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The
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A FRESH START FOR 2026

Dear Neighbors,

Happy New Year! As we step into 2026, I can't help but feel an overwhelming sense of optimism and excitement for the year ahead. There is something energizing about a new year—welcoming new opportunities, new connections and new stories to share with this incredible community.

This month's edition is a special one. It's our annual *Lookback Issue*, where we reflect on the memorable moments, standout residents, inspiring businesses and community events that shaped 2025. It's a beautiful reminder of why we love what we do: bringing people together and shining a spotlight on the people who make our community such a remarkable place to live.

A new year also brings a renewed focus on organizing our lives, setting fresh goals and prioritizing what truly matters. Whether it's creating more

space for family, deepening community connections or pursuing long-awaited personal or professional milestones, 2026 offers a clean canvas to be intentional about the life we want to build. We hope this issue inspires you to pause, reflect and step confidently into the year with clarity and purpose.

Here's to a bright, meaningful and connected 2026. We cannot wait to continue serving this community with heart, purpose and passion.

Warmly,

*Ashley &
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Publishers, *Stroll*



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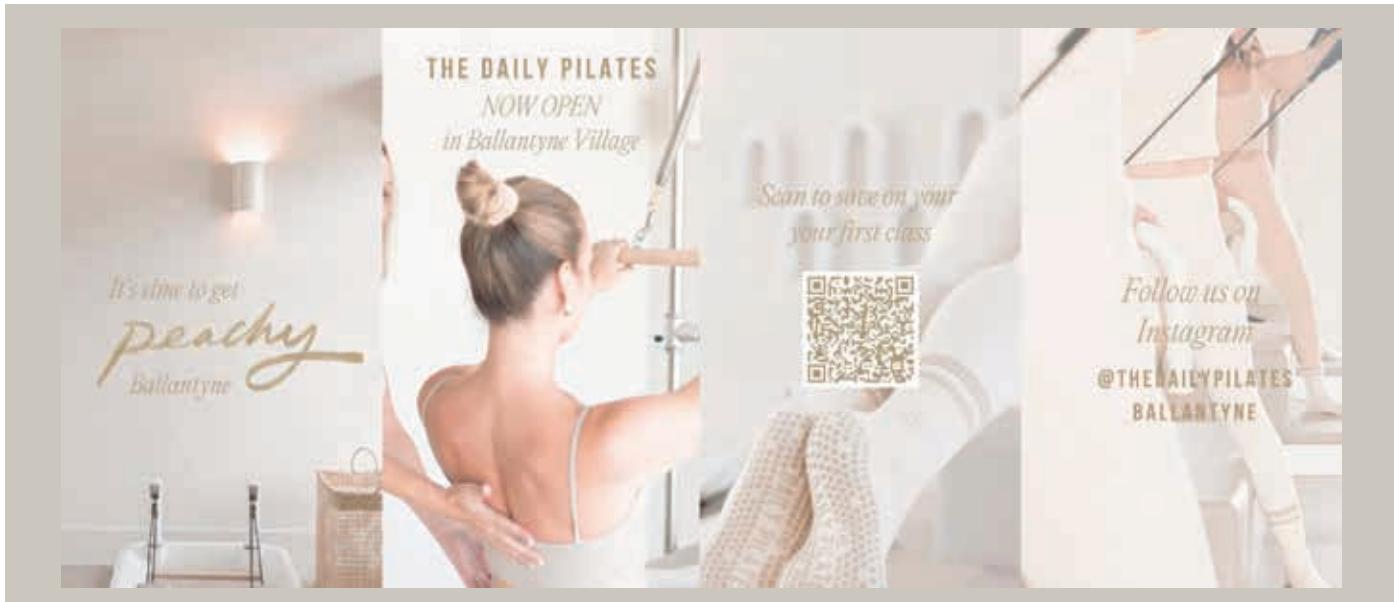
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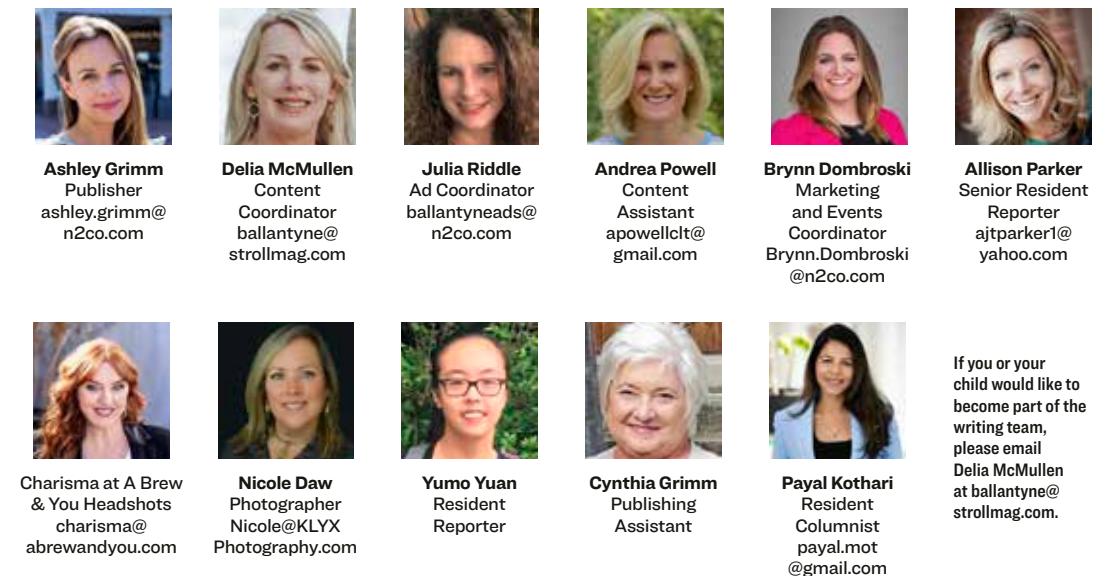
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If you or your child would like to become part of the writing team, please email Delia McMullen at ballantyne@strollmag.com.


