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To: [Kester, Tonykester@aging.sc.gov](mailto:Kester, Tonykester@aging.sc.gov)

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Subject: Spotlighting: Carolina Beach | Columbia | Wilmington | Hendersonville | New Bern | Southport | Cashiers

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December 2, 2014

*Below: Pleasingly Plump Pork; Spreading the Word; Travel with Rowser; have it both ways; light up the night; a grand illusion; new towns to explore; crème brulee, Ya'll.*  
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## Carolina Adventures

### SC BBQ Trail | South Carolina

#### *Succulent Swine*

Depending on who you ask, the birthplace of barbecue is in South Carolina (really)! On what is now Parris Island, where marines are “born,” the Spanish and Native Americans gathered together and combined resources. The locals had the pit cooking competence, while the newcomers had the pigs. It was, in some ways, a food marriage made in heaven.

Now, about five centuries later, South Carolina has opened its doors and its heart to every imaginable preparation of what we call barbecue. In fact, one of the BBQ claims to fame in these parts is the presence of the four different sauces – vinegar and pepper, mustard, light tomato and heavy tomato-based sauce. Some restaurants, in the spirit of inclusiveness, offer all of the sauces in their repertoire, enabling a culinary tour of the good stuff, so to speak.

For it is the sauce that makes the difference around here. And although there are many mighty fine concoctions with chicken, beef and even seafood, at the heart and history of the matter is the mighty pig.

Some barbecue trails include qualifiers, guidelines, requirements and more. Here, the good folks at South Carolina Tourism have thrown it all on the table, allowing you to choose from more than 200+ establishments, depending on your preferences and location when BBQ hunger strikes. The options, my friends, are almost endless. Do your homework and plan to visit one of these porcine palaces when you can. But first, learn more at the [official website](#). You'll be armed with everything you need to make tummy-pleasing choices for you and yours.

**WOW Factor:** the sheer amount of research that's gone into sharing information on the SC Barbecue Trail. There are maps, history lessons, more about sauces, the festivals, cook-offs, competitions, cookbooks, associations, and side dishes, desserts and ubiquitous sweet tea. More than you want to know? Not really.

Everything you need to arm yourself in the hunt for the perfect purveyor of barbecue.

**Hint:** Do your homework. Go with an empty stomach. Know what you are eating. Some barbecue hash includes pork liver which many – but not all – folks enjoy. My spouse is not a fan. It would ruin the most delightful barbecue dinner for him. And finally, ask if the cook is a pit master (there's even a school for it in Charleston). For many, pit-cooked barbecue is a skill that's been passed down for generations. And when you find it, you'll understand why the South Carolina Barbecue Trail is a gift for us all. Learn more: [bbq.discoversouthcarolina.com](#).

*Photo Courtesy of SCPRT*

## Carolina Creatives

### Amazing Depth through Illusion and Talent

Christian Thee – artist, theatre set designer, magician, children's book author and illustrator. The Columbia, South Carolina native and University of South Carolina graduate is a remarkable talent and leading light of the arts and culture scene in the state capital.

Although he caught a bit of the acting and set design bug at Town Theatre during his teen years, it was in New York that he honed his talents as a stage designer and scenic artist. At Columbia University, he studied with Lester Polakov and later, was hired as assistant to the legendary stage designer Jo Mielziner. His experience there included work on more than 27 Broadway shows, including Carusel, South Pacific, Guys and Dolls, and A Streetcar Named Desire, as well as working as lead designer for the New York Metropolitan Opera.

During his career, he developed an extraordinary love of magic, and from there, evolved into a superb magician as well as a remarkable *trompe l'oeil* artist. For Christian Thee, Seeing is not necessarily Believing.

## Season of Lights and Bright Spirits

Hello Gerry,

Most every Carolina town offers up splendid arrays that warm the heart with lights, feasts, cuisine and entertainment. Often amid weather that allows *alfresco* dining overlooking the Blue Ridge, Atlantic or town square.

