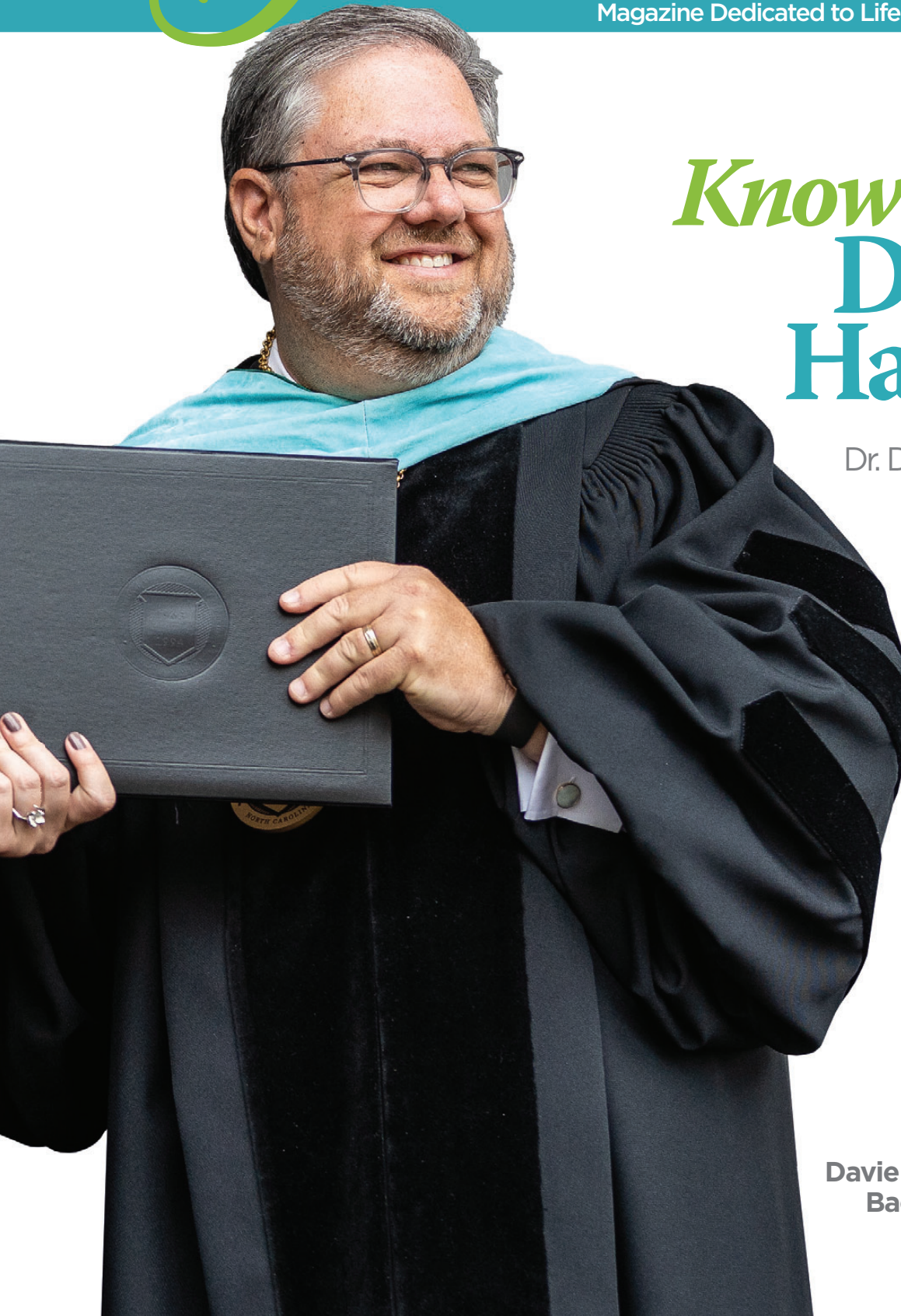


DavieLiFE

AUGUST 2023
VOL 13 NO 3

Magazine Dedicated to Life in Davie County



Knowing **Darrin Hartness**

Dr. Darrin L. Hartness

1969 — 2023

**Davie County Schools Special
Back-to-School Section**
Pages 37-40

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Wendy Horne,
Editor/Publisher
of *DavieLiFE*

DavieLiFE

There are times in our life when we cross paths with individuals who leave deep marks on ourselves, other individuals, and sometimes, a whole community at large. In my life, Darrin Hartness was an individual that I can say checked all of those boxes.

I had the privilege of meeting Darrin, his wife, Lisa, and daughters Madi and Molly when they moved to Davie County where he would begin the next phase of his career as Superintendent of Davie County Schools (DCS). I look back on that day and remember it well. It was our first time meeting, they were newly moved into their home off of Sain Road and we were shooting the cover for the Back-to-School issue of *DavieLiFE* where he would be introduced to the community. I knew then that he would be a great fit and I could tell that his family would be an asset to Davie County as well.

Little did I know that I would have the opportunity to work with Darrin at a different level when I joined the Board of Education in 2012. New in that role, I was grateful to have someone like Darrin who was a natural leader. I witnessed him deal with issues that not many people would have been able to handle with calmness and grace. He was smart, but more importantly, he was wise and in my mind — I considered him to be a visionary.

When Darrin left DCS, we were disappointed to say the least, but also excited to know that a man of his caliber was taking the step to lead our local community college. Again, he was a natural leader and there was never any doubt that he was the man for the job. Fast forward a few years, and the news of his illness hit the community like a punch to the gut.

Throughout his illness, I had little contact with Darrin. I stayed up-to-date through people who were close to the family, texted him on occasion, visited in the early stages. I also followed his CaringBridge (CaringBridge.org/visit/darrinhartness) — always anxious for a new update that would hopefully shed good news. Unfortunately, the health news wasn't what we had hoped for from his postings, but we did glean a deeper understanding of Darrin as a man. His words were eloquent but also shared what he was most committed to and that was his faith and his family.

This special issue is dedicated to Darrin and I wanted to allow our community to better know him as a husband, father, mentor, friend and colleague. Although, I know it was difficult, those who participated in putting this together painted the picture of the exemplary man he was, but also the man he will be long remembered for.

As I mentioned, sometimes we meet people in our lives who leave deep marks. I had the honor and privilege of meeting and **knowing Darrin Hartness**..... I consider myself to be very, very lucky.





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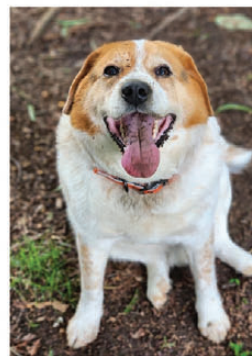
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9/16 12 - 4 pm

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Purchase tickets and learn more at hsdavie.org



Barktoberfest

10/16/22 12pm - 5pm

Join us at The Station in downtown Mocksville for a handmade market for dogs and their people! There will be vendors, music, food, a pet costume contest, and activities.



Paws in the Park

11/13 & 11/14 5:30 - 9 pm

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- **Purchase** HSDC merch at Bonfire.com/hsdcadopt
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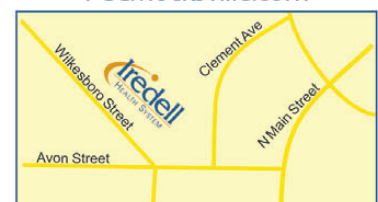
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CHALLENGES WITH THE MINDSET SHIFT:

A Common Experience for Retirees



BY MIKE MCGILVARY, AIF®,
FINANCIAL ADVISOR

Our office has the privilege of not only managing client assets, but coaching folks through life milestones. I personally have met with a few clients recently that have been experiencing what we call, “challenges with the mindset shift.”

Most investors we work with invest 30 plus years to accumulate and build their family's net worth. One of the most enjoyable aspects of our job is to help folks understand when they can retire with a high degree of probability based on their nest egg and spending habits.

However, a common occurrence we see with many clients after this great life-achievement, is learning how to spend their hard-earned investment portfolio. Below are the considerations we walk through with our clients to educate on this topic:

1. Understanding “Sustainable Withdraw Rate”

Looking at a client's liquid net-worth and other income sources come in to play here. For instance, a retired couple may have \$1 million worth of investment accounts with us and spend \$30k a year off the accounts including taxes due. If you perform the quick math, they are spending 3% of their nest egg with us. We help folks understand, based on this spending rate how long could the dollars last.

2. Software Stress-Testing with Increased Living Expense Spending

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The financial planning process contains many variables, but these are two important topics we want to help investors learn more about. Investor education is at the forefront of our process and we hope to add value when possible!

The information provided here is for general information only and should not be considered an individualized recommendation or personalized investment advice. The investment strategies mentioned here may not be suitable for everyone. Each investor needs to review an investment strategy for his or her own particular situation before making any investment decision.

All investing involves risk including loss of principal. No strategy assures success or protects against loss.

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First United Methodist Church in Mocksville will bring the Sprinkle Preaching Mission to the community starting Sunday, September 10 through Tuesday evening, September 12. The Sprinkle Preaching Mission is in its 43rd year in 2023, with Rev. Dr. James A. Harnish as this year’s honored Guest Speaker.

Rev. Dr. Harnish retired after 43 years of pastoral ministry in Florida. He is widely recognized as a preacher and writer. Jim is also a facilitator for the Institute of Preaching and the author of more than 20 books and Bible studies. He was a Consulting Editor for “The New Interpreter’s Dictionary of the Bible” and a contributor to “The Wesley Study Bible.”

The theme of the messages for this year’s Sprinkle Preaching Mission will be “Finding Your Bearings,” from Jim’s book of the same name. We will hear about times Jesus found His bearings by recalling words and stories from the Old Testament. By connecting Jesus’ story with your own, you can find your bearings as you walk the way Jesus walked in the way that Jesus walked it, the way that leads to life.

Services start on Sunday, September 10 with two morning services, 8:45 a.m. and 10:55 a.m. The evening services continue from Sunday through Tuesday beginning with a Hymn Sing at 6:45 p.m. and the service starting at 7 p.m. There will be special music at each service led by Lou Wilson, with organist Tommy Dunn, and other special musical guests each evening. Pre-School Childcare will be provided for each service. All are welcome and invited to attend. We will have a Hands-On Mission project each night for those who want to come at 6:15 p.m. and help pack “mission bags” with hygiene kits for those in need. And all donations received during the Sprinkle Preaching

CONTINUED ON PAGE 60

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AUTHOR & RETIRED PASTOR

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2023 Christmas
Late Sept - Begin signing up sponsors
Dec 8 (8 a.m. - 5 p.m.)
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Dec 14 (10 a.m. - 2 p.m.) Clients pick up gifts

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A Victory Worth Sharing



The starting line-up is positioned for a win on behalf of Special Olympics Davie County (SODC). Kintegra with its mobile medical van and physician, Davie County Schools with excited students and staff from Student Services, and, Davie County Department of Health and Human Services (DC DHHS) with its leadership. With a little extra fuel from parents and guardians, the finish line is in sight.

Together, the team is hopeful to overcome a barrier in the 2023-2024 school year to achieve shared success: obtaining physicals from eligible students so they can participate in SODC school-based programming.

The mission of Special Olympics is to provide year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for children and adults with intellectual disabilities, giving them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy and participate in the sharing of gifts, skills and friendship with their families, other Special Olympics athletes and the community.

Locally, SODC receives direction from Special Olympics North Carolina (SONC). It is supported through Davie County Recreation and Parks and physically located at the Brock Center, 644 N. Main Street, Mocksville, 27028. The program serves individuals with intellectual disabilities in the Young Athlete's Program, ages 3 to 7, and in traditional programming starting at the age of 8. An individual may participate in SODC throughout their lifespan. There is no maximum age limit and participation is free.

SODC provides programming through Davie County Schools and the community-at-large. Through the schools, this occurs

three times per year with a Basketball Skills Competition, Bowling Competition and Track and Field Spring Games. SODC also offers a variety of extracurricular sports and social opportunities. Some of the sports include cheerleading, tennis, soccer, bocce, bowling, golf, roller skating, corn hole and track and field.

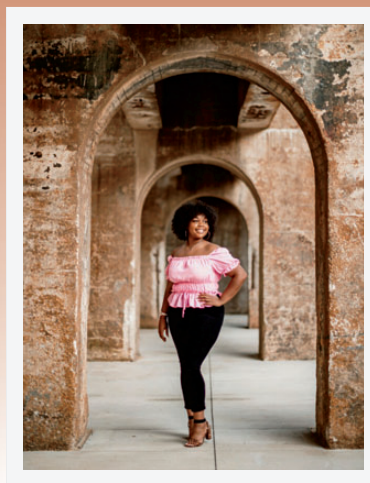
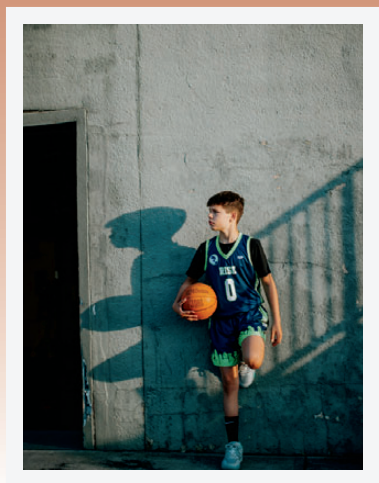
However, involvement in any of the opportunities is contingent on the completion of an Athlete Participation Packet (APP) per SONC guidelines. Parents/guardians are required to complete pages 1 to 4 of the packet. A doctor, Nurse Practitioner or Physician's Assistant is required to complete page 5. This packet must be completed fully or else an athlete cannot participate in school-based or extracurricular activities. Once completed, the packets are valid for three years. Last year, SODC was not able to offer full-scale programming in Davie County Schools due to only a small percentage of APP packets being submitted for students.