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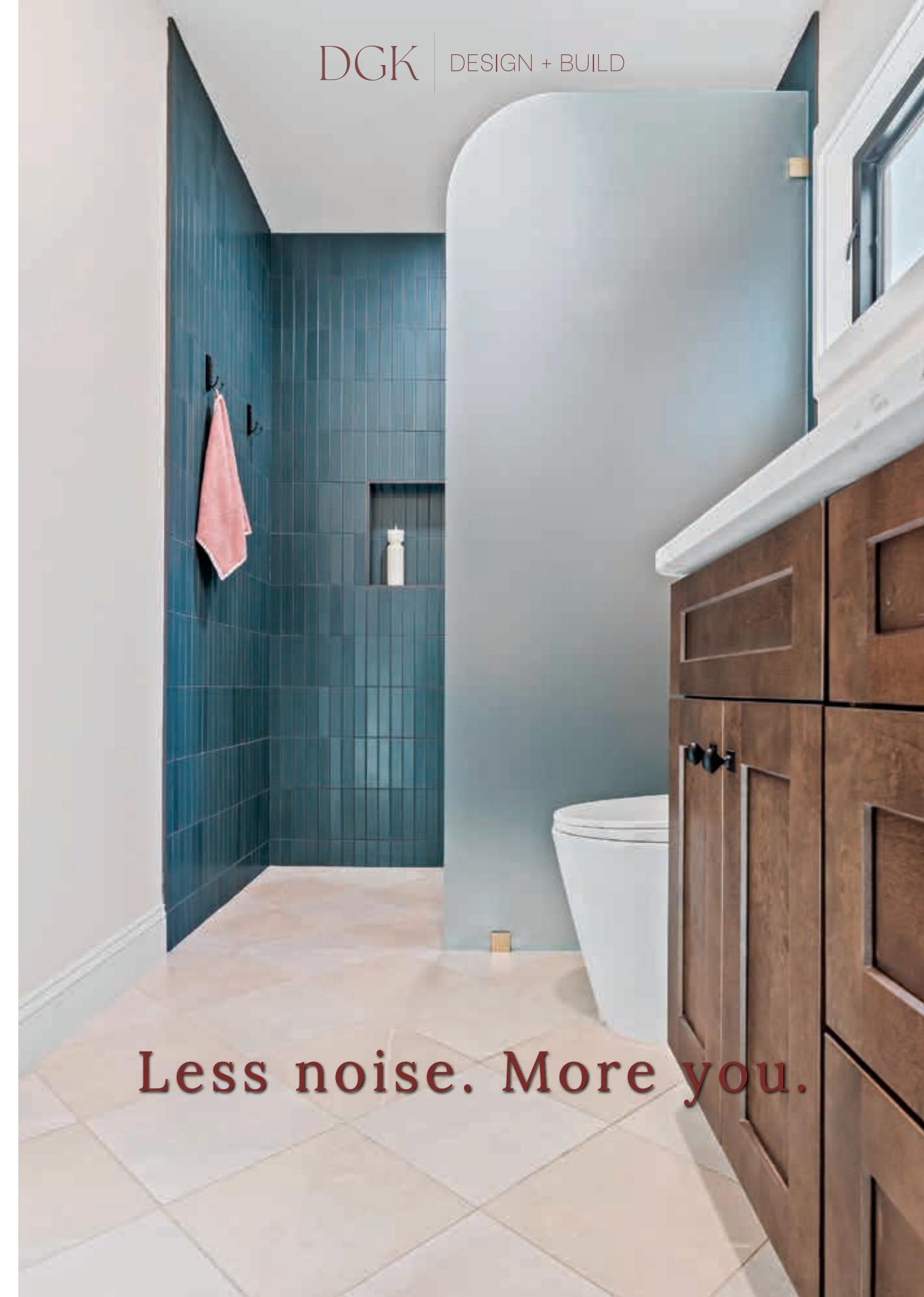
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A FULL DAY OF world-class speakers, hands-on workshops and meaningful community connections comes to Ballantyne Country Club this month—empowering local leaders with fresh ideas, renewed purpose and actionable tools for the year ahead.

This month brings a powerful leadership moment to the Ballantyne region: the upcoming Live2Lead 2026 event, scheduled for Friday, January 23 at Ballantyne Country Club. Hosted by *Stroll Ballantyne Country Club* in partnership with leadership expert Dr. Brynn Dombroski, the day promises to energize, equip and connect local business leaders, professionals and community changemakers.

WHY THIS EVENT MATTERS

Live2Lead is not a typical seminar: it's a full-day leadership immersion designed to bring global thought leadership into a local context. The program is a simulcast of world-class speakers, paired with interactive workshops and opportunities for high-value networking.

In the Ballantyne region, this means:

- A fresh infusion of ideas for business owners, nonprofit leaders and community professionals
- A chance to engage with local peers, collaborate, build relationships and generate momentum
- An investment in our community's leadership capacity—strengthening not just individual organizations but the region as a whole

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2026 Live2Lead
guest speaker
Martin McInerney



This event is tailor-made for local entrepreneurs, team-builders and civic leaders who want actionable take-aways, not just inspiration.

LOGISTICS

- Friday, January 23 | 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
(Registration begins at 8:30 a.m.)
- Ballantyne Country Club (Waxhaw/Ballantyne area)
- 11120 Ballantyne Crossing Ave, Charlotte, NC 28277

PROGRAM FEATURES

- Re-broadcast of top speakers including Dr. John C. Maxwell (leadership authority), Tiffani Bova (business growth and innovation), Anthony Trucks (resilience and identity) and Jesse Cole (entrepreneurial mindset)
- A panel of local leaders discussing community initiatives, safety, infrastructure and business-resident connection. 2026 guest speakers include Martin McInerney and Tina Crew.
- Light breakfast, catered lunch and networking breaks

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WHY LOCAL LEADERS SHOULD ATTEND

- Renewed vision: With change accelerating in business and community life, this event offers fresh frameworks to lead confidently.
- Practical tools: The simulcast format specializes in “take-home” action plans—not just theory.
- Networking that matters: Being seated alongside local business owners, nonprofit executives and civic influencers opens up meaningful connections.
- Community investment: Strengthening leadership in one's organization has ripple effects—benefiting teams, clients, customers and neighborhoods.

TIPS FOR YOUR “DAY OF”

- Arrive early (8:30 a.m. registration) to grab coffee, settle in and begin networking before the formal sessions begin.
- Bring business cards or contact info—lots of value comes from the people you meet.
- Plan to block off the full morning and early afternoon—this is a “day out” commitment, not a quick drop-in.
- Come prepared with one challenge you’re working on and one goal you’d like to make progress toward—this helps you absorb the content with intention.
- Follow up afterward. The real value often comes in the 48 hours post-event: reach out to one new contact, schedule a coffee, implement one new idea.

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“My Heart Goes Out to You”

Sweet and elegant delights launches heartfelt community initiative

Sweet and Elegant Delights has introduced a deeply meaningful initiative aimed at supporting individuals and families within the community. Inspired by a personal calling, the founder shared that it was “laid on my heart to give away heart cakes and grocery gift cards to those who may have been affected by the government shutdown or had their benefits affected.”

What began as an act of outreach for those facing hardship quickly evolved. The initiative was expanded so that anyone who wanted or needed a little extra kindness could receive it—no questions asked.

Known as “My Heart Goes Out to You,” the program provides participants with a complimentary handcrafted heart-shaped cake in the flavor of their choice, along with a free \$50 grocery gift card.

All anyone has to do is scan the QR code and select their preferred cake flavor. They will then receive an email with available pickup dates, times and location. There are no strings attached—just a genuine gesture of generosity and community care.

The initiative continues this month, with eight or nine gift cards still available for those who wish to participate. Through “My Heart Goes Out to You,” Sweet and Elegant Delights is not only

sharing treats, but also spreading hope, warmth and compassion to all who need it.

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DIWALI

A celebration of light, hope and new beginnings

BY BCC NEIGHBOR PAYAL KOTHARI

Diwali, often called the Festival of Lights, is one of the most cherished and widely celebrated holidays in Indian culture. Rooted in ancient traditions and rich symbolism, Diwali represents the triumph of light over darkness, knowledge over ignorance and hope over despair. Across India and around the world, families and communities come together to honor this moment of renewal with joy, gratitude, and a spirit of unity.

