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# NEWCOMER

2014 Resource Magazine



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# Charlotte NEWCOMER

2014 Resource Magazine

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Please look through the Newcomer Resource and visit our city. We welcome you and look forward to having you become an active part of our community.

Sincerely,

**Bob Morgan**, President  
Charlotte Chamber

ADVERTISERS

Belk, Inc.....	4-5	Novant Health.....	Inside Back Cover.
Ben Franklin Plumbing.....	45	Piedmont Natural Gas Company.....	32, 54
Central Piedmont Community College.....	31	Bartlett Controls	
Charlotte Chamber Career Services.....	11	Consolidated Pipe & Supply Co. Inc.	
Charlotte Christian School.....	33	Customer Effective Solutions	
Charlotte Country Day School.....	47	Metrolina Services, Inc.	
Charlotte Latin School.....	42	Sales Performance International	
Charlotte Skin & Laser.....	14	Providence Day School.....	31
CORT.....	43	Rack Room Shoes, Inc.....	37, 52
Fifth Third Bank.....	7	Ryan Homes.....	49
Jo Butterworth - Broker - Helen Adams Realty.....	30	Silos South End.....	56
Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools.....	26	SPARK Publications.....	11
NASCAR Hall of Fame.....	47	SunTrust Bank.....	15
National Gypsum Thank You.....	33	The Ballantyne Hotel & Lodge.....	Inside Front Cover
Aetna, Inc.		The Westin Charlotte.....	Back Cover
ACE USA		UNC Charlotte.....	10, 57
Annett Holdings - TMC Transportation		University Volvo.....	41
EvansPletkovic			
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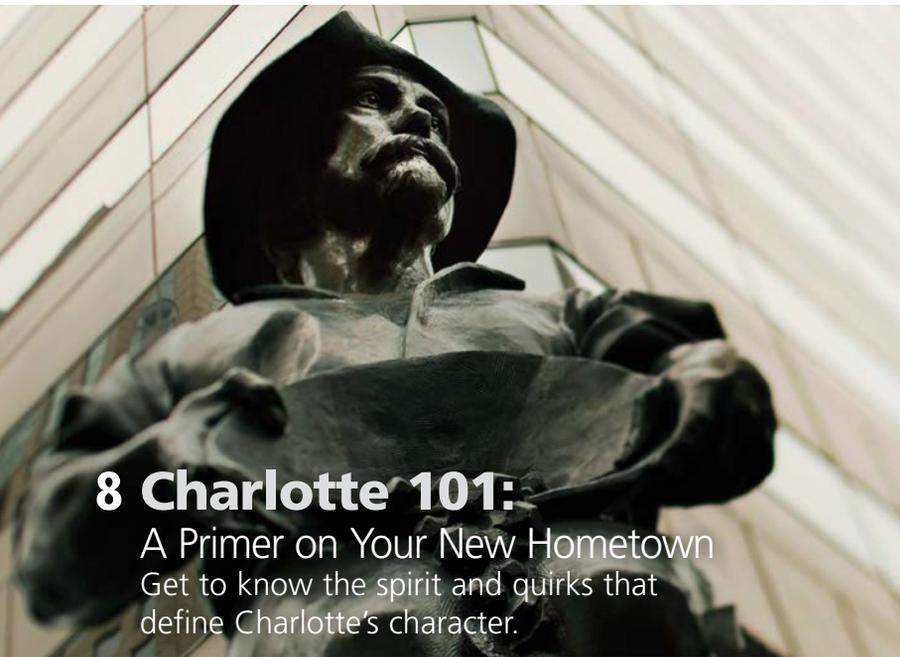
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# Charlotte **NEWCOMER**

2014 Resource Magazine

## Features



**8 Charlotte 101:**  
A Primer on Your New Hometown  
Get to know the spirit and quirks that  
define Charlotte's character.



**16 Finding Your Dream Home**  
Before you buy or rent, get to know Charlotte and  
the diversity of its neighborhoods.

## Resources

### **24 Info! Charlotte**

When you visit Charlotte, our official welcome center for visitors and newcomers should be your first stop.

### **34 Jobs & Employment**

Whether you're job hunting or starting your own business, Charlotte has a wide variety of opportunities and resources.

### **38 Getting Settled**

Child care, automobile registration, hooking up your utilities – a good list of all the things you need to know and do before you start enjoying your new hometown.

### **50 Planning Your Leisure Time**

Get out and enjoy everything Charlotte and the region have to offer.

#### **On the Cover:**

Skyline image by Patrick Schneider Photography. Visit [patrickschneiderphoto.com](http://patrickschneiderphoto.com) to review and purchase photos from Patrick's Charlotte-related stock photo archives.

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## WHEN THEY'RE REALLY TALKING TO THESE PEOPLE?



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# Charlotte

# 101:

A Primer on Your  
New Hometown

By Melisa LaVergne

**U**nderneath Charlotte's clean-cut, buttoned-up appearance is a scrappy, optimistic gal ready to roll up her sleeves and take on any challenge. If that sounds like your kind of lady, then Charlotte is the right hometown for you. Get to know some of the other traits and quirks that define the city's character.

## The Can-Do Spirit

You'll hear a lot about Charlotte's "can-do spirit" from city leaders, usually in reference to large projects that require public-private cooperation and resources. And the city has a long history of pulling together and plodding persistently to make great things happen – a history that goes all the way back to the Revolutionary War when the local militia helped drive British General Cornwallis from the region. In recent years, the can-do spirit has been applied to lure major events to Charlotte and to implement them successfully, including the 2012 Democratic National Convention and the annual Wells Fargo Championship, a stop on the men's PGA tour.

But it's not just about the big things; the can-do spirit permeates life in the Queen City from neighborhood clean-up initiatives to education to entrepreneurship.

Charlotteans rally around people who have good ideas and readily raise their hands to ask what they can do to help. In Charlotte, implementing a good idea is a matter not of "if" but "when" the right combination of talent and resources comes together.

## Business Friendly

Commerce is built into the fabric of the city, which was first settled at the intersection of two Native American trading paths, an intersection now called "The Square" in uptown. The area was also the home of the first American gold rush in the early 1800s and a branch of the U.S. Mint from 1835 until the Civil War ramped up in 1861 and the Confederacy seized operations. The city later led the textile boom of the late 1800s and the interstate banking boom of the 1980s and 1990s.

Charlotte's economy is now anchored by a diverse mix of industries, including

health care, government services, education, banking and finance, transportation, retail, telecommunications and manufacturing. The Charlotte Chamber, among the largest chambers of commerce in the country, serves as a united voice for the diverse business community, regularly gathering member business professionals to ascertain their needs and then advocating those needs to

local, state and national government. The chamber's vision is to help make Charlotte the best place to run a business and to live.

The last part of that vision – "and to live" is where the human side of business friendliness lies. A high quality of life is crucial to a healthy economy. A healthy economy with plenty of jobs to go around is crucial to high quality of life. It's a self-feeding cycle, which is why the Charlotte Chamber and other organizations

devote resources to education, arts, environmental and other civic initiatives.

## Blue City in a Red State

According to voter demographics available in September 2013 from the Mecklenburg County Board of Elections, nearly half of voters in the county are registered as Democrats. Unaffiliated voters represent the second-largest segment at 27 percent of registered voters, and Republicans come in third at 25 percent. With most of North Carolina registered Republican, the "Great State of Mecklenburg" sometimes finds itself at odds with other areas of the state.

## A Road by Any Other Name

If you start on Tyvola Road near Charlotte Douglas International Airport and drive in a southeasterly direction without making any turns, you will find yourself alternately

**Commerce is built into the fabric of the city, which was first settled at the intersection of two Native American trading paths, an intersection now called "The Square" in uptown.**



# Charlotte Symbols



## The Crown

The city and county are named after Queen Charlotte Sophia of Mecklenburg-Strelitz, wife of England's King George III. Thus, the city's nicknames include the Queen City, or "The QC" for short, and Crown Town. A crown is a common symbol used by local organizations to show a Charlotte affiliation. (Heads up: The crown symbol incorporated in the city's logo and way-finding signage around town is copyright protected and shouldn't be used by other organizations. You'll have to design your own crown graphic if you want one.)



## The Hornet's Nest

During the Revolutionary War, a British officer dubbed the area "a hornet's nest of rebellion" as the Redcoats marched north under frequent, persistent attacks from local militia. The symbol can be found on the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department seal, and the name is used for organizations and landmarks throughout the county.



## Gold

Charlotte was the home of the first American gold rush after Conrad Reed discovered a 17-pound lump of gold in a creek on his family's farm in 1799. President Andrew Jackson, born just south of Charlotte in Waxhaw, established a Charlotte branch of the U.S. Mint in 1835 to process gold mined in the region. The mint produced more than \$5 million worth of gold coins until it was seized by the Confederacy in 1861.



on Tyvola Road, Fairview Road, Sardis Road, Rama Road and finally Idlewild Road. Once upon a time, these were all separate roads that didn't connect at all. As the city expanded rapidly, city planners found that connecting existing roads to create larger thoroughfares was the most cost-efficient way to meet the city's needs. But they didn't want to sacrifice the history of the old place names, so now there is the aforementioned Tyvola-Idlewild route, the Billy Graham-Woodlawn-Runnymede corridor and the lovely Eastway-Wendover-Sharon byway, just to name a few.

Speaking of Sharon, newcomers and visitors alike invariably ask who Sharon was and why Charlotteans love her. Sharon is an "it" rather than a "she" — a fertile plains region mentioned in the Old Testament and believed to be the area west of Mount Carmel in Israel. One of the early churches in the area was Sharon Presbyterian, named after the Biblical region, and Sharon Road led to that church. Another early church was Amity Presbyterian, and the road between it and its sister church was ... you guessed it ... Sharon Amity Road. So in early Charlotte, it seems if you were going somewhere, you were probably going to church.

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City of Churches

In some towns, religion is considered impolite conversation. In Charlotte, however, inquiring into a new neighbor's religious affiliation is not only acceptable but common. The city's presence in the Bible Belt certainly affects this perhaps unusual etiquette, but it may also relate to the role churches played in building the community. With more than 700 houses of worship, it's really quite a logical question — perhaps the newcomer simply needs help narrowing down the choices.

Southern Cuisine

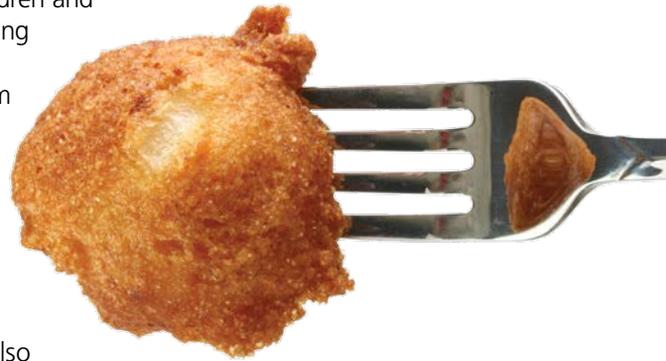
For those who grew up in Charlotte pre-1990, modern American staples like bagels were exotic fare in many parts of the city. A surge of new residents from the Northeast in the 1980s and 1990s created demand for chewy, donut-shaped bread, and now every corner of the city has a bagel shop. Charlotteans had biscuits and never knew their lives were missing bagels until then. Conversely, folk not born or raised around here had bagels, falafels and something called cream of wheat and never knew they were missing buttery biscuits, hushpuppies and grits.

Hushpuppies are delicious balls of fried cornmeal batter, so-named because you can toss it to a whining dog bothering around the

stove or campfire and say, "Hush, puppy!" And the puppy does indeed hush, at least for a little while. Hushpuppies have a similar quieting effect on whining children and spouses eagerly awaiting their dinners.

Grits are made from hominy, a corn-based product. When served with butter and sugar, grits are sometimes called "Georgia ice cream." Cheesy grits and spicy shrimp-and-grits are also popular preparations.

Some other Charlotte food staples you need to know are barbecue and tea. You might think you know what those words mean, but in Charlotte and most of the South, they refer respectively to pulled pork and sweet iced tea unless otherwise specified. For example, if a Charlottean says, "We're having barbecue for dinner," he means pulled pork. Otherwise, he would say "barbecue chicken" for chicken prepared with barbecue sauce or "we're cooking out" to indicate cooking meat on an outdoor grill. Regarding tea, if you want it hot,



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- Refer displaced employees to this site to begin their job search.

The U.S. National Whitewater Center offers trails, ropes courses and rock climbing throughout the year and offers rafting and kayaking during the summer.



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unsweetened or something other than plain black tea, you have to say so specifically. For example, in a restaurant you might say, “I would like some hot Earl Grey tea, please, with milk and sugar.” Fifteen years ago, the restaurant likely wouldn’t have been able to fulfill your request, but nowadays many Charlotte restaurants have a selection of hot teas.

### The Great Outdoors

With the mild climate the region enjoys, outdoor activities are plentiful year-round, and Charlotteans flock to them. The county maintains an extensive network of greenways for walking, running and biking. The U.S. National Whitewater Center

Festivals and parades, however, may be Charlotte’s favorite way to celebrate the outdoors, as they frequently combine food, entertainment, art, shopping and sunshine all in one magical venue.

offers trails, ropes courses and rock climbing throughout the year and offers rafting and kayaking during the summer. Crowder’s Mountain State Park (just a short ride away in neighboring Gaston County) lures hikers and rock climbers every weekend the sun is shining. And if you’re a runner, the list of races is too long to name.

Festivals and parades, however, may be Charlotte’s favorite way to celebrate the outdoors, as they frequently combine food, entertainment, art, shopping and sunshine all in one magical venue. At least one major outdoor event occurs within the city limits each month of the year, and most of them

### Fun Fact: How to Hashtag Charlotte

When hashtagging became popular on Twitter, airport codes were frequently used to mention cities without sacrificing valuable characters. So **#CLT** became an efficient way to mention either the city of Charlotte or the Charlotte Douglas International Airport. Now that other social media outlets (with their generous character allotments) have jumped on board the hashtag bandwagon, **#Charlotte** or **#TheQC** are a little more prevalent. But combining CLT with popular issues is still catchy. Some great examples: **#DNCinCLT**, **#CLTtweetup**, **#CLTFAQ**, **#CLTstyle**, **#CLTarts**, **#CLTbeer**, **#CLTfood**, **#CLTbiz**, **#CLTstartup**, **#CLTsmallbiz** and, of course, **#CLTchamber**.

are family friendly. Here's a rundown of some perennial favorites that have or are rapidly becoming Charlotte institutions. Be sure to check the CharlottesGotALot.com events calendar the month prior for exact dates. If you live in a suburb, your community likely has at least one annual festival as well.

