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t h e m a g a z i n e

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- Visit Schaffers at their Spanish Mission home
- Tune into 'It's a Wonderful Life' radio show
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# SALISBURY

the magazine

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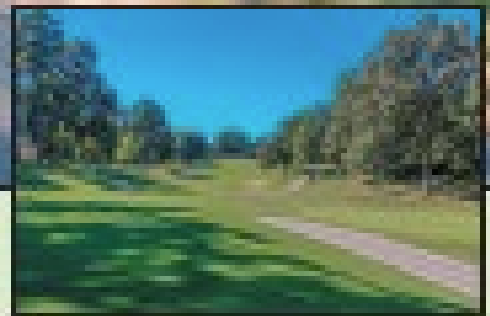
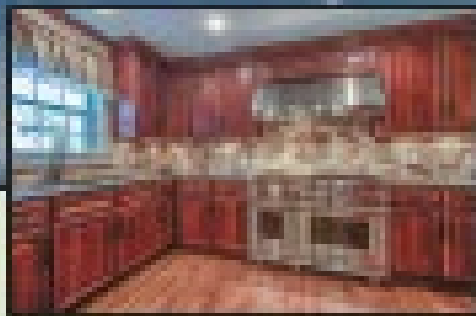
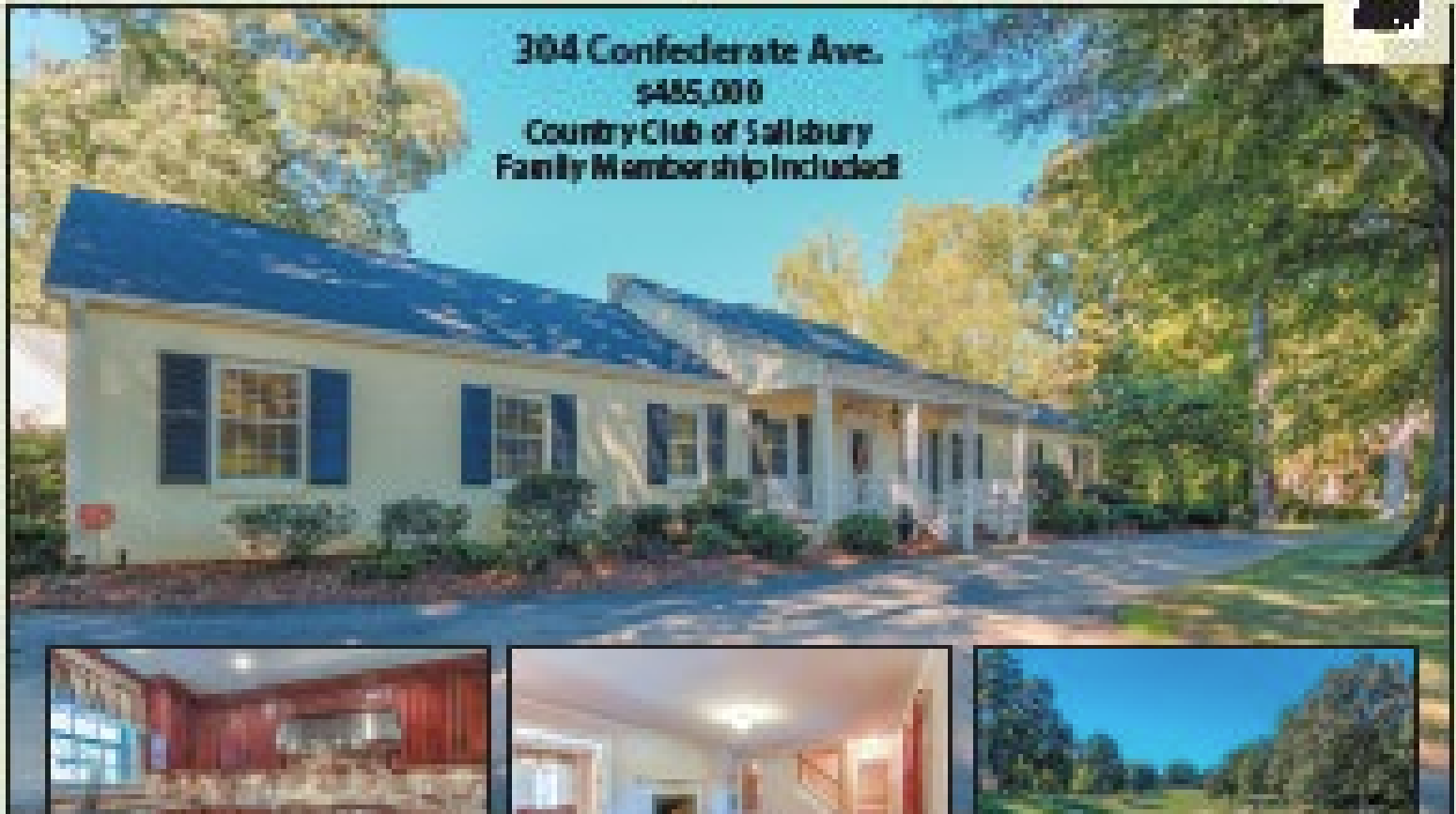
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**On the cover**

Holiday sweets bring out the smiles as Father Christmas, a.k.a. James Bigsby, can attest.

— Photos by Jon C. Lakey

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# Covering all of the bases

**W**e've learned quickly that choosing what should be on each issue's cover is not always an easy decision. In fact, the deliberations can be downright comical, worthy of YouTube. But for Salisbury the Magazine's first holiday issue, James Bigsby made the decision easy, and no "model" was ever easier to work with.



The holiday issue sort of begins and ends with Bigsby. There he is as a terrific Santa Claus on the cover, tasting his way through some Christmas desserts. He also has the final word as Father Christmas in our parting column in the back. It's there where Bigsby describes how he got started in the Santa game and how rewarding it can be.

As you might be able to tell on occasion, we're new to this magazine game, and it was a shock when the staff realized we would be putting this holiday issue together during the month of September. I first contacted Bigsby about writing a Santa's-perspective column for us Sept. 1. And by the time I had his column in hand by Sept. 9, I dangled the question — might he be willing to strike some poses for a possible cover page? I worried, however, that he might not have reached the full growing season for his white beard.

"I am far enough along with my whiskers for current photos," he told me. "Let me know how you want to work it." I had the feeling then this particular cover would be a breeze, and thanks to James, photographer Jon Lakey and creative director Andy Mooney, it was.

We hope you find this holiday issue a user-friendly type of edition. Elizabeth Cook visited three Salisbury establishments which will be great places to find your holiday desserts, and she also included the back story and recipe behind retired

coach and teacher Ron Raper's incredible Cream Cheese Braid — notice we capitalize the name.

With our holiday bucket list, we've laid out the things every local resident — and visitor — should do over the holidays, and our regular calendar takes care of some of the rest. Susan Shinn shows us how much we would miss our charitable

foundations if they weren't around, and that's the theme, of course, of "It's a Wonderful Life." Deirdre Parker Smith reveals how Lee Street theatre will give us a radio-play version of that classic in December.

With this issue, Smith also introduces "Bookish," a regular feature in which she will offer up three book recommendations. For this initial Bookish, Deirdre gets a little nostalgic and suggests three holiday classics.

Because we spend so much time around the table over the holidays, local interior designer Chad Morgan decorated three tabletops — Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's versions — meant to inspire your own creativeness. And again, because we're around the table a lot in coming weeks, physical fitness guru Ester Marsh provides a 15-minute daily exercise plan to keep us moving before and after the holidays.

You will not want to miss the visit Cook and Lakey made to Pam and John Schaffer's 1906 Spanish Mission house on South Fulton Street. "The Hacienda" will make you say "Feliz Navidad." We echo that sentiment. Happy holidays to all.

Mark Wineka,  
*Editor, SALISBURY the Magazine*

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# LETTERS

*Here are observations readers sent in after the debut issue of Salisbury the Magazine in September:*

## Always be Home

A childhood friend in Salisbury sent me a copy of your magazine and it is just wonderful.

My family home — the Myers-Morris House at 1428 N. Main St. — has been stabilized and restored outside by the Historic Foundation and is scheduled to be on the October Tour of historic homes. Mark Wineka was so kind when he interviewed me by telephone prior to writing the article in the Post about our home. I have also talked to Doug Black several times and am so proud of the work he and all the others did at 1428.

I have been away from Salisbury since 1957, but Salisbury will always be “home.” I have many friends there.

Thank you. And congratulations on your magazine.

— **Elaine Morris Hillard**  
*White Plains, Md.*

## First impressions

The magazine is beautiful. We are blessed to live in such a

beautiful city.

— **Debbie Drane Albright**  
*Salisbury*

The cover was very inviting — I wanted to pick it up! And I did.

— **Diana Brackett Moghrabi**  
*via Facebook*

Rode to Salisbury today and one thing I did was go by the Post and got the first issue and paid for my subscription. Looking forward to sitting down tonight and looking through it.

— **Monty Anderson**  
*via Facebook*

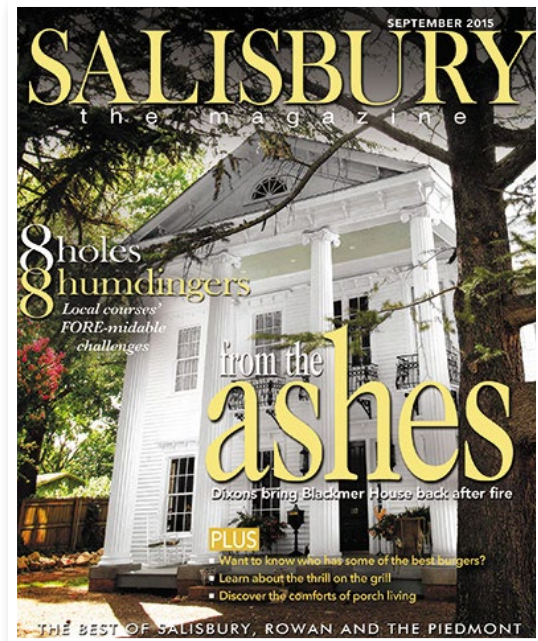
Very impressed with everything in the first issue. Can't wait for the next one!

— **Jean W. West**  
*Salisbury*

Yes, I would like to subscribe. Excellent first issue. Wonderful pictures.

— **Jenny James**  
*via Facebook*

*Salisbury the Magazine welcomes your comments. Email Editor Mark Wineka at [mark.wineka@salisburythemagazine.com](mailto:mark.wineka@salisburythemagazine.com), or write to Salisbury the Magazine, P.O. Box 4639, Salisbury, NC 28145. Letters chosen for publication may be edited for length and clarity. Comments on Salisbury the Magazine's Facebook page also are welcome.*



## On the House

Very nice magazine. I especially liked the article and photos of the Blackmer House. It is good to see the house restored and made into a family home. Thanks to the Dixon family for seeing the vision of what the house could be.

— **Keith Fesperman**  
*via Facebook*

## Blackmer & Burgers

First of all, I would like to thank all of you guys that were involved in putting the magazine together. It was very good. I loved the article on the Dixons restoring the Blackmer House, really impressive photos as well. Great article on the local restaurants. Jamie Vanhoy really has done well with Wahoo's Diner.

— **Danny Williams Jr.**  
*Salisbury*

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# THROUGH THE LENS

---

BY JON C. LAKEY



After a golden sunset passes and just before the sky loses all of its color and fades to black, a blue hue touches the upper parts of St. John's Lutheran Church in downtown Salisbury as a yellow cast from the street lights begins to bubble up from below.



**On the Air**

Lee Street theatre will produce a performance of 'It's A Wonderful Life' for the holidays. This production will be performed as a radio-style play that will have actors producing the sound effects. Heather Wilson-Bowlby, Chris Speer and Justin Dionne play around with some of the items that will be used during the play.

Welcome back Scrooge. Hello, George Bailey and Clarence and Mary and mean old Mr. Potter.

For many people, it simply isn't Christmas without "It's a Wonderful Life," the classic movie starring Jimmy Stewart and Donna Reed.

Now Salisbury will have its own version — not of the movie, but of an intriguing take on the movie — a live radio play.

Lee Street theatre will produce "It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play," as well as "Scrooge's Christmas Trolley Tour" now in its fourth year. Artistic Director Justin Dionne saw the radio play as something completely different and not too hard to pull off during the busy Christmas season.

# Radio-active

Lee Street theatre brings sounds of 'It's a Wonderful Life' to stage

by DEIRDRE PARKER SMITH

photo by JON C. LAKEY

He hired Heather Wilson-Bowlby, a fellow Catawba College graduate, to direct.

He asked the right person. Heather's husband, Jon Bowlby, played Scrooge last year and Heather was the Ghost of Christmas Past. Plus, the movie is "my all-time favorite," Heather says.

