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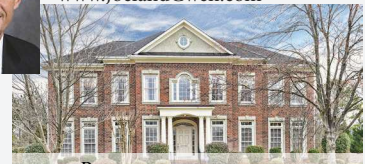


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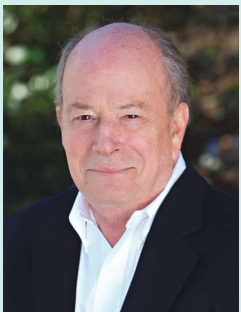
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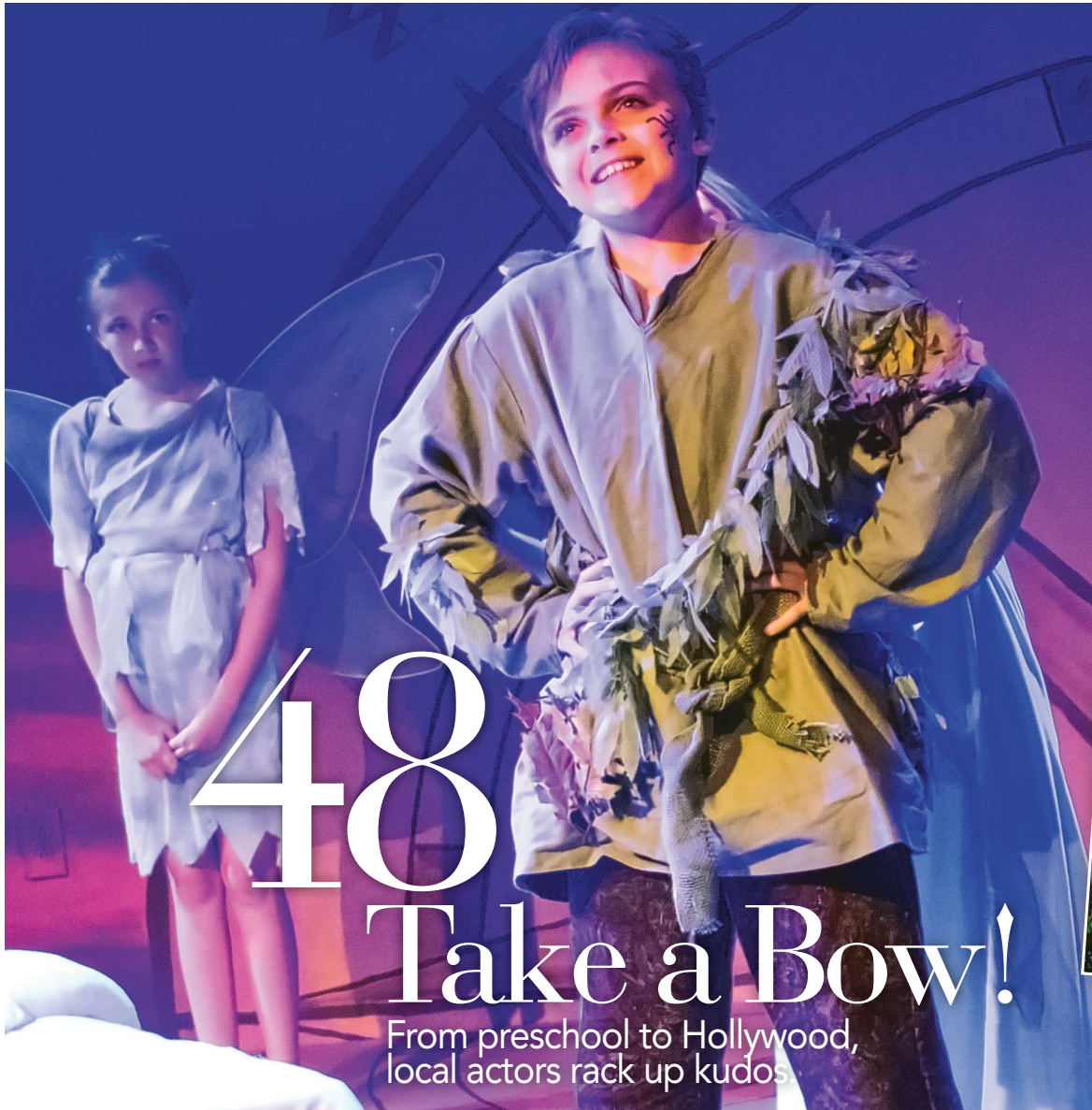


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## FEATURES



# 48 Take a Bow!

From preschool to Hollywood, local actors rack up kudos.



**ON THE COVER:**  
Just a spoon of jam adds a flavorful homemade touch.  
Photo by Anna Naphtali

### New HQ

Snyder's-Lance headquarters showcases company culture.

# 38



### Savor the Harvest

Preserve the bounty of the garden to enjoy year-round.

# 60







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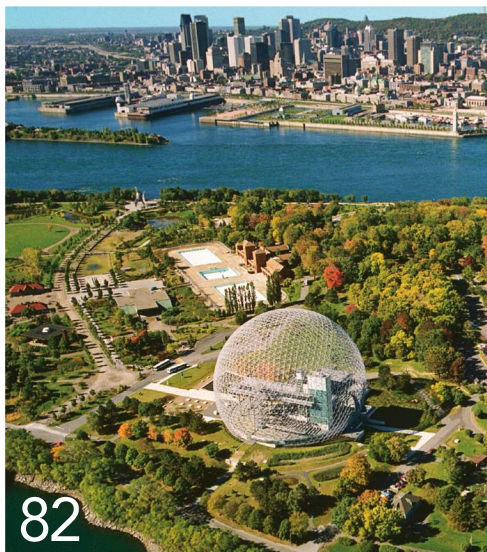
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 What declares that autumn has arrived? Check out our take.

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# BALLANTYNE

magazine

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Fall 2015 Vol. 15, No. 4





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# Autumnal Allure

## A Bountiful, Beautiful Season



FALL OFFICIALLY UNFOLDS ON THE SEPTEMBER EQUINOX when night and day are exactly 12 hours. Yet for most of us, autumn begins with back to school, apple picking, pumpkin-patch visits, weekend football and the vibrant color change of the trees. We like being part of the traditions with our annual fall issue.

For enthusiastic backyard gardeners and farmers-market regulars, we explore time-proven techniques of preserving the fall bounty, "Savor the Harvest." We share simple methods to capture homegrown goodness for enjoyment throughout the year.

We applaud the growing performance arts scene in Ballantyne. Go behind the stage curtain with us to meet passionate actors of all ages, the award-winning Ardrey Kell drama department and an adult actor who has rolled up high-profile movie and television credits in less than two years.

We stop by the new corporate headquarters of iconic snack producer Snyder's-Lance, a Ballantyne Corporate Park tenant with deep roots in the Charlotte community. The "New HQ" provided the opportunity to create a space that reinforced the company's commitment to instilling a healthy and open environment for both employees and customers.

With the rise in popularity of craft breweries, we find a local beer expert ready to reveal the perfect beer pairing. Who Knew? — as the column says. Also on the culinary front, Fab Fare brings us the universally pleasing menu at Firebirds Wood Fired Grill, which offers a warm, mountain feel that's perfect for crisp fall nights.

To take in the season's beauty beyond our region, we "escape" to Montreal with its European flair. For the fashion

savvy, we showcase must-have fall accessories that make an on-trend statement. Fringe, anyone?

Year-round, I find the strength of our community is the compassion to give back. The Isabella Santos Foundation's Run for Kids Cancer, BCC Rally, Big South 5K Road Race, Stiletto Sprint and Ballantyne Festival are autumn traditions emblematic of that community spirit.

On a side note, if you're craving a new lunch location, I invite you to follow me and Diana Blocker, our associate publisher for sales, as we lunch in a different Ballantyne-area

We share **simple** methods to capture **homegrown goodness** for enjoyment **throughout** the year.

restaurant each week for a year. We capture our circuit on our Facebook, Twitter and Instagram pages and encourage you to join the conversation with hashtags #ballantynemunchies and #52weeks.

This year the autumn equinox is on Sept. 23, but to me, fall begins now.

Best Regards,

Regina Robertson  
Editor-in-Chief





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# What's happening in and around Ballantyne



Photo by Ray Sepesy

Remi's Brandon Childress (from left), Nick Cannon, Laura Bauer, Sara LaFontsee and Jennifer Daughtery; WSOC's Scott Wickersham and Stephanie Maxwell; American Honda Corp.'s Whitney Harrison and Mikaela Grillo and Bissell Cos.' Hailey Rorie celebrate the drive with Classroom Central's Karen Price.

## Color the Park Aids Students

Ballantyne Corporate Park held its seventh annual Color the Park Marker Drive, collecting from donations of money and actual supplies the equivalent of 41,000 packs of markers, colored pencils and crayons for Classroom Central. The drive ran July 22-31. Classroom Central is a free store for teachers

and supports over 100,000 children in the Charlotte area who need school supplies.

This year's Color the Park Marker Drive topped last year's total, and the celebration at Brixham Tent marked the start of WSOC-TV's own school-supply campaign, "9 School Tools."



# NEWS CUES

## Ballantyne Center Now Open

Central Piedmont Community College's Ballantyne Center recently opened in Ballantyne Corporate Park in the Gibson Building at 11430 N. Community House Road. The site has newly designed classrooms, computer labs and meeting and office space.

Corporate and continuing-education courses include banking and financial services, business processes such as business analysis and project management, computer and



information technology, customer service, entrepreneurship and small business, general business, human resources, insurance, leadership and management, marketing and sales, notary public, real estate appraisal and personal enrichment. Learn more at [www.cpcc.edu/campuses/ballantyne](http://www.cpcc.edu/campuses/ballantyne).

## Sara's Y to Open in 2016

The YMCA of Greater Charlotte has broken ground on Sara's Y, a facility in Ballantyne Corporate Park named in memory of Sara Harris Bissell, a philanthropist whose family has deep ties to the Y. The new site will open in 2016.

The cost of the project was underwritten with a \$5 million initial gift from Smoky and Margaret Bissell, while the Y funded the other half. Sara's Y is designed to serve the growing corporate community as well as residents from nearby neighborhoods.

The facility will feature the latest fitness and wellness amenities, including a progressive yoga studio designed for hot yoga and specialty classes; a high-bay group exercise



studio that opens to outdoor space; a studio for TRX Suspension Training; Pilates Reformer and yoga personal training; an outdoor fitness area and rooftop terrace; spacious locker room facilities with towel service and oversized lockers; community networking space (technology lobby) and a cafe with grab-and-go food service.

## YMCA Hosts Plays, Inspire! Gala

The first youth theater production of the Morrison Family Y season is Nov. 13-15 at the Ballantyne Arts Center in Ballantyne Corners.

Auditions for "Honk, Jr." are Saturday, Sept. 19. "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever" will be Dec. 11-13, also at the Ballantyne Arts Center. Auditions are Saturday, Oct. 17. Info: [www.ymcacharlotte.org/](http://www.ymcacharlotte.org/)

[ballantyneartscenter.com](http://ballantyneartscenter.com).

The 8th Annual Inspire! Ballantyne Gala, held in partnership with Levine Cancer Institute, is slated for Saturday, Dec. 5. The evening features a silent auction, food and music. Proceeds benefit the Levine Cancer Institute Wellness Program. Tickets or info: [www.ymcacharlotte.org/morrison/inspire](http://www.ymcacharlotte.org/morrison/inspire).

Meanwhile, in July, more than 400 adults and 250 children participated in the Y's 6th Annual Tri! Ballantyne, Tri! Festival and Kids Tri! The events included the first para-athlete, who finished the race in under two hours. Proceeds went to after-school and summer-enrichment programs for under-served children in southwest Charlotte.

## Festival Oct. 10

The 5th Annual Ballantyne Festival - Autumn in the Park is Saturday, Oct. 10, from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m., rain or shine, in Ballantyne District Park behind Morrison Family YMCA.

Signature events include Charlotte's Best Oyster Roast featuring oysters from Carolina Fish Market and other local purveyors, and the Harvest Bowl, which pits local companies in pie-eating and oyster-shucking competitions.

Another highlight is the Celebration of Service featuring the Chili Cook-off, giving festivalgoers an opportunity to engage with candidates, local leaders, first responders and local nonprofits.

Entertainment features the band Simplified and performances by local acts from the community. Also on tap are an arts and craft village with original crafts and wares from local artisans and a Kid's Zone with games and other fun activities. Food, beer and wine will be available.

