

Summer 2019

# SALISBURY

the magazine



## INFUSION COLLUSION

**Fruit, herbs add zest  
to summer drinks**

## Call of the wild

**Alessandrini makes  
award-winning turkey calls**

## State of the art

**Waterworks stays  
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## Salisbury revival

**Dulkoski, family rejuvenate  
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# SALISBURY

the magazine

**PUBLISHER** -Greg Anderson  
greg.anderson@salisburythemagazine.com

**EDITOR** -Mark Wineka  
mark.wineka@salisburythemagazine.com

**CREATIVE DIRECTOR**-Andy Mooney  
andy.mooney@salisburythemagazine.com

**PHOTOGRAPHY DIRECTOR**- Jon C. Lakey  
jon.lakey@salisburythemagazine.com

## EDITORIAL

**Josh Bergeron**  
josh.bergeron@salisburythemagazine.com  
**Andie Foley**  
andie.foley@salisburythemagazine.com  
**Liz Moomey**  
liz.moomey@salisburythemagazine.com  
**Deirdre Parker Smith**  
deirdre.smith@salisburythemagazine.com  
**Shavonne Walker**  
shavonne.walker@salisburythemagazine.com

## ADVERTISING

**Audrey Eudy**  
audrey.eudy@salisburythemagazine.com  
**Joel Honeycutt**  
joel.honeycutt@salisburythemagazine.com  
**Malynda Peeler**  
malynda.peeler@salisburythemagazine.com  
**Shanna Pruett**  
shanna.pruett@salisburythemagazine.com  
**Jason Slusser**  
jason.slusser@salisburythemagazine.com

## PRODUCTION

**Susan Baker**  
susan.baker@salisburythemagazine.com  
**Lisa Jean Humphrey**  
lisa.humphrey@salisburythemagazine.com

## CONTRIBUTORS

Elizabeth Cook, Wayne Hinshaw,  
Sean Meyers, Samuel Motley,  
Kris Mueller, Sacred Heart  
Catholic Church, Susan Shinn Turner,  
Ben White

**Project Manager** -Len Clark  
len.clark@salisburythemagazine.com

**On the web:**  
www.salisburythemagazine.com

**On Facebook:**  
www.facebook.com/salisburythemagazine

**To subscribe**  
call 704-797-4213 or go online at  
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# African-American history waits around every corner

Earlier this spring, The Pedal Factory in Salisbury organized a Sunday afternoon bicycle ride through Salisbury that highlighted some of the city's rich African-American history.

Before the cyclists took off, P.J. Ricks made some introductory remarks, confiding she was old enough to have known “most of the people and places you will go by and see that are relevant to our black history.”

One person she surely knew was her godfather and the man who gave her away in marriage, Wiley I. Lash, who had a grocery store at 129 E. Council St. As a girl, Ricks would walk to the Lash store after school and stay there until it was time to go home.

The Lash family had four grocery stores, but beyond Wiley's business acumen, he rose to prominence as a member of the Negro Civic League and worked tirelessly in his adult years to break down barriers of segregation in schools and business.

He served on the school board for 15 years, then won election to Salisbury City Council, eventually becoming the city's first black mayor. You probably know that several things in Salisbury are named for him.

Ricks said Lash was like a duck on water. He seemed to float serenely on the surface, but underneath his legs were furiously at work.

“When he talked, everybody listened,” Ricks said. “It was a true honor to have known Wiley Lash.”

Ricks noted depictions of Lash and several other African-Americans she knew as well are on the city mural along West Fisher Street and that the Sunday cyclists would be pedaling by the spot where his store once stood.

Which leads me to Salisbury's African-American Heritage Trail, a part of which is included in this issue. If you want to combine exercise and history, just visiting the downtown spots on the trail is a great way to spend an afternoon.

With summer breathing down our necks, it also might be a good time for refreshment in the form of fruit- and herb-infused drinks that Deirdre Parker Smith tells us about in the Food section.

Contributing writer Kris Mueller takes us to the golf course, detailing how Derron Dulkoski and his family have turned things around at the Crescent — so much so that the name has changed to The Revival at the Crescent Golf Club.

You'll also want to head into the outdoors after reading the story about Rick Alessandrini's nationally award-winning expertise in making turkey calls, a story I wish I would have held for the Thanksgiving edition.

As for art of another fashion, this issue pays a visit to Waterworks Visual Arts Center, which routinely offers first-class exhibitions and first-rate educational courses for youth and adults.

In our At Home story, Elizabeth Cook reveals all the detailed planning Josh and Amanda

Drechsler put into their new house in Cleveland. And don't miss Ben White's sit-down with the core musicians who make up the popular local group Motel Soap.

Shavonne Walker gives us a quick Q&A with our Rowan Original, Sheriff Kevin Auten. And our thanks to Joe Heilig for supplying one of his drawings for Salisbury's the Place.

We're like that duck on the water — serene on the surface, but feverishly working underneath to bring you this 35th edition of Salisbury the Magazine. Now take on the summer.



**Mark Wineka,**  
*Editor, Salisbury the Magazine*

through the lens | by jon c. lakey



*Mary and Todd Rosser's second-floor  
storeroom at The Pedal Factory reveals  
this tangle of spokes.*



# Summer offers more than beach reads

*It's the peak season for romance novels, additions to series, thrillers and cozy mysteries, but there's more out there than that.*

## "Courting Mr. Lincoln"

By Louis Bayard

Bayard's latest offering was a May Indie Next Pick and Apple Books best of the month for April.

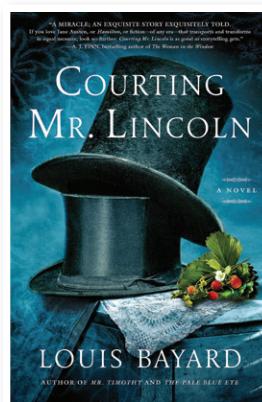
*"A miracle; an exquisite story exquisitely told. If you love Jane Austen, or Hamilton, or fiction — of any era — that transports and transforms in equal measure, look no further. Courting Mr. Lincoln is as good as storytelling gets."*

— A.J. Finn, bestselling author of *"The Woman in the Window."*

When Mary Todd meets Abraham Lincoln in Springfield in the winter of 1840, he is on no one's short list to be president. A country lawyer living above a dry goods shop, he is lacking

both money and manners, and his gift for oratory surprises those who meet him. Mary, a quick, self-possessed debutante with an interest in debates and elections, at first finds him an enigma. "I can only hope," she tells his roommate, the handsome, charming Joshua Speed, "that his waters being so very still, they also run deep."

It's not long, though, before she sees the Lincoln that Speed knows: an amiable, profound man who, despite his awkwardness, has a gentle wit to match his genius, and who respects her keen political mind. But as her relationship with Lincoln deepens, she must confront his insepa-

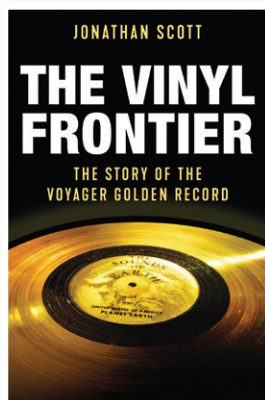


rable friendship with Speed, who has taught his roommate how to dance, dress, and navigate the polite society of Springfield.

Told in the alternating voices of Mary Todd and Joshua Speed, and inspired by historical events, *"Courting Mr. Lincoln"* creates a sympathetic and complex portrait of Mary unlike any that has come before; a moving portrayal of the deep and very real connection between the two men; and most of all, an evocation of the unformed man who would grow into one of the nation's most beloved presidents. Bayard, a master storyteller, delivers here a page-turning tale of love, longing and forbidden possibilities.

## "The Vinyl Frontier: The Story of the Voyager Golden Record"

By Jonathan Scott



Music journalist and Record Collector contributor Scott creates a high-energy, interplanetary pop song of a book devoted to the six-week project led by Carl Sagan and astrophysicist Frank Drake in 1977 to create a playlist of music and sounds to accompany NASA's Voyager probe into space.

Scott, who acknowledges he is more of an expert on mixtapes than astronomy, proves an enthusiastic and upbeat guide through the universe of bureaucratic red tape, tight deadlines and romantic entanglements that revolved around the compilation effort.

His thoroughly researched account draws on interviews with and unpublished writings by Voyager Record team members to explain the decision-making process behind various inclusions, including Chuck Berry's rock 'n' roll standard "Johnny B. Goode" — picked when the other pop song in contention, the Beatles' "Here Comes the Sun," proved unconscionably expensive — and legendary bluesman Blind Willie Johnson's "Dark Is the Night," "arguably the most haunting sound on the record," for which team member and famed ethnomusicologist Alan Lomax lobbied.

Scott summarizes the story best as being "about an awesome band of ordinary yet exceptional individuals who created a wonderful yet genuinely weird monument."

Delivered with effortless grace, this buoyant look at one of NASA's most unusual but oft-overlooked efforts will appeal to music fans and astronomy buffs alike.

## "The Nickel Boys"

By Colson Whitehead

"As it had ever been with Nickel, no one believed them until someone else said it," Whitehead (*"The Underground Railroad"*) writes in the present-day prologue to this story, in which construction workers have dug up what appears to be a secret graveyard on the grounds of the juvenile reform school the Nickel Academy in Jackson County, Fla.

Five decades prior, Elwood Curtis, a deeply principled, straight-A high school student from Tallahassee, Fla., who partakes in civil rights demonstrations against Jim Crow laws and was about to start taking classes at the local black college before being erroneously detained by police, has just arrived at Nickel. Elwood finds that, at odds with Nickel's upstanding reputation in the community, the staff is callous and corrupt, and the boys — especially the black boys — suffer from near-constant physical, verbal and sexual abuse.

Elwood befriends the cynical Turner, whose adolescent experiences of violence have made him deeply skeptical of the objectivity of justice. Elwood and Turner's struggles to survive and maintain their personhood are interspersed with chapters from Elwood's adult life, showing how the physical and emotional toll of his time at Nickel still affects him. Inspired by horrific events that transpired at the real-life Dozier School for Boys, Whitehead's brilliant examination of America's history of violence is a stunning novel of impeccable language and startling insight. *Publication date July 16.*



## rowan originals

Of the many people who influenced Rowan Sheriff Kevin Auten's law enforcement career, two people stand out — the late Sheriff Bob Martin and retired Capt. Jerry Davis.

Martin gave Auten, who has been with the Rowan County Sheriff's Office for nearly 32 years, his start in law enforcement.

"He took a chance on me by hiring me in 1987," Auten said.

Auten, who is a Rowan County native, initially had no inkling to go into law enforcement, nor had anyone in his family ever been in law enforcement. In fact, he was floundering in life between odd jobs and chose a career that would parallel his now ex-wife, who was entering law school.

"He taught me so much that I still use today," Auten said of Martin.

He said Martin was an amazing instructor who versed him on "Elements of Criminal Law," all without relying on the book. He added that many of Martin's former students may recall that Martin was so skilled he knew the textbook by heart.

As for Jerry Davis, Auten said he schooled him on how to deal with people while performing his duties.

"He taught me the common sense way of dealing with citizens and their issues," he said.

Auten has been sheriff since November 2009 after replacing then-retiring Sheriff George Wilhelm. In the most recent election, Auten ran unopposed and will continue this term through 2022.

Salisbury the Magazine recently caught up with Auten, a Rowan Original, for a quick Q&A:



# Man with the star

*Sheriff Kevin Auten goes under interrogation.*

Written by **Shavonne Walker** | Photography by **Jon C. Lakey**

## **Q.** *What is the most enjoyable part about being sheriff in Rowan County?*

I enjoy serving the people. I am eligible to retire with full benefits, but I still enjoy going to work. I probably like watching our youth grow and develop the most.

## *How has being from Rowan County helped you in your career as a sheriff?*

I believe being from Rowan County and having lived here my whole life has helped me tremendously. It has given me the insight into many topics. It helps you understand the problems and issues that the county has seen in the past. It also helps me understand what resources are available to our citizens, as well as what resources are not available.

## *How do you get through the difficult days, when the jail is overcrowded, people call to complain, and there is murder and mayhem?*

There are days that are tough. I have different ways of dealing with stress. I love walking on the golf course; yard work is a great coping mechanism for me. I love getting on a mower and just mowing.

## *What is the best advice you give new deputies?*

Treat everyone like you want your mother treated until they give you a reason to act differently. Also never take a person's dignity — it means everything to them and nothing to you.

## *What do you do for fun?*

I'm a pretty simple person. I like watching sporting events of all types. I love live music.

## *What is something people don't know about you?*

I have played the cello and clarinet in different bands. I no longer play, but wish I had continued. I am a Kenny G fan.

## *What's your go-to snack?*

Unfortunately, junk food in many forms. I really like anything that has lemons or limes in it.

## *What's your favorite law enforcement memory?*

I have many fond memories, but there are two cases that I will never forget. Many years ago a young girl was abducted from her home in the middle of the night. I was a K-9 handler at the time. I was able to track the young lady and the suspect. She was located in a barn and he was located hiding in a car. (Auten gave special thanks to his friend Mike Tanner on helping to track in that case.)

The second case is the Erica Parsons case. It's very tough and certainly not the result we had hoped for. However, being able to locate her remains and give her a proper burial is more important than any arrest I ever made.



## *What advice would you give a 16-year-old Kevin Auten?*

To apply myself in all phases of my life. To not quit on anything.

