



CHARLOTTE **NEWCOMER** 2016 Resource Magazine



A smiling man and woman are shown from the chest up, holding large cardboard boxes filled with papers and documents. The man is in the foreground, smiling broadly, while the woman is slightly behind him, also smiling. They appear to be in a bright, modern office or home setting with large windows in the background.

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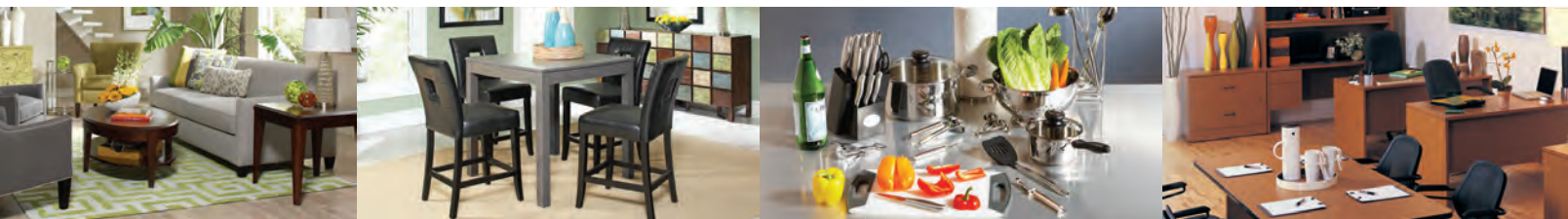
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Charlotte NEWCOMER

2016 Resource Magazine

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Welcome! On behalf of the Charlotte Chamber and its members, I am delighted that you are considering or already embarking on relocation to the Queen City.

Charlotte, along with Mecklenburg County, is a growing area with a population of approximately 1 million. As the nation's 17th largest city and home to the nation's eighth busiest airport, it is seen nationally as one of the best cities in the country. Our city has been recognized by numerous national organizations – such as Forbes, Money Magazine, and Travel + Leisure – for its cost of living, family friendliness and quality of life, as well as an area where businesses thrive.

We hope you find the Charlotte Newcomer magazine to be a helpful resource while exploring our city. We welcome you and look forward to having you become an active part of our community.

Sincerely,

Bob Morgan, President and CEO
Charlotte Chamber

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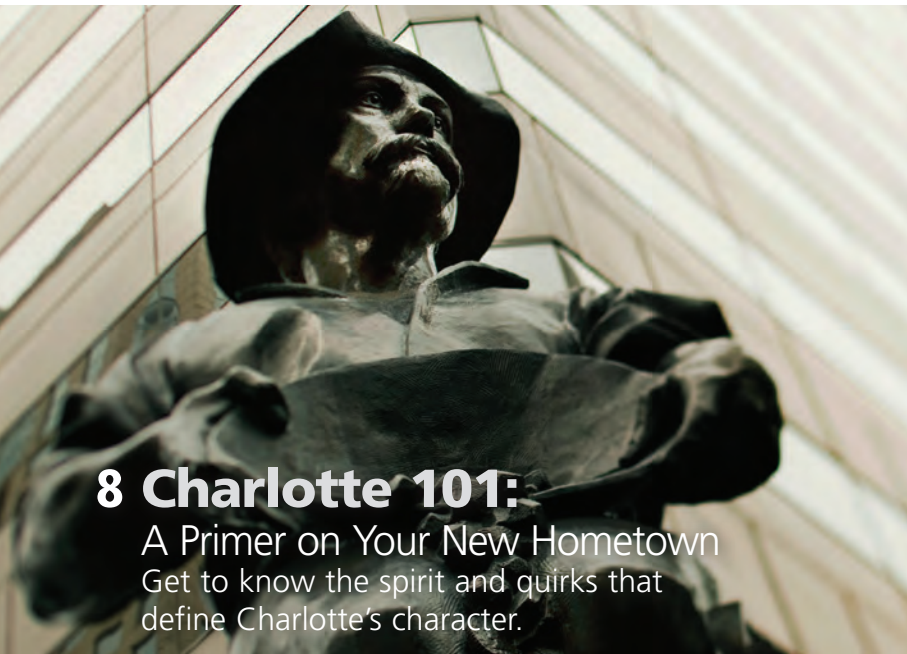
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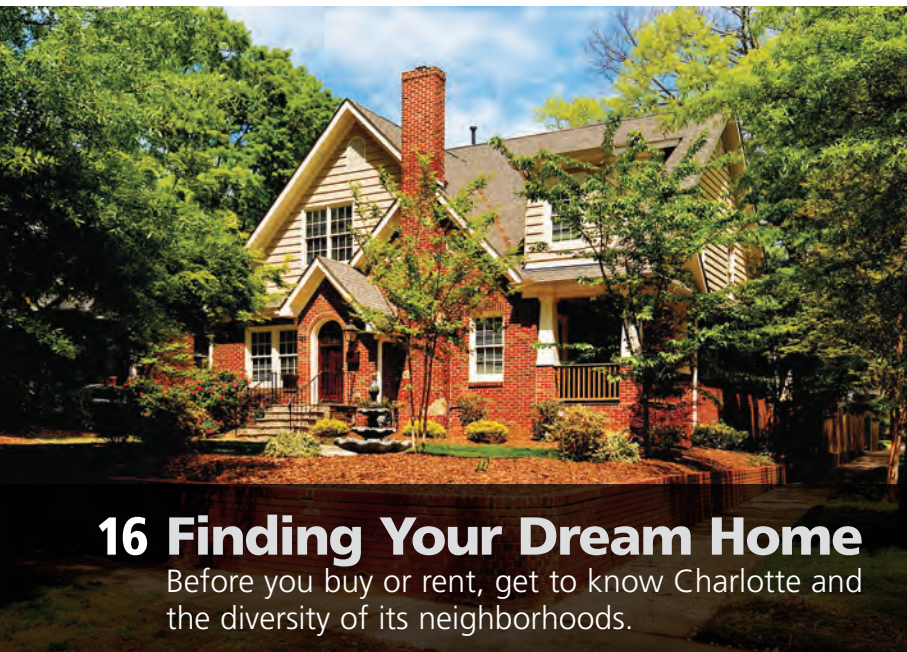
Charlotte **NEWCOMER**

