



NEW BRAND, SAME ORGANIZATION, Consistent Promise



Taylor House, now a ThriveMore community (formerly Baptist Retirement Homes of NC), is located in the quaint North Carolina Piedmont town of Albemarle where residents enjoy a safe, comfortable, home-like environment. Owned and operated by ThriveMore, a not-for-profit organization rooted in a rich heritage of providing quality care and a meaningful way of life for residents and staff. The Taylor House community has family-style assisted living and a wealth of activities to provide the best quality of life. With a wide range of services, we are staffed to provide whatever level of assistance is necessary for residents. Schedule a tour to discover how you or your family member will feel right at home.



CALL (704) 982-4217 TO SCHEDULE A TOUR







Explore our community online at ThriveMoreNC.org/Taylor-House 319 PALMER STREET • ALBEMARLE, NC 28001





Proudly serving Stanly County with the following services and products:

- On-Site Metal Recycling Facility
- Septic Tank Pumping and Mfg.
- Jetter Truck Services
- Portable Toilet and Trailer Rentals
- Roll-Off Container Services
- Commercial Rental Property

435 Willow Street, Albemarle, NC 28001 www.allowderinc.com • 704.982.4456



CONTENTS





6 Oakboro event is still cruising after 20 years

14 West Stanly establishes softball dynasty

20 An interview with a manager at Hospice of Stanly

About STANLY the magazine

STANLY the magazine is a product of The Stanly News & Press, the community newspaper for Stanly County, North Carolina. Call 704-982-2121 for subscription information.

ON THE WEB: thesnaponline.com

GENERAL MANAGER/ EDITOR

B.J. Drye

bj.drye@stanlynewspress.com

EDITORIAL

Charles Curcio

charles.curcio@stanlynewspress.com

LAYOUT/DESIGN

Andy Mooney

andy.mooney@stanlynewspress.com

ADVERTISING

Tom Lowe

tom.lowe@stanlynewspress.com

Susan Wolf

susan.wolf@stanlynewspress.com

CIRCULATION

Debbie Holt

debbie.holt@stanlynewspress.com

On the cover:

An aerial view of the Oakboro cruise-in. (Photo by John Huneycutt)



Call Us for All of Your Heating, Cooling & Electrical Needs!

Special Financing available on all new systems!

704-982-4276

1928 US -52, Albemarle NC 28001

Serving Stanly County & Surrounding areas Since 1966

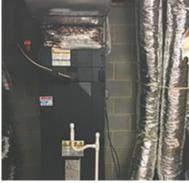
Generator Installation!



















Lifetime Outdoor Unit Replacement



Jerry Crayton started the Oakboro cruise-in 20 years ago.

Still eruisin'

Monthly Oakboro event going strong after 20 years

STORY BY CHRIS MILLER | PHOTOGRAPHY BY SETH MABRY

erry Crayton was at Disney World in 2010 when he met a couple, who inquired about where he was from.

After he replied Oakboro, Crayton received a response he never expected.

"They said, 'Well, that's where they have that awesome cruise-in,' " Crayton recalled. "I said, 'That's it.'"

That more than 500 miles from Stanly County two strangers knew about the Oakboro Cruise-In, where hundreds of antique cars roll into downtown on the fourth Friday of each month, helps illustrate the enduring legacy of the event Crayton, 83, started 20 years ago in April 2003.

"I had to keep control from getting a big head," he said with a laugh.

Similar to the town's iconic Fourth of July parade, the Cruise-In has become indelible — it's practically woven into Oakboro's identity, its DNA, consistently drawing thousands of people from across the Charlotte metropolitan area and beyond. Crayton recalls a man once traveled to Oakboro in his mustang from Hoover, Alabama, more than 400 miles away.

A celebration will take place the last weekend in September to commemorate the anniversary. The plan is to have music, various street vendors and possibly fireworks.

"Most people get something like this started and it will be stopped maybe in a year, but 20 years of still doing it, that says quite a bit about a person," Stanfield resident Larry Huneycutt said.

A former student of Crayton's and vintage car aficionado, Huneycutt regularly attends the cruise-ins, displaying his vehicles while also in search of new ones to buy. He estimates each year he buys two to three vehicles during the cruise-ins.