## *What's the best advice you've been given?*

I can't pinpoint one best piece of advice because so many people have helped me professionally and personally.

## *Who had the biggest personal influence on your life and why?*

My mom and dad by far. They taught me

to be understanding and accepting of all people. My dad was tough on me, but he had to be because I was a challenge. He was always my father and not just a friend. My mom is a woman of few words, but those words always have meaning and purpose. Even to this day, I worry about disappointing her.

## *The book that has made the biggest impression on your life?*

"Visions of Courage" by Bobby Smith.

## *What would you do if you weren't in law enforcement?*

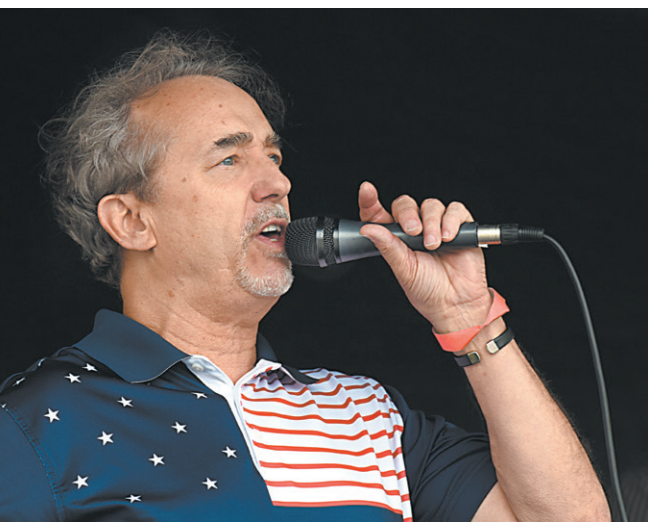
I would be doing something related to number crunching ... preparing taxes, accounting or bookkeeping.

## *What's the hardest part about being in law enforcement?*

Managing staff as well as hiring and maintaining staff in my current position. I believe for officers it's separating their personal problems from the citizens' problems. Officers spend a lot of time assisting others with problems and they fail to deal with their own.

## *Do you have other family members in law enforcement?*

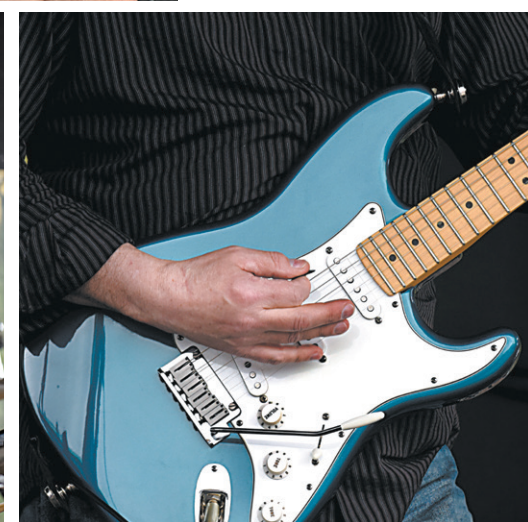
No blood-related family members. I consider my employees part of my extended family. **S**



# Coming clean

*Longtime friendships fuel precision in Motel Soap's music.*

Written by Ben White | Photography by Wayne Hinshaw





*Motel Soap band members — front row: Donna McMillan and Elizabeth Cooke; second row: Lonnie Carpenter, Carlton Jackson and Alex Bost; back row: Gray Fallin, Joe Gminder, Mark Jennings, Rick Almond and Mark Holland. Not pictured: Daniel Cooke, Pat Jaap and Bernie Hall.*

**A**s the musicians strap on their instruments and move to the microphones, longtime fans of the classic rock band Motel Soap know what’s coming and eagerly anticipate the phenomenal show they are about to enjoy.

Those new to the Motel Soap experience stand in awe throughout the first couple of songs and by the end of the evening, they are simply blown away.

They are 13 strong and together master a large playlist of classic hits from the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s, with a sound that’s definitely close to the originals.

Motel Soap is made up of Rick Almond on saxophone, Alex Bost and Kyler Brown on guitar, Lonnie Carpenter on lead vocals, Daniel Cooke on trumpet, Elizabeth Cooke and Donna McMillan on backup vocals, Gray Fallin on drums, Bernie Hall on trombone,

Mark Holland on keyboards, Pat Jaap on saxophone, Carlton Jackson on auxiliary percussion and Mark Jennings on bass.

The founders of the band — Bost, Fallin and Jennings — have played with such groups as Fahrenheit, New Citizens and The Brubakers over several decades. Back in 2011, they found themselves in a rather tough predicament and needed a quick solution.

“Well, the keyboard player realized he had double-booked us,” Bost said. “We were set to do a 20-year reunion concert for Fahrenheit back in the day. We

*Opposite, clockwise from top: Motel Soap opens the show at New Sarum Brewery; keyboardist Mark Holland; guitarist Joe Gminder; drummer Gray Fallin; lead vocalist Lonnie Carpenter.*



Keyboardist Mark Holland, guitarist Alex Bost and Rick Almond on the clarinet rock out as Motel Soap performs during the show at New Sarum Brewery.

played at the Blue Vine and there were four of us, which was Mark Jennings, Mark Hoffman, myself and Gray.

“It went really well, and they wanted us to come back. We went into panic mode. I grabbed some guys that were playing at the Meroney Theater a couple of weeks earlier. I got them off to the side and told them we have a gig coming up and this is what we’re going to do.”

They needed a name for their makeshift band to cover their mistake. As most artists do, they found themselves tossing out some rather radical ideas, such as Bus Exhaust. But one on the list had that perfect feel and was first mentioned during one of their rehearsals many years earlier.

*Guitarist and  
vocalist Joe  
Gminder*

“Back in the 1980s, I was working with a band and the keyboard player was a good buddy of mine,” Bost said. “We were sitting around one day and he had come up with some off-the-wall band names. ‘Motel Soap’ was one of those names. So when I was grabbing those guys, I told them the name and no one objected to it. The very first time we played, Lonnie was clever and walked in with a basket of soaps from motels around the area. Everyone that came through the door got a bar of motel soap.”



Jennings thought the name was a great idea. “We figured it would go over well,” he said. “Plus it was to be a onetime thing. I didn’t want to cancel a gig that we had booked. It went over so well that we just kept getting rebooked and kept playing together.”

Their days of “playing together” date back decades to a business once located at South

Main and Bank streets. It was where connections were made among musicians from several surrounding counties and a place where everyone with an interest in singing and playing got to know each other.

“When the Salisbury Music House and Conservatory was open in the 1970s, Gray and I were real young — in our early teens — and we

## THE ARTS



**Left:** Rick Almond plays the saxophone. **Right:** Percussionist Carlton Jackson enjoys a song. **Below:** Vocalists Elizabeth Cooke and Donna McMillan open the show at New Sarum Brewery.

would go there,” Jennings said. “Alex was working there with Joe Gminder (a bassist with The Brubakers and fill-in guitar and keyboards for Motel Soap), and they were phenomenal guitar players back then. They were our heroes. We’ve known each other for so long and eventually we hooked up and started playing.

“It’s just been long-standing friendships that have kept us going.”

Their starts as musicians offer an interesting mix of stories. Jennings and Fallin played at early ages in church and gravitated to rock bands before they received their first driver’s licenses.

Jennings’ mother loved the bass and when their minister’s son had no interest in playing his, Jennings bought it and started practicing. His family also had some musical tie-ins with a few country music artists in Nashville.

Jackson began playing drums on the bottoms of kitchen pots and pans at age 4 and graduated to various percussion instruments, including bongos and congas he received as gifts from his mother and uncle.

At age 9, Carpenter began singing songs at Kiwanis gatherings for \$12 per session and was later a part of the Stony Creek Original String Band.

Bost’s brother received an acoustic guitar as a child, so Alex had to have one of his own. Fal-



lin played drums in high school and has continued for over 35 years. A summer job helped provide money for his first drum set.

The stories go on and on.

The songs sound simple but aren’t always easy to play.

“It’s something I’ve done for as long as I can remember,” Carpenter said. “We all just enjoy it so much. We have so much fun doing it. With Motel Soap, we do a lot of music that most people do not perform. We have the best guitarists, the best bassist, the best drummer and best percussionist. Most bands don’t do this stuff.”

The chemistry they share is obvious and

serves as the foundation for their ability to perform flawlessly during each concert.

“You’ve heard it said over the years but it’s really true to have chemistry within a band,” Bost said. “You know where your drummer or bassist is going to go next sort of without thinking about it. The ultimate key to being able to do that is to be able to listen. You have to constantly be aware of yourself and what you’re playing but also what everyone else is playing. To me, I don’t care if I get a solo in this song or that song. It’s about how well can we make the song sound. It’s about the group. It’s not about being in the spotlight.”

Jackson agrees. Time spent together is important for success with any band.

“I have the opinion that if you do this for money you’re going after it for the wrong reasons,” Jackson said. “Regardless of what you make you enjoy it, that’s what it’s all about. For me personally, I’ve learned so much playing alongside these guys. I didn’t consider myself a real percussionist as far as being trained. I’ve learned the dynamics of not playing way up here or way down there. You listen for peaks and valleys and know when to pull back.

“I listen to Mark on bass, and the drums are what I really follow and the synchronicity that happens. I’ve played with Gray for so long I

## THE ARTS



*Motel Soap performed at a fundraiser earlier this year for Meals on Wheels at The Norvell. — Photo by Mark Wineka*

don't know if I could play with anyone else. We have never rehearsed a solo that we do together. Not once. Each time, it's whatever happens."

There's a reason why their sound is so close to the bands that made them famous. Whether it's Journey; Steely Dan; The Rolling Stones; Earth, Wind and Fire or any number of groups that have made it big over the past 50 years, they nail it and the ability to do so makes the concert even more meaningful.

"Years ago, playing in cover bands," Bost said, "we kind of had the mindset that if we could get it close and get the stops and changes right we've pretty much covered the song. We said, 'Let's take it a step or two further and not only nail the song but let's get the tonalities the same and the vocals the same and dynamics the same.'

"We try to cover the song as closely as we can. It's just a matter of trying to be as professional as we can and get the finished product as close as possible to the original recording."

Jennings added, "Whatever instrument you play, you have your heroes. Paul McCartney, Chris Squire, Geddy Lee, Mark King, Marcus Miller, those were the guys I idolized. I wanted to be like them. So when I learned their songs, if I could get as good as them, that was the goal to reach.

"There are so many you want to be like and



*Joe Gminder and Gray Fallin prepare for Motel Soap's set at New Sarum Brewery after a rain storm.*

emulate. These guys were the upper echelon, so if you could play their songs and get close, that's been the driving force for me."

Fallin summed up what Motel Soap hopes to achieve with each concert.

"You work to try and get the feeling that you know you've done a good job," Fallin said.

"Feeling the satisfaction of doing it well is what it's all about. The enjoyment for us is to make people happy." **S**

*Ben White, a Salisbury resident who regularly covers and writes about NASCAR, is a frequent contributor to Salisbury the Magazine.*



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# Pulp friction

*Infuse yourself into a cool, fruity drink.*

Written by **Deirdre Parker Smith** | Photography by **Jon C. Lakey**

**S**ummer begs for refreshing drinks. You want something pretty at your summer party. You need something to sip all day that isn't loaded with caffeine.

Slip into a water infused with fresh fruit and herbs. One sip and you'll want more, which is a good thing, especially in hot weather.







Don't worry too much about the health benefits of the fruit in the water. You'll be doing yourself a favor by skipping sugary sodas and sweetened fruit juices. The fresh fruit imparts subtle flavor to boring water and will keep you hydrated and looking smart.

To get started, invest in a high quality glass pitcher which will not retain the flavor of whatever fruit you put in it. Plastic will pick up the aroma and flavor of fruits, especially citrus or other acidic fruits like pineapple.

You may be able to find a glass pitcher with an infusing lid made of stainless steel that keeps the fruit in the pitcher so it's easier to pour. This is a good idea if you are keeping the water for more than a day.

A half gallon Mason jar is ideal for the job, too. Some companies now make water bottles with a place to infuse fruit, so you can take your personal recipe on the go.

Also, buy a good filter pitcher so there's always cold, filtered water in the fridge. Hot water will damage the fruit and the water will not keep as long.

An infused water can last for 2-3 days. Citrus fruits and cucumber last longer, but berries will start to disintegrate in 1-2 days. Using ripe fruit will impart the best flavor to the water.

If using citrus, slice thinly and give it a little twist before dropping in water, to release the oils in the skin. If you can't finish the water quickly, strain out the solids and refrigerate





the remaining water.

If possible, buy fruit that is organic to be sure no pesticides or chemicals cling to the peel. If you can't find organic, be sure to wash the outside of the fruit before adding it to your water.

Herbs are another important part of infused waters. A little mint is an obvious addition, but try basil or a variety of other herbs to combine with fruits. Watermelon and basil is a good combination, or lime and mint.

For best flavor, give it time — at least four hours is ideal. Keep it in the refrigerator to keep everything fresh.

You can double or halve any recipe to make more or less. And you can make up your own combinations based on what you like.

If you are serving infused water at a gathering, add fresh ice to keep it cool and add a little extra fruit.

Soft fruits can be sliced any way. Harder fruits like apples need to be sliced thin.



## FOOD

Crush things like ginger root, lemongrass or rosemary with a wooden spoon to release flavors. Simply tear mint, basil and cilantro.