At its heart, Diwali is a celebration of new beginnings. Many households begin preparations weeks in advance, cleaning and decorating their homes to welcome prosperity and positive energy. Colorful rangoli designs adorn entryways, crafted from vibrant powders, flowers or rice. Oil lamps, or diyas, glow softly in windows and doorways, symbolizing the inner light that guides individuals toward truth and goodness. These small flames, humble yet powerful, remind us that even the smallest act of kindness can illuminate the world around us.

The festival spans several days, each with its own significance. Dhanteras marks the beginning, a day associated with wealth, health and well-being. Families often purchase new items, especially metal or gold, as a symbol of good fortune. The following days honor various deities, including Goddess Lakshmi, who represents prosperity and abundance. On the main night of Diwali, prayers and rituals fill homes with a sense of peace and devotion. Families gather to light diyas, exchange sweets and share blessings for the year ahead.

Food plays a central role in the celebration. Kitchens come alive with the aroma of traditional sweets like ladoos, barfis and jalebis, as well as savory



snacks prepared lovingly for guests and neighbors. The act of sharing food reflects the deeper meaning of Diwali: generosity, connection and community. It is a time when differences fade, and people come together in celebration and goodwill.

Beyond its cultural and religious roots, Diwali carries a universal message. It encourages reflection, gratitude and the courage to let go of what no longer serves us. It invites individuals to embrace hope, nurture relationships and step into

the future with clarity and optimism. In a world that can often feel divided or uncertain, Diwali offers a moment to pause and remember that light—both within us and around us—has the power to guide, heal and inspire.

Diwali is more than a festival; it is a reminder that renewal is always possible and that light, in all its forms, will always find a way to shine.

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An advertisement for BuildNow. It features a modern house with a wooden deck and a white exterior under construction. The company logo, a stylized flame inside a gear, is in the top left. Text on the right says: "At BuildNow, we specialize in both commercial and residential renovation and construction across North and South Carolina. Our goal is to ensure customer satisfaction by turning your ideas into reality. Whether you're renovating a kitchen or adding a new deck, we're here to do it right." A QR code is in the bottom right corner. Below the house, a banner says "Specializing In:" followed by a list of services: Commercial Renovation, Residential Renovation, Kitchen Remodeling, Deck and Patio Construction, Bathroom Renovation, Siding Services, Flooring Services, and Roofing Services. A phone number 980 329 6659 and email建工公司@gmail.com are listed, along with a call to action "Get Your Free Estimate Now! Buildnowcorp.com".

An advertisement for Ombre' Nail Ballantyne. It features a woman's hands and feet with red-painted nails. A large pink gerbera daisy is held over the hands. Text on the right says: "Step into our luxurious salon and escape into a world of relaxation and indulgence." Below this, a list of services is provided: 1. The best services in the luxury spa. 2. One time used buffer and file. 3. Liner protection for all kinds of pedicures. 4. Never recycled paraffin wax. 5. Beautiful interior design. 6. Sanitized, clean, and professional services. 7. Reasonable prices. 8. 7 days guarantee for nails and shellac services. The company logo, a stylized 'B' inside a circle, is at the bottom. Text at the bottom includes the phone number 980-299-0045, address 15033 Ballancroft Parkway, Charlotte, NC 28277, website Ombrenailballantyne.com, and email Ombrenailballantyne.nc. A note at the bottom states: "Ombre' Nail Ballantyne is one of the biggest Beauty salons in Ballantyne area."

An advertisement for Brightmore of South Charlotte. It features a group of people, including seniors, exercising in a swimming pool. The text "Time to slow down and get moving." is overlaid on the water. The text "Life at Brightmore of South Charlotte is filled with all the things you want to do, and none of the things you'd rather not. Indulge and enjoy, and rest assured that continuing care is in place should it be needed in the future." is on the right. Below this, a call to action "Call us to see how to simplify your tomorrow today." and contact information 910.507.7834 and BrightmoreOfSouthCharlotte.com. The Brightmore logo, featuring a stylized tree, is at the bottom. The text "INDEPENDENT LIVING | ASSISTED LIVING | MEMORY SUPPORT | REHAB CARE | SKILLED CARE" is also present. A QR code is in the bottom left corner.

Younique by MK

BY CONTENT COORDINATOR
DELIA McMULLEN



For longtime nurse and Charlotte resident MaryKate Walsh, launching Younique by MK was more than a career pivot—it was a calling. After 21 years in nursing, much of it focused on clinical training and medical device education, she felt a powerful pull toward aesthetics. “Throughout my nursing career, I developed a deep appreciation for anatomy and the intricacies of the human body,” she explains. “This passion for aesthetics sparked a desire for change, inspiring me to pivot my career toward helping individuals feel their best.”

MaryKate grew up in Boston and moved to Charlotte in 2015. She and her husband Jim are raising a blended family with children Cailin and Conor (22), Anna (14) and Charlie (12). While nursing has always been a core part of her identity, she says stepping into aesthetics “pushed me to step out of my comfort zone and embrace vulnerability. I have learned that true growth often comes from taking risks and pursuing one’s passions.”

That leap led to the boutique practice she now runs at Salon Loft #16 on



Pineville-Matthews Road. Younique by MK specializes in individualized aesthetic treatments delivered with a deeply personalized and compassionate touch. “I believe that everyone is unique, and I am dedicated to tailoring each treatment to meet the specific needs of my clients,” MaryKate says. “It’s incredibly fulfilling to witness the transformative effects of my work on their confidence and self-esteem.”

A Regenerative, Holistic Approach to Skincare

At Younique by MK Med Spa, MaryKate’s philosophy extends far beyond neurotoxins and fillers. She focuses on a comprehensive, long-term approach to skin health—one that supports natural beauty through treatments designed to improve the skin’s structure, function and overall appearance. “I want my clients to feel refreshed, revitalized and confident in their natural beauty,” she says. “That starts with understanding their unique goals and creating a personalized game plan.”

To support that mission, she offers advanced regenerative technologies chosen for their safety, versatility and results:

Scarlet RF Microneedling

A powerful combination of microneedling and radiofrequency energy, Scarlet RF stimulates collagen, tightens skin and improves texture with minimal downtime. It effectively treats wrinkles, skin laxity and acne scarring—and is safe year-round for all skin types.

Nouvaderm Fractional Laser

This device resurfaces the skin to enhance tone, texture and clarity while minimizing discomfort. It also offers a non-surgical solution for hair restoration, making it an excellent option for clients experiencing thinning.

Together, these technologies give clients a comprehensive pathway to healthy, rejuvenated skin—supporting both immediate cosmetic goals and deeper regenerative results.

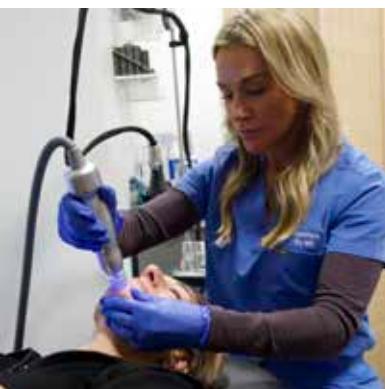
A Practice Rooted in Empathy and Accessibility

What sets MaryKate’s practice apart is her blend of expertise, empathy and inclusivity. She describes her philosophy as tailored, approachable and results-driven. “The name itself emphasizes individuality,” she notes, “which reflects my commitment to understanding and addressing the unique goals of each client.”