- **January** – MLK Day Parade
- **February** – Queen City Brewers Festival
- **March** – St. Patrick's Day Parade



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St. Patrick's Day Parade

- **April** – Loch Norman Highland Games, Kings Drive Art Walk
- **May** – Dragon Boat Festival, Speed Street
- **June** – Taste of Charlotte, Charlotte Shakespeare Festival, Jazz Fest, Charlotte Symphony Summer Pops
- **July** – several Independence Day festivals around town, Bon Odori Japanese Festival
- **August** – Charlotte Pride Festival
- **September** – Yiasou Greek Festival, Festival in the Park
- **October** – Oktoberfest, Q-City Charlotte BBQ Championship, the Latin American Festival, Mallard Creek BBQ
- **November** – Carrousel Parade
- **December** – First Night Charlotte



## Uptown

Charlotte's central business district — the area contained within the I-277 loop — is called "uptown Charlotte." Some people contend the "uptown" moniker is a public relations ploy invented in the 1980s. Others say it's always been called uptown because it sits at a higher elevation than the

## Charlotte Quick Facts and Accolades

**796,921**  
Charlotte population

**999,060**  
Mecklenburg County population\*

**2,534,714**  
13-county region population

*\*Source: U.S. Census Bureau annual population estimates, Charlotte Chamber projections (July 2013)*

## Recent Accolades

- **No. 1 Best Employee Engagement**  
April 2013 (Forbes of 10 cities)
- **No. 2 Happiest City for Job-Seeking College Graduates**  
May 2013 (Career Bliss of U.S. cities)
- **No. 2 Most Desirable Place to Purchase a Home**  
February 2013 (Nerdwallet.com of 25 largest cities)
- **No. 5 Fastest Growing Metro 2000-2012**  
March 2013 (U.S. Census of 52 largest metro areas)
- **No. 6 Hot Cities for IT Jobs in 2013**  
January 2013 (Modis, Inc. of 10 cities)
- **No. 7 Spring Break Destination for Families**  
March 2013 (Livability.com of 500 cities)
- **No. 8 Best City for Jobs**  
May 2013 (Forbes.com of 398 large metro areas)
- **No. 9 Top Moving Destination**  
January 2013 (Penske Truck Rental of all cities)
- **No. 9 Most Job Openings per Capita**  
May 2013 (Beyond.com of 50 cities)
- **Top 10 Best Cities for Newlyweds**  
June 2013 (Rent.com of all cities)
- **Top 10 Big Booming Cities**  
May 2013 (CNNmoney.com of all cities)
- **Top 10 Best City for Urban Forests**  
February 2013 (American Forests of 50 largest cities)



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surrounding area and is therefore literally up. It doesn't really matter. If it was a PR ploy, then it was a brilliant and effective one. Most call it uptown. Embrace it.

### "Native" Charlottean

Charlotte's population has grown so rapidly in the past 20 years that finding truly native, born-and-bred Charlotteans is rare. Most modern Charlotteans relocated here in search of job opportunities, a milder climate, a lower cost of living or all of the above. So Charlotte has unofficially adopted the attitude that "native" and "gone native" are

practically the same thing. If you want to call Charlotte your hometown, wonderful! Welcome home, Charlottean.



**Melisa LaVergne** is a born-and-bred native Charlottean and former Charlotte Chamber staff member. She now works for SPARK Publications and helps entrepreneurial writers publish and promote their books.



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*Elizabeth Rostan MD*

A man with a beard and long hair, wearing a brown t-shirt and blue jeans, is sitting on the wooden floor of a moving truck. He is smiling and looking towards the camera. A light blue mug sits on the floor next to him. Several cardboard boxes are scattered around him, some open and some closed. One box is labeled 'BOOK BOX'. The truck's interior is visible, showing the door frame and a lock on the side panel.

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# FINDING YOUR DREAM HOME

By Patrick Saleeby



A picturesque home in Dilworth.  
[PatrickSchneiderPhoto.com](http://PatrickSchneiderPhoto.com)

Charlotte and Mecklenburg County attract newcomers by the thousands each year — nearly 3 percent annually according to census projections. Whether they're residents looking for a milder climate or employees relocating for a job, more housing options exist for them than ever before in the Queen City and for a variety of different lifestyles.

While there's no way to cover every single one of Charlotte's neighborhoods, we can certainly showcase some of the options favored by many of today's urban and suburban residents. In looking for the right home, there's no formula to help a Queen City tenderfoot make the best decision, and house hunting is certainly a subjective quest. But one common thread that seems to connect many of Charlotte's popular boroughs is walkability, as many newcomers and residents alike desire shorter commutes and nearby amenities or simply consider themselves locavores.



7th Street Market in uptown's First Ward has fresh, local foods and a variety of vendors in walking distance from uptown residents and workers.

### A Walk-Through of Uptown and Its Flourishing Wards

The city's distinct skyline is a focal point, particularly when talking about places to live in Charlotte. Like many cities across America, Charlotte's urban nexus has seen a return to form as history has come full circle.

"If you go back into the 19th century, the best place to live was as close to the center city as you could because everybody walked for nearly all the things they wanted to do," said Tom Hanchett, the staff historian at the Levine Museum of the New South and author of "Sorting Out the New South City." During the 19th century, Trade and Tryon streets were the crossroads of business for Charlotteans. But the

American dream of home ownership changed over time, and Charlotte changed with it.

"The city kind of turned inside out, where the notion — for at the least the middle of the 20th century — was a house in the suburbs," Hanchett said.

Of course, the trends of yesteryear often repeat themselves. Mary Newsom, associate director of the UNC Charlotte Urban Institute and the writer behind "The Naked City Blog," points to 2010-2011 local census numbers to support an urban shift. Those numbers showed a significant reversal as population growth rose in Mecklenburg County rather than in its surrounding counties.

"This is a big change," Newsom said.

## Finding your Dream Home

“What this may mean is that more people are looking to live closer in. That’s a national trend. And it looks like it might be coming to Charlotte as well.”

Uptown, along with its surrounding ring, would seem to support this theory. Aside from recent economic troubles that slowed development nationwide, Charlotte’s center city has evolved dramatically as new homes, townhomes, condos and apartments have augmented the city’s skyline.

Divided into four wards by the intersection of Trade and Tryon, more people are living uptown than ever before. Due to the Queen City’s vast expansion over the past few decades, its overall walk score certainly doesn’t garner one of the better scores in the country. But when it comes to ranking the walkability of Charlotte’s individual neighborhoods, its three uptown residential wards all find themselves in the top 10 (per Walkscore.com).

Fourth Ward’s austere Victorian homes, spacious city park and designation as an official historic district easily allow it to be called the most venerable of the wards. But other wards on the block are catching up and quickly. While Second Ward is primarily the government district, Third Ward is home to

Bank of America Stadium and Gateway Village, a large, mixed-use development. Many of the city’s best cultural stops are located here too, such as the Mint Museum, Bechtler Museum of Modern Art and Knight Theater.

Charlotte residents Jenna and Matt Lincoln live about as close to the city core as feasibly possible. They live in the TradeMark, a high-rise condo building located at 333 West Trade Street, which technically — but barely — places them in Third Ward.

“We chose to live uptown largely for the convenience and lifestyle,” Jenna Lincoln said. “My husband loves being within walking distance to work, and we both enjoy being near all of the restaurants and grocery stores, as well as the stadium. We drive significantly less, and it minimizes the inconvenience of traffic and travel time in our lives.”

And First Ward, home of the Garden District (a master-planned community circa 2000), also offers a unique mix of condos and homes near Time Warner Cable Arena and the 7th Street Public Market, which has a self-proclaimed mission of providing “high-quality, fresh and affordable food from local farms and regional purveyors.” Plans are underway to build an urban village in First Ward that will feature a public park, apartments, office space and retail, all of which will fit seamlessly with UNC Charlotte’s uptown campus.

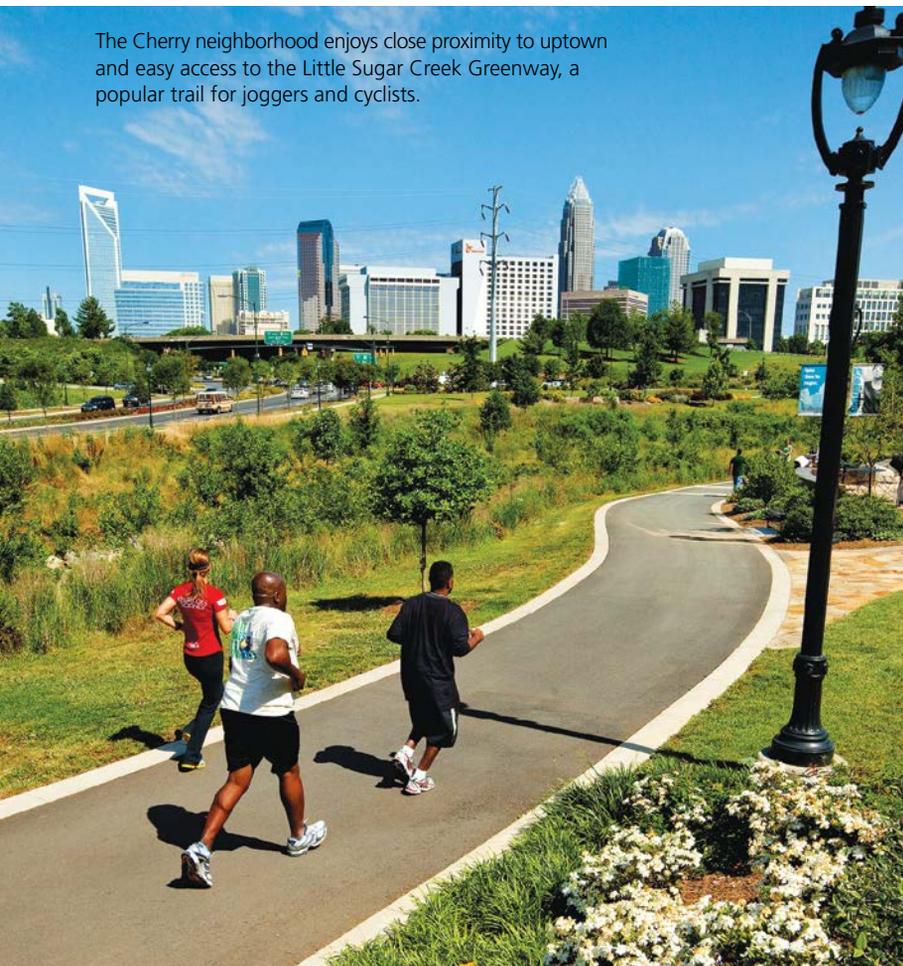
These neighborhoods are obviously within walking distance to all of uptown’s amenities, but each ward has developed its own identity. In fact, Fourth Ward and First Ward come in as Charlotte’s second and third most-walkable neighborhoods, with Third Ward sneaking into the top 10 at No. 9.

### But Which Center City Neighborhood Wears the Crown?

The Cherry neighborhood is one of Charlotte’s oldest surviving African-American boroughs. Dating back to its origins in 1891, it borders Myers Park, arguably Charlotte’s most affluent community, one with a breathtaking canopy of mature trees above some of the Queen City’s most coveted homes. But with the rise of Metropolitan, a pedestrian-friendly, mixed-use urban center situated close to uptown and the Greenway, Cherry suddenly has a leg up on the upscale neighborhood next door. According to Walkscore.com, Cherry is Charlotte’s most walkable neighborhood.

Like Cherry, many similar communities have slowly been revitalized within the ring of neighborhoods circling the center city. While uptown’s wards have a distinct advantage in walkability when looking at Charlotte as a

The Cherry neighborhood enjoys close proximity to uptown and easy access to the Little Sugar Creek Greenway, a popular trail for joggers and cyclists.



PatrickSchneiderPhoto.com

whole, these individual neighborhoods can be considered miniburbs all their own, with a common thread weaving them together: Each has its own trademark pedestrian thoroughfare.

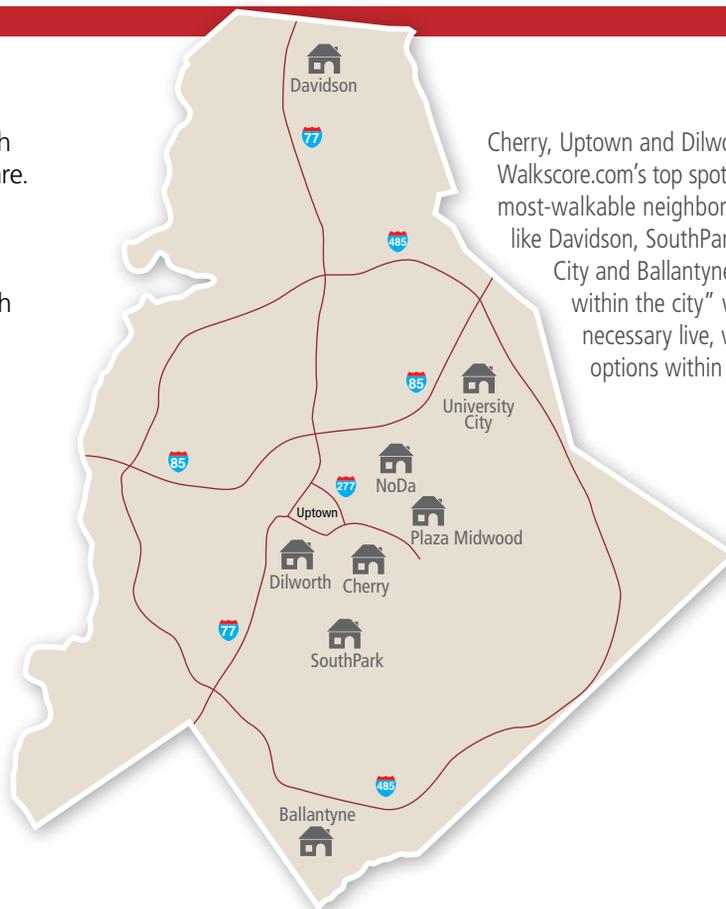
Former streetcar suburb Dilworth is one of Charlotte's most established urban ring neighborhoods. After experiencing a revitalization during the 1980s, the borough now consists of quaint bungalows and mature trees, and residents stroll East Boulevard for its popular haunts — or often just to reach the friendly confines of Freedom Park.

