

# Cornelius TODAY



**KEEP CALM AND DRINK WINE**

Aug. 1 LKN Seal Swim 2014 / Aug. 5 National Night Out Torrence Chapel Park  
 Aug. 6 'The Hunger Games: Catching Fire' Kenton Place / Aug. 9 'The LEGO Movie' Town Hall  
 Aug. 20 'Grown Ups 2' Kenton Place / Aug. 25 CMS first day of school!

Pages 30, 31  
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## INSIDE

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**Cornelius Sideways**  
 Sparkling Alain Jeantet, who is from the Champagne region of France, is at the center of Cornelius' wine scene. . . Page 4



August 2014 • VOLUME 9 NUMBER 11

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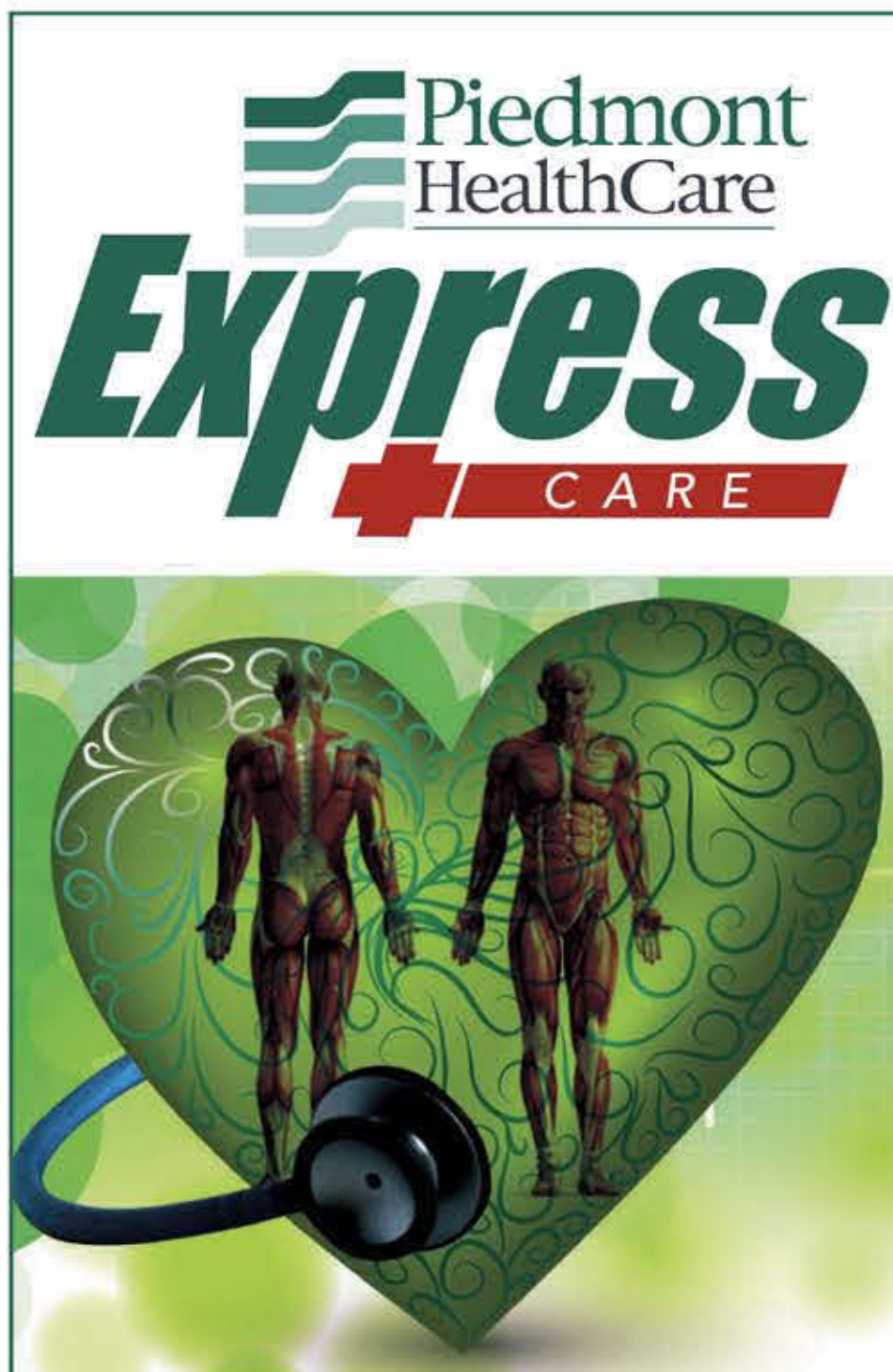
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## August Things to do

### Swim with Navy SEALS Aug. 1

The second annual LKN SEAL Swim Aug. 1 benefits Operation Restored Warrior, an organization that helps veterans go back to their normal lives. The participants will swim a total of 13.4 miles across Lake Norman to raise awareness for Operation Restored Warrior, a 501c3. The swim, which will end around 7 p.m. at the Rusty Rudder, will be capped off with live entertainment and auctions. It starts at 11 a.m. at the Blue Parrot Grill in Mooresville. More information: [www.lknsealswim.com](http://www.lknsealswim.com).

### School starts on Aug. 25

The first day of the 2014-2015 school year for Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools is Aug. 25, and drivers are urged to be extra-cautious. Check individual school web sites for start and stop times. Buses will begin their practice runs during the week before school starts, as they have done in the past. The first school holiday occurs in the second week of school; Labor Day is Monday, Sept. 1. Here are start dates for the following private and charter schools: Community School of Davidson, Aug. 18; Lake Norman Charter, Aug. 14; Woodlawn School, Aug. 25; Cannon School, Aug. 18; and Davidson Day, Aug. 18 (upper), Aug. 19 (lower).

### Adoptable Pets

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Beau is a handsome tan colored Akita/Boxer mix who was recently surrendered to the shelter when his owner could no longer take care of him. He is neutered and almost four years old. He is a big boy, very well-behaved and walks well on a leash. He loves posing for the camera!



Shadow is a mostly black tuxedo with a cute little white mustache, who was surrendered to the shelter. She has a beautiful shiny black coat with a white bib and paws, and beautiful golden eyes. She is still a little shy, but is warming up nicely to the volunteers.

### Free Cinema

Three movies remain in the Cornelius PARC Department Outdoor Cinema Series. "The Hunger Games: Catching Fire" will be shown Aug. 6 at Kenton Place; "The Lego Movie," at Town Hall on Aug. 9; and "Grown Ups 2" at Kenton Place Aug. 20. The movies are free admission, and refreshments will be available for purchase on site. Weather permitting, movies begin at dusk, about 8:30 p.m.

### National Night Out is Aug. 5

The Cornelius Police Department and the Parks, Arts, Recreation and Culture Departments are hosting National Night Out Aug. 5 at Torrence Chapel Park.

National Night Out, which offers residents an opportunity to meet local public safety officers as well as neighbors and elected officials, includes fun for all ages, free hot dogs, chips and drinks. There will be an inflatable slide, Dunk a Cop and a deejay.

The tradition around National Night Out, which runs from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., includes turning on your porch lights and locking up before you come to the event. For more information, go to [www.cornelius.org](http://www.cornelius.org) or call 704-892-1363.

[www.corneliusanimalshelter.org](http://www.corneliusanimalshelter.org)

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### ON THE COVER

Keith Blankenship designed this month's cover

### STAFF

**Editor:** Dave Yochum, [nebiztoday@gmail.com](mailto:nebiztoday@gmail.com); **Sales and Marketing Director:** Gail Williams, [gail.todaypubs@gmail.com](mailto:gail.todaypubs@gmail.com); **Account Executives:** Sara Foley, [sara.todaypubs@gmail.com](mailto:sara.todaypubs@gmail.com); **Production Director:** David Boling, [production.todaypubs@gmail.com](mailto:production.todaypubs@gmail.com). **Intern:** Matthew Newman. Send us your news: [corneliustoday@gmail.com](mailto:corneliustoday@gmail.com)

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**Back issues:** Payable by VISA and MASTERCARD ONLY. \$1.50 (if available); \$4 to mail. **Reprints:** Reprints on high-quality, frangible stock are available, starting at \$65 **Photos:** \$100.

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Alain Jeantet, owner The Wine Cellar on West Catawba Avenue

Photo by Dave Yochum

## Cornelius is a wine region unto itself

*Of course, that will improve with age*

BY DAVE YOCHUM

In a town with streets names like Cabernet, Chablis and Chardonnay, it stands to reason that wine would one day help put Cornelius on the map.

Sandy McAlpine, the founder of an online meet-up group called Lake Norman Wine Enthusiasts, has 1,067 followers on the internet who make their way to various local establishments for wine tastings at least once a month. The Blue Stone Harbor resident runs one of meetup.com's largest groups in North Carolina.

Says McAlpine: "I thought it would be cool to have one. We've just grown and grown." She has hosted more than 100 wine tastings by herself; now restaurants, nightspots and even wineries court her.

Wine brings people together like church at Easter. Cornelius is almost literally bubbling with wine. Alton's Kitchen & Cocktails has a growing wine list of with more than 60 different labels on the menu. At least one \$105 bottle of Paul Hobbs wine goes bottom up every week; owner Alton

Udike maintains a private cellar with another 60 labels.

Alain Jeantet, the owner of The Wine Cellar on West Catawba, has celebrated his fourth anniversary and has a loyal following. McAlpine's group gathered there for a wine tasting last month.

**"People are more adventurous than they were four or five years ago,"**

—Alain Jeantet

Over on Bailey Road, the fledgling Lake Norman Winery, members of the Lemke family are making their first 40-gallon batch of Cabernet Sauvignon.