For 10 years, Heather was the artistic director at the Old Courthouse Theater in Concord. And "It's a Wonderful Life" was the first Christmas production OCT did. "We did the full version," she says.

"Having my love for that, I was game for this. Let's do it, let's make it as close as

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if you're witnessing professional radio personalities, with all the sound effects in front of you, actors doing multiple parts, with a shift in props or a hat to tell the story."

She wants to keep it "light and fun."

The planning started last year, when Lee Street's board was choosing plays for the season. "Our goal is to plan every season by Dec. 1," says Justin. "We're already picking plays for 2016-2017. We try our best not to do plays that are being done anywhere in our region, even Charlotte."

Davidson Community players did "It's a Wonderful Life" a few years ago.

"We were looking for a holiday play. Last year we were running back and forth performing at 'Polar Express,' the holiday feature at the N.C. Transportation Museum, based on the popular children's book and animated movie. Lee Street players were also performing on the trolley tour, and "A Country Christmas," featuring popular local musicians, was playing in the theater.

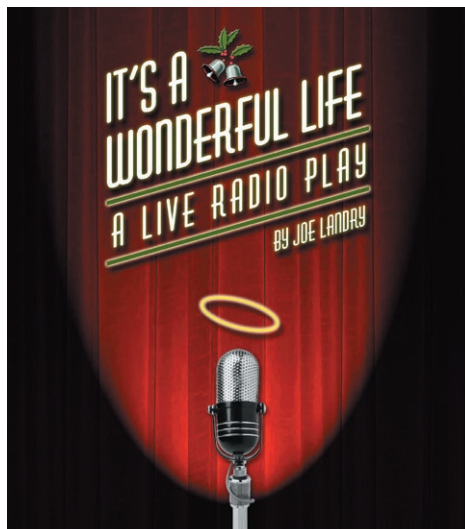
"We love it, we created this holiday atmosphere," Dionne says. "Even more than ever that's going to be in focus. It's great to continue that."

In choosing plays for this season, the group was looking for something for a more traditional audience. With the military drama, "A Few Good Men" and the upcoming "Rocky Horror Show," they were looking for a "family friendly" production. "We wanted to include them. ... We don't have to worry about filling too many seats, so we can do different things."

Joe Landry wrote the play adaptation of the film and then the radio play. It was first performed in 1996. Landry started out with the adaptation of the movie for a high school ensemble. Then it moved to a large,

professional playhouse and the budget got out of hand, with all the characters, costumes and sets. Creating it as a radio play simplified matters enormously.

"One reason we were attracted to it is not that we want to avoid productions, but we like to be creative and challenge audiences. ... It will be very 'Prairie Home Companion,'" Dionne says.



Heather had directed actors playing multiple roles in "Greater Tuna," so she had an idea of what's involved.

She's looking for atmospheric sound effects, like snow, a big part of the film. "I'm trying not to use any recorded sound." She wants the actors and sound engineer Chris Speer to create the effects. Rodney Lippard will be the stage manager and the Foley artist — the one who does sound effects.

Heather would like a bit of physical movement on stage, too, but actors still have to stay close to the microphone, just as they would in a radio studio. Lee Street is working on finding a radio station willing to broadcast the play live at least once.

For Heather, it's all a fun challenge. "I just directed 'The Wizard of Oz' in Concord," she says. "We were still working out how to melt the witch two days before opening,

It's such an iconic moment. Sometimes you have a creative vision and then circumstances to deal with. Sometimes you have to let go of the precious idea for what's going to be successful for the audience. To me that's fun. I know the answer is there, we have to keep striving for the solution."

She also has to consider voice. She doesn't want anyone to mimic Stewart or Reed. She wants the actor to be able to play George's exuberance, then at his lowest point, "then his journey to find out it is a wonderful life."


A play based on sound is not so unusual, she says. "Shakespeare said, 'Let's go hear the play.' Now we say, 'Let's go SEE the play.' Visual is so important." At the same time, she hopes people can shut their eyes and imagine the settings, much as audiences in Shakespeare's time had to imagine a setting in Italy or an unknown island.

In addition to Lippard, the cast for "It's a Wonderful Life" includes Gary Thornburg as Freddie, Chris Eller as Jake, Matt Ensley as Jimmy, Sara Lee as Sally, Dana Vanhoy as Lana, Ava Holtzman as Donna and John Snell as Harry.

The character of Freddie is the announcer, Henry Potter, Uncle Bill Bailey and several other characters.

Jake plays both George and young George. Harry plays Harry Bailey, Bert the Cop, Clarence and another dozen or so characters. Sally plays Mary and young Mary.

The Lana character will play Violet, various Baileys and a couple of children.

Performance dates are Dec. 10-12 and 17-19 at 7:30 p.m., and Dec. 13 at 2:30 p.m. at Lee Street theatre. Tickets go on sale Nov. 15. F&M Bank is sponsoring this special holiday production. 

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*Leigh Ann, her sister*

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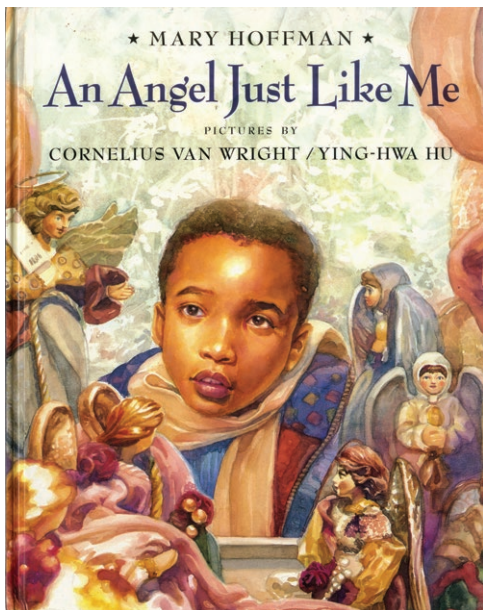
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# BOOKISH



## Holiday reads

Literary offerings that set the mood for the season

by DEIRDRE PARKER SMITH

The best holiday books are the ones that bring back memories, or help you create new memories. So many to choose from — a sea of green and red and smiling faces. “How the Grinch Stole Christmas,” perhaps? “The Polar Express?”

To me, it isn't Christmas without “A Christmas Carol.” Charles Dickens' story of bitter, lonely Ebenezer Scrooge and his redemption by three spirits never gets old.

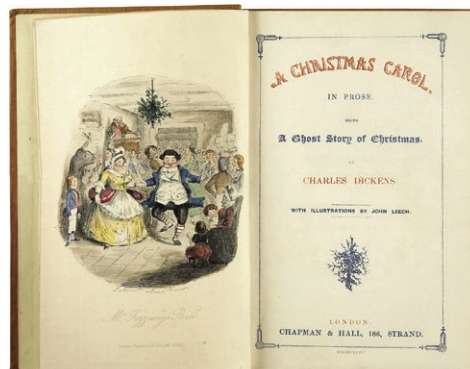
The many movie or television versions are fine — everyone has a favorite, but the book itself, once serialized by London newspapers, is the best. “A Christmas Carol. In Prose. Being A Ghost Story of Christmas.” That's the one you want, if you can find it, the original story. There are hundreds of editions available. The original was illustrated by John Leech. You might have seen the illustration of the Fezziwig Ball as a Christmas card.

Dickens' theme is timeless: Be kind to others. The author was struck by the starving, filthy children living in London around 1840, and supported the Ragged Schools, free to poor children. Dickens believed, even then, that education was the path away from poverty.

The slow awakening of Scrooge's soul will light up your dark winter night. It might even knock the curmudgeon out of you.

“A Child's Christmas in Wales,” in print for 60 years, is by Dylan Thomas, the Welsh poet who wrote “Do Not Go Gentle Into That Good Night.” The book is a fond memory, from a child's-eye view, of Christmas with family in the days long past, when a whistle was a treasured gift.

It is beautiful when read aloud, with a cadence like poetry. Thomas paints pictures



so exquisite you'll be transported to the snow-covered town and feel the cold, see the smoke from the chimneys, smell the roasting turkey and hear the presents being torn open.

“Mistletoe hung from the gas brackets in all the front parlors; there was sherry and walnuts and bottled beer and crackers by the dessertspoons; and cats in their furabouts watched the fires; and the high-heaped fire spat, all ready for the chestnuts and the mulling pokers.”

There's comfort in the words. Thomas allows us to wallow in memory, cozy by the fire, nestled in the snow-deep landscape.

For young children, there is the heart-warming “An Angel Just Like Me,” by Mary Hoffman, illustrated by Cornelius Van Wright and Ying Hwa Hu.

Mary Hoffman has written 90 books for children. In 1992, her book “Amazing Grace” was named Children's Book of the Year and earned other national awards. Eventually, the Grace stories became a series.

This book, with lush illustrations, tells the story of Tyler, who sets out to find a new angel for the top of the Christmas tree when the family's old angel breaks.

But all the angels are blue-eyed, blonde-haired girls with pink faces. Where is the angel that looks like Tyler?

It is a sweet story that tackles tough questions in a simple way. It's a chance to talk about differences and similarities. It is also a story about what Christmas is all about. And with Tyler looking pretty angelic himself on the front cover, this is sure to draw children in. **S**



# Sweet talk

by ELIZABETH COOK  
photos by JON C. LAKEY





## Desserts give Christmas a grand finale.

**S**alisbury the Magazine asked three Salisbury bakers which desserts come to mind when they think of Christmases past, and what they might recommend for Christmas today.

After all, they're the experts: LaVerne Stephens, Abigail Young, and Laura Murph.

### Abigail's: A Cake Affair

Abigail Young paints the final touches on a holly leaf, brushing some of the green outline inward to spread the color.

Her canvas is the white icing on a red velvet cake — a masterpiece of a cake suitable for a Christmas feast.



### Snack time

**Top:** LaVerne Stephens, owner of IsJays Sweets & Celebrations in downtown Salisbury, decorates cupcakes made into Christmas trees. **Above:** Holiday cookies. **Opposite page:** Holiday sweets bring out the smiles.



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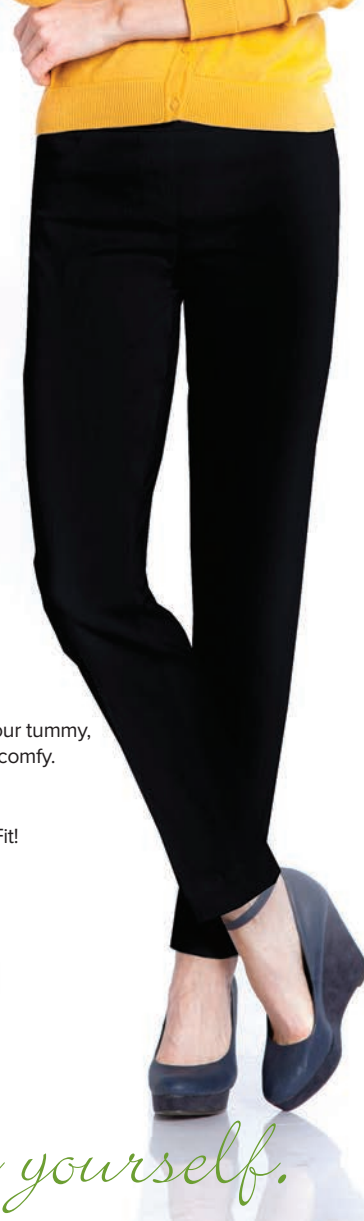
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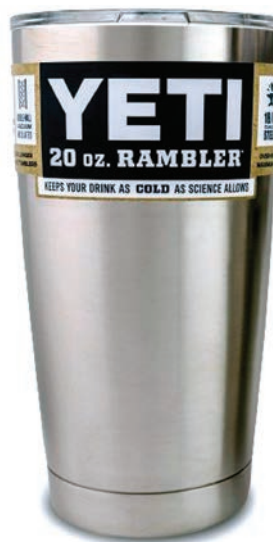
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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

The big holiday meal has to have a grand finale. Not every host or hostess has time to make one, though.

Earlier this year, Young opened a downtown bakery at 113 N. Main St. in part of the old Bernhardt's Hardware building.

Abigail's: A Cake Affair soon became known for its many-flavored cupcakes, crowned with generous swirls of rich icing — lemon, chocolate, red velvet, peanut butter, creamsicle and more. The shop also sells cookies, Rice Krispie treats, ice cream and coffee.

But cakes are Abigail's passion, show-stoppers known for their look as well as their taste. She started making custom cakes in 2011, and soon word of her creations spread.

She emphasizes that hers is a small-batch bakery with only one baker, the person with a bandanna in her hair and cake beaters tattooed on her arm — Abigail.

She has a steady wedding business, with one or two cakes a weekend, and has been busier than she ever expected when she opened her shop. "I had no idea," she says.