This year's festival benefits Arts for Life and the Morrison Family YMCA Annual Campaign. Info: [www.ballantynefestival.org](http://www.ballantynefestival.org) or festival chair Allen Starrett at [allen@ballantynefestival.org](mailto:allen@ballantynefestival.org).



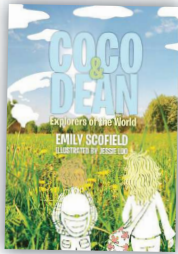


## Scofield Writes Children's Book

Warren Publishing has published Emily Scofield's first children's book, "CoCo & Dean: Explorers of the World."

Scofield, a Ballantyne-area resident who is the executive director of the U.S. Green Building Council's North Carolina chapter,

designed the book to raise environmental awareness in children of all ages. The book presents



real environmental scenarios with fun, relatable kids as the main characters and is available through Warren Publishing, Barnes & Noble and Amazon.

## Photo Club Marks First Year

The Ballantyne Photography Club, whose membership has grown to 230 members, just celebrated its first anniversary. "I saw that there were few resources for photographers of all levels in the south Charlotte area," says photographer Colin Hocking, who founded the club. "All the other clubs I could find were near uptown and inconvenient for those of us who reside here."

The club meets at Earth Fare in Toringdon on the second Tuesday of each month from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. and holds a coffee meeting at 10:15 a.m. on the last Thursday of each month at The Secret Chocolatier in Ballantyne Corners. Reservations are recommended. Info: [www.meetup.com/Ballantyne-Photography-Club](http://www.meetup.com/Ballantyne-Photography-Club).

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## Groundbreaking held at Waverly

Developers Crosland Southeast and Childress Klein celebrated the groundbreaking of the retail component of the 90-acre, master-planned Waverly development at Providence and Ardrey Kell roads on Aug. 5.

Speakers featured Charlotte Mayor Dan Clodfelter, Charlotte City Council member Ed Driggs, Childress Klein partner Chris Thomas, Crosland Southeast partner Peter B. Pappas, Frank Matthews with the Matthews Family Farm and Scott Skala with Graycor Construction.

New tenants announced during the event included Hilton Garden Inn, Ted's Montana Grill, Ivy & Leo, Chuy's and Chipotle. CVS, Chick-fil-A, McDonald's and Quik Trip have committed to outparcel locations. For updates: [www.waverlyclt.com](http://www.waverlyclt.com).



Photo by Daniel Costen

## Community House Fall Festival Sept. 26

The Community House Fall Festival is Saturday, Sept. 26, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the historic log cabin at 9735 Community House Road. The free event features 30 artisans selling jewelry, garden art, candles, children's toys and pottery.

There will be barbecue, hot dogs and

baked items for sale, as well as a petting zoo and ice cream for children. The Presbyterian mobile mammography unit will provide screening mammograms as a service to the community.

The historic log cabin is also the site of a wine tasting and food pairing Sunday,

Oct. 25, featuring Catherine Rabb, a certified sommelier and senior instructor at Johnson & Wales. Tickets are \$10 at the door, with proceeds benefiting preservation and restoration of the cabin. Reservations recommended: 704-905-8334. Info: [www.lowerprovidencelogcabin.org](http://www.lowerprovidencelogcabin.org).

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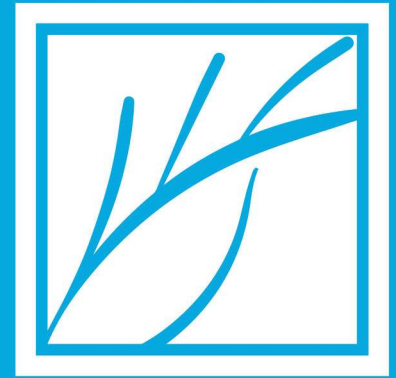
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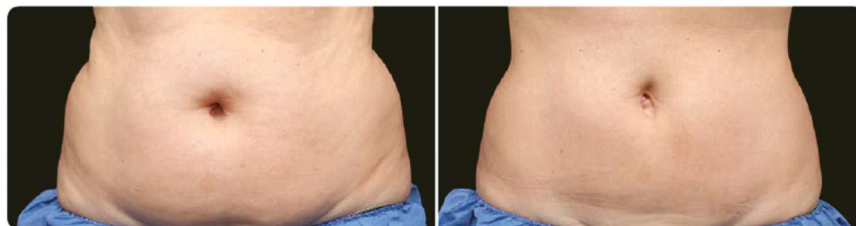


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## Enjoy Autumn at The Ballantyne Hotel & Lodge

Celebrate, delight your palate or support a good cause at The Ballantyne Hotel & Lodge this fall.

### Wine Tastings

Gallery Restaurant offers weekly wine and cocktail tastings on Fridays beginning at 6:30 p.m.

### Oktoberfest

Gallery Restaurant celebrates Oktoberfest with a selection of German beer, including Dunkel, Marzen and Weissbier styles, as well as daily bratwurst specials Sept. 19 through Oct. 31.



### Woodford Reserve Dinner

On Friday, Sept. 11, The Ballantyne Hotel & Lodge unveils the second edition of its Woodford Reserve Personal Selection Bourbon. Enjoy a barbecue dinner, rare bourbons from Woodford Reserve and live entertainment. Reception at 6:30 p.m., dinner at 7:30 p.m.



### Whiskey Club

The Whiskey Club of Ballantyne meets monthly on Fridays from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Fall events: North Carolina Whiskey, Sept. 25; Highland Single Malt Scotch, Oct. 30; and Johnnie Walker Scotch, Nov. 20.

### Breast Cancer Awareness

In October, The Ballantyne Hotel & Lodge and Gallery Restaurant will feature a pastry box of assorted pink macarons. The restaurant also will offer a Pink Passion Delice dessert special. Ten percent of proceeds from both will go to BCC Rally benefiting Komen Charlotte. In addition, the restaurant will give a portion of sales from rosé and signature Pink Passion sangria purchases to the cause.

### Thanksgiving Brunch

Celebrate the holiday with brunch and live entertainment from noon to 4 p.m. on Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 26. Cost: \$75 per person, \$32 for children, ages 5-12, and complimentary for children ages 4 and under (pricing does not include alcoholic beverages, tax or 23 percent service charge). Reservations required: 704-248-4100.



### Afternoon, Special Teas

Afternoon Tea is served Wednesday through Saturday from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. year-round. The following special teas are also available this fall: Chinese Tea, Sept. 23-26; Mad Hatter's Tea Party, Oct. 7-10; and Marie Antoinette Tea, Nov. 4-7.

## Synchrony Moves to Ballantyne



Synchrony Financial Chief Operating Officer Kurt Grossheim cuts the ribbon on the company's new Charlotte office in Ballantyne Corporate Park.

Synchrony Financial, a consumer financial services company, has relocated its offices to Ballantyne Corporate Park. The site has almost 400 employees, with capacity to seat about 1,000 experienced and entry-level personnel in sales, marketing, call-center operations, surveillance, compliance, risk, finance, information technology, vendor

management, supplier risk, business continuity and collections.

Synchrony's building is designated a Fit-Friendly Worksite by the American Heart Association for having a fitness center, a cafeteria serving healthy meal options, walk stations for employees to work and exercise at the same time and recreation rooms offering physical activities. Info: [www.synchronyfinancial.com](http://www.synchronyfinancial.com).

## BIZ BUZZ

### Financial Advisor Wins Award

Edward Jones financial advisor Ben Asseff, whose office is in Ballantyne, recently



Ben Asseff

received the firm's Eagle Award for his "clear vision of both client and business

goals." Asseff was one of 1,956 of the firm's more than 13,000 financial advisors to receive the recognition.

### Group Hosts After-Work Socials

Ballantyne Brews, a social hour bringing together people who work in or around Ballantyne Corporate Park, meets the first and third Tuesday of every month from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Locations in Ballantyne vary and are announced by email a few days in advance. To join the email list, visit [www.facebook.com/ballantynebrews](http://www.facebook.com/ballantynebrews) or email Allen Starrett at [ars@starrettlawfirm.com](mailto:ars@starrettlawfirm.com).





## Online Provider Selects Corporate Park

SignUpGenius, an online sign-up provider, has relocated its offices to Ballantyne Corporate Park, more than doubling its previous space. "This will be our third move to double office space since starting to hire staff six years ago," says Angel Rutledge, chief operating officer.

The company strives to simplify the coordination of events and people by providing online sign-ups for nonprofits, schools, sports, churches, families, colleges, businesses and organizations. In the next several months, the staff will expand its developers, designers and customer service professionals. Info: [www.signupgenius.com](http://www.signupgenius.com).

## Antonich Hires Financial Specialist

Colby Robinson has joined Antonich & Associates, a private wealth advisory practice of Ameriprise Financial, in the



Colby Robinson

newly created position of financial planning specialist. Robinson recently graduated

from Liberty University in Virginia. The practice is located at 8832 Blakeney Professional Drive, Suite 302. Info: [www.ameripriseadvisors.com/team/antonich-associates](http://www.ameripriseadvisors.com/team/antonich-associates).

## Group to Discuss Leadership

Ballantyne Briefings, a business networking group, meets Tuesday, Oct. 27, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Aloft Charlotte Ballantyne. Doug Grant, founder and president of Ethos Business Advisors, will speak on "The Three Elevating Laws of Leadership." Info: [www.facebook.com/ballantynebriefings](http://www.facebook.com/ballantynebriefings).



## Account Rep Joins Insurer

Andrew Ingram Jr. has joined the Jeff Genant Agency of State Farm as an insurance account representative. He brings 11 years of client-service experience. The agency is located at 15105 John J. Delaney Drive in Ballantyne Commons East.



Andrew Ingram

## Racquet & Swim Club Hires Membership Director

Blakeney Racquet & Swim Club has hired Nikki Seward as membership and event director. She has a degree in marketing from the University of North Carolina at Wilmington and has a passion for health and fitness. For more info: [www.blakeneyclub.com](http://www.blakeneyclub.com).



Nikki Seward

## Leadership Event Oct. 9

The John Maxwell Co. Live2Lead simulcast is Friday, Oct. 9, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:35 p.m. at Blakeney Performing Arts Center, 8835 Blakeney Professional Drive.

The half-day event is a leader-development experience designed to provide new perspectives, practical tools and key takeaways. Douglas Grant and John C. Maxwell are hosts. Info and registration: [www.l2lcharlotte.com](http://www.l2lcharlotte.com).



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## Bank Expands Commercial Team

Carolina Premier Bank, headquartered in Ballantyne, recently added three commercial bankers and one credit professional to focus on small businesses and professionals. The new faces are bankers Stuart Hester, Shawn Widrick and Phil Morton and senior credit officer Daniel Gonzalez.

The bank also recently added Tim Key as chief lending officer and Cash Canada as chief credit officer. Info: [www.carolinapremierbank.com](http://www.carolinapremierbank.com).



## School Partners with Junior Tour

The Hurricane Junior Golf Tour (HJGT) provides male and female golfers between the ages of 11 and 18 an opportunity to play exceptional courses in a competitive environment. Current Dana Rader Golf School students can get a free 2015 HJGT membership. Details: [www.danarader.com](http://www.danarader.com).



## Chamber Meets Sept. 3, Oct. 1

The Ballantyne Chapter of the Charlotte Chamber of Commerce holds Thursday luncheon meetings on Sept. 3 and Oct. 1 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at The Ballantyne Hotel & Lodge. Fee is \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door subject to a wait list. Registration: [www.charlottechamber.com](http://www.charlottechamber.com).

## Tate Office Adds Realtors®

Realtors® Irma Delph, Robert Harder, Deb Holzmeister, Alexis Johnson, Meagan Mitchell, Michael Shrum (not pictured) and Linda Ruggiero, have joined the Ballantyne office of Allen Tate Co.



Irma Delph



Robert Harder



Deb Holzmeister



Alexis Johnson



Meagan Mitchell



Linda Ruggiero



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## Bissell Announces Hires, Promotions

Bissell Cos. has hired David Strawn as senior vice president and general counsel, Leigh Thomas as property manager, Danielle Freeman and Karlee Lancaster as property assistants and Pariss Coleman as digital communications specialist.

Bissell has promoted Jill Ott to process improvement manager, Debbie Green to property manager and Michael Beste to assistant property manager. Alida Jacobson has been promoted to meetings and events manager at The Ballantyne Hotel & Lodge.



David Strawn



Leigh Thomas



Danielle Freeman



Karlee Lancaster



Pariss Coleman



Jill Ott



Debbie Green



Michael Beste



Alida Jacobson

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# OPENINGS

## Medical Skin Care Now at The Spa

Graper Cosmetic Surgery has opened a location at The Spa at Ballantyne. Patients can enjoy an array of medical skin-care services such as peels, dermaplaning and micro-needling. Nonsurgical services include injectables and CoolSculpting. Info: [www.grapercosmeticsurgery.com](http://www.grapercosmeticsurgery.com).