Tommy Truman has lived in Dilworth for six years. Proximity to amenities was definitely a factor in his decision to move there, along with the borough's amiable disposition. "I live in Dilworth because of the diversity and open-mindedness of the neighborhood and the proximity to all the places I love in Charlotte," Truman said. "All my favorite restaurants, bars and entertainment venues are within walking distance or a short drive. Even my daughter's school is two blocks away."

Nearby neighborhoods Elizabeth and South End offer similar living environs, with the former decidedly more residential and the latter leaning toward mixed use. While Elizabeth's 7th Street is home to many local businesses and restaurants within walking distance, the SouthEnd community has South Boulevard to stroll, with the added convenience of the LYNX Blue Line for those times when residents want to give their feet a rest.

Another trend that dovetails with walkability within the center city ring is the rise of "hipster hoods." In summer 2012 Forbes.com teamed up with Nextdoor.com to publish its list of "America's Hippest Hipster Neighborhoods." While defining "hipster" is difficult enough, the just-as-subjective neighborhood rankings factored in walkability, the number of neighborhood coffee shops per capita, the frequency of farmers markets, and locally owned bars and restaurants (among other metrics). Los Angeles' Silver Lake, San Francisco's Mission District and Brooklyn's Williamsburg rounded out the nation's top three hipster hoods.

While Charlotte's hipster hood options didn't sniff the top 10, they are alive and kicking. Previously known as "pioneering neighborhoods" or where the "creative class" convened, options like Plaza Midwood and NoDa are communities filled by people with eclectic professions who desire funkier amenities, ranging from food truck fare to art galleries to unique boutiques. On a Friday



Cherry, Uptown and Dilworth captured Walkscore.com's top spots for Charlotte's most-walkable neighborhoods. Suburbs like Davidson, SouthPark, University City and Ballantyne are "cities within the city" with all the necessary live, work and play options within a short drive.

night the residents of these neighborhoods often saunter down their micro-Main Streets, whether it's to dine along Plaza Midwood's lively Central Avenue strip, or to stumble upon a drum circle during one of NoDa's gallery crawls on North Davidson Street.

Charlotte native Brad Pressley lives in Plaza Midwood, and the soles of his boots see plenty of wear walking to and from the cluster of shops,

## Finding a Builder

For a list of builders in the Charlotte area, start at Info Charlotte or with your real estate agent. If you can't find what you want there, call the Home Builders Association of Charlotte at 704.376.8524 or visit it online at [hbacharlotte.com](http://hbacharlotte.com). You can also access the National Home Builders Association online at [nabh.org](http://nabh.org).

bars and restaurants along Central Avenue.

"I walk in and out of the neighborhood at least twice a day," Pressley said. "I live 10 minutes away from everything, so why would I drive?"

Pressley resists the label of "hipster," like many accused hipsters do. For whatever reason, "locavore" seems to be more palatable, even if being a locavore is a crucial tenant of hipsterism. No matter the moniker, more neighborhoods are catering to the "local" aspect. And as evidenced by the 7th

## Finding your Dream Home

Street Public Market in First Ward, food, and where you buy it, plays a central role in where a locavore might settle.

“Every hipster neighborhood, in some form or fashion, is incubating or supporting a farmers market,” said Tom Low, an urban planner and architect with DPZ Charlotte. “That’s a key thing.”

But the desire for food from local farmers also bespeaks a deeper, conscientious neighborhood. “That’s a signal that there’s

a pocket of socially active people who really want to enhance their quality of life,” Low said.

## Retrofitting With Amenities Takes the Suburbs a Step Further

Of course, not everyone wants to live in center city or within the inner ring. A variety of reasons can play into this, ranging from desiring newer construction or potentially greater acreage. While center city might be trendier, as in fashion, a current trend can often mean a higher price tag. Great value can be found in some of Charlotte’s suburbs, and expansion hasn’t halted.

“We’re building new suburbs all the time,” Hanchett said.

Moreover, growth isn’t the only common ground that the suburbs and the hipster hoods share. Though walkability might not be as strong a buying factor, there’s no denying that the Queen City’s most popular suburbs have “retail centers” instead of “main streets,” even if the centers house more national chains. While the luckiest residents might live within walking distance, even the “unlucky” have a much shorter drive to grab that gallon of milk than they would have in years past.

In SouthPark, which derives its name from one of the state’s largest malls, nearby properties have maintained their values as the business district has exploded. Once a modest mall, last decade’s facelift left the mall more upscale, and smaller satellite shopping centers like Phillips Place and Morrison Place have cropped up around it. Whether walking from Barclay Downs or making the short drive from Foxcroft, amenities abound.

Though on a different scale, the shift seen in trendier neighborhoods has taken hold here, too, and food once again illustrates the fact clearly: The popularity of SouthPark’s Earth Fare shows a suburban consciousness to shop differently for groceries, and the fact that Whole Foods opened with much fanfare (and less than a mile away) only validates the point further. If a population demands certain amenities (like organic groceries), providers of said amenities will typically make them more available for residents to find. What evolves, in the case of SouthPark, is a city within a city. “There were three monocultures in SouthPark,” Low said. “One was a mall, one was an office park and one was a suburban apartment complex area. And all three of those have morphed into more of a mixed-use town center, combined. So what you’ll see in the suburbs, and the exurbs, is more of that happening where it can.”

Other examples are “edge cities” Ballantyne and University City. The latter —

## Finding a Realtor

A good Realtor® is key to finding a home in Charlotte. Many real estate companies offer relocation specialists to help new residents get a feel for the city, discover the best area for a home and get settled in quickly. Your employer may have an arrangement with a local real estate professional to handle employees’ relocation needs. If you need to find your own agent, start by checking with Info! Charlotte at [charlottechamber.com/infocharlotte](http://charlottechamber.com/infocharlotte) or contact the Charlotte Regional Realtors® Association at [carolinahome.com](http://carolinahome.com) or 704.372.0911.



PatrickSchneiderPhoto.com

and more northern — of the two has UNC Charlotte seated at its core. University City attracts new residents every year, and the Shoppes at University Place serve as a de facto town square. With so many employers in the area, neighborhoods like Welwyn, Fox Glen and Highland Creek are in demand. A Fourth Ward resident who toils away in one of uptown's skyscrapers by day and a University City resident who works in University Research Park have one definitive thing in common: a short commute.

And perhaps nothing illustrates the concept of the city within the city better than Ballantyne, a popular neighborhood that sits south of Charlotte and adjacent to the South Carolina state line. Again, suburban neighborhoods might not have the same level of walkability as their center city brethren, but they certainly have their own identities, along with a spirited sense of independence.

### The Queen City Advantage: Multiple Options, Multiple Locations

When it boils down to finding a home in Charlotte, different neighborhoods, along with varying lifestyles, are aplenty — even when you hone in on a trait like walkability. This is a far cry from 20 years ago, when many of the city's now popular boroughs were simply scattered communities on the rise. Now, it's changed the Queen City landscape.

The good news is that many of these established neighborhoods are thriving. But as they and their residents mature, other neighborhoods keep revitalizing nearby, like Belmont or Wilmore. These upstarts might be the "hip" hoods 20 years from now, and it leaves today's and tomorrow's newcomers with one huge advantage that some cities simply can't offer: options.

"Charlotte has a lot to offer, and maybe the trends are headed towards choice," says Low. "To compete with other cities, we have to offer a full range of choice, and that choice has to be superior versions of what they can get in other cities."



**Patrick Saleeby**, a Charlotte native, is a freelance writer who lives in the city's Plaza Midwood neighborhood. He, too, resists the label of hipster — even though he exhibits many hipster tendencies.

## A Quartet of Underrated Hoods, Uncovered

### Biddleville

Nestled two miles from center city potentially lies Charlotte's next neighborhood gem. Like Cherry, Biddleville has historically been an African-American neighborhood. Recently it has grown in popularity and experienced a mixed-race shift due to its proximity to uptown. For folks looking to land in the center city ring without the price tag of the more established boroughs, Biddleville might provide a more than viable option and with a unique history to boot.

At the center of the neighborhood is Johnson C. Smith University, formerly known as Biddle Institute. In 1867 two white Presbyterian ministers established the school to train African-American leaders from the newly freed black citizenry. Though not as pedestrian friendly (yet) as other inner ring neighborhoods like nearby Wesley Heights, Biddleville seems poised to take the spotlight away from its trendy counterparts to the south and east and point it north and west.

### Cotswold

Though any Charlotte native worth his salt knows Cotswold, it often receives short shrift when a list of desirable neighborhoods is jotted down for the Queen City neophyte. Taking its name from the first suburban mall to grace the area, the quaint shopping center still stands today and has a variety of home options within walking distance.

Better yet, many of the housing options were built in the 1950s and 1960s and offer the coveted midcentury modern aesthetic. With Cotswold's unique positioning near SouthPark and uptown, it's a neighborhood that provides affordable housing, along with a favorable school district. It's definitely a location worth exploring.

### Madison Park

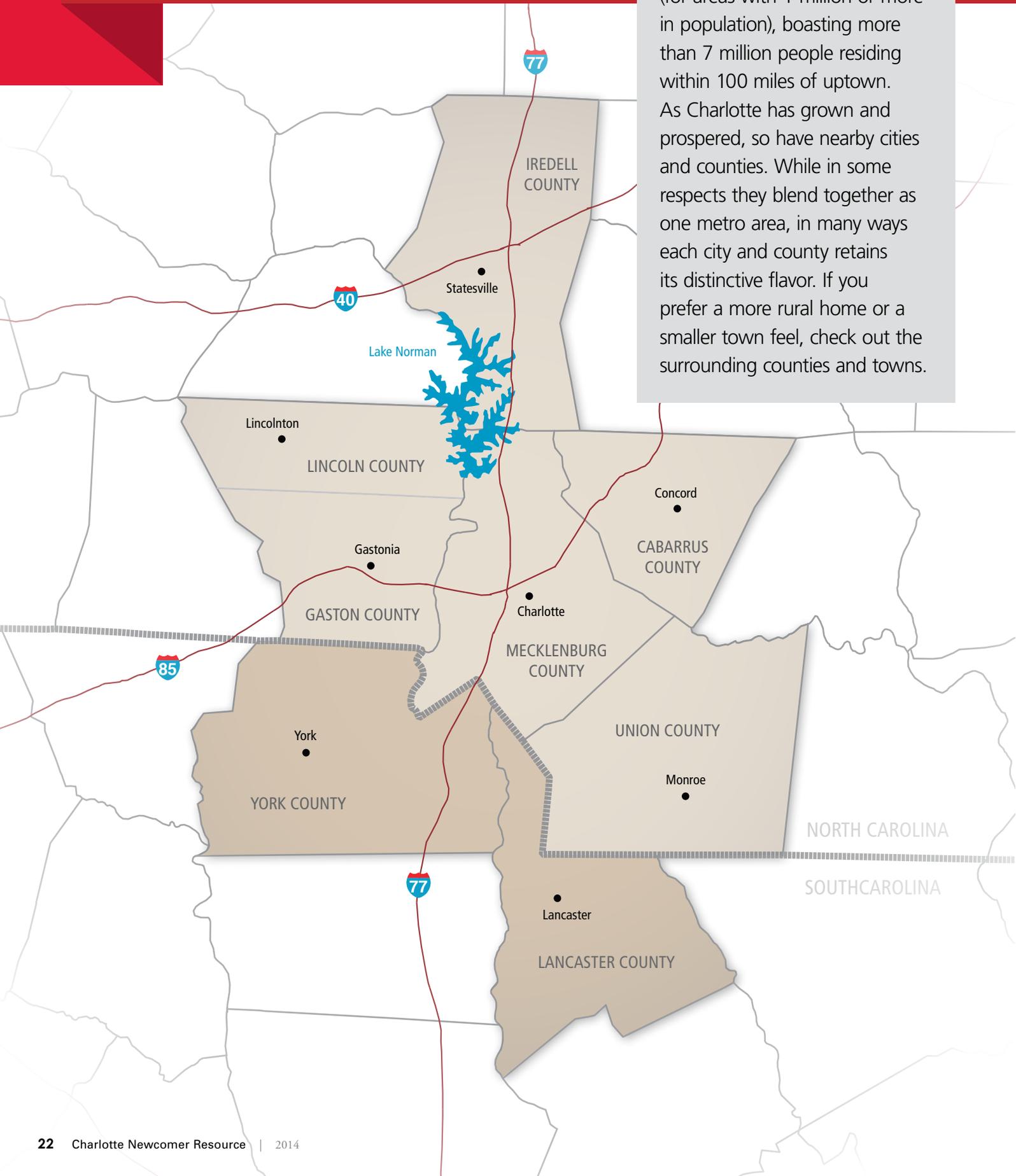
This under-the-radar option mirrors Cotswold in many ways. As one of the first modern post-World War II neighborhoods developed in Charlotte, mid-century modern home hunters have a veritable treasure trove of options to choose from here. It also sits close to uptown if you need to make that short commute in the morning, and it's a stone's throw from SouthPark Mall. And, like Cotswold, Madison Park has a unique centerpiece that loyal residents stroll to: Park Road Shopping Center, a true Queen City original. With a slew of local and regional businesses lining the crescent-shaped strip, it was the first open-air shopping center in the city, and its large, trademark sign has stood since 1956.

### Davidson

While the Charlotte metro area offers a staggering and attractive variety of exurban living options, Davidson is a true standout. Offering Mayberry appeal merely 20 miles north of Charlotte, this quaint town is centered around Davidson College, and the walkability of its Main Street harkens back to a simpler time. But make no mistake about it: Davidson has its own local farmers market, signature restaurants and specialty shops, so it's not remotely living in a long-lost century. Throw in the fact that Lake Norman is a hop, skip and a jump away, and one wonders how this small town has stayed so small.

# Crossing the County Line

Charlotte is the center of the nation's fastest-growing urbanized area (for areas with 1 million or more in population), boasting more than 7 million people residing within 100 miles of uptown. As Charlotte has grown and prospered, so have nearby cities and counties. While in some respects they blend together as one metro area, in many ways each city and county retains its distinctive flavor. If you prefer a more rural home or a smaller town feel, check out the surrounding counties and towns.