Hearing the call for help and hoping to avoid a similar outcome in the 2023-2024 school year, DC DHHS connected SODC with Kintegra, which already serves as a co-located community partner for public health services in Davie County. Kintegra offered to provide a physician and mobile medical van to bring the process of sports physicals onsite at schools. Once that piece was put into place, staff at Student Services at Davie County Schools identified ways to support students in connecting to the clinics. The outcome is SODC's first ever planned MedFest that is scheduled to occur on Fridays in October as long as parents and guardians complete the required paperwork in preparation of the mobile clinics.

With the submission of the majority of physicals, SODC and Davie County Schools will be able to start planning for the return of programming in 2024 — a victory worth sharing!

If you want more information on volunteering or involving an individual in programming, please email davie@sonc.net or call **336-934-5809**.

A Picture Is Worth A Thousand Words



They say that time's a thief, and as you scroll through your camera roll on your phone, you'll likely start to understand exactly what that means. One way, and perhaps the only way, that you can stop a moment in time is through a photograph. There's no other way to capture that exact moment in your life and hold onto it forever.

Jessica Barney is one person in particular who understands the importance of capturing life's most special moments through a camera lens. Jessica is a Davie County native, wife, mother of two young boys and founder of Jessica Marie Photography.

She founded Jessica Marie Photography in 2006 but has been a professional photographer for twenty years. After years of building her portfolio and finding her niche, she has fallen in love with lifestyle family pictures.

"I found my love for family pictures through motherhood," she said. "When I had my children that really changed how I was able to interact with a family. I was good at it before but the actual client interaction changed. Now, I can relate. I am able to be in that mom's shoes and help her out with suggestions, poses and ideas that are good for different ages of kids."

Jessica's style of photography is not for everyone she says but it has been the realization that family photos don't have to be perfect that has instilled this passion.

"We roll with the punches, we have fun, we tuck and roll, we play in the dirt, we are constantly moving. It's happy, playful and photography that captures real life."

But her talents and expertise do not stop at family portraits, Jessica also shoots back-to-school sessions, senior portraits, engagement and wedding photography, boudoir, as well as professional real estate photos and headshots.

Her passion for capturing authenticity in a photo spans every stage of life.

She recalls clients who she has worked with on milestone moments including senior pictures, their proposal, engagement, and wedding and finally a newborn photo session. "I get to work with people in their happiest moments," she said.

However, none of this would be possible without the support of her community. "Community support is the backbone of my business." As a Davie County native, Jessica has close personal ties with family and friends that go all the way back to high school in this area. "The class of 2003 just had their reunion last week, but I get to have a reunion every time I have a photoshoot," she said.

So whether she's capturing a lifelong friend's family portraits, a new clients' wedding, or local business owner's new headshot and business photos, Jessica is helping her clients to pause and hold onto these moments in ways that can last a lifetime.

Time is a thief, but it doesn't have to take away the memories of life's most precious moments.

SEE HER AD
ON PAGE 32

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A Unified Effort

to Raise Awareness of Domestic Violence



SEE THEIR AD
ON PAGE 66

According to the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, 1 in 4 women and 1 in 9 men experience severe intimate partner physical violence. In fact, on any typical day, there are more than 20,000 phone calls placed to domestic violence hotlines nationwide.

Domestic Violence Awareness month is recognized every **October** and as part of this month, the Davie Center for Violence Prevention is hosting two days of training and education for the community.

The event will take place on **October 24th and 26th** from **10 a.m. to 4 p.m.** at 132 Government Center Drive. At the event, guest speaker, Mike Mertz, will cover topics covering a variety of aspects of domestic violence and sexual assault. The same information will be presented on both days so you have two opportunities to attend this impactful and important event. The event is free and open to the public but registration is required no later than October 1st.

Events like this are happening in an effort to bring more awareness to the community and provide resources to those who are victims and survivors of domestic violence and/or sexual assault.

A task force was formed nearly a year and a half ago comprising of individuals from different organizations across the county

such as the Sheriff's Department, Davie County's Department of Social Services, The Dragonfly House, Davie County Health Department and others.

This task force meets quarterly and focuses on bringing awareness about domestic violence and sexual assault to the community. "We are trying to do more outreach and keep the conversation going about it here in the community," Brandi Patti, Assistant Director for the Davie Center for Violence Prevention said.

This task force is just one example of how different organizations within the community are coming together, sharing information and resources and working together to help train and educate on these important topics.

"Domestic violence is everywhere," Brandi said. "It's not just in one zip code and it really is a public health issue. This won't be solved overnight and we can't do it alone. It really does fall on the community to make an impact and help victims and survivors of domestic violence."

Whether you're a staff member or volunteer at one of the organizations who support victims and survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence or if you are a community member who is interested in learning more about these topics and broadening your awareness, this event is a great opportunity for you.

If you have any questions about the event or resources for domestic violence and sexual assault victims and survivors, you can contact Brandi Patti at bpatti@daviecountync.gov.

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Davie Respect Initiative played a role in Davie County receiving the recognition of All-America County.

Davie Respect Initiative Gets

National Exposure

The Davie Respect Initiative (DRI) is a program created to encourage and highlight Respect Projects or Ideas initiated by young adults to make a positive difference in Davie County.

2023 has been an amazing year for DRI! Some highlights:

- **Davie Respect Initiative** along with the **S.U.R.F Board Grantmakers**, **IGNITE DAVIE** and **Davie Works** participated in the prestigious "All-America" competition, on behalf of Davie County.
- Ambassadors of Respect, Sean Lane, Macey Smith, Ellie Prillaman, Sylas Johnson, and Journey Bowman traveled to Denver with the Davie County delegation and Davie County was awarded the All-American designation by the National Civic League.
- Since Covid, potential DRI awardees have been interviewed via Zoom. Based on the recommendation of the six volunteer selection panelists, all interviews are now being conducted in person. This was done for the second quarter interviews and proved to be very effective.
- A new focus on project implementation, which is really working!
- The January Celebration awarded four new Ambassadors — all from Middle School! Congratulations to Sylas Johnson, Scarlett Brock, Grace Goodman, and Ryann Davis.
- DRI enjoyed a social afternoon with the Ambassadors at the Station! The company and the ice cream were great!
- The National Civic League newsletter featured the Davie Respect Initiative in its monthly newsletter!
- Finally a special goodbye to Savannah Ivey as she heads off to Appalachian State. Savannah has been a big asset to DRI, serving on the panel for two years, creating a "brand kit" for social media and overseeing the DRI SM as well as sharing her constant enthusiasm and support!
- Congratulations to all our graduating seniors!! Madi Rogers: panelist and great writer; Madelynn Keller, line dance leader for the Impact of the Piedmont holiday parties; Jack Williams, Nick Ruff and Reagan Brooks.



SEE THEIR AD
ON PAGE 20

Let's Meet Our New 2023 Ambassadors!

(Ages are at the time of the award)



Mocksville Mayor Will Marklin recognizes Sylas Johnson, Scarlett Brock, Ryann Davis, and Grace Goodman.

Sylas Johnson (12) and Scarlett Brock (12): Encouraged by their Beta Club Advisor, Lisa Prillaman of South Middle School, Sylas Johnson and Scarlett Brock came up with the idea of reinstating Spanish language classes in elementary and middle schools. Their plan is to approach the School Board, but meanwhile, they created a Spanish Learning Club facilitated by ESL Teacher, Katie Hill. Two sessions were held before the end of the school year with approximately 30 in attendance. The hope is to break down barriers and create a welcoming culture for their fellow classmates. They plan to continue the club this school year!

Grace Goodman (14), another student from South inspired by Mrs. Prillaman. In her own words Grace describes her idea: "My idea for the respect project is to set up a "Books of Blessings Box" in the Middle schools and High school for donations of gently used books. These donated books will be sent to the local elementary schools around Davie County for teachers to use in their classroom libraries." Grace's project is a HUGE success with North and Ellis donating just over 200 books each and 332 books were collected from South Davie. Books of Blessings will continue this school year!

Ryann Davis (13), a student at Ellis Middle School has a concern about the amount of litter she is seeing in Davie County. In her words, "Davie County is a pretty small county and I feel everyone

CONTINUED ON PAGE 51



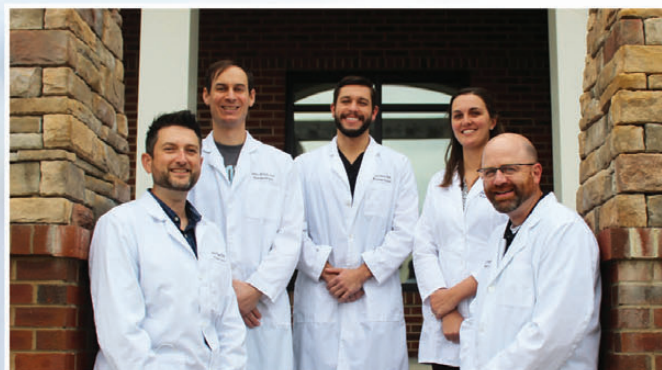
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A Look Inside the Davie County Teacher's Closet



In Davie County, we are blessed with some amazing educators who pour into our students day after day. These teachers are passionate about what they do, care for our kids and bring learning to life from preschool all the way through 12th grade.

These teachers spend their time, talents and financial resources on students to ensure that they are set up for success and have a classroom setting that is conducive for learning and creative thinking.

Sometimes, this can create a mental and financial strain on teachers. In fact, teachers spend hundreds of dollars each year out of their own pocket buying supplies for their classroom and for their students.

Whether you have children in these classrooms or not, there are ways that you can help our teachers.

Make a Difference this School Year

Empower Davie Youth has partnered with Redland Church to provide free school supplies to teachers throughout Davie County at their Teacher's Closet. Marie Helms, founder of Empower Davie Youth, said that when they were looking at ways to get involved, she saw a need for a way to reach people in every part of Davie County.

"I saw that our community has such a big giving spirit, but didn't see one place where we could come together from one end of the community to the other."

Now, the Teacher's Closet is meeting that need for educators all throughout the county. Filling between five to fifteen orders a week, teachers are able to get the supplies they need for free.

How Teachers Can Utilize the Teacher's Closet

The Teacher's Closet has over 40 items stocked that teachers can choose from and order for their classrooms. "If teachers need it, we hope to be able to fill it for them," Marie explained.

To place an order for supplies, teachers can go to **DavieCountyTeachersCloset.com** and order whatever they need. As you're placing your order, you will be asked for your name and school.

A staff member or volunteer from Empower Davie Youth or Redland Church will receive your order via email and 'shop' at the Teacher's Closet for you. Each week these volunteers pack your supplies and deliver it directly to your school and classroom. You never have to go anywhere or do anything more than make a few clicks!

What's Needed

This Teacher's Closet wouldn't exist or serve its purpose if not for the support and donations from community members. "All of our supplies are donated and we work diligently with community members and businesses to keep supplies coming in year round. Keeping the shelves stocked is a challenge, but people see what an impact 100% of their donation makes directly to the students and teachers in our community, and more and more people keep showing up for us," Marie said.

Some of the most frequently needed supplies include Anchor Chart Paper, Expo markers, construction paper, highlighters, scissors, markers, glue sticks, composition notebooks, Kleenex, Lysol wipes and other basic school supplies needs.

Another frequently needed donation but one that might not come to mind are snacks and drinks for students who may not be able to bring their own food to school.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 48

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Welcome Back

Welcome to a new school year! Summer came and went and now here we are back in school. On behalf of all of **Davie County Young Life**, I want to welcome you to a new year. With the new year comes a slew of highs and lows. New friends, clubs, teachers, and experiences bring with it new pressure, anxiety, and fear. As a parent, you are experiencing all these same highs and lows with your kids too — will they be safe? Will they fit in? Will someone see them and love them? Will they be successful?

In his first letter to the church, Peter encourages the readers to throw all their worries, anxieties, nerves, and fears on Jesus because Jesus is the only one who truly cares for us. (1 Peter 5:7) All of the highs and lows are going to come; that's life whether we like it or not. But God invites us to let Him walk with us through it. **With God on your side, nothing can come at you.** As you embark on a new journey into an unknown year, embrace all of it, the highs and the lows. Let God carry it with you.

