JUNE 2021

CHARLESTON
Home & Living

REAL ESTATE
Resource Centre

Presented by Vickie McLaughlin

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LOOKING BACK
AT COONSKIN PARK

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Home & Living

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P10

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ON THE COVER

Cover photo courtesy Michael Bell Photography

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BACK COVER

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HAPPENING Around Town

With the return of Symphony Sunday and FestivALL, Charleston is moving even more quickly toward normal. Vaccinated folks do not have to wear masks, which is a really good thing with the heat of summer! Live music has made its return with several outdoor venues open for concerts. A new event, "East End Revival Concert Series", to be held at the Red Carpet Lounge, will begin Saturday, July 10. That is just one day after "Live on the Levee" makes its season debut at Haddad Riverfront Park. Due to its late start, "Live on the Levee" will continue weekly on Fridays until Oct. 1.

Although June is "Pride Month" and the parade took place on June 10, the ballgame at Appalachian Power Park was rained out and has been rescheduled for July 5. City swimming pools and splash pads plan to open July 1. A series of drive-in movie nights at the Patrick Street Big Lots parking lot will feature family films. The selection for July 7 is "Moana". The movies will begin at 9pm, with parking starting at 7:30pm, until the lot is full.

FestivALL 2021 winds down in July with a pop-up putt putt course in the downtown area. You may pick up putters and balls at Taylor Books, Adelphia, Art Emporium, or Tony the Tailor. The last FestivALL event is the continuing Summer Art Fair, every weekend at Capitol Market until mid-July.

For the time being, "Mountain Stage" is still performing at a 25% capacity audience, so the show scheduled for July 25 is already sold out. Hopefully, the show will open to full capacity before much longer.

The "Appalachian Children's Chorus" is offering its annual Fine Arts summer camp for kids from 3rd to 8th grade the end of the month. It is a wonderful opportunity for students interested in music to expand their world. It is $75 for the week, but financial aid is available for those who qualify.

Another event for children is the appearance of Blippi. This entertainer/educator has appeared on YouTube, Hulu, and Amazon. Blippi's first tour is bringing the fun and antics of his adventures to the stage in an inter-active, family friendly show at the Municipal Auditorium on July 22.

At the Charleston Coliseum and Convention Center (CC&CC), a televised live, winner-take-all basketball tournament will come to town. The West Virginia University alumni team, the Best Virginia, will play Marshall University's alumni team, Herd That. Die hard Mountaineer and Thundering Herd fans will have a blast!

As summer heats up and families can finally get outdoors and travel, Charley West is the Best place to be!

July 1-5:

"Downtown Open", putt-putt golf in downtown Charleston

July 9, 10:

"Wiz Khalifa, Thugs-N-Harmony, and Chevy Woods"; Appalachian Power Park, admission: TBA

July 9, 16, 23, 30:

"Live on the Levee", Haddad Riverfront Park, admission: FREE

July 10:

"East End Revival Concert Series" featuring Chance McCoy, Justin Wells, and the Hall Brothers Band; Red Carpet Lounge, admission: $15

July 17:

"East End Revival Concert Series" featuring Byzantine, Crown the Witch, and Horse Burner; Red Carpet Lounge, admission: $20

July 17-21:

"TBT: The Basketball Tournament", CC&CC, admission: TBA

July 18:

"East End Revival Concert Series" featuring Parachute Brigade with Andrew Adkins and J. Hatfield; Red Carpet Lounge, admission: $12.50

July 22:

"Blippi the Musical", 6pm, Municipal Auditorium, admission: TBA

July 26-30:

"ACC's Fine Arts Summer Camp", Southeast Church of the Nazarene, admission: $75 for the week