### Cabarrus County

More than 184,000 people live in Cabarrus, which is just 20 miles northeast of uptown Charlotte and is easily accessible by Interstate 85. Concord, the county seat, is one of the state's fastest-growing cities, with a population of more than 81,000. Concord is a major tourist destination with Concord Mills and Lowe's Motor Speedway located just a few miles apart off Exit 49 on I-85.

Kannapolis, built by Charles Cannon in 1887, has a population of more than 42,000. Once home to the historic Cannon Mills, it is now a center of biotech research and development as home to the N.C. Research Campus.

Cabarrus offers plenty for residents and visitors to enjoy. Reed Gold Mine in Midland commemorates the first gold discovery in North Carolina in 1799. Other attractions include Cannon Village, the Bost Grist Mill, Historic Downtown Concord's shopping district and Memorial Garden.

### Gaston County

Just west of Mecklenburg County is Gaston County, known for its history in the textile production and trucking industries. More than 208,000 people live in Gaston County, with nearly 73,000 in its largest city, Gastonia. The county's public school system is the ninth largest in North Carolina.

The county celebrates its heritage through a variety of museums, including the Gaston County Museum in the original county seat of Dallas, the Schiele Museum of Natural History in Gastonia and the C. Grier Beam Truck Museum in Cherryville. Daniel Stowe Botanical Garden in Belmont is a nationally recognized attraction, featuring spectacular gardens, fountains, a conservatory, nature walk and more.

Gaston County is also home to Belmont Abbey College and the popular holiday tradition of the McAdenville Christmas lights. Each December, the village lines its main streets with thousands of colored lights. Visitors come from throughout the region to enjoy the extravaganza.

### Iredell County

More than 162,000 people live in Iredell County, and around 24,700 of them live in Statesville, the county seat. The greater Statesville area, at the intersection of interstates 40 and 77, is home to a diverse range of industries, including plastics, transportation equipment, metalworking and distribution. Mooresville, located 30 minutes north of Charlotte, is conveniently near Lake Norman on I-77. That location explains why the town's population has grown from 19,000 in 2000 to more than 31,000 residents today. Mooresville is home to several NASCAR race teams and related companies and calls itself "Race City USA."

### Lincoln County

Northwest of Mecklenburg County, also on the shores of Lake Norman, is Lincoln County. Because of its location on the western side of the lake, Lincoln County is becoming a hot spot for those who prefer more secluded

lakeside living. The county has a population of more than 79,000, with Lincolnton, the county seat and largest town, accounting for 10,500 residents. The town has several industries and many historic structures. It is also home to the Lincoln Theatre Guild and the Lincoln County Apple Festival, which draws around 80,000 visitors each year.

Denver, located in eastern Lincoln County, rests on the western shores of Lake Norman. Denver is a straight shot from Charlotte on N.C. Highway 16, making it easy for office workers to escape to the lake's charms at day's end.

### Union County

Agriculture and manufacturing are important industries in one of the state's fastest-growing counties, just southeast of Charlotte. Farms producing livestock, corn, soybeans and cotton exist in harmony with plants turning out textiles, aerospace equipment and chemicals. Monroe, named for the fifth U.S. president, James Monroe, is home to nearly 33,000 of the county's 208,000 residents. Waxhaw, at N.C. 16 and N.C. 75, features numerous antique shops. Weddington, on the edge of Mecklenburg County, has become a prosperous suburb of Charlotte. Wingate University, nationally renowned for its international programs, is in Wingate and draws high-powered visitors thanks to the Jesse Helms Library.

### Lancaster County, S.C.

Covering 549 square miles, Lancaster County is 15 miles south of Charlotte. The county, which has an estimated population of 79,000, includes Lancaster, Kershaw, Heath Springs and eight townships. The fastest-growing area is Indian Land, which is becoming a Charlotte bedroom community. Andrew Jackson State Park, nine miles north of Lancaster, offers 360 acres of camping, boating, fishing and hiking.

### York County, S.C.

With more than 234,000 people, York County continues to attract newcomers to its suburbs. As a result, the city of Rock Hill, with more than 68,000 residents, is now South Carolina's fifth-largest municipality. Located just south of the North Carolina-South Carolina border is Fort Mill. With nearly 11,000 residents, Fort Mill is a high growth area, particularly with the addition of Baxter Village, which includes single-family homes and condominiums, as well as Baxter Town Center, a mixed-use development of parks, shops and restaurants. Opportunities for post-secondary education in York County include Winthrop University and York Technical College, which provides technical training and two-year associate degrees. For a different look at education, visit the Museum of York County, which contains one of the largest displays of African animals and arts in the Southeast. Lake Wylie provides York County plenty of water recreation opportunities. Tega Cay, a residential community just west of Fort Mill, boasts 27 holes of championship golf and two waterfront parks.

# Info charlotte



**S**hould we say welcome to Charlotte or welcome home? Whether you're relocating to Charlotte or simply visiting, Info! Charlotte and the Charlotte Regional Visitor Authority's Visitor Info Center extend a warm welcome to you.

Info! Charlotte combined with the Visitor Info Center is Charlotte's official resource for visitors, newcomers and even Charlotteans who have been around a while. You can find information on neighborhoods, schools, apartments, retirement resources, government services, restaurants, attractions and more. Bring your laptop and enjoy a cup of coffee and a tasty treat from Amelie's Uptown while surfing the Web on Info! Charlotte's free Wi-Fi. And feel free to use the space for informal meetings with friends and colleagues who work uptown.

Through a joint partnership with Ticketmaster, the Visitor Info Center is home to the only comprehensive Ticket Central in Charlotte. Ticket Central offers the opportunity to view schedules and purchase tickets for a variety of events including Panthers' games at Bank of America Stadium, concerts at Verizon Wireless Amphitheatre and plays at Blumenthal Performing Arts Center.

More things are in store for you during your visit, so please come take a walk through Info! Charlotte and experience all that Charlotte has to offer.





## visitor **info**center

### **Hours of Operation**

Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Saturday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
Sunday, noon to 4 p.m.

### **Ticketmaster Hours of Operation**

Monday-Friday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
Saturday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

### **Phone Numbers**

For directions to Info! Charlotte  
704.331.2753

For relocation information  
704.378.1300

For visitor information  
704.331.2700

### **Address**

330 South Tryon Street  
Charlotte, NC 28202  
(inside the Charlotte Chamber building  
at the corner of South Tryon Street and  
Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard)

### **Directions**

From I-77 take the John Belk Freeway/  
Highway 277 exit to College Street (exit  
1E). Pass the Convention Center on your  
right. At the next stoplight take a left onto  
Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard. At the  
next light, cross over South Tryon Street  
and you will see the Charlotte Chamber  
building on the right-hand corner. Info!  
Charlotte, the Visitor Info Center and  
Amelie's Uptown (a French bakery and  
café) are on the first floor.

## Meet Our Info! Charlotte Sponsors



**@Home magazine** is very unique. Existing and new home properties are organized by area and price ... the way homebuyers search for homes. We offer a highly organized, informative layout featuring all the tools you need to make your home search easy. Each listing highlights bedrooms, bath, square footage and acreage; a brief description of the properties, best features; and the listing agent's name, phone number and photo. And most importantly, a unique website is assigned to each property. Simply type in MorePics.Info/MLS# and you're there! No more hunting, entering in more data ... you simply get to see more photos and learn more information about properties. @Home helps you break through the clutter of an online real estate search. And finally, we know our readers are interested in all things real estate. We offer helpful articles and showcase real estate professionals and services. @Home is your complete guide to real estate. Visit [YourAtHomeNow.com](http://YourAtHomeNow.com).



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## Info! Charlotte Sponsors

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We give generously of our money and our volunteer time to local charities that support initiatives in the neighborhoods where our customers and associates live and work.

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## BEREWICK

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CBI strives to be the premier interior solutions provider in the industry, and works hand-in-hand with our clients to meet your needs and exceed their expectations at every touch.



As the city's first independent school, **Charlotte Country Day** offers a strong tradition of exceptional college-preparatory education. In fact, our most recent graduates received more than \$7 million in scholarship offers and attend the nation's most selective colleges and universities.

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Beyond the classroom, students take part in foreign travel and language immersion experiences, fuel creative expression through fine and performing arts, and develop a sense of well-being through our full-participation athletics program that supports 68 teams. Community outreach and citizenship is an integral part of the Country Day experience, as students of all ages learn to make a positive difference in the lives of others.

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**Charlotte Latin School** is an independent, coeducational, nonsectarian, college preparatory day school that enrolls 1,400 students in transitional kindergarten through grade 12. Latin provides opportunities to support students' academic achievement, character development, leadership qualities and life-long love of learning. Latin's challenging yet nurturing environment is created by a balance of academic excellence, a strong athletic program, an exceptional commitment to the arts and an educational approach that is traditional in design yet progressive in implementation.

Charlotte Latin fosters a close relationship between its faculty and students. With their teachers' guidance, students of all ages study and serve the neighborhoods that surround them and the world that beckons them in preparation to care for and succeed in the global community.

Extracurricular activities, an age-appropriate community service program, and an extensive international exchange and study abroad program are offered. Latin is a school where families of diverse backgrounds, races, religions and nationalities share the common values of honor, integrity and mutual respect, as well as an enduring dedication to their children's educational journey and moral development. Charlotte Latin is a member of the National Association of Independent Schools and is jointly accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and the Southern Association of Independent Schools. Visit [charlottelatin.org](http://charlottelatin.org).



**Central Piedmont Community College** (CPCC) is a vital community partner, creating relationships with business and industry leaders that can be felt at the core of its curriculum and professional training programs. CPCC prepares individuals to successfully enter today's workforce. For 50 years, Mecklenburg County residents have turned to CPCC as their resource for a high-quality, affordable education. The college offers small class sizes, online course options, quality instructors and the convenience of six campus locations to give students easy access to almost 300 degree, corporate and business training and certification programs. As a national leader in workforce development, CPCC helps students start, change and improve their careers. For more information, visit [cpcc.edu](http://cpcc.edu) or call 704.330.2722.



**Gardner-Webb University's** Gayle Bolt Price School of Graduate Studies, Godbold School of Business—Graduate Studies, and M. Christopher White School of Divinity offer a host of master's and doctoral-level programs in a variety of disciplines. Gardner-Webb's main campus is located in Boiling Springs, N.C., about one hour west of Charlotte; however, the university operates a satellite campus in Charlotte just off I-77 at Arrowood Road and offers online classes as well. Gardner-Webb is home to more than 4,300 students dispersed between undergraduate, graduate and adult degree-completion programs. Graduate programs are offered in the following disciplines: Business, Counseling, Divinity, Education, English, Nursing, Physician Assistant Studies, Religion, Sport Science and Pedagogy, and Wealth and Trust Management. The Office of Graduate Admissions at Gardner-Webb welcomes prospective students to call, email or visit with us to learn more about our community and offerings. We can be reached at 1.877.GWU.GRAD, [gradinfo@gardner-webb.edu](mailto:gradinfo@gardner-webb.edu) and [gardner-webb.edu/grad](http://gardner-webb.edu/grad).



For more than 80 years Catholic Schools in Charlotte have offered a quality education in the Catholic tradition open to any student. **Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools (MACS)**

continues this tradition today. These schools, located throughout the Charlotte/Mecklenburg area, offer an education that doesn't simply attempt to fulfill the academic needs of each student, but is committed to building each of the students spiritually, morally and academically.

The Catholic Schools of MACS offer an environment of strong academics where 100 percent of the high school students graduate and 99 percent go on to higher education. In addition our elementary and middle school students consistently score well above the national and local averages on standardized tests. These results are important, but what has made Catholic schools a viable alternative in Charlotte for 80 years is the moral and spiritual elements that are a part of every facet of the schools.

Our schools focus on strong Catholic values and traditions and make these values and traditions part of every school day from prayer life to behavioral expectations. Respect for one's self as well as others is an important aspect of a Catholic education, and students experience the discipline necessary to develop respect for teachers and other students, as well as for themselves.

MACS is comprised of six elementary schools, two that also have middle schools on their campuses, as well as a middle school and two high schools. For admission information call 704.370.3273 or visit our website at [charlottediocese.org/macs](http://charlottediocese.org/macs).



### Northeastern University Charlotte

With a graduate campus located in the heart of uptown Charlotte — at the corner of Trade and Tryon streets — **Northeastern University – Charlotte** is an engaged community member, resource and partner in helping businesses and individuals reach their goals. Founded in 1898, Northeastern is a top-tier, globally-focused research university with more than a century of leadership in experiential education, research and partnerships. The Charlotte campus opened in the fall of 2011, the first in the university's regional campus system. The campus offers 15 master's and three doctoral degrees that are aligned with local and regional industry sectors in business; education; government and civic engagement; health care; leadership and management; and science, technology and engineering. Averaging 37 years in age, our students benefit from access to nationally renowned Northeastern faculty as well as degree formats that provide both online and hybrid learning. This approach is ideal for the working professionals our programs attract. Because 90 percent of our student population is

employed full-time, students benefit from courses that integrate traditional face-to-face instruction with the flexibility of online learning. Most degrees can be completed in two years. For Charlotte's growing economy, Northeastern offers additional options for advancing our workforce, expanding our talent pipelines and advancing research initiatives that impact our region and beyond. For more information, please visit [northeastern.edu/charlotte](http://northeastern.edu/charlotte), call 980.224.8468 or stop by the campus at 101 North Tryon Street.



### PROVIDENCE DAY SCHOOL

For more than 40 years, **Providence Day School** (PDS) has fostered in each student a passion for learning, a strong sense of social responsibility and a commitment to personal integrity. As a school, we exist to inspire.

Providence Day School has assembled one of the nation's finest pre-collegiate faculties, with over 60% holding advanced degrees in their field. With more than 700 networked computers on campus, technology is a highly-regarded educational tool. Teachers use wireless laptop computers, document cameras, SMART Boards, Senteo technology, video, and digital cameras for instruction.

Providence Day School is a global school, focused on developing successful and responsible global citizens. The school recently launched its 'One to World' initiative that seeks to connect its students to the global community, and empower them to become active participants in creating an optimal teaching and learning environment.

We are committed to providing our students with the opportunities to acquire the knowledge, insight, and first-hand experiences needed to live in our global society. We introduce our Lower School students to Chinese, Spanish, and French. Our Global Studies Diploma Program, the first of its kind in the country, allows students in grades 9-12 to choose a curriculum and set of experiences that lead to a second Global Studies diploma. Our teachers are also afforded the opportunity to earn a Global Educators Certificate.