## Retailer Services, Sells Apple Devices

Jeff and Monika Prainito have opened Experimac, which provides repairs, upgrades, trade-ins and sales of pre-owned Apple devices and computers. Located at 16131 Lancaster Highway, the business is the first Experimac location in North Carolina. Info: [www.experimac.com](http://www.experimac.com).

## Eatery Joins Carmel Commons

Zoës Kitchen, a fast casual Mediterranean-inspired restaurant, has opened in Carmel Commons. Signature dishes include salads, chicken kabobs, rollups and hummus, all made of fresh produce and lean proteins that are predominantly preservative and additive free.



Open 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily, the restaurant seats approximately 96 guests in the dining room and 38 on its outdoor patio. Info: [www.zoeskitchen.com](http://www.zoeskitchen.com).



## Art Gallery Features Top Animator

Charlotte Fine Art Gallery is proud to present Ron Campbell Sept. 18-20 at its 7510 Pineville-Matthews Road location.

From TV characters such as Popeye and Krazy Kat to The Flintstones, Jetsons, Scooby Doo, Rugrats, The Smurfs and Winnie the Pooh, Campbell has been involved in creating these cartoons.

The artist is best known for directing the Saturday morning Beatles cartoon series and animating a large portion of The Beatles' psychedelic film, "Yellow Submarine."



His work will be available at the gallery during his appearance and emphasize The Beatles. He will also be signing autographs. As a bonus for purchasers, Campbell will paint a personal painting on the buyer's Certificate of Authenticity. Info: [www.charlottefineartgallery.com](http://www.charlottefineartgallery.com).

## Village Welcomes New Retailers

Ballantyne Village's flurry of new retailers features three that have already opened and two projected for the fall.

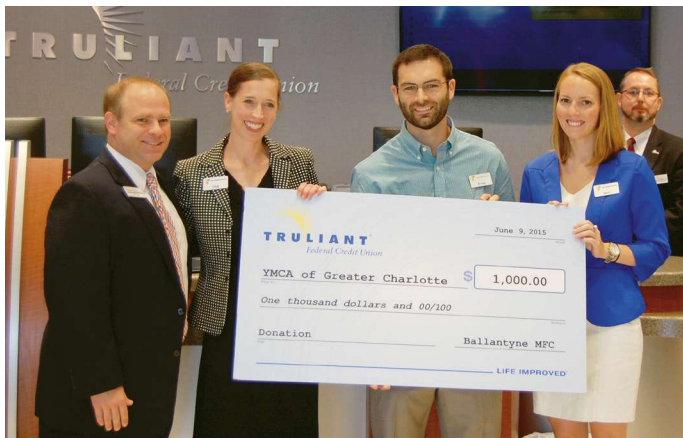
Already open is Shear Excellence, a men's hair salon. It features lounge areas to watch sports, massage rooms, stylists, hot neck shaves, free beer with any service and free Wi-Fi. Info: [www.shearexcellencesalon.net](http://www.shearexcellencesalon.net).

Tinder Box, also open, offers tobaccos, accessories and distinctive men's gifts. The store's humidor is made of half-inch thick Honduran cedar and stocked with hundreds of facings from distinctive cigars. Info: [www.tinderboxinternational.com](http://www.tinderboxinternational.com).

Also recently open is the newest offering from Villa Antonio, Gusto Pasta Bar. Located between Mellow Mushroom and TCBY, the restaurant offers fresh pasta dishes, specialty sangrias and an assortment of tapas. Info: 704-369-5060.

Nouveaux, a luxury women's consignment shop, is scheduled to open this fall next to TCBY. The shop will feature Kate Spade, Prada, Chanel, Louis Vuitton, Tory Burch and other brands. Info: 704-266-4177.

European Wax Center plans to open its sixth Charlotte location this fall next to Verizon. The shop offers waxing services for men and women and skin-care services. Info: [www.waxcenter.com](http://www.waxcenter.com).



David Payne, Ballantyne financial center manager, presents Truliant's charitable contribution of \$1,000 to Lisa Schlachter, Brian Vest and Alexa Hawkins of Morrison Family YMCA. The presentation was at Truliant's ribbon cutting in Ballantyne.

## Credit Union Opens in Ballantyne

Truliant Federal Credit Union has opened a Ballantyne branch in Hunter's Crossing. The 2,300- square-foot location reflects the organization's new "Life Improved" brand, featuring increased amenities, an open design, Wi-Fi access, teller pods without barriers and a walk-up, smart-technology ATM. The credit union also plans to open other locations in the Ballantyne area in 2016. Info: [www.truliant.org](http://www.truliant.org).

## SWEET CHARITIES



Firebirds servers and the daughter of Stephen Loftis, the company's vice president, sold lemonade together.

## Lemonade Event Tops Goal

Firebirds Wood Fired Grill recently raised over \$100,000 for Alex's Lemonade Days, the Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation's annual fundraiser. The money goes toward fighting childhood cancer.

All 37 Firebirds locations in the country, including the one in StoneCrest, hosted lemonade stands. The restaurant chain exceeded its goal of raising \$75,000 in one weekend. Info: [www.alexslimonade.org](http://www.alexslimonade.org).




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**Nonprofit Prepares 'Love Baskets'**

Ballantyne Ball is raising funds from Thursday, Oct. 1, through Thanksgiving Day (Nov. 26) to fill "Love Baskets" for The Sandbox.

The goal is to fill 100 baskets packed with nonperishable food, personal items and household supplies for Charlotte families who have a child with cancer or life-altering illness. The Sandbox serves this group.

Ballantyne Ball, a nonprofit, also selected The Sandbox as the beneficiary of its second annual masquerade ball Feb. 13, 2016, at The Ballantyne Hotel & Lodge. Info: [www.ballantyneball.org](http://www.ballantyneball.org).



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**Event Raises \$200,000**

The 26th annual Julie Cole Charity Golf Classic recently raised \$200,000 in Findlay, Ohio to benefit Blanchard Valley Health Foundation. To date, Cole's tournaments have brought in more than \$2.3 million for local charities. Cole, a managing partner at Dana Rader Golf School, is a former LPGA touring pro.

## Big South 5K Oct. 17

The Big South Conference hosts the sixth annual Big South 5K Road Race on Saturday, Oct. 17, at 8 a.m. at the Blakeney Shopping Center. Participants will be treated to food, beverages, music and giveaways at the conclusion of the race.

The event began in 2009 as a fundraiser for middle school athletic programs in Mecklenburg and Union counties and has expanded to include middle schools in South Carolina locations, as well as to support a scholarship for student-athletes at conference institutions in the Carolinas and Virginia. Details: [www.bigsouth5k.com](http://www.bigsouth5k.com).



Jennifer Crumpler (second from left) and Michael Schultz (fifth from left), both with Easter Seals, accept the check from MetLife's Kieran Mullins, Sutton White, Brian Bruneau, Gene Lunman and Matt Quale.

## MetLife Gives \$30,000 to Easter Seals

In honor of Disability Insurance Awareness Month in May, MetLife recently presented a \$30,000 donation to Easter Seals.

MetLife's Executive Vice President Gene Lunman, Senior Vice President Kieran Mullins, Vice President Matt Quale, Assistant Vice President Brian Bruneau, Director of Product Marketing Sutton White and the Disability Insurance Marketing team presented the check to Easter Seals' Vice President Jennifer Crumpler and foundation chair Michael Schultz.

MetLife selected Easter Seals as the recipient because of the agency's dedication to help people with disabilities attain greater independence.

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Chris Souk, owner of Oxi Fresh of the Carolinas, presents a check in honor of Earth Day to Emily Scofield of the U.S. Green Building Council's North Carolina chapter.

**Oxi Fresh Donates to Green Cause**

Oxi Fresh of Greater Charlotte, an environmentally conscious carpet cleaning company in Ballantyne, donated a portion of April's profits to the U.S. Green Building Council's North Carolina chapter.

In honor of Earth Day, the donation was \$10,000 for the fourth consecutive year. Oxi Fresh uses technology and low energy solutions to provide low-moisture, nontoxic cleaning. Info: [www.oxifresh.com](http://www.oxifresh.com).



**Sept. 19, Hoof it in High Heels**

The 5th Annual Stiletto Sprint, presented by Bissell Cos., will take place on Saturday, Sept. 19, at SouthPark Mall outside the upper entrance to Belk. The event is a 70-yard dash in which participants, both women and men, compete in high heels. There is also an auction with hundreds of items. Proceeds benefit local ovarian cancer research and awareness initiatives at Levine Cancer Institute. To date, the event has raised over \$350,000. Register, donate or get info: [www.tealheels.org](http://www.tealheels.org).

## Foundation Holds 5K, 10K Races

The Isabella Santos Foundation's 8th Annual Race for Kids Cancer will be held Saturday, Sept. 26, in Ballantyne Corporate Park at 8 a.m. The event features 5K and 10K races.

The organization honors Isabella Santos, the daughter of Ballantyne residents Erin and Stuart Santos, who died of neuroblastoma. Registration and details: [www.isabellasantosfoundation.com](http://www.isabellasantosfoundation.com).



Nicole Clyburn (from left), Heather Meyer and Peggy Lane support sponsoring family vacations at Give Kids The World Village.

## Staybridge Supports Kids, Families

Staybridge Suites Charlotte Ballantyne hosted its sixth annual Give Kids The World Village Luncheon on May 6. The barbecue raised more than \$2,500 for the nonprofit organization that treats children with life-threatening illnesses and their families to fantasy vacations at Give Kids The World Village, a 70-acre "storybook" resort in central Florida.

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## Family Donates Medical Unit to Nicaragua

The Bissell family, which is involved in the development of Ballantyne, has had a long-standing relationship with Dr. Francis Robicsek and the

Heineman Foundation of Charlotte, which work in partnership with Carolinas HealthCare System to improve health care in Central America.

Through the collaboration's International Medical Outreach program, used medical equipment is refurbished and shipped to hospitals in developing countries. Over the years, the family has donated four mobile cardiac catheterization laboratories, where patients are diagnosed and treated.

Recently, the family donated a mobile medical unit to Chinandega, Nicaragua in honor of Stephanie Bissell, wife of Howard Bissell, and traveled there in connection with the contribution. Family members enjoyed the visit and appreciated seeing firsthand how the equipment is helping impoverished areas.

## BCC Rally Hosts Major Fundraisers

The 2015 BCC Rally — an all-volunteer nonprofit organization in Ballantyne that raises funds and awareness to fight breast cancer — will host five major fundraisers this September at the Ballantyne Country Club. The events are open to the public.

"Unmask the Night" on Saturday, Sept. 12, offers dinner, dancing, music and auctions sponsored by Skatell's Manufacturing Jewelers. Masks and formal dress are optional; however, guests are encouraged to wear colors of white, black or gray.

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On Tuesday, Sept. 22, are the Ladies' Golf Event sponsored by Aetna and the "Jazz it Up for the Cure" luncheon, with founding sponsor Charlotte Radiology. The events take place at the country club's newly renovated golf course, clubhouse and cabana. Women can register for the combined events or just the luncheon.

The Men's Pink Ball Golf Event, a four-man team tournament with an informal buffet, follows on Thursday, Sept. 24, sponsored by KPMG.

Saturday, Sept. 26, the Make a Racquet for Rally co-ed tennis event will feature a pro exhibition and clinic. Founding sponsor Ballantyne Country Club is teaming up with AmWins Group to support this new event.

Throughout the fall, BCC Rally's Pink Bow Campaign encourages businesses, neighborhoods, individuals and schools to hold "pink-out" fundraising events featuring custom-designed bows, which come in three sizes.

Funds raised by BCC Rally support Komen Charlotte in 13 local counties as well as breast cancer research that includes grants to UNC Charlotte, Wake Forest, UNC Chapel Hill and Duke. Since its founding in 2004, BCC Rally has raised more than \$1.3 million. It is a Susan G. Komen Lifetime Pink Ribbon Circle honoree. Registration and event info: [www.bccrally.org](http://www.bccrally.org). 

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Photos by Ray Sepesy



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Cheri Snipes, Paul Finebaum (far right) and Paul McConachy.



**CHERI SNIPES**

**Birthplace:** East Orange, N.J.

**Job:** Owner, clinical director, Ballantyne Chiropractic Wellness.

**What do you like most about your job?**

As a holistic chiropractic physician, I help people get to the root cause of their illnesses. Helping folks experience true health is immensely rewarding.