Part of Young Life's ministry is to come alongside you, too. As the new year begins, Young Life leaders all over the world are preparing to show up in the lives of kids to meet them wherever they are. This is especially true here in Davie County. Young Life leaders can be seen at the school hanging out with kids during lunch, cheering on the War Eagles at games, and being present basically anywhere else you can think of. In addition to meeting kids where they're at, we offer events every Monday night. Club and campaigners will be kicking off on September 11th at 7:27 p.m. at the farm (261 Whippoorwill Road, Mocksville). If you have any questions, reach out to a leader, or email tjsigler7@gmail.com and I'll be happy to talk!

If you've ever wondered how you can support Young Life financially, I'd love to personally invite you to our 11th Annual Young Life Banquet. We cannot continue to do what we do every day without the generous support of the community. Feel free to contact me with any questions.

I am praying for you as we all start this new adventure! Parent or student, I'm with you. I cannot wait to see what God has in store for us! Let's roll!

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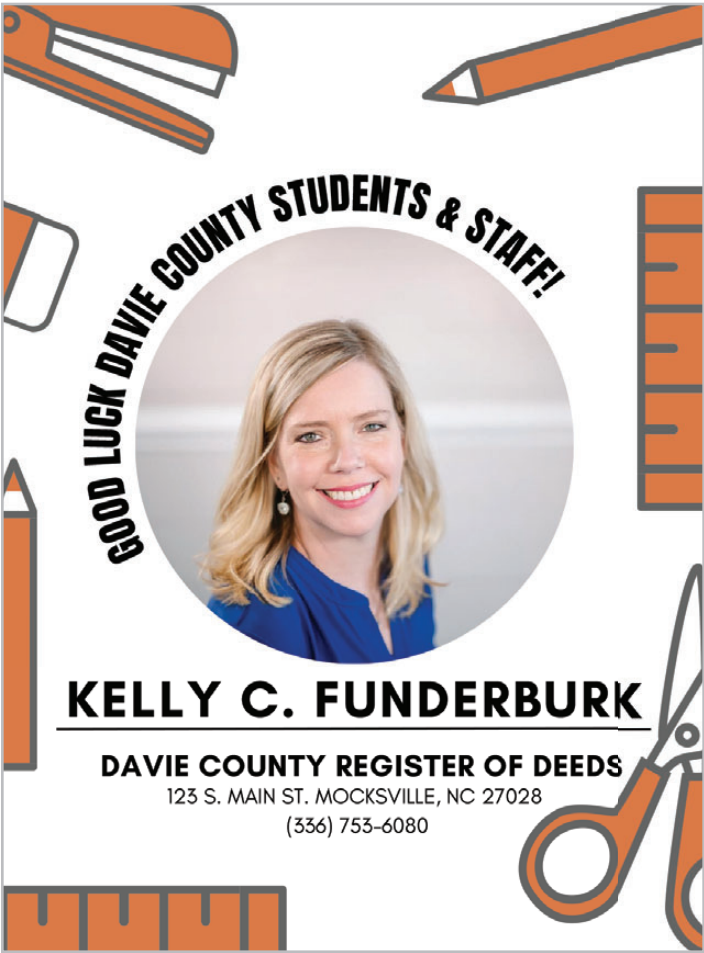




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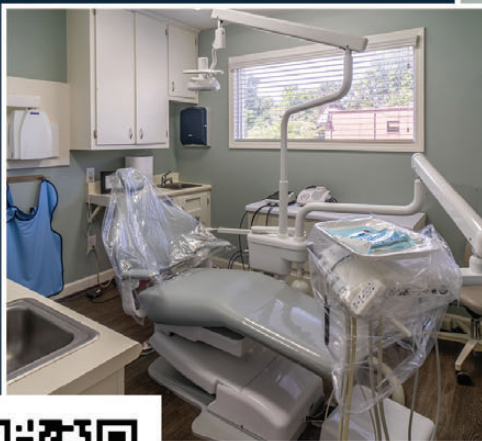


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Sometimes, we'll get asked "why do you have a Nintendo Switch?" Our answer is "because patrons seemed to want one." And it's true.

Davie County Public Library's Nintendo Switch console debuted in June with a starting lineup of eight controllers and five games: Mario Kart 8 Deluxe, Super Smash Bros. Ultimate, Nintendo Switch Sports, Minecraft, and Mario Party Superstars, all available for use inside the library.

The response to the Nintendo Switch has been overwhelmingly positive. Teenagers may practice their bowling on Switch Sports while waiting for younger siblings to be done with Storytime. Groups of friends may get together in the afternoon to play a racing tournament in Mario Kart. There seems to be a particular enthusiasm for the Switch, far outpacing the feedback from the library's 2019 Xbox system.

At the library, the staff are delighted that people are so pleased by our new addition. Perhaps it is a truth so self-evident that we take it for granted, but the **library is here for the community**. We strive to make sure that we have materials for every patron, whether it's a book, a movie, or a video game.

Of course, our library offers more than just physical materials. We host dozens of monthly programs for all age groups — from Storytime for pre-K and elementary students to Crafternoon events for adults and seniors. We offer technology assistance appointments, and staff members can give you information about how your library card can get materials from all across

North Carolina. We have also broadened the services we offer, such as now providing free notary services.

The Switch falls into this philosophy of non-tangible offerings. The library aims to be a place where people can come together, hang out, and make space for community. We offer reservable rooms for whatever you need, be it a quiet place to study or a space for a D&D campaign.

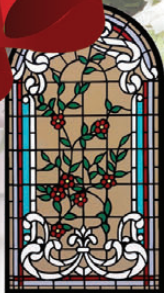
Davie County Public Library is happy to provide all these materials and services at no cost. All of these services are free to you! It's important to the library that our collections be as accessible as possible to as many as possible, so that we truly live up to our commitment to the community.

In return, we continue to be grateful that so many patrons have been showing up to our events and using our resources. We can only be here with patron support. The community's use of our resources determines what we invest in, what we grow, and what we phase out. That's why we ask that if you love your library, use it! Even just coming inside for a while demonstrates that our presence in the community is important.

If there are materials or resources that you feel that the library needs, never be afraid to ask a staff member about it. We can take patron requests for new materials, and we are always adjusting our programs from patron feedback.

We are here to meet the people's needs wherever we can... and hopefully some of the people's wants, too. The Davie County Public Library is so pleased that our new Nintendo Switch seems to be filling that niche perfectly.

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A photograph of a middle-aged man with glasses, wearing a grey zip-up jacket and tan pants, sitting on a brick step. A large, fluffy, light-brown dog is sitting in front of him. To the left of the man is a large pile of straw and several pumpkins. The background is a wooden door with glass panes set in a brick wall. A teal vertical bar is on the right side of the image, containing text.

Knowing Darrin Hartness

Many people in this community had the honor of knowing Darrin Hartness. Many knew him as an educator. Some knew him as an active member of the community, always looking for ways to serve and make Davie County a better place. Some were fortunate enough to call him a friend.

In this special feature, DavieLiFE would like to pay tribute to Darrin, but also share a side of him with our readers that few had the privilege of knowing. We are sharing this special section, Knowing Darrin Hartness, that is a culmination of writings from his family, close friends and colleagues. We believe you will walk away understanding why Darrin's loss is truly that — a loss. However, our greatest hope is that you would walk away with an even greater understanding — the understanding that Darrin Hartness was a remarkable man.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 34

In the Words of Lisa Hartness, Darrin's Wife

Approximately ten million people die from cancer each year in the world. My "world" became part of that number on July 11, 2023. It was the day that I felt as if I died as well. The purpose of a marriage covenant is bringing two people together to act as one person for as many years of our lives as God allows. The better part of me has gone to live in Heaven, and what a joy he brought to my life!

The cliché "better half" was exactly Darrin for me. We married young at ages 19 and 20, lived in married housing together at Appalachian State University, and had an absolute blast building a family. He was the calm, even-tempered one, who did anything he could to make us, his family, happy.

Darrin was giving and self-sacrificing. His first superintendent position was exactly what he had been searching for, and he was extremely happy and making great strides in that role. But, his girls were unhappy, and had been the whole three years we lived in that particular community. Darrin saw this, sacrificed his satisfaction with his job, prayed, and sought employment elsewhere. That is how we ended up in Davie County.

Our plan for raising our girls was that I, primarily, be a stay-at-home mom. I struggled with that at times due to not contributing financially and, quite honestly, because of societal stigma. He always supported and encouraged me. I was frugal. As we shopped together, there were many times that he knew I liked something and I would not purchase it, but all of a sudden, it would appear at our house! Once, I came home to find a new comforter on the bed...one that he had seen me admiring, so he bought it, brought it home, and made the bed with it to surprise me.

Later on in his career, he received a bonus and walked in the house with a precious love/thank you note to me and a bank envelope with ten, one hundred dollar bills in it,



explaining that he sure appreciated my "work," and requesting that I spend the money on myself.

He always talked about making more deposits than withdrawals in life. He was humble. Many times, Darrin would quietly pay for others' meals at a restaurant...folks we did not even know. He would just say that God laid it on his heart to do so.

We have a 97-year-old friend who lives alone in Clemmons. She had been a neighbor in one of our former communities and moved to Clemmons just prior to us moving to Davie. She is a widow with hardly any family members. We "adopted" her as ours. Darrin helped her, loved her, and sat by her bedside in the hospital as she was ill on Father's Day 2022. She constantly points us to Jesus. He was supposed to have been the one to speak at her funeral in the future.

He was extremely selfless, and one such time that was evidently displayed was when he bought me a goldendoodle puppy for my 50th birthday, even though he was not a huge dog lover and we had never kept a dog inside, I think God was thinking of the future when he put that gift idea in Darrin's heart. He never allowed Bonnie, now three years old, to sleep in the bed with us; I imagine he would not be too thrilled to learn that she began sleeping in our bed on the very night Darrin passed at home, on the side where he slept.

Darrin's positivity and calm demeanor was a treasure to everyone he knew. Through any circumstance, he always saw the best in the situation and was so even keel. During his illness, he always said, "I am thankful, and God has a plan." Posthumously, we continue

to see these qualities being demonstrated as some of his last requests were that no family or friends speak at his funeral because it would be too hard for them, and as he requested we donate his body to medical research at Wake Forest University School of Medicine. As many contributions to his requested organizations come in, it makes me smile to see him continuing to serve and benefit others.

Darrin loved to share his coming-to-faith story about how he told his mom that he was ready to accept Jesus as his Savior at age seven. His mom called Pastor Barnes to their mobile home. The pastor explained the plan of salvation to Darrin, and he recalls how he knelt down in their home and prayed together. Pastor Barnes gave Darrin a little yellow card commemorating that date that he has always carried in his wallet.

As my best friend was sick for 7 months, he quoted Isaiah 43:1-3, personalizing it, almost daily. One of my friends, a colleague of his, had given me a daily Scriptural/inspirational calendar.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 34

Imagine my surprise when that exact Scripture was the verse of the day on the day that he passed.

My first “first” without him was our 34th wedding anniversary on August 5th. Our initial movie theater experience together was “Dirty Dancing.” Darrin did not fail to wish me a Happy Anniversary from Heaven as I got in the car on that day and out of all of the songs in the world, the one that blasted from the radio as I cranked the vehicle was “I’ve Had the Time of My Life.”

The One with whom Darrin is now with forever continues to bless our family through His peace and comfort. Yes, it is extremely hard...my darkest valley ever...I will see my “world,” my best friend, again one day. To God be the glory.

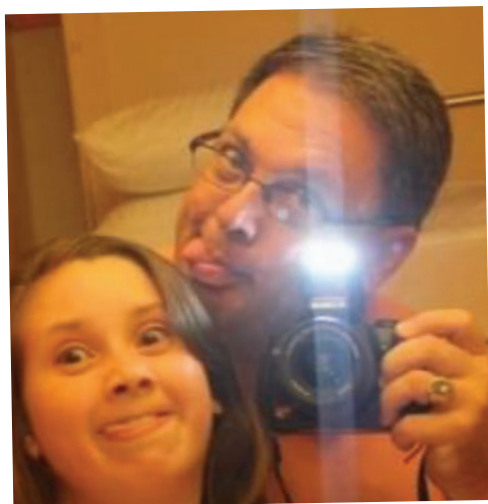
In the Words of Molly (Hartness) Scarbrough, Darrin’s Daughter

I was sitting in our living room in Kings Mountain, NC as an 8-year-old. My dad had just broken the news: he was no longer going to be the principal at my elementary school. He was moving into the role of assistant superintendent in our county — a great and celebratory transition — but to my naive and sensitive mind, I only heard the news that he was no longer going to be at MY school every day. My little heart was broken.

I immediately raced to my bedroom, dramatically sprawled out on the bed, and began sobbing. I truly couldn’t comprehend that this wouldn’t really be much of a change at all; I would still

see him every day and spend tons of time with him.

I was just distraught that he was “leaving me!” After giving me a bit of time alone, Dad came in my room, let me rest my head on his chest, and simply held and consoled me as I cried. Of all the things he was good at (and there were many), that was my favorite of his talents to this day. He was the BEST comforter.



Maybe that was one reason I was so upset about his transition out of my school — I didn’t want to miss out on one moment of experiencing his incredible attributes. These beautiful characteristics only got stronger over the course of the years following that day.