While citrus fruits hold up well, long infusion can release some of the bitter flavors from the pith. If you plan on using the water after an overnight infusion, peel citrus fruit first, and don't be afraid to use some of the zest as a garnish.

Try these combinations:

**Cucumber mint** — Thinly slice one cucumber. Peel if it not organic. Add the sliced cucumbers to a ½ gallon glass jar, add 8 muddled fresh mint leaves, and fill with filtered water. Stir gently and place in refrigerator for at least 4 hours or overnight.

**Citrus blueberry** — Slice two organic oranges into thin slices (leave the rind on for better flavor). Add sliced oranges and 1 cup of blueberries to a gallon size glass jar. Add filtered water to fill the jar and stir gently. Refrigerate for at least 4 hours and store in refrigerator.

**Pineapple mint** — Peel and thinly slice a quarter of a pineapple. The more thinly sliced the pineapple, the more flavor it will infuse. Add to a half-gallon glass jar with 10-12 leaves of muddled fresh mint. Add filtered water to fill and stir gently. Store in refrigerator.

**Watermelon basil** — Add about 2 cups of finely chopped fresh watermelon (without rind) to a gallon-size glass jar. Add 15 leaves of muddled basil and filtered water to fill. Store in refrigerator and allow at least 4



hours to infuse.

**Strawberry lemon** — Add 15 fresh strawberries, washed and finely sliced, to a ½ gallon glass jar. Add one sliced lemon with rind on. Fill with water. Stir gently and refrigerate 4 hours or overnight in refrigerator and enjoy.

**Cherry lime** — Add two cups of fresh cherries, cut in half, and one fresh lime, sliced into thin slices, to a gallon-size glass jar. Add water to fill. Mix gently and store in refrigerator until ready to drink.

**Grapefruit raspberry** — Add one grapefruit, thinly sliced with rind on, to a gallon-size glass jar. Then add ½ cup slightly muddled fresh raspberries. Add water and mix well. Store in refrigerator for at least 4 hours before drinking.


**Mango pineapple** — Peel and thinly slice one fresh mango. Add to ½ gallon glass jar. Add 1 cup of finely chopped pineapple and filtered water. Allow to infuse in the refrigerator for 4-6

hours before drinking.

**Grape orange** — Place 2 cups of halved organic grapes into a gallon-size glass jar. Add one orange, thinly sliced, with rind on. Refrigerate overnight for best flavor.

**Pineapple basil** — Add one quarter of a sliced fresh pineapple and 15 leaves of muddled fresh basil to a half-gallon jar. Add filtered water. Infuse overnight and enjoy.

Also try these combinations:

- Apple, lemon and carrot
- Fresh apricots, raspberries and mint
- Orange and lime
- Peach, plum and mint
- Cucumber, lemon and celery
- Kiwi and orange
- Lemon, mint, ginger and cucumber
- Orange, blueberry and mint
- Lemon, raspberry and mint
- Grapefruit and rosemary
- Lime, ginger root and basil
- Blackberry, rosemary and sage
- Blackberry and pomegranate 





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**MEET THE ANIMAL** 3:00 pm

Location: Nature Center or Rowan Wildlife Adventures (weather permitting)

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Date: June 17 - 20; Time 9:00 am – 3:00 pm Ages 12 - 18

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### OUTDOOR SKILLS CAMP

Date: June 24 - 28; Time: 9:00 am – 4:00 pm Ages 10 - 14

Survive the Rowan Wild in this action packed summer camp. Learn basic outdoor and survival skills, then put your knowledge to the test in an overnight campout (s'mores included). Registration begins March 1, Minimum of 5 campers – Maximum of 8 campers. Pre-registration required. Registration accepted only with full payment. Limited space. \$75.00 Payment by cash, check or credit card. Bring your own lunch. Snacks and beverages provided.

Brooke Wilson 704-216-7834 Brooke.Wilson@rowancountync.gov

## July

### ANIMAL KEEPER CAMP

Date: July 8 - 12; Time: 9:00 am – 4:00 pm Ages 10 - 14

Learn the basics of being an animal keeper. Perfect for kids who are all about animals. Registration begins March 1. Maximum of 10 campers. Pre-registration required. Registration accepted only with full payment. Limited space. \$50.00 Payment by cash, check or credit card. Bring your own lunch. Snacks and beverages provided.

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### WILD CHILD ANIMAL ADVENTURE SUMMER CAMP

Date: July 22 - 26 Time: 9:00 am – 4:00 pm Ages 7 - 9

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# Well versed

*Drechslers paid attention to every detail in creating their forever home.*

Story by **Elizabeth Cook** | Photography by **Jon C. Lakey**







**C**LEVELAND — From the foundation up, Josh and Amanda Drechsler knew exactly what they wanted in a forever home — the second time around.

Josh started their first home in Granite Quarry in 2008, when he and Amanda were dating. They loved that house, but as time passed and their family grew, so did the list of features they wished they could change.

“That’s how we came up with a lot of the stuff here,” Amanda says, standing near their new kitchen’s 10-foot, granite-topped island. “OK, we’ll change this next time, or we’ll make sure we have more of this. It helped a lot in the process of building this house. We knew what we wanted and what we didn’t want.”

Josh’s goal in designing their new home on Hobson Road was to never walk in and think they should have done something differently. And he never wanted to move again.

Amanda was looking far ahead, too. Her goal, she says, was “to have everything we wanted in a home our whole life, and to have the space for our children to grow up and play and have more, I guess, than we had when we were kids.”

The result is an open, spacious home with well thought-out details, idyllic views and grateful owners.

The setting is all in the family. Josh’s parents, Mark and Janie Drechsler, live right down the road in the house where Josh grew up. So far they have carved two home sites out of their 100 acres — one for Josh and the other for one of his brothers, Luke.

Josh and Amanda are West Rowan High grads, both now in their 30s, and they like be-



*Settled into their new home near Cleveland are the Drechslers — parents Josh and Amanda, holding son Colton, and daughters Hadley, left front, and Grace.*

ing close to family. Amanda’s parents, Ed and Marchella Cerda, live off Cool Springs Road. She says she “kind of grew up here,” riding four-wheelers on the Drechsler farm and hanging out with friends.

Josh works with his father in the family business, Piedmont Agri-Systems, which provides construction, equipment, supplies and services to dairy farms and perhaps soon to breweries as well, he says. Amanda stays home with the children — Grace, 6; Hadley, 4; and Colton, 2.

Josh pulls out the thick notebook he used in planning the four-bedroom house down to the minutest detail. He measured everything in their first house and set about improving on it. As they went from 1,600 square feet in their

old home to 2,900 in the new one, they knew they wanted fewer walls, more receptacles, wider kitchen space and no hard-to-clean flat paint.

Amanda wanted a farmhouse feel, something she planned to carry out with neutral, light-gray walls, white trim, black fixtures, rustic touches and simple decor that’s free of clutter.

Josh says her decorators were Joanna Gaines and Pinterest.

### **HEART OF THE HOME**

Cabinetry is a big part of this house plan, from the kitchen cabinets to living room

*Story continues on page 30.*



*Clockwise from top: The kitchen gleams with granite countertops and Shaker-style cabinets; Josh and Gail Marsh of Sam's Cabinets look at the notebook where he recorded every detail, many worked out with Gail's help; 'My cup runneth over' says a plaque on one of the bookshelves flanking the fireplace.*



*The living room, top photo, is roomy and bright. Above, Sam Gobble takes a look at some of the cabinets he installed in the Drechsler's home. The drop zone, left, has coat hooks, cabinets, baskets and a roomy bench custom-made for the house.*



*Clockwise from top: A barn door leads to Amanda's closet; Colton peeks out from the pantry; the laundry room includes a peg board; white subway tile serves as a backsplash; a pot filler faucet over the stovetop.*





*Colton and Hadley join mom Amanda in the dining area, which includes a custom-made table and looks out onto open fields.*

built-ins and drawers in the “drop zone.” The Drechslers relied on Sam Gobble and Gail Marsh of Sam’s Cabinets of Salisbury to make it all work.

The kitchen, the heart of the home, was a top priority.

“I took what the old cabinets were and Sam gave us dream cabinets,” Amanda says. Gail helped them pick out white, Shaker-style cabinets, a big change from the stained look they had before. Gail says 90 percent of her clients these days prefer white.

“I love the light, the brightness of it,” Amanda says.

The island, a busy area, is painted oyster gray to stand up to kicking feet at the breakfast bar, sticky hands on cabinets and splashes around the sink, trashcan and dishwasher. The cabinets have stood up to it all, Amanda says.

“They’re super easy to clean. I love them. They’re fantastic.”

Gray-and-white granite tops the counters, with white subway tile as a backsplash

and stainless appliances all around. There’s a pot-filler faucet over the smooth cooktop and a stainless steel farmhouse sink in the island.

The pantry is big enough to store much more than food, such as cookbooks and small appliances like a juicer, a slow cooker and an Instant Pot — so far with lots of room to spare.

After conferring with more experienced cooks in the extended family, Amanda decided she needed double wall ovens and a microwave oven. Sam and Gail were able to make all three fit together, stacked on one wall.

“This is where I really knew I loved Gail,” Amanda says. Working out the configuration took several messages and sketches back and forth. Amanda was grateful for Gail’s patience and Sam’s skill.

“Sam made it all look like it was supposed to be like that,” she says.

Another custom feature is cabinetry surrounding the refrigerator, which is recessed into the wall several inches so it doesn’t protrude into the room.

Gail measured carefully in advance to make sure cabinet doors and appliance doors didn’t bump into each other and there was plenty of room to work around them.

Cabinet decisions are important ones, according to Sam and Gail. “It is an investment,” Sam says. “A lot of cheaper options are available nowadays. They just may not last.”

Josh says he was surprised to find Sam on site installing the cabinets himself, and he shares a photo of Sam, kneeling on the floor as he works. Little Colton is close beside him, mimicking his position. “Colton really likes Sam,” Josh says.

The kitchen looks out onto the living room, a top priority for Amanda after dealing with a separate kitchen in their first house.

“For me, it allows us to all still be together as a family when I’m cooking and they’re watching football. What was important to me was still get to hang out, even if Mama is cooking in the kitchen.”



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## AT HOME



*Left:* Chairs line up along the breakfast bar. *Right:* The master bath's soaking tub is a respite for 'mommy time.'

### AROUND THE HOUSE

Similar planning and care are shown in other parts of the house:

- Drop zone: Near the back door sits the “drop zone,” an area with coat hooks, benches and cabinetry where family members can deposit book bags, jackets and shoes as soon as they come in — and easily pick them up on the way out. The bench tops are custom made of oak.

- Laundry room: The 8-by-11-foot laundry room includes a sink, cabinets, generous counter space for folding laundry and a rod for hanging clothes, a big improvement over their old house, Amanda says. “It makes it a lot more enjoyable to do laundry when you have a nice space,” she says. The Drechslers plan to get a dog, and the cabinets have room for a large dog crate.

- Living room: The vaulted ceiling is almost 16-feet high at its tallest point. Built-in bookcases and cabinets flank the stone fireplace and TV, adding interest to what would have been big, blank walls. They also provide storage for games, puzzles and CDs.

- Dining room: White shiplap covers the three walls of the dining room. The custom-made table that Gail lined up for them has the same oak top as the drop zone benches. But the main feature may be the view out the large windows that look to the west. “The sunset —

pictures don't do it justice,” Amanda says. “It's just absolutely stunning.”

- Flooring: Amanda was adamant that she wanted hardwoods, but the need for durability changed her mind. They went with a waterproof, textured luxury vinyl that looks like wood but can stand up to heavy traffic from children and pets.

- Hallways, doorways: Here the Drechslers looked way, way ahead. They wanted a one-floor house that would be easy to get around in when they're older, according to Amanda. “That was important to us. We knew we were going to be here forever, so we took into account walkways ... Like the doorways, we made them bigger in case we get older and have a wheelchair or walker.”

- Master suite: The en suite bathroom is another bright, open space with white subway tile and the same Nuevo granite counter as the kitchen, this one with double sinks. The shower is roomy enough to easily move around in — another lesson learned from their first home — and has a rainfall shower head. The large soaking tub, which Josh at first opposed, has proved to be a worthwhile investment, according to Amanda. “This is Mommy time,” she says. Josh has used it, too.

The bedroom itself has a double-tray ceiling that opens up the room and helps create a calm atmosphere which the Drechslers have enjoyed

since they moved into the house in January.

“This is still so new to me, I tell her all the time it still feels like I'm in a nice hotel,” Josh says. “I know it's not a mansion or anything, but it's nicer than anything I ever thought I'd have.”

And the Drechslers do not take that for granted.

Personal touches say a lot — like the piano they got from a former student of Josh's grandmother, Ann Drechsler, who taught piano for many years. “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me,” says a nearby sign, a verse from Philippians.

Bible verses are posted here and there around the house, but the most meaningful verses may be the ones visitors can't see — written on every stud and over every door “in the bones of the house,” as Amanda says.

Josh remembers one verse in particular. “As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.”

Amanda saw Bible verses used this way on another house and knew she wanted to do the same when they built their new home.