The equivalent of roughly 200 bottles of wine, the debut batch started out with fresh frozen grapes shipped

in from California on May 23 when they were placed in a stainless steel fermenter and press. Making the wine, by transferring the liquid between new stainless storage tanks will take about 16 months, during which time sediments and sugars are removed.

Winemaker Jeff Lemke, 29, calls it a "new age" process, one that doesn't rely on vintage oak casks. Nowadays oak cubes are used to add flavors to whites and reds, and the difference requires a discerning palette.

Lemke, his father Joel, 58, and step-mother Jayme this spring opened an "urban winery" with \$5,000 invested in state-of-the art equipment in good-looking space leased from Hyde Park Storage Suites. They're figuring revenues will hit \$250,000 to \$500,000 on an annualized basis before too long.

"We want to try to share our passion around wine," says Jayme Lemke. "It's about so much hard work going into making wine; they deserve some

See WINE, Page 5

## WINE

from page 4



Jayme and Jeff Lemke

Photo by Dave Yochum

help in letting the public know what they do."

The senior Lemkes know about wine and passion. Nine years ago they exchanged wedding vows at the Villagio Inn and Spa in the Napa Valley in California. "It was very clear both of us loved wine, so this business was a natural for us," Jayme, 49, says.

Jeff, who is part owner of Kickstand, a gourmet burger and craft beer restaurant in Plaza-Midwood, is newly married and was burned out by the hours in the restaurant business. Joel was retiring.

"We started looking at business, and almost purchased an urban winery in Lincoln County," Jeff says, explaining that the term means they don't own vineyards, yet they do make and sell wine. Indeed Lake Norman Winery has about 9,000 bottles on site.

Right now their private label business is carrying the wine-making

business. They also sell wines under the "Lake Norman Winery" label for around \$13 a bottle to \$35.

They're making inroads quickly with local restaurants. The Peninsula Club and Armin's Catering stock their Lake Norman wines, which has nautical names like Spinnaker, a pinot noir, and Outermark a Cabernet. Coming up soon is Bacchus in Lang-Tree and Flat Iron in Davidson. During a good week, 20 cases may go out the door.

Jeantet, 52, was born and raised in the Champagne region of France, and owned a pub in the south of France before putting about \$75,000 in The Wine Cellar. He thinks the wine business is flourishing in Cornelius, merci beaucoup, thanks to the ongoing upscaling of the wine palette at Lake Norman.

"People are more adventurous than they were four or five years ago," Jeantet says, explaining that his favorite wine is "but of course, champagne."

### Cornelius nose our wines \*

**Nose:** the word tasters may use to describe the bouquet and aroma of the wine

**Bouquet:** the total smell of the wine

**Aroma:** the smell of the grapes

**Sweet:** You will mainly get sweet out of certain white varieties

**Acidity:** Normally found in white wines and younger red wines

**Bitterness:** Tasted on the back

of the tongue, normally means higher alcohol and higher tannins.

**Tannin:** Derived from the skins and stalks of the grapes, or from the oak barrels; usually found in red wines. Tannin will soften with age of the wine and be very prevalent if the red wine is opened very young. This is what gives you that dry mouth sensation.

\* Source: Alton's Kitchen &amp; Cocktails

He stocks more than 120 different wines—from Chile, California, France, Italy, South Africa, Spain—and sells them for \$6 to \$12 a glass.

McAlpine, who has organized more than 400 wine-tastings since 2007, says people here are sampling more adventurous wines.

"Tastes in wine here are changing. People are open to the rich reds, the heavy reds. It used to be just Pinot Noir and Chardonnay, now people are trying Malbecs and red Zinfandels," says McAlpine, 38, a Realtor who is married with and two tots.

Her favorite wine: "I love red Zinfandel." It's spicy with hints of pepper.

Jessi Fusco, 32, who purchases the wines at Alton's, says people shouldn't worry too much about wine etiquette. There's really no reason to sniff the cork when it's placed by on the table to your right. But you should plan on sniffing and tasting the single ounce of wine the server pours in your glass, especially if the bottle is over \$50.

That said, everybody has their own opinion on wines, Jayme Lemke says. "You can like whatever you want."



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Diane "Dee" Gilroy: True believer

Photo by Matthew Newman

## Dee Gilroy: A passionate warrior in her own right

BY DAVEYOCHUM

There's nothing like a true believer, a person with passion who puts her thoughts into action. Dee Gilroy is like that.

A Spanish lecturer at UNC-Charlotte, mother of four girls and wife of Cornelius Town Commissioner Dave Gilroy, she has embraced the crisis around emotionally and physically wounded soldiers returning from the Middle East as if she had a son over there, as if she were the wife of a soldier.

She's not. Although husband Dave was a U.S. Army Ranger who spent two years in Germany, Ms. Gilroy comes at this crisis under her own steam.

See, the Gilroys are exceptionally well-heeled, but they don't fit a Cornelius stereotype.

Dave is known for packing paper napkins into his pockets at the events town commissioners have to attend, and heading home in a thrifty Nissan pick-up truck.

Dee, short for Diane, has the manner of a college professor: Smart, intense in conversation, an Amherst grad, two master's degrees, opposed to Escalades and Navigators—Bohemian might be the right word.

Almost by accident, Dee attended a special screening of "The Hornet's Nest," a ground-breaking documentary film that uses real footage to tell the story of an "elite group of U.S. troops sent on a dangerous mission deep inside one of Afghanistan's most hostile valleys. The film culminates with what was planned as a single day strike turning into nine in-

tense days of harrowing combat against an invisible, hostile enemy in the country's complex terrain where no foreign troops have ever dared to go before," according to film review web site Rotten Tomatoes, which gives it an 81 percent rating from citizen critics.

Dee was moved. So moved that she bought some extra tickets.

Now, some people describe Dave as miserly, an enormously good trait for grumpy taxpayers who foot the bill for the town's \$18.8 million annual budget.

So it made for an interesting moment in the Gilroy household when Dave saw Dee and one of the girls counting a lot of movie tickets, piles of them, on the kitchen table.

Dee had purchased 145 tickets for "Hornets Nest" at \$10.25 each during Memorial Day weekend. Nearly \$1,500 worth of tickets, and AMC wouldn't give her a group rate either.

What she did next was recruit people to attend the movie.

On Memorial Day, the owner (with her husband) of a 6,000 square foot lakefront home drove to Concord Mills in Cabarrus County and set up a little card table in front of the AMC multi-plex.

Cabarrus County is different from Cornelius. The market is prone to people who drive off-road vehicles with gun-racks and men with Pabst-enhanced physiques, tee-shirts and suspenders.

Ms. Gilroy, the college professor who teaches Spanish 1201 and 1202 at UNCC,

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## GILROY from page 6

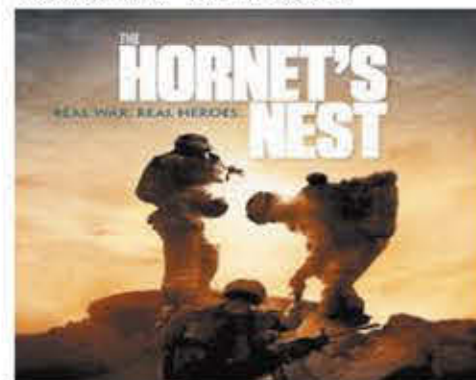
recruited anyone who walked by to attend a showing of "Hornet's Nest," which is about soldiers in what's known as the "No Slack Battalion." (The production has nothing to do with Charlotte's nickname.)

The battalion was stationed in the Kunar province, home to some of the most brutal fighting in the Afghanistan War. For the soldiers of the US Army's 101st Airborne Division's No Slack Battalion, it was where they lived.

They were days from going home when they took on a final fight to try to take out an al Qaeda and Taliban leader. It was brutal.

On the Tuesday after Memorial Day, she went to Concord Mills with more tickets and met a couple who had a son who was wounded in Afghanistan. "We were discussing her son and she started crying. I did too," Dee says.

"Seeing 'Hornet's Nest' changed my life," she explains. The movie plumbs the depths of the bonds that occur among warriors in the worst of conditions. Close friends, to whom filmgoers become attached, die in "Hornet's Nest."



"Hornet's Nest" Documentary

"I gained a new respect for the military. I just didn't realize they had an incredible love, a brotherhood and sisterhood. Most people say 'they have your back,' but in the military they will run into the line of fire for you and die for you. I was so impressed with that fact, that they will die for you, completely blind to race, religion or politics. To me, that's one of the things that can bring our country together," Ms. Gilroy says.

She had never heard about the documentary before seeing it at a special showing for elected officials May 16 in Charlotte. Ms. Gilroy was worried about violence—she doesn't like gore, but director David Salzberg explained that "Hornet's Nest" is really about the family-like bonds that occur in the battlefield.

Dee, 47, grew up in Brookfield, Ct. Her mother is an artist and her father is a retired engineer. Two brothers complete the family. There's no military whatsoever in the family, she says.

### Snapshot: Diane Gilroy

**Family:** Husband, Dave; four daughters. Shannon, 16; Blythe, 14; Ava, 10; Devin, 6

**Career:** Lecturer in Spanish at UNC-Charlotte

**Party affiliation:** "Republican, but more of an independent"

**Nickname:** Dee

**Church:** St. Mark's Roman Catholic Church in Huntersville

Ms. Gilroy did her undergrad at Amherst, graduating in 1989. She has an MBA from Babson College as well as a master's degree in Spanish literature from UNC-Charlotte.

She and Dave, a Harvard MBA, met in 1992 in Boston; they married in 1995 in the oldest church in Boston. (Their first date was seeing "Leaving Las Vegas.") They went to China in 1996, where they spent a year. Dee learned Mandarin Chinese.

