled upon the amazing outdoor holiday markets, or Christkindlmarks, a Christian tradition celebrating the coming of Christmas. Originating in Germany and very popular in many European towns, especially in the Eastern European countries, these outdoor venues are traditionally held in the town squares and feature open-air stalls or booths with gifts from local artisans and craftsmen, folk singing and dancing, and street treats like roasted nuts, gingerbread (lebkuchen) or fruitbread (stollen and fruitcakes) and warm mulled wine (glühwein). Some of the larger U.S. cities, like New York, Baltimore, D.C. and Chicago, are now hosting large Christmas markets of their own. But if you cannot venture abroad or to one of the bigger ones out of state, Charlotte offers a few traditional Christmas Markets you can visit this holiday season.

Weihnachtsmarkt

Weekends from November 24-December 17, Olde Mecklenburg Brewery, FREE

The largest and most authentic Christmas market in Charlotte is the Weihnachtsmarkt at the Olde Mecklenburg Brewery. This traditional German market held in the beer garden amidst twinkling holiday lights is home to more than 50 local vendors and craftsmen. In addition to the holiday food and drink items sold in the stalls, you

have access to German street fare, like soft pretzels and brats, and German beers from The Old Mecklenburg Brewery at their walk-up location or their full German menu inside the restaurant.

Mistletoe Market

Camp North End (Saturdays in December, 4-8pm)

Curated vendors, live music, firepits and food and drinks available from the area businesses and drink trucks.

Christmas Village at Light the Knights

November 22-January 1, Trusti Field, \$10 admission fee-\$35 (all activity pass)

Located inside Knights Stadium during their holiday light show, this Christmas market has various craft booths, holiday treats and Santa! Ice skating and snow tubing available for extra fees.

Make Your Own Glühwein (Mulled Spiced Wine)

Translated to "glow wine," you can enjoy this warm winter market and traditional after-skiing treat at holiday gatherings or around the firepit!

Ingredients

- 3/4 cup water
- 3/4 cup white or turbinado sugar
- 1, 3-inch cinnamon stick
- 2 medium oranges, divided
- 10 whole cloves
- 1, 750 milliliter bottle of red wine

2. Cut an orange in half and squeeze the juice into the mixture.
3. Push the cloves into the outside of the orange peel. Place into the simmering mixture.
4. Simmer until the mixture is thick and syrupy. Remove from heat.
5. Stir in the wine while the mixture is hot, but not simmering.

Directions

1. Bring the water, sugar and cinnamon stick to a boil. Reduce the heat to low.

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Maverick and Goose



Meet **Maverick and Goose**, the adorable golden retrievers who are part of our feature family, the Hathaways. They have the same parents, just born in different litters a year apart. These sweet boys love to snuggle and play with the kids. Goose loves stuffed animals and carries them with him everywhere he goes, and Maverick loves chewing them up. They both love the beach and playing fetch in the surf.

LAKE NORMAN HUMANE SPOTLIGHT

Hank

**Submitted by Dana Kelley,
Operations Director, Lake
Norman Humane**

**Photo by Darla Adair
Davis Photograph**

Hank is a spirited and loyal Australian cattle dog with a heart full of love and paws full of energy. With his striking brown eyes and beautiful coat, he's a head-turner in the park! He is around 3 years old and smart as a whip, ready to take on life's next adventure with you. He adores all people he meets and loves his four-legged dog friends as well! He recently did a

5K and enjoyed hanging

at Oktoberfest all day and would be great as a hiking buddy or a brewery dog!

Why Hank Could Be Your Perfect Match:

Intelligent & Trainable: Hank is eager to learn and picks up new commands quickly.

Active Companion: Hank loves to be on the move! He's the perfect companion for hiking, jogging, or any outdoor adventures.

Loyal & Loving: Once Hank bonds with you, he'll be your devoted friend for life.

If you're ready to add some fun and excitement to your life, come meet Hank! Let's give this amazing boy the loving forever home he deserves! Come by to meet him!



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December

TOWN OF MOORESVILLE EVENTS

Wed., December 6

Mooreville Downtown Commission Meeting
@ Charles Mack Citizen Center, 215 North Main Street, Mooreville, NC
MDC Board Meetings are generally held the first Wednesday of every month at 1 p.m. in the Charles Mack Citizens Center.* The public is welcome to attend; however, they are Board Meetings and as such, public comment is open only as noted on the agenda. *Meeting date or location may be changed due to holiday or if the Charles Mack Citizens Center is unavailable.