The cake her family looked forward to each Christmas came from her grandmother's kitchen, a chocolate cake with cooked, fudge icing. The recipe calls for a "medium oven." And getting the icing just right is a challenge, even for a pro like Abigail.

So for Christmas she recommends red velvet cake — four layers of moist, red cake with a light taste of almond, covered with creamy cream-cheese icing. To top it off, she pipes on red berries and green holly leaves, then she uses a small brush for the final details.

Perfection.

The rich, 8-inch-high cake can serve 20.



#### **Holiday theme**

Abigail Young, owner of Abigail's: A Cake Affair, created this holiday red velvet cake at her downtown bakeshop on North Main Street.

Abigail's Bakery at 113 N. Main St. is open Monday-Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. It is closed on Sunday.

#### **L.A. Murph's Fine Cooking**

Laura Murph, owner of L.A. Murph's Fine Cooking, does not have to think long about her family favorite at Christmas.

"Coconut cake was always what my dad



# N:

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made,” she says. Her mother died while Laura was in college, and Dad stepped in to do the holiday baking.

Maybe that’s what inspired Laura.

She started her “gourmet to go” business in August 2003 in a commercial kitchen behind her Pine Hill Road house. About four years later, she opened a cafe on West Innes Street, and has been busily baking and cooking ever since.

The business has grown so much that Laura oversees a bustling staff which includes two part-time bakers. But regular customers know the L.A. Murph specialties that are always in her display case — tart lemon squares, cream cheese brownies, pecan pie bars, peanut butter cup bars, apple cake and more.

On the savory side, there are all kinds of salads — chicken, pasta, potato, rice, and don’t forget the pimento cheese.

The business was built on ready-made entrees that customers can bake at home, from lasagna florentine to chicken pie. There are also side dishes, soups, quiches, you name it. L.A. Murph’s also caters meals. And it’s a popular spot for boxed lunches.

Many a birthday cake and holiday dessert have come from the

#### **Cake boss**

Laura Murph, owner of LA Murph’s, left, and Patricia Jones with their holiday favorite — a coconut cake.



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kitchen at L.A. Murph's over the past decade-plus.

The coconut cake that Patricia Jones is making at Murph's started with yellow cake and buttercream frosting, sprinkled with a generous helping of coconut and decorated with a buttercream border.

It's both light and rich, if that's possible, and deliciously moist.

Laura remembers her dad storing his coconut cake in an unheated spare bedroom, much as many holiday cooks improvised to find space for the bounty of Christmas — more than their kitchens and refrigerators could hold.

L.A. Murph's at 1532 W. Innes St. is open 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday-Friday and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday. The phone number is 704-636-2505, and the website is [www.lamurphs.com](http://www.lamurphs.com).

### IsJay's Sweets and Celebrations

LaVerne Stephens, owner of IsJay's Sweets and Celebrations at 206 S. Main St., has created what she calls her Christmas tree cupcake.

She stacks a mini-cupcake on top of a larger one and decorates both with green icing and sprinkles. A sugar snowflake tops it off.

"I try to do little creative things around the holidays," LaVerne says. "I'm a big fan of Sandra Lee." She found the Food Network

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cook's idea in a magazine.

A native New Yorker, LaVerne lives with her husband and two sons in Concord. She opened IsJay's in Salisbury after hearing the downtown was on the upswing. The name comes from her sons' names, Isaiah and Jayson.

More than a bakery and coffee shop, IsJay's has a party room in the back and offers baby showers, baking classes, cupcake parties, theme parties, diva parties, team-building, video gaming and more.

LaVerne's passion for baking started with a Suzie Homemaker oven she got when she was 5, she says.

The desserts at the center of her childhood Christmas memories are sweet potato pie and apple pie. She grew up in New York, where the holidays meant ice skating in Rockefeller Center, seeing the show at Radio City Music Hall and checking out store window decorations.

IsJay's leans toward jumbo cupcakes, as well as cakes, cookies, cake pops, chocolate-dipped baked goods and fruit.

IsJay's is open Tuesday-Saturday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. For more information, call 704-310-5720. [S](#)



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## Ron Raper's Cream Cheese Braids are a Christmas tradition

**R**on Raper of Walton Place started making Cream Cheese Braids to give away at Christmas after he and wife Janice spotted the recipe in a cookbook put together by their daughters' preschool.

Now their daughters are grown and have children of their own — and Ron is still making Cream Cheese Braids.

The treat is made with a sweet dough, rolled up with a cream-cheese filling inside and cut with an X-design to make it appear braided. After the light-colored loaves come out of the oven, Ron spreads a sugary glaze on top while the bread is still warm.

Ron covers the loaves in red-colored plastic wrap and gives them as gifts. His recipe makes four loaves, and Ron usually produces about six batches each Christmas season.



The loaves freeze well, he says.

Among the beneficiaries of Ron's baking are people who work in the office of Dr. Chip Comadoll. Ron coached football for many years, and Comadoll's office was helpful with physicals and other needs.

Ron retired eight years ago after coaching 35 years, most of them at Rowan County high schools, starting at Salisbury High and ending at Carson.

He cooked before retirement, too.

"I always sort of liked cooking," Ron says. His mom, Annie Webb, worked at A&P on South Main Street as a bookkeeper, so Ron cooked for himself a good bit.

One of his favorite kitchen tools is his grandmother's old sifter, one of those hand-crank models that has turned dark with age. "It's probably close to 100 years old."

His family gave him a new sifter one year, but the old one works better.

There's something of his mother's he wishes he had: her recipe for ambrosia. She always served it when she hosted the big family get-together on Christmas Eve. "My wife is upset that no one got the recipe."



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<p><b>Paw Around Downtown</b> Friday, November 6th 5:00 pm – 9:00 pm</p> <p>Bring your pooch out to enjoy shopping in downtown. A list of pet friendly locations will be provided on a walking map. Stay to watch a LIVE dog show performance by Dare Devil Dogs on East Fisher Street. Join us for the Livingstone College pep rally in the lot besides K-Dee's Jewelers to celebrate the 5th annual Commemorative Classic Football Game on Nov. 7th followed by the Blue Bear Crawl in downtown.</p>	<p><b>Holiday Night Out</b> Friday, November 27th 5:00 pm – 9:00 pm</p> <p>Kick-off the holiday season in Downtown Salisbury with late night shopping, appearances by dear old Santa Claus and the Grinch, strolling holiday carolers, and more!</p>	<p><b>Santa &amp; the Grinch at the Bell Tower</b> Saturday, November 28th 10:00 am – 12:00 pm</p> <p>Join us at Bell Tower Park for a FREE photo-op with Santa and the Grinch. While you wait, enjoy complimentary cookies and hot cocoa (coffee for parents too!) and arts and craft activities. Take a ride on the holiday horse &amp; carriage taking in the sights and sounds of the season.</p>	<p><b>Santa &amp; the Grinch Antique Fire Truck Rides</b> Saturday, December 12th 10:00 am – 1:00 pm</p> <p>Ride antique fire trucks around downtown with the jolly red fellow and his green grumpy friend Mr. Grinch! Sip on hot cocoa, and a cup o' joe for grown-ups, while munching on cookies and crafting holiday decorations. Rides depart from the Visitors Center (204 E Innes St) and are free to the public. Parking is easily accessible behind the building off of Lee Street.</p>	<p><b>New Year's Eve Celebration at the Bell Tower</b> Thursday, December 31st 8:00 pm – midnight</p> <p>Say goodbye to 2015 and ring in the New Year with class and style. Celebrate the beginning of 2016 as a community at Salisbury's historic Bell Tower. Festivities will include live music, video feed of Time Square, hot chocolate and other goodies and the ringing of the bell at midnight. Fabulous fun for the whole family!</p>
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## Cream Cheese Braids

- 1 8-oz. carton sour cream, scalded/80 degrees
- ½ cup sugar
- ½ cup butter, melted
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 2 pkgs. dry yeast
- ½ cup warm water (105-115 degrees)
- 2 eggs, beaten
- 4 cups all-purpose flour

Combine scalded sour cream, sugar, butter and salt. Mix well and let cool till lukewarm.

Dissolve yeast in warm water in a large mixing bowl.

Stir in sour cream mixture, then eggs. Gradually stir in flour. (Dough will be soft.) Cover tightly and chill overnight.

Divide dough into four equal portions. Turn each out on a heavily floured surface and knead four or five times. Roll each into a 12-inch-by-8-inch rectangle.



Spread one-fourth of filling over each rectangle, leaving a ½-inch margin around edges. Carefully roll up jellyroll fashion, beginning at long side. Firmly pinch edge and ends to seal.

Carefully place rolls, seam side down, on greased baking sheets.

Make six equally-spaced x-shaped cuts across the top of each loaf. Cover and let

rise in a warm place, free from drafts, until doubles in bulk (about 1 hour).

Bake at 375 degrees for 15-20 minutes.

Spread loaves with glaze while warm.

Makes four 12-inch loaves.

### Filling

- 2 8-oz. pkgs. cream cheese, softened
- ¾ cup sugar
- 1 egg, beaten
- ⅛ teaspoon salt
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract

Combine all ingredients. Process in food processor or electric mixer until well blended. Makes 2 cups.

### Glaze

- 2 cups sifted powdered sugar
- ¼ cup milk
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract

Combine all ingredients, mixing well.

Makes one cup.



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# HOLIDAY BUCKET *List*

compiled by  
MARK WINEKA



# 12 THINGS

you really should check out  
this season



You've heard of the 12 days of Christmas — the seven-swans-a-swimming, six-geese-a-laying, partridge-in-a-pear-tree kind.

Salisbury the Magazine thought it would be interesting to come up with its own version for the coming holidays, so here are 12 must-do things to put on your personal holiday bucket list. It shouldn't be surprising but these local traditions are best taken in with friends and family by your side.

## ★ 1. Lighting of the Fall Fires

In Gold Hill, the Lighting of the Fall Fires kicks off the Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons. The Gold Hill village, a replica of a 19th century gold mining boom town, is beautifully decorated, merchants dress in 19th century attire, several groups provide live music throughout the evening, and visitors receive “gold nuggets” with their tickets to spend in the various shops. Meanwhile, several huge bonfires are lit around the village — a perfect counterbalance to autumn's chill.

Lighting of the Fall Fires began in 2000 as a way to celebrate a rebirth of the Gold Hill mining town which had lain in ruins since the industry shut down a century earlier. Go to [www.historicgoldhill.com](http://www.historicgoldhill.com) for more information. This year's Lighting of the Fall Fires will take

place Nov. 21, a Saturday, from 5:30 to 9 p.m. The Gold Hill Historic Preservation Society is host.

The historic village of Gold Hill is located in eastern Rowan County not far off U.S. 52 on St. Stephens Church Road. Those relying on a GPS should use 770 St. Stephens Church Road as the address.

## ★ 2. The Polar Express

The Polar Express train ride at the N.C. Transportation Museum in Spencer captures the magic of the Chris Van Allsburg book and popular Christmas movie from Warner Bros. It features a train ride with dancing chefs, cookies, hot chocolate and a presentation of the first gift of Christmas — a silver bell for all those who believe in the spirit of Christmas. The train ride and its associated activities include popular characters from the story, including the conductor, the hobo, the boy in the story and Santa Claus.

Different locations around the museum's 57-acre site are used. Thousands of lights are strung across the Bob Julian Roundhouse, and the Master Mechanic's Office is transformed, for example, into “Candy Cane Lane.” The museum partners with Lee Street theatre, which provides actors to portray the essential characters. Virtual Sounds does a soundtrack for the event.

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is December 4th!*



### Light show

Last year, Jeff and Patti Miller turned their home on Corriher Gravel Road into a destination spot for Christmas light admirers. A computer controlled light show activates the house decorations in sync to the music broadcasted over a low-power FM transmitter. Motorists can tune their car radio and listen to the thirty minute recorded show.

— Photo by Jon C. Lakey

Last year, the Polar Express attracted more than 300 passengers for three shows each night. After a dress rehearsal Nov. 20, this year's Polar Express will be offered Nov. 21, 27-29, Dec. 4-6, 11-13, and 16-22. Some ride times have already sold out, particularly weekend dates in December. For ticket information or purchases, visit [www.nctrans.org](http://www.nctrans.org), or call 704-636-2889, ext. 257 or 237.

The transportation museum's production of The Polar Express won the Best Performance Award from Rail Events Inc.

### ★ 3. Lights, lights, lights

Usually around Thanksgiving, you begin seeing houses across Rowan County's landscape decorated and even amplified for Christmas. There are hundreds

of thousands of lights, snowman and Santa blowups, candles, homemade cutouts, synchronized music and animation and rooftop reindeer and angels.