Dad was extraordinarily caring and thoughtful. One of my latest memories of him occurred just a few months before he was diagnosed with cancer. I had mentioned that I had a cold, and Dad was passing through my area after he had been traveling for work. He called and asked if he could run by my house — he had chicken noodle soup and a hug for me. This was not uncommon at all; Dad constantly exemplified his love through an “I am so proud of you” text, a little treat he picked up on the way home, or taking care of my needs and wants before I was even aware of them.

Dad was goofy and always made us laugh. My earliest memories include him telling Madi and me that he would give us a quarter to lick the bar of soap while we were in the bathtub. He made stupid jokes and embarrassed us continually in public.

I was reluctantly awakened for school many days by the “pull dozer,” a tactic in which Dad would flip the light on, grasp my feet, and comically pull my body out of the bed, along with the covers. As visions of childhood flood my brain, I picture my dad making ridiculously silly faces and beaming with delight as we rolled our eyes and giggled at his witty sayings.

Dad was full of patience and grace. When I was moving my belongings out of my college apartment, Dad and I traveled in his truck to Charlotte one afternoon to grab more of my belongings. We happily listened to music and chatted during the hour-long trek there. When we arrived, I quickly realized that I forgot to bring my key. So, we simply turned right back around and went home without accomplishing anything. While Dad was frustrated and made fun of my scatteredness for months, the ride home was just as enjoyable as the ride there.

Dad was my biggest cheerleader and encourager, and I never doubted his love for me. He championed Madi and me in every endeavor we chose, and he equipped us with everything we needed to be successful. There were countless things that Dad did for us that he simply did not have to do — he absolutely went above and beyond as a parent, which is an illustration of his selflessness. I didn’t feel like just a kid growing up; I felt like an important member of my family.

While processing the loss of my dad, I find myself feeling a lot like my 8-year-old self that day. I am devastated that I am missing out on getting to laugh with and be loved by him as much as possible. I want him here.

But also like in that story, perhaps he is closer than I think. These days, eternity is wrapped with more hope than ever before. God’s presence is more tangible than ever before. My brain can’t comprehend that there is a much larger picture and plan than I can see right now, but I will understand one day. This life is but a vapor, and I will see my dad again soon. His legacy is alive in the many people and places he touched, and it is an exceptional honor to be his daughter.



In the Words of Madi (Hartness) Josupait, Darrin’s Daughter

As I write this, I sit on the deck of the house my Dad dreamt of building, overlooking the Blue Ridge Mountains. My parents were married young and went to college together at Appalachian State, where they lived in the “married dorms,” which I doubt still exist. Growing up, a



CONTINUED ON PAGE 36

common Saturday included riding to the mountains to experience the cool crisp air, fall leaves, windows down on the Parkway, the candy barrels at Mast General Store, shopping in Blowing Rock, and picnics by Bass Lake. After years of scoping out land or cabins for sale, Dad finally bought land and began building the house he always dreamed of. Even though my sister, Molly, and I are both independent adults now, Dad included us in his plans for the mountain house. We looked at floorplans, picked out finishes, and even had a shared Pinterest board. This is merely one example of how Dad loved and cared for “his girls” — myself, Molly, and my mom. He included us in family decisions, empowered our independence, taught us invaluable skills, and cared for us by providing what we needed and then some.

His generous, humble personality made him a wonderful “girl dad.” When we wanted our nails painted, he would get out tape and white nail polish and meticulously craft a french manicure by taping a line on each nail and painting the tip of our nails white. When we expressed interest in a hobby, he was abundantly supportive. When we took dance classes, he turned the bonus room above the garage into our own dance studio by covering an entire wall with mirrors. Molly and I love to sing, and we often gave performances in the basement when we were young. We came home one day to find a portable sound system equipped with speakers and microphones. He always encouraged us to use our voices to honor the Lord. When some of our favorite artists advertised a series of house concerts, Dad gave into our plea to host them in our home. He cleared out all of the furniture in our living and dining rooms, set up rows of chairs, and directed parking as friends, family, and strangers arrived for the concert. Now with a house of my own, I see how crazy he was to allow his daughters to host a concert in the living room, but he was encouraging our passions, and for that I’m eternally grateful.

Dad was also musically talented. He had a wonderful singing voice and played bass guitar and banjo. He had a love for bluegrass and southern gospel music. Another talent he possessed was woodworking. If there was a piece of furniture that we liked in the Pottery Barn Teen magazine, Dad would make it his mission to recreate it. Together, we built a bed for my room. Rather than passively tackling woodworking projects alone, Dad put on his educator hat and showed us how to use power tools as we worked together to build something new. He even let us pick out atrocious bright pink, blue, and purple paint colors for our bedrooms and happily painted the walls without hesitation.

Dad loved to shop. On the day after Christmas one year, he took us to Concord Mills and spent seven hours walking around the mall as we spent the gift cards that we were gifted the day prior. He showed his love in practical ways as well. On my 13th birthday, he picked me up from volleyball practice and we headed to the bank. We opened a debit card



account in my name and at the end of each month, he helped me balance my checkbook. When I spent more than I could pay on my credit card in college, he kindly took it away to teach me how to responsibly use a credit card — a lesson I’m sure my husband is grateful I was taught.

Dad was funny and had an incredible quick wit — sometimes embarrassingly so. When using his Discover credit card, he would say the company’s tagline, “it pays to Discover,” to the cashier after the purchase. If going through a McDonald’s drive-thru, he would ask if Ronald was working or request more “long biscuits,” aka breadsticks, at Olive Garden. Whether it was candy and a card on Valentine’s Day, a day date,

crying with us after a heartbreak, or cracking a joke, I never questioned Dad’s unwavering love for me.

Encapsulating the man my Dad was in a limited number of words feels daunting, but knowing how his love made me feel is easy to sum up — special, confident, capable, and unconditionally loved. Dad’s love and leadership shaped me into the adult I am today. His love for my mom exemplified how to be a loving spouse to my husband. Moving forward in life without Dad has, and will continue to be, incredibly difficult as we grieve the absence of his presence. I feel lucky to have been loved by an earthly father who did his best to exemplify our Heavenly Father. While I grieve that my Dad never got to be a grandpa here on earth, I look forward to telling my future children about their wonderful grandfather as we continue to honor his legacy and pass on his cheesy sense of humor. **I’m proud to call Darrin Hartness my Dad.**

As Shared by The Welborn Family, Close Family Friends of the Hartness Family

Three blonde girls walked across the stage beneath a screen that read, “Dr. Darrin Hartness, 1969-2023.” Their father walked behind them and strapped on a guitar. The two older girls squeezed hands briefly. After a few strums the oldest, Renna Margaret, kicked things off.

“You have led me through the fire,” she sang. “And in the darkest night you are close like no other.”

The song, “Goodness of God,” embodied the faith that carried Hartness through his battle with cancer until his death in July. His friends from the Welborn family performed at his memorial service, held at Center Grove Baptist Church in Clemmons: Renna Margaret, 14; Kate, 11; and Harper, 6; accompanied by their father, Gerald.

“They asked us to sit as part of the family,” said Renna Welborn, Gerald’s wife and the girls’ mother. “Darrin always said we were family — not ‘like’ family. ‘You are family’ is what he would say.”



welcome!



From the Superintendent

We are thrilled to welcome each and every one of you back for another exciting school year!

To the families of our kindergartners, time has a way of speeding by, so be sure to cherish every moment. For all, we encourage open lines of communication among parents, guardians, teachers, and administrators, as we believe that a strong partnership is essential for every student's success.

Our Davie County Schools team has been working hard over the summer with planning, safety preparedness, and professional growth opportunities, and we are excited to begin the learning process with your children! Attendance is vital to that learning experience. It is of utmost importance that students are present, engaged, and participating actively in our classrooms to continue the progress we experienced as we rounded out the last school year. We are confident that our students and staff will continue to overcome the challenges of the past few years and continue to grow and learn.

I invite you to stay connected with us through our website, School Matters newsletter, social media and school events. These platforms will keep you informed about crucial updates throughout the year, as well as showcase the incredible achievements of our students and DCS teammates.

Thank you for entrusting us with the privilege of educating your children. Together, we will engage, equip and empower our students toward a bright and successful future.

Let's gear up to accomplish great things!

Jeffrey D. Wallace
Sincerely,
Jeff Wallace, Superintendent

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Calendar Dates

Aug 18	Professional Day
Aug 21-26	Required Professional Days
Aug 28	First Day for Students
Sept 4	Labor Day Holiday
Sept 21	Early Release
Sept 22	Professional Day
Sept 26	End of 1st Month
Oct 12	Early Release
Oct 13	Required Professional Day, Mandated Curriculum Professional Development
Oct 25	End of 2nd Month
Oct 31	End of 1st Grading Period
Nov 1	Required Professional Day
Nov 9	Early Release
Nov 10	Veteran's Day Holiday
Nov 22	Annual Leave Day
Nov 23-24	Thanksgiving Holidays
Nov 29	End of 3rd Month
Dec 20	Early Release
Dec 21-22	Annual Leave Days
Dec 25-26	Christmas Holidays
Dec 27-29	Annual Leave Days
Jan 1	New Year's Day Holiday
Jan 2	Annual Leave Day
Jan 9	End of 4th Month
Jan 15	Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday
Jan 23	End of Semester
Jan 24	Required Professional Day
Feb 8	Early Release / End of 5th Month
Feb 19	President's Day Holiday
Mar 8	End of 6th Month
Mar 11	Required Professional Day
Mar 29	Early Release / End of 3rd Grading Period
Apr 1	Easter Holiday
Apr 2-4	Annual Leave Days
Apr 5	Break Day
Apr 15	End of 7th Month
Apr 23	Early Release
May 3	Required Professional Day
May 14	End of 8th Month
May 21	Early Release
May 27	Memorial Day Holiday
Jun 11	Early Release / Last Day for Students
Jun 12-13	Required Professional Days
Jun 14	Professional Day

MAKE UP DAYS: Administration will consider waiving the first two student days.

Approved by Board of Education, January 3, 2023



Engage. equip. empower!

2023-24 School Calendar

JULY 2023

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
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30	31					

OCTOBER 2023

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JANUARY 2024

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APRIL 2024

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28	29	30				

AUGUST 2023

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30	31					

NOVEMBER 2023

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FEBRUARY 2024

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MAY 2024

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SEPTEMBER 2023

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23	24	25	26	27	28	29
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DECEMBER 2023

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MARCH 2024

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30						

JUNE 2024

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16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

There is no school for students on days designated as holiday, annual leave, break day, required professional or professional days.

1st Quarter - 44 days | 2nd Quarter - 45 days | 3rd Quarter - 45 days | 4th Quarter 45 days



Holiday



*Professional Day (Optional per administrator's approval)



Required Professional Day



First Day for Students



Early Release



End of Grading Period



Annual Leave



End of Month



Mandated Curriculum Prof. Development

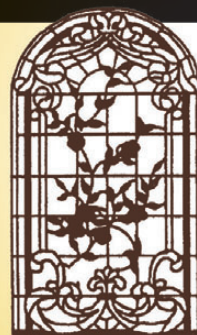


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2023-24 Early College Calendar

JULY 2023	AUGUST 2023	SEPTEMBER 2023
S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S
1	1 2 3 4 5	1 2
2 3 4 5 6 7 8	6 7 8 9 10 11 12	3 4 5 6 7 8 9
9 10 11 12 13 14 15	13 14 15 16 17 18 19	10 11 12 13 14 15 16
16 17 18 19 20 21 22	20 21 22 23 24 25 26	17 18 19 20 21 22 23
23 24 25 26 27 28 29	27 29 30 31	24 25 26 27 28 29 30
OCTOBER 2023	NOVEMBER 2023	DECEMBER 2023
S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S
1 2 3 4 5 6 7	1 2 3 4	1 2
8 9 10 11 12 13 14	5 6 7 8 9 10 11	3 4 5 6 7 8 9
15 16 17 18 19 20 21	12 13 14 15 16 17 18	10 11 12 13 14 15 16
22 23 24 25 26 27 28	19 20 21 22 23 24 25	17 18 19 20 21 22 23
29 30 31	26 27 28 29 30	24 25 26 27 28 29 30
JANUARY 2024	FEBRUARY 2024	MARCH 2024
S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S
1 2 3 4 5 6	1 2 3	1 2
7 8 9 10 11 12 13	4 5 6 7 8 9 10	3 4 5 6 7 8 9
14 15 16 17 18 19 20	11 12 13 14 15 16 17	10 11 12 13 14 15 16
21 22 23 24 25 26 27	18 19 20 21 22 23 24	17 18 19 20 21 22 23
28 29 30 31	25 26 27 28 29	24 25 26 27 28 29 30
APRIL 2024	MAY 2024	JUNE 2024
S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S
1 2 3 4 5 6	1 2 3 4	1
7 8 9 10 11 12 13	5 6 7 8 9 10 11	2 3 4 5 6 7 8
14 15 16 17 18 19 20	12 13 14 15 16 17 18	9 10 11 12 13 14 15
21 22 23 24 25 26 27	19 20 21 22 23 24 25	16 17 18 19 20 21 22
28 29 30	26 27 28 29 30 31	23 24 25 26 27 28 29

There is no school for students on days designated as holiday, annual leave, required professional or professional days.