Dee worked for Verizon/GTE from 1993 to 1996 as a marketing manager in Argentina and Venezuela. When they

came back to the States, Dee opened a warehouse in Charlotte where she sold Chinese antiques to the trade and then went on to teach 120 students per semester at UNC-Charlotte.

"I just love teaching," she says. In a way, the "Hornet's Nest" film is a teaching experience. Ms. Gilroy says she hopes people will learn about the bond that occurs under the stunning conditions of war, and the best human character traits that rise to the occasion.


"I think every single university should show this film. This can teach kids about character traits like perseverance, dedication, commitment, patriotism, integrity, honesty. You won't see anyone in the military cheating," she says.

We all have those character traits, Dee says. "But most people just walk through life, they are not inspired." That vague sense of comfort and satisfaction in acquisition is not for her.

"I mean, they are dodging bullets with 80 lbs. on their back in 130 degrees," she says. "You walk away from that movie feeling you can do anything."

She plans to have a screening of "Hornet's Nest" at the Cornelius Arts Center. "I think we should have a night where we support the wounded warriors. I want to show it and have a reception," she says.

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Lenore Belak Cuyler apprenticed to Paul Mitchell in NYC and also under the original members of the Vidal Sassoon team and has designed hair for magazine covers, catalogs, editorial pages, runway fashion shows, and a one-woman Broadway play.

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The water slide

Photo by Michael Brennan of Big Brothers Big Sisters



NFL stars Rod Smith and Dean Biasucci



Jordan is a Pringle-eating machine



Lake Norman Chrysler provided face painting for the littles.

Photo by Dave Yochum



Boat Host Colin Furcht.



Photo courtesy of Deborah Young Studio/deborahyoungstudio.com



Photo courtesy of Deborah Young Studio/deborahyoungstudio.com

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 Robert Toms • Elizabeth Root • John Bradford • **Fran Boling**  
 Haritha Mitakanti • Rebecca Perez • Ruby Trapp • Jessica Trapp  
**Suzanne Fulton** • Jim Duke • Jeff Moody • Carter Boling • **Greg Rouse**  
 John Aneralla • Mary Kay Chandler • Laura DeFalco • Peter McCormack  
 Liz Burleson • Curtis Griner • Heather Smith • **Rob Reed**  
 Courtney Hamer • Danielle Acosta • Aimee Baldwin • Cecile White  
 Pamela Cooper • Heidi Hansen • Bryan Warren • Pat Jackson • **Matt DeGrave**  
 Megan Jackson • Allison Toms • Rebecca Massey • Nick Baldwin  
**Denis Bilodeau** • John Donnelly • Dan Lewis • Mike Smith

*Boldface: Big Day at the Lake Committee Members*

## Big Day at the Lake Goals

- Provide a full day of fun for kids in Big Brothers Big Sisters who would not ordinarily get out on a lake
- Recruit Bigs or mentors
- Raise money for an efficient, non-profit that targets at-risk kids

## Food vendors

Port City Club - Hot dogs

Big Bite'z Grill - Cole slaw

Brixx Pizza - Baked ziti &amp; salads

Mama's Pizza - Pizza

Bruster's Real Ice Cream - Ice Cream

Catawba Island Italian Ice - Italian ice

Pippa's Cafe - Hot dog rolls

Acosta - Baked beans, fruit snacks

Coca-Cola Consolidated - Soft drinks

## How to have a picnic for 500 - 600 people

- All beef hot dogs (600)
- Pizzas (75-100)
- Baby pools (two)
- Bubbles (six jugs)
- Balloons (500)
- Hula Hoops (10)
- Paper Plates (1,700)
- Napkins (1,600)
- Coke products (62 cases)
- Oversize tubs for drinks (three)



Photo courtesy of Deborah Young Studio/deborahyoungstudio.com

## Raymer-Kepner is pleased to Introduce Jamie Castaneda, BSW, Continuing Care Coordinator



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# Thank you, Cornelius, for a great Big Day at the Lake

Year No. 10 of Big Day at the Lake got under way Saturday July 19 with the traditional "Blessing of the Fleet" led by Rev. Travis Norton, pastor of Community in Christ Lutheran Church.

And then the weather dutifully improved, as nearly 200 at-risk children from Big Brothers Big Sisters descended on Lake Norman and Mountain Island Lake with their Bigs, or mentors.

The new Cornelius Police Department boat was on scene, as well as the Denver Fire Department's fireboat. One hundred Boat Hosts took their assigned Bigs and Littles out on both lakes for a morning of fun, with most burnishing their tubing and swimming skills.

The weather held up until transit

time, when most Boat Hosts and Bigs drive by car separately to Duke Energy Explorium for a picnic that starts at 1 p.m. As the picnic was getting under way, the rain stopped. That is, until around 3 p.m. when the picnic was ending and the rain started again.

Littles, Bigs, Boat Hosts, volunteers and Big Day at the Lake committee members attended the picnic.

There were all-beef hot dogs (600 or so, thanks to Port City Club), cole-slaw (35 pounds, thanks to Big Bite'z), beans (oodles of them, thanks to Kerri Dobi of Acosta Sales & Marketing), trays of ziti and meatballs, pasta salad and garden salad (thanks to Brixx in Birkdale Village), 65 pizzas (cheese or pepperoni—both good choices—from

Mama's Pizza), lots of ice cream (from Bruster's in Kenton Place), Italian ice (from Catawba Island Italian Ice), seven watermelons and more Coke products than 500 men, women and children could drink.

Town Commissioner James Duke manned the grill with Jeff Moody, Carter Boling and Greg Rouse.

Of course, there were countless chips, gummy fruit snacks and cookies. Fran Boling, Angela Swett, Trish Foster and Tracy Yochum brought organization to the happy, wet chaos.

Retired NFL stars Rod Smith and Dean Biasucci tossed balls around with the kids. Politicians and would-be politicians attended.

Eighty-plus volunteers helped with

food service, games, set up and cleanup.

Side note: None of the kids were fazed by the semi-adult humor involving two serving trays of baked beans. One was dubbed the musical kind and the other no-gas. The children went the polite route, saying "yes, please" when offered a heaping spoonful.

Mayor Chuck Travis wrote this to volunteers: "It may have been a rainy Saturday for Big Day at the Lake. However, on behalf of the Town of Cornelius, I want to thank you for bringing a lot of sunshine into the lives of the children who participated. I am proud of you for caring enough about our future generation to make a difference. This is truly a wonderful day in our community!"



# NEW CONSTRUCTION IN CORNELIUS NAILS OUR REPUTATION AS BEDROOM COMMUNITY

BY SUZANNE FULTON

When Esbith Andaya formed Insight Security, a home security and automation company in Cornelius, business was slow, but as the home building business grew during the past two years, so did Andaya's. Thanks to builders who gave his company name to buyers, Insight Security "has tripled compared to last year," he said.

"Housing = jobs," trumpets the North Carolina Home Builders Association on its website. "The estimated one-year local impacts of building 100 single-family homes in a typical metro area include: \$21.1 million in local income, \$2.2 million in taxes and other revenue for local governments, and 324 local jobs."

A large percentage—41 percent—of house hunters prefer new construction, when available, over existing dwellings because of several factors, including lower maintenance costs for a few years, higher energy efficiency, floor plans that fit a modern lifestyle and the fact that no one else has lived there. Improved and promising economic conditions means

a great deal of new business for builders and others in associated trades during the past year or so.

North and South Carolina were among the top states for the most single-family construction units in 2013, according to the U.S. Census building permit data.

Tom Lowrie of Carter Lumber-Charlotte provides a variety of supplies and services to builders. For example, his company is providing materials for a 500,000 square foot apartment building under way in University City.

"This is a pretty healthy market," Lowrie said. "The demand from builders is a little above industry capacity." Labor is in high demand and "some are dictating price."

Neighbors in Pointe Regatta, a gated community in Cornelius containing only waterfront and water view lots, has seen a remarkable surge of home building activity in the past year. Eric Johnson, of ES Johnson Builders, one of the few builders in that community, said he recently completed three custom homes there and is designing homes for three other customers. A long-established builder, he also has two

homes under construction in The Peninsula and is building in other communities.

Johnson observed that "there is a pent-up demand for homes, and potential buyers have been feeling better about their job situation." But, he adds, "There is a severe shortage of lots."

## Robbins Park

Robbins Park, a development of single-family homes on Catawba Avenue, is hot. Classica Homes, the sole builder, has been keeping tradesmen and sales agents busy for the past couple of years. President and CEO Bill Simon reports, "We are in the final stages of developing the last phase, for an additional 37 homes. In total, Robbins Park will have 150 homes, with roughly 50 remaining to build once the final phase is released, early this fall."

"We sold 31 homes at Robbins Park last year and have sold 19 homes so far in 2014," he said.

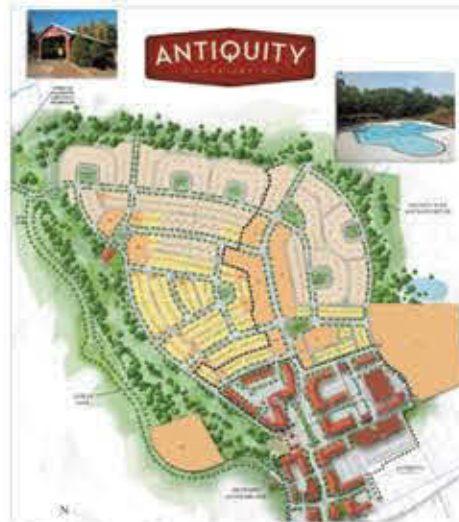
Charlotte Home Builders Association twice designated Robbins Park "Community of the Year." Home sites are situated among 115 acres of parkland owned by the Town of Cornelius.