Around every country curve or street corner, someone seems to have decorated for the holidays, some more elaborately than others. You will not be disappointed hopping into a vehicle and taking in all the lights in the city and out in the country.

Once again this year, Jeff and Patti Miller of Corriher Gravel Road (between Salisbury and China Grove) will present their "Lights of Christmas," songs and narration synchronized to a light show played out on the Millers' house.

The entire show is about 30 minutes long, so you might be joining "Lights of Christmas" at



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### Here comes Santa Claus

Following behind his reindeer, Santa Claus waves to the parade goers during last year's 55th Holiday Caravan parade in Spencer and Salisbury.

— Photo by Jon C. Lakey

the beginning, middle or end, depending on when you drive by. It's hard not to stop and, as instructed, tune to an FM radio station so you can hear all the words and music accompanying the lights and story. The tale is centered on Cool, a 16-foot-tall snowman in lights who is on the Millers' garage roof, and Rupert, the Christmas fairy, who speaks only by the sound of a bell ringing.

All the synchronized LED lights — a full rainbow of colors — are supposed to be woodland fairies dancing with the music. Most of the music is from the Trans-Siberian Orchestra.

"It will start on Thanksgiving and run through the weekend after New Year's," Jeff Miller says. "I have added a large Christmas tree with a large number of effects." On most

weekdays, "Lights of Christmas" plays from 5-10 p.m.; on Fridays and Saturdays, from 5-11 p.m.

The house is located off U.S. 29 south of Salisbury across from Corriher Sand & Stone Inc.

### ★ 4. The Holiday Caravan Parade

The 56th Holiday Caravan will be held as always on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving, so this year that means Nov. 25 and a starting time of 2 p.m. in Spencer and 3 p.m. in Salisbury. "The Carolinas' Loveliest and Liveliest Holiday Parade" is an incredible, all-volunteer production with beauty queens, marching bands, professional and homemade floats, dance teams, color guards, old cars, plenty of emergency apparatus, Shriners, politicians, clowns and Santa Claus.

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The roots of the Holiday Caravan reach back to 1952 when the Spencer Jaycees arranged for a small parade, in which only three units participated: Miss Spencer in a convertible, the Spencer High School Band and Santa Claus on a fire truck. Scores of people turned out for the small celebration, and each year the number of parade units grew until the event was officially titled the Rowan Christmas Parade in 1956. By 1957, police estimated the crowds for the parade at 20,000 people.

The Salisbury Merchants Association and Salisbury Jaycees approached the Spencer Jaycees in 1960 to work out an agreement in which the holiday parade would occur on the main streets of both Spencer and Salisbury. By 1962, the parade picked up its trademark description as “The Carolinas’ Loveliest and Livieliest Parade,” and a public contest took place the following year to come up with a new name for the Rowan County Christmas Parade.

Carl E. Weinbrunn submitted the winning entry — Holiday Caravan. But so much for history, Just bundle up and enjoy the parade. And don’t forget the South Rowan Christmas Parade Nov. 24 and the Cleveland Christmas Parade Dec. 5.

### ★ 5. Cut Your Own Christmas Tree

For many families, Christmas wouldn’t



#### Fresh from the field

Last year, John Haggan cut his family’s Christmas tree with 3-year-old son, Tommy, at his side at the Pinetop Farm.

— Photo by Wayne Hinshaw

be Christmas without piling into the car and heading out to Pinetop Farm on Majolica Road to cut their own trees. Bryce and Naomi Kepley have been growing Christmas trees on Pinetop Farm since 1972.

Make no mistake, Bryce Kepley says, “I’ve been in it a long time.”

Pinetop Farm has cut-your-own white pine, Scotch pine, Leyland cypress and blue ice. Bryce Kepley also sells fraser firs already cut. After a tradition starts, it’s hard to give up. Bryce Kepley says some folks drive 100

miles to the farm to cut their Christmas trees every year.

The Kepleys provide a hayride out to the field and back, as well as the bow saw for cutting. Kepley says there’s plenty of free parking and easy access in and out. For the Christmas season, Pinetop Farm will be open four different weekends: Nov. 21-22, Nov. 28-29, Dec. 5-6 and Dec. 12-13. The Saturday hours are from 8 a.m.-5 p.m.; the Sunday hours, noon- 5 p.m.

### ★ 6. The Living Christmas Tree

Every year, First Baptist Church at 223 N. Fulton St., Salisbury, presents the Living Christmas Tree, a 100-voice choir and orchestra, as a gift to the community. This Christmas tradition is presented in seven worship services during the first weekend in December (Thursday-Monday). This year, those dates are Dec. 3-7.

In its 24th year, the Living Christmas Tree Choir consists of adults (high school and up) from First Baptist Church and the community at large.

Tickets are available beginning Nov. 12. Admission is free, but a love offering is taken and a donation of at least one canned food item per ticket is requested.

The Living Christmas Tree reaches more than 6,000 people each year “with the message that God sent His Son to earth so that we can have a relationship with



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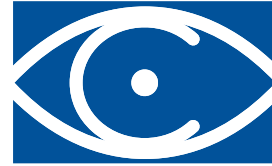
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## Under construction

Lucy Jones, 6, adds candy to her gingerbread house while licking icing off her fingers at the Rowan Museum workshop last year. Lucy's dad, Kevin Jones, helped her with the decorations.

— Photo by Wayne Hinshaw

Him,” according to First Baptist Church.

A huge church/volunteer effort goes into the Living Christmas Tree services each year. Teams cover construction and takedown, canned food collection for Rowan Helping Ministries, costumes, decoration, drama, followup, food services, greenery, lights, prayer support, security, sound, stagehands, ticket distribution and ushering.

The participants are so numerous they have to be scheduled in hourly shifts of 1, 2 and 3 p.m.

The cost of \$35 per child (which counts an attached adult) includes the gingerbread house and all the candies, homemade icing and cereals used for decorations. Ann Miller, the “Gingerbread Guru,” usually makes the icing for everyone out of powdered sugar, egg whites and cream of tartar. The icing does a great job in holding all the sweet decorative materials together.

## ★ 7. Gingerbread Workshop at Rowan Museum

Close to 100 kids (and parents) sign up every year for the Rowan Museum’s Gingerbread House Workshop. This year’s workshop will be held from 1-4 p.m. Dec. 6, a Sunday, in the Messinger Room at the museum, 202 N. Main St., Salisbury.

These kinds of gingerbread houses can last several years, if that’s what families desire, but many also are eaten before Christmas. Added bonuses are refreshments, tours of the museum and the chance for the kids to meet, talk and have their photographs taken with Santa

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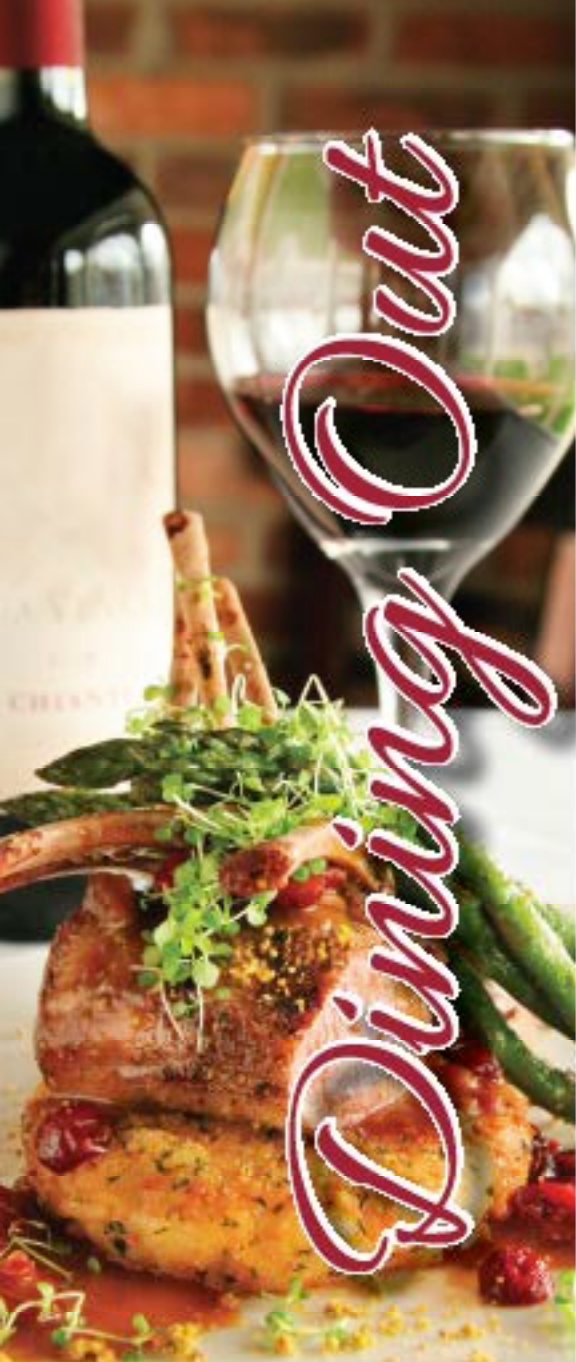
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### Tree work

Last year, Earle Smith with the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority pulled out a long string of red lights for a tree. People gathered at the F&M Trolley Barn to decorate the Christmas trees for the annual ARC Festival of Trees.

— Photo by Jon C. Lakey

and Mrs. Claus. For more information, call Rowan Museum at 704-633-5946, or email [tdcreel@fibrant.com](mailto:tdcreel@fibrant.com).

and summer programs; and creating public awareness through events such as the Festival of Trees.

### ★ 8. The Arc of Rowan Festival of Trees

The annual festival of trees showcases beautifully decorated Christmas trees, which are sponsored by anyone interested in helping The Arc of Rowan. This year's 12th annual Festival of Trees will be held Dec. 4-6 at the F&M Trolley Barn at the corner of North Lee and East Liberty streets in Salisbury.

The Arc of Rowan is a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, so those individuals can better attain their dreams. The local group has been instrumental in establishing group homes; providing vocational, recreational

The tree sponsors designate the decorators for their trees, or The Arc of Rowan finds decorators for them. Many decorators choose a theme for their trees, which are on public display at the Trolley Barn during the first weekend in December.

Once the Festival of Trees is over, The Arc of Rowan moves the decorated tree to a location of the sponsor's choosing in Rowan County so it can be viewed the rest of the year. The Arc's roots in Rowan County go back to 1954.

### ★ 9. Christmas Traditions: the Stories and Music of Christmas

"Christmas Traditions" is a mix



### Songs of the season

Susan Trivette, Leslie Dunkin and Neal Wilkinson practice for the Christmas Tradition performance.

— Photo by Jon C. Lakey

of the considerable story-telling talents of retired Catawba College professor Dr. Karl Hales and the equally noteworthy musical chops of Leslie Dunkin, Neal Wilkinson and Susan Trivette. The evening blends in both the fun and religious significance of Christmas through the stories and music.

The “Christmas Traditions” nights are laid-back and fun. The performers are likely to wear red Christmas sweaters and Santa hats. It’s also not unusual for props such as antlers, pink bunny ears or fake red noses to show up.

As always, the price of admission for what has become a Salisbury tradition in its own right is one canned item for Rowan Helping Ministries. That’s it. The event collects huge amounts of food for the RHM shelter, and it’s always a time of year when the shelter needs it most.

The 11th annual “Christmas Traditions: the Stories and Music



### Annual performance

The Piedmont Dance Theater performed The Nutcracker last year for the elementary age school children of Cabarrus County.

— Photo by Jon C. Lakey

of Christmas,” will be held at 7 p.m. Dec. 14 and 15 at the Meroney Theater on South Main Street, Salisbury.

## ★ 10. The Nutcracker

“The Nutcracker” in Salisbury is a real holiday treat because it’s not often these days that it is performed with a live orchestra. That makes it special for both the dancers and the audience. And you always find a mix —

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### Ring in the new year

Ellasen Arden Nance, 5, joined her family last year for the New Year celebration at the Historic Bell Tower in Salisbury.

say a grandmother, mother and daughter hearing it for the first time together, or whole families taking it in for the umpteenth time.

The Salisbury Symphony Orchestra and Piedmont Dance Theatre will combine once again this year to present "The Nutcracker" at Catawba College's Keppel Auditorium. Show times are 6:30 p.m. Dec. 19, a Saturday, and 2:30 p.m. Dec. 20, a Sunday. Tickets may be purchased only through an online ticket service made available through Piedmont Dance Theatre in Kannapolis. Call 704-637-4314, or visit [saliburysymphony.org](http://saliburysymphony.org) for more information.

Piedmont Dance Theatre also will be performing "The Nutcracker" at the Kannapolis Performing Arts Center at 7 p.m. Dec. 11 and 2 p.m. Dec. 12. The Kannapolis Performing Arts Center is a 1,900-seat theater at A.L. Brown High, 415 E. First St.