2016 Resource Magazine

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Get out and enjoy everything
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have to offer.

On the Cover:

This view of the Charlotte skyline was taken atop
the CPCC student parking deck on the corner of
Charlottetown Avenue and East 7th Street by Alex
Grichenko in June 2015.



Should we say welcome to Charlotte or welcome home? Whether you're relocating to Charlotte or simply visiting, the Charlotte Chamber extends a warm welcome to you.

There are several resources available to newcomers on our website at charlottechamber.com/newcomers. And when you get settled, stop by our office in Uptown Charlotte so we can greet you in person.

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Charlotte

101:

A Primer on Your
New Hometown

By Melisa Graham

Underneath 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, energy, 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 a 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.

Get Out the Vote

According to voter demographics available in October 2014 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 29 percent of registered voters, and Republicans come in third at 26 percent. Republicans control the governor's office and both chambers in the North Carolina General Assembly.

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
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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, such as the NBA's Charlotte Hornets.



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

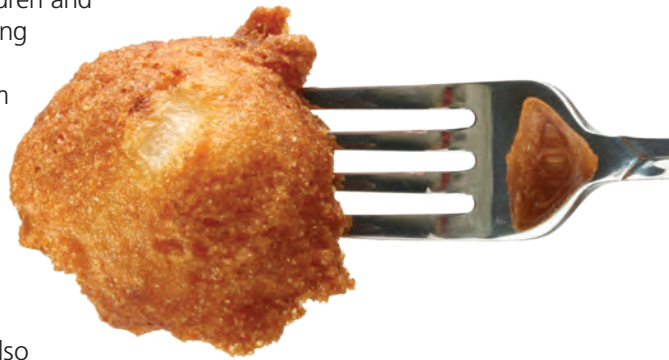
For those who grew up in Charlotte pre-1990, modern American staples like bagels were exotic fare in many parts of the city. A surge of new residents from the Northeast in the 1980s and 1990s created demand for chewy, donut-shaped bread, and now every corner of the city has a bagel shop. Charlotteans 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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The U.S. National Whitewater Center offers trails, ropes courses and rock climbing throughout the year, as well as 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, as well as 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: **#Together4CLT**, **#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 charlottesgotatotal.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** – City of Charlotte MLK Holiday Parade
- **February** – Queen City Brewers Festival
- **March** – Charlotte St. Patrick's Day Parade and Charlotte Goes Green Festival
- **April** – Bon Odori Japanese Dance Festival; Kings Drive Art Walk; Rural Hill Scottish Festival and Loch Norman Highland Games
- **May** – Asian Festival and Dragon Boat Race Festival; Beer, Bourbon & BBQ Festival; Speed Street
- **June** – Charlotte Symphony Summer Pops; Queen City Jazz Fest; Taste of Charlotte
- **July** – several Independence Day festivals around town
- **August** – Charlotte Pride Festival
- **September** – Charlotte Beerfest; Festival in the Park; Q-City Charlotte BBQ Championship; Yiasou Greek Festival
- **October** – Charlotte Oktoberfest; Latin American Festival; Mallard Creek Barbecue
- **November** – Novant Health Thanksgiving Day Parade
- **December** – First Night Charlotte



