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To: Kester, Tonykester@aging.sc.gov
Date: 11/22/2016 10:00:45 AM
Subject: Spotlighting: Columbia, Bluffton, Gaston County, Edenton, Greenville

November 22, 2016 *Below: Reinvented, now ravishing; Shine on; Flower power; Trot and jump; Step back in time; Dressed fit to kill; Poached to perfection; Happy holidays!*
More in our FREE [CarolinaLiving.com](#) Guide.

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Take a Road Trip to Greenville, SC

A stay in Downtown Greenville, SC, a city nestled in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains, is reminiscent of a visit to your favorite little European town, with rambling, wide sidewalks, outdoor cafés and dining on every corner, city parks for people-watching, and unique, locally-owned shops and galleries that beg for exploration as you wander the tree-lined city streets.

The city center has undergone a 30-year revitalization plan and it just keeps getting better and better.

Best yet, Main Street has been honored by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, recognizing the area's successful ability to grow while preserving its small town charm and lovely architecture.

While Greenville's charms are vast, locals agree that you could spend your entire visit on Main Street and never tire of your surroundings. [Insider Tips.](#)

Where in the Carolina World are You?

Rollin' on the river – or sailing, fishing and floating. This part of our world is full of history and some of the most beautiful scenery you'll ever find. Got a wedding in your future? Consider this 1886 lighthouse – perfect for a small gathering of those near and dear. Memories? They're made of this.

Where are you?

The Eyes of the Horse World on Carolinas

FEI World Equestrian Games™ 2018 will be held at the Tryon International Equestrian Center on September 10-23, 2018.

The FEI World Equestrian Games™ are held every four years in the middle of the Olympic cycle. A huge event on the global sporting calendar, it combines eight world championships at one event – Jumping, Dressage, Para-Equestrian Dressage, Eventing, Driving, Endurance, Vaulting and Reining.

“It's a truly spectacular venue,” said Ingmar de Vos, FEI President.

“We are looking forward to a fantastic celebration of top level sport as all the disciplines come together to crown their world champions at the Games in two years' time.”

Created by Mark Bellissimo in Mill Spring, NC, the Tryon International Equestrian Center covers 1,600 acres, provides 1,200 permanent stables and 12 arenas, seating 12,000 (with VIP seating of 1,500). Hundreds of miles of equestrian trails, plus restaurants, accommodations, retail and resort amenities.

The 2014 Games in Normandy attracted more than 500,000 on-site spectators and a worldwide television audience of 350 million.

[2018 FEI World Equestrian Games](#)

Rose Hill Mansion

Season of Lights and Bright Spirits

Hello Tony,

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

Here, you'll find a Road trip that showcases one of the Carolinas' favorite small cities – always a good time to be had in Greenville, SC.

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 most memorable times in out-of-the-way burls, villes, boros and dales.

Today, we also invite you to stroll around our new CarolinaLiving.com website. Thousands of hours in the making, our goal – always – to assist in your research for wonderful destinations, new hometowns, and retirement opportunities. We'd love your feedback!

You can't simply decide to drive to [Rose Hill Mansion](#) for a visit.

This 1850s fully-restored Victorian beauty is a private home which is located within the gated community of Rose Hill Plantation, in Bluffton, SC. Reservations are required.

Before you plan your trip, here are a few tips. Tour guides are knowledgeable and entertaining, and although you can't take photos during the tour, it is permissible afterwards. You may also sit on some of the furniture (ask first), and enjoy the magnificent front porch before you leave.

A glass of wine is available before your tour, and special Lowcountry treats are offered before you leave, made by the much-loved Miss Pat, who is writing a cookbook, as we speak.

While there, take a quick look at the foyer bathroom, near the front stairs (an architectural marvel and thing of beauty). According to owner Robin White, the toilet surround had been a fixture within a 19th Century church. The sink is built into a gothic piece of furniture and there are stained glass windows, adding to the appeal. One of her favorite pieces is a gothic clock, but she is also very fond of the card table on display in the entry hall, which was the first original family treasure to come home to Rose Hill.

The Whites met the descendants of the original 19th Century Kirk family (owners) back in 2006, through a connection at their local historic society. They became good friends and the family has given a number of historic items now on display.

Be sure to stop in at the gift shop for treasures including fresh baked goodies - sweet potato pie or bread pudding perhaps.

The Rose Hill Mansion is also available for weddings & corporate event rentals, as well as private scheduled group tours & luncheons. The carriage house, connected to the mansion, can additionally be rented nightly or by the week.

Tickets: \$25.00 per person; \$5.00 for children age 6-12 (accompanied by adult)

No children under 6 years old; Luncheon Tours and Group Private Tours are also available.

Learn more about [Bluffton](#).

Beautifully Dressed

Leyla & Patrick Mason

Co-Founders

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Living *Showcasing Carolina Life
& Adventures*

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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.

Carolina Cuisine

Sometimes, you just don't want another piece of pie or cake.

Sometimes, you want a sweet taste to end a meal without weighing you down. Pears are a favorite with our family and this recipe, from Abingdon Manor, in the small SC town of Latta, fits the bill perfectly.

Poached Pears with Amaretti Cream.