### ★ 11. Old Stone House Christmas

This is unusual, but the German Christmas celebration at the Old Stone House is always held on the weekend after Christmas, so this



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year's dates are from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Jan. 2, a Saturday, and noon-4 p.m. Jan. 3, a Sunday. But it's worth the wait.

Rowan Museum decorates this 1766 house of Michael Braun as it would have been in Revolutionary War days — a simple approach for simpler days and one relying on natural greenery, dried flowers, herbs, fruits and berries. Tours of the historic house and property and the enhancement of a Colonial family's Christmas celebration in Rowan County are part of the weekend.

Guides will be in period costumes, and guests will see skills, customs and crafts of the day such as musket-firing, woodworking, weaving, candle-making, open-fire cooking, along with many samples of music, children's games, goats and chickens.


Holly sprigs are made available for all to toss into the fire to burn their troubles away for the coming year. For more information, call the Rowan Museum at 704-633-5946, or email [rowanmuseum@fibrant.com](mailto:rowanmuseum@fibrant.com). The Old Stone House is located at the edge of Granite Quarry about a half-mile east of U.S. 52 on Old Stone House Road.

## ★ 12. New Year's Eve at the Bell Tower and the Woodleaf Tomato Drop

Since 1975, the old Presbyterian Church Bell Tower at South Jackson and West Innes streets has been one of the favorite places to ring in the New Year. Local merrymakers bring their candles, bells and high spirits and fill the park around the 1892 Bell Tower and gazebo. In 2011, a construction adviser for the Maxwell Chambers Trust, owners of the Bell Tower, deemed it too unstable to allow people into the alcove to ring the bell, but that hasn't stopped a countdown and the ringing of a retired Salisbury Fire Department bell at the foot of the tower.

Meanwhile, the folks in Woodleaf are gearing up for another Tomato Drop at Unity Presbyterian Church to welcome in the new year. If you didn't know, Woodleaf is famous for its tomatoes and the tomato festival held each summer at the church. The tomato being dropped is a 10-foot-wide inflatable ball with a stem. The red ball will be suspended from a Woodleaf ladder truck before being lowered as the countdown leads into the new year.

Festivities in Woodleaf actually start at 9 p.m. with food, music and drinks, including hot apple cider. Last year, organizers incorporated some karaoke, too. All a participant has to do is bring a CD of the song he or she wants to sing,

"Last year was so much fun," says Patti Safrit, who dreamed up the idea for the first Tomato Drop. "We had folks telling us that it was the best way ever at bringing in the new year. New York can keep that dropping ball. We prefer the tomato!" 



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Chad Morgan offers his inspiration for a Christmas luncheon table in the home of Frank Labagnara and David Garling.





It's natural during the holidays for families and friends to spend a lot of time around the dining room table. With that in mind, *Salisbury the Magazine* asked interior designer Chad Morgan — with some help from his design-savvy mother, Hilda Morgan — to decorate three tabletops for three different holiday periods — Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's.

Chad Morgan came up with beautiful and often elaborate settings for a Thanksgiving family meal, a Christmas luncheon and a formal dinner ushering in the New Year.

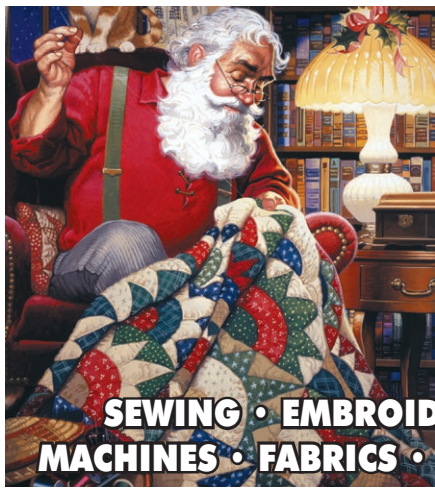
With each tabletop, Morgan thought it was important to use and build on as much of the homeowner's own collections as possible. He also determined how to mix those items with flowers, greenery and decoratives — things that were not that costly and readily available.

# Turning the tablets

In decorating a holiday tabletop, find a few key items and build from there

by MARK WINEKA

photos by JON C. LAKEY



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"Most of these things can be found locally," Morgan says.

Another guiding principle for Morgan was deciding on a focus.

"It only takes a few impact pieces to kind of set the stage for the whole thing," Morgan says. "When you find your key item, that's kind of what you want to play off of."

In the case of the fall season/ Thanksgiving tabletop in his mother's dining room, an obvious starting point was a large Murano glass pumpkin that set the stage

for a study in orange.

Antique linens and smaller ceramic pumpkins and gourds naturally followed, as Chad and Hilda Morgan tackled the table-top together. They added in silver and Hilda Morgan's early 1900s china.

With a gold charger or buffet plate on the bottom, Hilda Morgan stacked her china in a pyramid at each place setting.

"Nothing succeeds like excess," Morgan says, chuckling. "I grew up with this. She decorated for



every season, so I didn't have a chance."

Hilda Morgan is an experienced wedding and events planner who also knows her way around florals. "I love the way she did this," Chad says in admiration, looking over his mother's dining room table. "It's easy for Mother."

It's not unusual to see Chad Morgan's design touch in homes in Salisbury's historic districts. He's a veteran in helping to stage houses for holidays, events

such as October Tour or visits by out-of-towners. Preservation North Carolina's recent annual conference, held this year in Salisbury, represents the kind of time when Morgan's talents are really in demand.

Live florals make sense for one event, Morgan says. If you are decorating a table for a season, that's when you want to mix in false florals with live greenery, providing a base that's going to last.

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### Creating an atmosphere

Interior decorator Chad Morgan lights candles on his table.

Revival home of Frank Labagnara and David Garling on West Bank Street, Morgan put together a Christmas luncheon table-top. He says it's a good example of designing and decorating off the color from the men's china — red, gold and pink. Decorations on the nearby mantel feed off the tabletop, and the deep red color of the room provides a perfect backdrop.

"This is a really good example of letting the room do a lot of work for you," Morgan says.

The central greenery on the table includes holly, Leyland cypress, running cedar and yucca in bloom, looking as beautiful as an orchid. Chad Morgan finishes things off with a few bought roses and other flowers.

The table incorporates pearl-handled flatware from Garling's personal collection, along with ostrich egg-sized ornaments, bows, ribbons and two gold candelabras which reach toward the crystal chandelier.


On another end of Salisbury,

nearer to the country club, the tabletop at Brian Cupp's house shows the transition from Christmas into the new year. It's formal, simple, elegant — the way Brian's mother, the late Dianne Knowles Cupp, would have liked it.

A floral centerpiece incorporates roses, hosta, nandina and yucca. Touches of greenery around the table come from Morgan's garden. There's an ultra-white tablecloth, highlighted by crystal, Brian's collection of ornaments and Dianne Knowles Cupp's 1950s-era wedding china and wedding silver. The silver is freshly polished.

"Mother would never, ever let someone take pictures of her silver not polished," Brian Cupp says.

Morgan made sure to add an art deco touch by featuring Cupp's golden parrot candleholders.

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# HISTORIC GEM

While looking for a home, the Schaffers found  
what they were looking for on South Fulton Street

by ELIZABETH COOK

photos by JON C. LAKEY



**Relaxing at home**

**Above:** John and Pam and their two dogs, Kahlua and Missy, in the living room. **Above right:** Decorations on the marble mantel in the parlor.





When Pam and John Schaffer visited Salisbury for 11 days in early 2013, they set out to find a historic home in the Piedmont. They looked around in Salisbury and Concord. They found two houses they liked in Statesville. They intended to go to High Point. But, after staying in the Rowan Oak House on Fulton Street on their first visit, ultimately they found what they were looking for right across the street.

The sprawling Spanish Mission style house at 201 S. Fulton St., built in 1906 for Fletcher Smith, had everything they were looking for and more. Wide porches. Deep, decorative moldings. Original oak floors. Eight fireplaces, one with an intricately sculpted Italian marble mantel. High ceilings. Big rooms.



“I wanted a house with character,” Pam says.

From its terra cotta roof tiles to a lion’s head firebox, the 4,666-square-foot “hacienda,” as former owners called it, certainly had character.

The house sat on a half-acre lot with plenty of backyard space for their rambunctious dogs, Kahlua and Missy.

The feature that firmly tilted the scales in favor of the Salisbury house, though, was its proximity to a downtown with restaurants, shops and theaters within walking distance.

John fell in love with La Cava restaurant, Pam says. Together, they fell in love with the house.

“It was February,” Pam says. “If you can like a place in February, you can move there.”

Having sold their Columbus, Ohio, home after John retired as an information technology executive, the Schaffers bought the Salisbury house, moved in and tackled essential projects first. Re-did all the plumbing. Fixed leaks. Updated wiring. Remodeled the most important

**In the kitchen**

**Above:** Next to the kitchen is a hall with a recessed area that holds a large wine cooler.

**Right:** The large solid granite countertop in the kitchen island holds a Galley sink and many other features. **Opposite:** Wooden accents abound in the Schaffers’ kitchen.







### Intricate features

**Above:** The spacious dining room includes a fireplace with gas logs. The ceilings are arched. **Left:** The master bedroom has features like a pair of mirrored dressers flanking the bed.

spaces. Walled in the back yard.

Pam, a consultant for the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando, Fla., drew up a floor plan that reconfigured the back half of the first floor.

Working with Central Piedmont Builders, the Schaffers created a luxurious master bathroom with a tub Pam describes as “nirvana,” a roomy walk-in closet, adjacent to a handy laundry room (with dog shower), and a top-of-the-line kitchen.

John says he bows to Pam’s design skills. “In any longterm marriage, a husband learns the magic words, ‘Yes, dear,’ ” he says.

Through the years, previous owners had also extensively renovated the house. But just as George and Bonnie Wilson transformed it from apartments back into a family home in the 1970s, and Bryce and Eve Freeman put their imprint on the house a decade ago — including the palm trees out front — the Schaffers found much needed to be done.

In their eyes, the kitchen begged for remodeling, something

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the Schaffers have tackled in every home they've owned.

"We're kitchen people," Pam says. "We like to cook, we like to party. We live in the kitchen."

The Schaffers turned the L-shaped space — plus the adjacent powder room and

laundry room — into an open space with a rustic, Spanish European feel.

A massive island is topped by a piece of granite more than 9 feet long and 4.5 feet wide. Its rich chocolate color, streaked with gold, complements the other granite countertops in the room.

A stainless steel Galley sink on one side of the island is a workstation unto itself, with a cutting board, colander and other accessories that can slide into place as needed. It served as a salad bar during a progressive dinner.

This auxiliary sink is a favorite of John's,



proof that Pam also said “yes, dear.”

Tamper-resistant outlets embedded in the island pop up with a press of the cover. A tall KitchenAid mixer stowed in the cabinet below can swing up to counter level on a platform.

In keeping with the rustic, Spanish Mis-

#### **Wood tones**

The center hall allows a view into the parlor.

sion style, drawer pulls and light fixtures are made of black iron. The floor is sustainable Peruvian olive wood. The large SubZero

refrigerator and freezer are paneled in the same knotty alder as the cabinets.

At the opposite end of the room, a rustic clock marks time above the large gas stove, which has a grill and griddle, as well as gas burners.

While the kitchen was being remodeled,



The spacious dining room includes a fireplace with gas logs.



.....

“We’re kitchen people.  
We like to cook, we like to  
party. We live in the kitchen,”  
Pam says.





**Above:** Pam gives a quick bath to Missy in the dog shower in the mud room. **Below:** The refrigerator and freezer are hidden in wooden cabinets.





### Roaring blaze

The spacious dining room includes a fireplace with gas logs. The original metal firebox has a lion's head in relief.

the Schaffers set up a portable induction unit in the dog shower. They liked it so much, they installed an induction burner near the stove.

John practices sous vide, cooking food sealed in airtight plastic bags in a water bath or steam. The induction burner can bring six quarts of water to a boil in four minutes, he says.

The former laundry room area houses the Schaffers' bar as well as a temperature-controlled wine cabinet that holds some 250 bottles. One of the kitchen's two dishwashers is dedicated to bar glasses.

The Schaffers completed the first phase of the house's renovation earlier this year and thanked all the workers with a party.

Now they will focus on more aesthetic details, like transitioning from the contemporary decor of their last home to furniture that fits this house's style and era.

They have a lot to work with. The front rooms each have a different inlaid border pattern in their wood floors. Original light fixtures hang in some rooms. An elegant mirror hangs over the marble fireplace in the parlor.

The dining room fireplace is where you'll find the lion's head; shelves over the mantel could hold a collector's treasures.

A wide staircase leads upstairs to four bedrooms, one already converted into a home theater, another into their main guest



room. From the hallway they occasionally step out to the veranda to relax, sip wine and watch the sun set.