Charlotte Quick Facts and Accolades

809,958

Charlotte population*

1,012,539

Mecklenburg County population*

2,380,314

13-county metro area population*

**Source: U.S. Census Bureau annual population estimates (July 2014)*

Recent Accolades

- **No. 1 Best Big City Bargain**
September 2014 (Money Magazine of 33 cities with 500,000+ population)
- **No. 1 Best City to Work for a Small Business**
May 2015 (WalletHub.com of 100 cities)
- **No. 2 Fastest Growing Food & Drink Cities**
May 2015 (Eventbrite of 10 cities)
- **No. 3 Growth in Women-Owned Businesses**
May 2015 (American Express OPEN of 50 states)
- **No. 3 Top Cities for Job Seekers**
January 2015 (Forbes of 10 cities)
- **No. 3 Top Moving Destinations**
January 2015 (United Van Lines of 50 states)
- **No. 3 Industry Variety**
May 2015 (WalletHub.com of 100 cities)
- **No. 4 Most Affordable Destinations for 2015**
December 2014 (Priceline.com of 15 cities)
- **No. 4 Best Domestic Airports**
August 2014 (Travel + Leisure of U.S. airports)
- **No. 4 Cities Where African-Americans are Doing the Best Economically**
January 2014 (Forbes of 52 largest metro areas)
- **No. 7 Strongest Housing Recovery**
August 2015 (SmartAssets of 100 major housing markets)
- **No. 9 Fastest-Growing Cities**
January 2015 (Forbes of 100 metro areas)
- **No. 9 Big Cities Where White-Collar Employment is Booming**
July 2015 (Forbes of 366 metro areas)
- **No. 10 Human Capital & Lifestyle**
April 2015 (fDi Magazine of 405 large cities)



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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 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 Graham 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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FINDING YOUR DREAM HOME

By Patrick Saleeby



A picturesque home in Dilworth.
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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 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 top two most-walkable neighborhoods, with Third Ward sneaking into the top 10 at No. 7.

Focus on Cherry

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 fourth 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.

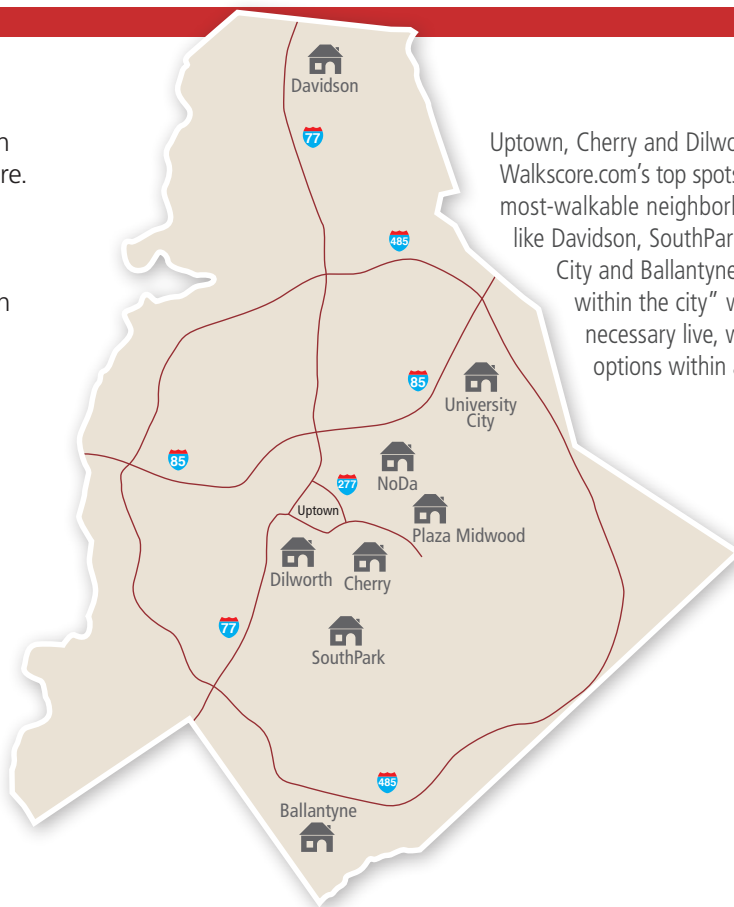
Former streetcar suburb Dilworth is one of Charlotte's most established urban ring neighborhoods. After experiencing a revitalization during the 1980s, the borough now consists of quaint bungalows and mature trees, and residents stroll East Boulevard for its popular haunts — or often just to reach the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

Tommy Truman lives in Dilworth, and 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 South End 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.