“We know that not everyone gets to do this, so we feel extremely blessed,” she says. “And we wanted to make sure the foundation started with the Lord.” **S**

*Elizabeth Cook is former editor of the Salisbury Post.*



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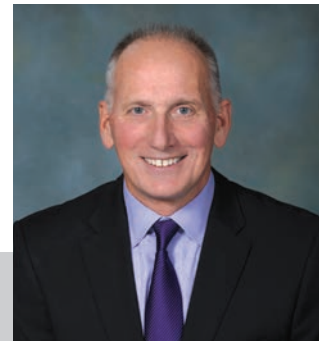
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**Jason Holt**

LPL Registered Principal  
LPL Financial Advisor

221 N. Main Street, Salisbury, NC 28144  
2975 Dale Earnhardt Blvd.,  
Kannapolis, NC 28083  
704.652.0678  
jholt@fminvestments.com



**Bruce Sanborn**

LPL Registered Principal  
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138 N. Salisbury Ave.  
Granite Quarry, NC 28072  
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# CALL OF THE WILD

With his call-making skills, Alessandrini talks turkey.

Story by Mark Wineka | Photography by Jon C. Lakey

**I**t's not unusual for Rick Alessandrini to enter the woods carrying 20 to 25 different turkey calls — each one he has made himself.

You keep calling and trying different ones until you get a gobbler's response.

“If he fires up, you stay with that,” Alessandrini says.

Alessandrini and buddy Billy Ryburn have been hunting turkey for decades, plus Alessandrini has been making turkey calls for 23 years. So you can understand when Ryburn says his friend speaks the bird's language.

“He's got an ear,” says Ryburn, who just happened to be turkey hunting in West Virginia on this particular day. “He's good at mimicking sounds. He hears it and duplicates it.”

And Alessandrini doesn't necessarily have to be in the woods to have a conversation with wild turkeys.

“My neighbor next door calls me up and says, ‘There are turkeys under your bird feeder,’” says Alessandrini, who lives in the Westcliffe subdivision in Salisbury. “I said, ‘Really?’ I had been calling before that evening, and I called two hens up from somewhere and they came walking through the back yard.”



*Rick Alessandrini tries one of his trumpet calls.*



*In his basement workshop, Alessandrini shapes a new turkey call on his lathe.*

Back in mid February in Nashville, Tenn., Alessandrini won first and second place in the Division 2 amateur category for his trumpet turkey calls at the National Wild Turkey Federation Convention and Sport Show.

Officially, it was Category 13 — the air-operated yelper open.

The national sport show is billed as the premier competition of its kind in North America and features the best callers, call makers and

taxidermists in the land.

What blew away Alessandrini, who has served as a call-making judge for about four years — was that he did so well in the first time he entered his own calls.

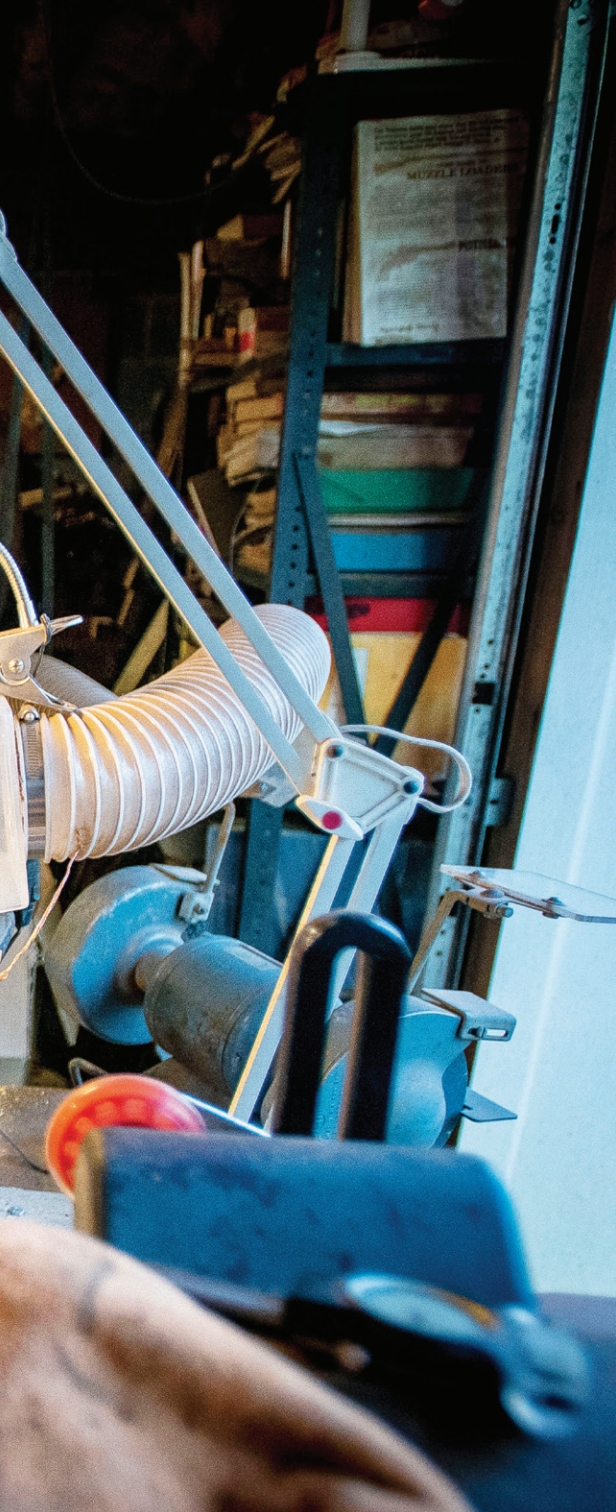
“That’s very rare,” he says. “I got a little emotional, no doubt. I’m very humble and don’t toot my own horn (no pun intended), but to win on that scale is a pretty big deal.”

As is the practice at the shows, the competing

calls are auctioned off after the judging. A New York buyer, who already was familiar with Alessandrini’s work, bought both of his winning calls in Nashville.

“I’ve made him a half dozen or so trumpets,” Alessandrini notes.

Alessandrini actually entered some of his calls in a Midwest regional competition seven years earlier and came in next to last. But when it came time for the auction, his calls brought the



*The owl hooter and crow calls shown here — which Alessandrini also makes — are used in the field as locater calls for turkey.*

highest price.

“I thought it was a little political there,” Alessandrini recalls of the judging.

Ryburn encouraged Alessandrini to enter the Nashville show.

“I said, ‘Well, I’ll do the Big MacDaddy and enter the amateur open,’” Alessandrini says. He and another longtime hunting buddy, Robbie Julian, drove to Nashville and returned home with Alessandrini’s two medals.

“You know, I didn’t think I even placed,” Alessandrini says, recounting how they waited nervously for the results to be posted.

To call makers in the know, Alessandrini’s good showing probably was no surprise. He was one of the call makers featured over two pages in the 2013 book “Today’s Call Makers Keeping the Tradition Alive.”

People who leave comments on Alessandrini’s “Gobblers Roost” Facebook page use

words such as “craftsmanship,” “incredible,” “top-notch” and “exceeded my expectations” in praising the calls he has made for them.

A tile man by trade and actually a gunsmith by training, Alessandrini stresses above anything else that making turkey calls is simply a hobby — just one in which he has become pretty accomplished.

Ryburn has a theory — first offered by his father who was stationed in Italy for a year after



*Above: Alessandrini begins shaping a trumpet call. Below left: Alessandrini also makes highly regarded friction calls. Below right: In the workshop, his daughter's drawing of a turkey provides inspiration for Alessandrini.*



World War II — that Alessandrini owes some of his talent to being Italian. So many artisans — like Alessandrini’s tile-laying family — come out of Italy, Ryburn says.

“Rick has always been good with his hands,” Ryburn adds. “He’s just got a natural talent. I call it a God-given talent.”

Alessandrini has been hunting since he was about 13. A friend, Jay Hudson, took him on his first dove hunt, “and it set a fire under me,” Alessandrini says.

He graduated to hunting ducks and geese before Ryburn steered him to turkeys. In the mid 1980s, Ryburn took Alessandrini on his first turkey hunt, “and I really got hooked on that, too.”

“He was a mentor, I guess you could say,” Alessandrini says of Ryburn.

By 1996, Alessandrini started making turkey calls, concentrating in particular on the trumpets.

Alessandrini says it took a lot of asking questions of other call makers and dealing with trials and errors, as he experimented with the internal diameters in his turned pieces of wood.

“I think I’ve thrown away more than I’ve built,” he says.

After a while, Alessandrini was coming up with his own designs that had internals producing the turkey sounds he wanted. He also makes friction calls — coaster-like wooden “pots” fitted with a piece of slate, brass, aluminum or copper that create a turkey’s call with the



*A call fashioned from a goose bone.*

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*In the exotic woods he orders for his calls, Alessandrini looks for the right banding and tonal qualities.*

use of strikers he also designs.

In addition around his shop, Alessandrini shows the owl hooters and crow calls he makes. These are used in the field as locator calls for turkeys. Ryburn said Alessandrini made him a duck call once that's the best he's ever heard.

For his call-making, Alessandrini orders small blocks of exotic wood from up to 40 different countries. "What I look for is the banding on all four sides," he says.

The denser the wood, the better. Snakewood from Suriname is his favorite. He says it's harvested in the mountains and packed out by mule. He also uses rosewood, maple and cedar burls, ebonies and desert ironwoods, always in search of the right tonal qualities.

For mouthpieces, he relies on fossilized mammoth ivory or horns from water buffalo or musk ox, though their cost can be prohibitive. Once he made a mouthpiece out of a fossilized rib of a walrus.

The trumpets also require a lip stop of rubber or wood.

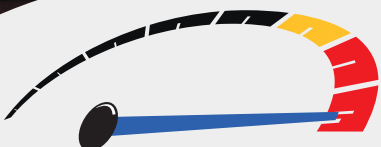
Working out of his basement shop, Alessandrini depends on his lathe, drills, saws and other tools. Thousandths of an inch sometime separate a good turkey call from a great one. "This is not a skill everyone has," he says.

Alessandrini acknowledges he still experiences a high sense of anticipation trying out a call for the first time.



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*Alessandrini holds  
a trumpet.*



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“The crucial part is the mouthpiece and the internal diameters,” he says. “... The sound. You’ve got to have the sound.”

He figures he spends 12 hours making a trumpet on average. Over the years, he has shipped models to all parts of the country.

*Alessandrini’s medals from the National Wild Turkey Federation Convention and Sport Show in Nashville, Tenn.*

“I take a lot of time finishing my calls,” Alessandrini says. “I’m really anal about my finishing.” He has even made calls out of gobbler and goose bones.

“I sign my name to everything, if I like it,” he says.

Ryburn likes that Alessandrini’s calls are both beautiful and functional at the same time.

“His calls are the only ones I use,” Ryburn says. “I used one this morning.”

Lately, Alessandrini has come up with his own “saucer” pot design, which he says are “very difficult to make over the standard” pot or disc design.

“They’re killer,” he adds.

Some of the top trumpet callers in the country call Alessandrini up and seek his advice, even sending him videos at times. He has been a mentor to some call makers who are now making a name for themselves.

“People who are in that genre — they know Rick and they know how good he is,” Ryburn says. **S**

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**WATERWORKS VISUAL ARTS-CENTER**





# ART APPRECIATION

Waterworks inspires with diversity, access and relevancy in mind.

Story by Mark Wineka | Photography by Jon C. Lakey



Dr. Craig Robson can't hide the simple joy he experiences as he stretches out his clay on an upright slab roller. It's Tuesday, and that means it's pottery night for Robson, a Salisbury urologist. He looks forward to this creative outlet, one of the many educational programs offered through the year at Waterworks Visual Arts Center.

"I wake up, I know it's Tuesday morning, and I know it's clay night," says Robson, whose 7- and 12-year-old daughters also attend Waterworks' summer art classes.

Nearby Karen Clester and her daughter, Ruthanne, are glazing some of their clay creations from the six-week class, headed by instructor Brent Smith.

"My daughter has come down and taken classes since she was little," Karen says. "She guaranteed I would enjoy myself, and I really have. I didn't think I'd really be able to make anything, so I'm way ahead of the game."

Ruthanne, now 34, said she probably started taking art classes at Waterworks when she was 7 or 8. This particular pottery class was a Christmas gift from her mother, who wanted them to do it together.

Located at 123 E. Liberty St., Waterworks annually welcomes more than 21,000 visitors and showcases the work of 75-plus professional artists and 800 K-12 school children.

In addition, Waterworks provides education-



*Teshawn Carter and Jeremiah Price study the artwork of Rosemary Meza-Desplas.*



al opportunities for nearly 8,000 youth, 13,000 adults and more than 2,000 fifth-graders in Rowan County.

People in the community view Waterworks Visual Arts Center through several different lenses. They know it has a professional, accredited gallery bringing in exhibits of contemporary fine art and crafts by both emerging and

established artists.

They see it as continuing education for their children or themselves offering summer camps and instruction in everything from painting, pottery and photography to jewelry, wreath-making and beaded flowers.

Many Salisburians likely have used the Waterworks art library, shopped in its gift store or attended one of the Waterworks' traditional fundraisers, such as the Oyster Roast or Big Chili Cook-off, each of which are held in the neighboring F&M Trolley Barn.

"Waterworks is truly a unique and special place that brings people and communities together to engage, learn and experience art," Executive Director Anne Scott Clement told a recent crowd gathered for what the museum considers its 60th anniversary year.