The cars typically begin arriving at 3 p.m., with the event starting at 5 p.m. and running until around 9:30 p.m. The cruise-ins feature vehicles across all eras, from classic hot rods to newer muscle cars to motorcycles. Crayton even recalls a 1902 Ford Roundabout having been on display.

"I just think it's awesome that our little town is able to accommodate such a big event," Police Chief TJ Smith said. "It's amazing to see the togetherness of the town and the people who attend the event. It just shows how heartfelt and loving our town really is.

"I hope we have 20 more years of it," Smith





Robert Satterfield, of Concord, raises the hood on his 1930 Ford Model at the start of the Oakboro Cruise-in on July 28.

added.

HOW THE EVENT BEGAN

Crayton always had a passion for cars — especially antique ones. The owner of several classic vehicles, including a 1940 Chevrolet Street Rod and a 1961 Corvette, Crayton taught auto mechanics at West Stanly High School for 32 years, retiring in 1996.

From 1980 to 1987, Crayton organized several cruise-ins at the school's parking lot, often attracting more than 700 cars. He also regularly attended car shows in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee.

Following his career at West Stanly, Crayton opened an antique store on Main Street. It was one of the few businesses in downtown, as the town was struggling to gain a foothold following the closing of Stanly Knitting Mills, which had been Oakboro's biggest employer.

"We had zero foot traffic," he said. "After the mill closed, everything was dead."

Looking for a way to bring more people to the



community, Crayton went back to his roots: He pitched creating an event where classic car enthusiasts could come together to show off their vehicles.

Modeled after the Somernites Cruise, held each month in Somerset, Kentucky, Crayton and his wife traveled throughout the county, eagerly passing out fliers about the cruise-in. Word-of-mouth gradually expanded to neighboring counties, as momentum for the event grew.

Even after receiving approval from the town council, Crayton said certain officials were still unsure if the event could draw enough people to really make an impact.

After months of publicity, the inaugural Cruise-in took place on April 26, 2003. Crayton had modest expectations, which were quickly surpassed.

"Everybody was saying you'll be lucky if you have 20 or 25 cars," Crayton said. "On the very first night, we had over 100 vehicles and around 2,000 people showed up.

"I was very, very excited," Crayton. "It was overwhelming, really, being so huge that first night."

'A LIFE OF ITS OWN'

The momentum generated from that first event has not slowed down. If anything, the



cruise-ins have grown in stature as more people learned about the excitement taking place in town

"It's good family fun," said Mark Rowles, a former colleague of Crayton's at West Stanly, who regularly brought his kids when they were younger. "We've had a ball."

"There are people that come from Tennessee,

South Carolina, North Carolina, Georgia, Virginia," he added. "They'll be here every fourth Friday. Some of them are driving several hundreds miles to be here."

Crayton was on vacation at North Myrtle Beach, South Carolina with his family in the summer of 2005 when he received a phone call. The person asked Crayton to save him a spot at





Proud to Bring Jobs and Economic Growth to Stanly County









BadinBusinessPark.com





Leading with Heart Because it's Personal

Whether enjoying a meal with friends, attending a wellness class or social gathering, residents at Spring Arbor have many options to maintain an active lifestyle. There's something for everyone at Spring Arbor. Life here is invigorating, enriching and inspiring. Our residents enjoy days filled with many new experiences and programs personally designed so each resident can live life to the fullest.

Give us a Call to Schedule your tour Today!

315 Park Ridge Rd., Albemarle, NC 28001 (704) 982-8205 | springarborliving.com





Matthew Trull teaches his son, Dalton, 9, of Stanfield, about the components of a hotrod engine as they look at a 1966 Ford truck during the Oakboro Cruise-in on July 28.

the upcoming Cruise-In, as staff from Car Craft, a national magazine devoted to automobiles, hot rods and drag racing, would be in attendance.

This was news to Crayton.

"I said, 'What are you talking about?' " he said he told the individual. "I didn't even know it, because the magazine had not notified me."

Crayton cut his vacation short to be at the event, which featured around 400 vehicles and thousands of people — more than any prior Cruise-In.