Here, you'll find a Carolina Adventure that celebrates BBQ – cuisine par excellence in these parts. Also:

Surprising intelligence about one of our most Famous Faces – Billy Graham;

Where you can travel with Fido, Ginger or Lassie;

Affordable golf homes – why not buy two for the price of one;

Island Lights and Festival Fun by the water;

A good friend and incredibly talented Carolina Creative – Christian Thee;

New towns to explore;

His client list includes names like Donald Trump and David Koch, Joan Rivers, and the United Kingdom's Prince Andrew. His work is displayed in countless homes and offices. Today, he maintains a lovely lakeside home in Columbia. In the Carolinas he may be best known for his design of the poster for the premiere *Spoletto Festival USA*, held in Charleston in 1977 and annually since then.

His remarkable art is often enhanced by three-dimensional embellishments and his work has been the subject of many articles.

He's also a published author. His critically-acclaimed children's book, *Behind the Curtain*, introduces young readers to the magic of theater, and is available on Amazon.

As his biography states, "Christian Thee continues to paint, innovate, invent and entertain at his lakeside home in Columbia, South Carolina. His home features marvelous paintings, *trompe l'oeil* designs, and a working studio that astound thousands of visitors every year."

For those who love magic, he, with other magicians, hosts "[Dark Cabaret](#)" events - by appointment only.

[ChristianThee.com](#)

Learn more about [Columbia](#).

## Famous Faces

### Billy Graham Evangelist to the World

He just turned 96 and although his hearing and eyesight are failing, friends report that his mind remains sharp and his heart is still loving.

William Graham was born November 7, 1918, and grew up on a dairy farm near Charlotte, NC. He is one of the most famous people in the world and has counseled presidents and politicians, entertainers and artists.

For many of us raised in the South, a Billy Graham crusade was must-watch television, even if our families did not always agree with everything he said. He was universally respected for his sincerity and his beliefs, as well as his honorable approach to life.

Many believe he was an important catalyst in the Civil Rights Movement. In 1953, at one of his crusades, Mr. Graham tore down ropes that had been placed to separate the audience into racial sections. It is said that he told a white audience this: "We have been proud and thought we were better than any other race, any other people. Ladies and gentlemen. We are going to stumble into hell because of our pride."

He backed up his words by allowing African-American ministers to serve as members of his New York crusade's executive committee.

He became close friends with the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. (although the two had significant differences, especially over the Vietnam War, at certain times during their decade-long friendship.) In 1963, Mr. Graham posted bail for Dr. King to be released from jail during civil rights protests in Birmingham.

Mr. Graham refused to preach in segregated churches, and refused to visit South Africa until its government allowed integrated seating for audiences.

A new take on one of the South's favorite comfort foods.

So amidst all the frantic holiday "to-do's," as you embark on a Carolina vacation plan or need to dazzle visiting friends & family, become *the* destination planner!

You'll find some of the most memorable times in out-of-the-way burgs, villes, boros and dales.

All the Best,

Leyla & Patrick Mason  
Co-Founders,

PS: We join friends and family in being thankful for all the good times and good hearts we've found in the Carolinas. It's truly a remarkable area to call home.

[Forward this email to a friend.](#)

### May We Introduce You?

Check out three new town articles online at [CarolinaLiving.com](#)

1. [Fairfield County & Winnsboro, SC](#)
2. [Bennettsville, SC](#)
3. [Edenton, NC](#)

### Island Lights and Coastal Nights

See Carolina and Kure Beaches light up with holiday cheer at the Island of Lights Festival. The month-long festival kicks off with the Light Up the

In his later years, he was invited to participate in services following 9/11 as well as the Oklahoma City bombing.

He has written 32 books, including his autobiography, *Just as I am*, which was a best-seller. The Gallup organization lists him as one of the "Ten Most Admired Men in the World," and he has appeared on the covers of *Time*, *Newsweek*, *Life*, *U.S. News and World Report*, and many others.

The [Billy Graham Library](#), in [Charlotte](#), is very popular and he intends to be buried there, beside his late wife, Ruth. He has five children, 19 grandchildren and many great-grandchildren, and lives in the mountains of North Carolina.