There are certain things Clement demands of Waterworks, including its accessibility to all, being an experience people can count on, providing a place for youth and adult education, heightening people's appreciation of the visual arts, giving people diverse, relevant experiences



*Above: Potter Brent Smith, center, teaches a class at Waterworks.*

*Below: A reception at Waterworks Visual Arts Center celebrates 60 years of promoting and showcasing visual arts in the community.*

and keeping it a museum that doesn't charge an admission fee.

"People are amazed not just with the quality of programs, but also the quality of the facility," Clement says. "People from elsewhere are taken aback. There's nothing like this in their communities."

Three exhibits rotate through the galleries each year — represented in Fall-Winter, Spring and Summer shows.

How are the exhibitions chosen? While Clement serves as curator, she has never wanted to leave the choices to herself alone. Waterworks has two deadlines for submissions each year — one at the end of January; the other, at the end of September — and an exhibitions committee made up of local and regional people.

They include professional artists, photographers, art educators, art historians and art connoisseurs. Each committee member has a nucleus of people he or she knows, helping expand Waterworks' reach within the arts community.

The committee meets a couple of times a year, taking a look at the artists available. Their discussions and observations usually lead to a theme for a future show.



Clement says the committee works 18 to 24 months in advance. The most recent exhibit, for example, "Unity Through Art," featured a selection of works by artists who identify as Latinx or Hispanic.

"These artists were invited to present their

cultural narrative using materials and styles reflective of their own personal work," the exhibition synopsis read. "The selected artwork amplifies our culturally rich communities and how their contributions add value to our region of the globe."



*Above: Keynai Ambers studies the art of Gliser Fuentes Mena that was displayed in the Norvell Gallery.*

*Below: Several photograph enlargers sit in the darkroom at Waterworks.*



The featured artists included Gliser Fuentes Mena's oil paintings and animation, Nigo Armortegui's mixed media paintings and sculpture and Jamaul Smith's digital art and tradi-

tional drawings. In two other galleries, works of 10 other artists reflecting the "Unity Through Art" theme also were displayed.

Waterworks' benefit of having an accredited

museum is that for a new artist, such as Mena, it can be used as an important resumé builder. "She will be able to use this as a springboard for her career to get shows in other museums," Clement says.

In 1999, Waterworks received its accreditation from the American Association of Museums as a non-collecting museum, meaning it does not maintain a permanent collection, nor does it acquire art.

A reaccreditation came in 2012. Waterworks is one of only 12 accredited museums in North Carolina, and Clement likes to say it's judged by the same standards used in measuring the Smithsonian.

Waterworks belongs to an elite dozen. The 11 other accredited museums in North Carolina include the Ackland Art Museum in Chapel Hill, the Asheville Art Museum, the Gaston County Museum of Art and History in Dallas, the Greenville Museum of Art, the Hickory Museum of Art, Mint Museum in Charlotte, the Nasher Museum of Art at Duke University, the N.C. Museum of Art in Raleigh, Old Salem Museums & Gardens in Winston-Salem, Reynolda House Museum of American Art in Winston-Salem and the Weatherspoon Art Museum in Greensboro.



Clement began what has become her 35-year connection to Waterworks when she moved back to Salisbury in 1984. As a volunteer, she decorated for special events, then gravitated toward serving on the board of directors.

In 2003, she hired on as director of development and marketing, and for the past dozen years she has been director and curator for the museum.

Waterworks Visual Arts Center traces its birth to the founding of the Rowan Art Guild on April 1, 1959, by 26 artists and art enthusiasts, who had a vision for the visual arts in Salisbury and Rowan County.

None of the 26 original charter members is living today. Artist Aubrey Atkinson Jr. served as the first president in 1959.





*Phyllis Steimel teaches a color theory class.*



In 1963, the Rowan Art Guild formally incorporated.

At first, the organization's beginnings were humble. There were local art exhibits on the front lawn of the Utzman-Chambers House on South Jackson Street and the holding of classes and artists' workshops in the old Bell Block building at South Main and East Fisher streets.

Annual artist-invitation exhibitions were held in the library at Catawba College or on the campus of Rowan Technical College.

A turning point came in 1977, when then City Manager Francis Luther offered the art guild use of the city's 1913 building at 310 W. Kerr St.

At various times, the location had been used as the city hall, police headquarters and water department. The art guild accepted the city's offer, renovated the building and held a grand opening in its first real home on Feb. 11, 1978.

The Waterworks Visual Arts Center name change came in 1986, also marking an effort to expand and become a regional arts museum.

Dick Virtue and Anna Mills Wagoner led a \$600,000 capital campaign in 1990 that expanded the center, and many people in the arts community will remember the dedications in years to come of the Taylor-Johnson Courtyard, the Hamlin Sensory Garden and the Edward and Marion Murphy Library.



*Dr. Craig Robson uses the upright slab roller in the clay room.*

The next important chapter in Waterworks' timeline happened in 2000, when F&M Bank donated the old McCanless Motor Co. building on East Liberty Street so Waterworks could use it for a new visual arts center.

Clement credits the generosity of Paul and Sue Fisher, F&M Bank and what she considers 320 "visionaries" who combined for a \$2.8 million "Visualize This!" capital campaign. It turned the old motor company into a 15,000-square-foot art gallery and educational facility, complete with an impressive arts li-

brary.

Margaret Kluttz and Christine Whitton led the fundraising campaign, and ground was broken for the new facility in November 2001. The grand opening was held Jan. 25, 2003, and Waterworks kept its name, which came from the former water plant.

The next big capital campaign could be on the horizon with the 60th anniversary serving as an important "legacy" year. Clement refrains from attaching a dollar amount to what she thinks will be a multi-year effort that tries to

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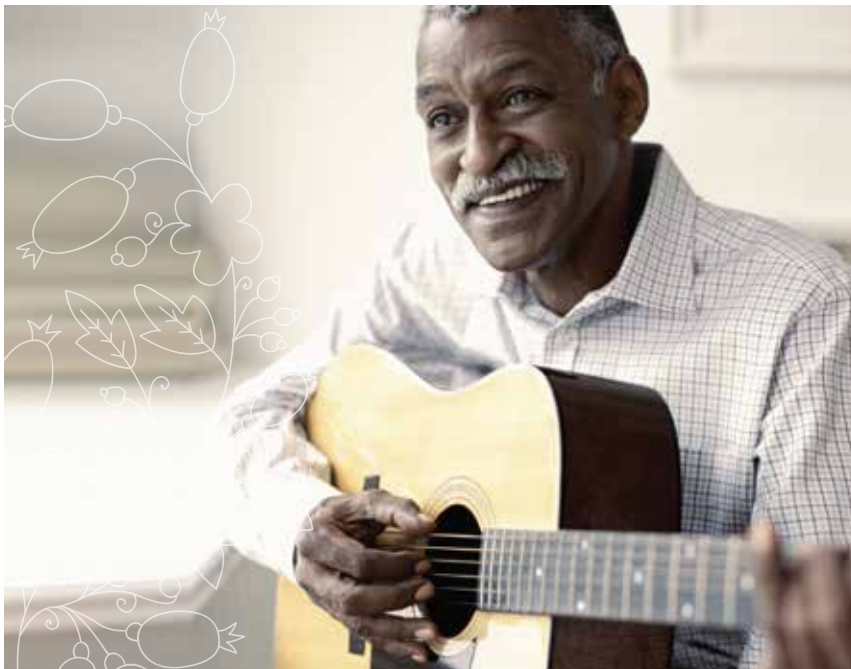


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*Top:* Jackie Black instructs fifth-grade students from North Rowan Elementary School on an art project at Waterworks. *Above:* Leigh Anne Tucker glazes one of her clay creations.



*Potter Brent Smith*



*Waterworks greeter Hope Holmes takes fifth-grade students from North Rowan Elementary School on a tour of the galleries.*



*Waterworks Executive Director Anne Scott Clement with Ed Hull, a member of the board of directors, at the 60th anniversary reception.*



*Remnants of color in a paint class.*



*Left: A Waterworks window display of middle school art.*



*Right: Forming some clay.*



*A look toward North Main Street from the Waterworks gift shop.*

build an endowment for the future.

“We’re pretty strong right now,” she says. “We’re debt-free, and I’m very proud of that accomplishment.”



In the Weisiger Studio down the hall from the pottery students, Phyllis Steimel is leading a color theory class. Before they started painting a scene, Steimel wanted the students to practice with a particular color.

“We’re busy making shades of green tonight,” Steimel says, urging them to find the dark, light, intense, less intense, warm and cool greens. She gave the students 20 minutes to see how many greens they could create.

Her six-week class meets for two-and-a-half hours on Tuesday nights.

One of Steimel’s students is Debbie Hoffman, who during the summer teaches 4- and 5-year-olds in the Waterworks’ 36-year-old Messy Art program. But this is her own chance to be messy.



*Karen and Ruthanne Clester work together on their pottery in the Waterworks clay room.*

“How are you doing over here, Debbie?” Steimel asks.

“Doing well, having fun,” Hoffman says.

That seems to be a universal feeling for the adult students on this night.

Back in the clay studio, pharmacist Savannah Ware also accompanied her mother, Cindy, to the night’s class. Through the years, starting when she was a kid, Savannah has taken drawing, painting, videography and stained-glass classes, to name a few. She even helped with teaching classes sometimes.

At the moment, Savannah is putting finishing touches on clay tree ornaments she will give out as Christmas gifts later this year.

Cindy took her first pottery class last fall. “I loved it so much, I came back,” she says. “I like seeing the finished pieces.”



Waterworks operates with two full-time staff people and four part-time, conducting business on a budget of less than \$350,000. “We do a lot with a little,” Clement says, describing how the nonprofit also relies heavily on student and adult volunteers.

The galleries, gift store and offices are downstairs, while the upstairs has three studios, a darkroom for photographers and the Dula Library.


Waterworks recently collaborated with Rowan Public Library to catalogue Waterworks’ roughly 1,500 volumes in the Dula Library, making it more accessible for research. Someone looking for a particular arts book at RPL might now be directed, for example, to the collection at Waterworks, which is open to the public.

Clement says the entire local arts community, from theaters to museums, faces the same question: “How can we creatively cultivate new donors, a younger generation? We all, as nonprofits, are faced with (providing) sustainability for the future.”

Clement promises a stellar addition will be coming soon to Waterworks, when 20-foot-long, float-mounted banner signs will be attached on the North Main Street side of the building.

With their design and pops of color, they will look like art panels, and

they promise to do a better job of pointing the way to Waterworks — if you don’t already know.

Waterworks Visual Arts Center at 123 E. Liberty St. has free admission and is open from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday and 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday. 



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# REVIVAL AT THE CRESCENT

Dulkoski turns golf course around with help of his family.

Story by Kris Mueller | Photography by Jon C. Lakey

*Taylor Fender drives off the  
11th tee during the Ted Lu-  
ther Memorial Golf Tour-  
nament, recently held at The  
Revival at the Crescent.*

*Carson Herndon watches his drive off the 11th tee. David Smith, back, tracks the shot as Herndon's tee also goes airborne.*



**L**ongtime golfer Derron Dulkoski sat in his golf cart in the warm, mid-April sunshine and talked about the difficulty of focusing on his game in recent years.

The problem was not access — after all, he owns the golf course that winds through the upscale residential and golf community, The Crescent.

“After I bought the course, I just couldn’t concentrate on my game,” Dulkoski said. “I would get out on the course and all I could see were problems and the big projects we needed

to tackle.”

So, the pragmatic businessman dug in, choosing a path for course upgrades that would span five years.

“In October, it will be three years since I bought this course,” he said. “We’ve made a lot of improvements since then and we’ve still got some work to do. There was not a whole lot of

maintenance done for a lot of years, whether on the equipment, in the clubhouse or on the course. Everything needed upgrading as quickly as we could do it. We wanted to turn this place around to be something it wasn’t... to become something we wanted it to be.”

Built in 1998 on an old dairy farm, the golf course stretches across 260 acres of land between West Jake Alexander Boulevard and Catawba College. The course is owned separately from The Crescent residential community, whose attractive and manicured homes are tucked among the doglegged and rambling fairways and large greens.

The course quickly became known for its scenic beauty, challenging holes, undulating fairways and numerous bunkers. But in more recent years, course conditions deteriorated, quickly followed by the number of golfers playing there. Then in 2015, the golf course was put



*Right: Derron Dulkoski, back, along with his wife, Tricia, daughter Kelly, 23, and son Kaiden, 13.*



*Left: Tricia Dulkoski brings dessert to one of the tables on the weekly burger night. Seated from left, Don Schuette (off camera), Kerisha Kegley, Diane Schuette, Karen Wenker and Denny Wenker (off camera right).*



*The Sacred Heart middle school golf team practices on the driving range. Kaiden Dulkoski draws back to take a swing.*



*Sacred Heart Middle School golfer James Holland is silhouetted against the sky.*



*Left: Derron Dulkoski runs the grill during burger night at The Revival at the Crescent golf course. Right: A foursome arrives on the 12th green during the Ted Luther Memorial Golf Tournament.*



*Left: Derron Dulkoski welcomes golfers during the Ted Luther Memorial Golf Tournament. Above: Kaiden Dulkoski, standing left, and Derron Dulkoski, standing right, stop by a table to talk with regular visitors for the weekly burger night. Seated from left, Karen Wenker, Denny Wenker and Don Schuette.*

up for sale.

After buying the golf club, Dulkoski reasoned that a name change was needed to communicate the transformation that would take place. With the help of his family, he settled on The Revival at the Crescent Golf Club.