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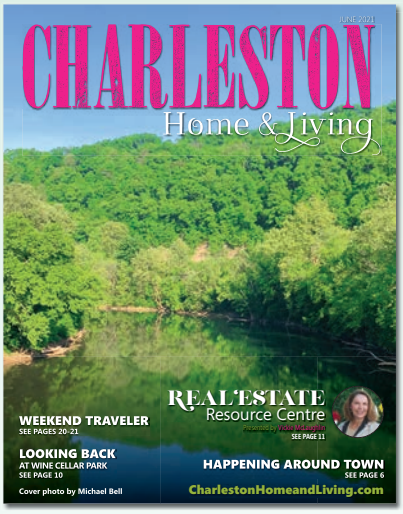

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Looking Back ...AT COONSKIN PARK

By: M. Lynne Squires

Coonskin Park is over a thousand acres of woodland punctuated with an 18-hole, par-three golf course, hiking and biking trails, a vast swimming pool, pedal boat rentals, a playground, soccer stadium, numerous picnic shelters, tennis courts, and volleyball courts. Hundreds of weddings and receptions have been held there through the years. Various meetings and banquets have taken place. Plays and other entertainment happen in an amphitheater. Countless holiday lights grace the park during the holidays. Athletic events, nature activities, and so much more happen year after year. As a bonus, the Alice/Mary Knight and Oak Trailheads are right before park facilities. All of this is a mere 10-minute drive from the center of Charleston.

But how did all of this come to be? In the 1940s, local officials suggested building an airport on what was then called Coonskin Ridge to serve Charleston and the surrounding area. Part of the development plans for the new Kanawha Airport included an adjacent park to be built in the Coonskin area. Kanawha County voters approved a $1.6 million bond levy in 1948. Of that sum, $200,000 was earmarked to provide a public park near the airport. In 1949, the county court, today's Kanawha County Commission, spent nearly $15,000 to purchase the property for part of the park.

The public eagerly awaited the construction of the park, but more than a year after the airport was completed, no work had begun on the project. With no action by any government agency towards fulfilling the mandate to create the park, the citizens took control. Spearheaded by the Charleston Gazette, and in cooperation with the Associated General Contractors of WV, the WV Contractors Association, the Associated Equipment Dealers, and the Charleston Building Contractors Association, and aided by other civic organizations and businesses, a massive drive for donations and volunteers brought the park to fruition in record time. After only eight weeks of planning, in June of 1950, a two-day frenzy of bulldozing, building, and labor commenced, and the central part of the park was completed. Dubbed "Operation Coonskin," the army of volunteers using donated heavy equipment carved out the lake and a bandstand along with other features of the early park.

On a Monday in June, massive pieces of equipment paraded through downtown Charleston on their way to the new park site. Tuesday and Wednesday saw thousands of volunteers: engineers, heavy equipment operators, carpenters, other workers both skilled and unskilled, volunteers providing and serving them food, and even the Governor of West Virginia. Not a single taxpayer dime was spent. It was all accomplished through donations of resources and time, and on a much faster timeframe than any government project could be done. Wednesday evening, a party was held for all those involved as well as residents of Charleston and surrounding areas. More than 25,000 came to see what Operation Coonskin had resulted in after only two day's work.

Coonskin Park continues to serve area residents, continually growing and adding events and activities. It's summer - head out to Coonskin Park!

August takes Looking Back to the Charleston Baptist Temple.

Email your responses about Coonskin Park Park or requests for locations you'd like Looking Back to visit to thewriter@mlynne.com.

Squires' book Looking Back at Charleston is a compilation of 24 essays and color photos from her column and is available on Amazon. Visit www.mlynne.com.