She also makes accessibility a priority. “I acknowledge the diverse financial situations of my clients, ensuring that my services are accessible to a wide range of individuals.”

Above all, outcomes matter most. “My primary concern is patient outcomes,” she says. “I prioritize results over transactions.” Clients appreciate her collaborative style—open conversations, shared decisions and feeling supported from the first consultation to the final result.

Her advice for others pursuing their own passions? “If you are passionate about something and know your talent, then go



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To have your business featured in an upcoming issue, please email Ashley at ashley.grimmm@n2co.com.

MARYKATE WALSH WILL BE DANCING WITH THE STARS ON APRIL 24!

Event Details

The 10th consecutive Dancing with the Stars of Charlotte event will take place on April 24, continuing its powerful tradition of bringing the community together in support of meaningful causes.

MaryKate has always admired performers—even though she never considered herself one. An athlete with no dance or performance background, she questioned whether she’d have the courage to step onstage. But when the opportunity arose, she couldn’t pass it up. Supporting three

meaningful causes made the decision even easier. “It’s not about me—it’s about what we can all do collectively to help others,” she says. In addition to being a nurse and running her own med spa, MaryKate has completed seven marathons and is an active part of the Charlotte running community.

DWTS Mission

Dancing with the Stars of Charlotte, Inc. is dedicated to supporting Charlotte-based organizations with the shared goal of advancing equitable access to quality healthcare. For more information, visit dancingwiththestarsofcharlotte.org.



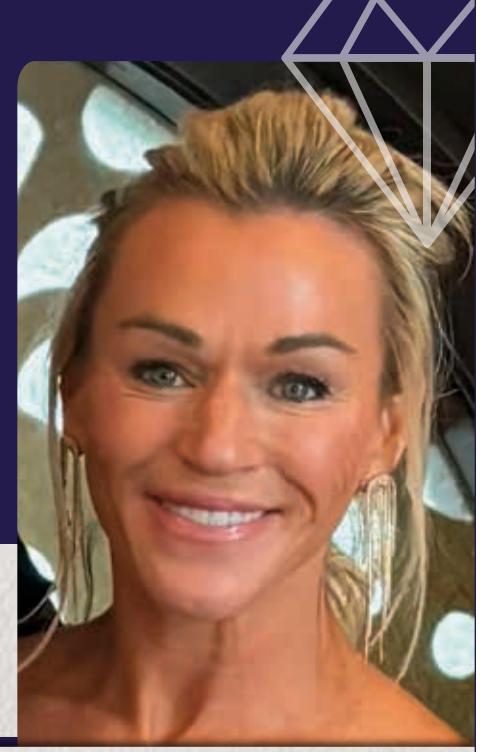
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Younique
BY MK

Where Every Journey Becomes a Signature Experience

The Elegance of Travel | Bespoke Luxury Travel for discerning Carolinas residents

BY ALBERTO BENITEZ, CO-FOUNDER & CHIEF RESEARCH OFFICER



Luxury isn't defined by how far you travel—it's defined by how deeply the journey resonates. For those who value privacy, personalization and cultural richness, travel becomes more than vacation; it becomes part of the family story. This is the foundation of The Elegance of Travel, a boutique luxury travel consultancy serving the southern Charlotte region.

Founded by husband-and-wife team Alberto and Shelley Benitez, The Elegance of Travel specializes in highly curated journeys for individuals and families seeking unique access, refined

comfort and effortless execution. Their clients are not looking for itineraries they could find online. They are seeking experiences that are thoughtful, meaningful and "unGoogleable."

A Distinct Approach in a Crowded Travel Market

While many advisors focus on upgrades, perks or package deals, The Elegance of Travel focuses on relationships and artistry. They take time to understand how their clients live—their preferences, rhythms, traditions and personal styles—then design travel aligned to that identity.



Husband-and-wife team Alberto and Shelley Benitez, The Elegance of Travel



they book 12 to 18 months in advance. For some elite private escapes and ultra-luxury accommodations, start planning now for the summer 2027 season!

Starting travel planning in January ensures:

- Preferred travel dates and room categories
- Availability of private guides and exclusive experiences
- Better pricing and flexible options
- Time to curate enhancements such as culinary events, milestone celebrations or private access moments
- Waiting until spring means choosing from what's left—not what's possible.

For Those Who Know Time Is the Ultimate Luxury

The Elegance of Travel partners with a limited number of clients to maintain personalized, high-touch service. If you are considering summer travel this year—whether a European grand tour, a multigenerational villa escape, a private yacht charter or something entirely new—now is the moment to begin.

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ZOOMIN GROOMIN CHARLOTTE

Luxury pet care at your doorstep

BY CONTENT COORDINATOR DELIA McMULLEN

WHEN IT COMES TO CARING FOR OUR PETS, convenience and comfort matter just as much as quality. For many families in Ballantyne and beyond, *Zoomin Groomin* has become the trusted name that blends all three—delivering a luxury pet-spa experience directly to your driveway.

As their tagline suggests, “Your pet isn’t just a pet—they’re your companion, your joy, your heart on four paws.” And that belief is at the core of every service they offer.

Zoomin Groomin elevates grooming beyond a routine appointment, creating a calm, private, one-on-one experience that feels more like a spa day than a necessity. Their state-of-the-art mobile unit arrives fully equipped, eliminating the stress of car rides, crowded salons or long wait times. There are no cages, no noise, no assembly-line grooming—just gentle, attentive care designed around your pet’s comfort.

Pet parents also appreciate the company’s commitment to using premium, eco-friendly products and employing certified groomers who prioritize safety, patience and kindness. The result



My 14-year-old Persian cat Maizi had the best grooming ever. Morgan was her groomer, and she went over areas of Maizi that other groomers had neglected. Her face, ears and eyes were all cleaned up and she looked beautiful. I am so happy that I finally found a groomer I can trust and who does an excellent job. Morgan truly loves her job, and I will be using them again.

—MARY G.



Super nice and arrived early which was great! Went above and beyond to de-shed our Australian shepherd mix. The groomer was incredibly knowledgeable and took the time to answer all of my questions. Our dog came back in the house happy and smelling so good! An excellent experience overall!

—JENNIFER S.

is a luxury, home-delivered grooming session that leaves pets feeling pampered and owners feeling confident that their furry family members are in the best hands.

Zoomin Groomin proudly serves Charlotte, Ballantyne and surrounding areas, making high-quality mobile grooming accessible to busy families throughout the region. Whether it’s a routine clean-up, a seasonal trim or a full spa session, their team brings top-tier care right to your curb. Because in their view—and ours—family deserves the very best.

To have your business featured, please email Ashley at ashley.grimm@n2co.com.

WHY PET OWNERS LOVE ZOOMIN GROOMIN

A Spa Day Without Leaving Home

Their state-of-the-art mobile grooming spa comes directly to your driveway, eliminating stressful travel and long waits. Pets enjoy a calm, one-on-one environment with no cages, no crowding and no chaos.

Premium, Eco-Friendly Products

Every service uses high-quality, gentle, environmentally conscious products to keep your pet’s skin and coat healthy.