Thur., December 7

THE COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE (CRC) MEETING

The CRC strives to advance the Town's efforts to embody the spirit of harmony and inclusion. The goal is to unite people from diverse backgrounds with the purpose of building relationships, healing, learning and growing together. The CRC meets at 6pm on the first Thursday of each month in the Lowrance Room of the Charles Mack Citizen Center. Meetings are open to the public.
Time: 6pm

FARMERS MARKETS

DAVIDSON FARMERS' MARKET

Sat., December 9 and Sat., December 16

@Downtown Davidson near Town Hall
The prime season market is happening! Farm fresh produce, flowers, meat, bakery items, crafts and handmade products. No pets allowed.
Time: 9am-12pm
www.davidsonfarmersmarket.org

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Fri., December 8

A CLASSIC CHRISTMAS IN MOORESVILLE

@Downtown Mooreville
Create a lifetime of memories with your family while attending this annual festive celebration. Visit local artisans, sample festive cuisine, finish your last-minute shopping and catch holiday-themed performances brought to you by local talent. Victorian carolers, holiday shopping and photos with Santa are all part of this traditional Classic Christmas.
Time: 5-9pm

Now through Sun., December 17

A NICE FAMILY GATHERING

@Armour Street Theatre
A Nice Family Gathering is a story about a man who loved his wife so much, he almost told her. It's Christmas day and the first family gathering at the Lundeen household since the patriarch died. Dad comes back as a ghost with a mission: to tell his wife he loved her, something he neglected while he was alive. The problem is, she can't hear or see him. The trouble begins when Mom invites a date for dinner.
Time: Various showtimes
Cost: \$18 and up
davidsoncommunityplayers.org/show/a-nice-family-gathering

Now through Sun., January 28

BIRKDALE ON ICE

@The Plaza, Birkdale Village
For the second year, Birkdale Village will have an ice-skating rink and we can't wait to lace up our skates with you. Guests will need to book ice skating reservations in advance to ensure a skating time slot. Walk-ups are also welcome, but we cannot guarantee you will be able to skate at that time.
Time: Mon.-Fri. from 3-10pm; Sat. from 10am-10pm; Sun. from 12-7pm; Holidays from 10am-10pm.
Cost: \$18, including skates; \$14 for ages 12 and under, including skates
birkdalevillage.com/events/birkdale-on-ice

Now through mid-February

ICE SKATING

@U.S. National Whitewater Center
The Whitewater Center's ice rink has grown to over 24,000 sq. ft. this year and includes four distinct skating areas, including two ice trails and two free skate zones.
Time: Daily
Cost: \$25 single activity pass
usnwc.org/activity/ice-skating

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



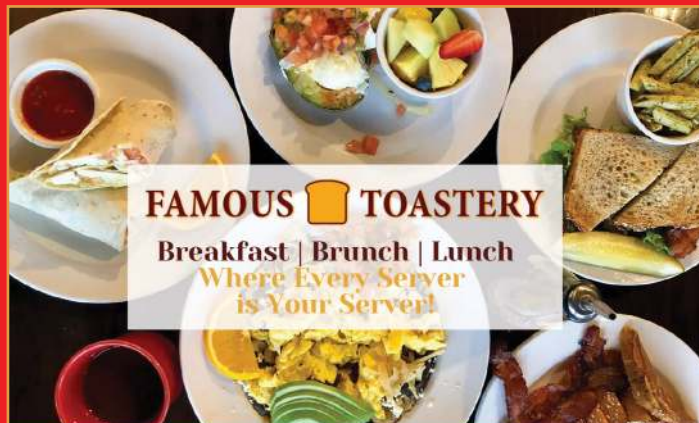
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Birkdale on Ice



By Kaitlyn Dorroh,
Student Reporter

For the first time last year, Birkdale Village opened their seasonal outdoor ice skating rink. My friend, Caroline, and I thought we would check it out a few weeks after it opened. When we arrived at Birkdale, we made sure to order our tickets online, and while we waited, we decided to explore the shops. After shopping at American Eagle and Bath & Body Works, it was time to go ice skating.

The rink provides skates, and the online tickets are easy to navigate, making this experience worth the visit. After we received our skates and checked in, we were able to enjoy our 75-minute skate session.

During the first half of our skate session, both of us fell a few times, however, we were able to laugh it off and get back up. We had fun laughing about our falls, enjoying the new rink and hanging out together. My favorite memory was when Caroline and I both fell on the ice however, we helped each other back up and aimed to skate faster.

Birkdale on Ice has returned this year and will be open until January 28, 2024. For only \$18 per person and \$14 for those under 12, you will not regret visiting the rink this winter. What are you waiting for? Grab your tickets online and head to Birkdale on Ice!

SCHOOL CALENDAR

ISS: 12/6, EARLY RELEASE, 12/20-1/3, NO SCHOOL

CMS: 12/20-1/2, NO SCHOOL

DAVIDSON DAY: 12/16-1/2, NO SCHOOL

CANNON: 12/8, EARLY RELEASE; 12/15, LS & MS EARLY RELEASE; 12/18-1/1, NO SCHOOL

COMMUNITY SCHOOL OF DAVIDSON:
12/21-1/2, NO SCHOOL

LAKE NORMAN CHARTER:
12/20, EARLY RELEASE; 12/21-1/2, NO SCHOOL

LANGTREE CHARTER:
12/22, EARLY RELEASE; 12/25-1/5, NO SCHOOL

PINE LAKE PREP: 12/21-1/2, NO SCHOOL

WOODLAWN: 12/18-1/2, NO SCHOOL

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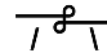


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