**What's your guilty pleasure?**

Coffee ice cream and dark chocolate.

**What is your favorite outdoor activity?**

Snorkeling.

**Describe your dream vacation.**

Visiting the French Polynesia islands has always been a dream. I would also love to visit the Egyptian pyramids.

**What would your theme song be for walking into a room?**

"Superwoman" by Alicia Keys.

**What is your favorite news source?**

CNN and my patients.

**I would be rather caught dead than wear \_\_\_\_.**

Boots in summer.

**What charitable organizations are you involved with?**

The Women's Impact Fund and the Literacy Council of Union County. I also am a member of Jack and Jill of America, a nonprofit that allows me to volunteer in organizations alongside my children. Our favorite is the Second Harvest Food Bank in Charlotte.

**What is your biggest pet peeve?**

People too afraid of standing up for what's right.

**What is a hidden gem in Ballantyne?**

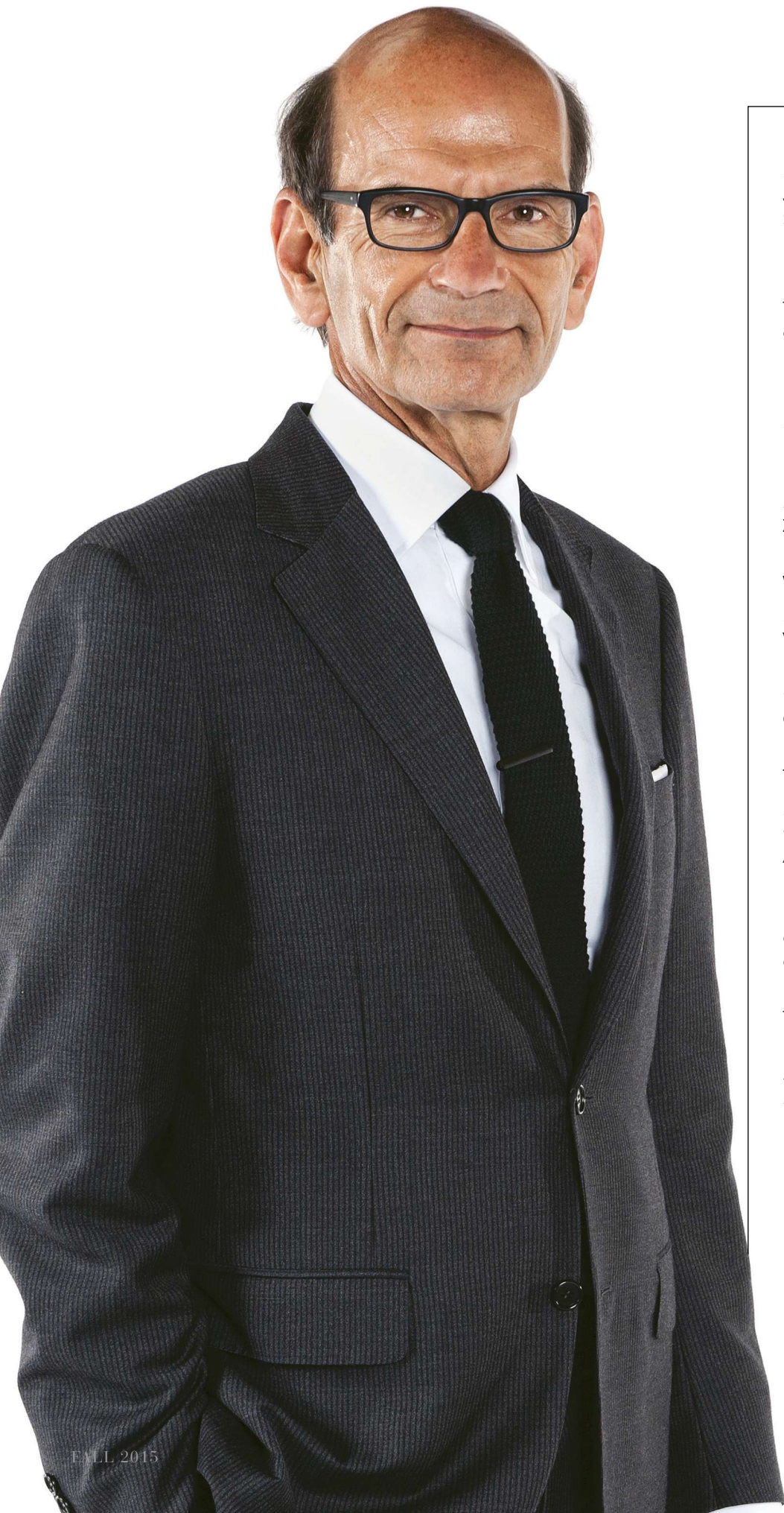
The revitalized Ballantyne Village. The restaurants, businesses and nightlife are wonderful!

**Share something that someone would never guess about you.**

I spent two summers on Grand Cayman Island studying marine biology. My research consisted of sampling diseased coral reef. I was chased by a barracuda my first day in the ocean.





**PAUL FINEBAUM**

**Birthplace:** Memphis, Tenn.

**Job:** Host, "The Paul Finebaum Show," SEC Network.

**What do you like most about your job?**

Talking to callers from all over the country whose passion is sports.

**What's your guilty pleasure?**

Pizza.

**Do you live in Ballantyne?**

I work in Ballantyne.

**What is your favorite Ballantyne-area restaurant?**

Zoës Kitchen.

**What is your favorite outdoor activity?**

Walking our dog.

**Describe your dream vacation.**

Visiting the Vatican.

**What would your theme song be for walking into a room?**

Carly Simon's "You're So Vain."

**What is your favorite news source?**

The New York Times.

**I would be rather caught dead than wear \_\_\_\_.**

A Speedo.

**What is your biggest pet peeve?**

People who take longer to order at Starbucks than my commute home from work.

**What is a hidden gem in Ballantyne?**

The wonderful staff at Rea Road Animal Hospital.

**Share something that someone would never guess about you.**

I'm actually nice.



**PAUL McCONACHY**

**Birthplace:** Brisbane, Australia.

**Job:** Owner, Rush espresso cafes.

**What do you like most about your job?**

Sharing a cup of coffee with 500 different people every day.

**What's your guilty pleasure?**

A wonderful dessert drink called an "affogato"—shots of espresso dumped over vanilla ice cream, topped with whipped cream and dusted in chocolate powder.

**Do you live in Ballantyne?**

Yes — which makes our cafes 100 percent locally owned and operated.

**What is your favorite Ballantyne-area restaurant?**

Blue Taj at Ballantyne Village. Authentic Indian cuisine. Best I've had anywhere around the world.

**What is your favorite outdoor activity?**

Triathlons, cycling and ocean swimming.

**Describe your dream vacation.**

Watching the final stage of the Tour de France on the Champs-Élysées, Paris.

**What would your theme song be for walking into a room?**

Zac Brown Band's "Toes." I love beach holidays.

**I would be rather caught dead than wear \_\_\_\_.**

A Starbucks apron.

**What charitable organizations are you involved with?**

Financial and product support to our church, Ridge Church, and all of our children's school and extracurricular sporting teams. Why? #keepitlocal.

**What is your biggest pet peeve?**

"Busy" people who continue to talk loudly on their cellphones when placing a coffee order.

**What is a hidden gem in Ballantyne?**

Best hidden gem in the Queen City is Gréco Fresh Grille at Blakeney. Hands down the best souvlaki and lemon pepper fries.

**Share something that someone would never guess about you.**

Before making cappuccinos for a living, I served as a police officer for 16 years in Australia, working in K9 units and tactical crime squads.





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# Snyder's-Lance Headquarters Showcases Company Culture

By Kerry Singe

WALK INTO THE LOBBY OF SNYDER'S-LANCE'S NEW HEADQUARTERS and you'll find an homage to the past: portraits of the founders, a history of major milestones, even a refurbished vintage truck that once delivered pretzels to customers.

The rest of the building, however, is about the future. Openness. Easy-to-access Wi-Fi. Modern, vinyl canvases on the walls reinforcing company values. A state-of-the-art fitness center with a locker room.

Earlier this year, the snack-maker celebrated the culmination of a handful of separate, yet connected, major projects geared toward positioning the company for the future. There are a new logo and purpose statement, new acquisitions and a division created to focus on developing innovative and healthier snack options. There's also the embracing of an open and healthy environment for consumers as well as employees, and tying it all together is a new corporate home.

# New



# HQ



Snyder's-Lance moved into its new home this summer. The historical timeline and vintage truck are on display in the lobby.





Photo by Jeff Clare



Sid Levy is senior director of communications and community relations at Snyder's-Lance.

## Clean Slate

Lance got its start in 1913 in Charlotte after a coffee bean broker, Philip Lance, received an order of 500 pounds of raw peanuts instead of coffee beans for his customers. Stuck with the unexpected order, he roasted the nuts in his kitchen and sold them for a nickel a bag. The roasted peanuts were a success, and he started crushing them to make peanut butter for sale. Later, his wife and daughter spread the peanut butter between two crackers and created the peanut butter cracker sandwich.

Snyder's of Hanover weaves together three generations of the Warehime family. Harry Warehime began making pretzels in 1909 at the Hanover Pretzel Company. In 1960, Warehime's son, Alan, purchased a potato chip company and expanded into pretzels, using his father's pretzels as the core for the company's Olde Tyme pretzel recipe. Alan's son, Michael, later would lead the company and oversee its expansion across the globe. The company's pretzels even made their way to Antarctica, ordered by a research scientist based there.

The two companies merged in 2010 and until this year, headquarter employees worked out of the top three floors of the Harris Building in Ballantyne Corporate Park. Snyder's-Lance leaders wanted to modernize the space,



Photo by Ray Sepesy



“This was a space we could  
customize and do in our voice  
from the very beginning.”

— Sid Levy, Snyder's-Lance



however, and add more natural light and work in a more open floor plan. They considered remodeling their current space but opted to start with a clean slate and lease an entire five-story

building in the park. “We never really had a chance to customize a space to reflect our new corporate structure,” says Sid Levy, senior director of communications and



The headquarters not only reflects company beliefs but cites leaders who have contributed to the corporation's success.



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community relations. “Even with the new branding with the merger, we never had a chance to make a lot of changes. This was a space we could customize and do in our voice from the very beginning.”

**Branding Reinforces Culture**

At the same time the company was doing its space planning, Snyder’s-Lance was redesigning its logo to reflect its new purpose statement: “Snacking is a part of life... Our passion makes it better.” The logo was incorporated into the new office space, designed to seamlessly connect the physical space with the cultural environment being created.

The logo’s green, yellow, orange and red colors are painted on walls throughout the offices. Each floor is themed, modeled after one of the company’s values, or passions. The brand floor features rooms named after the company’s brands. There are Cape Cod and Late July

continued on page 44

**CULTURE AND VALUES**



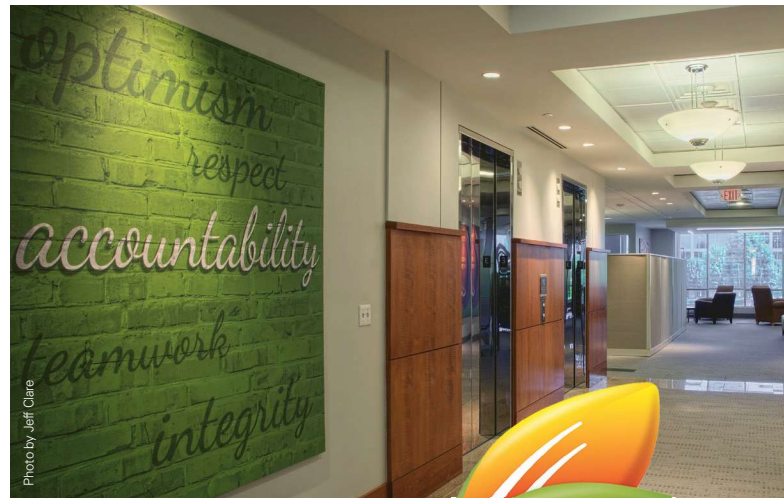
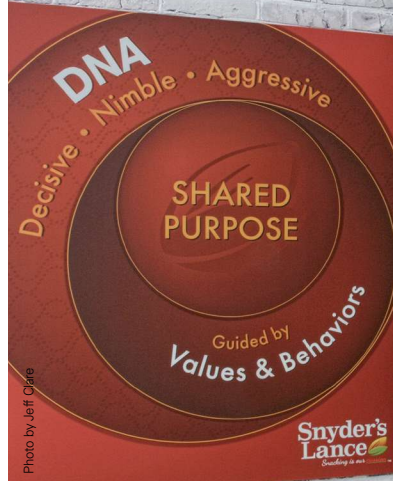
**Key corporate tenets at Snyder’s-Lance:**

**COMPANY CULTURE**

Decisive, Nimble, Aggressive

**CORE VALUES INCLUDE:**

- Passion for Community
- Passion for Environment
- Passion for our People
- Passion for Quality
- Passion for Brands



Walls throughout the headquarters feature logo colors, and each floor has a values theme.