Within our rigorous curriculum, we also understand the need for play, socialization, rest, creativity, and experiential learning. We truly value family and work ceaselessly to build meaningful, life-long connections with our parents, grandparents, alumni, and other supporters.

Providence Day School is an independent, coeducational, Transitional Kindergarten through Grade 12 college preparatory school. Please visit [providenceday.org](http://providenceday.org) or call 704.887.6000 to learn more about this extraordinary community.

## Info! Charlotte Sponsors



**The John Crosland School** (formerly Dore Academy) welcomes students who need a specialized learning environment as a result of a learning disability. Founded in 1978, The John Crosland School is a K-12 college preparatory school that offers a unique approach to education. We are on the cutting edge of research and advancement for learning disabilities and employ faculty who are specialists in their areas of teaching.

The mission of The John Crosland School is to provide students in grades K-12, who have specific attention and learning differences, the individualized education to achieve their highest potential. The school creates an environment that nurtures and protects what we value most in our children: their curiosity, talents, character, humanity and dreams.

Our vision for Crosland is to strive to be innovators in the attention and learning disabilities fields. Crosland develops students to be creative and ethical self-advocates who add value to our community. In addition to a foundation of strong

traditional academics, Crosland offers a unique program focusing on the needs of the whole child including the arts, music, technology and athletics.

Crosland is a close-knit family community where every student is known and cared for individually, and given the opportunity to make new friends and flourish. We encourage creative thinking and exploration of the world so that students develop a love of learning that persists long after they leave school. For more information about The John Crosland School, visit us online at [johncroslandschool.org](http://johncroslandschool.org) or contact Portia Eley at 704.365.5490.

## RICOH

**Ricoh** is a global technology company specializing in office imaging equipment, production print solutions, document management systems and IT services that improve the interaction between people and information. Ricoh is known for the quality of its technology, the exceptional standard of its customer service and sustainability initiatives. Ricoh also produces awardwinning digital cameras and specialized industrial products.

Under its corporate tagline — imagine. change. — Ricoh helps companies transform



*Experience Charlotte at one of our fine restaurants, cheer on Panthers football, hear the roar of Nascar heaven, see Queen City culture at the Mint, or take a sunset cruise across Lake Norman. Come for a visit and stay for a lifetime...*

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Best in Charlotte 2007-2012



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the way they work and harness the collective imagination of their employees. Technology is changing at an unprecedented pace, and Ricoh is helping customers solve their most pressing business problems. Customers are the primary focus of everything we do at Ricoh. We must understand the customers' needs from their perspectives to bring new value to those we serve, with the highest level of satisfaction.

Headquartered in Tokyo, Ricoh Group operates in more than 200 countries and regions. In the Charlotte marketplace, Ricoh is an active partner of the Charlotte Chamber and is committed to supporting and giving back to the community. Ricoh employees more than 1,200 employees across the Carolinas and recently opened a Legal Document Services location in uptown Charlotte.

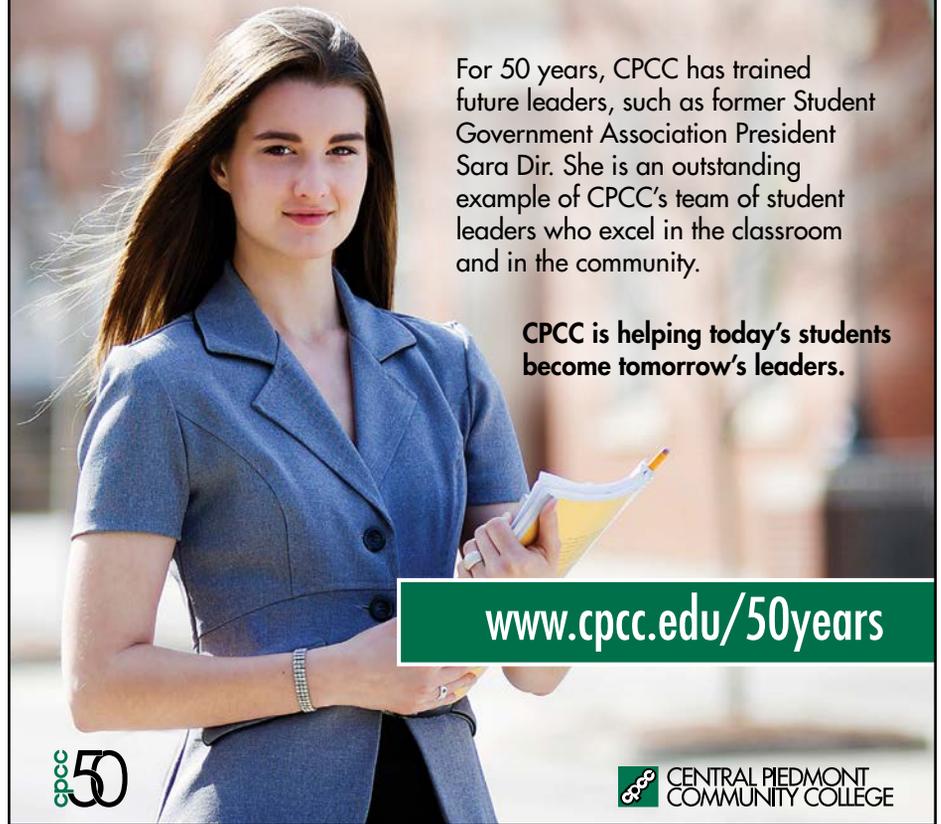
In addition to working with customers to solve their business problems, Ricoh also partners with local charities and nonprofit organizations to show that they care for their communities by taking action and giving back. Recent partnerships in the Charlotte area have included participation with the Blumenthal Performing Arts, The Buddy Walk, the Salvation Army and the United Way.

We look forward to our continued partnership with businesses and organizations in the Charlotte area.

## T-Mobile® FOR BUSINESS

If your company is like most, you've made dramatic shifts in managing your business due to the explosion of mobile technology that is changing how and where employees perform their jobs. It's no longer only select individuals inside your organization who benefit from mobile connectivity. Whether it's a manager needing instant access to employees working across campus or across the globe, or warehouse personnel retrieving real-time inventory information, it's likely that our mobile solutions can help your team be more effective. Sorting out the right mobile

## CELEBRATING 50 YEARS



For 50 years, CPCC has trained future leaders, such as former Student Government Association President Sara Dir. She is an outstanding example of CPCC's team of student leaders who excel in the classroom and in the community.

**CPCC is helping today's students become tomorrow's leaders.**

[www.cpcc.edu/50years](http://www.cpcc.edu/50years)



PROVIDENCE DAY  
SCHOOL

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## *A Leader in Global Education*

Offering five world languages and a Global Studies Diploma for students, plus a Global Educator certificate for faculty

## Info! Charlotte Sponsors

solutions to meet all of these varying needs can be challenging. Working as your partner, **T-Mobile** will bring you mobile solutions that can help you improve customer service at every level of your organization and assist you in managing wireless costs. And, as a recognized leader in international mobility, T-Mobile offers wireless coverage in more than 190 countries around the globe and has more than 450 carrier partners.

At T-Mobile, our goal is to help make it easier for you to conduct business. We're very proud of the well-trained, dedicated Account Management team that we've assembled to serve your business, your customers and your needs. Our account managers will sit down with you to review your mobile communication objectives as often as you like. They'll work with you to analyze your current mobile workforce requirements, even as they look toward your future growth with a strategic long-term plan that anticipates your future mobility needs. We would like to help you create that plan.



UNC CHARLOTTE

BELK COLLEGE of BUSINESS

UNC Charlotte — North Carolina's Urban Research University. Capitalizing on its location

in the state's largest city, The University of North Carolina at Charlotte offers internationally competitive programs of research and creative activity, exemplary undergraduate, graduate and professional programs, and a range of community engagement initiatives.

UNC Charlotte is committed to addressing the cultural, economic, educational, environmental, health and social needs of the greater Charlotte region. More than 26,000 students attend UNC Charlotte, including 5,000 graduate students.

The university comprises seven colleges: Arts + Architecture, Belk College of Business, Computing and Informatics, Education, William States Lee College of Engineering, Health and Human Services, and Liberal Arts & Sciences. UNC Charlotte offers 92 bachelors, 60 master's and 19 doctoral degree programs.

UNC Charlotte's main campus lies on 1,000 acres of scenic rolling terrain, featuring wooded hiking trails and a paved greenway, in addition to a new football stadium, tennis facility and several new recreation fields. In late 2011, the 11-story UNC Charlotte Center City building opened in uptown Charlotte as new base of academic, civic and cultural engagement.

Responding to the career aspirations of working professionals, the Center City



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For more information, visit [piedmontng.com](http://piedmontng.com).  
1.800.752.7504

campus is home to the graduate programs of the Belk College of Business, including its nationally-ranked part-time MBA program and master's degree programs in accountancy, economics, mathematical finance and real estate. The Belk College hosts several signature programs at UNC Charlotte Center City, including the Babson Capital/UNC Charlotte Economic Forecast and the NEXT speaker series, which focuses on emerging trends in business.

**Other Info Charlotte Sponsors Include:**



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 7301 Sardis Road - Charlotte, NC 28270 - www.charlottechristian.com

# National Gypsum

would like to thank the following investors for their support of the Charlotte Chamber through its 2013 Total Revenue Campaign.

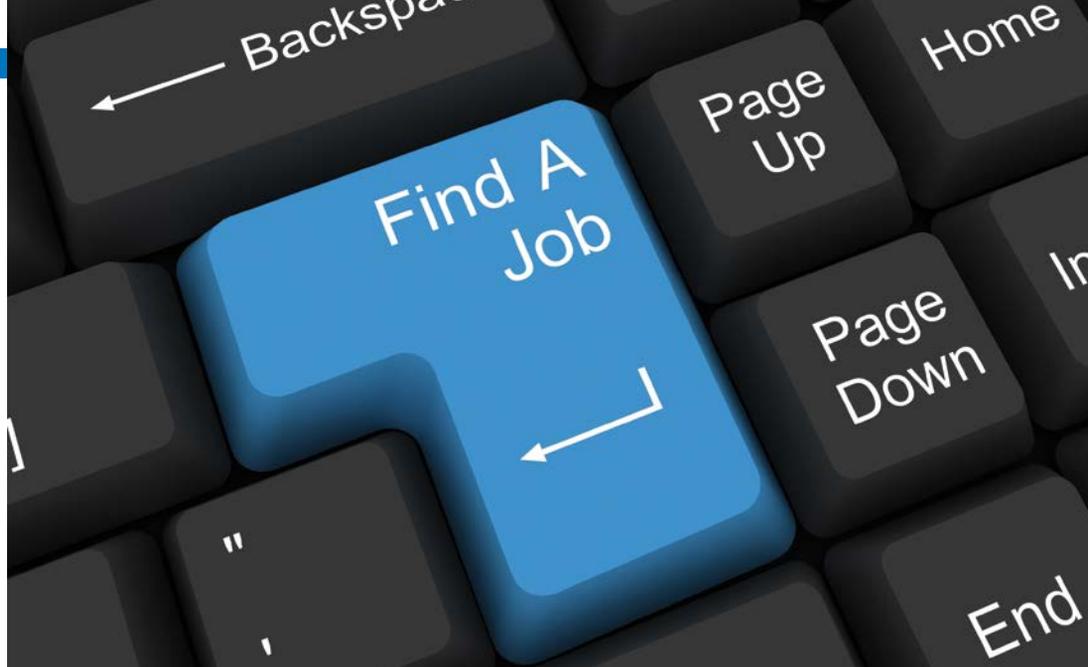


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# & JOBS & EMPLOYMENT

Charlotte has a  
business-friendly  
climate





**W**ith its business-friendly climate, Charlotte has a wealth of opportunities for job seekers and entrepreneurs alike. Mecklenburg County's employment number has increased by an average of more than 11,000 each year since the end of the recession. The county continues to draw and retain people, as individuals and the companies that employ them continue to move to Charlotte.

### **Being Your Own Boss**

If you're moving an existing business to Charlotte, your first stop should be the Charlotte Chamber's Economic Development department. The staff will help you navigate the ins and outs of business relocation. Contact them at 704.378.1300 or visit [charlottechamber.com/economicdevelopment](http://charlottechamber.com/economicdevelopment).

If you're starting from scratch, visit [CharlotteBusinessResources.com](http://CharlotteBusinessResources.com), a Web portal that represents the combined effort of various government and nonprofit agencies. It includes information and links on starting, growing, relocating and financing a business in Charlotte.

### **Starting a Job Search**

Your job search should begin with the Charlotte Chamber's Career Center Web page at [charlottechamber.com/careercenter](http://charlottechamber.com/careercenter), sponsored by Carolinas HealthCare System. Take advantage of the special Charlotte Chamber membership package, which includes free admission to some network events and discounted admission to others.

At the Career Center page you'll also find a link to Charlotte Works, an innovative public-private partnership. Charlotte Works offers customized resources for job seekers by working closely with local employers to understand their hiring needs in rapidly growing industries

such as health care, financial services, advanced manufacturing and the energy sector.

In addition to helping job seekers identify where to find local jobs, Charlotte Works also provides free workshops on topics such as LinkedIn, personal branding, resume writing, interview strategies and many others. One-on-one resume and career coaching from

**Your job search should begin with the Charlotte Chamber's Career Center Web page at [charlottechamber.com/careercenter](http://charlottechamber.com/careercenter), sponsored by Carolinas HealthCare System.**

local professionals in a friendly and supportive environment is also available. Job seekers will also learn about the Workforce Investment Act (WIA), which can provide funding for training in high-demand occupations to those who qualify. You can visit Charlotte Works directly at [charlotteworks.com](http://charlotteworks.com).

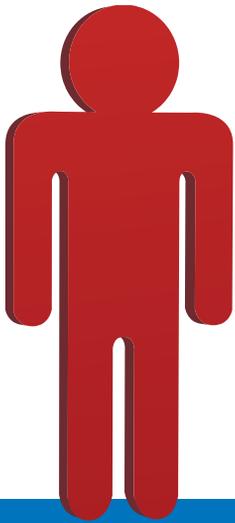
### **Resources Directories**

Also visit the chamber's website at [charlottechamber.com/onlinestore](http://charlottechamber.com/onlinestore) to access these directories and databases that may prove helpful in your search.