Substantial enough, yet flavorful and great this time of year. Try it this weekend. (The Amaretti Cream is good enough to eat all by itself, but trust us, the pears make it even better. Now, if there's any left over, and you happen to be awake in the middle of the night, nobody will blame you for enjoying a tablespoon, in front of the open fridge.)

CUT! Costume and the Cinema

On view November 18, 2016 – February 19, 2017

This exquisite exciting exhibition includes 43 period costumes from 26 modern films, depicting five centuries of history, drama, and comedy. An experience like no other awaits visitors as they discover the glamour and artistry of cinematic couture, delight in sumptuous fabrics and unparalleled embroidery, and bask in the allure of famous film stars. The amazing costumes in this exhibition come from a collection of more than 100,000 costumes and accessories made by the renowned British costumer, Cosprop Ltd. More columbiamuseum.org.

Carolina Home Grown

The Good, Bad and Beautiful!

by Robert Polomski

The New Guide is here!

Filled with great new adventures and six amazing fresh adventures that will inspire memories for you and the little ones you love. Kazoo factory tours?

An appealing lighthouse? What's new at the zoo? Marbles Kids Museum? And for adults only, wine tasting at Shelton Vineyards in North Carolina's Yadkin Valley, or a Chef's Table Culinary Tour in Greenville, SC.

[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.

Facebook

*Where are your
favorite holiday
light displays?*

Take a look and [discover 12 great ones](#) in SC

Share your favorite drive or walk through experience with us on [Facebook](#).

Next issue - Great Carolina New Year's Eve Celebrations.

Heading your way

For fall color, sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*) is hard to beat. Its glossy green star-shaped leaves turn fiery shades of red, orange, yellow, and purple in the fall. This large tough tree is capable of growing 60 to 100 feet high with a spread of 30 to 70 feet, which makes it well-suited for parks, campuses, or residential areas.

Have I told you that it has a naturally strong branch architecture? Did you know that in the animated adventure film, *The Land Before Time*, the treestars consumed by Littlefoot and his clan were sweetgum leaves? (Maybe not, but I convinced my young children.)

Are you sold on sweetgum yet?

I think I forgot one more important drawback that could be a deal-breaker: sweetgum produces a multitude of prickly miniature prickly seed balls that resemble mace-like gumballs.

The "gumballs" mature in the fall when the winged seeds escape from openings in each capsule and are dispersed by the wind. Some seeds escape and germinate in the Spring, but others fall prey to finches, squirrels, and other animals. After releasing their seeds the gumballs drop to the ground where they lie in wait for people's unsuspecting bare feet or other tender body parts.

Although gumballs can be a painful nuisance as well as harmful projectiles when launched from the chute of a rotary lawn mower, Guy Sternberg and Jim Wilson, authors of *Native Trees for North American Landscape* (Timber Press, 2004), recommend using gumballs as a mulch in planting beds to deter cats from using them as outdoor litter boxes.

A more permanent solution, however, is to replace your existing trees with a fruitless sweetgum cultivar called 'Rotundiloba.' Fruitless or roundleaf sweetgum has leaves with rounded lobes and a fall color that ranges from a bland yellow to purple. While this fruitless cultivar is not as bold and bodacious as a species of free-range sweetgum, it is free of gumballs, which will make you and your cats happy.

OTHER CAROLINA GROWN PLANTS

Visit your favorite garden center or nursery now when the figs are fruiting. Let your palette decide which variety deserves to be in your landscape.

Learn more about Carolina gardening from Dr. Polomski's new book, [Carolinas Month by Month Gardening](#). Available wherever books are sold.

Photos: Dr. Robert Polomski

Ho, Ho, Ho!

- Let's Take a **Road Trip!**
- Carolina Famous Faces
- Insider Attractions
- **Adventures**

Plan to visit Gaston Country, North Carolina, in the late fall, when you'll want to go to Christmas Town USA, in McAdenville. From December 1-December 26, hundreds of thousands of twinkling lights sparkle and 300,000 vehicles arrive to see the show. This is one spectacular lead-in to the holidays, and it's just a hop, skip and a jump from Charlotte.

The route is 1.3 miles long and lots of folks enjoy walking along the sidewalks past the beautiful private homes and decorations. Others enjoy piling the family into the car and driving through town (easily accessible from I-85.) The area is quite congested on weekends, so plan your visit on a week night, if possible. No cost to visit!

[Christmas Town.](#)

Learn more about [Gaston County.](#)

St. James Plantation

Be Their Guest. Live like the locals do. Fall in love.

During your visit, you'll enjoy three days & two nights' accommodations, a round of golf for two or two \$25.00 dinner certificates (one time use only), VIP club access to all of their amenities and an exclusive real estate tour of the community.

Just wait until you see this amazing community, near Southport, North Carolina.

Info: [St. James Plantation](#)

Save 15% if ordered before December 15

Champions of Civil and Human Rights in South Carolina

Volume 1: Dawn of the Movement Era, 1955-1967

Edited by Marvin Ira Lare

This five-volume anthology spans the decades from 1930 to 1980 with oral history interviews of key activists and leaders of the civil rights movement in South Carolina. Editor Marvin Ira Lare introduces more than one hundred civil rights leaders from South Carolina who tell their own stories in their own words to reveal and chronicle a massive revolution in American society in a deeply personal and

gripping way. Forthcoming in December, 464 pages, 59 b&w illus.
[Learn more.](#)

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