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Photo by Kar Carter

Lance got its start in 1913 in Charlotte after a coffee bean broker, Philip Lance, received an unexpected order of 500 pounds of raw peanuts.

■ continued from page 42

conference rooms, for example. A floor promoting the company's passion for people displays imagery of employees doing different activities.

Company values are displayed on bright canvasses

**SNYDER'S-LANCE BRANDS**



- Snyder's of Hanover
- Lance
- Cape Cod
- Snack Factory
- Pretzel Crisps
- Late July
- Krunchers
- Tom's
- Archway
- Jays
- Stella D'oro
- Eatsmart
- O-Ke-Doke

**Top Left:** The 2010 merger of Snyder's of Hanover and Lance brought together many popular brands.

**Below:** Glass walls for offices are designed for openness and transparency



Photo by Adri Clire



larger than the average person — a far cry from the smaller, dated, framed posters that hung on the walls in the previous headquarters.

Experts say more businesses are weaving corporate branding into their office space design to reinforce company culture. And such branding is going way beyond motivational posters and logo-embossed pens. By selecting different building materials for the walls and floors, for example, a company can project an entirely different image to customers and employees. At the Snyder's-Lance headquarters, glass walls create feelings of openness and transparency. Soothing green walls match the leaf on the logo and foster a sense of sustainability.

"It's a culture change," Levy says of the atmosphere in the new headquarters, which the company finished moving into this summer. "When you come into our building, you can see our executive team, and their offices are open as well. You can see and interact. No one's hiding from anyone. When you work here, you feel that culture of inclusion."

Technology is another way companies are showing a modern design sense, interior designers say. Conference rooms at the Snyder's-Lance headquarters feature walls painted in dry erase wall paint, which lets people write on the walls, ideal for impromptu brainstorming sessions. Television screens are mounted throughout the headquarters, sharing the latest company news and events.

### Attracting Millennials

Snyder's-Lance also is

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Photo by Jeff Clare

**Above:** Casual meeting areas with Wi-Fi promote the company's emphasis on work-life balance.  
**Right:** The site's fitness center supports employee wellness.  
**Below:** Even hall corridors show company values.

betting the work environment will help attract and retain employees. Studies show millennials thrive in environments conducive to collaboration and impromptu social interaction, according to The Pachera Group. According to the executive search firm,

millennials want to work for a company whose values they feel good about. These younger workers are also looking for employers who respect work-life balance.

The new space at Snyder's-Lance incorporates many of these coveted characteristics. There are casual meeting areas where employees can gather for coffee and have easy access to Wi-Fi. The new fitness center is aimed at promoting better health and wellness among workers. Ballantyne Corporate Park also has nearby walking trails.


"This is where people spend a lot of time," Levy says. "We want people to walk around, interact and run ideas off each other. That's what this space has allowed us to have." 



Photo by Jeff Clare

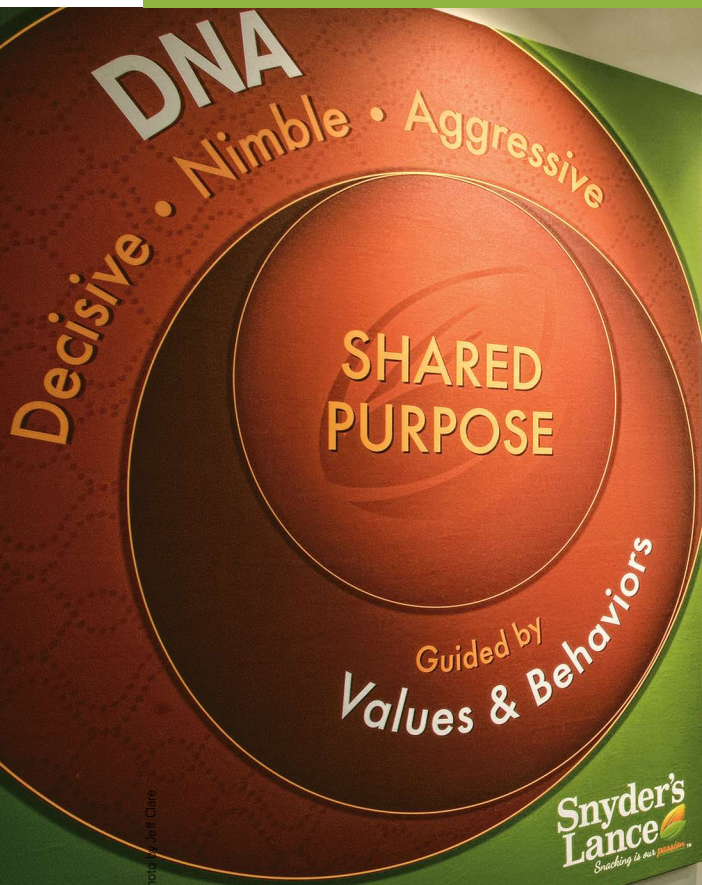


Photo by Jeff Clare





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# Take a

From Preschool to Hollywood, Local Actors Rack Up Kudos

# BOW!





Morrison Family YMCA's youth theater program put on this production of "Peter Pan, Jr."

By Regan M. White

IF YOU'RE LOOKING for outstanding arts performances, going uptown and visiting neighboring communities are no longer your only options. Take a look around Ballantyne. From the stage to the silver screen, local actors of all ages are commanding the spotlight like never before.

Photo courtesy of Morrison Y youth theater





Tucked into the Ballantyne Arts Center, 11318 N. Community House Road, Ballantyne's youngest residents are becoming experienced actors at the Morrison Family YMCA's youth theater program.

Andrea St. Clair has worked to "heavily revamp" the program since she began as the center's senior arts director in January 2014.

**All In**

"A lot of people see the Y and arts and think, 'That's not what they do.' But (Y leaders) hit a point where they said, 'If we're doing this, we have to be all in,'" St. Clair says. "We went to the same lengths to pull the same high-quality professionals that you'd find at any strong arts program."

For St. Clair, who has a degree in theater education and

11 years of prior experience at Children's Theatre of Charlotte, that meant building "a progressive theater program that would appeal to the local community."

Already, the offerings are expansive, including a full season of five shows for 2015-16, featuring actors from second through 12th grade as well as classes, workshops and summer camps.

"Unfortunately, most of the schools don't offer a whole lot of theater opportunities for younger age groups," St. Clair says. "Right now the bulk of our students are preschoolers through sixth graders. It's a younger program we're building up."

She adds, "Ballantyne has become such a flourishing community that for it not to have a strong arts sector

**Above:** Plays, classes, workshops and summer camps are part of the program at Ballantyne Arts Center.

**Below:** Andrea St. Clair is senior director of the Morrison Y's youth theater program.





The Y's program serves second through 12th graders, but currently most participants are younger than high-school age.



Photo courtesy of Morrison Y youth theater

is sort of bizarre. It's been exciting to grow that piece."

The community has noticed. "We've seen more people buying tickets who aren't associated with the cast," St. Clair says, adding that December includes a repeat of "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever." "We're going to make it an annual tradition," she says. "I'm excited for that. It will be fun to create those kinds of traditions for families around here."

### Bagging Blumeys

"Excitement" doesn't begin to describe the atmosphere when Ardrey Kell High

continued on page 53



Photo courtesy of Morrison Y youth theater





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■ continued from page 51

School students performed numbers from their spring musical "42nd Street" on the Blumenthal stage for The Blumey Awards in May 2015. Ardrey Kell was nominated in nine categories and won five — an unprecedented number for the program.

"It's such a big deal to win one Blumey. But to win five?" says Terry Gabbard, the school's theater teacher and show director.

He's especially proud that the awards — Wells Fargo Best Musical (budget over \$10K), Best Overall Direction, Best Ensemble/Chorus, Best Student Orchestra and Best Set Construction — honored the students as a group.

"That says a lot," Gabbard



**Above:** Shannon Stone and Connor Nielsen rehearse their parts in the musical.

**Bottom:** Gabbard preps students in the theater program for their production of "42nd Street."

Terry Gabbard, the school's theater teacher, served as show director.



## ARDREY KELL HIGH SCHOOL WON FIVE BLUMEY AWARDS IN MAY.



Photo by Ray Sepeasy

FALL 2015

BALLANTYNE MAGAZINE 53





Photo by Carol Duncan

"WE'VE DONE ONE MORE THING THAT WE  
THOUGHT WE COULDN'T DO."

— CHOREOGRAPHER JENNIFER WALL



Photo by Carol Duncan

Shannon Stone and Elijah Lee Grady (above) played key roles in the award-winning troupe that performed at Blumenthal.



FALL 2015



says. "This was a project that if it was going to happen, we all had to buy into it."

And they did. "When they announced the musical was going to be '42nd Street,' we were all like, 'What were they thinking? We're AK. We aren't strong dancers. We can't do this,'" says junior Haley Stone. "Now I think everyone realizes, 'Wow. We really can!'"

"Every year we've stepped it up. We've done one more thing that we thought we couldn't do," says Jennifer Wall, the group's choreographer.

"A really gutsy move" is how Gabbard sees taking on the production. "It's a show with so many moving parts," he notes. "It was just a massive task."

The students say their professionalism helped. "We don't really view ourselves as a high school theater," says senior Connor Nielsen. "We thought about it being a real show. And it ended up being a real show."

Gabbard described the production as the "perfect storm" of support — from the administration and parents to



Photo by Carol Dunaway

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the students and community. "It's AK's Blumeys, but it's really the community's Blumeys. It's like, 'Look what we did together.' It's just incredible."

### Maher's Rapid Rise

"Incredible" also characterizes the fast-growing acting career of 40-year-old Ballantyne resident Corey Maher.

A real estate appraiser who "hates to be bored," Maher walked into a beginner acting class at The Actor's Lab near uptown in the fall of 2013. By December 2013 he had his first agent, and today boasts a resume working with the likes of Mickey Rourke (in "Ashby"), Sundance award-winning director Andrew Droz Palermo (in "One and Two"), Zach Galifianakis and Owen Wilson. He also recently played opposite Academy Award winners in a high-profile

television series whose next season is still under wraps.

He credits most of his success to networking. "Everyone holds dream jobs up as unattainable when I just think it's all hard work," he says.

The ride has been pretty surreal, and he and his wife will probably "try the L.A. thing," he says. "I have no expectations. I am blessed in that I have a very good job on the back end, and I'm self-employed. I'll go as far as it'll take me."

When asked about other roles, Maher's eyes gleamed. "I had the principal role playing scientist Werner Von Braun in National Geographic's 'American Genius' series, and a full day of filming. I'd like to do that — even though they cut out most of my lines and I'm basically staring out the window the whole time."



Photos courtesy of Corey Maher

Since obtaining an agent in December 2013, actor Corey Maher has worked with notable stars.

"I REALLY WANT TO BE IN A 'STAR WARS' MOVIE. THAT WOULD BE MY ULTIMATE GOAL."

— BALLANTYNE RESIDENT COREY MAHER



Photos courtesy of Corey Maher

"As long as there's a good story to tell, I'm in," he adds. "It would be cool to do an action movie one day and get to blow things up. Or some sort of fantasy — I'm a big 'Game Of Thrones' fan."

He whispers, "But I really want to be in a 'Star Wars' movie. That would be my ultimate goal. Doesn't matter the role. As long as I get a figurine for my desk." 🗺️

Maher and his wife will probably "try the L.A. thing," he says.





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# Nostalgic Nuance

## Fall Accessories Tip a Hat to Yesteryear

By Whitley Adkins Hamlin  
theQueenCityStyle.com

THE ACCESSORY-TREND FORECAST for fall predicts a season for all things ladylike and lovely.

Hats, brooches, elbow-length gloves, ladylike loafers, handle-top bags and more — this season's accessories tip a hat to a nostalgic return for the most fanciful finishes. Expect embroidery, patchwork, brocade, lace and fringe creating a festive feel in everything from jewelry and tights to blouses and skirts.