1st Quarter - 45 days | 2nd Quarter - 45 days | 3rd Quarter - 45 days | 4th Quarter 45 days

Holiday	Required Professional Day	College Classes Begin
*Professional Day (Optional per administrator's approval)	Early Release	Annual Leave
First Day for Students	End of Grading Period	Shuttle Bus Day

Calendar Dates

Aug 1	Professional Day
Aug 2	Required Professional Day
Aug 3	First Day for Students / Early Release
Aug 4-11	Early Release Days
Aug 14	College Classes Begin
Aug 30	End of 1st Month
Sept 4	Labor Day Holiday
Sept 21	Early Release
Sept 22	Required Professional Day
Sept 29	End of 2nd Month
Oct 6	End of 1st Grading Period
Oct 12	Early Release
Oct 13	Required Professional Day
Oct 30	End of 3rd Month
Nov 1	Required Professional Day
Nov 10	Veteran's Day Holiday
Nov 22	Professional Day
Nov 23-24	Thanksgiving Holidays
Dec 4	End of 4th Month
Dec 18	Early Release / End of Grading Period
Dec 19	Required Professional Day
Dec 20	Professional Day
Dec 21-22	Annual Leave Days
Dec 25-26	Christmas Holidays
Dec 27-29	Annual Leave Days
Jan 1	New Year's Day Holiday
Jan 2	Professional Day
Jan 3	Required Professional Day
Jan 8	College Classes Begin
Jan 15	Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday
Jan 18	End of 5th Month
Feb 15	End of 6th Month
Feb 19	President's Day Holiday
Mar 4-8	Annual Leave / Spring Break
Mar 11	Required Professional Day
Mar 18	End of Grading Period
Mar 25	End of 7th Month
Mar 29	Easter Holiday
Apr 23	End of 8th Month
May 21	End of 9th Month / End of Grading Period
May 22-23	Required Professional Days
May 24	Professional Day
May 27	Memorial Day Holiday

MAKE UP DAYS: Administration will consider waiving the first two student days.

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220 Martin Luther King Jr Rd
Mocksville, NC 27028

336-751-7223

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336-751-2751

Child Nutrition

336-751-2491

Exceptional Children

336-753-1424

Occupational/Physical Therapy

336-751-0016

Preschool

336-751-7704

Student Services

336-751-1364 Fax

Facility Maintenance Dept.

121 South Davie Dr • Mocksville, NC 27028

336-751-1991 • 336-751-5619 Fax

School Bus Transportation Dept.

1073 Salisbury Rd • Mocksville, NC 27028

336-751-2627 • 336-751-1567 Fax

Central Davie Academy

160 Martin Luther King Jr Rd
Mocksville, NC 27028
336-751-5712 • 336-751-5719 Fax

Cooleemee Elementary School

136 Marginal St • P.O. Box 128
Cooleemee, NC 27014
336-284-2581 • 336-284-6618 Fax

Cornatzer Elementary School

552 Cornatzer Rd • Mocksville, NC 27028
336-940-5097 • 336-940-5647 Fax

Davie County Early College High School

Davidson County Community College Campus
1211 Salisbury Rd • Mocksville, NC 27028
336-753-0888 • 336-753-1192 Fax

Davie County High School

180 War Eagle Dr • Mocksville, NC 27028
336-751-5905 • 336-751-4597 Fax

Mocksville Elementary School

295 Cemetery St • Mocksville, NC 27028
336-751-2740 • 336-751-4883 Fax

North Davie Middle School

497 Farmington Rd • Mocksville, NC 27028
336-998-5555 • 336-998-7233 Fax

Pinebrook Elementary School

477 Pinebrook School Rd
Mocksville, NC 27028
336-998-3868 • 336-940-5663 Fax

Shady Grove Elementary School

3179 Cornatzer Rd • Advance, NC 27006
336-998-4719 • 336-998-7024 Fax

South Davie Middle School

197 South Davie Dr • Mocksville, NC 27028
336-751-5941 • 336-751-5656 Fax

William R. Davie Elementary School

3437 US Hwy 601 N • Mocksville, NC 27028
336-492-5421 • 336-492-2699 Fax

William Ellis Middle School

144 William Ellis Drive • Advance, NC 27006
336-998-2007 • 336-998-6249 Fax

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Established by the Davidson-Davie Board of Trustees and Foundation, the **Hartness Excellence Endowment** supports innovative thinking, the pursuit of new opportunities, and the recognition of distinguished service among college faculty and staff. This fund recognizes President Darrin L. Hartness' enduring commitment to a campus culture of caring, whereby all members of the campus community support each other and are advocates for student success.

HARTNESS STUDENT SUCCESS SCHOLARSHIP

The **Hartness Student Success Scholarship** is awarded each year to a graduating Davidson-Davie student who is a resident of Davie County or a graduate of a Davie County high school or home school, with preference to a student pursuing a four-year education degree. Established by the NC School Superintendents Association and the NC Association of Community College Presidents, the scholarship honors Dr. Darrin L. Hartness, president of the college since 2019 and a K-12 educator for 28 years.

Learn more
DavidsonDavie.edu/Hartness



Davidson-Davie
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

They first connected at Ketchie Creek Bakery in Mocksville. Hartness and his wife, Lisa, were frequent customers, along with their daughters Madi and Molly. After taking ownership of Ketchie Creek Bakery in 2008, the Welborns made the move to Mocksville in 2011 which happened to be the same time that Hartness became the superintendent of Davie County Schools. He spent seven years in that position before becoming president of Davidson-Davie Community College. He was diagnosed with Stage IV esophageal cancer in December 2022 and died seven months later.

The families have been intertwined since that first connection 12 years ago. The Hartness girls babysat the Welborn girls. Madi worked at the bakery. Lisa babysat Kate from six months of age until the age of four.



The Welborn girls participated in Hartness weddings. The families spend countless hours together, from sleepovers to beach and mountain trips.

Darrin visited each Welborn girl on their first day of Kindergarten. Renna Margaret remembers using the basement couch in the Hartness home as a trampoline and eating ramen noodles out of the pot with her hands. Kate remembers dancing and playing games. She lovingly called Darrin her “first boyfriend.” Harper liked to make cards and crafts for Hartness and give him hugs. They all endured his terrible dad jokes.

The parents connected in other ways. Gerald turned to Hartness for advice about running the bakery. “He would talk you through all the pieces and let you make your own decision,” Gerald says.

Renna, a former teacher, asked her friend, Darrin, who just so happened to be a superintendent, about the best place to send Renna Margaret for kindergarten.

“He could have said, ‘I think this school’s the best,’” Renna said. “But he made me research it myself and visit myself. Once she had done her own research, he said, ‘Do you want to talk about this?’ And I said, ‘No, my decision is made, because you walked me through it.’ And it happened to be at our regular neighborhood school.”

The move from superintendent to community college president was a significant career advancement for Hartness. “He deserved it,” Gerald said. “I wish I could see where his career would have taken him beyond that.”

The families also connected in their religious beliefs, going to the same church together for a time. Hartness viewed his health struggles as a part of God’s plan. He wrote honestly about those struggles on his CaringBridge site in the months

leading up to his death. **“He also shared that if God wasn’t healing him here, God was healing him in heaven,” Renna said. “That’s the hope that we live by, and we know that’s where he is.”**

As Shared by the Wallace Family, Colleague and Close Family Friends of Darrin and the Hartness Family

It’s rare to find a friend and confidant so close they help you heal from emotional wounds you’ve carried since childhood. It’s rare to have a boss who always helps you see the big picture and prepares you to fill their shoes.

Darrin Hartness, was all of those things for Jeff Wallace, the man who succeeded Hartness as superintendent of Davie County Schools. “Darrin was typically a step or two beyond the situation that appeared in front of us,” Jeff said.

Jeff and his wife, Kelli, sat down to talk about their beloved friend. The Wallace and Hartness families went way back — back to before they even became families. Kelli was childhood friends with Lisa King, the future Mrs. Hartness.

The women grew up in Cooleemee, while Hartness grew up in Gastonia. He and Lisa met at a church camp as teenagers. Kelli wasn’t sure what to make of him at first — and wondered if her friend really wanted to date someone who lived more than an hour away.

“When we first met, I was like, ‘Do you really like him?’” Kelli said, drawing chuckles from Jeff. “She said ‘Well, he’s nice.’ He really sought after Lisa.”

The couple got married in 1989 and had two daughters together, Molly and Madi. Hartness died at 54, a few weeks shy of his 34th wedding anniversary. Kelli, their maid of honor, went along as a “third wheel” on their early dates.

The first time they went out unaccompanied, they saw the movie “Dirty Dancing.” One of their last outings before Hartness got sick was “Dirty Dancing in Concert,” a stage show at the Tanger Center in Greensboro.

His education career took the family across western and central North Carolina, eventually landing them back in Lisa’s home county.

“Lisa and I talked about this a lot,” Kelli said. “I’m in awe of God’s design and formation for friendships, and how He orchestrates friendships for us.”

Jeff got to know Hartness a little later in life, but they formed a powerful bond that helped the men handle the stresses of overseeing a 12-school district. Darrin’s accomplishments included successful campaigns to build a new high school and launch Ignite Davie, which provides college tuition for all high school graduates.

Jeff served as principal of Davie County High School when Hartness became superintendent in 2011. When the assistant superintendent retired, Jeff joined Hartness in the central office.



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 42

"In leadership, you don't have a plethora of friends, or people you can trust," Jeff said. "Darrin and I worked side by side for seven years. We grew much closer and had a lot of commonalities."

Jeff grew up in an alcoholic family, leading to lifelong trust issues. Hartness, who shared a difficult upbringing, provided a crucial role as a good listener and advisor, from work and parenting issues to matters of faith.

"We truly felt that our best model was Jesus, and how He served," Jeff said.

They remained close after Hartness became president of Davidson-Davie Community College. He had served in that role for four years when he was diagnosed with Stage IV esophageal cancer in December 2022. The cancer metastasized to his liver and brain, ending his life on July 11.

His family asked the Wallaces to be with him at the end. One moment with Hartness from a couple of weeks before he died stands out in Kelli's memory: "I started out the door and he said, 'Kelli?' And I said, 'Yes, Darrin?' I turned around and he said, 'Enjoy life. Enjoy what you do. Love each other well.'"

As Shared by the Davidson-Davie Community College Family

In 2018, as part of Davidson County Community College's nationwide search for its fourth president, community forums were held across Davidson and Davie counties. It had been 15 years, after all, since the college had last searched for its top leader, and college trustees wanted to know what the community was looking for in a new president.

Local leaders were invited, including Dr. Darrin L. Hartness, superintendent of Davie County Schools. After the forum in Davie County, Hartness approached George Fouts, a retired community college leader with statewide expertise who was assisting the college trustees with the search.

"I've been thinking about whether this might be the next step for me," Hartness told Fouts.



"I think you should apply," Fouts answered.

The Board of Trustees announced its selection of Hartness as the college's fourth president in September of that year, and in January 2019 he took office.

Hartness quickly became known as a relationship-builder, drawing on his 28 years of K-12 experience. His knowledge of the state budget process, local governance, and the construction of educational facilities translated easily to the community college realm.

During his four-and-a-half years as leader, the college officially became Davidson-Davie Community College, better reflecting the two counties it had served for most of its history. The school was one of only four community colleges in the state with steady enrollment throughout the COVID pandemic, and enrollment continues to grow to this day. Two new building projects are underway, and the long-awaited highway improvement project at the Davidson Campus is within reach.

Around campus, however, Hartness perhaps became best known for promoting a "culture of caring," with one of his first major initiatives being a day when employees volunteered in a variety of local agencies and organizations, from Smart Start to the Salvation Army.

"Our Day of Service is set aside as a time for our faculty and staff to journey straight to the heart of our community," he said at the time of the first service day. And in 2023, he added, "I know that each of you will serve with the same care and compassion that's part of our campus culture, and for that I'm grateful."

The culture of caring was also evident on campus, with regular reminders from Hartness to employees to care for each other and for students, especially during times of political and social unrest and the COVID pandemic.

The last time he addressed employees at the opening of a semester, in January 2023, he encouraged the same care and compassion that had become his trademark.

"I also ask that you never take anything for granted," he said. "Know that every student we serve has barriers to their success, and what better place than Davidson-Davie Community College to support students regardless of those barriers?"

He closed by remarking, "Every day is a gift, and the work that we do together is making a huge difference in the lives of citizens in Davidson and Davie counties and our whole region."

On August 11, college faculty and staff came together for the annual "Opening Session" event that marks the beginning of the new academic year. The day also marked one month since Hartness' death.

Despite the palpable sadness in the room, speaker after speaker touched on different aspects of Darrin Hartness' legacy of compassion and caring. **Together, the group seemed to agree, we will go forward stronger and better thanks to him.**



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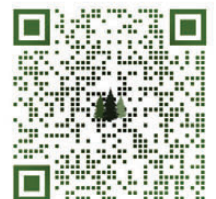
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- **One voting membership** in Davie County High School Athletic Booster Club

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- **One voting membership** in Davie County High School Athletic Booster Club

*Excludes Play-Off Games & Endowment Game



War Eagle Fridays

at Davie County High School



Photos courtesy of Marnie Lewis.