At least one of Charlotte's hipster hood options is ranked in the Walkscore.com top 10 list - Plaza Midwood (No. 5). 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



Uptown, Cherry 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.

Finding a Builder

For a list of builders in the Charlotte area, start 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 hbcharlotte.com. You can also access the National Home Builders Association online at nahb.org.

to unique boutiques. On a Friday 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, 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 Street Public Market in First Ward, food, and

Finding your Dream Home

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

#1

Part-Time MBA Program in the Carolinas

— U.S. News & World Report

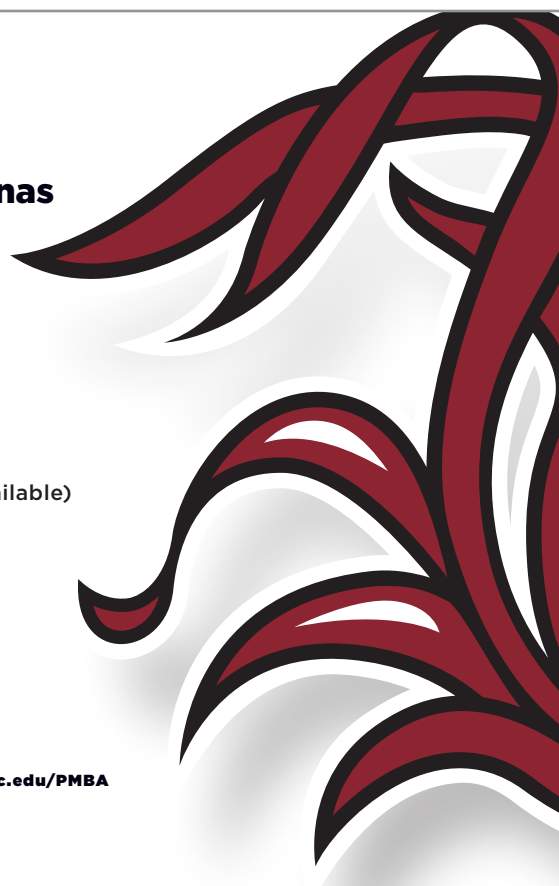
The Professional MBA Program

- One tuition rate regardless of residency
- Optional 10-day study abroad trips
- New electives in business analytics
- 28 months to complete (accelerated options available)



UNIVERSITY OF
SOUTH CAROLINA
Darla Moore School of Business

Charlotte Charleston Columbia Greenville moore.sc.edu/PMBA



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 — 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.

Finding a Real Estate Agent

A good real estate agent 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 charlottechamber.com/lookingfor or contact the Charlotte Regional Realtors® Association at carolinahome.com or 704.372.0911.



Finding your Dream Home

FOR ALL THINGS CHARLOTTE

... turn to the Charlotte Chamber's nationally recognized research team. We produce 14 publications annually covering the Charlotte business community. From specific industries to quality of life, we've got you covered.

To see all that we offer and to purchase our publications and directories, visit charlottechamber.com/onlinestore



A Quartet of Underrated Hoods, Uncovered

Wesley Heights

Founded in 1911 and added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1994, Wesley Heights is Charlotte's only historic district located on the west side. The neighborhood was developed as a suburb in the 1920s on the 19th-century farm of Charlotte livery stable owner John Wadsworth, and retains much of its original character to this day. With its bungalow-style homes and tree-canopied streets, it offers a unique glimpse into an early 20th-century streetcar community without the price tag of comparable Charlotte neighborhoods.

Located just outside of Uptown, less than two miles from the central intersection of Trade and Tryon, Wesley Heights provides historic charm with modern convenience. In addition to all that Uptown has to offer, the neighborhood has enjoyed recent development with apartments, restaurants, retail and parks all within walking distance.