### Chokers

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Double Stack Choker  
Necklace, Sloan  
Boutique, \$400

FRYE Parker Fringe Short  
Boot, Belk, \$458

TOPSHOP Lace-up  
Gladiator Sandal,  
Nordstrom, \$45

### Fringe

B-LOW THE BELT  
Ana Handbag, Sloan  
Boutique, \$458

### Laces

JIMMY CHOO  
Tiera Sandal,  
Nordstrom, \$895

KRISTIN HAYES JEWELRY  
kristinhayesjewelry.com,  
Star Brooch, \$125;  
Flower Brooch, \$55

VILSHENKO Leah  
Double Layered Silk  
Organza Top, Capitol  
Charlotte, \$730

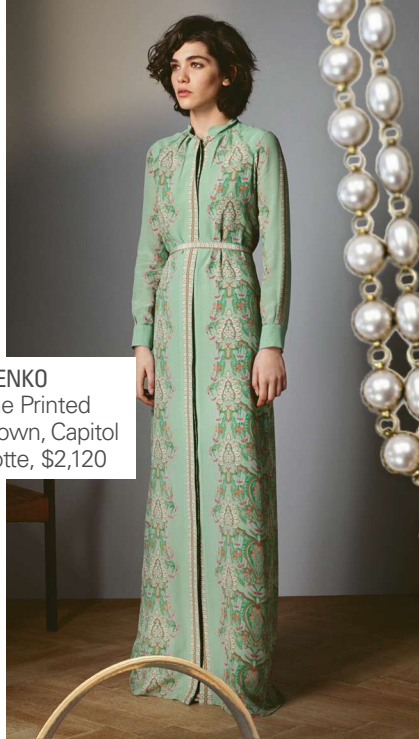
Leather Faux  
Fur Lined  
Gloves,  
FROCK Shop  
Charlotte, \$58







STELLA MCCARTNEY  
Small Falabella  
Fringe Tote,  
Nordstrom,  
\$2,185



VILSHENKO  
Maxine Printed  
Silk Gown, Capitol  
Charlotte, \$2,120

Pearls



KRISTIN HAYES JEWELRY  
kristinhayesjewelry.com,  
Pearl and Brass Necklace,  
\$150; Pearl and Brass  
Cuff, \$75

Jewelry speaks to everyone. If your childhood fascination with fashion included playing dress up at your grandmother's vanity, this season's return of pearls and brooches will leave you insatiable for all things proper, elegant and refined. Also, consider the season's most popular necklace, the choker, as your jewelry du jour.

Whether you shop big-box discount stores, boutiques or couture, expect to see items adorned in fringe — bags, jackets, booties and shawls. From Native Americans and 1920s flappers to rock legend Jimi Hendrix and '80s hair band leader Jon Bon Jovi — all hail the return of fringe.

Fall will also be a season for lacing up your footwear. Think gladiator sandals, high heels, stacked booties and over-the-knee boots.

No outfit is complete without the perfect topper. Check out this season's "it" hat, the beret. Slouchy or structured, leather or wool — still worn by military and police units worldwide — the iconic beret brings polish and sophistication to any look. 



Satchels

TORY BURCH 797 Mini  
Satchel, Tory Burch  
SouthPark Mall, \$425



COCLICO  
Vash Bootie,  
ChezElle,  
\$455

STACI SNIDER Black  
Brocade A-line Dress,  
Sloan Boutique, \$395



Berets



Wool Berets,  
FROCK Shop  
Charlotte, \$32



SALVATORE  
FERRAGAMO  
Small Beky  
Saffiano  
Leather Tote,  
Nordstrom,  
\$1,390





Savor the  
**Harvest**



# Preserve Garden Bounty to Enjoy Year-Round

By Amy Rogers  
Photos by Anna Naphtali

AS THE DAYS BEGIN to shorten, the sun rides a little lower in the Carolina sky. Autumn is arriving — and with it, a bounty of fruits and vegetables. It's time to put up the preserves and stock the pantry for the colder months to come.

But what if you're a busy family with no time to garden? A condo dweller with no dirt to dig? Worst of all, what if

you've never tried your hand at growing or preserving anything at all, in summer or the rest of the year?

The first rule of (green) thumb is "Keep it simple."

That's the advice from Francie Dunlop, whose family grows everything from asparagus to zucchini in their garden just across the line in Union County. She explains that novices and city dwellers who live in close quarters can still enjoy the process. "For a beginner,

I recommend you start by just growing a few things you love," she says. "Our oldest lives in town, and grew her first tomatoes, peppers and basil in pots this year. Like much of Charlotte, her yard doesn't have a lot of sun, but she managed to position them where they got enough."

This area's mostly mild weather is an advantage. "In our climate, you can grow and eat something out of your garden every month of the year," Dunlop says.





## Blueberry BALSAMIC VINEGAR

4 cups fresh or frozen blueberries  
1 quart white balsamic vinegar  
1/4 cup sugar  
1 whole lime, strips of zest  
3-inch cinnamon stick

*Yield: 5 cups*

In a large nonreactive saucepan with a potato masher or the back of a large spoon, crush the blueberries. Add vinegar, sugar, lime zest and cinnamon. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat and simmer, covered, 20 minutes.

Cool slightly. Pour into a large bowl. Cover and refrigerate for two days to allow flavors to blend.

Place a strainer over a large bowl. In batches, ladle blueberry mixture into strainer. With a large spoon, press out as much liquid as possible. Discard solids. Pour vinegar into clean glass bottles or jars. Refrigerate, tightly covered, until ready to use.

**Tip:** Easily extend this recipe into a blueberry vinaigrette. Combine 3 tablespoons of the above vinegar with 1/4 cup of extra virgin olive oil, 1/2 teaspoon of salt and 1/8 teaspoon of ground black pepper.

— recipe courtesy of  
[northcarolinablueberries.com](http://northcarolinablueberries.com)





“In our climate, you can grow and eat something out of your garden every month of the year.”

— Gardener Francie Dunlop

### **'Tower Garden'**

Amy Steinmetz has lived in what is now Ballantyne since 1987, long before developers broke ground on what would become the destination it is today. She says that on even the smallest patio or balcony, anyone can set up a vertical “Tower Garden” to grow herbs, fruits and vegetables, without kneeling in the dirt or spending hours in the scorching sun. Best of all, it’s never too late to start. Steinmetz says, “I’m receiving pictures of broccoli, kale and strawberries from my 80-plus-year-old mother, a woman I’ve never seen touch the soil — other than to replace a divot on the golf course.”

Yet, sometimes a season will slip away before a gardener gets the seeds started. And you need not grow your own fruits and vegetables to enjoy the satisfaction of preserving the harvest. Regardless of whether you’ve picked or purchased all those berries, cucumbers and herbs, you may be wondering what to do with an overflow, or simply how to enjoy late summer’s bounty year-round.

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Pickling okra and cucumbers is great way to enjoy a tasty treat anytime of year.

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Homemade jam provides a flavorful topping for cornbread.

Nothing could be easier than gathering handfuls of fresh herbs, tying them together in loose bundles and hanging them to dry in the sun.

Or, adding plain or flavored vinegars to sliced cucumbers or squash, then putting them in lidded jars, will yield plenty of quick, refrigerator pickles.

For longer-lasting storage, Dunlop explains, "Drying is easy with a dehydrator. We really appreciate our jars of dried veggies in the winter, when we can quickly pour them into the Crock-Pot with broth, water and seasoning and let it

continued on page 66

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■ continued from page 64

go. Canning is more time consuming, but following the directions is easy.” She advises, “Borrow some equipment to try it out first.”

### Free, Expert Advice

Accomplished canners and preservers swear by the Ball company’s iconic series of books. Still, sometimes it’s most helpful to talk through a canning conundrum or dehydrating dilemma. If your jam won’t jell or your berries turn brown, experts

Spices provide a choice of distinctive flavors in preserving produce.



Whether you’ve picked or purchased all those berries, cucumbers and herbs, you may be wondering what to do with an overflow.



are available locally to give free advice through the N.C. Cooperative Extension Service, either on the web or at county centers.

In Mecklenburg County, agent Kristin Davis works to bring attention to the importance of local food. The extension service operates a thriving demonstration garden at its facility near

Independence Park, less than two miles from downtown Charlotte, not far from Central Piedmont Community College’s main campus.

The agency also offers a diverse menu of affordable classes that includes sustainable living, home food preservation, growing and using edible flowers and more. “It’s a one-stop shop





Preserving apples from the fall harvest in western North Carolina is a wonderful addition to the pantry



A simple way to use extra herbs is to dry them in the sun. They can then simply serve as a fragrant reminder of summer or flavor dishes.



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Freezing or canning peaches from the summer or early fall allows you to enjoy them the rest of the year.

---

for cooking, growing and harvesting,” Davis says.

Backyard or patio gardeners can suffer the same maladies that befall experienced growers. Dunlop’s daughter lost her very first tomato to an unseen pest with the good taste to nibble the fruit just as it reached its prime. Deer and rabbits still live inside the city limits, and they can devour a garden with astonishing speed. Mice will eat strawberries. “Raccoons will always let you know a week before your sweet corn is ready,” Dunlop says wryly.

Still, there’s something uniquely satisfying about looking to your pantry shelf on a gray winter day and seeing those jars of jam filled

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continued on page 70

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Through the N.C. Cooperative Extension Service, you can choose from a diverse menu of affordable classes.

---

A wide range of produce can be preserved in small jars for easy use or for gifts.

---





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## Uncooked BLACKBERRY or RASPBERRY JAM

3 cups crushed fresh  
blackberries or raspberries  
(about 1 1/2 quarts of fruit)  
5 1/4 cups sugar  
1 box regular  
powdered pectin  
3/4 cup water

*Yield: approximately  
7 half-pint jars*


If blackberries are seedy, put part or all of them through a sieve or food mill. Measure 3 cups of prepared berries. Place in an extra large mixing bowl. Add sugar, mix well and let stand for 10 minutes, stirring occasionally.

Dissolve the powdered pectin in the water, bring to a boil and boil for one minute. Add pectin to berries and sugar and stir for 3 minutes.

Pour the jam into clean, dry freezer containers or half-pint canning jars, leaving 1/2-inch of space above the jam. Cover container. Let stand at room temperature until set (up to 24 hours). Freeze or refrigerate.

*— recipe courtesy of the  
National Center for Home  
Food Preservation*

■ continued from page 68

by your own family's hands. There's pride and pleasure in gifting a friend with a bottle of your own fruited vinegar. And even if those lovely bundles of lavender, basil and thyme never make their way into a soup or stew, they're a fine and fragrant reminder of time well spent, season after season. 





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After losing his corporate sales job, Kit Burkholder decided to specialize in all things beer.



# 'Beer Geek'

Learn about Brews, Perfect Pairings from Local Expert

By Michael J. Solender Photos by Ray Sepesy

Kit Burkholder's passion for golden amber brewed beverages led him to one of the most enviable and refreshing jobs in all of Ballantyne.

Burkholder, 36, is the official "beer guy" for the Harris Teeter Ballantyne Commons East store. He helps patrons navigate and select the perfect brew from a staggering variety of choices on hand, several hundred, according to Burkholder.

"I want people to enjoy the beer experience and have high expectations of what that can be, especially when enjoying beer, cider or mead with family and friends," says Burkholder. "I'm a beer geek and love to share what I know with others."

## Lifelong Passion

The former business-to-business salesman decided to pursue his lifelong interest and passion for beer after losing his corporate job. Burkholder discovered the serious side to the beverage when he happened upon a comprehensive self-study program leading to his designation as a certified cicerone through the Cicerone Certification Program.

Similar to a sommelier, an expert with extensive knowledge of wine, a cicerone is becoming the industry standard for individuals with significant expertise in all matters beer, including brewing, sales and service.

"Cicerone is the Italian word for guide," says Burkholder. "Gaining my certification is something I've wanted to do for quite a while. I had to identify distributors and brewers to work with and learn from, in addition to (doing) quite a bit of study and, of course, sampling. After about two years I sat for the test, which takes four hours. I'm one of only (about) 2,000 certified cicerones in the world and the only one I know of in Charlotte that has a customer-facing position."

A cicerone is becoming the industry standard for individuals with significant expertise in all matters beer.


## Craft Brews Take Off

Burkholder started at Harris Teeter helping with the wine and beer stocking and serving at the in-store bar. He quickly graduated to helping select inventory, working with distributors and forging relationships with local craft brewers.