"Classica has 26 employees with over 300 trade partners engaged on home building projects throughout the area," said Simon.



## Antiquity

Antiquity, a 130-acre "smart-growth" community just east of downtown Cornelius, has blossomed with the construction of hundreds of townhouses and single family homes and apartment units during the past five or six years. One thousand residences of various types are contemplated under the developer's plan. Home builders there are: The Cunnane Group, Meeting Street Homes, Ryan Homes, Landis Reed Homes and M/I Homes. A builder is being sought for a 300-unit apartment complex next to the Harris Teeter grocery store, which broke ground this spring, and Solstice Partners will build an apartment complex for people aged 55 and older.



## Bailey's Glen

South Creek Homes has been developing an "active adult community" for seniors on 145 acres behind Bailey Middle School in Cornelius called Bailey's Glen. Already completed on the acreage is the meeting center, swimming pool, some game courts and about a third of the 372 ranch style homes that are planned. A 96-unit, three-story condominium is planned as well as another pool, courts and trail.

Two more over age 55 communities are slated to be built in Cornelius, 25 single family homes called The Courtyards at Jetton, possibly as many as 67 homes in a yet-to-be named subdivision on Nantz Road – both to be developed by Epcon Homes and Communities. The company recently built a senior community in Mooresville (The Courtyards at Brawley Point).

Just over the Cornelius line in Huntersville near West Catawba and Sam Furr Road intersection, construction of a three-story, three building, 210 unit apartment complex for all ages called The Reserve at Kenton Place should be completed by September.



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## News E news from www.corneliustoday.com



### Projected I-77 tolls dominate discussion at Board Meeting

BY DAVE VIESER

**July 9** Under the glow of TV news cameras and a room full of skeptical residents, Rodger Rochelle, administrator of the state DOT's Technical Services Division, had his hands full at Monday's Cornelius Town Board Meeting, trying to explain the reasoning behind the projected tolls motorists might pay traveling to and from Charlotte on I-77 on the new lanes.



ROCHELLE

Several weeks ago, Widen I77, a citizens action group opposed to the tolls, quoted DOT projections indicating that toll rates during rush hour could be as much as \$9 in the morning and \$11 in the afternoon between Mooresville and Charlotte. Their revelations generated a new round of concern among local officials and residents to the extent that some have called on the state to hold off signing the final contract with toll lane builder Cintra Infrastructures of Spain.

Assuming the state signs a contract with Cintra by the end of this year, construction of the \$655 million project could begin next spring. Completion would be in 2019, some two decades ahead of when the project could be completed without a public-private partnership.

Some \$215 million would be paid for by the federal government.

Rochelle said the state is looking at literally thousands of road proj-



### Entrepreneur Warnemunde plans bottle shop in downtown Cornelius

**July 11** Youthful entrepreneur Case Warnemunde plans to open a bottle shop and tap room in downtown Cornelius as early as the end of the summer.

The man behind Bella Love and the downtown Cornelius Art Crawls, Warnemunde says he expects to sign a lease on Monday with the landlord at 21314 Catawba Ave., Ralph Harlan.

The first floor of the building was formerly the home of The Olive Branch "body studio." The Harlan family lived on the second floor for many years.

Warnemunde, 27, says the new bottle shop and tap room will be called the Old Town Public House. Renovations will get under way soon after the lease is signed. Jessica Boye, spokeswoman for Bella Love, said the Bella Love studio across Catawba Avenue will remain open.

Cornelius Today first reported on the Bella Love entrepreneur back in October of 2012 as he began creating the Cornelius arts scene from whole cloth. He cobbled together artists and craftspeople for a successful art crawl, complete with booths, wine and music. Downtown merchants were delighted, and Warnemunde successfully enlisted support from the Cornelius Parks Arts Recreation and Culture Department.

ects; there's not sufficient funding to get them all done anytime soon, he said. Public-private partnerships involved private companies in risk and profits around infrastructure improvements.

State and local officials, including NC Sen. Jeff Tarte (R-41), NC Rep. Bill Brawley (R-103) and Davidson Commissioners Jim Fuller and Beth Cashion, also attended the meeting, but it was the residents who



TARTE

had the most vocal comments.

"I thought we lived in America where we can vote on projects such as this," said Cornelius resident Ed Biggers. "Has the state considered the economic impact these tolls will have on us?"

Steve Koch, also from Cornelius, asked if the state had considered widening Highways 115 and 21 instead of focusing solely on I-77.

Residents of nearby towns also attended. "I feel it's discriminatory to be charging tolls on those of us who use the interstates," said Katherine Dillon of Statesville. "What are we

doing, giving control of our infrastructure to foreign countries? And what happens if Cintra goes out of business."

When it came time for Rochelle to speak, he readily admitted that there is some risk associated with the project. "Ultimately, the market will drive the toll prices, and it will be a matter of choice for the motorist to either use the toll lanes for a quicker ride or the general purpose lanes."

Cintra will bear the burden of risk around operation and maintenance, while the state will handle enforcement, Rochelle said.

He said the project is bonded to ensure completion, and the debt is backed by toll revenues. "Should Cintra default for any reason, the state will get the project for 50-60 cents on the dollar along with all future toll revenues."

He also reminded the audience and the commissioners that cars with three or more occupants would ride for free at any time in any lane and there would be a minimum of six entrances and exits to the toll lanes between Exits 13 and 33.

In response to an inquiry from Mayor Chuck Travis, Rochelle admitted that no public hearings on the project involving Cintra are currently scheduled, but that they would come to Cornelius by invitation.

Project foe Dave Gilroy reiterated his opposition. "Fundamentally I don't approve of this type of project; it is unfair to the vast majority of our citizens."

Gilroy asked if the DOT had any other toll projections but Rodger said he was unable to offer any at this time.

Commissioner John Bradford took the DOT to task for lack of effective communications. "Communication has been nothing short of terrible. No news appears to be bad news so whatever you can do to make communication a priority I would urge you to do so."



GILROY



BRADFORD

## News E news from www.corneliustoday.com



### Motorists test alternate routes to avoid congestion at I-77 bridge

**July 11** With traffic bogging down on both sides of the I-77 bridge, Cornelius officials are bracing for even more delays when school goes back in session next month. Meanwhile, criticism is coming from all over, from residents and businesses alike.

"The Catawba bridge work is a zoo. I think they have made a huge mistake with what they are doing. Exit 28 is not the right place for the Diverging Diamond Interchange. I doubt they will ever get it right," said Cindy Kincaid, a frustrated Cornelius resident who was stuck in traffic on Catawba.

Catawba Avenue traffic is backing up to Meridian Street on the east side of town and to Manhattan on the west side of town, at lunch and during commute times.

"It may be as good as it gets...I know it's not what everyone wants to hear, it's just the truth," said Mayor Chuck Travis.

The payoff, of course, will be a more efficient, safer traffic pattern when the DDI is completed in November. Privately, town officials are suggesting the project will be completed earlier.

Many Cornelius residents have taken to alternate routes, such as Westmoreland and the Jetton Road extension to Sefton Park and Liverpool, in order to avoid the delays on Catawba.

The affect on businesses is open for discussion.

"Most of our customers come from the Charlotte area," a representative of Classic Bride and Formals said.

"A lot of them don't know about the construction. As of right now, our business hasn't been affected, but as more people learn about it, I can see us losing business in the future."

There's been little impact at Acropolis Café and Grill.

"I really don't think it's affecting our business," said Joanne Teis, co-owner. "Sure, some of our customers may complain when they get here, but they're still making reservations and they're still coming here to eat. If it's affecting us, it's only a small percentage of customers."

This doesn't mean all of the businesses on Catawba are pleased with the construction. When asked if the traffic and construction was affecting the quantity of business, Assistant Manager Chris Dumitrescu at Our Daily Bread declared, "Absolutely."

It could be worse.

Even though the east-west throughput has been temporarily reduced by half, the efficiency of the two remaining lanes has increased, according to Dr. Martin Kane, a civil engineering professor at UNC-Charlotte.

"The reduction in capacity is likely somewhat less than 50 percent," Kane said. How much less is apparently anyone's guess.

"The strong point about the DDI is that if you have a lot of left turns, flow will improve," Kane said, explaining that there is more "green time" for drivers wanting to make left-hand turns. In this particular case, it means less back-up for cars heading east on Catawba and stacking for a left onto northbound I-77. Conversely, the DDI will move cars heading west on Catawba for a left-hand turn onto southbound I-77 to Charlotte.

### Small town girl makes good: Romance novel published by daughter of Mary and David Peterson

**July 11** After Cornelius was named America's fourth-sexiest suburb, it stands to reason that an increasingly popular romance novel has roots right here. Jessica Peterson, daughter of Mary and David Peterson, who live in the Pointe Regatta neighborhood, has written "The Gentleman Jewel Thief," a romance novel with a sizzling cover. It already holds a rating of 4.5/5 stars on www.Goodreads.com.

"It's like 'The Thomas Crown Affair' meets Jane Austen," Peterson said.

The novel, published July 1, is available in both print and digital through Barnes and Noble and Amazon for a little over \$7.



— Matthew Newman

Find out more about  
"The Gentleman Jewel Thief"  
at [www.Goodreads.com](http://www.Goodreads.com)

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## Home Sales



5/30/14 \$490,000, 20520 Rio Oro Dr.

### PROPERTY TRANSACTIONS

These property transactions were recorded by the Mecklenburg County Register of Deeds.

#### Cornelius

6/13/14 \$388,000 Jeremy & Heather Koster to Todd & Jennifer Ghiloni, 8825 Westmoreland Lake Dr.