## Resource Jobs & Employment

The Major Employer's Directory is a listing of all employers with 100 employees or more in the 16-county Charlotte region. Approximately 1,250 organizations are listed with contact information, including chief executive officers, chief financial officers and human resource directors. Also included are email addresses, phone numbers, website addresses and industry descriptions. This directory is available in hard copy as well as in Excel database format.

Also visit the chamber's website at [charlottechamber.com](http://charlottechamber.com) to access these directories and databases that may prove helpful in your search.



The Manufacturer's Directory lists all manufacturing companies, both small and large, within the 16-county Charlotte region. Like the Major Employer's Directory, it lists the contact information for the CEO, phone, fax, e-mail, employment number and industry description. More than 5,000 companies are within the directory, and it is also available in database format.

The Foreign Firms directory is a listing of all foreign-owned companies with operations in the 16-county region. This useful piece is for those who have international experience or speak additional languages. More than 900

companies are listed in the updated directory published in November 2011. The directory is also available in database format and lists the same type of information as the Major Employer's and Manufacturer's directories.

The New and Expanded Business Report is published every quarter and is comprised of the new or expanded companies within Mecklenburg County. These companies range from small to very large businesses. The company contact information along with employment number and investment dollars are also included when available. This is a good resource for contacting companies that have not yet physically moved to the Charlotte region but are looking for employees.

Million Dollar Corporations in Charlotte lists more than 700 firms in the Charlotte area that have a net worth of \$5 million or more. This list is useful for sales professionals or those interested in companies that produce a particular dollar amount.

The Fortune 500 list includes 325 companies with operations in Mecklenburg County that have been listed in Forbes Magazine's annual ranking of the largest companies.

**When you land those interviews, don't forget to make eye contact, offer a bright smile, shake hands firmly and send a thank you note! Best of luck to you, and your fellow Charlotteans thank you in advance for your contributions to the community.**

The Charlotte Chamber's research department, the Charlotte Chamber Career Center and Charlotte Works are some of the best resources for those newly arrived Charlotteans looking for employment. Some additional employment-related resources are listed below.

### Charlotte Chamber

[charlottechamber.com/careercenter](http://charlottechamber.com/careercenter)

330 South Tryon Street  
Charlotte, NC 28202  
704.378.1300

### Charlotte Works

[charlotteworks.org](http://charlotteworks.org)

1401 West Morehead Street, Suite 100  
Charlotte, NC 28208  
704.206.1350

### North Carolina Department of Commerce

**N.C. Workforce**  
[nccommerce.com/workforce](http://nccommerce.com/workforce)  
877.632.2447

### N.C. Works

[ncworks.gov](http://ncworks.gov)

### Division of Employment Security JobLink Career Centers

*(Main)*  
5601 Executive Center Drive, Suite 124  
Charlotte, NC 28212  
704.566.2870

*(South Boulevard)*  
5125-A South Boulevard  
Charlotte, NC 28217  
704.527.3195

*(South Charlotte)*  
7140 Forest Point Boulevard, Suite A  
Charlotte, NC 28217  
704.565.6865

*(North Charlotte)*

4045 North Tryon Street, Suite C  
Charlotte, NC 28206  
704.597.8057

### Equal Employment Opportunity Commission

[eeoc.gov](http://eeoc.gov)

129 West Trade Street, Suite 400  
Charlotte, NC 28202  
1.800.669.4000

### North Carolina Department of Labor

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

1101 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, NC 27699  
1.800.NC.LABOR (625.2267)

### Social Security Administration

[ssa.gov](http://ssa.gov)

5800 Executive Center Drive, Suite 300  
Charlotte, NC 28212  
1.800.772.1213, TTY 1.800.325.0778

### The Employers Association

[employersassoc.com](http://employersassoc.com)  
3020 West Arrowood Road  
Charlotte, NC 28273  
704.522.8011

### U.S. Department of Labor

[dol.gov](http://dol.gov)

# Rack Room Shoes Loves Calling Charlotte Home



Rack Room Shoes, based in Charlotte, NC, operates more than 385 stores across the country, providing affordable name brand shoes for the entire family. Rack Room Shoes carries name brand shoes including Nike, Converse, New Balance, Rocket Dog, Madden Girl, Skechers and many more.

For ten years, we have celebrated our real customers through the Models Wanted Program. Our exclusive program provides our customers with the opportunity to be featured in our advertising, seasonal displays and promotional materials used in our stores.

Rack Room Shoes is also committed to serving the communities in which we do business. Through our partnerships with Shoes That Fit and Word and Deed, as well as Rack Room Gives, we assist non-profit organizations in making a positive difference.



Stay Connected

Real shoes. Real people. Real life.™



For more information or to find a store location near you, visit [rackroomshoes.com](http://rackroomshoes.com)

# Getting Settled:

## Essentials You Need to Know

**Y**ou've found a home and a job, but you don't get to relax just yet. Here are a few of the essentials you need to know and take care of before you start enjoying your new hometown.



## Burglar Alarm Registration Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department

cmpd.org  
877.893.5269

The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department requires all residential and business locations, within the city limits of Charlotte and unincorporated areas of Mecklenburg County, to register their burglar alarm systems with the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department. Failure to register may result in a \$100 fine, and police will not respond to an unregistered alarm system.

If you live within the city limits of Matthews, Pineville, Huntersville, Mint Hill, Cornelius or Davidson, please contact the appropriate police agency to inquire about their burglar alarm registration requirements.

## Bicycling N.C. Division of Motor Vehicles

ncdot.gov/bikeped  
919.715.7000

Bicycles are legally identified as vehicles in North Carolina with all the same rights and responsibilities that apply to motorists. If you're a cyclist, be sure to download the NCDOT's pamphlet on bicycle and pedestrian laws. You can also download Charlotte's local biking guide at [goo.gl/Loz0dw](http://goo.gl/Loz0dw).

Motorists also have responsibilities where bicyclists are concerned. For example, you must pass a bicyclist at least two feet to the left – that's at least two feet including your passenger-side rearview mirror. You must also yield to cyclists at driveways and alleyways. Get full details from the NCDOT website.

## Childcare Childcare Resources Inc. (CCRI)

childcareresourcesinc.org  
704.376.6697

Childcare Resources provides a wide variety of information to help parents and families find early learning and school-age child care services.

## Driving N.C. Division of Motor Vehicles

ncdot.gov/dmv  
919.715.7000

Download the Driver's Handbook from the NCDOT website at [ncdot.gov/dmv/moving/](http://ncdot.gov/dmv/moving/) for complete information. Here are some highlights.

## Driver's License Info

Newcomers must obtain a North Carolina driver's license within 60 days of establishing a permanent residence. You will be required to provide proof of your full name, age and social security number; proof of liability insurance coverage; and proof of residency.

N.C. has a graduated licensing program for drivers age 15 to 18. Licenses for ages 18 to 65 are renewed every eight years. After age 66, licenses are renewed every five years. For a list of acceptable documentation (for proof of identity, liability coverage and residency) and DMV locations, please visit the DMV's website or call the number above.



## Auto Registration and License Plates Info

Newcomers must obtain an N.C. driver's license before registering a vehicle. There are some situations under which you can use a driver's license from another state.

Newcomers must register motor vehicles. Vehicle registrations from other states usually remain valid for 30 days, but this time period varies depending on your prior state of residence. You must provide the title (unless the title is held by a lien holder) and a valid registration card from the state of prior registration. Fees for private passenger vehicles include a \$40 title fee and a \$28 license plate registration fee. Registration must be renewed annually.

Vehicles must also receive an annual safety and emissions inspections that costs \$13.60 and \$30, respectively. Vehicles 35 years old or older are exempt from the safety inspection.

## Resource Getting Settled

Inspection stations are usually found at service stations, car dealerships and auto repair shops.

### Driving Rules & Regulations

Charlotte's citywide speed limit is 35 mph unless otherwise posted. The speed limit in school zones is 25 mph. The statewide speed limit is 55 mph unless otherwise posted.

Seatbelts are mandatory for all passengers.

Child-restraint devices are mandatory for children less than eight years old and lighter than 80 pounds. Children between 40 and 80 pounds can be secured with a belt-positioning booster seat. They must also sit in the back seat if the vehicle has an active passenger-side air bag and a rear seat. Children under age 16 must use a seat belt or child passenger restraint system at all times, whether in the front or back seat. Placing the shoulder belt under the child's (or adult's) arm or behind the back is illegal.

Vehicles must stop for school buses loading or unloading.

Drivers must turn on their headlights when using windshield wipers.

Motorcyclists must wear helmets and turn on their headlights at all times.

Driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs carries severe penalties, including imprisonment, fines and the loss of driver's license.

After a complete stop, motorists may turn right at a red light unless otherwise posted. Left turns are not permitted at red lights.

While pedestrians are required to follow traffic signals at intersections, drivers must always yield the right-of-way to pedestrians.

Bicycles are legally identified as vehicles in North Carolina with all the applicable rights

and responsibilities. Get complete guidelines at [ncdot.gov/bikeped](http://ncdot.gov/bikeped).

### Education

From preschool to postgraduate, excellence in education is a priority for the Queen City. Charlotte boasts a wealth of K-12 educational choices. The city includes Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools (CMS, one of the nation's best urban school districts), as well as a wide variety of private schools and charter facilities. To find the very best option, new residents should spend adequate time researching all options. Educators and administrators at all schools, both public and private, are happy to speak with newcomers and answer questions about a variety of unique programs.

### Public Schools

#### Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools (CMS)

[cms.k12.nc.us](http://cms.k12.nc.us)  
980.343.7450

CMS is one of the largest school districts in the country, serving more than 141,100 students in pre-kindergarten through 12th grade in 159 schools. Upon enrollment, students are assigned to a home school based on their residential addresses. And transportation to home schools is provided by CMS.

Families may also choose to enter the Magnet Schools Assignment Lottery. Magnet schools offer students an opportunity to focus on a particular theme or curriculum while receiving the N.C. Standard Course of Study. CMS offered nine magnet-school programs at schools in



Charlotte's citywide speed limit is 35 mph unless otherwise posted. The speed limit in school zones is 25 mph. The statewide speed limit is 55 mph unless otherwise posted.





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***THE COMPLETELY REIMAGINED 2014 VOLVO S60***



# ***University Volvo***

7716 North Tryon Street  
704-547-1095  
[www.universityvolvo.com](http://www.universityvolvo.com)

## Resource Getting Settled

the 2013-2014 academic year: leadership and global studies; International Baccalaureate; learning immersion and talent development; military and global leadership; Montessori; science, technology, engineering and math; traditional; visual and performing arts; and language immersion. Any student can apply to any magnet program within CMS, but they must meet the program's eligibility requirements prior to applying and must agree to fulfill program requirements to remain enrolled.

Other standout programs within CMS include Advanced Placement classes, arts education, character education, English as a Second Language, exceptional children, after-school enrichment programs, and a strong emphasis on literacy and science.

### Non-Public Schools N.C. Division of Non-Public Education

[ncdnpe.org](http://ncdnpe.org)  
919.733.4276

### N.C. Association of Independent Schools

[ncais.org](http://ncais.org)  
704.461.1812

More than 23,000 students in Mecklenburg County are enrolled in 80 nonpublic independent or religion schools and more than 4,000 home schools. Information on private schools and how to select an independent school is available from the North Carolina Association of Independent Schools or the North Carolina Division of Non-Public Education. A comprehensive list of private and charter schools within the city of Charlotte is available by calling the Charlotte Chamber at 704.378.1300. For additional information on tuition and enrollment openings, contact individual schools directly.

### Higher Education

Whether you're seeking an undergraduate or graduate degree, training for career advancement, or enrichment courses through continuing education, you'll find schools to meet your needs. Besides traditional weekday programs, many institutions offer evening or weekend programs for adult students with fulltime jobs. A list of institutions of higher learning that are members of the Charlotte Chamber is available by calling 704.378.1300.



*...lives well shared*

## CHARLOTTE LATIN SCHOOL

9502 Providence Road  
Charlotte, North Carolina 28277  
Admissions Office: 704.846.7207

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

Financial assistance is available.  
Please inquire about the Malone Scholarship  
for gifted students in Grades 7-12.

*Charlotte Latin School is an independent, non-sectarian, coeducational, college-preparatory day school for students in Transitional Kindergarten through twelfth grade. Charlotte Latin School does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, color, religion, disability, age, sexual orientation, or national origin in the administration of its educational programs, admissions policies, financial aid policies, employment practices, or other school-administered programs.*

## Emergencies & Related Services

Police/Fire/MEDIC  
Emergencies - 911  
Non-emergencies - 311  
Power outages - 800.power.on

## All Charlotte-Mecklenburg government agencies

charmeck.org  
311

You can reach Animal Care and Control, Department of Social Services, Domestic Violence, Emergency Management, Fire Department, Health Department, Mental Health, Police Department and more through the 311 service.

## Crime Stoppers

charlottecrimestoppers.com  
704.334.1600

## Federal Bureau of Investigation

charlotte.fbi.gov  
704.672.6100

## N.C. Highway Patrol

nccrimecontrol.org  
919.733.7952

## Poison Center

ncpoisoncenter.org  
800.222.1222

## Safe Alliance

safealliance.org  
704.332.9034

Safe Alliance provides hope and healing for people in crisis through a wide variety of programs and services, include rape and domestic violence crisis hotlines, services and a shelter; counseling; support groups; court advocacy; and more.

## Government North Carolina

ncgov.com

North Carolina government is based on the federal structure, with executive, legislative and judicial branches located in the state capital, Raleigh.

## Charlotte-Mecklenburg

charmeck.org  
311 or 704.336.7600

The City of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County are each governed by councils elected every two years in partisan elections – the Charlotte City Council



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- Special student rental deals
- Relocation services
- Housewares and electronics packages

Receive **25% off** the first month's rent when you reference this ad.\*

\*Not valid with any other offers, coupons or discounts. Expires 12/31/14.