"The craft beer scene in Charlotte is taking off," says Burkholder, "though it hasn't begun to see its full maturity. We carry several local brewery labels, including beers from Olde Mecklenburg, Birdsong and Sugar Creek. NoDa Brewing Company's Hop, Drop and Roll is the number-one selling beer in our store."

Burkholder's gregarious nature and natural disposition toward educating customers lead people to seek him out, especially for pairing recommendations with food.

"Food pairings are one of the most fun aspects of my job," he says. "I enjoy helping people find unique combinations from our very eclectic selection. It's fun to share nuances of a special beer (to go) with a dessert, something many people don't think of. I love an Allagash Tripel, for example, with a lemon tart. The beer is magic on the palate with a hint of passion fruit and blends with a fruit tart beautifully."

For those seeking out a true beer expert, Burkholder is as close as Ballantyne Commons East. Who knew? 







Wood-grilled salmon at Firebirds flakes off the fork.



# Mountain Air

## Firebirds Wood Fired Grill Pleases Wide-Ranging Palates

By Amy Rogers Photos by Ray Sepesy

THE SKI SLOPES OF ASPEN ARE A LONG WAY FROM CHARLOTTE, but diners who want to capture the feeling of a leisurely meal in a mountain lodge are finding their way to Firebirds Wood Fired Grill.

It's polished and relaxed, with a combination of solid service and a proven menu that consistently appeals to singles, couples, families and business professionals.

Aromas from the open kitchen immediately arouse the appetite. For starters, an indulgent appetizer of lobster spinach queso with crispy chips is nearly a meal in itself.

Salads are hearty and satisfying, especially the grilled shrimp and strawberry combination atop a generous mound of greens and embellished with goat cheese, jicama and roasted pecans.

A golden, smoked-tomato-and-jack-cheese sauce surrounds a cilantro-grilled chicken breast. A center-cut filet mignon wrapped with applewood-smoked bacon boasts extra juiciness. Wood-grilled salmon simply flakes off the fork. Burgers, sandwiches and a dozen side items round out the menu — along with a list of desserts that stars a meltingly delicious creme brulee cheesecake.

Specialty menus aren't just an afterthought. The gluten-free offerings include a full range of cocktails, salads, sides and entrees — even a flourless chocolate cake. The menu for kids has puzzles and activities to keep small hands busy. And speaking of kids, Firebirds supports the children's charity Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation.

Decor is a pleasing combination of elements both rugged and refined. The stacked-stone fireplace is the dramatic focal

point that welcomes patrons to the bar area that serves a happy hour "Firebar" menu weekdays from 4 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. On "Wine Down" Mondays, glasses and select bottles are half-price; on Wednesdays, drink specials are discounted. Don't miss the signature cocktail, the Double Black Diamond martini, made with citrus vodka that's been infused for 21 days with fresh pineapple. A newly renovated patio stays busy year-round.

Well-known restaurateur Dennis Thompson is the founder of Firebirds, and in 2000 opened the flagship location in StoneCrest. Two others followed in the Charlotte region at Northlake and SouthPark. Now well-represented throughout the southern states, Firebirds continues to expand its reach with restaurants as far away as Arizona, New Jersey and Nebraska.

Savvy business practices are essential for survival in the volatile restaurant industry, and even if the customer never sees the workings behind the scenes, the company's proven acumen continues to assure its longevity. In 2014, Firebirds Wood Fired Grill was named one of 10 "Breakout Brands" by Nation's Restaurant News and received a Certificate of Excellence from TripAdvisor, which recognizes a track record

of excellent reviews from customers.

As the Ballantyne area has continued to grow, Firebirds has solidified its reputation as a culinary cornerstone. And as its loyal customers will attest, that's the true recipe for success. 



Decor is a pleasing combination of elements both rugged and refined.



### Firebirds Wood Fired Grill

Sunday-Thursday - 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.  
Friday-Saturday - 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.

StoneCrest Shopping Center  
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[www.charlotte-stonecrest.firebirdsrestaurants.com](http://www.charlotte-stonecrest.firebirdsrestaurants.com)



# FESTIVE SOIREE SUPPORTS THE ARTS

A festive soiree hosted by Aloft Charlotte Ballantyne benefited the arts program at the Morrison Family YMCA on July 17.

Partygoers enjoyed artwork provided by the Ballantyne Preschool of the Arts, a charitable partnership with the Y; vendors, raffle tickets, specialty cocktails, Italian ice and live jazz. Planet Ballroom provided spirited ballroom dancing demonstrations throughout the evening.

Photos by Ray Sepesy

1. Glenn and Monica Robinson
2. Christian Knox, Seema Patel, David Knox
3. Andrea St. Clair, Lexi Hawkins
4. Jerilyn McDonald, Bradley Davenport, Miriam Paris
5. Morgan Blunt, Tonya Payton
6. Raquel Tillman, Oni Nueman, Emma and Emery Tillman
7. Miriam Paris, Bradley Davenport
8. Robbie and Mike Ott
9. Sarah Thomason, Andrew Dermack
10. Jacou Halley, Melissa Lopez, Rachael and Matt Curry
11. James Thullbery, Diette Nazario
12. Kevin and Wes Zobel, Brian and Stearnes Vest, Shana Templin, Meghan Nance
13. Peg Casey, Jackie Adams



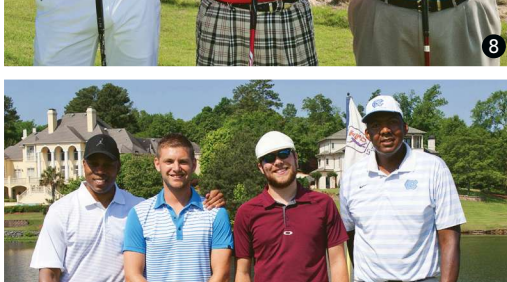


## TEED OFF AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

The annual Clothier Classic Celebrity Invitational, hosted by clothing designer William Wilson, was May 11 at the TPC Piper Glen. The field included celebrities from the NBA, NFL, MLB and NASCAR.

The Clothier Classic raises funds for the fight against domestic violence. Proceeds from this year's event benefited the Jamie Kimble Foundation for Courage.

Photos by Ray Sepesy



1. Brian Smerdell, Alan Clay, Michael Ravey, Kevin Kilcarr
2. Ron Kimble, William Wilson
3. Doug Evans, Roland Martin, Phan Nueman
4. Chip Swanson, Donnell Woolford, Sleepy Floyd, Dennis Vesci
5. Audrina Bigos, Jimmy O'Boyle, Kevin Porter, Al Wallace
6. Paul Tecci, Tony Womack, Matt Stephens
7. Mike Solarte, Perry Tuttle, Kevin Tolbert, Phil Crosby
8. Quinton Teal, Joe Lytle, Anthony Gripper
9. Jamar Nesbit, Tommy Fisher, Tom Fisher, Jake Robbins
10. Jay Harris, Adam Hunjo, Josh Fisher, Al Wood
11. Grant Whitney, Arthur Wylie, Marcus Kimbrough, Nikita Koloff



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# CHAMBER HOSTS SUCCESSFUL BUSINESS BASH

The Ballantyne Chapter of the Charlotte Chamber Ballantyne held its annual Ballantyne Business Bash June 4.

Hosted by Bissell Cos. and presented by MetLife and the Morrison Family YMCA, the event attracted more than 500 people to Ballantyne Corporate Park.

Attendees enjoyed networking with corporate sponsors and with 17 restaurants sharing delectable samples. A photo booth, complete with costumes, also entertained the crowd.

Photos by Ray Sepesy



1. Wil Brooks, Gary McHugh, Jeff Lyons
2. Chavanne Scott, Michael McAllister, Elizabeth Fields
3. Elli Benecchi, Paige McCoy, Will Huffman
4. Lee and Sue Dockstader, Katy Bradford, Maria Myers
5. Felisha Fletcher, Matthew Acampora, Cherise Walker
6. Karla Evans, Travis Commodore, Amanda Medlin, Ifeani Umbugo, Kalin Sherrin
7. Tina Crew, Tonya Reber, Marsha Magasrevy
8. Tom Gill, Meagan Porter, Corey Alexander
9. Teresa White, Valeri Larsen
10. Stacey Milbourne, Kathy Dunlap, Stephanie Witherspoon
11. Kristen Grzywacz, Antonio Myers, Carmen Baker



# DREAM BIG BENEFIT RAISES \$150,000

Presented by Wells Fargo and the Wells Fargo Championship golf tournament, the Dream Big Benefit raised \$150,000 for Beds for Kids at The Ballantyne Hotel & Lodge on May 12. Special guests at the sold-out event featured PGA Tour members and past and present Carolina Panthers.

Silent and live auctions helped the gala raise funds for the Beds for Kids furniture bank that provides children and families beds in the Charlotte area.

Photos by Ray Sepesy



1. Angela and Peter Keretsis
2. Jess and Sara McDowell, Kristin and Kevin Williams
3. Thomas and Hila Johnson, Diane Hunter, Ashley and Joe Benton
4. Mary Beth and Ryan Ramsay
5. Kerry and Rene Earnhardt
6. Brad Nortman, Derek Eddy, Mike Rucker, JJ Jenson
7. Garrett and Michele McNeill, Brett and Anna McDonough, Chris and Jamie Allen
8. Kathryn Barmore, Shari Brevninger, Karen McKenzie
9. Maria Moore, Brianna Conrad
10. Naomi, Stephen and Wendi Smith



## DANCE STARS HOST GALA OPENING

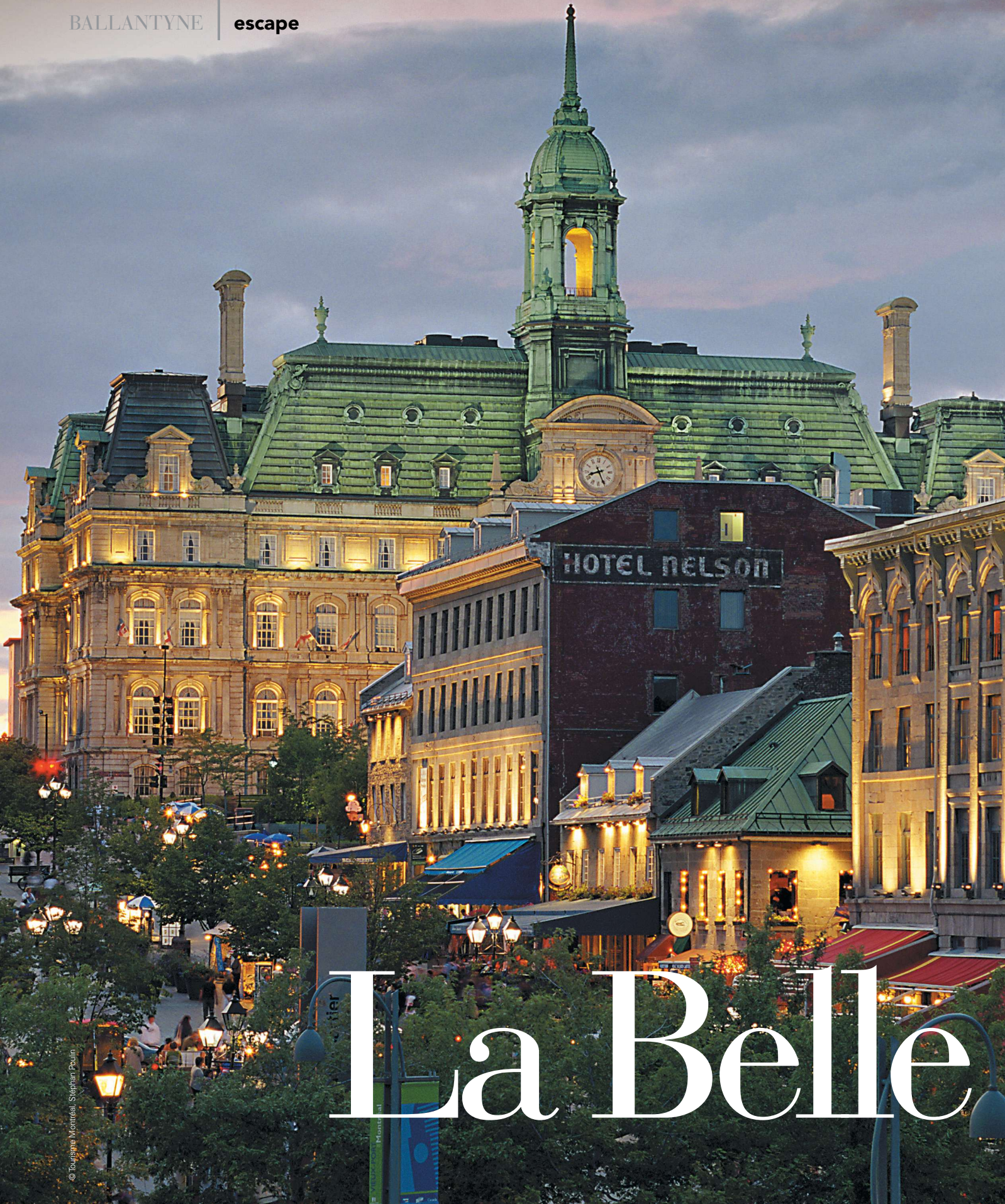
Mark Ballas Dance and Performing Arts held its Grand Opening Gala Aug. 1 at The Club at Longview. The franchised dance studio located in Piper Station is the inspiration of "Dancing with the Stars" pro Mark Ballas and Charlotte ballroom innovator Sabrina Berg. More than 150 guests enjoyed dance performances by Ballas and other amateur and professional dancers from the studio.