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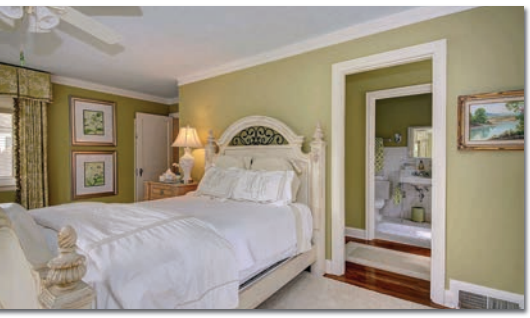

SITUATED ON A PEACEFUL, HIGHLY SOUGHT-AFTER STREET, 2 miles from elementary, junior & college prep HS. 14 Norwood has a stunning, wide and flat front yard. Features include built-in bookshelves in formal living, marble floors in den, Wainscoting in dining room, Italian tile in breakfast area & kitchen, quartz & granite countertop from the Greenbrier in kitchen, coffered ceiling, 3 gas fireplaces, 3 HVAC's, new roof, bathroom upstairs remodeled w/ Caesar stone countertop.

MLS: 246973

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MONTGOMERY. This stunning historic 4 bdrm, 2 bath home has beautiful hand-carved woodwork, gorgeous stained glass windows, glistening hardwoods and amazing built-ins. Large rooms and lots of storage with a walk-in attic. **$189,900**

NITRO. Move-in ready 3 bdrm, 2 1/2 bath home conveniently located to shopping and bus routes. Includes park-like setting in back yard, great patio area, new carpet, cedar lined closets, hardwood floors, fantastic family room with fireplace and 2 car garage. **$189,000**

MONTGOMERY. Beautifully updated 2-unit duplex. Each side contains 2 bedrooms, 1 1/2 baths. New metal roof, double pane windows and flooring. Live in one side and rent the other. **$119,000**

MONTGOMERY. Well maintained 4-stall car wash. Also includes building with 3 bays. Situated on 2 corner lots. Building would be perfect for detailing business, mechanic's garage or storage. Only car wash in the Upper Kanawha Valley! **$125,000**

SMITHERS. Lovely 3 BD brick rancher with full bsmt. Updated kitchen. Nice pool for entertaining. Property has large garage apartment with tons of storage, parking for your car and potential rental income to help make the mortgage payments. **$119,900**

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This amazing large family home located in one of Charleston's most prestigious neighborhoods, this home boasts ample sq. footage & bedroom space in which to accommodate families of any size! This home has top quality construction from the main level to the third level. Outside, you can lounge by the pool, and for guests, there is a 900+ Sq Ft 1 bd/1 ba pool house. Inside boasts a gourmet kitchen w/breakfast area & large formal dining. Master suite is overly spacious. 3rd floor is fully finished.

Beautiful 1 owner home in the heart of So. Hills. Spacious open floor plan offers updated kitchen w/ SS appliances, main floor master ensuite with walk-in closets & living room with vaulted ceilings & multiple French doors. Covered back patio with built-in gas grill looking to a waterfall with fire features on both sides. Lower level is perfect for entertaining with game tables & full bar with fridge, ice maker & dishwasher. Heated driveway to an oversized 2 car garage finished with epoxy floors

Elegance in the forest best describes this magnificent home located South Hills. This home sits on 17+ private and gated acres with 100+ acres available for pleasure or development. 6 Bedrooms 4.5 Baths. The indoor pool offers year around pleasure in its own detached 2200 sq ft pool house with a kitchen and full bath. Built in 2004, this amazing home is quality throughout with beautiful trim and hardwoods, 10ft main level ceilings and 9ft upper level ceilings.

Beautiful ranch style home on the river. 4 Bedrooms 3.5 Baths. New hardwoods, sunroom with skylights and large open kitchen with cherry cabinetry. Views of the river from the eat in kitchen and master bedroom. Fully finished lower level guest suite w/ full bath. Brick stairway to recently constructed deck and dock on river.

A prestigious home providing soft 1 floor living w/ loft on over an acre of privacy, this house has been completely remodeled. 3BR 3.5BA on main inc Master Suite. Wood Paneled Library/Family, just off the Dining room & impressive open kitchen, leading to sunroom w/ commanding views of downtown. Recently finished upper level w/open concept, perfect for home office. Lower level offers an additional 1900+ sq ft that has been dry walled & is semi-finished with 2 additional BR/BA.