6/13/14 \$605,000 Daniel & Michelle Johnson to Howard & Loretta Phillips, 20919 Island Forest Dr.

6/13/14 \$215,000 MS Antiquity to Jessica Webb, 19819 Lamp Lighters Way

6/13/14 \$274,500 Nicole & Wesley Priddy to Melanie & William Rockefeller, 10630 Quarrier Dr.

6/16/14 \$159,000 Jemma & Jason Conley to Roger Johnson, 18812 Ramsey Cove Dr.

6/17/14 \$635,000 Thomas Burke to Robert & Kelly Gallant, 20514 Rio Oro Dr.

6/17/14 \$507,000 Mary Bowe to Landon

See HOMES, Page 16



6/19/14 \$1,495,000, 18900 Balmore Pines Ln.

#### Cornelius



16505 Jetton Road - \$3,995,000

WATERFRONT

#### The Peninsula



16909 Flying Jib Road - \$695,000

#### The Peninsula



18927 Peninsula Club Drive - \$959,000

GOLF COURSE

#### The Peninsula



17304 Jetton Road - \$749,900

GOLF COURSE

#### The Peninsula



17606 Westward Reach Road - \$2,749,000

WATERFRONT

#### The Peninsula



18118 Sunset Cove Lane - \$639,900

BOAT SLIP

#### The Peninsula



16504 Pelican Point Lane - \$669,000

GOLF COURSE

#### The Peninsula



17131 Green Dolphin Lane - \$620,000

GOLF COURSE

#### The Peninsula



18824 Balmore Pines Lane - \$1,275,000

WATERFRONT

#### Wrights Emerald Cove



20627 Queensdale Drive - \$775,000

#### The Peninsula



18830 Peninsula Cove Lane - \$669,000

GOLF COURSE

#### The Peninsula



18208 Moorings View Cove - \$834,500

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## Home Sales

### HOMES from page 14

Weber, 7322 Swansea Ln.  
6/18/14 \$153,000 Stephen & Julie Plumb to Timothy & Kristie Cocrane, 9712 Bailey Rd.  
6/18/14 \$112,000 Shawn & Lauren Kowsky to Jeremy Buttermann, Kenneth Buttermann, Lot 97 Bldg. 23 of Caldwell Station  
6/19/14 \$575,000 Richard Myers to David & Kimberly Ritchie, 18010 Lochcarron Ln.  
6/19/14 \$1,495,000 David & Kimberly Ritchie, to Richard & Vicki Ratliff, 18900 Balmore Pines Ln.  
6/19/14 \$163,500 Andrea Duran to Mary Craven, 9065 Rosalyn Glen Road #82  
6/20/14 \$350,000 Progressive Property Solutions to John R. Bradford III, 21523 Baltic Dr.  
6/23/14 \$205,000 Katherine & Troy Smith to Kathleen Bajart, 8817 Washam Potts Rd.  
6/24/14 \$242,500 NVR Inc. to Andrew & Kelly Johnson, 22353 Market St.  
6/24/14 \$585,000 Marcus & Deanna Pelucio to Daymond & Rose Ann Cox, Lot 36 The Peninsula  
6/24/14 \$216,500 Benidetto & Joann Ferracane to Scott & Alison Hume, 18624 Victoria Bay Dr.  
6/25/14 \$129,500 Dennis & Stacy Martin to Marylyn Roberts, 18709 Nautical Dr.  
6/25/14 \$178,000 Matthew & Jamie Lreci



6/13/14 \$215,000, 19819 Lamp Lighters Way

to WGH North Carolina LLC, 22524 Heritage Green  
6/26/14 \$460,000 Ranelle Warfield to Elizabeth Speller & Timothy Case, 7623 Vistaview Dr.  
6/26/14 \$439,000 Keith & Cherie Pickett to Alan & Elizabeth Rudd, 17807 Prescott Border Dr.  
6/26/14 \$286,000 Wayman Jr. & Wendy Armstrong to Andrew & Jeanine Eisle, 10521 Quartier Dr.  
6/27/14 \$160,000 Jennifer Torres to Mat-

thew & Kristina Guthrie, 10239 Danesway Ln.  
6/27/14 \$695,000 Guenther & Karen Hartfeil to Stephanie & Timothy Beale, 16909 Flyng Jib Rd.  
6/27/14 \$860,000 Edwards & Dorothy Jensen to Neville & Vivienne Paynter, 21323 Norman Shores Dr.  
6/27/14 \$180,000 S&J Properties LLC to

See HOMES, Page 18



6/17/14 \$635,000, 20514 Rio Oro Dr.

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### Crown Harbor Waterfront

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\$ 3,100,000

### Waterfront Villa

Waterfront villa remodeled with the finest materials carefully chosen for a most elegant look. Wide range lake views over pool & spa. Double entry doors, LaCornue 5 burner range, 2 Meile DW, Miele beverage center. Custom cabinetry throughout, custom tile work in all 4 full baths & kitchen. Travertine flrs, Brazilian cherry HDWDS, elegant lighting. 4 car garage. Pier w/boat lift. MLS# 3020614 Agents: Lori Ivester Jackson

\$ 2,350,000



### Cornelius Waterfront

Fantastic updated Cornelius waterfront with great casual chic flair. Waterside kitchen w/ Wolf appliance package and rich walnut cabinetry. 2 master suites. Elevator, flagstone terrace & screened porch overlooking resort style pool & spa, complete w/ shoreline covered gazebo. Guest apartment over garage with gourmet kitchen, private bd/ba, & terrace. MLS# 2207654 Agent: Lori Ivester Jackson/Reed Jackson

\$ 2,249,900



### Cornelius Waterfront

Stunning lakefront stone and stucco tudor style home. Gourmet kitchen with huge island, coffered ceiling living room with fireplace. Lake level family room with stone fireplace and entertainment area. Pier and covered gazebo. Room for a pool. MLS# 3000281 Agent: Lori Ivester Jackson

\$ 1,790,000



### The Peninsula Waterfront

Unrivaled Peninsula location perfectly situated between the 9th fairway and shores of Lake Norman. Water views & natural lighting from this open floor plan. AI fresco dining on private loggia. Master on main, updated kitchen & baths. Private pier & boardwalk, Stone & stucco exterior. MLS#3022220 Agent: Lori Ivester Jackson

\$ 1,375,000



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## Home Sales

### HOMES from page 16

FREO North Carolina LLC, 18904 Harbor Cover Ln.

6/30/14 \$179,000 Michael & Hayley Morgan to Joshua Freeman, 9414 Jornada Ln.

6/30/14 \$114,000 David & Lynn Foster to Mary-Anne Stephens-Shook, Unit 35 Wood Duck Cove

6/30/14 \$177,000 Douglas & Brenda Finley to American Homes 4 Rent Properties Nine LLC, 20008 Coral Cove Ct.

6/30/14 \$155,000 Sabrina & Jeffrey Crum to Mary Ann Osganian, 18832 Nautical Dr. #45

7/1/14 \$432,500 Christopher Deke to Elizabeth & Shannon Phillips, 21620 Scottcrest Cir.

7/1/14 \$140,000 Daniel Ahrens & Stacy Maynor to Lauren Barringer, 18620 Bonham Ln.

7/1/14 \$332,000 South Creek Homes to Dominic & Janet Spain, 18414 Neville Ave.

7/1/14 \$330,000 Clyde & Johnnie Harris to Cathy Purewal, 20222 Middletown Rd.

7/1/14 \$427,000 Kristina Christopher to Jeanmarie & Jason Resener, 17403 Summer Place Dr.

7/1/14 \$197,500 Marcell Halsey & Joe Bost to Robert Sr. & Carolyn Young, 8922 Washam Potts Rd.

7/2/14 \$85,000 Estes of Ashley Norris Jr. to Kaitlin Weldon, 7602 Woods Ln. #23



6/27/14 \$860,000, 21323 Norman Shores Dr.

7/2/14 \$715,000 David & Deborah Spencer to Lynne Rapport, 18033 Lochcarron Ln.

7/2/14 \$215,000 Eugene & Sandra Dacus to Jeffrey & Geraldine Rothman, 18431

Train State Dr.

7/3/14 \$253,000 South Creek Homes to Janet Hirsch, 18123 Coutler Pkwy.

7/3/14 \$374,000 South Creek Homes to

Gregg & Maia Bottemiller, 18323 Glenealy Dr.

7/3/14 \$245,000 Landks Reed Homes to Angela Shrum, 17119 Lake Path Dr.

7/3/14 \$325,000 John & Ann Brunk to Justin Murphy, 19511 Dufour Ct.

#### Davidson

6/16/14 \$610,000 Terest George Marshall to Matthew & Lori Nelson, 19406 Overleaf Ln.

6/16/14 \$323,500 MI Homes to George Marshall, 13511 Davidson Place Dr.

6/17/14 \$435,000 Stephany & Guy Cavallo to Mark & Jennifer Higdon, 19014 Cypress Garden Dr.

6/23/14 \$469,000 JCB Urban Co. to Lesi & Stuart Jonap, 1214 Samuel Spencer Pkwy.

6/23/14 \$435,000 Frances Cross to Jacob & Kelly Grathwohl, 18738 Greyton Ln.

6/24/14 \$573,000 Scott & Dawne Chambers to Howard III & Lisa Clark, 18425 Indian Oak Ln.

6/25/14 \$445,500 David & Monica Adams to Christopher & Catherine Curry, 13267 Robert Walker Dr.

See HOMES, Page 20

For home sales as far back as December 2008, search transactions at

www.corneliustoday.com

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## Home Sales



6/13/14 \$605,000, 20919 Island Forest Dr.

### HOMES from page 18

6/26/14 \$1,100,000 James & Lisa Brueggemann to Pal & Emily Duke, 920 Martindale Ln.