Date	Time	Opponent	Location
Sept 1	7 pm	N. Davidson	Home
Sept 15	7 pm	RJ Reynolds	RJR
Sept 22	7 pm	East Forsyth	Home
Sept 29	7 pm	Reagan	Reagan
Oct 6	7 pm	Mt. Tabor	Mt. Tabor
Oct 13	7 pm	West Forsyth	Home
Oct 20	7 pm	Parkland	Home
Oct 27	7 pm	Glenn	Glenn

2023-2024 Davie War Eagles Football

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Go War Eagles!



This year, Le Blue has donated over 400 cases of grapejuice and “through an incredibly generous donation from Bermuda Run Cares, the Teacher’s Closet will be able to stock snacks so that none of the kids will have to be hungry while trying to learn.”

If you would like to donate to the Teacher’s Closet, there is a bin set up at Redland Church where you can drop off supplies, you can contact Marie at empowerdavieryouth@gmail.com to come pick up your donations or you can make a financial donation via check made out to Redland Church with a note designating the money for the Teacher’s Closet.

Another way to donate to the Teacher’s Closet is by shopping on their Amazon list and buying an item listed there. You can find their Amazon wishlist online at [Amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1CPHLK1J5ER5E?ref_=wl_share](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1CPHLK1J5ER5E?ref_=wl_share).

A+ for Community Involvement

Whether you’re a parent of a child at a Davie County School, a grandparent, a friend or simply a community member looking for ways to give back and make a difference in the community, this is a great opportunity.



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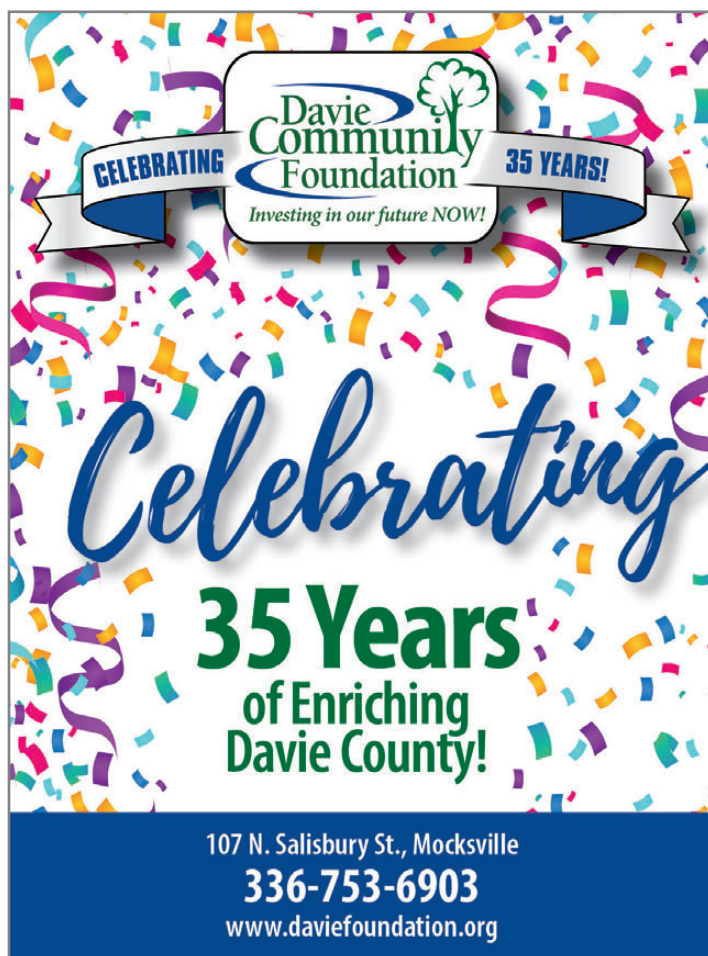


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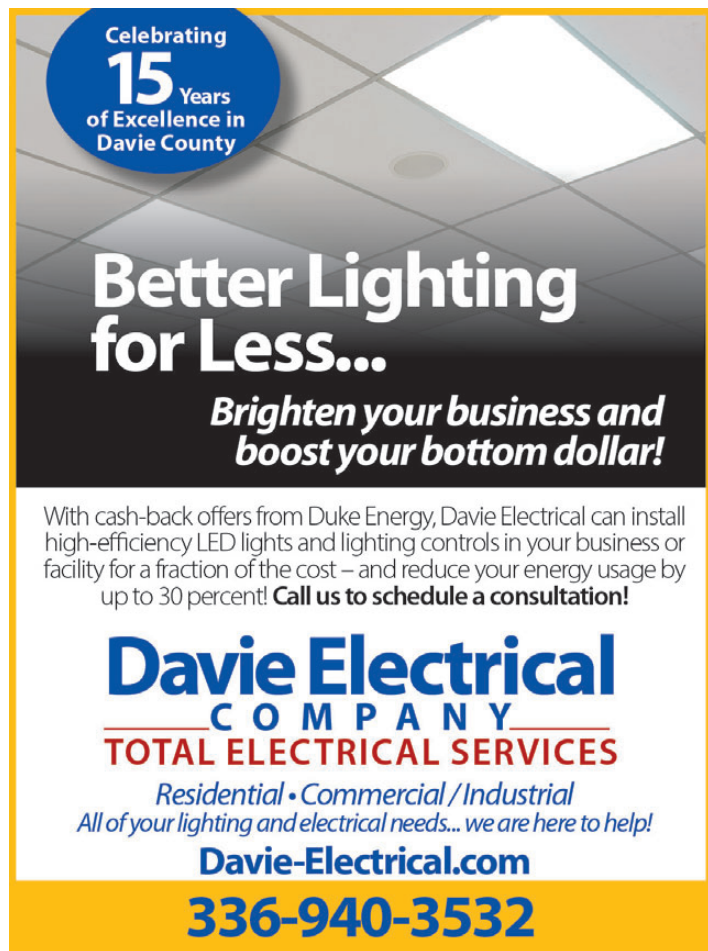
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shows their appreciation differently. Recently I have been noticing that we have many littering issues. We could be doing things that are not only good for the planet but also entertaining! So that's why I thought about what I like to call the "clean for coupons"!



Addy Buchanan, Lake Carver, Evie Conlin, Kiahna Groff, Lena Parsley, Katie Pitts, Salem Taylor and Sophie Treier

Girl Scout Troop 2580: Their winning idea is to work with elementary and middle schools around the county to provide feminine hygiene supplies to all of the girls at the school. The project started by posting inspirational posters in the schoolgirl's bathrooms and supplying boxes of hygiene supplies to trusted teachers, which they can keep in their classroom. The kits that the eight girls have created include: a pamphlet written by them, pads, deodorant and hair ties.

After holding two successful fundraisers in January, the scouts were able to purchase enough supplies to make kits for every girl at South Davie! "Working on this project has made us think about other problems in the community that we could help with in the future." Congratulations to **Addy Buchanan, Lake Carver, Evie Conlin, Kiahna Groff, Lena Parsley, Katie Pitts, Salem Taylor and Sophie Treier.**



Camryn Bullard

Camryn Bullard (15): Seeing a need and filling it is what Camryn, a volunteer with Serving our Neighbors (SoN) Food Ministry has done! Camryn, who has been volunteering with her family since August of 2022, recognized that the food that is offered from week to week can fluctuate greatly and her winning idea for the DRI was to come up with a way to offer regular, shelf-stable items that families could count on from week to

week, significantly expanding on the original project. To collect more canned or dry goods, Camryn is working collaboratively with one of the leaders of Heroes of Hope at the high school. "We plan on doing a few food drives to see what we get and then I will use some of my award money from DRI (\$1,000.) to supplement, so we don't get too much of the same thing!"



Kaylee Lewis

Kaylee Lewis (15): Kaylee's project idea is to have a donation drive and create care packages to give to local communities in need. She hopes to collect donations of "essential items", including hygiene products and food, and separate these donations into various groups for children, men, and women so everyone will receive "customized care packages." Kaylee plans to take these care packages to churches and low-

income apartments. "I hope to make others in our community aware of those experiencing hardships and to know that we have the ability to do something about it."



Nick Ruff

Nick Ruff (18): "Cyber Safe Seniors" is Nick's very practical and much needed idea in these current times of scams, stolen ids and cyber fraud. He has created a presentation along with an interactive Bingo game and handouts. He plans to share these at Senior Centers and independent Senior Living facilities. His goal is to keep seniors from losing their hard-earned money by these online scams. He is working with local law enforcement to

keep current on the latest Cyber Security threats. Nick will actually be studying Computer Science with a minor in cyber security this fall at UNC-Charlotte.

All these young people have come up with very creative ideas to solve problems in our county and increase the amount of Respect. They are observing what needs to be done and doing it! Way to go Ambassadors!

Do you know a young person or Davie County youth group between the ages of 12-21 "doing good, being kind, or showing respect" to people, animals or the environment?

Empower our youth by anonymously nominating them at **DavieRespect.com**.

Up to three new Ambassadors of Respect may be selected by the volunteer selection panel each quarter. The next quarter ends on Sept. and individual youths and DC youth groups can apply on their own or after having been nominated.

Email comments or questions to **initiaterspect1@gmail.com**.

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ON PAGE 55

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Tapping into the agricultural heritage of Davie County, the showroom features displays that can fit any design style from modern to traditional. Whether you're searching for an indoor or outdoor fireplace, home upgrades like retractable awnings or gas lighting, more efficient tankless water heaters or looking to install a backup heat source before a winter sets in, G&B Energy is where to go!

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- ◆ Become an **IGNITE DAVIE** Employer of Choice: ignitedavie.com/employer-of-choice
- ◆ Make a donation in any amount to the **IGNITE DAVIE** Endowment: daviefoundation.org/donate
- ◆ Join the Touchdowns for Education Team: daviefoundation.org/touchdowns-for-education
- ◆ Attend an **IGNITE Your Appetite** in September, October or November: ignitedavie.com



However you choose to participate, you will be making an important investment in our kids! Join us to **IGNITE THE FUTURE of Davie County!**

ignitedavie.com • 135 S. Salisbury St., Mocksville, NC 27028 • 336-753-6670

Employer of Choice Program Poised to Help Ignite Davie Cross the Finish Line

SEE THEIR AD
ON PAGE 56

Davie County was recognized as an All-America County by the National Civic League in June and IGNITE DAVIE College Promise helped bring home the honor! As they said at the awards ceremony in Denver, "Davie County is IGNITING the Future!"

The **IGNITE DAVIE College Promise** is investing in the students of Davie County! It is a place-based last dollar scholarship that pays tuition and fees with a stipend for books for students to attend either campus of **Davidson-Davie Community College** full-time to pursue a Certificate, Diploma, or Associate/Transfer Program.

In addition to the traditional programs, IGNITE DAVIE is also available to support students who pursue one of four short-term training programs starting this fall. These programs can fast-track in-demand workers into the local workforce.

To make IGNITE DAVIE sustainable, the **Davie Community Foundation** is helping to raise the final \$1 Million of the

\$3 Million endowment goal by December 31, 2023. The final fundraising began with the IGNITE DAVIE partners and is now moving to business and individuals. More than \$590,000 has been raised toward the final \$1 Million! Once the \$3 Million goal is achieved, the endowment will provide annual earnings to cover program costs for future generations of Davie students!

As part of the final fundraising effort, an Employer of Choice Program has been added to market local businesses and keep them top of mind with IGNITE DAVIE students and graduates. Investment levels were created to fit every size budget, from \$1,250 up to \$10,000. Employer of Choice companies will have unique marketing benefits while also helping to fill the workforce pipeline for their very own future employees.

Employers of Choice will be featured on the IGNITE DAVIE website and will receive an Employer of Choice Seal for their business website. The program gives participating businesses the greatest opportunity to fill local positions with local workers! It's a win for the students, a win for business, and a win for the community!

Learn more today by visiting **IgniteDavie.com** or by contacting Carolyn McManamy, Managing Partner, 336-753-6670.

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Fall is a great time to plant trees and shrubs!



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Got
Leaves?

Message

FROM
DAVIE COUNTY
MANAGER
Brian Barnett



Summer has truly been a busy time for Davie County and it has been a privilege to see so many positive things taking place in the community. On August 1, I celebrated one year of service as your County Manager. A full year into the position, I can truly say that me and my family are grateful for the opportunity to be a part of this vibrant area. We have all been made to feel right at home and that is something that as a husband and father, please know that I thank you for that.

This quarterly update includes accomplishments from many of your local government departments as well as important information for you to be aware of as we move into the fall season. We hope that you find this update informative but also useful in assisting you to become even more engaged as a Davie County resident.

As always, your local government is here to serve you. I am fortunate to work along a team of professionals who are committed to this county and consider their roles to not only be that of an employee, but individuals who want to serve our residents and make Davie County the best it can be. As someone who has served in other areas, I can honestly say that is not always the norm and I am proud to be part of a team that is focused on excellence.



Save the Date for Public Safety Day Saturday, October 3, 2023!