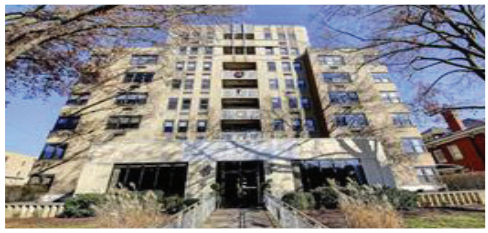
First time offering! Beautiful, 1 story custom built home on 4.63 acres. This home has over 4300 Sq. Ft. of living space w/ amenities galore! This home boasts 3 to 4 bedrooms, a huge gourmet kitchen & formal dining room as well as a huge family room & Master Suite overlooking the gorgeous in-ground pool. This all brick home comes w/ a 3 car garage, a Kohler whole house generator & extensive brick & wrought iron fencing around the home. This one is a must see!!

Exceptional town home located in Southgate Subdivision. Featuring 3 bedrooms, 3.5 baths including 1st floor master. Gorgeous hardwood floors. Many updates throughout, both functionally and cosmetically. Full finished lower level offering rec and family rooms. Conveniently located for access to the corridor, interstate and downtown Charleston and minutes from elementary, middle, and high schools.

Completely renovated South Hills home situated on 3 acres. 5 bedrooms 4 full baths including newly remodeled main floor master suite. Additional bedrooms on the upper level with 2 full baths. Recent renovations include a new kitchen with quartz countertops, stainless steel appliances; bathroom renovations; new roof; new electric; and so much more.

A charming 3 bedroom house in the front of South Hills. Short walk to Bridge Road restaurants and shops. Updated throughout, including finished basement, new paint inside/outside, new HVAC, new front door/garage door - plus more! Excellent school district.

The stone house road home offers ten rooms of extraordinary architecture focusing on 19th century life in the GRV of WV. The original home is monumental stone structure dating back to 1796 with additions and revisions professional integrated. Located just a few steps from the Greenbrier River and the amazing GBR Trail.



Investment opportunity! 8 Unit Apartment Buildings situated on corner lot. Each unit offers 3 BR and 1.5 Baths. Hardwood and vinyl flooring. Updated kitchens with oak cabinetry and matching appliances. Separate utility hookups in each. Interior and exterior renovated including updated windows within the last several years. Private entry front and rear to each unit, off street parking, common courtyard between buildings.

Income property! 4 Unit apartment building. All brick construction, 5394 sq ft, with 2 bedroom/1bath in each unit. Excellent condition with strong rental history. Roof is 4 years old. Tenant pays utilities. Situated on a corner lot in convenient south charleston location.

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1328 Tudor Rd

$650,000 - 4BR 4.5BA. Private and luxury home on 1.56 acres, nestled right in South Hills. Kitchen has an open concept, opening up to a 2 story great room with reclaimed wood from WV, heated floors and a beautiful 2 story stone fireplace. Home offers an extinct and rare wormy chestnut library with a fireplace as well as a main floor full bath that can easily be turned into a steam room!

1500 Kanawha Blvd E

$775,000 - 5BR. 4.5BA. Historic East End Mini-Mansion - Turn of the century details with modern amenities. This Walter Martens designed home features beautiful Italian marble fireplaces, rare bird's eye maple staircase, stained glass windows, durable slate roof, two new Trane HVACs, luxurious master bath suite with sauna, bonus third floor living with a kitchen, chestnut wood library, and a secret bookcase entry hidden room. Home also has great potential for commercial use and already includes a business phone hub.

108 Fieldcrest Rd

REDUCED

$599,900 - 5BR 4.5BA. Stunning colonial style home in one of Charleston's most desirable locations. The custom gourmet kitchen is every chef's dream featuring granite counters, stainless appliances, double ovens and large center island. Gorgeous oversized master suite w/ garden tub and walk in closet. The full finished basement hosts a home gym and spacious family/media room. Too many amazing details to list. Schedule your private viewing today!