“We knew we would be trying to revive this place, but I didn’t want to eliminate the Crescent name completely because the course is part of the Crescent community,” he recalled. “But I wanted to let people know, hey, there’s something different going on here.”

Rebuilding a golf course and its base of support isn’t a quick process. Once Dulkoski refined his vision, he and the staff began checking off a long punch list of projects. They tackled the extensive overgrowth on the course, drove out the weeds, coaxed the greens back to health, filled the red clay bunkers with pristine white sand and resodded large dirt areas where grass had been dug up before he bought the club.

“Removal of the sod obviously took away from the course in ways we are still dealing with,” he said. “You can still see some of those areas out there. This is the fourth summer (since it was removed), and you can still see some bare spots.”



The pump house needed major repairs and upgrades last year, and currently, a big drainage problem at the bottom of the course is dominating the staff’s time.

“Equipment is expensive,” Dulkoski said. “It costs \$30,000 just to get a greens mower and

that’s one of the smaller pieces. These are things the average golfer doesn’t think about or see but they can gobble up a bunch of money. But these upgrades are important.”

The cart paths on eight holes were never completed, so work will begin soon to lay

concrete on the dirt parts of those paths. The 1990s clubhouse décor has been replaced with a total makeover inside, including construction of a bar. New exterior landscaping borders the building.

Major changes beyond the physical ones also were needed, Dulkoski said.

“It’s all about making sure people are having a good time when they are here,” he said. “Everything from our presentation in the clubhouse to employee attitudes is important. If you have a pleasant atmosphere, players tend to come back.”

So, he enlisted the rest of the Dulkoski family, which has always been close and connected through sports, as well as other new employees who have become like extended family.

Dulkoski and his wife, Tricia, both played basketball in college in Ohio. Tricia prepares food and helps at club events, runs business



errands and assists in the clubhouse as needed.

Their daughter, Kelly, also played basketball, and the family spent a lot of time together traveling to her tournaments. As Kelly was finishing her college degree in finance and her college basketball career, her father offered her the clubhouse manager position. They hope to

build an event center on the property that Kelly also will manage.

Their son, Kaiden, is a middle-schooler and plays on Sacred Heart Catholic School’s golf team. His dad coaches the team, which practices at the course. Kaiden helps by washing golf carts, setting up the driving range and provid-

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ing other support.

Alison Sobataka, whom the Dulkoskis have known since she was born, handles social media and marketing and works in the clubhouse with Kelly and part-time employee Gerald Barker. Bryan Graham, the course manager,

supervises several full-time and part-time employees. A golf pro soon will be joining the team.

A full schedule of golf and social events is introducing golfers and non-golfers to the revitalized club, which hosts kids' tournaments

*Kelly Dulkoski, center, works behind the counter in the clubhouse.*

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on Monday afternoons, a church golf league on Tuesdays and Burger Nights on Wednesdays, when Dulkoski grills burgers on the patio. Some of The Crescent residents walk or drive over on those nights to enjoy casual dinners with other neighbors.

“When we came in, we wanted Crescent residents to feel comfortable — even if they are non-golfers,” Dulkoski said. “We want them to come over and... be a part of what is going on here. Obviously, they bought houses in this community, whether because the aesthetics of the golf course is appealing to them or they like golf, or whatever. I feel like they need to have an opportunity to be a part of the golf club, and we constantly try to build on that.



“This course has a great layout, beautiful views, nice white sand and several holes with water. I realize the course is not for everyone — it’s challenging. It’s a lot longer than some courses around here, and we have 38 bunkers.

Here, you are going to use about every club in your bag.”

Barring long periods of extreme weather, Dulkoski thinks the club has made the turn toward success. And today, that optimism is reflected in the new focus he has found when playing the course.

“The goal is to make this course as good as it can possibly be,” Dulkoski said. “We have made significant strides in two-and-a-half years. In another couple of years, I would like to think this will be one of the best courses around, if

not one of the best in the state.” **S**

*Kris Mueller is a freelance writer living in Salisbury.*

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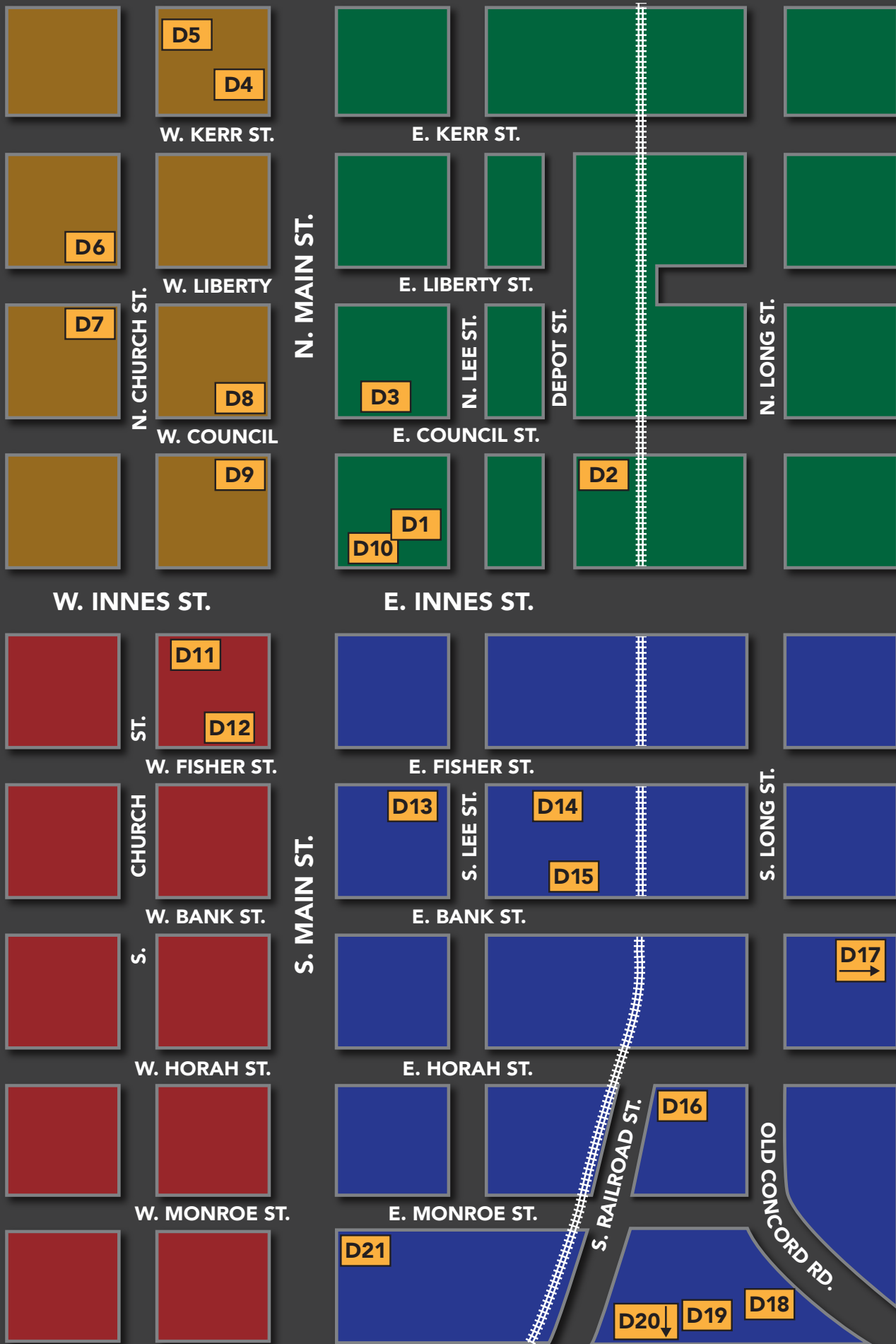
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Descriptions of each number on the map are on pages 67-71. — Graphic by Andy Mooney



The newly installed pedestals along the decorative sidewalk at Dixonville Cemetery will be inscribed with names of African-American citizens known to be buried in the 145-year-old cemetery. Old Concord Road is to the right, not pictured. — Mark Wineka photo

# History course

*Take a downtown walk or ride on part of the African-American Heritage Trail.*

Story by Mark Wineka

Almost 20 years ago, Marjorie A. Williams Kinard led a project initiated by Livingstone College and further developed by the Rowan County Convention & Visitors Bureau to come up with an African-American Heritage Trail for Salisbury.

That first effort resulted in both a map and brochure featuring churches, historic streets and homes, cemeteries, markers, public schools and, of course, Livingstone College.

The African-American Heritage Trail Committee and Convention & Visitors Bureau updated the trail in 2011-2012 and fashioned an attractive, easy-to-read booklet with several maps “highlighting historic places, leaders and

experiences in the lives of people of color who lived here.”

Today, those booklets can be picked up for free by dropping in at the visitor’s bureau (Gateway building, 204 E. Innes St.) The booklet also includes historic African-American sites in Rowan County, some descriptions of other important African-American citizens in Rowan’s history and a listing of traditionally black churches and cemeteries in the county.

With thanks to the trail committee and tourism officials, Salisbury the Magazine invites you to spend a couple of hours this summer walking or biking to these African-American heritage sites in the downtown alone, while knowing it only touches the surface of black history and

culture in our community.

**D1. OFFICE OF LEE CLARENCE JONES, D.D.S., 118 N. Lee St. (Originally Roseman’s Grocery)**

It’s one of the few remaining structures once housing busy African-American enterprises in the North Lee-East Council business district. A World War I veteran, Jones graduated from Howard University of Dentistry in Washington, D.C., and practiced in Salisbury from 1930-60.



*Office of Lee Clarence Jones, D.D.S, 118 N. Lee St. (Originally Roseman's Grocery) — Jon C. Lakey photo*

**D2. COMING OF THE  
RAILROAD MARKER**

*Southeast corner of Council  
and Depot streets*

Commemorates the completion of the N.C. Railroad in 1855, which brought sweeping changes and boosted Salisbury's economy. Following the Civil War, the railroad afforded former slaves an opportunity for employment and decent wages.

**D3. JOSEPH BALLARD MARKER**  
*116-18 E. Council St.*

Recites the achievements of a man born into slavery and freed with Emancipation. A blacksmith and politician, Ballard was featured on three postcards published by bookstore owner Theo Buerbaum.

**D4. HARRY COWAN MARKER**  
*402 N. Main St.*

This state highway historical marker recognizes the legendary Baptist minister (1810-1904) who established 49 churches in North Carolina. When he was a slave, his master, Thomas Lincoln Cowan, acknowledged Harry's God-given gifts and legally granted him

permission to preach, marry, baptize and use the four Cowan plantations as locations for his ministry.

**D5. HISTORIC MOUNT ZION  
BAPTIST CHURCH (1906)**  
*413 N. Church St.*

Founded in 1867 by the Rev. Harry Cowan, it became the first church in Salisbury (1985) with an individual listing on the National Register of Historic Places. The congregation has since moved to a new church on the western side of Salisbury, but the old church still stands.

**D6. SOLDIERS MEMORIAL  
AME ZION CHURCH (1892)**  
*306 N. Church St.*

Founded in 1865. First known as Salisbury Station and Mount Zion Society, the name eventually was changed to honor the Union soldiers who fought for the freedom of slaves. In 1873 the church purchased this property where the sanctuary stands today. The first church building housed the office of Joseph C. Price while he was president of Livingstone College. The cornerstone for the present sanctuary was laid in September 1892.

**D7. OAK GROVE-FREEDMAN'S  
CEMETERY**

*Southwest corner of Church  
and Liberty streets*

Was an early burial site of African-Americans. The memorial, dedicated in 2006, was designed by Seattle artist Maggie Smith as a compassionate symbol to acknowledge the past, challenge visitors to think about the present, and offer hope for the future. The sidewalk and intersection are paved with bricks laid as African textile patterns, which symbolize ancestry and protection.

**D8. ROWAN MUSEUM**  
*202 N. Main St.*

This building was originally a county courthouse in 1855. On permanent display are many items related to African-American history and some personal belongings of J.C. Price.

**D9. WILEY IMMANUEL LASH  
MARKER**

*Southwest corner of Main  
and Council streets*

Recognizes the achievements of an outstand-

## REMINISCE

ing leader, political activist and humanitarian. The marker is on the building that once served as City Hall, where Lash became Salisbury's first black mayor (1979-81). His grocery store was located in the 100 block of East Council Street.

### **D10. WILLIAM VALENTINE MARKER**

*Innes Street side of building at 101 N. Main St.*

The marker is imbedded in the sidewalk near the entrance to the barbershop he operated. The building, erected in 1858, is Salisbury's oldest extant commercial structure. Valentine was a free man of color and purchased a home (No. 15) before the Civil War. In the 1870s, he served as a trustee of the black cemetery (No. 18) and AME Zion Church (No. 6).

### **D11. INTEGRATION MARKER**

*121-129 W. Innes St.*

The marker is located in the park (courtyard)

adjacent to the Salisbury Post and where the Capitol Theatre once stood. Here the days of segregated seating in Salisbury's movie houses came to a quiet end following a protest by Livingstone College students in 1962.

### **D12. CROSSROADS: PAST AND PRESENT**

*100 block of West Fisher Street*

Commissioned in 1979 by the Rowan Art Guild, the mural was painted by Salisbury artist Cynvia Arthur-Rankin. African-Americans portrayed in the mural include Craig Aldrich, Marvette Pratt Aldrich (Mrs. Bobby), Cherie Dawn Aldrich, Troy Brawley, David Joseph Butler, Fannie Butler, Robert Cowan, Ida Duncan, Garland Gaither, Pete Davis, Darrell Hancock, George Knox, Wiley Lash and Selena P. Siler.