"Even though we looked like aliens from the planet Kodak, the locals were friendly 'cause deep down they knew that it was Cruise-In night in Oakboro, North Carolina," according to the short article featured in the



Advanced Benefit Plans, Inc.

Renee F. Farrell Authorized Agent

307 N. First Street, Albemarle, NC 28001 (704) 986-6047 phone (704) 986-0949 fax reneeffarrell@hotmail.com

Medical and Dental Insurance • Life Insurance Medicare Supplements • Medicare Advantage









September 2005 edition of the magazine. "That was a good thing."

The chief attraction for many was the Burn Out, where individuals competed in a cordoned-off area, spinning their tires to see which vehicle could generate the most smoke. The Charlotte Observer wrote a detailed story about it in 2005, and it was the subject of a documentary, "Burn Out: The Resurrection of a Small Southern Town."

"It was just surreal," Rowles said about the atmosphere surrounding Craft Car officials being at the event. "It's hard to describe that feeling because there were people from everywhere."

The national exposure helped bring more people to the monthly cruises. People later told him they learned about the event from added publicity.

The cruises helped instill a renewed energy into the town, especially the downtown businesses, with people eager to explore the restaurants and shops.

The man who used to operate the Fountain Grill, now the Los Jacubes Mexican Restaurant, told Crayton that "on cruise-in nights, he made enough to pay his monthly expenses," Crayton said.

He also appreciates that since the cruise-in started, the number of downtown businesses has steadily increased. "Now everything's occupied," Crayton said.

The 2005 success illustrated to Crayton that the cruise-ins had staying power and would not



Roger Pharr, of Charlotte, wipes down his 1967 Nova at the start of the Oakboro Cruise-in on July 28.

be going away anytime soon.

"After that, really, that's when it took on a life of its own," Crayton said. "Even if I had nothing to do with it now, it would continue because people are used to coming."

'A TIME WARP'

About 10 years ago, Rowles was in the street taking photographs of the many stylish cars on display when a semi-truck drove by. The driver,

not sure what to think, pulled down his window and asked: "Did I just drive into a time warp or what?"

"It just looks like I went back in time 40-50 years to be here," the man added, according to Rowles. "This is amazing."

The man's account is a testament to another reason the cruise-ins have been so successful. As much as the vintage cars can transport people to an earlier era, so, too, can the town. Compared

with the bigger, urban communities around it, the look and feel of Oakboro, with a population of about 2,100, can often feel like a blast from the past.

"Time hasn't forgotten it, but in a lot of ways it has," Rowles said. "You don't have all the hustle and bustle of a city. The town gives you the 1950s/1960s-type vibe."

Rowles theorizes the same type of event would likely not be as successful in a larger, more sprawling community.

"Cruising was something that was done in the '50s and '60s and '70s," Rowles said. "That's the big era of cruising and Oakboro's still there, for the most part. And that's a good thing. That's Oakboro's blessing; that's their calling card."

NO SIGNS OF SLOWING DOWN

After two decades of car enthusiasts making the monthly pilgrimage to Oakboro, the event is as strong as ever.

"The word is still getting out there and we're getting new people every month," he said. "That's what keeps it going."

The event has cultivated a dedicated follow-



ing, with close to 7,000 followers on its Face-book page, where announcements are posted and photos shared.

When asked what it means to him that the Cruise-In has become such an integral part of many people's lives over the years, Crayton said "it just shows that I had a good idea."

Crayton is confident the Cruise-In will continue well into the future, once he no longer plays an active role.

"It will continue as long as we have gasoline cars," he said with a chuckle. \boxed{S}

Modern Healthcare Best Places to Work 2023



HospiceofStanly.org



Aliyah Rush and teammates celebrate a win.

Softball sisterhood

West Stanly establishes softball dynasty

BY CHARLES CURCIO

HISTORY

igh school fast-pitch softball in North Carolina dates back to before it was a recognized sport with the state's athletic association.

In the last 11 years, one school has won more state championships (six) than any other and has been one of the dominant programs in the history of the sport: the West Stanly Colts.

West Stanly sits as the four-time defending NCHSAA 2A state champions and finished ranked first in the MaxPreps ratings in the state regardless of classification. The Colts finished as the No. 1 ranked team in the state in the 2A by MaxPreps in 2019, 2022 and 2023.