6/27/14 \$325,000 Dale & Laurie Gillmore to John & Niki McGowan, 18610 Silent Falls Cove

7/2/14 \$284,000 Trustees of Davidson College to Graham & Sally Bullock, 160 Morrison Hill Dr.

7/2/14 \$254,000 James & Sarah Sloan to John Rose 373 Armour St.

### FORECLOSURES

Foreclosure actions have been started on the following properties. Items show the date, owners, property address, lien holder, lien amount. After required notices are published, the property is sent to auction. The property then can be sold, not sold (examples: bankruptcy files or action dismissed without prejudice) or the sale postponed.



6/23/14 \$469,000, 1214 Samuel Spencer Pkwy.

## Town News



The intersection at Catawba Avenue and Hwy 21 is among the top nine transportation projects in Cornelius

## Transportation consultant ranks road projects for Town Board

BY DAVE VIESER

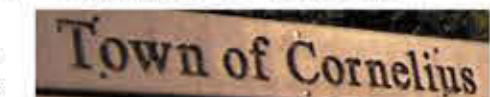
A draft analysis ranking nine Cornelius transportation projects to be paid for with previously approved bond money was unveiled at the Town Board's July 21st meeting. The analysis, prepared by the town's consultant, Parsons Brinckerhoff, rated improvements at the intersections of Highway 21/Westmoreland Road and Bailey Road/Highway 115 as having the most potential benefit, under a formula devised by the consultant.

The nine projects examined by the consultant had been selected earlier this year by the town board. Major projects, such as the widening of I-77, the widening of West Catawba Avenue and improvements to the 21/Catawba intersection, were not included in the analysis since they would be funded by the state.

Overall project rankings were based on a benefit/cost ratio comprised of 80 percent operations, 15 percent connectivity and 5 percent safety. In some instances, the higher cost of certain projects lowered their overall ranking.

It was the first time the commissioners had seen the analysis. "I don't see too many things here that are overly exciting to me," said Town Commissioner Dave Gilroy. "Did we miss something more radical or dramatic? Perhaps something to address the East Catawba Avenue congestion."

Mayor Chuck Travis took a more reserved view. "Keep in mind we identified these projects, just not the rankings. I'd like our residents to also review this analysis, as the board will



do, and then we will seek public input on them." The analysis is posted on the town's web site, [www.cornelius.org](http://www.cornelius.org), under the July 21 agenda.

The total estimated cost of all nine projects is \$14.4 million. To keep the work within the scope of the first phase of the bonds, the consultant recommended doing the top-rated intersection project, along with the extension of Gem Street, Floral Lane, and Hickory Street, at an estimated cost of \$5.43 million.

Town Manager Anthony Roberts says that, under the schedule previously discussed with the town's financial experts and bond counsel, the optimum time for the bonds to be issued would be January of next year, and again in 2019.



Bailey Road and Hwy 115

### Top nine projects

1 Improvements, such as added turning lanes, to the 21/Westmoreland and Bailey/115 intersections.

2 Gem Street extension to Oak Street.

3 Extension of Floral Lane to Statesville Road.

4 Smithville Lane Extension to Statesville Road

5 Bailey Road re-alignment, eliminating major curve.

6 Hickory Street extension

7 Holiday Lane Extension

8 Holiday Lane-Ferry Street connector

9 Adding turning lanes on Catawba Ave. between Hwys. 21 and 115.

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 MLS 2194164 - \$210,000

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## Fix set for traffic signal at Westmoreland, Catawba

BY DAVE VIESER

A new traffic signal, accompanied by walk/don't walk signs, installed six months late at the West Catawba/Westmoreland Road intersection, was still not operating properly during July, contributing to extra congestion on a route already overused due to the Exit 28 construction. After being contacted by Cornelius Today, DOT officials promised that the two new loops installed with the signal which are faulty would be replaced before the end of the month.

"The loops should be in by July 25th" said Laura Jean, DOT Signal Operations Engineer. "It could be earlier depending on the weather, but the slot and pavement have to be dry to be fixed and the work has to be done at night due to the high traffic volumes in the area."

Town officials, already disappointed by thorny DOT-related issues around both Exit 28 construction and the I-77 toll lane proposal, were beginning to lose their patience.



"It's unfortunate that the intersection timing and pedestrian improvements have not been operating optimally" said Assistant Town Manager Andrew Grant.



GRANT

Commissioner Dave Gilroy chose to take a more philosophical approach in response to the delay. "It's an unforced error for sure. Yet, at the end of the day, we are in an unavoidable 'short-term pain' period, with 'long-term gain' to come before long."

The new signal, along with an extra turning lane, and walk buttons, were actually supposed to be



New walk/don't walk signs and push buttons were installed but not activated

installed last fall but had to be delayed due the failure of AT&T to relocate their utility poles before the winter weather set in.

Town commissioners were hopeful that the entire project would have been completed long before the DDI rerouting began this June.



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Dining table with custom finish added post manufacturing

## New furniture store plans to double to 20,000 sq. ft.

You may have noticed a new furniture store in town as it has been around for a few months now. The Pick-It Furniture Company officially opened their doors for business in March this year, and their storefront is located at 21348 Catwba Ave in Cornelius. Just because this store hasn't been open very long doesn't mean they aren't in it for the long haul. Owner Angelina Denet has worked in the furniture industry for over twenty years. She previously founded The Purple Pick-It in Charlotte before starting her new endeavor in Cornelius. Their current store opened with 10,000 square feet of furnishings on display and they are expanding quickly. Soon they will be opening an additional 10,000 square feet in the warehouse next door.

The store's goal is to provide the best selection of unique and interesting pieces at great price all under one roof. Owner Angelina Denet hand picks all furniture for sale in her store from makers in North Carolina, Virginia, Texas, and California. The pieces may be showroom samples, discontinued items, or factory returns that have been repaired to new condition so she can provide her customers the Rolls-Royce of furniture at amazing prices. Brands she often carries include Bernhardt, Drexel,

Henredon, Thomasville, Turning House, and more.

The Pick-It can customize any piece to make it one-of-a-kind. For example, Denet might "pick" the top of a piece from one manufacturer and pair it with a bottom from a different manufacturer. They then could add a custom glaze finish post-manufacturing. For example, the store has a small dining table for sale that could also double as a large writing desk. The top was originally intended to be a coffee table by one manufacturer but Denet thought it would look better as a dining table so she added new legs and a glass overlay on top. If a customer is looking for something specific, The Pick-It can find it. The next time you are looking for that special piece to complete your space, stop by The Pick-It in Cornelius or check out their Facebook page "The Pick-It Cornelius" for new pieces coming into the store.

Jamie McNeilis is an Accredited Staging Professional and owner of Centerpiece Home Staging in Cornelius. Email Jamie at Jamie.McNeilis@CenterpieceHomeStaging.com for home decorating and improvement topics you would like covered in Home Decor



## Marine Report



Davidson Water Works jutting into Lake Norman at Torrence Chapel Road.

## Familiar sight to boaters on Lake Norman will remain for now

BY DAVE VIESER

Known informally as the Davidson Water Works, the giant pumps and equipment jutting into Lake Norman at the end of Torrence Chapel Road have been guides to boaters for years.

Charlotte Mecklenburg Utilities (CMUD) Director Barry Gullet recently told the Cornelius Town Board that the facility "could be a critical asset in the future. In addition, dismantling it would be no small feat."

Despite some rumors over the years that the water works may be coming down and the valuable waterfront property on which they are situated sold, officials from CMUD, which handles water and water treatment for the entire northern Mecklenburg County region, say that's just not true.

For the moment, CMUD's only plans for the facility are maintaining it just as is, and that's welcome news for many Lake Norman recreational boaters.

"The first visual landmark I learned to recognize after we moved here were those water works" said Cornelius resident Rod Beard. "When I would see it, I knew I was heading in the right direction to reach places like Rusty Rudder, North Harbor Club and Reeds Creek or Channel D."

## Marine REPORT

CMUD's Cam Coley dug through the departments' history documents and noted that the Davidson Water Works was actually an old intake facility built many years earlier to serve Davidson and Cornelius. "It was still in use until 1998 when CMUD was able to bring the Lee S. Dukes Water Treatment Plant online to serve Huntersville, Cornelius and Davidson."

The Dukes Plant is located on Babe Stilwell Road in Huntersville. Water from Lake Norman is gravity-fed to this treatment plant, which will eventually be able to produce up to 108 million gallons of water per day, almost six times the plant's original treatment capacity.

So, although the intakes are currently not being used, they will remain a true navigator's guide for the foreseeable future.

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Senior News

Pet care in the summer heat

Petunia, Tippy, Heidi, Angel, Hart, Midnight, Juniper. I think that's all of them. My beloved pets—two dogs and five cats—captured my heart from my childhood to now. They all have gone, except for Juniper who lives with me now. She is a tuxedo tabby who basically tells me exactly what she wants, when and where. For the most part, I acquiesce to her whims, lest I get scratched and/or bitten. But not all the time. She is a good companion, and even comical at times.

And, oh yes, I forgot to tell you, she isn't even mine! You know those times when one of your children ask you to keep their animal just for a short while? That was 10 years ago! However, I am not complaining. Juniper does belong to my daughter, but in exchange, I get free vet care

for the rest of Juniper's life. Why? My daughter is a veterinarian.

With the summertime comes reports of people leaving their beloved pets in their cars or outdoors often with tragic results. So I asked my favorite vet, just what should we do to protect our pets in this heat.