Certified, Compassionate Groomers

Zoomin Groomin’s team is trained, experienced and dedicated to creating a safe, soothing experience for every dog—especially those who are anxious or elderly.

Luxury at Your Doorstep

From the first suds to the final fluff, your pet receives personalized, uninterrupted care designed for comfort, confidence and convenience.

Serving Your Neighborhood

Serving Ballantyne as well as other surrounding areas—bringing top-tier grooming directly to the families who value ease and quality.



Because They’re Family — and Family Deserves the Best.

Your pet isn’t just a pet — they’re your companion, your joy, your heart on four paws. That’s why *Zoomin Groomin* reimagines grooming as a luxury experience built around comfort, safety, and style.

Our state-of-the-art mobile spa comes right to your home, offering your dog a calm, one-on-one session — no cages, no travel, no stress.



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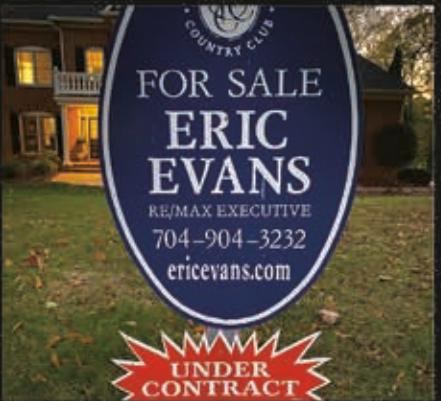
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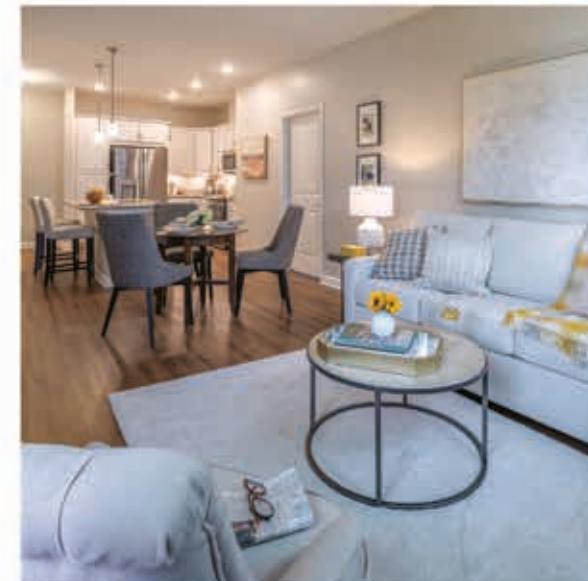
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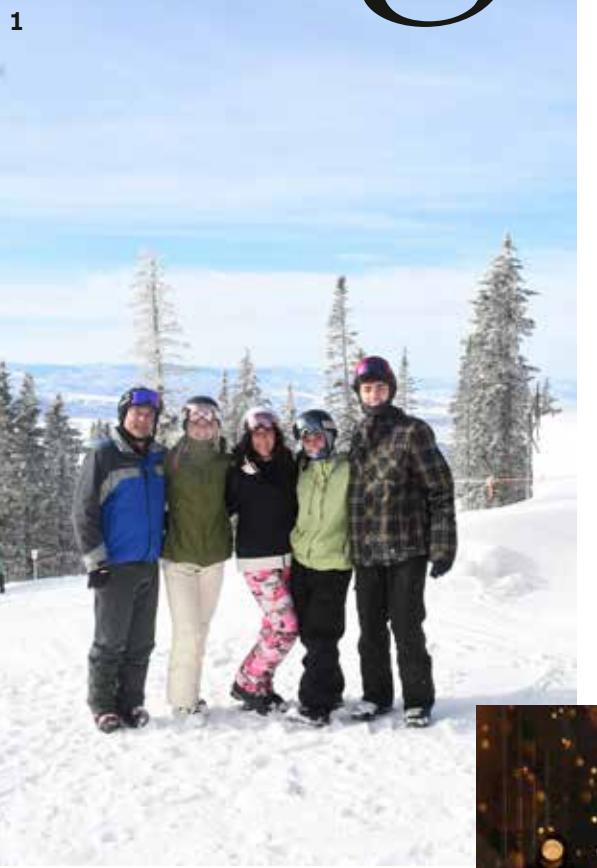

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Neighbors

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11



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sharing their family stories with us in 2025!*

- 1 / February 2025 | The Custer Family
- 2 / April 2025 | The Dawoods
- (photo by Leah Custer Photography & Design)
- 3 / September 2025 | The Bicklers
- (photo by Svetlana Baker Photography)
- 4 / June 2025 | The Moon Family
- (photo by Jennifer Lynn Photography)
- 5 / December 2025 | Holiday Mixer
- (photo by Charisma, A Brew & You Headshots)
- 6 / May 2025 | The Daleys
- (photo by KLYX Photography)
- 7 / July 2025 | High School Seniors
- (photo by Charisma, A Brew & You Headshots)
- 8 / October 2025 | The DiMartinos
- (photo by Leah Custer Photography & Design)
- 9 / November 2025 | The Munfords
- (photo by Leah Custer Photography & Design)
- 10 / March 2025 | The Barzelatto Family
- (photo by KLYX Photography)
- 11 / August 2025 | The Galli Family
- (photo by KLYX Photography)



9



7



11



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Homes

We thank these residents for sharing their beautiful homes and yards with us in 2025!

20
25



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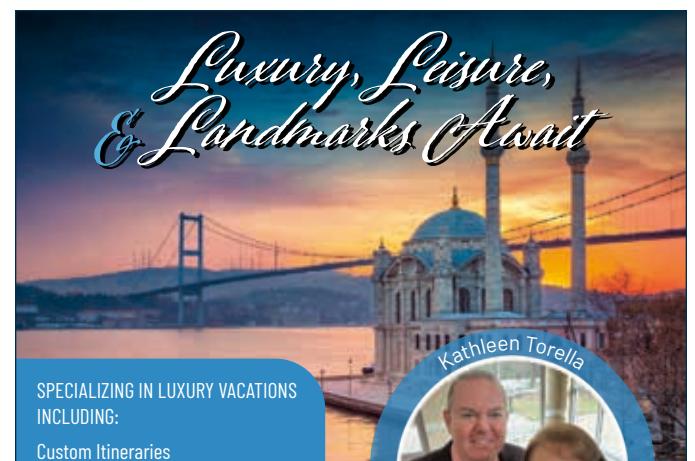
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Athletes

We salute these young achievers featured in 2025 for their many accomplishments!