Photos by Ray Sepesy



1. Mark, Cory and Shirley Ballas
2. Karolina Szpiech, Merin and Dima Sazinas
3. Linda and Krista Roth, Joline Tung
4. Cheryl Adams, Lorna Dingée, Linda Geer, Kelsie Lineberger
5. Karolina Szpiech, Dima Sazinas
6. Tamara and Terald Melton
7. Shannon Slingerland, Erik Insko
8. Nathan and Marvin Snow
9. Gabriel and Kristen Woodman
10. Darinka Divljak, Stacy Yergens, Shana Fox, Robin Gershen
11. Kem Overby, Elizabeth Creamer, Meredith Melton, Amber Nickole
12. Nancy Henrichsen, Max Maleshko, Julie Saunders
13. Bryan Edmiston, Felipe G. Edmiston, Ken Fox





HOTEL NELSON

# La Belle

© Tourisme Montréal, Stephan Poulin



Place Jacques-Cartier is a square in Old Montreal.



MAYBE IT'S THE FACT THAT MONTREAL HAS MORE restaurants per capita than any city in North America. Or that it is home base for Cirque du Soleil. For these and many other reasons, this French-speaking cultural capital of Canada and cosmopolitan epicenter of Quebecois style is a popular tourist destination any time of the year.

Come autumn, though, La Belle Ville, "The Beautiful City," carries special allure. The season changes the city's wardrobe to brilliant crimson, red and gold foliage, and the enticing aroma of Canadian maple syrup permeates the air.

Located on an island between the St. Lawrence and Ottawa rivers, Montreal is an intriguing mix of Old World charm and New World vitality. It exudes enough European flavor to make even a short visit feel like a world away from home. Elegant 18th-century mansions on cobblestone streets are juxtaposed with supermodernist structures, creating an eclectic architectural ambience that explains why Montreal was designated

the first UNESCO City of Design. Add to that performance art and culinary scenes that are par excellence and you have a getaway that promises memorable moments.

### Getting There

From Charlotte, travel via U.S. Airways (American Airlines) on a flight connecting either through Philadelphia or New York City that takes around six hours. On arrival, skip the rental car because public transport is superb.

For family-priced accommodations, try the Hotel Bonaventure Montreal. With the exchange rate the most favorable it's been in a while, it's possible to trade up to the Ritz-Carlton Montreal, the standard in town for luxe.

Once settled, fuel up in the morning with a sinfully rich maple-pecan brioche at Olive et Gourmando in Vieux-Montreal (Old Montreal) and then take a walking tour of this section of the city dating to 1605. Highlights include the Notre-Dame Basilica and its stained-glass

# Ville

Montreal  
Oozes Design,  
Culinary Flair

By Nan Bauroth



The old city harkens back to the 17th century.





Notre-Dame Basilica is a spectacular stop on Place d'Armes, a square in Old Montreal. The church is a key part of the city's Catholic heritage.

windows, the Cours Le Royer building from the 1800s and Marché Bonsecours, an 1847 structure now home to boutiques as well as restaurants that serve local fare and offer al fresco dining.

At lunch, meander Jean-Talon Market in Little Italy for specialty cheeses and other local delicacies, or sample the famous smoked meat sandwiches at Schwartz's. Another option is to stroll portside and order the fresh lobster roll with herbs at Muvbox.

Other Montreal sights worth

Located on an island between the St. Lawrence and Ottawa rivers, Montreal is an intriguing mix of Old World charm and New World vitality.

The Old Port of Montreal offers fall beauty and a place to relax.



Outdoor dining is popular at Café International in Little Italy as well as elsewhere in the city.



seeing are the view from the top of Mount Royal, the mountain rising smack dab in the middle of the city that is topped with a massive lighted cross over 300-foot tall — a perfect selfie spot. Leaf-peepers can get their fill in Mount Royal Park, where sumacs and sugar maples are ablaze in glory. Cap the day off with one of the 30 artisanal brews at the Melting Spot, a lively pub and restaurant where everyone seems to speak the same language.

### Fall Festivals Galore

Like Parisians, residents of Montreal possess joie de vivre, finding any and all reasons to celebrate. Main events during autumn include the POP Montreal International Music Festival, a five-day



my  
inspiring  
moment



*Six broken pieces later* - "It always feels more rewarding and exciting to finish a piece that had lots of obstacles than finishing a piece that was easy..."  
— Caroline, Studio Art

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Parc Jean-Drapeau, site of the Expo '67 world's fair and east of downtown Montreal, features the Biosphère environmental museum and other attractions.



© Parc Jean-Drapeau, Danielle Labrie

Autumn events include the POP Montreal International Music Festival.

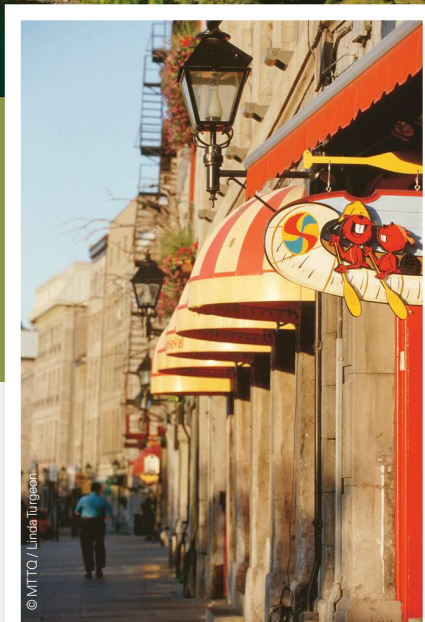
■ continued from page 85

extravaganza showcasing emerging and celebrated talents in concerts, symposiums, art exhibits, fashion shows, film screenings and, of course, a few all-night parties. The

festival is Sept. 16-20.

Those more in tune with Mother Nature won't want to miss the annual "Gardens of Light" show in the Chinese and

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A walking tour is a great way to see Old Montreal, which dates to 1605.

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Jean-Talon Market is an enormous public market in Little Italy.





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Fresh seafood is a big part of Montreal's thriving culinary scene.

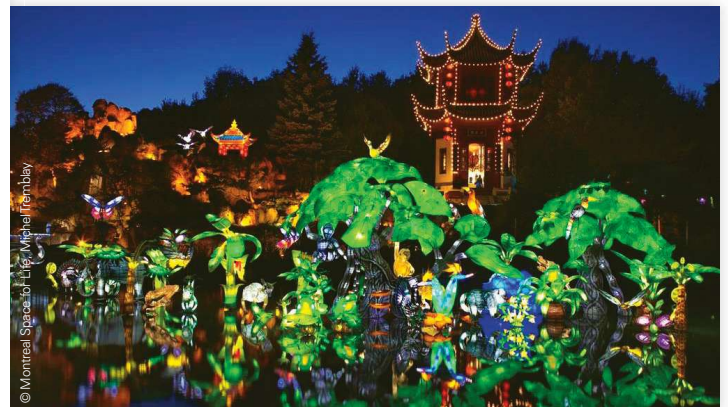


Cirque du Soleil is based in the city, where locals and tourists enjoy the Montreal Cirque Festival.

Osheaga, a music and arts festival, is one of the city's many outdoor celebrations.



Like Parisians, residents of Montreal possess joie de vivre, finding any and all reasons to celebrate.



Montreal Botanical Garden is home to the annual "Gardens of Light" show.



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Japanese gardens at the Montreal Botanical Garden, where magical pathways emerge under the glow of lanterns at dusk.

Movie lovers can opt for the Festival du Nouveau Cinema that is Oct. 8-19, while arts aficionados can take in seasonal exhibits at the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, where Bourgie Hall houses an outstanding collection of Tiffany stained-glass windows. You can also take an archeological tour at Pointe-à-Callière, a national historic site.

On Sept. 13, pedal enthusiasts can join the cheering crowds at the Grand Prix Cycliste de Montreal, an intimidating race through downtown. Runners can get into the action at the Montreal marathon and half marathon on Sept. 20.

### Cuisine Heaven

Montreal's restaurant week, MTL à TABLE, is a must-do every fall. Held this year Oct. 29 through Nov. 8, these 11 days offer a cornucopia of culinary creations featuring a mélange of traditional Gallic influences with a dash of American inspiration.

On the menu are a three-course meal at reduced prices, culinary tours and other special events including Joyeux Novembre (Happy November) with wine tastings and gastronomy-themed activities throughout the month, satisfying the palate of refined gourmets and ordinary foodies.

With so many restaurants to choose from, it's impossible not to have a

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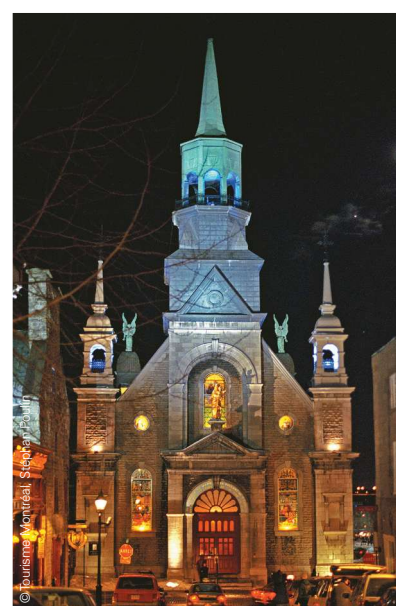
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The Marguerite-Bourgeoys Museum/ Notre-Dame-de-Bon-Secours Chapel attracts many visitors.

Marché Bonsecours is an 1847 structure now home to boutiques and restaurants.



© Restaurant Europea

Chef Jérôme Ferrer prepares a tray at one of the city's top restaurants, Europea.

Mount Royal, the mountain rising smack dab in the middle of the city, is a perfect selfie spot.

fabulous feast in Montreal. Notable stars include the city's two Relais & Chateaux restaurants, Toqué! and Europea, which both joined the ranks of the exclusive Les Grandes Tables du Monde in 2014. Toqué!, which promotes

Quebec gastronomy, is more accessible for lunch, while Europea is renowned for its exquisite food presentation and inventive tasting menu.

continued on page 92



© Tourisme Montréal

Located in the middle of the city, Montreal Botanical Garden features Asian gardens as well as many others.





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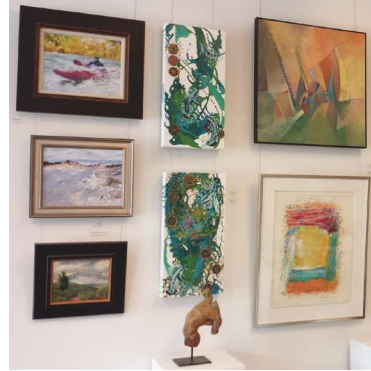
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■ continued from page 90

**Local Norms**

Montreal is a bike-friendly city, so watch out for the special traffic bike signals. Tips are not included in restaurant bills, and 15 percent is the usual. Also, although Montreal is bilingual, wherever you go it is a must to say “Bonjour” and “Merci,” even in English conversations.

No matter what your mother tongue, however, after a few days you will agree: Montreal, c’est si bon! 🇩🇪

The tallest building, at right, is city hall. The statue is of Montreal founder Paul de Chomedey.

Bixi is the city's public bike sharing program. Its name is a combination of “bicycle” and “taxi.”



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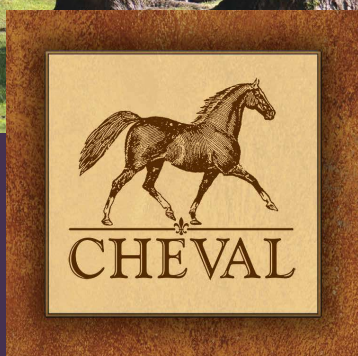
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