The community is invited to attend this special event that will help bring awareness to our public safety providers in the community. The event will include live music, food, games, public speakers and important information pertaining to Davie County.

The event is 3-9 p.m. in Downtown Mocksville and ALL are welcome and encouraged to attend!



County Manager, Brian Barnett, presents Davie County Health and Human Services Director, Suzanne Wright, along with her team, the official plaque for the Reaccreditation with Honors Designation.

Davie County Health and Human Services Receives Reaccreditation

Congratulations to the Davie County Health and Human Services — Public Health Division for being one of 15 health departments in the state to be awarded reaccreditation status by the North Carolina Local Health Department Accreditation (NCLHDA) Board. Davie County Health and Human Services — Public Health Division was included in this group, but was also awarded the Reaccreditation with Honors designation. This honorary designation was implemented for the first time in the Fall of 2017 to recognize agencies that especially excelled in their accreditation assessment by missing one or less activities within each of five standards set by the NCLHDA program.

Congratulations to all! We are thankful to have a team of public health professionals who are dedicated and work tirelessly to ensure the well-being of our community.

Library Celebrates Successful Summer Learning Challenge!

Summer reading and learning was on the hearts and minds of many this year as the Davie County Public Library hosted their most successful summer reading program ever—boasting an increase in participation by over 300%! This year's program took place from June 3–July 29. To better understand the success, Rachel Nelson, Adult Services and Technology Librarian with the Davie County Public Library shared these statistics:

- 700 people signed up for the Summer Learning Challenge
- 47 adult programs offered
- 67 youth programs offered
- 5,533 people attended events offered throughout June and July
- 167 new library cards issued
- 52,030 minutes of reading logged in June and July

Congratulations to the library staff for hosting a successful program and kudos to all who participated in the Summer Learning Challenge!



Important Dates

County Offices are Closed:

Labor Day
Monday, September 4, 2023

Veterans Day
Friday, November 10, 2023

Thanksgiving
November 23-24, 2023

Board of Commissioners Meetings
Oct. 2, 2023 @ 6 pm
Nov. 6, 2023 @ 6 pm
Dec. 4, 2023 @ 6 pm

Unless posted differently, all Board meetings are held at: County Administrative Bldg.
123 South Main Street
Mocksville, NC 27028

Quick Links:
Meeting Portal
DavieCountyNC.iqm2.com/Citizens/Default.aspx
YouTube, Facebook and Twitter @ Davie County Government

For more important events/meetings, visit
DavieCountyNC.gov



New EMS Station #4 Now Open & Serving the Community!

On August 7, members of the community gathered to celebrate the opening of EMS Station #4, located at the corner of Howardtown and Cornatzer Roads. The station is now operational and will serve the communities in the Bixby area, resulting in better response times for those experiencing medical emergencies.

During the event, guests were invited to tour the facility. Members of the Board of Commission along with many state level representatives joined in the celebration, sharing their common sentiments that “response time means something” and “residents in the area should feel a sense of comfort knowing this station is ready to respond when needs arise”.

EMS Station #4 is a free standing, three truck bay facility with living quarters.

Voter ID Now Required



Starting with the 2023 municipal elections, voters will be asked to show photo ID when voting in North Carolina. Voters who vote by mail will be asked to include a photocopy of an acceptable ID inside the photo ID envelope that comes with their ballot. If they are unable to include a photocopy of their ID, they may complete an ID Exception Form with the absentee ballot return envelope but must produce a photo ID by the day before county canvass and present to the local board of elections.

For more information on voter ID, visit NCSBE.gov/voting/voter-id/faq-voter-id

Hillsdale Church
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SAVE THE DATE

5K MILES FOR MEALS
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Sat. Nov. 11 @ 5:30pm
Tanglewood Park Under the Lights
Run or Walk for Fun at Your Own Pace in Support of our Food and Soup Ministry

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- Fun for the whole family!

Volunteer and receive **FREE** merchandise or race tickets!

Email us for more information:
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Registration is Open!
Scan here for Discounted Pricing.

Discover the library at home

Visit www.DavieCountyNC.gov/896/public-library to check out our digital collection of books, resources, and services.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

Mission will go to UMCOR (U.S. disaster relief), Davie High Hunger Fighters, and Backpack Buddies ministry.

Dr. Henry Call Sprinkle was a Methodist Minister from Mocksville. He was a graduate of Duke University and Yale University. Henry married Margaret Louise Jordan in 1930. The Sprinkle family spent the majority of their lives traveling the world for

missionary work, living in Europe, South and Central America, the Caribbean, Africa, Asia, and Australia before retiring back home in Mocksville. Dr. Sprinkle and his family set up an endowment to carry on the tradition of bringing unique and inspiring speakers to Mocksville each year for the church and community to enjoy, and we are proud to carry on the tradition of the Sprinkle Preaching Mission once again this year.



Attorneys Tammy Fleming & Brian Williams offer legal services in practice areas focused in:

- Real Estate
- Social Security Disability
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- Estate Planning
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An *Exceptionally* Fun Summer for *Exceptional Children*

***Davie County Schools is committed to excellence
and helping students at all stages and abilities
excel in their educational careers.***

Through the Exceptional Children department, DCS provides appropriate educational opportunities to all children within the district who are in separate setting classrooms. This summer, these educational opportunities expanded outside of the classroom and into summer camps.

Allison Potts has been an Exceptional Children teacher since 2015 and currently works at Pinebrook Elementary. This past summer she had the opportunity to be the Exceptional Children's camp lead and help facilitate fun and educational camps for EC students.

With adventurous weekly themes like 'Around the World', 'Safari Life' and 'Marine Life', these camps gave students the chance for hands-on learning experiences.

An average of 22 students attended the camp each week where they took adventures of all kinds. One trip the students took was to a ranch in Iredell County to take a nature walk and see different exhibits of birds, reptiles and farm animals.

But the fun also came to the students when the Farmington Fire Station came out and hosted a giant water day for the campers.

"It was definitely a heart-warming experience," Allison said. Some of the middle school students saw friends they hadn't seen since elementary school and new friendships were formed between campers who likely wouldn't have met until high school.

Students of all different ages and abilities were learning, exploring and forming friendships inside the classroom, around the lunchroom tables, on the court during gym time and out on adventures in the community.

If you are a parent of an Exceptional Child but missed out on these incredible camps this summer, there's always next year!

The Exceptional Children's camps are held annually and more information will go home with your student in April 2024 about the upcoming summer's camps. So be on the lookout and set a reminder to participate in the 2024 Exceptional Children's camps hosted by Davie County Schools!

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HABITAT DAVIE'S FIRST HOME Making Home-ownership a Reality!



"Do what you love but call it work." A quote that comes from a well-known country song by Luke Bryan and a line that has never felt more true than with the recent dedication of Habitat Davie's first home this year.

Over the last five months, Habitat Davie has partnered with local businesses, churches, and civic organizations to build a house that has now been turned into a home for Jessica and her three sons: a home where the boys can sit at their new bar and do homework while Jessica fixes supper, a home where they can run around in the backyard while Jessica curls up with a book on the porch, and a home where all the many friends that have helped Jessica along her homeownership journey can gather to celebrate this new beginning for her and her family.

The dedication was attended by 70 of Habitat Davie's closest supporters, volunteers, and friends that have been a part of this build from the beginning. To say it was a huge turn out is an understatement! The evening was filled with prayers for the new family, stories of the build project, inspirational words from the Mayor of Mocksville, and a heartfelt speech from Jessica on how Habitat has impacted her life — not to mention delicious chicken sandwiches graciously donated by the new Chick-fil-A in Bermuda Run!

Three short days after the dedication, Jessica closed on her home and immediately settled into her new reality of homeownership: her boys being able to run up and down the hall being as loud as they pleased, her dogs being able to sleep inside a house once again, and the pride that comes with being able to call herself a homeowner.

When Habitat Davie set out to revive the organization over the last year, we knew the potential for impact would be great, but had no idea how much greater the impact would be on the employees, volunteers and supporters of Habitat Davie. All have sweated, cried, laughed, and gotten sunburned alongside Jessica over the course of her build and have loved every minute of it. To quote Jessica, "God is in the details" and continues to be as Habitat Davie moves forward with planning the next steps for our affiliate. Jessica's home is just the beginning of the life changing work the organization hopes to accomplish for families in Davie County.



HABITAT DAVIE SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT:

Chasity Robertson with Realty One Group Results is a Realtor, Homeowner and native of Davie County. Her dedication to helping build homes and create meaningful connections with homeowners is truly inspiring. The significance of a home is often underestimated, as it provides stability, security, and a sense of belonging to individuals and families.

Chasity's long-standing experience as a Realtor and her roots in Davie County likely give her a unique perspective on the importance of housing within the community. It's heartwarming to know that she's been contributing to the home-building process and witnessing the impact it has on people's lives.

The camaraderie and collaboration between volunteers, like Chasity, and future homeowners during the construction process create a strong bond and sense of unity. It's evident that the work being done by volunteers is more than just physical labor; it's a way to make dreams of homeownership a reality and to provide deserving individuals and families with a stable foundation for their lives.

"Deserving" is a powerful word to describe the sentiment that people have towards the homeowners like Jessica. It signifies that these individuals have worked hard and demonstrated qualities that make them worthy of the opportunity to own a home.

Chasity's efforts with Realty One Group Results and Habitat for Humanity are truly making a positive impact on the community, and her dedication to the concept of home goes beyond the typical role of a Realtor. Her involvement highlights the importance of giving back and creating a supportive environment where everyone can experience the benefits of having a place to call their own.



Interested in being a house sponsor?

Our work is possible thanks to strong, diverse partnerships. This includes participation from corporations, congregations, individuals, and local organizations who donate their time annually to Habitat Davie's mission.

To learn how your organization can be a part of the legacy and landscape of our community, contact Jessie Elmore, Executive Director at Habitat for Humanity of Davie County @ 336-467-0406 or jessie.elmore@daviehabitat.org.

How the Community Can Get Involved

- 1. Donate** — The Community can call our donation hotline number to schedule their **FREE Donation Pick Up** at **336-940-2028**.
- 2. Volunteer** — Volunteering is the heartbeat of Habitat for Humanity of Davie County. We are looking for people to help us build the homes as well as work in our ReStore. **Whatever, a person's God given talent might be, Habitat Davie can use that talent.** For more on volunteering, contact Jessie Elmore at jessie.elmore@daviehabitat.org.
- 3. Advocate** — Let folks know that **Habitat Davie is back** with bigger plans than ever for serving the Davie County Community. You can stay up-to-date on all that we have to offer by following us on social media.



Shop the Store That Builds Homes in Our Community

This Habitat ReStore is proudly owned and operated by Habitat for Humanity of Davie County. The ReStore exists to support Habitat's mission of providing safe, decent and affordable housing to hardworking, low-income families. At Habitat ReStore, your quality donations keep us in business. Clean out your garage or basement and help build affordable housing in the process. You'll receive a receipt for your tax-deductible donations each time you donate.

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"Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight."

Proverbs 3:5-6



Getting to the Root of It

With Gemini Hair & Nail Fashions

It happens to all of us. You take that last pump of shampoo, the last spray of heat protector, the last squeeze out of the mousse bottle and inevitably, you find yourself back at the drugstore, standing in front of the hair product aisle, completely overwhelmed with the number of different products there are to choose from.

Which products are actually worth the money? What product do you need for your specific type of hair? Which brand is better for what you need?

Standing in front of the hair product aisle at the grocery store or even scrolling through the hundreds of possibilities on Amazon can be daunting and leave you frustrated. Thankfully, Gemini Hair & Nail Fashions is just down the road with all the answers to your problems.

Gemini Hair & Nail Fashions has been serving Davie County and the surrounding areas with cuts, colors, esthetician makeovers, manicures, and pedicures, along with many hair straightening techniques for over 40 years.

A part of what sets them apart is their knowledge and ability to help clients find exactly what they need. They do this through continuous education, high-end technologies and supplying only the best products on the market.

If you're curious about what's going on with your scalp, book a consultation with one of the Gemini girls. They can use their camera that magnifies your scalp up to 500 times and gives

you and the stylist a closer look at what's going on with your scalp. By doing this, they are able to tell you how, why and what is happening with your hair, causing hair loss or breakage.

Services like these became increasingly popular over the last two and a half years, Kae Stockton, owner of Gemini Hair & Nail Fashions said. Whether people are experiencing hair loss or wirey hair due to Covid, thyroid problems or a number of other issues, the Gemini girls can help you get to the root of the problem.

In addition to this cutting edge technology, Gemini stocks the highest quality products on the market such as Phyto, Milbon and others. Within these product lines there are renewing shampoo treatments, a moisturizer, a bonding powder and more.

But the best part of all is you don't have to stand in front of the product shelf at Gemini and feel the overwhelm that you might feel at an Ulta, drugstore or while roaming the aisles of Target. Your Gemini stylist will help you make an informed decision about the types of products you need for your scalp and hair health so that you aren't wasting money on products that won't get to the root of your problems.

Whether you go into Gemini Hair Salon for a consultation, to buy one of these incredible products, to get your hair colored or for your routine haircut, you'll be greeted by family.