### **D13. MOWERY BLOCK**

*113-119 E. Fisher St.*

Was erected in 1902 by John "Jack" Mowery (1836-1902), a tailor and prominent business-

man, who is buried in Dixonville Cemetery (No. 18). Some black businesses which operated here during the years included Noble & Kelsey Funeral Home on the second floor, W.F. Kelsey's barber and umbrella repair shop, Mowery Tailor Shop, Union Drug Store and doctors' offices.

### **D14. THE NEGRO CENTER (1953)**

*223 E. Fisher St.*

Housed the Negro Branch (1953-67) of Rowan Public Library and other offices. The building is now occupied by Noble & Kelsey Funeral Home. In 1911, Lula Spaulding Kelsey became the first licensed female mortician in North Carolina.

### **D15. WILLIAM VALENTINE HOUSE**

*224 E. Bank St.*

Was purchased in 1858 at the estate sale of Horace Beard. Bill Valentine (No. 10) lived here until he moved in 1886 to Sableton near



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# SALISBURY

the magazine

## REMINISCE

Union Hill on the west side of town. The entrance gate to the Confederate Prison was located across the tracks from this dwelling, which is now one of Clyde's antique shops.

### **D16. SITE OF FRIENDS SCHOOL AND DIXONVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH**

*Southeast corner of Horah and Railroad streets*

In 1866, the Friends of Philadelphia and Vicinity for the Relief of Colored Freedmen purchased this property from Joseph Horah and opened a school. The Baptist Freedmen's Church, which became Dixonville Baptist and renamed First Calvary in 1926, was established the same year by the Rev. Harry Cowan (No. 4) and shared facilities with the Quaker School. In 1881 the State Normal School of Salisbury was located here. A 1910 church building was razed during urban renewal.

### **D17. CROWN IN GLORY LUTHERAN CHURCH** 517 E. Bank St.

The church is the result of five Lutheran African-American congregations of the city and county merging and building a sanctuary which was dedicated in 1971. Represented in the merger were the congregations of St. John's, organized in 1866, and St. Paul's, organized in the 1930s, both of Salisbury; Zion of Gold Hill; Concordia of Rockwell; and Mount Zion, located near Bostian Crossroads. Each of those last three were organized in the 1890s.

### **D18. DIXONVILLE CEMETERY** 210 Old Concord Road

Was officially established in 1874 by the city fathers as a cemetery "to be used by the colored people perpetually." The earliest extant tombstone is dated 1851, but there are no recorded death certificates for those who

died before 1912. Since that time some 500 burials have been documented. A Dixonville-Lincoln School (No. 19) Memorial is being developed on the site thanks to a task force established in 2010.

### **D19. LINCOLN SCHOOL** 642 S. Shaver St.

The school was established in 1885 and was the only public school in Salisbury for African-Americans until 1922. Replacing an earlier two-story wooden structure, the existing building was erected in 1920 and spared during urban renewal of the 1960s and 1970s. When the school closed in 1970, students transferred to the integrated A.T. Allen Elementary.

### **D20. HISTORIC SALISBURY NATIONAL CEMETERY** 202 Government Road

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property, which held the remains of Union soldiers who had died in the nearby Confederate Prison during the Civil War. Robert, the son of Dr. David Livingstone, for whom the Salisbury college is named, was one of the Union prisoners who died here and was buried in anonymity in one of the 18 trenches holding thousands of bodies of black and white Union soldiers. The cemetery became a site for all military personnel and was listed on the National Register in 1999.

**D21. LIVINGSTONE COLLEGE MARKER**  
*Southeast corner of Main and Monroe streets*

Serves as an introduction to a whole other area of African-American history in Salisbury in the West End. A historically black college, Livingstone was founded as Zion Wesley Institute in 1879 and became a college in 1885, with J.C. Price as its president from 1882-93. 



*Today's City Tavern bar and restaurant at 113 E. Fisher St. is located in a building which once constituted the Mowery Block, built in 1902 by John 'Jack' Mowery, a prominent African-American businessman. — Mark Wineka photo*

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Luther Sowers and Jerry Brown



People attending the Colonial Spring Frolic were treated to a beautiful spring day.



Nancy Stewart of Greensboro is a member of the Carolina Colonial Dancers.

## Colonial Spring Frolic

The Old Stone House served as backdrop for Rowan Museum's annual Colonial Spring Frolic. The day featured history interpreters demonstrating old-time crafts and skills, including the dyeing of Easter eggs. There also was music, dance, tasting and tours of the Old Stone House — Rowan County's oldest house — as the event marked the historic landmark's opening for a new season.

— Photos by Mark Wineka



In front: Phyllis Broadway, Debra Tatus, David Tatum, Pat Miller and Jerry Miller. In second row: Bob and Diane Zielaznicki with Judy Aldridge.



Hannah Shumaker and Jacki Hurlbut



Charis Roth with her grandmother, Eileen Roth.



The Windsong Recorder Ensemble





Above: Trent, Jacquelyn and James Hawkins  
Left: Docent Kelly Miller stands by the Old Stone House's huge fireplace.



Above: Gavin and Lloyd Benton  
Left: Marlie Miller helped with the dyeing of Easter eggs.



Sandy Czuba, left, explains a cabinet feature of the Old Stone House to Terry and Penny Sides.



Above: Carol Rathbun, Ray Barber and Leslie Black. Right: Betsy Smith looks on as her grandchildren Ava Mendoza, 3, and Tucker Mendoza, 4, watch eggs being dyed the Colonial way. Left: Jon Wallace and Gary Jones



# the Scene



Katie Brooks and Kevin Murphy were selling chances to win a new car from the Ben Mynatt Family of Dealerships.



Joni Featherson with her display from Leora Stone Candle Co.



Kristen Paustian, Owen Paustian, Evan Paustian and J.P. Hamilton stopped by to see the black ratsnake held by Abby Kluttz, even though this variety of the snake wasn't black.

## Earth Day Jam

Happy Roots, a nonprofit organization that provides nature-based therapeutic and education services, sponsored the sixth annual Earth Day Jam at the Rowan County Fairgrounds. Guests enjoyed live music by more than 15 acts over two days. The Jam also featured eco-friendly businesses, artisans and vendors, Earth Day educators, family-friendly activities and local foods and beverages. The presenting sponsor was Ben Mynatt Nissan, which helped Happy Roots by raffling off a new Nissan Kicks.

— Photos by Mark Wineka



Bo, Katie, Naomi, Kate and Janet Haynes



Left: Courtney and James Spangler, owners of Goodforia CBD.

Right: Uju Parker and Kamille Bostick were telling folks about energy efficient windows.



Parents Luis and Marta Sierra with children Shon, Juan Pablo and Hassoue



Far left: Melissa Donnell gives a bite of corn dog to her husband, Felton.

Left: Jackie King and Chris White





Above: Rick Anderson, Lillian Gascoigne and sculptor Roger Martin. Right: Some of the 2019 show's sculptors, including Martin, Harry McDaniel, Richard Pitts, Jim Gallucci and Robert Coon gathered for this photo on the front porch of the Norvell home.



Left: Kevin Davis, Alyssa Nelson, Gianni Moscardini and Nick Ward. Middle: Greg Rapp and Bruce Wilson. Right: Barbara Perry, Jane Creech and Ed Norvell



Tamara Sheffield, Jenn Selby, Michael Quillen and Laura Lewis

## Salisbury Sculpture Show reception

The Salisbury Public Art Committee held a reception in honor of participating artists in the 2019 Salisbury Sculpture Show, which was installed in early April. The reception was held at the home of Susan and Ed Norvell on South Fulton Street. Sculptors for this year's show, which has pieces placed throughout the city, include Matt Amante, Jonathan Bowling, Robert Coon, Jim Gallucci, Hanna Jubran, Roger Martin, Harry McDaniel, Jordan Parah, Charles Pilkey, Richard Pitts, Adam Walls and Jim Wetzel.

— Photos by Mark Wineka



Left: Jody Blackwell and Mona Moscardini. Middle: Louis Kandl and Judy Klusman. Right: David Senseney and sculptor Harry McDaniel.

the **S**cene



Michelle Spieler and Gwin Barr



Kelli Starrett, Meredith Brincefield and Melissa Heilig



The Back Shop of the N.C. Transportation Museum was transformed with lights, trees and oversized flowers for the Bloom in Wonder gala. In addition to supporting educational programming, scholarship and community outreach, proceeds from Bloom support a number of community needs, including the Broyhill Leadership program and this year's Bloom nonprofit, Community Care Clinic of Rowan County.

## Bloom in Wonder

It proved to be a whimsical adventure and festive showing of community support for education and other local needs at Salisbury Academy's 10th annual Bloom gala, held in the N.C. Transportation Museum's Back Shop. Bloom in Wonder brought together 300 people for an evening of dining, dancing, a live auction and music from The Band Punch. "Salisbury Academy is so very grateful for our supporters," said Beverly Fowler, head of the school. "Bloom in Wonder was a fantastic night for all involved and a wonderful demonstration of the commitment our community has to education and other local causes."

— Photos by Sean Meyers Photography



Above: Alice Rich, Lizzy Roy, Tracey Baird, Beverly Fowler, Amy Goodnight, Lauren Whaley, LaSheka Walker and Traci Williams.



Left: Sharon Baker and Dr. John Wear



Cliff and Barb Sorel with Diana and Jason Keith



In back: Rob Ring, Samantha Haspel, Laurel Harry, Meg Dees, Dolph Murphy and George Kluttz. In front: Jay Dees, Earle and Bo Thompson and Margaret Kluttz.



Deborah Howell and Emilie Scharf. Both are executive directors with Partners in Learning — Howell at the Catawba College facility; Scharf, at the Novant Health facility.



Gemale Black, one of the evening's speakers, with his mother, Linda.



Emcee Jason Walser recognizes Barbara Jo Corriher, at right, who chairs the Community Relations Committee that plans the annual event.

## Smart Start Rowan

Smart Start Rowan, whose vision for Rowan County is that every child receive the education, nurturing and support needed to provide the foundation for them to grow into healthy, productive citizens, held its annual Shirley P. Ritchie Champion for Young Children event at the Salisbury Station. This year's theme was "From Tiny Seeds Grow Mighty Trees," and longtime volunteer Phil Barton, retired director of Rowan Public Library, was recognized as this year's champion.

— Photos by Susan Shinn Turner



Lorie Aldridge and Natalie Burns of Smart Start's Community Relations Committee, which plans the annual Shirley P. Ritchie Champion for Children event.

Quyona Rawley of Smart Start Rowan was one of the evening's speakers.



Oladumi Hart and Derek Goode order drinks. The two are friends of Smart Start Rowan's Quyona Rawley, one of the evening's speakers.



Amy Vestal with Partners in Learning. Her colorful shoes were a hit.



Smart Start Rowan's Cynthia Rodriguez takes photos.



Supporter Penny Link and Robin Fisher, chairwoman of the Denim & Diamonds event.



During the auction part of the evening, bidding was fast and furious. The event had its usual Denim & Diamonds theme with some Mardi Gras thrown in this year.

## Denim & Diamonds

Sacred Heart Catholic School held its 10th annual Denim & Diamonds Benefit, which completed the school's \$85,000 fund-a-need campaign, buying the first-ever Sacred Heart bus. "We are so grateful for all the additional support of our sponsors, attendees and supporters who helped us raise another \$60,000," event chairperson Robin Fisher said. "These additional proceeds will be used to help families afford Sacred Heart (through tuition assistance), fund our new middle school world history curriculums, supplement our AirMac cart and support our STREAM curriculums." Sacred Heart has provided educational opportunities in Rowan County for 137 years.

— Photos courtesy of Sacred Heart Catholic Church



Father John Eckert with Cris Brincefield



Auctioneer Michael Parker with Sacred Heart Principal Tyler Kulp



Peggy Fisher of Coyote Trail Cakes donated three cakes to the 'Dessert Dash.' The Dessert Dash sales totaled \$6,375, and this year, one of the desserts sold for \$525. The average sale price was \$215.



Visitors check out Salisbury Fire Department's newly restored 1941 American LaFrance 65-foot aerial at the N.C. Transportation Museum's Fire Truck Festival. This year's event is June 22. — Wayne Hinshaw photo

## JUNE

### 1 Family Fun Day

**June 1: F&M Trolley Barn, 125 E. Liberty St.** — 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Hosted by Waterworks Visual Arts Center in partnership with Rowan Arts Council, this multi-cultural event will provide family friendly entertainment. This includes live music, rap, dance performers, artist demonstrations and 10 unique art stations where kids of all ages can be inspired by different cultures to create take-home projects. Entrance is free. For information: [marketing@waterworks.org](mailto:marketing@waterworks.org) or 704-636-1882.

### 1 23rd Annual Fun Fest Benefits Car Show

**June 1: 725 Crescent Road, Rockwell** — All day. Awards for: Top 40 Cars, Best of Show, Best Interior, Best Paint, Best Engine, Ladies' Choice and dash plaques for the first 100 entrants. Fun Fest benefits Nazareth Child and Family Connection. For information: [info@nazfc.org](mailto:info@nazfc.org) or 704-279-5556.