20
25



3



7



- 1 / December 2025 | Elle Williams
- 2 / July 2025 | Olson Lorimer
- 3 / February 2025 | Nicholas Prosch
- 4 / April 2025 | ECC Swim Team
- 5 / August 2025 | Cohen Bettencourt
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- 8 / November 2025 | Katie Leonard

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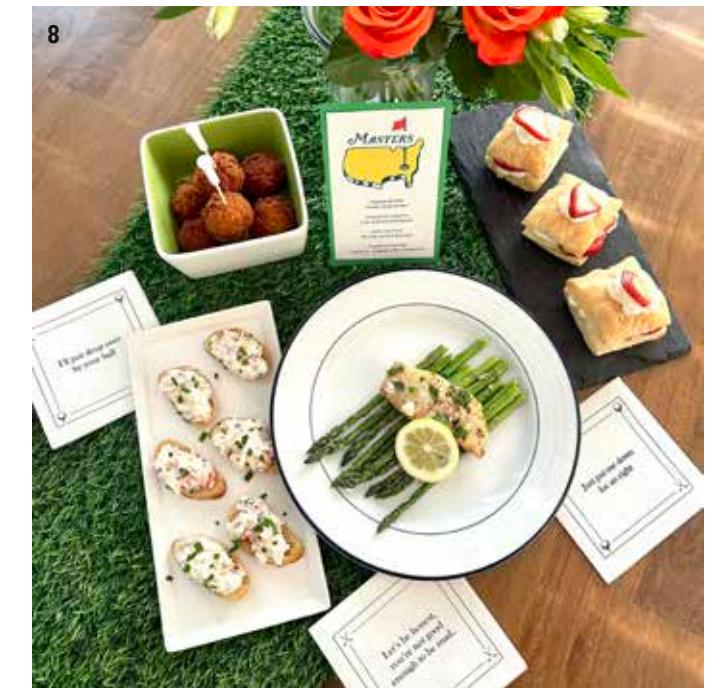
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Recipes

We would like to thank these residents and clients for sharing their delicious recipes with us in 2025!



20
25

- 1 / July 2025 | Flag Cake
- 2 / December 2025 | German Chocolate Cake
- 3 / September 2025 | Crispy Chicken Cutlets
- 4 / March 2025 | Thin Mint Cookie Pie
- 5 / November 2025 | Roasted Brussels Sprouts with Honey Balsamic Glaze
- 6 / May 2025 | Strawberry Clafoutis
- 7 / February 2025 | Sweet and Sour Ribs
- 8 / April 2025 | Chicken Croquettes and Basque Crab Salad
- 9 / August 2025 | Kadai Paneer
- 10 / June 2025 | Southern Chicken Bog
- 11 / October 2025 | Tapioca Pearls

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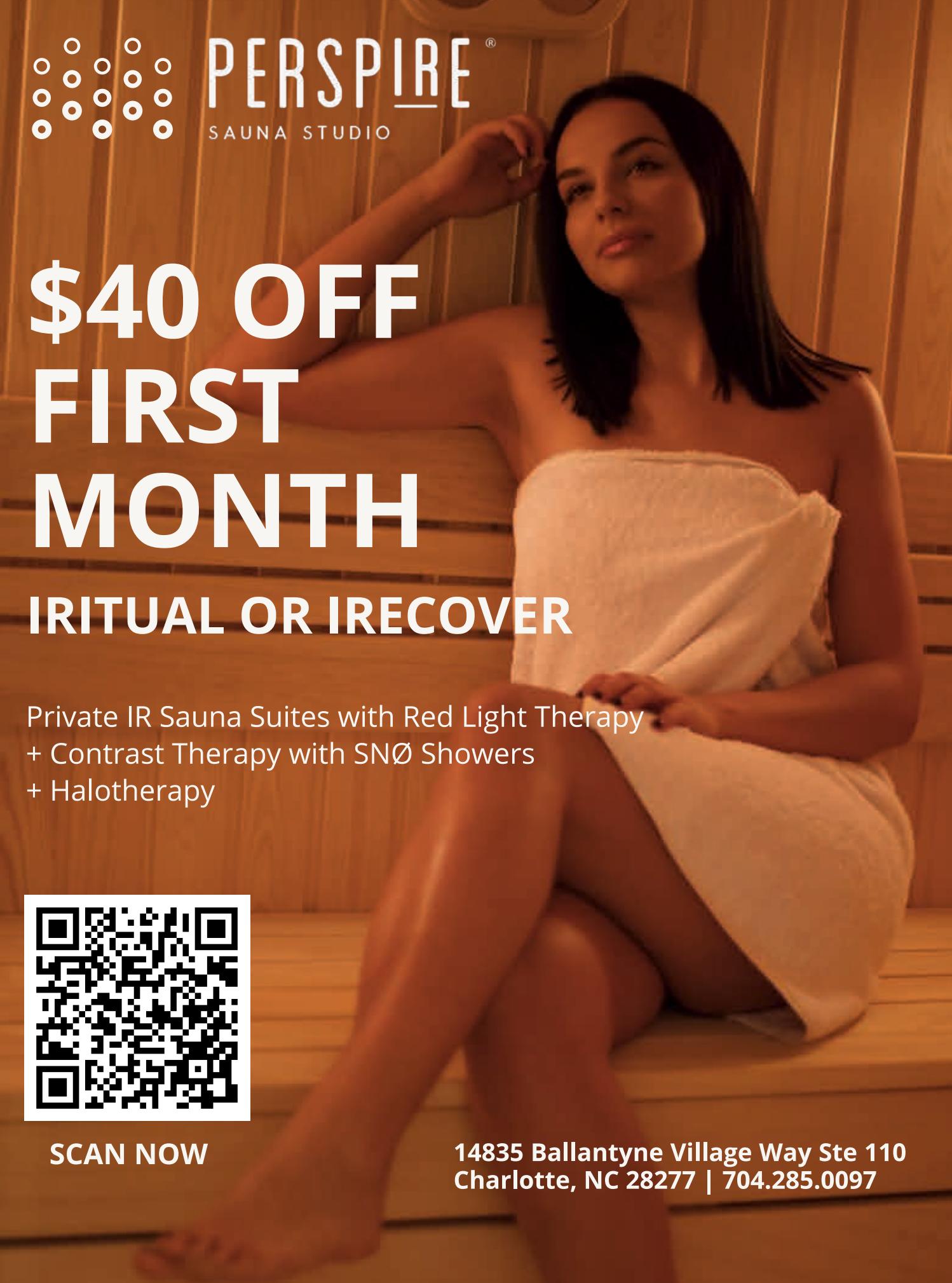
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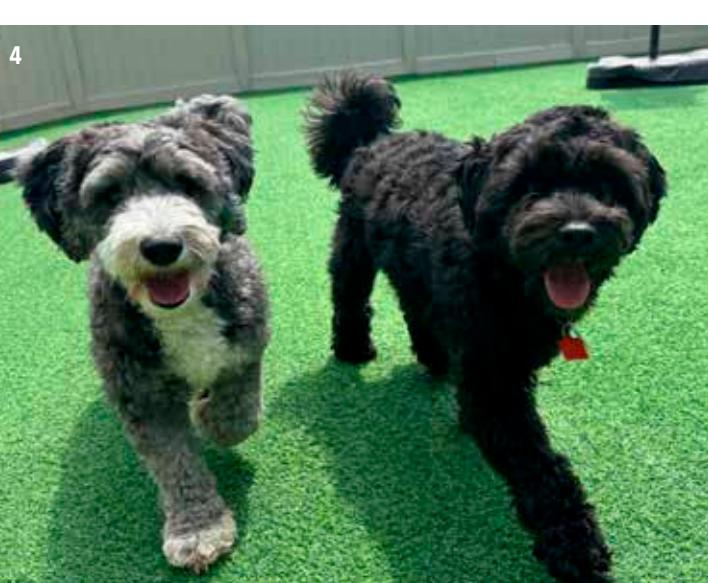
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2025

- 1 / February 2025 | Cockatiels
- 2 / May 2025 | Teddy
- 3 / April 2025 | Charlie
- (photo by Leah Custer Photography & Design)
- 4 / August 2025 | Jack and Bailey
- 5 / June 2025 | Mocha
- 6 / September 2025 | Ranger
- 7 / November 2025 | Santa Paws
- (photo by Dare Visual Media)
- 8 / July 2025 | Manning
- 9 / December 2025 | Cricket
- (photo by Svetlana Baker Photography)
- 10 / October 2025 | Moose
- 11 / March 2025 | Abby
- 12 / March 2025 | Tucker

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Legal Resolutions for Small Businesses in the Carolinas in 2026

BY MELISSA G. CASSELL, PARTNER, MORTON & GETTYS

AS 2026 BEGINS, it's the perfect time for small business owners in the Carolinas to reflect, regroup and plan. Beyond financial goals and marketing strategies, consider these five legal resolutions to protect and strengthen your business.