Oakhurst

This under-the-radar option is located approximately three miles from Uptown, just east of booming Cotswold. Oakhurst is a diverse neighborhood built from the 1920s through the 1950s, with mostly brick, cottage-style homes and small bungalows, mature oak trees and a community garden. In 2015, Oakhurst Elementary reemerged as Oakhurst Steam Academy, a magnet elementary school focusing on science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics. But don't let it fool you, this family-friendly neighborhood is anything but sleepy.

In addition to the convenience of Cotswold retail and easy access to Independence Boulevard, there are several projects on the horizon. A large mixed-use development with retail and multi-family living is currently proposed next to the elementary school, and the city's Monroe Road Streetscape project would create a more pedestrian-oriented, mixed-use development corridor.

Stonehaven

Just south of Oakhurst is Stonehaven, a neighborhood developed in the 1950s and 1960s that epitomizes traditional suburban design – classic brick ranches, split-levels and two-story homes on large lots along winding, tree-lined streets. Though once a suburb, this neighborhood is now safely nestled within the city, located five miles from Uptown and within five minutes of Cotswold and 10 minutes of SouthPark. McAlpine Greenway and Boyce Park both border the neighborhood, there are two swim and racquet clubs, and the neighborhood hosts numerous events including a Fourth of July parade and fall festival 5K.

Similar to Oakhurst, the surrounding area is poised for growth. Independence Boulevard is currently undergoing a transformation, the aforementioned Monroe Road Streetscape project is proposed just north on Monroe, and Meridian Place, a large, mixed-use development of apartments, restaurants and offices, is beginning to emerge.

Belmont

If the bustling city is not for you, Belmont, North Carolina might be more your speed. Located approximately 10 miles west of Charlotte, Belmont is a small town where people enjoy strolling down Main Street. Surrounded by forests, rolling hills and the banks of Lake Wylie and the Catawba River, this hidden gem offers nature lovers a reprieve from skyscrapers and concrete. It is home to Belmont Abbey College and the Daniel Stowe Botanical Garden, and the U.S. National Whitewater Center – 700 acres of whitewater rafting, kayaking, stand-up paddle boarding, rock climbing, zip lines, ropes courses, a canopy tour, and mountain biking on a 25-plus mile trail system – is just around the corner.

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Our commitment is not just to value and style. We want to make this community better for our neighbors. Through our Shoes That Fit, Word and Deed and Rack Room Gives programs, we support and give back to those in need locally, nationally and internationally.



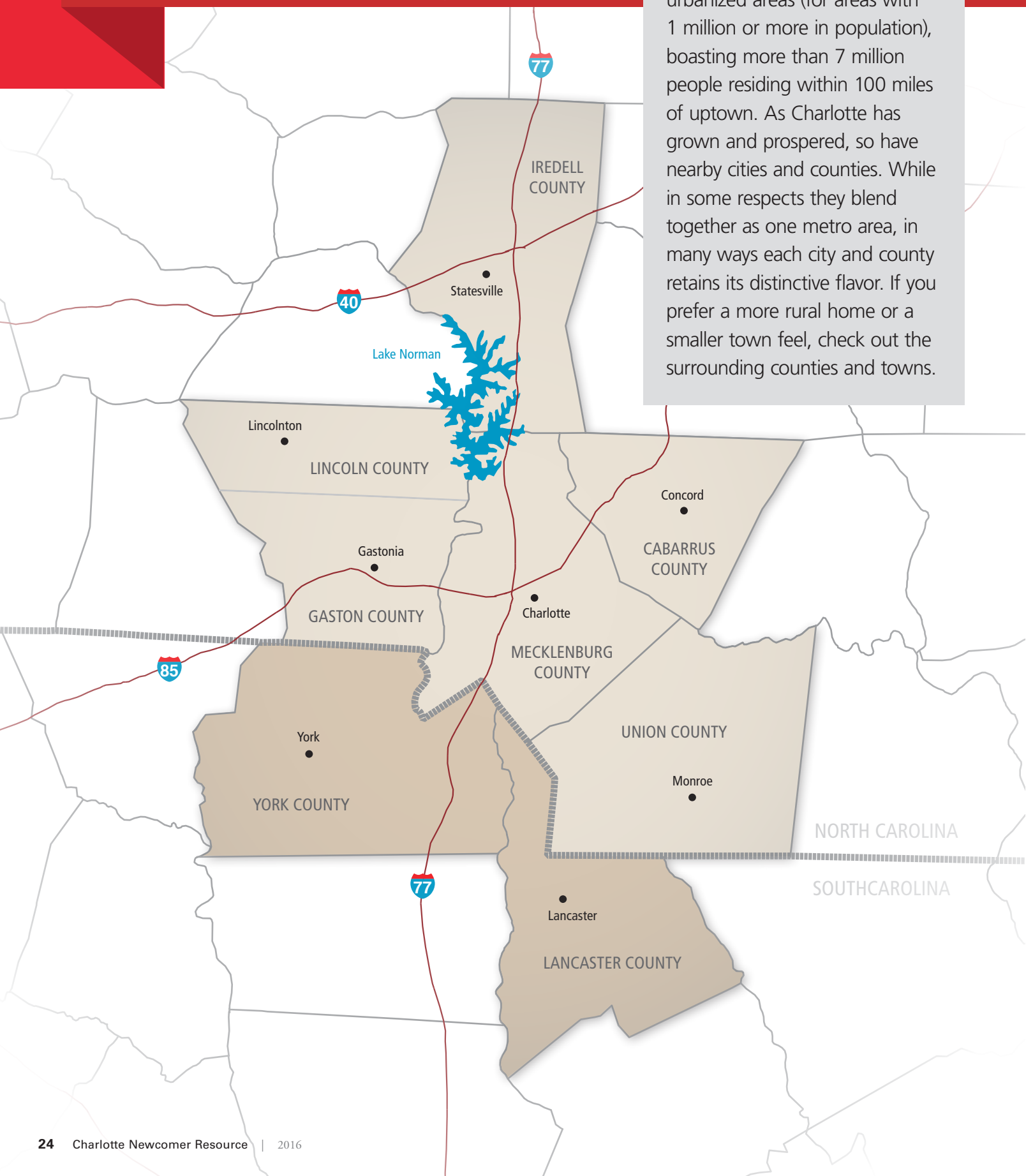
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For more information or to find a store location near you visit rackroomshoes.com