From 1975 until 1998, the North Carolina High School Athletic Association (NCHSAA) played slow-pitch softball. The first fastpitch titles were awarded in 1996, and West Stanly hit the ground running.

Stanly was one of the few counties playing fastpitch at the Dixie Youth age levels, so when the state went to fast pitch, schools were ready.

Joy Stogner Hathcock, who played Dixie Youth Softball for West before playing for the high school squad, credited Oren Huneycutt for his efforts coaching the oldest level, the Debs.

Like many West kids, she played fastpitch at every level in community ball before reaching high school.

Hathcock said having grown up playing fastpitch was important for herself and her teammates when they arrived at West Stanly High School.

"There was a learning curve for other teams and communities. They didn't have the experience hitting the fastpitch style of pitch, and didn't have pitching staffs," Hathcock said. "We were accustomed to getting in the batter's box and seeing a pitcher with a windmill style or coming in faster."

As a program, West Stanly has the second-best winning percentage among the top five teams in the state with the most overall playoff wins.

West Stanly Softhall 2023 STATS

- 31 wins (program record, most wins by high school sports team in Stanly County history)
- 31-game winning streak (program record)
- · 4 consecutive state championships (ties state record)
- 6 overall program state championships (ties state record) - 1997, 2013, 2019, 2021, 2022, 2023
- 23-game program winning streak in state playoffs
- 86-26 overall program record in state playoffs (.768 winning percentage is second-highest in NCHSAA history...86 wins is fourth-highest in state history)
- #1 overall ranked team by MaxPreps in North Carolina.
- Second-highest Strength of Schedule in NC.
- Top-15 ranked team in NFCA national poll. 🤫





THE ST GERMAIN GROUP Family Owned & Operated EST. 2020

WHY WORK WITH THE ST. GERMAIN GROUP?

Discover a different kind of Real Estate with The St. Germain Group. Our team of 21 agents offers diverse perspectives, providing collective expertise for your home buying or selling process. Benefit from clear communication and tailored searches that prioritize your preferences. We ensure you're well-informed and confident in your decisions by explaining any unknown terms. Choose us for a partnership focused on you!

WHAT WE OFFER

Selling

Buying

Investing

Rentals

Property Management





TheStGermainGroup.Net





@TeamStGermain



Teagan Ritchie (left) and Lilly Hartsell sign a softball before a championship-clinching game.

The Colts' playoff mark lifetime of 86-26 (76.8%) is second behind Alexander Central (93-26, 78.2%) and fourth all-time in most playoff wins.

THE FIRST TITLE

Having been ahead in the development of players in fastpitch put the Colts immediately at the forefront of the sport when the NCHSAA first made it official.

In the inaugural season, there were three levels of state playoffs, with 1A and 2A combined into one.

Instead of a best-of-three series as it is currently, the state finals had four teams play in a double-elimination tournament.

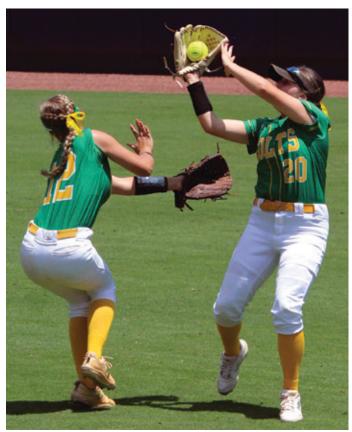
In 1996, the Colts reached the state finals tournament and fought back from a semifinals loss to Bunn, 4-3, then eliminated Polk County with a whopping 29-0 win. West then reached the state championship finals with a 10-0 win versus Bunn.

However, West was denied the title that season with a 1-0 loss to another program whose name appears often in NCHSAA fastpitch championship history: South Granville.

So in 1997, with 12 of 13 players coming back to the team, West was on a mission.

The Colts again faced elimination, having lost to South Granville 4-2 in the opening game.

This time, West had to win three games on Sunday, starting with an 11-2 elimination game versus Clayton. The Colts then posted wins of 6-1 and 2-1 in a doubleheader versus South Granville to win the school's first title.



Kristen Smith and Brooklyn Lovin go after a fly ball.