1. PUT EVERYTHING IN WRITING

Still relying on handshakes and verbal agreements? It's time to make it official. Whether it's a vendor agreement, client contract or employee policy, get it in writing. Written agreements clarify expectations and reduce the risk of disputes. Even business contracts between friends or family should be formalized to avoid misunderstandings and potential legal issues.

2. REVIEW (OR CREATE) AN OPERATING AGREEMENT

If you're an LLC and don't have a signed operating agreement, you're not alone, but that doesn't mean it's safe. Operating agreements confirm ownership, decision-making, and what happens if someone exits or the business hits a rough patch. Already have one? Review it to make sure it reflects your current ownership structure and everyone's roles and expectations. If you don't have one, now is the time.

3. CHECK YOUR WORKER CLASSIFICATIONS

Misclassifying employees as independent contractors can lead to costly penalties. A quick rule of thumb: if someone works set hours, reports only to you and uses your tools or space, they're probably an employee.

4. PREPARE FOR NEW LAWS

Several legal changes impact Carolina businesses this year. For example, in South Carolina if you operate a business which serves alcohol, the new tort reform and liquor liability law now

requires mandatory alcohol-server and manager training. The new law reconfirms minimum insurance coverages and creates opportunities for businesses that serve alcohol to reduce their insurance costs by meeting certain requirements. It's time to address these changes. In North Carolina, revisions to the NC Business Corporations Act are business-friendly, supporting corporate growth, governance, and operational flexibility.

5. UPDATE (OR FINALLY CREATE) YOUR EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK

Workplace norms and legal requirements evolve. If you have a handbook, review your policies on issues like remote work, social media and paid leave. If you don't have a handbook, let us help you fix that. A well-crafted handbook sets expectations and protects your business.

LET'S MAKE 2026 YOUR STRONGEST YEAR YET

Legal resolutions don't have to be overwhelming, but they do need attention. Our team is here to help you tackle these updates with confidence. Whether you need a quick review or a full legal strategy, call us today at 803-366-3388.

This publication is made possible because of our Ballantyne sponsors. When searching for vendors for your home or business, please consider working with these invaluable neighborhood and area establishments.

To have your business featured in an upcoming issue, please email Ashley at ashley.grimmm@n2co.com.

With our business and corporate team, you're covered.



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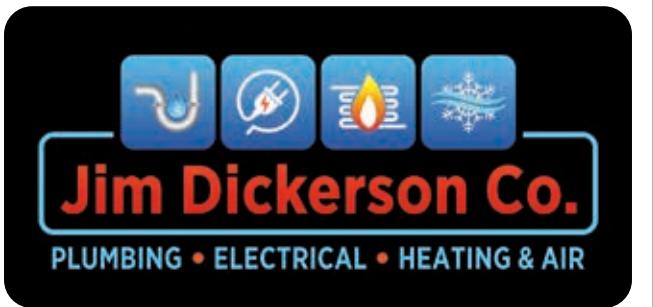
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FOR IGOR ISAEV,

roofing is more than just a job – it's a promise. Born and raised in Moldova and now a proud North Carolina resident, Igor launched Good Roofing &

Restoration with one goal in mind: to give homeowners peace of mind during what can often be a stressful process. “After working in the roofing industry for years, I realized how overwhelmed people felt when dealing with insurance claims and contractors,” he explains. “I wanted to create a company that not only replaces roofs but supports people from start to finish.”

Based in Charlotte, Good Roofing & Restoration specializes in roof replacements, particularly following hail or wind damage. Unlike many contractors who swoop in after storms, Igor and his team take a full-service approach – guiding clients through inspections, insurance paperwork and every step in between. “Good Roofing isn’t just our name – it’s our promise,” Igor says. “We communicate clearly, respond quickly and advocate for our clients to ensure they receive every dollar they’re entitled to.”

Family-owned and community-driven, Good Roofing is built on the same values that guide Igor’s personal life: honesty, resilience and teamwork. He and his wife, who is originally from Ukraine, have poured their energy into not only growing a business, but also giving back. After Hurricane Helene, the Good Roofing team volunteered to help clear debris and assist neighbors in need. “Supporting our community in hard times is just as important to us as the work we do on rooftops,” Igor shares.



When he’s not up on a roof, you’ll likely find Igor in the pool – he’s been playing water polo since he was 10 and now competes locally with the Charlotte Sharks. “The discipline and teamwork I’ve learned through sports translates directly to how we operate,” he says.

His advice for local residents? “Don’t wait until your roof is leaking to think about its condition. After a storm, even minor damage can lead to big problems down the line. Schedule a free inspection and work with someone who will treat your home like their own.” With strong roots in the Carolinas and a growing base of happy customers, Good Roofing & Restoration is raising the bar on what it means to care for both homes and the people who live in them.

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A Fresh Start

Opening 2026 with hope, clarity and a path toward parenthood

BY DR. DEIDRE DOWNS



AS WE STEP INTO 2026, many individuals and couples are looking ahead with renewed hope—especially those dreaming of building or growing their families. At Reach Fertility, we believe a new year brings not just resolutions, but real opportunities to take meaningful steps toward parenthood. And often, the most powerful step is simply the first one: seeking guidance.

Meeting with a fertility expert can be both empowering and grounding. Whether you're just beginning to explore your options or you've been trying to conceive for some time, a fertility check provides valuable insight into your reproductive health. With no obligation to begin treatment right away, these consultations are designed to educate, reassure and help you understand what's possible. Our conveniently located Ballantyne office makes it easy to take that first step without added stress.

Another key component of starting strong in 2026 is understanding your insurance coverage. Fertility benefits

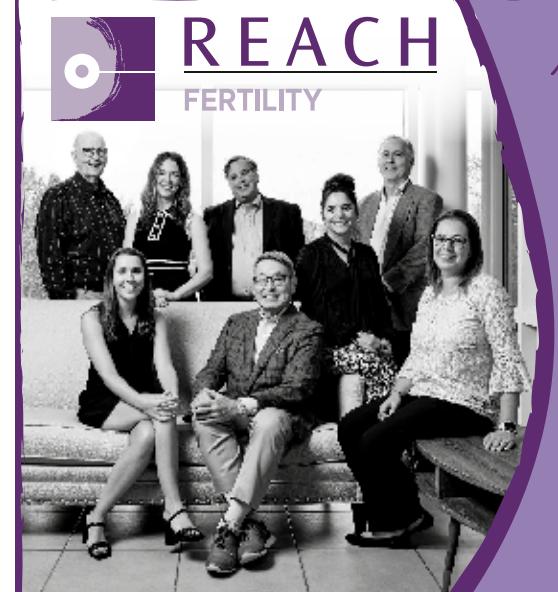
continue to expand nationwide, but navigating them can feel overwhelming. Learning what your plan includes (and doesn't include) helps you create a realistic financial strategy, so there are fewer surprises and more confidence as you move forward.