Crossing the County Line

Charlotte is the center of one of the nation's fastest-growing urbanized areas (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 192,000 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 85,000. Concord is a major tourist destination with Concord Mills and Charlotte 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 44,000. Once home to the historic Cannon Mills, it is now a center of biotech research and development as home to the North Carolina 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 211,000 people live in Gaston County, with 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 166,000 people live in Iredell County, and around 25,000 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 34,000 residents. 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 10,600 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 34,000 of the county's 218,000 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, South Carolina

Covering 549 square miles, Lancaster County is 15 miles south of Charlotte. The county, which has an estimated population of 83,160, 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, South Carolina

With more than 245,000 people, York County continues to attract newcomers to its South Carolina suburbs. As a result, the city of Rock Hill, with more than 69,000 residents, is now South Carolina's fifth largest municipality. Located just south of the North Carolina-South Carolina border is Fort Mill. With more than 12,000 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.

JOBS & EMPLOYMENT

Charlotte has a
business-friendly
climate





With 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 15,000 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 charlotte.global.

If you're starting from scratch, visit 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, 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, sponsored by Carolinas HealthCare System.

local professionals in a friendly and supportive environment is 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.

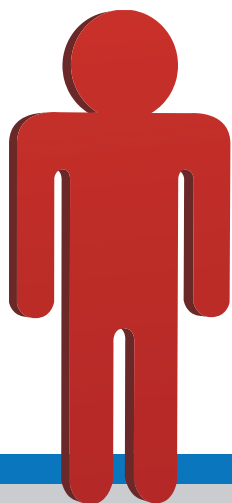
Resources Directories

Also visit the chamber's website at 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 1,300 organizations are listed with contact information, including chief executive officers, chief financial officers and human resource directors. Also included are 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 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, email, employment number and industry description. More than 4,200 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 950 companies are listed in the updated directory. 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.

The Fortune 500 list includes 292 companies with operations in the Charlotte area that have been listed in Fortune 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
330 South Tryon Street
Charlotte, NC 28202
704.378.1300

Charlotte Works

charlotteworks.com
1401 West Morehead Street, Suite 100
Charlotte, NC 28208
704.206.1350

North Carolina Department of Commerce

N.C. Workforce
nccommerce.com/workforce
877.632.2447

N.C. Works

ncworks.gov
1401 W Morehead Street, Suite 100
Charlotte, NC 28208
704.206.1350

5601 Executive Center Drive, Suite 1
Charlotte, NC 28212
704.566.2870

7140 Forest Point Boulevard, Suite A
Charlotte, NC 28217
704.565.6865

Equal Employment Opportunity Commission

eeoc.gov
129 West Trade Street, Suite 400
Charlotte, NC 28202
1.800.669.4000

North Carolina Department of Labor

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

Social Security Administration

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
3020 West Arrowood Road
Charlotte, NC 28273
704.522.8011