## We're Dog Friendly

### Woof, Woof

*That's dogspeak for "please take me with you"*

Traveling with your four-legged friend is fun, but it does require some extra planning.

We've discovered a guide that can help you plan both a day-trip or a longer stay in South Carolina with dog-welcoming destinations and

tips. You'll find information on beach regulations, dog-friendly parks, and off-leash dog parks around the state.

For overnight trips with your dog, there are links to SC hotels and SC bed and breakfasts that welcome pets. Get the [details](#).

## The (Mostly) One-State Solution for Mountain and Coastal Golf

*Text and Trillium photo by Larry Gavrich*

North Carolina is paradise for those seeking the widest variety of golf courses within reasonable driving distances. From the marshland and links-like courses on the coast to the mountaintop layouts five or six hours to the west, the Tarheel State offers everything the peripatetic golfer could want.

Perhaps most surprising of all, owning two homes a daytime drive away from each other is within the reach of many couples. Real estate values in many Carolina golf communities still have not

Lake event and features a parade, decorated home tour, lighted boat flotilla and more.

Head to Wrightsville Beach for the North Carolina Holiday Flotilla voted as a Southeast Tourism Society Top 20 event. This celebration includes the Festival in the Park, featuring family fun and a spectacular lighted boat parade and fireworks along the Intracoastal Waterway. Watch as Santa goes diving with his favorite sea creature friends at the North Carolina Aquarium at Fort Fisher at "Santa By The Sea," featuring holiday crafts, games and more.

#### **Island of Lights Festival**

Pleasure Island  
Carolina Beach, NC  
Call: 910.458.5507

Pleasure Island is home to an island-wide holiday festival featuring lighted displays around Carolina Beach Lake (nightly) along with businesses and residences decorated for the season. Enjoy the fantastic light displays and holiday cheer with signature events taking place for an entire month.

#### **Dates:**

Fri, November 28, 2014 -  
Wed, December 31, 2014

#### **Admission:**

Most events are free.

[See more here.](#)

**The New Guide is Here.**

***Updated town information, six fun new Carolina Adventures, and one heck of a good-looking water story. Order yours today.***

[Click here](#) for the official hold-in-your-

recovered to 2006 levels, and some sellers who have listed their homes for sale for more than a year are becoming anxious, if not desperate. That, of course, can translate into lower selling prices. Of course, if you own two homes, you can count on extra property taxes and homeowner association fees. But if the house prices are right, why deny yourselves?

[Read much more.](#)

## **Carolina Cuisine**

### **Exotically Comforting**

Forget the newest trendy stuffing, and the imaginative use of Kale.

For the Thanksgiving feast, many of us want old, familiar comfort foods that have graced our tables for decades.

A brief, non-scientific survey among my friends found almost universal agreement –

marshmallow-topped sweet potato casserole is near the top of everyone's list. In the Carolinas, we're beginning to see roadside stands filled with these starchy goodies. As you're leading up to the big day jump out of your comfort zone and try something familiar – yet exotic. [Sweet Potato Crème Brulee](#). Now that's what we're talking about.

## **Heading your way twice a month**

- Let's Take a Road Trip!
- Carolina
- Famous Faces
- Insider Attractions
- [eNewsletter Archives](#).

## **Facebook**

### **We're Thankful!**

Join us in being thankful for so many good things we all enjoy. Good food, good friends, great times with those we love, and the wonderful memories created by traveling.

The Carolinas offer prime memory-making destinations. What are some of your favorites? We'll begin. Brevard, Ocean Drive, Charleston. Do share on [Facebook](#).

[Click here](#) for the official hold-in-your-

hand Guide to Carolina lifestyle fun and adventure trips, plus real estate tips, tax & cost-of-living advantages, retirement opportunities and town profiles.

Just share your dream goals and we'll help lead you to smart Carolina life and times.

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*Compiled by Katherine O. Pettit • Designed by Ann Dolin*

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