Sophomore Summer Eudy won MVP honors as the Colts claimed the title.

THE RIVALRY

From the beginning, one team which played the Colts tough and stood in their way of the state finals was only a 10-minute drive away: South Stanly.

The two teams met in the postseason in 1997 in the fourth round. South hosted that game, and even had painted on a rock outside the school, "Colts Stop Here."

However, it was West who advanced with a 7-0 win and went on to the state finals.

Even from the beginning of the fastpitch era in high school, Hathcock said, South Stanly was a test.

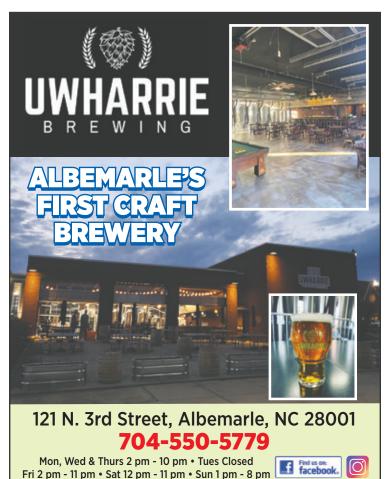
"That's always been a rivalry, even in the youth leagues when we would go through our state tournaments," Hathcock said. "You always had to go through South Stanly...coming from Stanly, we knew each other and were friends. We're friends off the field, but when we got on



MVP Lily Huneycutt shares a moment with Aliyah Rush after the Colts' title win.

the field, we were always going after each other."

The two schools have continued to compete on the softball field even when in different classifications and conferences. South has three 1A state titles (1998, 2012, 2022). Combined with North Stanly's 1A title in 2017, it gives the coun-







ty 10 state champions out of the 107 championships won in the sport.

Emily Smith, the current West head coach who played for the Colts from 2007-10, said "if you're in competitive sports, you like a good, healthy rivalry. I have nothing but respect for South Stanly's softball program. (Head Coach David) Poplin has been there since I played... and he has been nothing but nice to me anytime I talk to him."

"It's hard to fathom this much softball talent in a small county like ours."

THE NEW ERA

A tradition of excellence continued when West Stanly alumnus Wesley Kidd took over in 2000 as the Colts' head coach.

West Stanly continued to rack up conference championships and playoff appearances. The Colts claimed many Rocky River Conference regular-season and tournament titles and made the state playoffs nearly every season.

"Once you start winning, it's expected of you from the community. (It's) expected from the players because they want to live up to the group of players that came before," Kidd said.

As a whole since he went to school at West, the coach added, women's athletics have always

Shelby Barbee celebrates with teammates after West Stanly's state championship win.

been strong.

Many of the softball players from West played travel ball as well, which also helped the program.

"You're not just playing in school. It's become a big thing and the winning just keeps it going because people want to be a part of it," Kidd said.

Kidd said many years little variables played into the success of teams, like chemistry.

"That recipe is sometimes hard to create, but once you've got it, it tends to last and keep going," Kidd said.

Success for West has always started with having a strong pitcher in the circle, he added.

West had come up just short of reaching the state finals the year before, as had been the case way back in 1996. The Colts lost in three games to Madison in the regional finals series.

It would be the 2013 team which put the Colts back into the state championship spotlight when the games were still played at Walnut Creek Softball Complex in Raleigh.

Savannah Blalock, voted the Most Valuable Player in the 2A series in 2013, was a pitcher, Kidd said, who "could really put the ball where she wanted to, and people didn't square her up."

FOUR IN A ROW

Many times in sports, a team finds success over multiple seasons and even decades because of one coach.

In the case of West Stanly, the Colts' six state titles happened with four head coaches.

As dominant as West has been in the early years of the sport in the state, the last six years may have been even more so.

Head coach Craig Carter coached the Colts from 2018 to 2021, while his assistant for three seasons, Emily Smith, has been the head coach the past two years.

Carter was 76-4 over those four seasons, with state titles in 2019 and 2021. (The COVID-19 pandemic shut down high school sports in 2020.) Smith is 60-5 in two seasons as head coach, including a school record-setting 31 wins wrapped up this past June with a fourth straight 2A title.

Combined, the two coaches were 136-9 in six seasons for a 93.8% winning percentage.