U.S. Department of Labor

dol.gov



GET SOCIAL

Develop relationships online with fellow members.
Discuss and stay attuned to hot issues.
Share your news and announcements.

charlottechamber.com/socialmedia



Twitter: Chamber News: [@cltchamber](https://twitter.com/cltchamber) Economic Development: [@cltecondev](https://twitter.com/cltecondev)
Chamber Trends: [#CLTchamber](https://twitter.com/CLTchamber) Young Professionals: [#CCYPs](https://twitter.com/CCYPs)

LinkedIn: Company page: charlottechamber.com/LinkedIn
Members-only group: charlottechamber.com/LinkedInMembers
CCYPs members-only subgroup: charlottechamber.com/LinkedInCCYPs

Facebook: Company page: charlottechamber.com/Facebook

Member News: Email submissions to news@charlottechamber.com in press release format to be included on our website and on Twitter – charlottechamber.com/membernews and [@cltchamber](https://twitter.com/cltchamber).
Post to LinkedIn at charlottechamber.com/LinkedInMembers.

Member Events: Submit to charlottechamber.com/membercalendarform to be included on our website – charlottechamber.com/membercalendar.

Getting Settled:

Essentials You Need to Know

You'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.



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 bit.ly/CLTbikingguide.

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.

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. You'll need to renew each year.

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.

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 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 and 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 head lights 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.

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

980.343.7450

CMS is one of the largest school districts in the country, serving more than 145,000 students in pre-kindergarten through 12th grade in 164 schools. Upon enrollment, students are assigned to a home school based on their residential addresses. And transportation to homes 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



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.



THREE30FIVE

FIND YOUR SPOT

NOW LEASING STUDIO, 1, 2
& 3 BEDROOM RESIDENCES



EVERYTHING YOU NEED
AND THEN SOME



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Resource Getting Settled

at schools in the 2015-2016 academic year: blended and virtual learning; business and entrepreneurship; global studies, leadership and military; International Baccalaureate; learning immersion and talent development; Montessori; science, technology, engineering, arts and math (STEAM); traditional; visual and performing arts; and world languages. 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
919.733.4276

N.C. Association of Independent Schools

ncais.org
704.461.1812

More than 26,000 students in Mecklenburg County are enrolled in 95 private and charter 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 in Mecklenburg County 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.



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Emergencies and 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

charlottecristestoppers.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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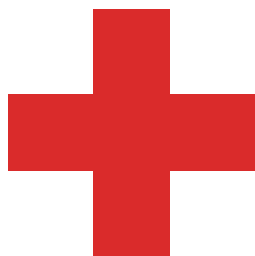
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and the Mecklenburg Board of County Commissioners. The city manager is appointed by City Council and oversees day-to-day operations of the city. The city's mayor works with City Council to establish general city policies. The county manager is appointed 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.

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
704.355.7500

Novant Health
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.

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

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 15 medical centers and a medical group consisting of approximately 1,100 physicians in 343 physician practices, as well as numerous outpatient surgery centers, medical plazas, rehabilitation programs, diagnostic imaging centers and community health outreach programs. Novant Health's 24,400 employees and physician partners care for patients and communities in North Carolina, Virginia, South Carolina and Georgia. Presbyterian Medical Center is the flagship hospital of Novant Health in the Charlotte area. Established in 1903, it is also Charlotte's oldest existent 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 or by calling 311.

Postal Service

Call 1.800.ASK.USPS (1.800.275.8777) or go to usps.com to fill out a change of address form or to find the post office nearest you.

Taxes

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Tax Assessor
charmeck.org
311



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



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(704) 547-1095

UniversityVolvo.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 4 percent for 2016, dropping as low as 3

percent in 2017 if state revenue goals are met. 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, named Best Airport by the International Air Transport Association (IATA) in 2010, provides nonstop service to more than 159 destinations, including 33 international destinations, to approximately 44 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.

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 \$2.20, while fares for express routes are \$3 within the county and \$4.40 to neighboring counties. Special rates are available for senior and disabled citizens.

The LYNX Blue Line, Charlotte's first lightrail 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

N:

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- Adaora, auditions for "Eurydice"

ProvidenceDay.org

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

wecanwipeoutwaste.com
311

Mint Hill

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

Pineville

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 second Thursday before an election in which absentee ballots are authorized.