With 12 stylists at the salon, including Stockton's son Alex who now runs the business, there will always be someone to help you.

Their slogan is Proverbs 3:5-6 and Stockton says this is the reason why she and the other stylists come to work everyday. Their motto runs true throughout the salon, and they can't wait to welcome you into the Gemini family.

Mighty Muscadine Redefining Your Approach to Health

Science-backed Mighty Muscadine, is playing a significant role in human clinical trials, focused on the health benefits of muscadine grapes. Led by a team of researchers at renowned Atrium Health Wake Forest University School of Medicine, more than \$20 million has been committed to funding human clinical trials that are studying how muscadine grapes may impact health issues related to areas of the body including:

Cardiovascular | Prostate | Lung | Breast & More

Learn more about how patients are self-reporting more energy, less fatigue and feeling better by reading study literature at www.ClinicalTrials.gov.

Support North Carolina's state fruit!
Add the power of muscadine grapes to your
daily health routine TODAY!



Why Mighty Muscadine?

- **LE BLEU LEGACY:** Created by the visionary behind the renowned *Le Bleu* Ultra Pure Bottled Water, Mighty Muscadine inherits the same commitment to purity, designed to enhance cellular health and support immune response*. Expect nothing less than excellence in every product, backed by a brand that's synonymous with quality.
- **FAMILY WELLNESS:** Designed with your entire family in mind, Mighty Muscadine offers a variety of products to suit every preference. Whether it's the convenient capsules, delicious juices, or wholesome extracts, everyone can now embrace the gift of health.
- **CELLULAR REVITALIZATION:** Unlock the potential of muscadine grapes to support your body's cellular health*. The unique blend of nutrients found in our products can give you the edge you need to thrive in your daily life.
- **IMMUNE FORTIFICATION:** Support your immune system with Mighty Muscadine. The product's powerful antioxidants can help your body's defense mechanisms, allowing you to take on whatever life throws your way*.

*These statements have not been evaluated by The Food and Drug Administration. This product is not intended to diagnose, treat, cure or prevent any disease.

Elevate Your Health Today!

Buy One Get One Free on ONLINE ORDERS of Mighty Muscadine Grape Seeds & Skins Supplement! Visit www.MightyMuscadine.com and enter promo code DLFALL23 at check-out. Valid through October 31, 2023. Some exclusions apply.



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Nurturing Health with Mighty Muscadine

The Journey from **Discovery** *to* **Innovation**



“We are about science, not fluff or sizzle.”

In 2006, Jerry began searching for a natural way to help lower his own cholesterol. It was during this search that he stumbled across the antioxidant packed muscadine grape. “When I saw what the fruit did for me, I told my staff, we could help a lot of people,” said Smith. Always guided by the motto of ‘helping people help others’, Smith began his focused work to unlock the potential of the muscadine grape.

A large part of that work includes partnerships with institutions like Atrium Health Wake Forest University School of Medicine, exemplifying the brand's dedication to advancing our understanding of muscadine grapes' health benefits. Through meticulous studies, including over \$20 million spent on human clinical trials, these collaborations have unveiled the array of advantages offered by the North Carolina State Fruit. The fruit's antioxidant properties are leading researchers to study how muscadine grapes may impact health issues related to areas of the body including cardiovascular, prostate, lung, breast and more.

The fruit is also getting recognition thanks to the NC Farm Act, recently passed by the NC General Assembly. This legislation encourages educational institutions, from pre-kindergarten to colleges and universities, to incorporate muscadine juice into their nutrition programs, reinforcing the fruit's significance in promoting healthy living. In addition to finding in educational facilities, **Mighty Muscadine** juice is available for retail purchase in many local Food Lion, Lowe's Foods and Ingles grocery stores.

Jerry Smith's philosophy for **Mighty Muscadine** is succinctly captured in his statement, **“We are about science, not fluff or sizzle.”** This underscores the brand's commitment to research and substantiated health benefits, setting it apart from the gimmicks that often pervade the wellness industry. This unwavering dedication to credible science has contributed to the brand's success and consumer trust.

Jerry Smith, a visionary entrepreneur and the founder of Le Bleu Ultra Pure Bottled Water, embarked on a journey of discovery that would lead to the development of the Mighty Muscadine product line nearly 20 years ago. Fueled by a passion for natural health and a desire to harness the potential of muscadine grapes, Smith's pioneering spirit has not only led to personal transformation but has also opened new doors in the field of natural wellness.

Mighty Muscadine's offerings encompass a wide spectrum of products, each harnessing the power of muscadine grapes. Beyond supplements and juices, the product line features extracts, energy shots, protein powders, and an array of antioxidant-rich health and beauty products. From body lotions to oils, toothpaste to shampoos and conditioners, each product reflects the brand's unwavering commitment to integrating the natural goodness of muscadine grapes into daily wellness routines.

From his commitment to bringing ultra pure water to the consumer, to the development of **Mighty Muscadine**, Smith continues to shape the health and wellness landscape. This visionary entrepreneur's dedication to scientific research, partnered with collaborations with prestigious institutions, has not only advanced our understanding of muscadine grapes' benefits but has also revolutionized how this entrepreneur is approaching holistic health and sharing the power of nature-inspired wellness.

To learn more about how patients are self-reporting more energy, less fatigue and feeling better, read study literature at www.ClinicalTrials.gov.

Mighty Muscadine is offering **Buy One Get One Free on ONLINE ORDERS** of their Mighty Muscadine Grape Seeds & Skins Supplement when you enter promo code DLFALL23. Visit MightyMuscadine.com to redeem. This offer is valid thru October 31, 2023. Some exclusions apply.





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Free T-shirts for the first
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Pre-Registration Fee \$35

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gastel@yadtel.net

Allyson Sawtelle
336-655-2700
sawtelle@yadtel.net



TOUR OF 20 23 FARMINGTON

14th Annual Bike Event September 16, 2023

Farmington Community Association is excited to be hosting the 14th Annual Tour of Farmington on September 16, 2023!

We are asking everyone to pre-register online via Active.com or through our portal. Pre-registration through September 14, 2023 will be \$35 per entry and registration day of the Event will be \$45.

If additional details, or situations occur that dictate cancellation of the Event, the option to receive a refund or transfer the registration fee to the 2024 Event will be offered to those already registered and paid. Thank you for your support of TOF!!

All proceeds to benefit Farmington Community Center
SAG Supported Event / Light Breakfast & Lunch Provided

More than Just Childcare

YMCA's Before & After School Academy

"I can't begin to express my appreciation and gratitude to the Y for its after school program. It has been a great comfort to me for many years to know my children were in a safe, caring environment with people I trust. They are provided with a healthy snack, homework time and fun activities every day. The counselors exhibit and encourage positive character traits and are true mentors. Thank you, YMCA after school for all you do to care for our children!" — Stacey R.

These heartfelt words from a grateful parent echo the sentiments of countless others whose lives have been touched by the Davie Family YMCA's Before & After School Academy. Beyond being a simple childcare option, this program has become a cornerstone of support, education and community for families.

In the hustle and bustle of today's world, parents often find themselves juggling responsibilities while longing for the assurance that their children are in capable hands. The Before & After School Academy fills that gap, offering a nurturing and safe environment for children in grades K-5. Hosted at Mocksville, Pinebrook and Shady Grove Elementary Schools, it is a secure and reliable option for childcare before and after school. The program includes After School Academy, After School Drop In and Out of School Days. Additionally, Mocksville and Shady Grove Elementary offer Before School Academy and Before School Drop In options.

When children enter the Y's program, they are welcomed into a space where their well-being takes precedence. Its commitment to safety guidelines is unwavering, ensuring that each child's security and happiness are at the forefront of every activity and interaction, giving parents peace of mind.

Recognizing the significance of fostering a lifelong love of learning, the Academy becomes a haven for curious minds to thrive. Trained staff members step into the role of mentors, guiding children through their studies with patience and care, all while igniting a genuine passion for knowledge.

However, education encompasses more than homework assignments. It includes nurturing values that extend beyond the classroom. While under the care of the Y, children are encouraged to embrace qualities like honesty, respect, responsibility and empathy, creating a community of young individuals who are academically adept and grounded in kindness.

Each day, children participate in a range of diverse activities. From crafting works of art to playing spirited games, they discover hidden talents and forge bonds with peers that often last a lifetime. Physical fitness takes center stage, reminding them that a healthy body contributes to a healthy mind, amplifying concentration and cognitive prowess.

But the Before & After School Academy is not just about children; it is about families. Recognizing the myriad of responsibilities parents shoulder, it offers flexible scheduling options that accommodate different work schedules. This adaptability, combined with childcare options during teacher work days, winter breaks and spring breaks, demonstrates the Y's commitment to meeting the needs of parents.

Moreover, the YMCA is firm in its belief that every child deserves access to its programs, regardless of financial circumstances. Affordable prices, discounts for siblings and military/first responders, and financial assistance options demonstrate this dedication. Additionally, YMCA members enjoy bigger savings on before and after school care as well as other YMCA programs.

For all parents yearning for peace of mind, the Davie Family YMCA's Before and After School Academy embraces the role of a trusted partner in every child's growth journey. It is more than childcare; it is reliability, a community and a promise. For more info, visit [YMCANWNC.org/afterschool](https://ymcanwnc.org/afterschool). To join the YMCA, visit [YMCANWNC.org/join-now](https://ymcanwnc.org/join-now).



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THE MEBANE FOUNDATION:

25 YEARS OF *Transforming Lives Through Literacy*



Allen Mebane believed that “All people learn on a different timeline. But if you create the right tool, everyone can learn at their own pace, and after a period of time, end up at the same destination.”

That belief and a commitment to helping others succeed prompted him to establish the Mebane Foundation in 1998 to support innovative educational endeavors. Since its inception, the Foundation has granted more than \$25 million to educational program partners across the state while simultaneously leveraging that amount in public-private partnerships. Millions of dollars have supported educational initiatives in Davie County, a place Mr. Mebane was proud to call home for twenty years.

As we celebrate our 25th anniversary, we are reminiscent of the many inspiring programs in Davie County that have helped shape our history. There have been many successes and a few failures, but each experience has taught us a valuable lesson as we stay true to our mission of preparing children for life through literacy.

Helen C. Gantt Child Development Center — (2002-06) \$900,000 to develop a model childcare center. The Center also served as a teaching laboratory for early childhood education students at the high school and college levels. The Gantt Center was one of the initial learning environments in which the Foundation offered its Hill Early Learning Program (HELP), a comprehensive early literacy and reading program developed with the Hill Learning Center in Durham. It was invaluable for future learning and training opportunities for teachers using the HELP methodology.

Hill Center — (2004-11) \$2,000,000 to develop HELP, Reading Achievement Program (RAP) I & RAP II; reading intervention outreach models that can be used from Pre-K thru 8th Grade in the public school system. The majority of these funds were committed in Davie County Schools.

RAP Teacher Training — (2004) \$25,000 towards continuing teacher training for its ongoing RAP reading intervention program.

Mebane Masters Program — (2004-07) \$750,000 three-year commitment for the Mebane Masters Program, an innovative

professional development model for K-12 teachers and a prelude to the STEM Infusion Model of professional development.

Mebane Challenge — (2005-08) \$750,000 to build preschool classrooms at the Davie County elementary schools and fund the latest technology for all schools. The community was required to raise \$1.5 million to receive the Foundation funds.

Mebane Challenge II — (2007-10) \$500,000 three-year challenge grant to complete the technology installation in Davie County Schools and to begin the development of RAP II.

Davie County Schools/Cooleemee Elementary School — (2009-11) \$140,000 three-year commitment to fund a computer-based reading intervention program featuring Waterford and Successmaker software and a summer reading program.

Read to Achieve Camp — (2014-19) \$425,000 to help fund the Read to Achieve summer camp, an intensive four-week program for third-graders who have not met state requirements in reading to advance to the fourth grade.

Kinder Camp — (10 + years) \$150,000 to support preparatory summer camps for rising kindergartners.

ApSeed Early Childhood Education — (2018) \$105,000 to purchase and distribute 1,000 custom-built e-readers (Seedlings) preloaded with applications designed to improve literacy and strengthen vocabulary to children 0-4 whose families are enrolled in the WIC program through the Davie County Department of Public Health or Parents as Teachers through Smart Start of Davie County. The tablets are also distributed through Davie County pre-schools.

DavieLEADS — (2017-22) \$2.5 million to support DavieLEADS (Literacy Empowers All in Davie to Succeed), a five-year early literacy initiative to improve kindergarten readiness and to increase the percentage of students reading proficiently by the end of third grade.

Hill Center Tutoring Model Pilot Program — (2019-23) Up to \$100,000 to partner with Luwonna Oakes and Kerry Blackwelder to provide HillRAP tutoring at an affordable rate to students not receiving the intervention during school.

Summer Enrichment Camp — (2020) \$122,000 to help fund a five-week summer enrichment camp for rising 1st - 5th graders and kinder camps for rising kindergartners.

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**Julia
Howard**

North Carolina House of
Representatives, 77th District

Best Wishes to All Davie County Students & Staff



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