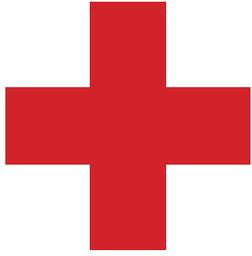
Rental Showroom & Clearance Center  
4744 South Boulevard  
Charlotte, NC 28217  
704.527.0300

**cort.com**

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## Resource Getting Settled



and the Mecklenburg Board of County Commissioners. The city manager is appointed by City Council and oversees day-to-day operations of the city. The city's mayor works with City Council to establish general city policies. The county manager is appointed by the Board of County Commissioners and oversees the day-to-day operations of the county. City Council and Board of County Commissioners meetings are open to the public and televised live on Time Warner Cable channel 16. Government programs are also available online at [govchannel.charmeck.org](http://govchannel.charmeck.org).

and one of the largest public systems in the nation, second only to the VA. Its services cover the scope of health care, from primary care to trauma to long-term skilled nursing. Located near uptown Charlotte, Carolinas Medical Center (CMC) is the system's flagship hospital. It is one of only five facilities in North Carolina designated as an Academic Medical Center Teaching Hospital and a Level I Trauma Center. The Levine Children's Hospital is located on the CMC main campus. It offers more than 30 specialized pediatric services and state-of-the-art facilities that address the needs of patients and their families.

Novant Health is a not-for-profit integrated system of 14 medical centers and a medical group consisting of 1,123 physicians in 343 clinic locations, as well as numerous outpatient surgery centers, medical plazas, rehabilitation programs, diagnostic imaging centers and community health outreach programs. Novant's 24,400 employees and physician partners care for patients and communities in North Carolina, Virginia, South Carolina and Georgia. Its flagship, Presbyterian Medical Center, is the flagship hospital of Novant Health in the Charlotte area. Established in 1903, it is also Charlotte's oldest extant hospital.

### Pets

Newcomers must obtain animal licenses for their dogs, cats and ferrets within 30 days of establishing residency. All dogs, cats and ferrets more than four months old must be vaccinated for rabies, and proof of vaccination is required to purchase a license. License fees are discounted for pets that have been neutered or spayed, and a discount is available for senior citizens. Pet owners must keep pets on a leash or within a fence, and dog owners are required to clean up after their pets.

Make note of the Leash Law, Tethering Ordinance and more pet information at [animals.cmpd.org](http://animals.cmpd.org) or by calling 311.

### Postal Service

Call 1.800.ASK.USPS (1.800.275.8777) or go to [usps.gov](http://usps.gov) to fill out a change of address form or to find the post office nearest you.

### Taxes

**Charlotte-Mecklenburg Tax Assessor**  
[charmeck.org](http://charmeck.org)  
311

Two major health care systems are located in the county along with a wide range of specialists and nationally renowned teaching and research institutions. While the spectrum of medical services available to area residents has grown, the cost of health care remains below the national average.

### Health Care

#### *Finding a Physician*

#### **Carolinas HealthCare System**

[carolinashealthcare.org](http://carolinashealthcare.org)  
704.355.7500

#### **Novant Health**

[novanthealth.org](http://novanthealth.org)  
704.384.CARE (2273)

Find a physician before someone in your family needs immediate care. Start by looking at listings offered by your health insurer. Asking neighbors, friends or co-workers if they can recommend any of the physicians, dentists or other specialists on your list will be beneficial in choosing what is right for you. If you still need help, try the Carolinas HealthCare System and Novant Health physician referral lines listed above. Or if you're intrigued by the notion of "concierge medicine" and are able and willing to pay for it, visit [signaturehealthcare.org](http://signaturehealthcare.org).

### Major Medical

Two major health care systems are located in the county along with a wide range of specialists and nationally renowned teaching and research institutions. While the spectrum of medical services available to area residents has grown, the cost of health care remains below the national average.

Carolinas HealthCare System (CHS) is the largest health care system in the Carolinas



Newcomers must obtain animal licenses for their dogs, cats and ferrets within 30 days of establishing residency.

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delay, it's you  
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[benfranklinplumbingcharlotte.com](http://benfranklinplumbingcharlotte.com)

### N.C. Department of Revenue

dornrc.com  
877.252.3052

#### Property Tax

Real property tax rates are based on 100 percent of the fair-market value and are due on September 1 each year. Interest accrues beginning January 1. Property values are reassessed every four to eight years. The last revaluation occurred in 2011.

Property located within the corporate limits of the City of Charlotte is taxed by both the city and county. The state does not levy a property tax. Property tax statements for car owners are sent out within three months of registration renewals and are due by the first day of the fourth month following renewal. Property taxes fund police protection, public transportation, parks, public schools, libraries, restaurant inspections, and health and welfare programs.

#### Sales Tax

A 4.25 percent state tax plus a 3.0 percent local tax makes up the 7.25 percent Mecklenburg County sales tax. Prepared food purchases carry an additional 1 percent tax, and hotel room occupancy rates carry an additional 6 percent tax.

#### State Personal Income Tax

All N.C. residents are subject to personal income taxes. The state's individual income tax rate is based on the taxpayer's taxable income as determined under the Internal Revenue Code.

### State Corporate Income Tax

North Carolina's corporate income tax rate is 6 percent. The franchise tax rate is \$1.50 per \$1,000. Many businesses can qualify for state funded tax credits and incentives.

#### Transportation Air Transportation

Charlotte Douglas International Airport  
charlotteairport.com  
704.359.4000

Our airport, recently named Best Airport by the International Air Transport Association (IATA), provides nonstop service to more than 140 destinations, including 34 international destinations, to approximately 39 million passengers a year. The Wilson Air Center serves corporate and general aviation needs. The airport offers shuttle and taxi service, public transit service, courtesy vehicle pick-up for motels, hotels and rental cars.

#### Ground Transportation

For the most part, Charlotte was not built on a grid system, and several streets change names multiple times. A good street map is a vital tool for newcomers to the city. If you don't have a smart phone with mobile mapping capability, a hard copy street map is available by calling the chamber at 704.378.1300 or by visiting Info Charlotte.

#### Charlotte Area Transit System (CATS )

ridetransit.org  
704.336.RIDE

The Charlotte Area Transit System (CATS) has an extensive transportation system in the Charlotte area. Local fare is just \$2.00, while fares for express routes are \$2.75 within the county and \$4.00 to neighboring counties. Special rates are available for senior and disabled citizens.

The LYNX Blue Line, Charlotte's first light rail transit system, extends from 7th Street in Center City Charlotte to I-485 at South Boulevard. Additional lines to Lake Norman, UNC Charlotte and the airport are planned for the future. The Gold Rush, a free shuttle service, operates within the uptown area during weekday office hours. While the entire fleet is wheelchair accessible, CATS Special Transportation Services provides additional services for those with certified disabilities.

#### Utility Connections

Making arrangements for utility and other services for your new home is a fairly simple process. A letter of credit or information about your former utility services may help you avoid paying deposits.



*Electricity*

**Duke Energy**

duke-energy.com  
800.777.9898

**Electricities (parts of  
Cornelius and Huntersville)**

electricities.com  
704.948.0550

**EnergyUnited (parts of  
Cornelius)**

energyunited.com  
704.892.0278

**Union Power Cooperative  
(serves several area  
counties)**

union-power.com  
800.922.6840

**Pineville Electric Company**

townofpineville.com  
704.889.2292

*Water and Sewer*

**Mecklenburg County**

311 or 704.336.7600



*Gas*

**Piedmont Natural Gas**

piedmontng.com  
800.752.7504

**PSNC Energy**

(Cornelius and Davidson)  
psncenergy.com  
877.776.2427

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## Resource Getting Settled

### Telephone/Internet/TV

#### AT&T

att.com  
800.288.2020

#### Pineville Telephone Company

pinevilledsl.net  
704.889.2001

#### Time Warner Cable

timewarnercable.com  
877-566-4892

#### Windstream (Matthews)

windstream.com  
866.444.2841

#### Trash & Recycling Charlotte CURB IT!

curbit.charmeck.org  
311

#### Cornelius

cornelius.org  
800.235.2583

#### Davidson

ci.davidson.nc.us  
704.393.6900



#### Huntersville

huntersville.org  
704.875.7007

#### Matthews

matthewsnc.gov  
704.847.3640

#### Mecklenburg County Wipe Out Waste

wipeoutwaste.com  
311

#### Mint Hill

minthill.com  
704.545.9726 – solid waste  
department  
704.376.9359 – solid waste contractor

#### Pineville

Set up service through signaturewaste.com  
704.714.9400

### Voter Registration Mecklenburg County Board of Elections

meckboe.org  
704.336.2133

You must be a resident for 30 days before you can register to vote in Mecklenburg County. You can print and mail the registration form, postmarked at least 25 days before the election. You can also hand-deliver or fax the form to the board of elections no later than 5 p.m. on the 25th day before the election. If faxed, the original must be received no later than 20 days before the election. Finally, you may register to vote in person at a one-stop site in your home county during the one-stop voter registration and absentee voting period that occurs beginning the third Thursday before an election in which absentee ballots are authorized, and ending on the last Saturday before that election.





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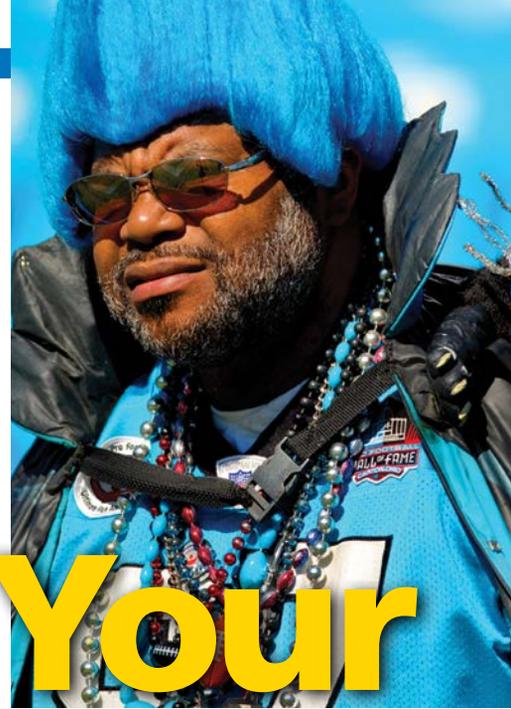
[RyanHomesNC.com](http://RyanHomesNC.com) | 704.412.1619



Resource  
Planning Your  
Leisure Time

# Planning Your

# Leisure Time



**A**hhh, the good life: It means something different to every one of us, but without exception, we all crave it. Whether you prefer the hustle and bustle of city life or the peace and quiet of a suburban neighborhood ... an evening with the Charlotte Symphony or riding backward down the rapids at the U.S. National Whitewater Center ... rooting for your kid's soccer team or watching very large, professional athletes battle it out ... Charlotte has everything you need to find your bliss. The following section offers a mere sampling of activities and resources to enjoy Charlotte's high quality of life.

## **Arts & Culture**

### **Arts & Science Council**

charlottecultureguide.com  
704.333.2272

Art and culture lie at the heart of world-class cities, and in Charlotte, that heart is very much alive and vibrant. Charlotteans heavily support arts and culture in the belief that its benefits overflow into business, education and the economy. A major champion for the cultural community is the Arts and Science Council of Charlotte-Mecklenburg (ASC). The ASC is a nonprofit organization that offers the community many services, including grants, events and programs. It awarded \$12.5 million in grants to local arts education, cultural organizations and neighborhood cultural projects during the 2013-2014 fiscal year.

The ASC provides a comprehensive, online directory of performances, ongoing events, attractions and venues at [CharlotteCultureGuide.com](http://CharlotteCultureGuide.com). Start here to discover your new favorite arts and cultural organizations.

## **Dining & Nightlife**

Charlotte has dining and nightlife choices to suit every taste. The following websites and organizations can help you plan your culinary adventures and evenings on the town.

### **Carolina Nightlife**

carolinanightlife.com

Provides information on bars, clubs and restaurants in North and South Carolina. Information is grouped by cities to make it easy to find something local.

### **Charlotte Regional Visitors Authority**

charlottesgotalot.com  
800.231.4636

"The official travel resource for Charlotte" introduces visitors and new residents to overnight accommodations, area attractions, events, entertainment and more.

### **Charlotte Observer**

charlotteobserver.com

The Charlotte Observer's website is chock full of information from restaurant reviews to farmers markets to pick-your-own farms, recipes, meal planners and more. You can also get complete news at [charlotteobserver.com](http://charlotteobserver.com) or subscribe to the paper by calling 800.532.5350.

### **Charlotte Center City Partners**

charlottecentercity.org  
704.332.2227

Find information on dining, nightlife and culture in Charlotte's Center City, which includes uptown and surrounding neighborhoods.

### **Creative Loafing**

clclt.com

This weekly newspaper and 24/7 website is full of all things entertainment, from musical events to featured places for food and drink, arts, film and more. Hard copies of the newspaper are available for free in restaurants, grocery stores and other venues all over the city.

### **Eventful**

charlotte.eventful.com

Eventful is a national digital media company used by many of the local TV news stations to power their events calendars. The event calendar provides a robust listing of fun things happening in Charlotte.

### **Yelp**

yelp.com

If you want to know what other people are saying about a place before you make your plans, check out Yelp. The site allows users to rate and review restaurants, stores, nightlife, etc., and has a growing representation of users from Charlotte.



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

## Explore the Carolinas

Charlotte is ideally positioned between the coast and the mountains. Several popular destinations in the mountains can be reached within a two or three-hour drive, and the beaches near Charleston, S.C., can be reached in a little more than three hours. Below are some resources to help you plan a trip.

Popular day trips include craft brewery and winery tours and hikes in the Blue Ridge Mountains. Or pack up and head out for a weekend full of golfing, walking along the beach or sightseeing with the whole family.

### N.C. Division of Tourism

[visitnc.com](http://visitnc.com)  
800.VISITNC

### S.C. Division of Tourism

[discoversouthcarolina.com](http://discoversouthcarolina.com)  
803.734.1700

### Must-See Cities

**Asheville, N.C.**  
[exploreasheville.com](http://exploreasheville.com)  
828.258.6101

**Charleston, S.C.**  
[charlestoncvb.com](http://charlestoncvb.com)  
843.853.8000

**Myrtle Beach, S.C.**  
[visitmyrtlebeach.com](http://visitmyrtlebeach.com)  
800.356.3016

**Pinehurst, N.C.**  
[homeofgolf.com](http://homeofgolf.com)  
800.346.5362

### Fitness & Outdoor Recreation

Thanks to our mild climate, golf, disc or "frisbee" golf, boating, biking, tennis, hiking, running, horseback riding and other outdoor recreational activities are popular year-round activities in the Charlotte area. The area's many gardens, parks and greenways also remain well-used throughout the year. All these possibilities make fitness not only convenient, but also fun.