Dr. Kathleen Ahern gave me some valuable tips that I want to pass on to you. Many of them are common sense, like being sure they have access to shade or a cool place to rest and plenty of water. Also, be sure to walk our animals early morning or later in the evening. Be sure to use a leash lest they get away from you and can't find shelter nor water. Another thing to think of is to be sure their tags are up to date and have your name and number on them, and having a microchip is a good way to go.

Walking on hot pavement can burn their feet and watch out for those puddles that they snatch a drink from. You have no idea what may be in that water



Joanne Ahern  
Seniors Columnist



Make sure your pets have access to shade or a cool place to rest and plenty of water

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so stay clear of them and offer your dog water from a known source.

Do you know the symptoms of heat stroke in your pet? According to "Dr. Kat," as she is known where she practices, you should be on the lookout for bright red gums, extremely heavy panting, excessive drooling, weakness and balance problems. Should you observe these signs, contact your vet immediately, which reminds me, do you have your vet's phone number in your cell phone?

If you have a summer garden or take care of your lawn, you may have some sprays and insecticides in your garage or shed. It's a good bet that they are toxic so be sure to keep them out of reach of your pet. When a pet is thirsty, it doesn't know the difference between fresh water and a toxic fluid. However, if ingested, your animal can vomit, have diarrhea, which can lead to dehydration. Summer heat makes dehydration worse, and if not taken care of, severe dehydration can lead to...well, you know, and that's the very last thing you want.

Here's one I didn't know. If your dog or cat is Brachycephalic it may be more prone to heat stroke than other ones.

Brachycephalic refers to animals with snub noses, such as Pekingese, pugs and bulldogs. They have a hard time staying cool because they can't pant efficiently. Elderly, very young, and ill animals have a hard time regulating their body temperature, so make sure they stay cool and out of the sun on steamy summer days. And, overweight dogs are also more prone to overheating, because their extra layers of fat act as insulation, which traps heat in their bodies and restricts their breathing capabilities.

You need to be very vigilant if your animal has diabetes, epilepsy, arthritis or any other abnormal conditions as they can be at greater risk in the heat because of their special needs.

As pet owners, we have a responsibility to care for them since they are dependent on us for their care and wellbeing. In the words of Dr. Kat, "Hot dogs are for BBQ's. Keep your buddy out of the heat."

*Joanne Ahern is the director of North Mecklenburg Senior Center Inc., a United Way Agency. You can reach her at 704-875-1270.*

CORNELIUSCooks

Carla Hord shares her famous lasagna recipe

BY MATTHEW NEWMAN

Carla Hord is known by friends and family as one of the best cooks in Cornelius. In fact, the Hords rarely go out to eat. Instead they enjoy the wide variety of foods that Hord loves making and serving.

She and her husband Dr. David Hord, long-time Patrick's Purchase residents, have three children: A rising junior at Hough High School, a rising freshman at Hough High School and one rising fourth grader at Cornelius Elementary.

Hord's hobbies include biking, needlepoint, running, reading, and cooking; however, she hasn't had much time to pursue some of these in recent years.

"My hobbies have fallen a bit to the wayside in order to help my kids in whatever they're doing," she says. "Not that that's a bad thing—I tend to enjoy being a part of most of the things my children are involved in."

The graduate of the University of Prince Edward Island and its school of nursing is also heavily involved with church (the family attends Lake Norman Baptist), youth ministry, and the



Carla Hord at home in her kitchen

various PTAs of her children's schools. She discovered a love for cooking in college, and cultivated it with the help of her husband's mother. One of her favorite dishes is this recipe for lasagna, loosely based on a 40-year-old recipe

from McCall's magazine.

**Why do you like this dish?**

"The family connections that stem from it. I'm from Canada, and my husband is from California, so the relatives are spread out across the map. It really

has allowed us to bond together, despite the distance. It's a good dish for family get-togethers and things like that, and can also be adapted. People can put different ingredients in it to suit their tastes, and it's just a great dish for everyone to enjoy together."

**How long does it take to prepare?**

"Because of the sauce, cooking takes 2-3 hours, while assembly takes about 30 minutes."

**When do you like to serve it?**

"Family gatherings and when I'm entertaining large numbers of people. It's also become a tradition for us to serve it on Christmas Eve."



More recipes served up online:  
[www.CorneliusToday.com](http://www.CorneliusToday.com)

CARLA HORD'S FAMOUS LASAGNA

Ingredients		
Lean hamburger, can add pork or Italian sausage	Fresh or packaged basil	½ tsp. of pepper
Fresh parsley or Italian parsley	1 large and 1 small can of tomatoes	Wide lasagna noodles
Chopped onion	12 oz. of tomato paste	Mozzarella cheese
Chopped garlic	1 tbsp. of sugar	Ricotta cheese
	1 tbsp. of salt	Parmesan cheese
		Olive oil

Directions	
To prepare sauce: Sauté onions, garlic, and parsley in olive oil. Sauté the fresh basil if it is being used. Brown the meat. Add these to a heavy bottomed sauce pot with tomatoes, paste, and seasonings. Simmer softly for 3 hours, stirring occasionally.	and reduce heat once it reboils and simmer gently until noodles are done. Too much and they will fall apart. Add a little olive oil to prevent boiling over.
Once sauce is made, arrange in a deep rectangular baking pan/dish: Spray will with Pam, and sprinkle olive oil over the bottom. Then layer in this order:	1.) Sauce 2.) Noodles 3.) Ricotta 4.) Mozzarella 5.) Parmesan
Add lasagna noodles one at a time to salted boiling water,	Repeat 3 times, ending with Parmesan
	Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Cook for 30 minutes or until the sauce starts bubbling in the dish.



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## Focus on Business



At MoJo's: Shane Smith and Alex Cruz at the bar

Photo by Matthew Newman

## MoJo's Grill & Pub hopes to satisfy appetite for pub fare

BY MATTHEW NEWMAN

It looks like MoJo's Grill and Pub has ended a long streak of failed eateries and pubs in 4,500 square feet of space next to the Days Inn in Cornelius.

And there aren't too many cooks in the kitchen when it comes to business know-how. Owners Alex Cruz and Shane Smith say they have 25

unpaid advisors who provide insight and wisdom.

"We want to surround ourselves with people who are more successful than we are," Cruz said, standing in what was once the Smokin Guns Bar & Grill.

Cruz and Smith reopened the 124-seat restaurant in February with \$100,000 of their own money, plenty

of their own mojo, as well as some of their own catering equipment. MoJo's broke even almost immediately, Cruz said.

"We don't struggle," Cruz declared. "We knew exactly what it took to run the restaurant when we opened it. We were able to make up for fiscal costs with things we already owned."

Cruz and Smith kept a lid on renovation expenses by doing some of the work themselves. They also maximize the square footage by operating virtually two businesses in the same space.

The two run Creative Catering out of the same kitchen. They open MoJo's at 4 p.m. to catch the pub and dinner crowd.

Smith is well-known in the Cornelius restaurant world; his friends call the former sous chef at The Peninsula Club "Big Diesel." Smith also helped train staffers at 131 Main.

Cruz said there's a strong dinner crowd each night. After about 10 p.m. the regular crowd shuffles in to the bar.

The pub-style offerings include mushroom and swiss burgers as well as daily drink specials.

## Focus on Business

### New Corporations

These corporations have registered with the N.C. Secretary of State

#### Cornelius

6/18/14 Carwash2you LLC, Robert B. Newkirk III, 19810 W. Catawba Ave.

6/18/14 CNT Cares Inc., Adam G. Breeding, 9606 Bailey Rd., Ste. 260

6/18/14 Sierra Home Solutions LLC, Anibal Cesar Tessari, 8725 Creek Trail Ln., Apt. 406

6/19/14 Covenant Architectural Systems LLC, Jose Javier Morales, 19325 Barnette Ave.

6/19/14 Gold Miner's Ventures Inc., John F. Hanzel, 19425-G Liverpool Pkwy.

6/20/14 Byrum's Corner LLC, John F. Hanzel, 19425 G. Liverpool Pkwy.

6/20/14 Dockside Holdings LLC, Michael F. Foess, 10602 Bailey Rd., Ste. D

6/20/14 GT Home Services LLC, Taylor A. McGee, 10518 Glenmeade Rd.

6/20/14 Montrose Properties LLC, Michael F. Foess, 10602 Bailey Rd., Ste. D

6/20/14 Sterb & Associates Inc., Steven Porter, 20318 Northport Dr.

6/23/14 Avista Retail & Development LLC, Joanna Bost, 21216 Pecan St.

6/23/14 Foldcor Colombiao Charlotte, Nathalia A. Raigosa, 10117 Caldwell Depot Rd.

6/23/14 Lockland Ventures LLC, Michelle Andrews, 8329 Viewpoint Ln.

6/25/14 All Go Limo LLC, Chad Drilling, 18542 W. Catawba Ave.

6/26/14 American Syndicate LLC, Kevin Wilson, 8905 Washam Potts Rd.

6/26/14 Auto Group Management LLC, Pierre Boursse, 18007 Harbor Light Blvd.

6/26/14 C.O.C. of Charlotte Inc., Lori Didonato, 9722 Willow Leaf Ln.

6/26/14 Executive Force LLC, Elizabeth Morgan, 21348 Nautique Blvd.

6/27/14 Crims.com LLC, John Francis Hanzel, 19425 G. Liverpool Pkwy.

6/27/14 Oakhurst Office LLC, Robert S. Duckworth Jr., 17818 Statesville Rd., Ste. 223

6/27/14 Pauroll Processing Fees Account LLC, Robert S. Duckworth Jr., 17818 Statesville Rd., Ste. 223



6/30/14 Best Sleep Mattress LLC, Timothy L. Reid, 9216-B Westmoreland Rd.

6/30/14 Milano Pizza & Grill Inc., Ali Alaimi, 18059 W. Catawba Ave., Unit 8

6/30/14 Scepter Outreach, Joyce Koshy, 16501 Green Dolphin Ln.