In the long-standing tradition of strong pitching for the team was Jordan Hatch, who won several state honors including All American status and the state Player of the Year in 2019. She

was 18-0 in 2021. She recently completed her sophomore season pitching Div. I softball at East Carolina University.

The last two season in the circle have belonged to Lily Huneycutt. Having finished this past year earning finals MVP honors, Huneycutt was named All State and the 2A Pitcher of the Year by the state softball coaches association. She will play next season for Wingate.

Smith said the success of the program "boils down to just working hard day in and day out. I think that the girls know coming into the program you want to make the people that played before you proud, and the people that play after you proud."

Softball, she said, helps build well-rounded young women who excel on the field but also in the classroom and other extracurricular activities on campus.

Despite the high expectations for the team to win the state each year, Smith said "you have to remember that it's a game. As a coach, you have to remember what grounds you and what you can come back to, and for me, it's my faith."

"At the end of the day, I want the high school experience for players to be the best it can be," Smith added. "When we start out, our goal is to win a state championship. If you're competitive in athletics, you want to win and that is naturally in you. Remember who you are playing for, whether it's the West Stanly name on your shirt, playing for Christ or playing to be a good example."

Important to the program's success is the support of the West Stanly community, she said.

"There's no way to maintain your facility, run your concessions stands and have your announcer and music without people willing to volunteer. They're not getting paid a dime," Smith said. "We point out to the girls all the time to thank these people...they're here every game cheering their hearts out for you, raking the field for you, mowing the field. They do all these different things because they love this program."

It's the combination of all those factors, Smith said, which has led to the team's success the last four seasons and throughout the history of the program.

Smith said she hopes West Stanly softball "will always be the light in a world that sometimes can be dark. We always talk to the girls about not knowing what people are going through, so if you can, be that light for somebody else, through softball or anything else."





PROUD TO POWER COMMUNITIES WE CALL HOME



Pee Dee Electric has been proud to serve the people of Stanly County since 1939. We're about more than just poles and wires... we're about people, community, and working together to improve the lives of those we serve.

Private Rehab Rooms Skilled Nursing Care & Assisted Living





24724 S. Business 52 Albemarle, NC 28001 704-982-8191

Schedule a tour today!

www.trinityplacealbemarle.net





Heart for caring

Manager at Hospice of Stanly reflects on a career in service

COURTESY OF HOSPICE OF STANLY

COME JOIN THE FUN

in Downtown Norwood!

FALL FESTIVAL HOOTENANNY

Saturday, October 28 • 10am-8 pm

A Fall-tastic day of games, prizes, food and fun on Main St. in downtown Norwood

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARADE

Wednesday, November 29 • 5 pm Kick-off the Christmas Holiday Season

MAIN STREET BLACK FRIDAY

Friday, December 1

Visit the downtown shops for Black Friday shopping fun!

SHOP SMALL SATURDAY

Saturday, December 2

Enjoy a day of shopping and support our small, local businesses

CHRISTMAS ON THE SQUARE

Saturday, December 9 • 10am Holiday festivities for all



For more information visit www.norwoodcentral.org



A Premier Arts & Crafts Festival

CABARRUS ARENA & EVENTS CENTER

(GPS-4551 Old Airport Rd.) From I-485, Exit 33 * 15 min. on Hwy. 49 N. * Concord, NC 28025

What better way to get ready for Christmas than buying **Handcrafted** unique treasures. You'll find pottery, jewelry, metal sculpture, woodworking, glass, fine art, delicious gourmet delights and many new exhibits!



42nd Annual!





OCT. 20-22 • 2023 Fri. 10-6 • Sat. 10-6 • Sun. 11-5

DON'T MISS THE HOLIDAY MAGIC THAT ONLY COMES ONCE A YEAR!

Compliments of

Christmas Made in the South®

FREE PARKING

Admission with this ad.
Limit one discount per ticket.

All 3 Days With Hand Stamp!