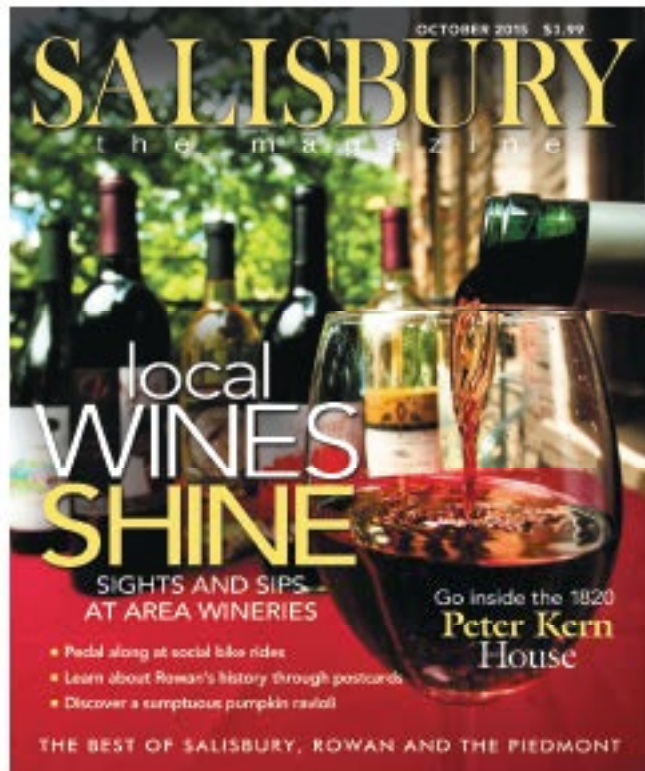
From there, they can also see the palm trees that have died in front of the house. The trees were lovely when first planted, but Salisbury's climate is not nearly tropical enough for them. The Schaffers say they will replace the trees with something better suited to the area.

"We love this community and its personality," John says. "We recognize that, coming here two years ago, we will never be Salisburians." But they're happy to start putting down roots.

Palm trees may be out of their element in Salisbury, but the Schaffers feel right at home. S



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During the Hurley Park Spring Celebration, Danielle Romans walks with her dog Arwen and brother Talyn Franks.

— Photo by Wayne Hinshaw

This is the time of year folks tend to take stock of the past 330-something days, appreciate their blessings, and pass them on.

Although charitable giving is statistically higher in December, Rowan County's foundations make their presence known year-round.

And Salisbury and Rowan County would look drastically different without them.

"We are a little town that acts like a big city, because of all these generous people," says Margaret Kluttz, a former Salisbury mayor who serves as chairman of the Robertson Foundation's board of directors. "These foundations have changed the face of our community. We never take any of

# Gift of giving

Local foundations contribute to the community year-round

by SUSAN SHINN

that for granted, and we try to be good stewards of all the gifts we've been given."

Kyna Grubb, executive director of Rowan Helping Ministries, agrees.

"It is hard to imagine what Salisbury and Rowan County would look like without the support of generous foundations over the years," Grubb says. "Foundations have helped build the infrastructure that

makes our community a better place to live — from human service organizations to cultural arts to the preservation of our history, our community foundations have played a major role in improving the quality of life for all of us. We are blessed that individuals, families and businesses in our community had the foresight to establish these foundations to sustain the quality of



### Meeting needs

Fred Stanback and Julian Robertson, below, unveiled the name of the new facility at the dedication of the Rowan Helping Ministries Robertson-Stanback Center, above. — Photo by Wayne Hinshaw

life for future generations.”

Thanks to the county’s foundations, non-profit agencies look different, “especially on the inside,” says David Setzer, executive director of the Robertson Foundation. “We give a lot of operating funds.”

When the Robertson Foundation began in 1997, it gave significant gifts for construction — the Hurley Family Y and Waterworks Visual Arts Center, for example, Setzer says.

With a gift of \$18 million by billionaire Julian Robertson Jr., the Robertson Foundation — formally named the Blanche and Julian Robertson Family Foundation, after Robertson’s parents — became the largest foundation in town.

Robertson gave an additional \$18 million to the foundation, and over the years, it has given away some \$30 million to 156



different organizations. The lion’s share of those grants — some 70 percent — goes to

projects benefiting education and children, youth and families.

Most recently, the foundation has given three different grants totaling \$875,000 to the new Rowan-Salisbury Schools administrative office on North Main Street.

“Lately, we’ve given more for operating funds,” Setzer points out, “because there haven’t been that many big projects.”

The Woodson Foundation also focuses its efforts on education. More than half its disbursements have traditionally gone to need-based scholarships at Catawba College, Mary Baldwin College, Davidson College, Livingstone

College and Rowan-Cabarrus Community College. The foundation also supports Bar-



### Reaching out

Catawba College football coach Curtis Walker (left) shakes hands with Lee Stamper while Walker and longtime Meals on Wheels volunteer Jim Lyerly (back) drop off a meal.

ium Springs Children's Home and Nazareth Children's Home.

Margaret C. Woodson started the foundation in 1964. She married the grandfather of Salisbury Mayor Paul Woodson.

The foundation is now part of the Salisbury Community Foundation, although its board still decides on all disbursements, Woodson says.

"The administration got to be an awesome job," he notes, and the foundation's longtime secretary, Beulah Hillard, retired with 40 years of service before her death in 2007. "It's worked out very well."

As mayor, Woodson says he has served on at least a dozen boards over the years.

"The foundations have made our quality of life tremendous," he says. "If this money were not available, our non-profit organizations would struggle."

The Hurley Foundation's administrative work is also handled by Foundation for the Carolinas through the Salisbury Community Foundation.

"Everything is just like it's always been," Gordon Hurley says of the foundation's areas of interest. "We still have a say in where the money goes, but Foundation for the Carolinas has taken a load off me. To me, Foundation for the Carolinas has been a real blessing."

"It was very important to Gordon and Gerry (wife of the late Jim Hurley) to have a good succession plan in place with the foundation and Hurley Park in particular," says Meg Dees, vice president of advancement for affiliates for Foundation for the Carolinas. FFTC supports some 13 regional affiliates in North and South Carolina, and the Salisbury Community Founda-



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tion is one of those affiliates.

Hurley Park is named for Hurley's mother, the late Elizabeth Holmes Hurley, and the sons and their late father thought the park was the finest tribute they could give her.

The Hurley Foundation still supports its longtime causes — Catawba College, Rufty-Holmes Senior Center, the Hurley Y and especially Hurley Park, Hurley says, but on a smaller scale.

When Hurley's father died, he left nearly all of his estate to the foundation. Hurley and his two brothers, the late Jim Hurley and the late Haden Hurley, had received Food Lion stock — J.F. Hurley Jr. was an original Food Town investor — and were well situated, he says. Then the market took off, and the foundation gave away millions.

These days, the foundation gives away an average of about \$150,000 a year, according to Dees.

When projects come up that the Hurley Foundation wants to support, it does, Hurley says. "It's been a good run, and it's not over yet."

Other smaller local foundations operate with little fanfare.

One of those organizations is the Hubert and Blanche Ritchie Foundation. That foundation made headlines this year, however, with two large gifts: a \$500,000 grant to the exhibition/events hall at the Rowan County Fairgrounds, and a \$300,000 grant to renovation and expansion of the South Salisbury Fire Department.

Over the past 10 years, the foundation has given away \$3 million. Its trustees say the foundation has a slate of commitments up to 2020.

Donors who do not have their own foundations but who would still like to give money away may do so through the Salisbury Community Foundation. For the past 10 years, this foundation has been a part of the Foundation for the Carolinas. For a minimum of \$10,000, you can open a donor-advised account.

"It's so important to grow our Salisbury Community Foundation's endowment," Dees says. "We have an incredibly generous donor base. It's just a great way for people to leave a legacy."

Annually, the Salisbury Community Foundation disburses some \$90,000 to \$100,000 in grants. In 2014, the foundation facilitated the donation of \$5.4 million through its donor-advised funds.

"We're facilitating a lot of giving," Dees says.

For more information about Salisbury Community Foundation, visit [www.ffc.org](http://www.ffc.org) and click on regional affiliates.

*Freelance writer Susan Shinn lives in Salisbury.*

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**Range of motion**

J.F. Hurley YMCA's Ester Marsh executes a spinal twist to help with flexibility.

# 15 minutes of same

Here's an essential exercise plan you can do every day, holidays or not

**A**re you ready for a challenge?  
Are you ready to feel better,  
improve your movements and  
strengthen your muscles?

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services recommends the following for substantial health benefits:

- 150 minutes a week of moderate-intensity aerobic activities such as brisk walking or a bike ride.
- 75 minutes a week of vigorous-intensity aerobic activities such as jogging, cycling or swimming.

So if you divide this over seven days, for

by **ESTER MARSH**

photos by **JON C. LAKEY**

.....

substantial health benefits you would need to do around 20 minutes a day of moderate-intensity aerobic activities and about 10 minutes a day of vigorous-intensity aerobic activities. Phew, we are back to the 30 minutes a day that many people are scared away by or “don't have the time” to do.

So how about starting with 15 minutes a day? It absolutely is a great start, especially

for someone who doesn't exercise at all. So my challenge to you is to start with 15 minutes a day for 12 weeks, and I will give you something you can start now.

The great news is this routine can be done anywhere, and all you need is your body, mind and spirit! Between a warmup and finishing move, I've divided the exercises into leg strength; chest, shoulder and triceps strength; core strength; hip strength; and flexibility.

After the 5-minute warmup, do each of the exercises described for 30 seconds, or 15 to 20 repetitions each. Here we go:

## Warm up

Do a 1-minute walk or jog in place, followed by a 1-minute step-touch, side to side. (Two minutes total.)

To get your heart going even more, do a minute of alternate knee lifts, 1-minute alternate hamstring curls and 1-minute kicks. (Three minutes total)

Or for the warmup, if you want to take a 5-minute walk around the neighborhood, that works, too.

## Legs

Do some quarter squats. Or from a chair, stand up and sit gently back down. When doing the squat, make sure your knees do not pass your toes. Your back is straight and chest is up. (Remember, 30 seconds or 15 to 20 repetitions for all of these exercises to come.)

Lunges or side leg raises: With a lunge,



Marsh extends an arm and opposite leg during her Superman move.

take a big step forward and push back to the start position. Not every knee will be happy with this exercise, so you might want to do side leg raises instead. Hold on to a wall or chair and extend and lift one leg to the side with your foot parallel to the floor.

## Chest, shoulders and triceps


Do some push-ups: They can be against the wall, on the floor with the knees on the floor or a traditional push-up.

## Core

Crunches: Lie on your back, arms behind your head (supporting the head, not pulling it). Bring your belly button down and lift your shoulder blades off the floor while crunching up.

Reverse sit up: Same position and bring the knees towards the shoulders. Your upper body stays on floor.

Plank: On elbows and knees, or traditional, or plank with extended arms and/or



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**Summer 2014**



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# WELLNESS

knees. Make sure your back is straight.

**Supermans:** On your stomach, arms and legs are extended, and your face is looking to the ground, or you are resting your forehead on the ground. Right arm and left leg lift up. Return. Then left arm and right leg lift together. Return.

## Hips

**Side "clams:"** Lie on one side, with your knees bent. Open up the knees, as your top foot pivots on your bottom foot.

On your hands and knees, bring one knee toward your chest, then extend the leg to the back (not up). After 30 sec or 15 to 20 reps, do other leg.

Lie on your back, with knees bent and feet on the floor. Lift your hips up and bring them down without touching the floor.



## Flexibility

In a seated position, with your legs straight out in front, reach up tall, then bend toward your toes.

From the same position, bend one leg with the knee out, and place the bottom of that foot on the inside of other leg. Reach toward the straight leg.

From the same position, cross and bend one leg over the remaining straight leg, and turn toward the bent knee for a spinal


twist. Look for a gentle discomfort, and hold for 10 to 15 seconds. Repeat by crossing the other way.

From a standing position, place one arm along your side and extend the other arm while also reaching over and bending sideways. Repeat on the other side.

## The finish

Take a deep breath through your nose and bring your arms up. Swing your arms down while breathing out and bending your knees while swinging. Do three to five of these.

You are done! Don't you feel better? Before you know it, you will be ready to add to this workout, or even do it twice. Happy Holidays!

*Ester H. Marsh is associate executive director of the J.F. Hurley Family YMCA in Salisbury. *



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The 1820 Dr. Josephus Hall House in the snow

# A Hall House Christmas

Candlelight tours, Scrooge and lucky pickles

Christmas is a time for gathering with the family to reminisce about people and events in our past while creating new memories for the future. It's about observing traditions and starting new ones. For some, this includes visiting the Hall

House Museum during the holiday season.