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SITUATED ON A PEACEFUL, HIGHLY SOUGHT- AFTER STREET, 2 MILES FROM ELEMENTARY, JUNIOR & COLLEGE PREP HS. 14 Norwood has a stunning, wide and flat front yard. Features include built-in bookshelves in formal living, marble floors in den, Wainscoting in dining room, Italian tile in breakfast area & kitchen, quartz & granite countertop from the Greenbrier in kitchen, coffered ceiling, 3 gas fireplaces, 3 HVAC's, new roof, bathroom upstairs remodeled w/ Caesar stone countertop.

$425,000

BEAUTIFUL VIEW OF THE CITY. Gorgeous, front of the hill location with the views of the city & river! Located in award-winning school district and convenient to downtown and area hospitals! This lovely home was built in 1876 and is full of historic charm. Features include open concept kitchen and living area, as well as a private backyard that gives the feeling of being in the country. This home is a must see! Dual HVAC- 1 unit less than a year old.

NEVER BEEN LIVED IN!! This stunning Tudor style home does not fall short in style and elegance. Features include granite counter-tops, copper farmers sink, 3 gas fireplaces, security system, generator, tankless/instant hot water system. Walk out your back door to your pool, fully fenced, and a relaxing view of your wooded acreage. The master closet can't be beat with room for your own personal gym. Private quite location.

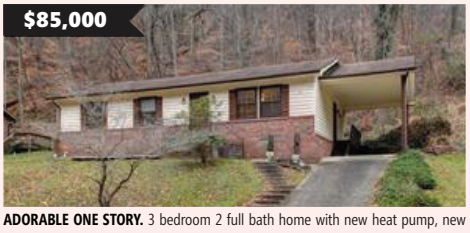
$649,000

NESTLED IN SOUTH HILLS. Close to shops & downtown Charleston, the 1896 Whitney Farm House & Carriage House, w/add'l 780sf, convenience & secluded in a private, natural setting. This classic gem offers heart-pine floors, glass cabinetry from original windows, gorgeous stonework, gardens, expansive yard, & wrap-around porches. The interior offers recently renovated kitchen, bath, & laundry rooms feat Winchester English & French Tile, high-end appliances, & marble counter tops.

$215,000

FRONT OF THE HILL CHARMING CAPE COD. Hardwood floors, crown moldings, high ceilings-Wonderful deck for entertaining-Walk downtown on Sunrise Trail, 3 minutes to Bridge Road shops and Restaurants! Brand New HVAC June 2021.

$85,000



ADORABLE ONE STORY. 3 bedroom 2 full bath home with new heat pump, new disposal, new kitchen faucet, new refrigerator, and new back door which leads out to a private deck. Also both bathrooms have new vanities and flooring. Close to town, shopping and hospitals.

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$35,000

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We're continually on the hunt for opportunities to add richness to our lives. In the time of the road trip revival, we are proud to feature a monthly section featuring destinations within driving distance of Charleston that make for a great getaway. We feel that our worldly and devoted readers will find these places interesting.

Weekend Getaway

By: Melody Pittman

LAKE NORMAN, NC

Photo by Melody Pittman.

Driving 230 miles south of Charleston brings you to the region of Lake Norman, North Carolina. Lake Norman comprises Cornelius, Davidson, Huntersville, and Mooresville; each of these darling towns has its own flavor and unique offerings. Here are some ideas to make your weekend getaway a success.

WHAT TO SEE & DO IN LAKE NORMAN

Lake Norman is a manmade lake with 520 miles of shoreline, so boating, swimming, jet skis, and fishing are incredibly popular. If you are interested in boat rentals, you can find them at Cornelius Pontoon Rentals and Saltshaker Marine. The Lake Norman fishing scene has perch, crappie, catfish, and striped bass, to name a few. Buy your bait and fishing needs at Carolina Fishing Tackle in Mooresville.