Adults - \$9.00

Children 12 & Under Free

The Charlotte Observer com



www.MadeInTheSouthShows.com
©2023 Carolina Shows, Inc • 704.847.9480



SouthernAire HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING

"Your Comfort is Our Specialty"
Locally Owned & Operated

HVAC Service Professionals

Preventative Maintenance & Inspections

System Repairs or Change-out New Construction Installation Residential and Commercial

Fully Licensed & Bonded



Office Hours Mon-Fri 8am-4pm After Hours Service Available Service Calls

704-474-2665 www.southernairehvac.com



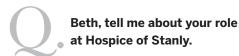


107 Spruce Street, Badin, NC
Phone 704-422-1079

Email 1913badininn@gmail.com

he year 2023 has been a busy one for Hospice of Stanly with recognition as one of Modern Healthcare's Best Places to Work and a 5-star rating from the Centers of Medicare and Medicaid Services.

Beth Thomas, MSW is the family services manager at Hospice of Stanly. A life-long resident of Stanly County, Beth has been with this organization for more than 18 years. Here, in this article provided by Hospice of Stanly, she reflects on a career in service to the seriously ill in the community and the one thing she wishes she had done differently.



I have two roles at Hospice of Stanly: My primary role is being a social worker. Social work is my first love and it's in this role that I really get to know people. It's a gift to be a part of a patient's life during a difficult time. I love visiting a patient's home. It's an honor to see photos on the walls, hear their stories and listen to what the family wants to share.

My second role is serving as part of the leadership team by managing family support services. I'm insanely proud of this team, which includes social workers, our chaplain and bereavement counselors.

These roles are extremely important to the patients and families we serve.

My personal goal though is to meet people

where they are. Often, that means suspending judgement because, after all, this is their story. My job is to make a positive impact on the end of their story.

I imagine that your work is hard. What motivates you to keep doing it?

I don't see my work as hard. I see it as a gift from God to help those facing end of life. I'm motivated by the opportunity to meet people in my community and be part of their lives at such a vulnerable time.

This job is a calling and it's not for everyone. That's part of the reason I was thrilled that our organization was recognized as one of Modern Healthcare's Best Places to Work. That recognition serves as a validation that others in the healthcare industry respect our work and acknowledge the important role we play in the lives of our patients and their families.

It's also incredibly motivating to be a part of such a dynamic team. I love that we pray together, and God continues to bless us.

Okay, so you say your work is not hard, but surely you have bad days?

There are no bad days, maybe bad moments but I try to keep a positive outlook so I can be effective for my patients and families. If I did have to pick one thing it would be when a child or young adult realizes that they will lose a parent. I am pleased that our agency can be there to help during that time.

So often "hospice" is seen as a bad word, spoken in hushed tones. To me hospice means love, quality of life, comfort and honoring last wishes. We were born to die and it's something we all will do. Yes, it's hard to face the loss of someone you love; however, hospice becomes a valuable partner for families facing end of

What is one thing you'd tell someone who was just starting in your career?

Self-care is extremely important when you're giving 100% of your energy to others. That includes anything you are doing for yourself to refuel...it's different for everyone. Walking, reading, napping, cooking, watching TV and spending time with family are a few things that refuel me.

What would you tell your younger self if you could time travel?

Slow down and smell the roses. Life is always lived in a rush and then, in the blink of an eye, it's over. I wish I had taken more pictures.

What would you tell someone in the community that is considering a career in hospice or palliative care?

I'd say, "Come to Hospice of Stanly!" Serious illness care is not an easy job, but being trusted to guide people though what is often the most challenging time of their life is an incredible honor. **S**



Frank S. Sparger, MBA

Financial Advisor

Securities offered through S.A. Stone Wealth Management Inc. Member FINRA/SIPC.

Advisory services offered through SA Stone Investment Advisors Inc.

122 E. Main St. Albemarle, NC 28001 P.O. Box 807 Albemarle, NC 28002 Direct: 704-550-5135 Fax: 336-285-0331

We thank you for allowing us to serve you for 62 years and we look forward to serving you in the future



128 Hwy 49 N • PO Box 185 • Richfield, NC 704-463-7543 · bboil.com

M-F 7am - 4:30pm

- Diesel
- Home Heating Oil
- Kerosene
- Tires
- Batteries
- Auto Accessories
- Auto/Motorcycle **Inspections**
- Hydraulic Hoses
- Propane Tank Filling
- Home A/C, Furnace & **Heat Pump Service**