Since 1991, Christmas Eve candlelight tours of Historic Salisbury Foundation's museum have been led by Barbara Upright, along with family members and other

volunteers. Not only has it become a tradition for them to present the tour, but many families have made attending the free event part of their holiday schedule.

Along with opening the house and original kitchen to the public,



by  
**BRIAN  
DAVIS**

Barbara has continued the custom of hiding two glass pickle ornaments on the tree in the front parlor. Children return year after year to locate the ornament in hopes of having good luck for the year ahead.

The exact origin of the Christmas pickle tradition is unknown, but it became popular in the United States after Woolworth's "five and dime" stores began to import these glass tree ornaments from Europe in 1890. It is said that the person finding the Christmas pickle first will receive an extra gift or a year of good fortune.


For nearly 200 years, the Hall House has been the location of Christmas celebrations. From the young ladies of the Salisbury Female Academy, to docents and guests of today, the holidays are a time to gather and celebrate with family and friends. Photographs of Dr. Hall's descendants from the 1940s show a large wreath hanging over the front door and a small aluminum tree on a table by the window. Several older photos from around 1900 show the family throwing snowballs at the front gate.

Since the foundation purchased the house and its contents in 1972, it has been decorated for the holiday season by individuals or community groups such as Rowan Master Gardeners and the Rowan Doll Society. The stair banisters and front porch rails are often covered with garland and red ribbons. While decorations have ranged from traditional and subdued to visually mesmerizing, they vary in style and theme from year to year. The Christmas trees, mistletoe, dolls and toys are designed to transport you on a journey down memory lane.



Volunteers have decorated the Hall House for Christmas and opened it to the public since 1972.

A Salisbury Christmas tradition in recent years has been the Scrooge's Trolley Tour, a partnership between the Salisbury-Rowan Convention and Visitor's Center, Lee Street theatre and Historic Salisbury Foundation. Guests accompany Ebenezer Scrooge on a trolley ride around town as he is visited by Christmas spirits and learns the true meaning of the season. Although Scrooge planned a break this year, he and his trolley tour will be back by popular demand on Friday and Saturday evenings between Thanksgiving and Christmas. Tours sell out quickly so get your tickets today: <http://www.visitsalisburync.com/scrooge/>.

*HSF will offer a Christmas Eve tour of the Hall House on Thursday, Dec. 24, from 6 to 8 p.m. Make plans to bring your family to this free event and begin a new Christmas tradition of your own. The Hall House is located at 226 S. Jackson St. in Salisbury. *



The Hall House is filled with toys that bring back memories of what Christmas was like as a child.

# Calendar of Events

Upcoming dates in Salisbury-Rowan and the region

■ **Nov. 6**

**Paw Around Downtown**

• *Salisbury* •

5-9 p.m. For more information: [www.downtownsalisburync.com](http://www.downtownsalisburync.com).

■ **Nov. 10-14**

**Godspell**

• *Catawba College* •

One of the longest running musicals ever. Hedrick Little Theatre, 7:30 each night, Catawba College Theatre Arts. Check out [catawba.edu/theatre](http://catawba.edu/theatre).

■ **Nov. 13-14**

**62nd Annual Rowan Museum Antiques Show**

• *Salisbury* •

Civic Center, 315 S. Martin Luther King Jr. Ave. 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Nov. 13; 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Nov. 14.

■ **Nov. 13-14, 20-21**

**Magic Tree House: The Knight at Dawn**

• *Norvell Theater* •

Piedmont Players Theatre's fantasy youth musical based on best-selling book series. Nov. 13 and 20 at 7:30 p.m.; Nov. 14 and 21 at 2:30 and 7:30 p.m. For tickets, call 704-633-5471, or online at [Piedmont Players.com](http://PiedmontPlayers.com).

■ **Nov. 13-14**

**Live at Lee Street Country Music Show**

• *Lee Street theatre* •



The crowd gathers at the Salisbury Civic Center for the Patrons' Party at last year's 61st annual Salisbury Antique Show and Sale to benefit the Rowan Museum. *Photo by Jon C. Lakey.*

Matthew Weaver, Tripp Edwards, Carol Harris, Mary Gillespie, Graham Carlton and Kenny Thomas. 7:30 each night. For more information: [leestreet.org](http://leestreet.org), or 704-310-5507.

■ **Nov. 20-21**

**Spencer Doll and Toy Museum Antiques Appraisal Fair**

• *Spencer* •

"Roadshow"-style appraising. \$5 per item. Limit two items per person. Museum is located at 108 Fourth St., Spencer. For more information: 704-762-9359, or [www.spencerdollandtoymuseum.com](http://www.spencerdollandtoymuseum.com).

■ **Nov. 27**

**Holiday Night Out**

• *Downtown Salisbury* •

5-9 p.m. Visit [downtownsalisburync.com](http://downtownsalisburync.com) for more information.

■ **Nov. 27-28**

**Holiday Farmers Market**

• *Kannapolis* •

10 a.m.-5 p.m., Old Cabarrus Bank Building, Kannapolis.

■ **Nov. 27-Dec. 27**

**Country Christmas Train**

• *Denton* •

Ride the Handy Dandy Railroad and see the lights and nativity movie along the way. Visit the church and sing carols. Explore the service station, Gingerbread House, General Store, Doll Museum, Santa's Cabin and all the arts and crafts exhibits. Take the tram to the Reid Plantation, or ride the horse-drawn wagon. Food available. Check calendar for specific days. Denton Farm-Park is located at 1072 Cranford Road, Denton. Call 336-859-2755 for more information.



**Above:** Henry Walser talks to the Grinch at downtown Salisbury's Santa and the Grinch event last year. **Left:** Phyllis Beaver talks to Sandra Sisk about her handmade scarves during last year's Holiday Farmers Market in Kannapolis. *Photos by Jeanie Groh.*

tact 704-310-5507, or leestreet.org.

■ **Nov. 28**

**Santa and the Grinch at the Bell Tower**

• *Salisbury* •

10 a.m.-noon at the Bell Tower/gazebo off South Jackson Street, next to the former Wrenn House. For more information: [www.downtownsalisburync.com](http://www.downtownsalisburync.com).

■ **Nov. 28-Dec. 31**

**Celebration of Lights and Winterland Express**

• *Kannapolis* •

Village Park, 700 W. C St., Kannapolis. 250,000 lights nightly (closed Christmas Eve and Day). Walk or ride the Winterland Express.

■ **Dec. 1**

**YMCA Trip to Christmas Candlelight Tour at Biltmore**

• *Asheville* •

Motor coach trip to Biltmore Estate for self-guided, candlelight tour. Non-Y members welcome. Buses leave from J.F. Hurley YMCA on Jake Alexander Boulevard. Contact 704-636-0111 for information.

■ **Dec. 3-20**

**A Charlie Brown Christmas**

• *Concord* •

Old Courthouse Theatre, Concord. 40th season. More information: 704-788-2405, or [www.oldcourhousetheatre.org](http://www.oldcourhousetheatre.org).

■ **Dec. 4**

**Downtown Salisbury Sings in the Season**

• *Salisbury* •

A First Friday event, downtown Salisbury. See [www.downtownsalisbury.com](http://www.downtownsalisbury.com) for information.

■ **Dec. 8**

**Cabaret Master Dance Class**

• *Norvell Theater* •

Learn the style, technique and inspiration behind one of the most popular musicals of all time. Instructor: Tod A. Kubo. Only 25 spots available. To sign up, call 704-633-5471.

■ **Dec. 10-13, Dec. 17-19**

**It's A Wonderful Life: a live radio play**

• *Lee Street theatre* •

A holiday classic. 7:30 p.m. Dec. 10-12 and 17-19; and 2:30 p.m. Dec. 13. Con-

■ **Dec. 11-13**

**Christmas in the Village**

• *Gold Hill* •

Sponsored by Gold Hill Merchants Association. For more information: [www.goldhill.com](http://www.goldhill.com).

■ **Dec. 11-12, Dec. 18-19**

**The Best Christmas Pageant Ever**

• *Norvell Theater* •

In this hilarious Christmas classic from Piedmont Players Theatre, a couple struggling to put on a church Christmas pageant are faced with casting the Herdman kids, probably the most inventively awful children in history. 7:30 p.m. Dec. 11-12 and 2:30 and 7:30 p.m. Dec. 18-19. Box office at 135 E. Fisher St. is open 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Monday-Friday, or call 704-633-5471 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday-Friday.

■ **Dec. 12**

**Santa and the Grinch antique fire truck rides**

• *Downtown Salisbury* •

10 a.m.-1 p.m. See [downtownsalisburync.com](http://downtownsalisburync.com) for more information.



The Campbell University School of Osteopathic Medicine, whose students are doing third- and fourth-year rotations at Novant Health Rowan Medical Center. Men in back: Dan Kopatch, John Vu, Mark Lorenzini, Robert Adams, Jeffrey Pennings, Drew Walters, Brad Goforth and Flint Ray. Women in front: Jessica Hulbert, Amber Duda, Janet Fontanella, Carolyn Lagattuta, Anna Brownstein and Kelly Stanley.



Drs. Robert and Stephanie Morgan pose as gangsters.



**Above:** Bill and Shari Graham and Henrietta and John Henderlite. **Left:** Brad King, Craig Honeycutt, Ben Ijames and Chris Cook.





**Left:** Laura, Cam and Laurie Ritchie. **Top:** Brad Durham and Taylor Sexton. **Above:** Meg Dees, Tippi Miller and Jay Dees.

# PATRONS' BALL

In its 25th year, Novant Health Foundation Rowan Medical Center hosted its Great Gatsby-themed Patrons' Ball. The event raised over \$250,000 to purchase a 3D mammography scanner for the Breast Center on Julian Road in Salisbury. Entertainment was provided by Salisbury Swing Band and Virtual Sounds.

— Complimentary car photos by Karen Goforth of Irresistible Portraits



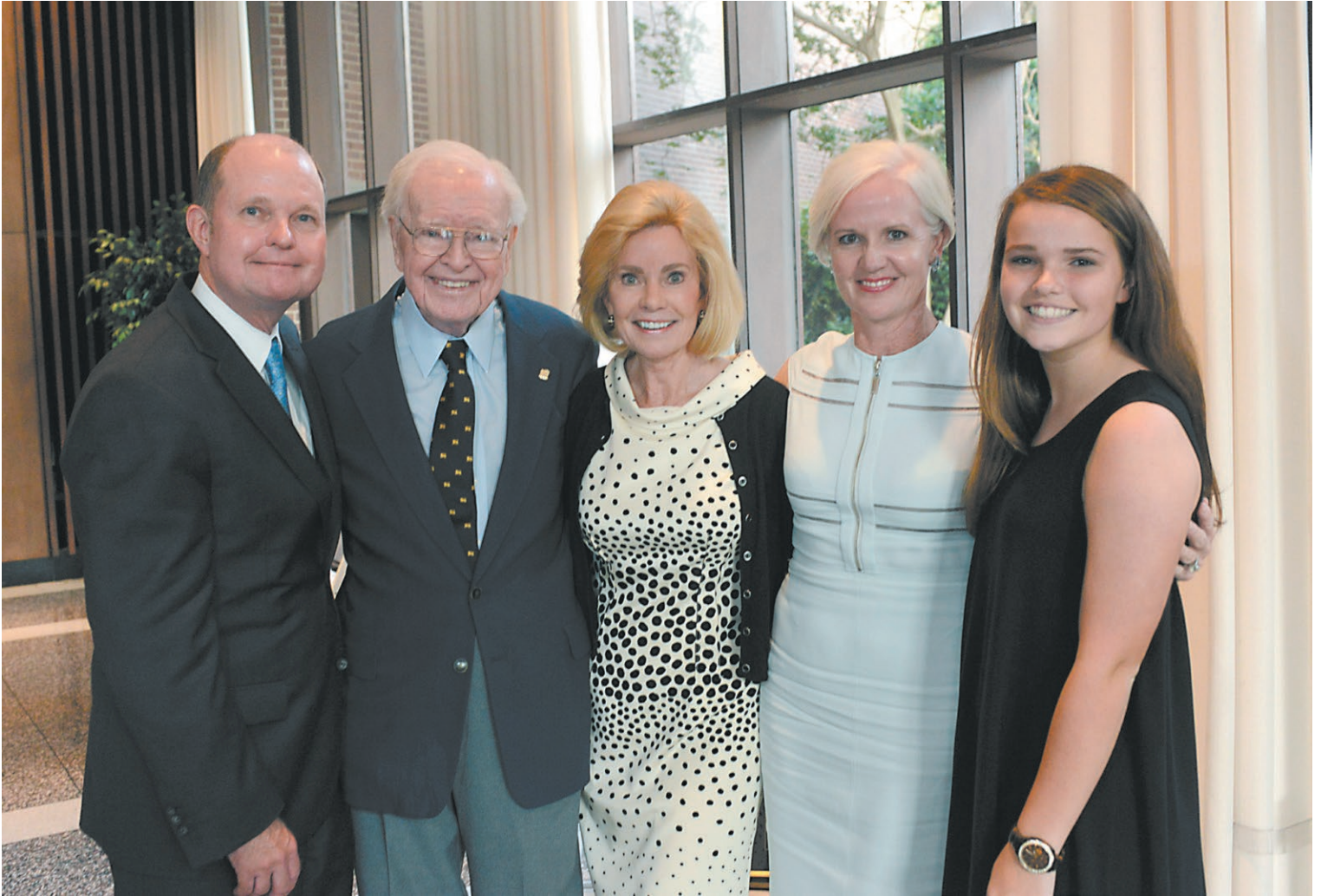
**Above:** Members of the Salisbury Swing Band provide tunes for the evening.