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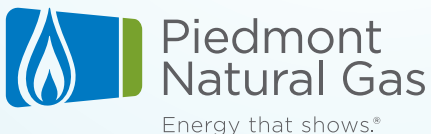
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Ahhh, the good life: It means something different to every one of us, but without exception, we all crave it. Whether you prefer the hustle and bustle of city life or the peace and quiet of a suburban neighborhood ... an evening with the Charlotte 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

artsandscience.org

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. 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

charlottesgot alot.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 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.

Resource Planning Your Leisure Time

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
800.VISITNC

S.C. Division of Tourism

discoversouthcarolina.com
803.734.1700

Must-See Cities

Asheville, N.C.

exploreasheville.com
828.258.6101

Charleston, S.C.

charlestoncvb.com
843.853.8000

Myrtle Beach, S.C.

visitmyrtlebeach.com
800.356.3016

Pinehurst, N.C.

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

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

U.S. National Whitewater Center

usnwc.org
704.391.3900

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

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. State Parks

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

Carolina Outdoor Adventures
carolinaoutdooradventures.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 Carolina Outdoor Adventures, 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.

Resource Planning Your Leisure Time

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Resource Planning Your Leisure Time

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

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



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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.

Advent Christian

704.545.6161

AME Zion

704.599.4630

Baptist

704.375.1197

Carolina Conference of Seventh-day Adventist

704.596.3200

Catholic

704.370.6299

Charlotte Presbytery Center

704.535.9999

Christian & Missionary Alliance

704.543.0470

Christian Science Church

704.334.1973

Church of God

704.364.5003

Church of the Nazarene

704.540.8300

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

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.

Birkdale Village

birkdalevillage.net

Birkdale Plaza Parkway

Huntersville 28078

704.895.8744

Carolina Place Mall

carolinaplace.com

11025 Carolina Place Parkway

Pineville 28134

704.543.9300

Charlotte Premium Outlets

premiumoutlets.com/charlotte

5404 New Fashion Way

Charlotte 28278

704.523.8865

Concord Mills

simon.com

8111 Concord Mills Boulevard

Concord 28027

704.979.3000

Northlake Mall

shopnorthlake.com

6801 Northlake Mall Drive

Charlotte 28216

704.921.2000

SouthPark Mall

simon.com

4400 Sharon Road

Charlotte 28211

704.364.4411

Retirement Resources

All About Seniors

allaboutsensors.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,



Resource Planning Your Leisure Time

long-term care options, senior associations and societies, veteran's benefits and more.

Centralina Area Agency on Aging

centralina.org
704.372.2416

Under the Centralina 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. It 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.

charmec.org
980.314.1320

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 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.



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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Nationally Ranked #1 Customer Service 2007-2015
Best in Charlotte 2007-2015



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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 Checkers (ECHL)

gocheckers.com
704.342.4423

Charlotte Hornets (NBA)

nba.com/hornets
704.262.2287

Charlotte Hounds (MLL)

charlottehounds.com
704.206.1515

Charlotte Independence (USL)

charlotteindependence.com
704.206.1515

Charlotte Knights (AAA baseball)

charlotteknights.com
704.357.8071



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charlottemotorspeedway.com
800.455.FANS

Wells Fargo Championship (PGA)

wellsfargochampionship.com
800.945.0777

College Sports

Belk Bowl

belkbowl.com

CIAA Men's Basketball Tournament

ciaatournament.org

Davidson College

davidsonwildcats.com
704.894.2000

Johnson C. Smith University

goldenbullsports.com
704.378.1091

Queens University of Charlotte

queensathletics.com
704.337.2509

UNC Charlotte

charlotte49ers.com
704.687.4949

Wingate University

wingatebulldogs.com
800.755.5550

Winthrop University

winthropeagles.com
803.323.2345



CONNECT WITH CHARLOTTE'S BEST

UNC Charlotte has a strong presence in the Queen City. Many of the region's largest companies - including Lowe's, Bank of America, Wells Fargo, MetLife, Duke Energy, and Cato Corporation - boast 49er alumni throughout the company, including several at the very top. Connecting with the University's Alumni Association is a great way to network and connect with influential people in the area. Most of the Alumni Association's events are open to the public and spread over a wide variety of interests, including:

- Alumni Tailgate Village (before each football game throughout the fall)
- Green Tie Gala (held annually in April; 2016's theme is *Speakeasy*)
- Faculty Speaker Series luncheons (Uptown during the academic year)

Visit 49erAlumni.uncc.edu to connect



Alumni Association
UNC CHARLOTTE

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