7/1/14 Crimscreen.com LLC, John F. Hanzel, 19425 Liverpool Pkwy., Ste. G

#### Davidson

6/18/14 Start-Up Smart LLC, Bradley Kyle Davis, 19927 River Falls Dr.

6/19/14 Reeves Temple AME Zion Church Inc., Ronald Donaldson, 213 Watson St.

6/20/14 Annie Lewis Event Planning LLC, Annie Lewis, 241 Faust Rd.

6/25/14 Peaceful Self Deliverance America Inc., Dan Carrigan, 111 Potts St.

6/27/14 RDD 2.0 LLC, Michael J. Greene, 130 Harbour Place Dr., Ste. 310

7/1/14 Insurance Finance Company LLC, Tim Wahl, 14707 June Washam Rd.

7/1/14 Maldo LLC, Drew A. Richards, 215 S. Main St., Ste. 301

7/1/14 Sunday Union LLC, Shawn A. Copeland, 215 S. Main St., Ste. 301

7/1/14 Withering Heights LLC, Michael L. Orlando, 215 South Main St., Ste. 306

7/3/14 Exodus Capital LLC, Shawn A. Copeland, 215 S. Main St., Ste. 301

7/11/14 Bo' Knows Painting & Handyman LLC, Namon Freeman, 18230 Pages End

7/14/14 Fat Fish LLC, John A. Tamaro II, 225 Roundway Down

7/14/14 Giusto LLC, R.J.E. Mardus, 452 S. Main St., Ste. A

7/15/14 Owen Real Estate Investments LLC, Jeffery Eric Owen, 1916 David Rd.

More new corporation listings at [www.corneliustoday.com](http://www.corneliustoday.com)

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New branch at Food Lion: Aquesta is now the second bank on the east side

## Aquesta reports higher net; announces board of directors

Aquesta Financial Holdings, the new parent company of Aquesta Bank and Aquesta Insurance, reported second-quarter net income increased 24 percent to \$446,000, compared to net income of \$360,000 in the same year-ago quarter.

Aquesta's total assets increased to \$245.9 million at June 30 of this year, compared to \$233.9 million at the end of 2013.

Aquesta Financial's board of directors was approved shareholders. Board members are: Chairman Craig Larsen of Revita Medical, as well as Jim Borders of AC Controls Co., Aquesta CEO Jim Engel, Ginger Griffin of Cornelius-based Ginger Griffin Marketing & Design, Paul Dougovito, Brian Fletcher of Abaci Capital Advisors and Charles Knox of the Knox Group, based in Huntersville.

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soundoffcornelius@gmail.com™

Your comments and opinions



### Happy SoundOff!

"I just read the SoundOffs in the paper! Oh my gosh! It is wonderful!!!! I wish all communities would do something like this! Kudos Cornelius Today!"  
—via anonymous SoundOff contact link on [www.corneliustoday.com](http://www.corneliustoday.com)



### Questioning speed limits

"The speed limit is 45 miles an hour on Bethel Church? The road is wide, right? No pedestrians? Sidewalks on both sides? Boy Scout troop? A church people can walk to? Davidson really is pedestrian friendly. Cornelius is not."  
—via anonymous SoundOff contact form on [www.corneliustoday.com](http://www.corneliustoday.com)



### Round 3: Red Cup Boss!

"Red Cup continues to embarrass... [themselves] and our community. More and more residents are aware of this behavior. Local police have been notified... and will be on the look-out...! This... [person] needs help from A.A. and Weight Watchers."  
—via U.S. Postal Service (seriously)

#### Round 1: June Red Cup Boss

"I live in a community where our H.D.A President is always intoxicated! She walks our streets with her "Red Cup" filled with alcohol and makes a jerk of herself. She not only embarrasses herself, but us also. Please resign for our community's good!"

Editor's Note: There will not be a Round 4

#### Round 2: July In response to 'Red Cup Boss'

"Grow up and quit being such a d--- bag! If you focused on being a nicer person and stopped harassing all your neighbors, then you just might make some friends in the hood and be able to walk around with your very own red Solo cup. Really...get a life!"



"Anyone ever have to use the men's facilities at Jetton Park? Why would County Commissioners purchase "Falcon Waterless Technology advanced urinals" for an outdoor park in North Carolina? Ninety-degree days and week-old urine sitting in the bottom of a urinal. It smells like a government decision!"  
—via [soundoffcornelius@gmail.com](mailto:soundoffcornelius@gmail.com)

### You're in trouble, County Commission!



### LKN Chupacabra?

"Look what I just saw.... What is it?"  
—via [soundoffcornelius@gmail.com](mailto:soundoffcornelius@gmail.com)  
Editor's Note: We ran this by a wildlife person who said it is a fox.

### Long wait at Huntersville Presby

"Have any of you experienced what I have at Novant Hospital Huntersville? My elderly parent has to frequently go to the ER. The problem is the length of time it takes to get Medic back to transport my mother back to her home. The most recent visit to the ER took Medic more than three hours after the staff called them to arrive at the ER for transport back home. The staff tells me the northern part of Mecklenburg County is not 'High Priority.' When did Cornelius, Huntersville and Davidson become the low man on the totem pole? Do our city leaders know about this?"  
—via anonymous SoundOff link on [www.corneliustoday.com](http://www.corneliustoday.com)

### Beachin bout future Ramsey Creek traffic

"If you are tired of the Cornelius traffic in the morning, evening and all weekend, wait until our town leaders and business people who are ready to build more fast food restaurants get their way and add a beach to Ramsey Creek. It will be the closest public beach to the 17th largest population center in the country! Should we add a toll lane down Catawba to facilitate the traffic onslaught?"  
—via [soundoffcornelius@gmail.com](mailto:soundoffcornelius@gmail.com)

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Your comments and opinions

### Change for the better

"I live in Cornelius east of the I-77 bridge and work on the west side near the lake. The new interchanges over the bridge will have a very positive effect on traffic flow, and I, for one, salute the planning and effort that has gone into the project."  
—via anonymous SoundOff contact link on [www.corneliustoday.com](http://www.corneliustoday.com)



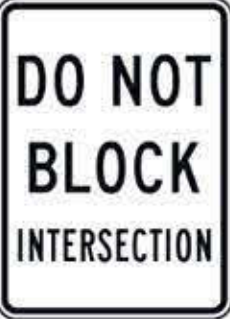
### Gridlock on Catawba

"We need to stop blocking the intersections while sitting in traffic on Catawba Avenue. Not only does it create gridlock for the regular traffic-goers, but yesterday I saw a MEDIC ambulance get stuck and have a delay in their response due to this illegal action. I hope the person who was waiting on the ambulance is OK. Good job to CLFD Engine No. 2 (I believe) who went opposing traffic in a difficult traffic situation, the DDI on the bridge."  
—via Cornelius Today's Facebook page



### First SoundOff ever to include the word meatballs

"Ah, the wonders that the new Exit 28 interchange has already bestowed upon me! It doesn't even have to be finished yet and I've already been able to learn so much! For one, I have been granted with about 50 feet of road to finally teach me what it's like to be European. ...I have really come to appreciate the bond between my car and me. I can finally melt away into the hot car seat and have a staring contest with the sun because everyone knows that line isn't moving! ...Another wondrous bit of knowledge I have gained from my experiences with Exit 28, is that intersections are only intersections as long as an interchange under construction doesn't exist and in that case, my fellow Corneliusee's, we are not fortunate. But maybe you knew that! Because let's imagine the trail of cars as that of a subway. Now, imagine the stopline at our lights as the subway station. Well, in the small town of Cornelius, let's just say a lot of subways have been missing their station lately. If the light is green, no one cares whether or not you'll make it through the intersection completely because everyone knows our exit is spaghetti with disaster meatballs anyway and the only way to get onto West Catawba before you die of insanity is to make a chain from one side of the intersection to the other. And I gotta say, that's difficult. Sorry McDonalds and Taco Bell. You ain't getting nearly the amount of business you used to. You both are like islands never to be discovered again in the abyss of traffic. Honestly, I just wanted to have a little nitpicky fun with the whole thing that's going on here in Cornelius. I only hope it will help more than hurt when it's finished because right now the spaghetti with disaster meatballs isn't appetizing. I appreciate the hard work the construction workers are putting forth in the grueling heat, especially with all of us being basically parked there on the road for 10 minutes on end as an audience for them. I love Cornelius, but I hope this interchange hasn't ruined the travel for the whole surrounding area."  
—via [soundoffcornelius@gmail.com](mailto:soundoffcornelius@gmail.com)



### Another complaint about blocking intersections

"Are the Cornelius Cops going to enforce the 'Don't Block Intersection' law or are they just going to allow people to back up traffic? It's so frustrating trying to get out of my apartment complex off of exit 28 and having a green light, but, oh, there's somebody blocking the intersection. Seriously disappointed. Enforce the laws please."  
—via anonymous contact link on [www.corneliustoday.com](http://www.corneliustoday.com)

### Avoiding Diverging Diamond

"Don't get me wrong, the new diamond pattern is really, REALLY cool....at midnight when there is no traffic... I'm speaking out of frustration because I truly know the end project will be SO cool. In the meantime, west Cornelius won't be getting my business unless it's after heavy-traffic hours. Godspeed."  
—via [soundoffcornelius@gmail.com](mailto:soundoffcornelius@gmail.com)



### Holy NOLY!

"Glad that mztake got cleared up quickly. Now if noly the long traffic lines in all directions would do the same. Haha."  
—via [soundoffcornelius@gmail.com](mailto:soundoffcornelius@gmail.com)

### ((( Speak up! )))

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