**Left:** Alice Stanback, Trudy Thompson and Fred Stanback. **Above:** Patti Tyndall and Dari Caldwell.



**Right:** Drew and Marian Walters pose in front of the car.



Ralph Ketner 's family. Left to right: Son Robert, Ralph, daughter Linda, daughter-in-law Leslie and granddaughter Maddie.

# RALPH KETNER

## DOCUMENTARY PREMIERE

“Lessons in Leadership,” a 50-minute documentary produced through a partnership between Food Lion and Catawba College, premiered to a large crowd at Keppel Auditorium on the college campus. The film documents the business life and philosophy of Ralph Ketner, who presided over Salisbury-based Food Lion when it was the fastest-growing grocery company in America.

— Photos by Wayne Hinshaw



Ralph Ketner poses with Meg Ham, president of Food Lion.



**Above left:** Joey Popp, Ralph Ketner, and producer Cheri Knorr Foster. **Above right:** Ketner with Rowan County Commissioners Chairman Greg Edds and wife Kim at the premiere showing of the Lessons in Leadership video reception. **Right:** Ketner with retired Salisbury High School Principal Dr. Windsor Eagle.



**Above:** Jeff Ketner, Ralph Ketner, and Ronnie Smith.

**Left:** Ketner poses with Carol Spalding, president of Rowan-Cabarrus Community College, after the premiere.



**Top:** Ralph Ketner with Kyna Grubb, director of Rowan Helping Ministries, and her husband, John. **Above:** Ketner with Catawba president Brien Lewis, wife Laura and daughter Anna Louise.



**Top:** Miller Lucky and Tre' Lucky. **Above:** Jon Haney, Jennifer Haney and Jackie Wetter. **Left:** In front, Clayton and Michaela Lowe; in middle, Joy Lowe, Leslie Denton and Teresa Denton; in back, Terry Denton.



# SunsetRun5K

All proceeds for the Sunset Run, whose competitors raced over the streets of Salisbury, went to the Rowan County United Way. Innospec was a first-time title sponsor for the Sunset Run.

— Photos by Mark Wineka



**Top:** Jackson Price, Jody Price, Connor Price and Stan Price. **Above:** Kaytlin Fox, Aubree Cain and Laura Shaffer. **Above right:** Philip Cressler, Leah Cressler and Sarah Grooms. **Below right:** Aimee Rabon, Triston Rabon and Shane Rabon. **Far right:** Sara, Maggie and Pryce Phillips.



**Top:** Artist Joseph Heilig draws a caricature of Maestro David Hagy. **Above:** Jean Wurster, James Taylor, Kelli Norwood and Ken Harmer at the Casino Night buffet. **Left:** Lee and Bobby Wagoner watch Joey's burning card trick.



*Friends of the Symphony's*  
**CASINO**  
 Fantastique!

The Friends of the Symphony held a fundraiser at the Depot in Salisbury for the Salisbury-Rowan Symphony Society Inc.

— Photos courtesy of Frank Goodnight



**Above far left:** Linda Jones asks for bets from Steve Arey, Lyn Wilson, Jean Wurster and Ann Meredith. **Far left:** Sheila Ezzo, Kathleen Dunn, Angie Fowler Smith and Barbara Teichroew. **Left:** Kevin Faggart with friends Julie and Treva, Al Wilson, David Hagy, Kelli Norwood, Glenn Yost, Ken Harmer and Jim Norman.

# Joe Hall

## Memorial Scholarship

### *Breakfast*

The Cleveland Lions Club held its annual breakfast to raise funds for the Joe Hall Memorial Scholarship. Hall was a charter member of the Mount Ulla Lions Club and a life member of the Cleveland Lions Club.

— Photos by Mark Wineka



Locke Steele, Bo Stikeleather, Joan Steele, Tommy Steele and Reagan Brown.



**Left:** Barbara and Joe Wilson. **Right:** Meredith Dunning, Liz Steele and Rachel Williams.



**Far left top:** Sammi and Angie Phifer. **Far left bottom:** Leigh Ann and Ryan Haglan. **Above:** Lita Yow, Dewayne Walker, Cindy Hoffner, Elaine Hewitt, Barbara Rhinehardt and Mary Alice Smith. **Left:** Judy Lowry and Tommie Cline.



**Left:** Nancy Holshouser and Betty Little. **Right:** Cheryl and Ted Goins.



# Germanfest

Rowan Museum held its annual Germanfest at the Old Stone House in Granite Quarry. The day celebrates the food and traditions of some of Rowan County's earliest German settlers.

— Photos courtesy of Kaye Brown Hirst



**Above:** Dinah Carpenter with Rowan Museum volunteer Andy Eury. **Left:** Monika and James Bigsby with Lucretia Trent. **Right:** Carol and Acey Worthy. **Far right:** Norman and Pam Ribelin



# BBQ, Bands & Boots



The Crosby Scholars program sponsored a night of good eats and music at the Trolley Barn in Salisbury to support a college-going culture in Rowan County and, as part of that, the Last Dollar Grant Program.

— Photos by Hugh Fisher

**Top:** Jonah Horton and the Threlkeld Boys perform at the Crosby Scholars' BBQ, Bands & Boots fundraiser. **Left:** Gwin Barr, chair of the Rowan County Crosby Scholars board, left, with Carol Spalding, president of Rowan-Cabarrus Community College. **Right:** Zara Huffman, right, and Gage Gray, left, both freshmen at Salisbury High School, at the Crosby Scholars BBQ, Bands & Boots fundraiser.



**Above:** Lainy Slate, left, senior at Salisbury High School, offers fundraising tickets to Betsy Cunningham. **Right:** Guests at the event enjoyed fresh-made barbecue from Jim 'N Nick's, cooked right outside.



# Brown-Fisher Family Reunion

The 101st Brown-Fisher Reunion was held at the Old Stone House. Descendants can trace their family lineage back to Michael Braun, who built the Old Stone House in 1766.

— Photos courtesy of Kaye Brown Hirst



**Above:** Claudette and Lane Brown and Mark and Tina Brown, descendants of Michael Braun.



**Far left:** Ken and Kathryn Clifton.



**Left:** Ed and Paul Brown.



**Above:** Sturges Bryan, Wayne Cline and Ronnie Smith. **Right:** David Harrison and Luther Sowers.

## ‘Tour of Duty’ Vietnam War exhibit at Rowan Museum

Local Vietnam veterans were among the guests at the opening of Rowan Museum’s “Tour of Duty” exhibit, which will be featured at the museum through Memorial Day 2016.



# A word from Father Christmas

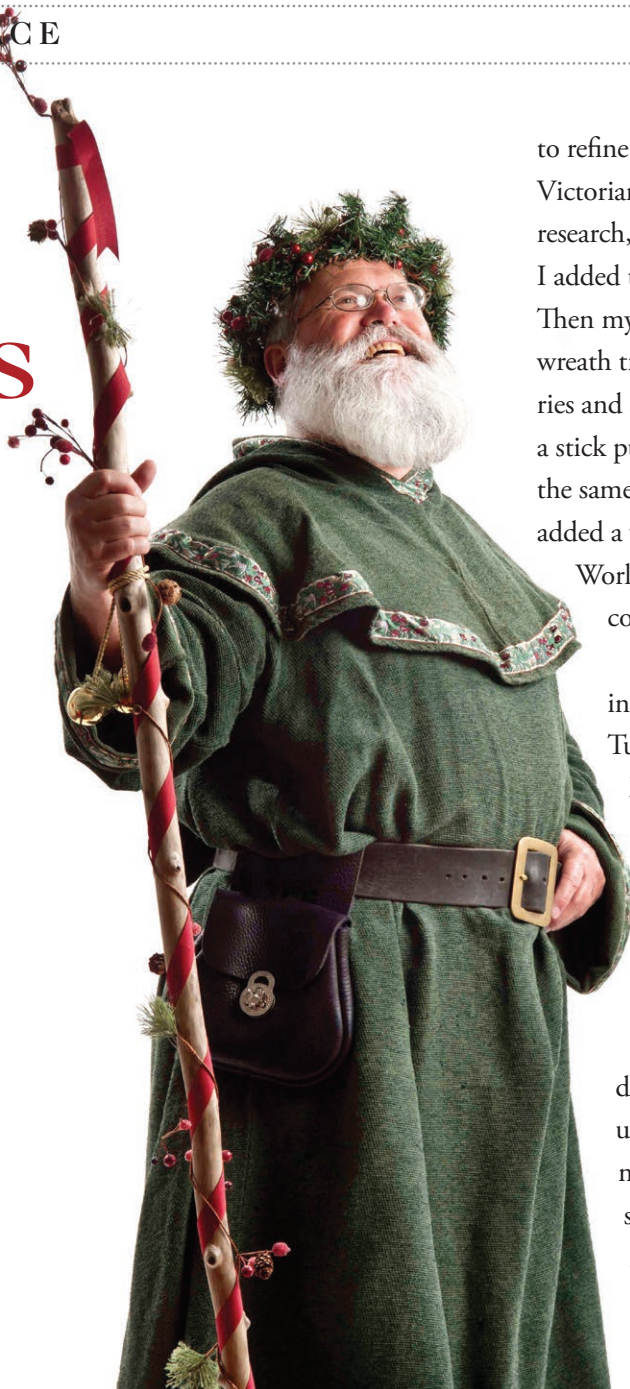
My wife, Monika, and I live in Landis with a dog and three cats, but Salisbury has been a large portion of our lives. We met in 1995 at the Meroney Theater, when she was in the cast of “Jesus Christ Superstar” and I was in the crew.

That must be where I developed my love of costuming or “garb,” which is the term used by the cast and regular patrons of the Carolina Renaissance Festival. The festival is where I had my first idea of donning the “Father Christmas” character.

In 2012, I began growing out my whiskers while finishing my 30 years as an officer with the N.C. Department of Corrections. That year, Faithful Friends Animal Sanctuary was looking for someone to play Santa for its Christmas fundraiser at PetSmart, and my wife volunteered me. PetSmart provided the suit and a synthetic beard that, fortunately, I did not have to use.

While we were there, a friend came in to have her two dogs photographed with Santa. I called the dogs by name, and a small boy in the line said to his parents in a loud stage-whisper, “MOM! Santa even knows the dogs’ names!” The wonder in his voice was inspiring.

Since then, I have played Santa for Novant Health Rowan Regional Medical Center, Smart Start Rowan, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department,



by JAMES BIGSBY

Historic Latta Plantation in Huntersville and, most recently, the North Carolina Transportation Museum’s production of “The Polar Express.”

I wanted my particular Santa to be different from the 1920s Coca-Cola version that most of us have grown up with. Historic Latta Plantation gave me the chance

to refine my idea. The Plantation wanted a Victorian Father Christmas and after some research, I selected a green robe, to which I added trim with holly pictured on it. Then my wife created a headpiece of a twig wreath trimmed with evergreen, holly berries and small pine cones, and I decorated a stick pulled from the Yadkin River with the same. In the years following, I have added a vintage-style Santa suit and an Old World Santa robe to my collection of costumes.

The story of Saint Nicholas began in the fourth century in what is now Turkey. One of the oldest stories I have heard is about a poor family with three daughters. Without money for dowries, the daughters had nothing to look forward to but lives of slavery. Saint Nicholas, on three separate occasions, supplied each daughter with a bag of coins to be used as a dowry and they were all married. For over 1,600 years, the spirit of Christmas has continued in the forms of St. Nicholas, Kris Kringle, Pere Noel, Babbo Natale and Father Christmas. When children ask how old I am, I tell them 1,661.

Recently, I was in a Salisbury store when a little girl walked up to me, her father standing a few feet away and smiling. She pulled on the knee of my jeans and asked, “Can I remind you of what I want for Christmas?”

As I squatted down to hear her list, I could not help but smile, too.

*James Bigsby is a retired state employee.*



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