### Golf

[charlottesgotalot.com/golf-listings](http://charlottesgotalot.com/golf-listings)  
Or call 704.378.1300 for the Charlotte Chamber's list of 80 public and semi-private courses in the area.

North and South Carolina are two of the nation's most revered golf destinations. Golf in the Carolinas includes the rolling parkland courses of the piedmont, spectacular mountain tracks and soothing beach courses. Pinehurst, with more than 30 golf courses, is just a two-hour drive and is one of the nation's top golf destinations. You can also watch some of the PGA's most prestigious players at the Wells Fargo Championship held at Quail Hollow in May. Quail Hollow will also host the 99th PGA Championship in 2017.

### Water Recreation

**Duke Energy Lake Management**  
[duke-energy.com/lakes](http://duke-energy.com/lakes)

### U.S. National Whitewater Center

[usnwc.org](http://usnwc.org)  
704.391.3900

The Catawba River and its system of manmade lakes provide many activities for water lovers.

Located just 30 minutes north of the city, Lake Norman has 520 miles of shoreline and is the state's largest man-made lake. Mountain Island Lake and Lake Wylie lie south of Lake Norman on the Catawba. Sailing, wind surfing, power boating and fishing are just a few of the

activities to be enjoyed on this water system. The Catawba River system is managed by Duke Energy. Maps to public access areas are available on the website above.

The river is also home to the U.S. National Whitewater Center, which serves as training grounds for Olympic athletes as well as a busy recreation center for the public.

Additional lake and river activities are available through the local and state park system.

### **Parks Systems Mecklenburg County Parks and Recreation**

parkandrec.com  
311

### **N.C. Division of Parks and Recreation**

ncparks.gov  
919.707.9300

### **National Park Service**

nps.gov

### **U.S. Forest Service**

fs.fed.us

Mecklenburg County Parks and Recreation department maintains an extensive public park system and operates numerous indoor facilities, including Ray's Splash Planet (a family-oriented water park), the Mecklenburg County Aquatic Center (MAC) in uptown Charlotte, several fitness centers, recreation centers, indoor gymnasiums, and an extensive greenway system.

The N.C. Division of Parks and Recreation operates the Lake Norman State Park and Crowder's Mountain State Park in the Charlotte area, as well as a host of other parks within easy driving distance. Our state is home to several nationally administered parks and forests, including the Blue Ridge Parkway, the Appalachian Trail, the Wright Brothers National Memorial and more. More information on public access and activities is available from the National Park Service and the U.S. Forest Service.

### **Associations and Team Sports Charlotte Outdoor Adventures**

choa.com

### **Charlotte Disc Golf Club**

charlottedgc.com

### **Charlotte Area Ultimate Association**

charlotteultimate.com

### **Meetups**

meetup.com

Athletic associations for children and adults organize team sports including football, basketball, baseball, softball, soccer, volleyball, swimming, tennis and rugby. To find athletic organizations, check Mecklenburg Neighbors in the Sunday edition of The Charlotte Observer. Another option is Charlotte Outdoor Adventures (CHOA), the largest, most active outdoor/sport/social organization in N.C. Activities vary widely and accommodate singles, couples and families alike.

Finally, the Charlotte Disc Golf Club and the Charlotte Area Ultimate Association offer more fun than you ever thought could be had with a frisbee.

Also search Meetup.com for activities that interest you in your area. You'll find meet-ups for all sorts of outdoor fun.

### **Fitness Centers**

#### **YMCA of Greater Charlotte**

ymcacharlotte.org  
704.716.6200

If you like physical activity but would rather not do it outdoors, you still have many options. The YMCA of Greater Charlotte is one of the largest YMCA facilities in the country with 19 membership facilities and more than 260,000 members, program members and others served. It offers a wide array of activities for members of all ages and can plug you into the many fitness-themed charitable events that happen annually in Charlotte.

A wide variety of private fitness centers are available throughout Charlotte. For a list of fitness centers that are members of the Charlotte Chamber, call 704.378.1300 or visit [charlottechamber.com](http://charlottechamber.com).

### **Gardens and Other Outdoor Fun**

#### **Carowinds Amusement Park**

carowinds.com

#### **Daniel Stowe Botanical Gardens**

dsbg.org

#### **Latta Plantation**

lattaplantation.org

#### **UNC Charlotte Botanical Gardens**

gardens.uncc.edu



## Resource Planning Your Leisure Time

**Wing Haven Gardens  
and Bird Sanctuary**  
winghavengardens.com

**Library**  
**Public Library of Charlotte and  
Mecklenburg County (PLCMC)**  
cmllibrary.org  
704.416.0101

The public library operates 20 branches, including several regional libraries with advanced computer and business services with state-of-the-art technology, performance spaces, classrooms and a teen center. Most locations are equipped with Wi-Fi access.

### Philanthropy

Charlotte is well known for its philanthropic spirit, and newcomers often find that getting involved is a great way to meet people with similar interests. But figuring out how and where to lend your time, talent and treasures can be daunting. Here are some organizations that can help you.

**Hands On Charlotte**  
handsoncharlotte.org  
704.333.7471

**Foundation for the Carolinas**  
fftc.org  
704.973.4500

**United Way of Central Carolinas**  
uwcentralcarolinas.org  
704.372.7170

### Religion & Spirituality

Charlotte, which has more than 700 houses of worship, has been called the “City of Churches.” Religious and spiritual organizations often form the nucleus of community life for Charlotte residents and offer a variety of activities and opportunities for members of all ages. And Mecklenburg Ministries coordinates interfaith activities to build understanding and cooperation across Charlotte’s diverse spiritual community. Assistance finding a spiritual community near you may be available from one of the denominational headquarters located in the area.

# Piedmont Natural Gas

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***Customer Effective Solutions***  
***Metrolina Services, Inc.***  
***Sales Performance International***

**AME Zion**  
704.599.4630

**Advent Christian**  
704.545.6161

**Baptist**  
704.375.1197

**Catholic**  
704.370.6299

**Christian & Missionary Alliance**  
704.543.0470

**Church of God**  
704.364.5003

**Church of the Nazarene**  
704.540.8300

**Christian Science Church**  
704.334.1973

**Episcopal**  
800.448.8775

**Greek Orthodox**  
704.334.4771

**Hindu Center of Charlotte**  
704.535.3440

**Islamic Society of Greater Charlotte**  
704.536.2016

**Jewish Community  
Center of Charlotte**  
704.366.5007

**Lutheran**  
704.372.7317

**Mecklenburg Ministries**  
704.565.5455

**Moravian**  
704.334.1381

**Charlotte Presbytery Center**  
704.535.9999

**Carolina Conference of  
Seventh-day Adventist**  
704.596.3200

**Unitarian Universalist**  
704.549.0750

**United Methodist Church**  
704.525.3395

## **Retail Therapy**

Nothing quite warms the soul like buying a new outfit. And it stimulates the economy, so it counts as a good deed! Charlotte has a wide range of shopping experiences, from major shopping centers to funky boutiques tucked in alleys. You'll have to explore the city to find the hidden gems. Below are the major retail centers.

### **SouthPark Mall**

simon.com  
4400 Sharon Road, Charlotte 28211  
704.364.4411

### **Concord Mills**

simon.com  
8111 Concord Mills Boulevard,  
Concord 28027  
704.979.3000

### **Carolina Place Mall**

carolinaplace.com  
11025 Carolina Place Parkway,  
Pineville 28134  
704.543.9300

### **Northlake Mall**

shopnorthlake.com  
6801 Northlake Mall Drive,  
Charlotte 28216  
704.921.2000

### **Birkdale Village**

birkdalevillage.net  
Birkdale Plaza Parkway, Huntersville  
28078  
704.895.8744

## **Retirement Resources**

### **All About Seniors**

allaboutseniors.org  
704.366.1410

All about Seniors is a comprehensive resource and referral directory for the Greater Charlotte area. It covers more than 50 topics of senior-related services, organizations and agencies including adult day care, affordable housing, assisted living, elder law, government agencies, long term care options, senior associations and societies, veteran's benefits and more.

## Resource Planning Your Leisure Time

### Centralina Area Agency on Aging (AAA)

centralina.org  
704.372.2416

Under the Centralia Council of Government, this agency covers Mecklenburg as well as eight contiguous counties with education and services to help and support older and disabled adults and their caregivers. AAA provides family caregiver resources, long term care facility resources, caregiving information, and training and employment opportunities for those aged 55 and older. It also provides educational opportunities and advocacy related to long term care for residents, caregivers and facilities.



### Charlotte Mecklenburg

Senior Centers Inc.  
cmseniorcenters.org  
704.522.6222

Senior Centers provides resources for recreation, health and wellness programs, information and counseling, and employment services for seniors. Class subjects range from computers to exercise to line dancing. Local and out-of-country trips are coordinated by the centers for participants.

### Just1Call

just1call.org  
704.432.1111 or 877.889.0323

This free, one-call resource provides information and assistance resources for seniors, adults with disabilities, and their families and caregivers. Services include information and assistance, assessment of need, referral and linkage, and advocacy.

### North Carolina Division of Aging and Adult Services

ncdhhs.gov/aging  
919.855.3400

In support of the mission, vision and values of the N.C. Department of Health and Human

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# YOUR FUTURE IS CLOSER THAN YOU THINK. NINTH & BREVARD, TO BE EXACT

Charlotte's future business leaders are flocking to UNC Charlotte's Center City Campus for graduate degrees that accelerate careers and change lives. Whether you're just starting out or contemplating your next move, the Belk College of Business offers programs designed to meet your ambition, your budget and your pace of life.

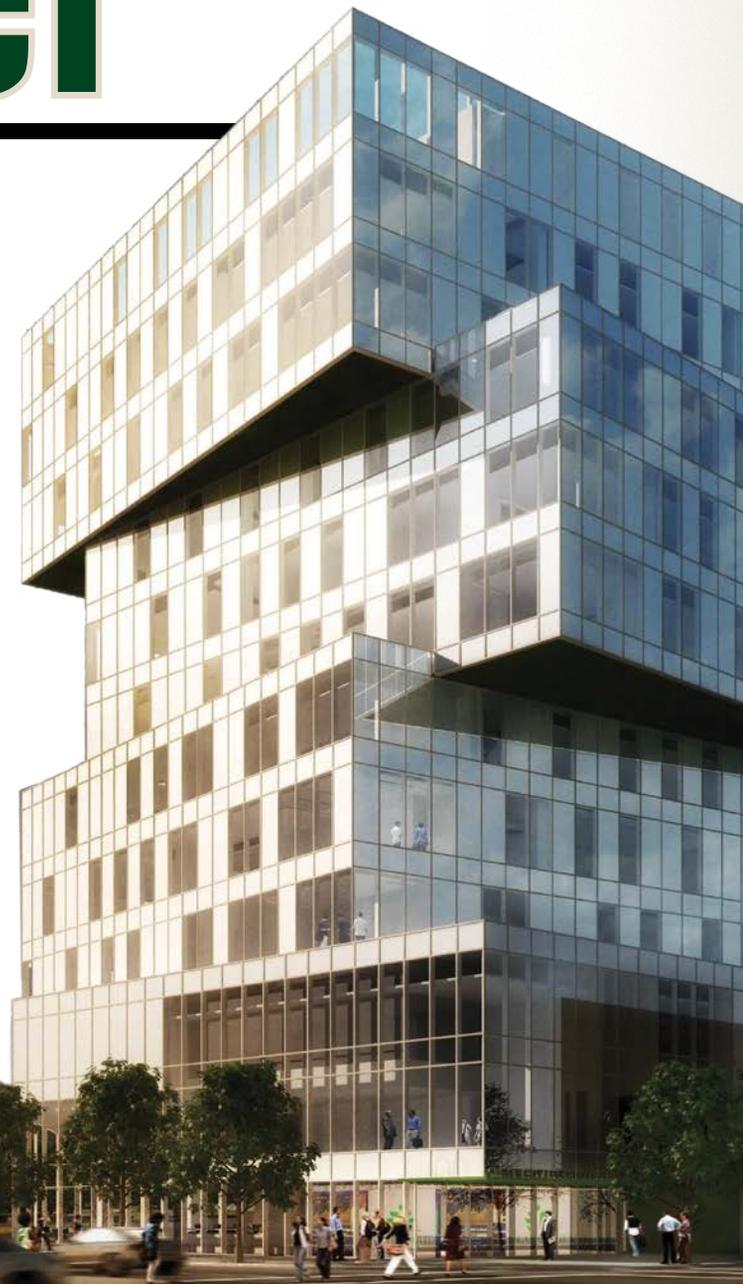
- MBA (12 concentrations)
- Master of Accountancy
- MS in Economics
- MS in Mathematical Finance
- MS in Real Estate
- Graduate Certificate in Data Science & Business Analytics



UNC CHARLOTTE  
BELK COLLEGE of BUSINESS  
[belkcollege.uncc.edu/connect](http://belkcollege.uncc.edu/connect)



UNC Charlotte's MBA is ranked in the top 50 part-time MBA programs by *U.S. News and World Report*



## Resource Planning Your Leisure Time

Services (DHHS Excels), the Division of Aging and Adult Services (DAAS) works to promote independence and enhance the dignity of North Carolina's older adults, persons with disabilities, and their families through a community-based system of opportunities, services, benefits, and protections; to ready younger generations to enjoy their later years; and to help society and government plan and prepare for the changing demographics.

**Shepherd's Center of Charlotte**  
shepherdscharlotte.org  
704.365.1995

The Shepherd's Center strives to provide meaning and purpose for senior adults by sharing learning opportunities and social services through many faiths and the greater community.

### Spectator Sports

With several professional sports teams, numerous colleges and universities with robust athletic programs, and several annual, sports-themed events, your fanaticism has plenty of outlets.

**Professional Sports**  
**Carolina Panthers (NFL)**  
panthers.com  
704.358.7000

**Charlotte Bobcats (NBA)**  
nba.com/bobcats  
704.BOBCATS

**Charlotte Checkers (ECHL)**  
gocheckers.com  
704.342.4423

**Charlotte Eagles/Lady Eagles (USL)**  
charlotteeagles.com  
704.841.8644

**Charlotte Hounds (MLL)**  
charlottehounds.com  
704.206.1515

**Charlotte Knights  
(AAA baseball)**  
charlotteknights.com  
704.357.8071

**Charlotte Motor Speedway  
(NASCAR)**  
charlottemotorspeedway.com  
800.455.FANS

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