Equally important is building a personalized timeline that feels comfortable and sustainable. Every family's journey is unique, and there is no "right" pace. At Reach Fertility, we work closely with patients to design a plan that aligns with their medical needs, emotional readiness and lifestyle. Often, having a clear roadmap brings significant relief, removing uncertainty and replacing it with purposeful direction.

Entering the new year with knowledge and a tailored game plan can make all the difference. If 2026 is the year you hope to grow your family, know that you don't have to figure it out alone. Reach Fertility is here to support, guide and walk with you—one hopeful step at a time.

ReachFertility.com | Reach Ballantyne-14135 Ballantyne Corporate Place, suite 175

If you are looking for a fertility specialist, the team at Reach Fertility would love to meet with you. Reach Fertility has locations in Charlotte, Ballantyne and Lake Norman. Our team of trusted fertility experts have been turning patients into parents for over 30 years.



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resident business guide

This is a current list of business owners and professionals from our neighborhood. It is an opportunity to network, qualify and potentially build a business relationship with other successful individuals who also live here. To be included in the Resident Business Guide, email your name, business name, phone number and email address to Ashley.Grimm@n2co.com.

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Stroll Ballantyne Country Club is your neighborhood publication. Break out your cameras and share your pictures with us for our February 2026 issue. Please send pictures to Delia at ballantyne@strollmag.com for our next issue. Pictures need to be 1 MB or larger to be of good print quality.

Attention Students – We are looking for Resident Reporters for *Stroll BCC*! Build a stronger resume and gain experience writing by joining our staff! We need students to take photos around the neighborhood and write articles on the people, places and events in our community. Please email ballantyne@strollmag.com for more info!

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Here are a few suggestions for photo submissions:

Happy New Year — We invite you to share your New Year's Eve celebrations and New Year's Day festivities with us!

Winter Vacations — From ski trips to tropical getaways, we'd like to see how you vacationed this winter.

Winter Sports — Basketball, wrestling, skiing and snowboarding are just a few of the great sports to be enjoyed during these chilly months. We invite you to share your winter action shots with us!

Clubs! — Book clubs, cooking clubs, garden clubs, supper clubs, bridge clubs. We want to hear from your club.

Milestone Celebrations — Do you or a loved one have a milestone birthday or anniversary coming up? Send us a memorable photo!

Weddings — We'd love to share photos from fall and winter weddings in our community. Share the love by sending your special wedding day pictures to us!

Military, Veterans and First Responders — We'd love to honor our local heroes—please send us your article ideas or photos of Veterans to feature in our upcoming issues!

Family and Neighborhood Gatherings — *Stroll Ballantyne Country Club* is all about family and community. Our favorite photos are those of kids playing, birthday parties and neighborly gatherings.



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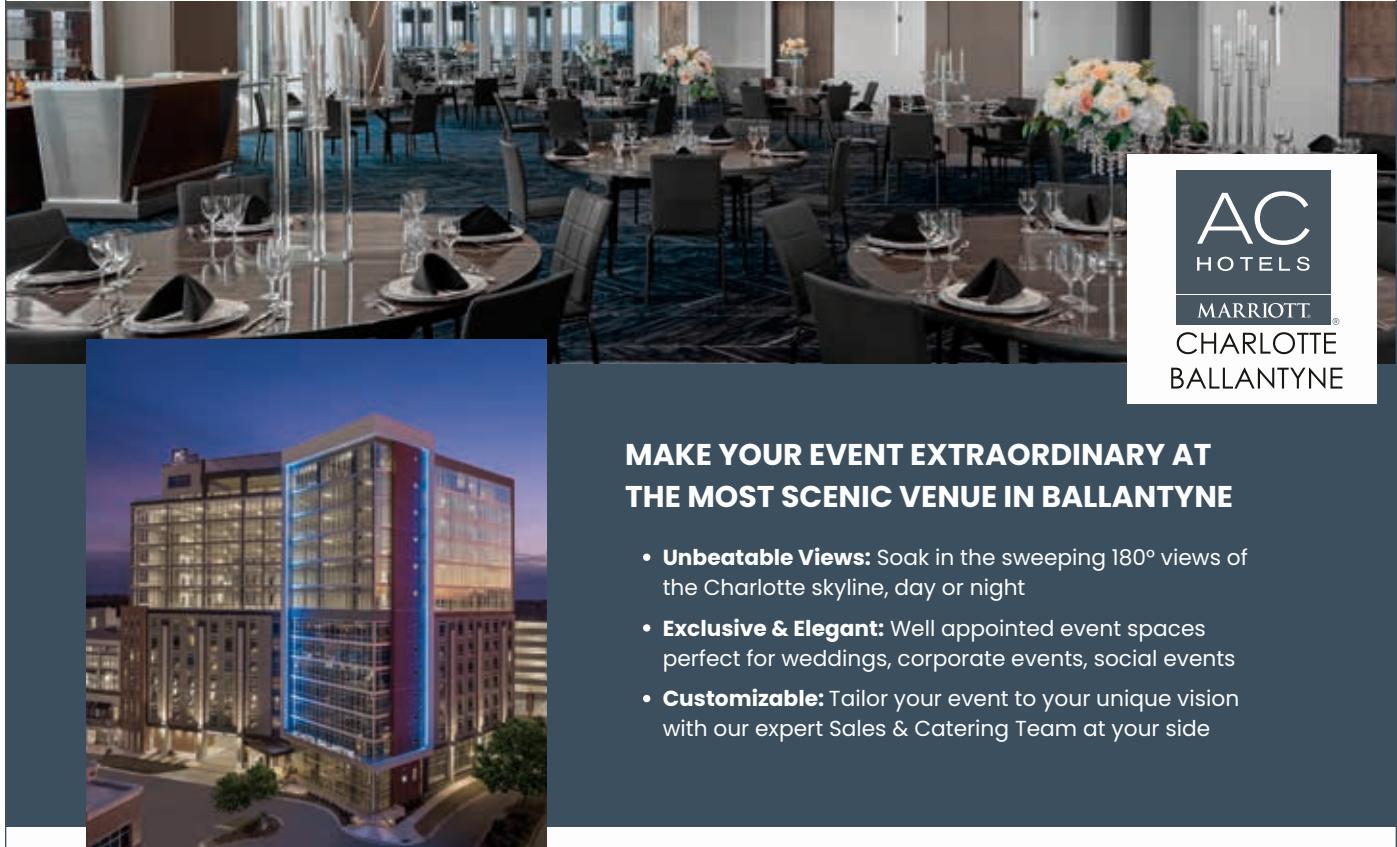


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