### 1 3rd Annual Sole Hope Denim Dash 5k & Fun Run

**June 1: 935 Hurley School Road** — 8:45 a.m. – 12 p.m. Tickets are \$25. The trail goes through the beautiful Salisbury Community Park. It is an unpaved, wooded trail and not stroller friendly. Thousands of people in Uganda suffer from a foot parasite called jiggers.

# Summer 2019

## Upcoming events in the Salisbury-Rowan area

Through education, medical care and shoes, Sole Hope seeks to aid Ugandan people to become jigger-free. Sole Hope currently provides a fair wage to over 60 Ugandans for their work as tailors, shoemakers, nurses, social workers, caretakers and more. For more information: [solehope.org](http://solehope.org) and <https://runsignup.com/Race/NC>.

### 1 Pops at the Post

**June 1: N.C. Transportation Museum, Spencer** — 7:45 p.m. Free concert by Salisbury Symphony with classical and popular songs. Please join us for this popular 15th annual concert, which was moved this year in anticipation of new park construction next to the Salisbury Post. For information: <https://bit.ly/2TJh5D3>.

### 2 Concert and Movie Series

**June 2, 16, 29; July 14 & 28; Aug. 11: Kannapolis** — The event is sponsored by Hilbish Ford. Artists include: Loverboy, June 2; Clay Walker, June 16; Charlotte Symphony, June 29; Starship, featuring Mickey Thomas,

July 14; Too Much Sylvia, July 28; Commodores, Aug. 11. All events are free to the public and held in downtown Kannapolis. Children 18 and under must be accompanied by a parent/guardian. No pets or smoking. For information: 704-920-4300, or [www.kannapolisnc.gov/Community/News](http://www.kannapolisnc.gov/Community/News).

### 6 'The Odd Couple (Female Version)

**June 6-9, 12-15, Meroney Theater, 213 S. Main St.** — 7:30 p.m. (2:30 p.m. June 9 only) Neil Simon's revision of his hugely successful play, "The Odd Couple," sees the lead characters transformed into Olive Madison and Florence Unger. Olive and their group of girlfriends are enjoying their weekly Trivial Pursuit night in Olive's messy and ill-equipped apartment. As the game continues, Florence arrives, fresh from being dumped by her husband. Fearful the neurotic Florence might attempt suicide, Olive invites her to move in. However, Olive and Florence have VERY different personalities, testing their friendship to the limit. When Olive organizes a double-date with

the Costazuela brothers, the differences come to a head and sparks fly! More information at <https://piedmontplayers.wixsite.com/mysite> or (704) 633-5471.

**7 China Grove 5k Main Street Challenge**  
**June 7: 333 N. Main St., China Grove**  
 — 6-10 p.m. USATF certified (NC-04022-PH) 3.1-mile, straight-down-and-back night race for recreational and competitive runners. Prices: 5k Run: \$20 (9 p.m.); 1/2 Mile Fun Run (8:30 p.m.): \$10; 200 Meter Tot Trot: \$5 (8:15 p.m.). For information: <https://runsignup.com/Race/NC/ChinaGrove/ChinaGrove5K>

**8 All MOPAR Show**  
**June 8: N.C. Transportation Museum, Spencer** — 9 a.m. Carolina Region Plymouth Car Club will display a grand collection of vehicles. Awards will be held at noon. For information: [nctrans@nctrans.org](mailto:nctrans@nctrans.org), or 704-636-2889.

**11 'Annie'**  
**June 11-14, 18: The Norvell Theater**  
 — 7:30-9:30 p.m. Based on the popular comic strip by Harold Gray, "Annie" has become a worldwide phenomenon featuring some of the greatest musical theater hits ever written. With equal measures of pluck and positivity, little orphan Annie charms everyone's hearts despite a next-to-nothing start in 1930s New York City. She finds a new home and family in billionaire Oliver Warbucks, his personal secretary Grace Farrell and a lovable mutt named Sandy. For information: 704-633-5471.

**11 Next Generation Railroader's Boot Camp**  
**June 11-15: N.C. Transportation Museum, Spencer** — Dress to get dirty in an intensive, weeklong preview of what it's like to work in railroad preservation. Event is open to ages 16-20. For information: [nctrans@nctrans.org](mailto:nctrans@nctrans.org), or 704-636-2889.

**13 'Shiloh Rules'**  
**June 13-16 and 20-22: Lee Street theatre, 329 N. Lee St.** — 7:30 p.m. (June 16: 2:30 p.m. only) A dedicated Union nurse and a mysterious Confederate refugee meet on the Shiloh battlefield to compete for the title of Best Female Reenactor of the Year. With their young trainees trying to out-do each other in "authenticity," and a concessionaire egging both sides on, their competition leads them into real conflict with Ranger Wilson, an African-American female park ranger who would rather be anywhere than the year 1862, imaginary or not. As the re-enactment rages out of control, all six women discover that some conflicts of the Civil War weren't left behind in 1862. Tickets: \$17.55; Student tickets: \$10. For



In addition to raising money for local non-profits, Chickweed highlights ways women can empower themselves through art. The festival features dancers, musicians and visual artists. Here, members of Queens of D'Nile Belly Dance group perform. This year's event is July 20. — *Rebecca Rider photo*

information: [info@leestreet.org](mailto:info@leestreet.org), or (704) 310-5507.

**21 Movies in the Park**  
**June 21: Village Park, downtown Kannapolis** — 8:45 p.m. This year includes: "Incredibles 2," "Sandlot," "Jumanji," "Secret Life of Pets," "Hotel Transylvania" and "Bumblebee." For information <http://www.kannapolisnc.gov>.

**22 Stories Under the Stars**  
**June 22: Kannapolis Library** — 7 p.m. Special children's event stories include "Rapunzel" by the Children's Theatre of Charlotte, Fish Magish, Donna Washington, Professor Whizzpop, and Steve Langley.

**22 Annual Fire Truck Festival**  
**June 22: N.C. Transportation Museum, Spencer** — Event brings antique and modern trucks together from fire departments and fire truck collectors across the Southeast, in the largest fire trucks display in North Carolina. Enjoy a huge event that shows off fire-fighting equipment, honors firefighters for their service and more! For information: [nctrans@nctrans.org](mailto:nctrans@nctrans.org), or 704-636-2889.

**22 Salisbury Pride Festival**  
**June 22: downtown Salisbury** — 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Come out and enjoy the Ninth Annual Salisbury Pride Festival. Live entertain-

ment, arts and crafts, dancing and more. Celebrate being one of the most diverse communities with Families and Friends of the LGBTQ+ and Straight Allies. For information: <http://www.salisburypride.com>.

**25 Model Train Summer Camp**  
**June 25-29: N.C. Transportation Museum, Spencer** — Weeklong day camp for ages 13-16 will teach new skills and involve these teens in railroading preservation at the museum. Over the course of the week, each camper will build an N scale T-Trak module while being taught and mentored by expert modelers. For information: [nctrans@nctrans.org](mailto:nctrans@nctrans.org), or 704-636-2889.

**28 Summer ARTventures**  
**June 24-28, July 8-12, 15-19, 22-26, and 29-August 2, Waterworks Visual Arts Center, 123 E. Liberty St., Salisbury** — Ages 4-18, Waterworks is hosting 2019 Summer ARTventures. Curriculum features age-appropriate instruction and loads of creative hands-on fun! Small class sizes allow for high-quality instruction. Instructors are professional artists and/or experienced art educators. For information: <http://www.waterworks.org/education/summerartventures.html>.

**29 The Famous Brothers**  
**June 29: Lee Street theatre, 329 N. Lee St.** — 7:30 p.m. The story is that The Fa-



amous Brothers hail from the hardscrabble mining town of Monkey's Crevice, West Virginia. That's where they created a unique three-part harmony style and wrote their most memorable songs, such as "Armageddon Ready for the Second Coming" and "I've Got Twenty Ways to Kill You With My Swiss Army Knife."

## JULY

### 4 Faith Fourth of July

**June 29-July 4: Faith American Legion Park** — 6-9 p.m. Six-day festival with amusement rides, entertainment and food. July 4 begins with a mile-long parade at 10 a.m. Festivities begin in the park after the parade with the singing of the national anthem followed by the introduction of dignitaries and the crowning of Miss Rowan County Veteran. Food booths and rides are open. Faith Idol Finals begin at 7 p.m. and the band at 8 p.m. There will be "ole timey games" at the ballpark, along with other activities. Fireworks at 10:30 p.m. Visit the Faith Fourth website for entertainment schedule and ride specials. For information: (704) 640-2326 or randall.bar43@yahoo.com.

### 13 22nd Annual Greenway 5k Run/Walk

**July 13: Salisbury Greenway** — 8-10 a.m. This annual 5k race/walk, sponsored by Salisbury Parks and Recreation, takes place on a certified 3.1-mile course that follows a portion of the Salisbury Greenway. Take in the beautiful scenery and support your community at the same time. Pre-registered participants are guaranteed a dry-fit tee. 12 age divisions and all proceeds to benefit the Greenway. Registration at activekids.com.

### 15 Middle School Civil War Camp

**July 15-19: Rowan Museum, 202 N. Main St.** — 9 a.m.-2 p.m. The Rowan Museum's Middle School Civil War Camp (rising 6th-8th graders) will highlight local, state and national events. Cost \$120. More information at 704-633-5946 or <https://www.rowanmuseum.org>.

### 18 'Blithe Spirit'

**July 18-20 and 25-27: Lee Street theatre, 329 N. Lee St.** — Set at the house of writer Charles Condomine and his wife, Ruth. One evening, Charles invites local eccentric medium Madame Arcati to hold a seance at his house. He asks along with his friends, Dr. and Mrs. Bradman, intending to gather character inspiration from Madame Arcati for his latest book. The group initially thinks the seance has been a failure, but it soon becomes clear that Madame Arcati has unwittingly brought back Charles' first wife, Elvira, to haunt him. Once in his house, Elvira is unable to leave and, as she



Farmers Day always draws a crowd in China Grove. This year's event is July 20. — Wayne Hinshaw photo

cannot be seen or heard by Ruth, she causes all kinds of mischievous trouble between the married couple. General tickets are \$17.55, and student tickets are \$10. For information: [info@leestreet.org](mailto:info@leestreet.org), or (704) 310-5507.

### 19 Shakers Dance

**July 19: Salisbury City Park** — 7-9 p.m. Open to ages 18 years and older who have a developmental disability. Light refreshments served by sponsors and partnering agencies. Shakers Dance is a partnership of the Arc of Rowan County, Rowan County Parks and Recreation-TR Division, and Salisbury Parks and Recreation. Entrance is free. For information: 704-216-7780.

### 20 Farmers Day

**July 20: 333 N Main St., China Grove** — 9 a.m.-9:30 p.m. Over 100 colorful booths line Main Street with a variety of great items for sale. Visitors purchase gifts for special occasions from the many art, craft, jewelry, clothing, baby items and many more great booths. Clowns, magicians, and bubbles will delight children of all ages. Children's rides and games keep the young ones busy. The popular "Little Mr. and Miss Farmer" contest is another hit of the day. Farmers Day is overflowing with free entertainment all day on the Main Stage in Hanna Park. Other entertainment includes dancers and gymnastics and karate demonstrations. The street vendors pack up at 4 p.m. and the town gets ready for the street dance at 7 p.m. So, bring a lawn chair to enjoy the band and be ready to dance to the music. Tickets are free. Additional information: (704) 857-2466 or <http://chinagrovenc.gov>.

### 20 Chickweed

**July 20: F&M Trolley Barn, 125 E. Liberty St.** — 5:30-10:30 p.m. Eighth Annual Chickweed celebrates indestructible women

with its annual arts/music festival featuring an all-women revue of musicians and artists, benefiting women and children victims of violence. Food, drink and vendors on site.

### 27 Celebrity Car & Truck Show

**July 27: N.C. Transportation Museum, Spencer** — Replicas of your favorite cars which were stars in movies and film will be displayed at the N.C. Transportation Museum. This event makes for great photo opportunities and a chance to talk with those who have put in the hard work to create these awesome replicas. For information: 704-636-2889 ext. 268.

### 27 Dragon Boat Festival

**July 27: 6480 Long Ferry Road, Salisbury** — 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Enjoy the Rowan County Chamber of Commerce dragon boat races with 3,800 spectators from Rowan, Davidson and Stanly. Food vendors will be joined by local iconic soft drink company Cheerwine as well as Salisbury-based breweries and vineyards. The event is free to attend. No pets, coolers or outside food will be allowed. For information: (704) 633-4221 or [info@rowan-chamber.com](mailto:info@rowan-chamber.com).

### 28 'The Wiz'

**July 25-28, 31: Meroney Theater, 213 S. Main St.** — 7:30-9:30 p.m. (2:30-4:30 p.m. July 28 only) A beloved Broadway gem, "The Wiz" infuses L. Frank Baum's "The Wonderful Wizard of Oz" with a dazzling mix of rock, gospel and soul music. This timeless story of Dorothy's adventures through the Land of Oz is a fun, family friendly, modern musical that was adapted into a popular film version starring Michael Jackson and Diana Ross. Tickets run \$17 to \$20. Additional information at [boxoffice@piedmontplayers.com](mailto:boxoffice@piedmontplayers.com), or 704-633-5471. [S]



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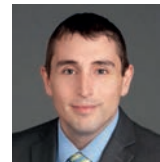
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