You'll find beautiful parks at Lake Norman, perfect for hiking, birding, biking, and exploring the great outdoors. Jetton Park is a popular one, with 104 acres and picturesque formal gardens.

Photo by Melody Pittman.

Lake Norman runs the gamut from mini-golf and indoor go-kart racing to the NC Auto Racing Hall of Fame, full of racing memorabilia, stock cars, and such. In addition, Lazy 5 Ranch is fun for admiring animals from all over the world (e.g., lemur, yak, llamas, African Watusi), plus they have a petting zoo.

Perhaps the best family-friendly attraction of all is Lake Norman's Carolina Raptor Center, a home for owls, vultures, eagles, and other magnificent birds of prey. Admission prices are $12 for adults and $8 for students four and over. Residents of the Carolina Raptor Center include vultures, eagles, falcons, owls, and more.

Photo by Melody Pittman.

In the same area as the Carolina Raptor Center is Historic Latta Plantation, a living history attraction

Photo by Melody Pittman.

with an 1800's plantation house, cabins, barn animals, and outbuildings. Latta Plantation showcases Carolina's backcountry living in the 19th-century.

Downtown Davidson is one of the cutest little downtowns, lined with cozy benches, planters, and flags across from the pristine Davidson College campus. You'll find quaint shops, cafes, eye-catching murals, and admirable outdoor sculptures, part of the Davidson College Sculpture Garden.

Photo by Melody Pittman.

Shoppers will delight in Birkdale Village, a shopping, dining, and entertainment complex with plenty of parking that also features a movie theater. Don't miss a delicious dessert from Buttermilk Sky Pie Shop. If antiques are your guilty pleasure, you'll browse for hours in Oak Street Mills.

Photo by Melody Pittman.

WHERE TO EAT AND DRINK

The food is sensational at Lake Norman, and you may find yourself doubling up for meals to try all of the tasty options. For breakfast, I love the Benedicts at the Egg at Davidson or Flapjacks from Famous Toastery, a local's fave. For lunch, Hello, Sailor is a colorful, trendy, and superb restaurant sitting right on the waterfront in Cornelius. The burgers and seared cauliflower steak are both tasty choices. At Port City Club, another waterfront offering, enjoy the cute beach area or indoor/outdoor dining with excellent steaks, flatbreads, fish tacos, and fried zucchini chips, a house specialty.

Photo by Melody Pittman.

For dinner, head out to Kindred in downtown Davidson. This hip eatery has coveted street-front tables, gorgeous craft cocktails, and a chef-inspired menu. The Fried Oysters are a delicious starter, and the English Pea pasta dish is lip-smacking good. However, you will probably be thoroughly satisfied after the complimentary flower pot milk bread.

Photo by Melody Pittman.

The brewery scene is admirable in Lake Norman. D9 Brewing is exceptional for IPA and sour beer choices, with a tangerine session ale (Sweet Rider) you must try.

Photo by Melody Pittman.

WHERE TO STAY IN LAKE NORMAN

Photo by Melody Pittman.

The Davidson Village Inn, in downtown Davidson and within walking distance to shops, campus, and restaurants, is the perfect spot to be for your Lake Norman travels. Davidson Village Inn offers luxurious rooms and attentive service, with a warm, inviting lobby, onsite parking, and complimentary breakfast.

Photo by Melody Pittman.

Lake Norman has many vacation rental properties or your choice of chain hotels like Comfort Suites, Residence Inn, Candlewood Suites, and Clarion Inn.

OUTDOOR LIFE AMPLIFIED

Traveling to Lake Norman, North Carolina, is highly recommended for those who wish for lake opportunities, great fishing, animal adventures, delectable food, and a family-friendly vibe. To add more fun to your trip, Charlotte is only 45 minutes south.

Article by Melody Pittman of www.**whereverimayroamblog**.com

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