

FREE! TAKE ONE!

FEBRUARY / MARCH 2016

Carolina Salt

your life on the Crystal Coast

GOOD READS

Local Authors On Our Water- Loving Land

BEAUFORT IN THE MOVIES

'The Choice' Comes to the Big Screen

OUTER BANKS WILDLIFE

For the Love of Birds

LOOK INSIDE
FOR FUN & FREE

THINGS TO DO

ON THE CRYSTAL COAST
MID-FEBRUARY THROUGH
MID-MARCH

page 8

CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS

New Preschool
Opening!

DIVING OUR COAST

Learn to I.D.
Local Fish!



NICHOLAS SPARKS' 'THE CHOICE' HITS THEATERS

Nicholas Sparks is known for featuring the quaint towns dotting North Carolina's beautiful coast as settings for his beloved bestselling novels and Beaufort is no exception.

Of the about 20 novels by Sparks, almost a dozen have been or are being adapted for film, including the "The Choice," which was published in 2007. "The Choice," Sparks' second novel set in Beaufort, is about two neighbors who fall in love the moment they meet and the harrowing journey they must face to be together.

Filming began in October 2014 in Wilmington on the film adaption of "The Choice." The American romantic drama starring Benjamin Walker ("Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter") and Teresa Palmer ("I Am Number Four") is planned for release in theaters on February 5, 2016.

Sparks' first novel set in Beaufort was the 1999 "A Walk to Remember." In 2002, the film starring Mandy Moore and Shane West was released. That story was inspired by Sparks' younger sister, Danielle Sparks Lewis, who like Jamie in the novel, died of cancer.

"The Choice" will mark the 11th Sparks novel to be adapted for the screen, including the recently released films "The Best of Me" and "The Longest Ride." Other novels adapted to the big screen include "The Notebook," "Message in a Bottle," "Dear John" and "The Lucky One." Lionsgate



Betsy Cartier of Hungry Town Tours had an opportunity to catch up with Nicholas Sparks at a recent event in New Bern to benefit the Nicholas Sparks Foundation. (Photo by Brad Styron)

acquired the American and United Kingdom rights to the film adaptation of "The Choice."

One business based in Beaufort is offering Sparks fans a chance to experience the town like his characters with its "A Ride to Remember" tour.

Hungry Town Tours will take visitors to several of the locations in Beaufort as described in the bestselling novels "The Choice" and "A Walk to Remember."

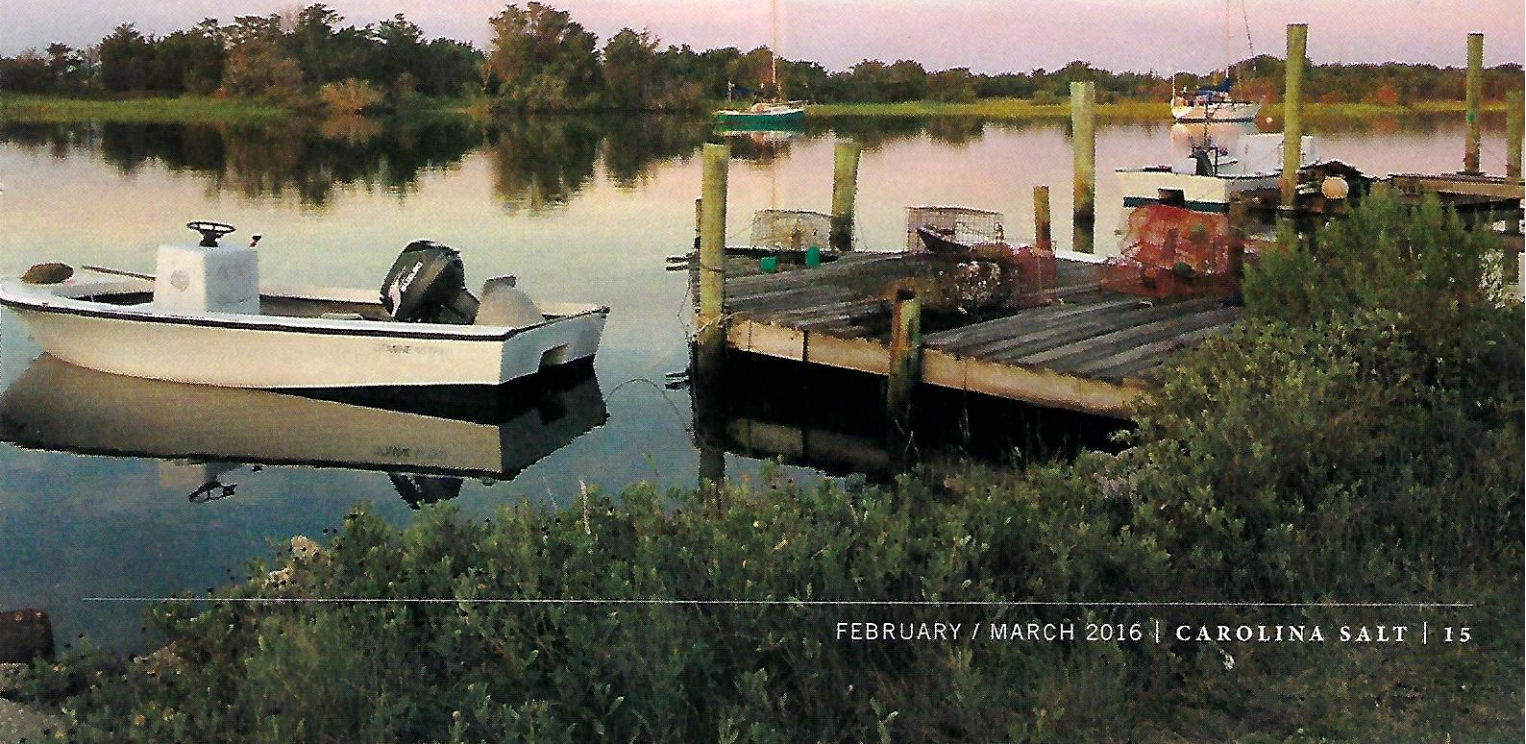
While pedaling on retro-cruiser bicycles through the historic streets of downtown Beaufort and along the waterfront, the tour

is a memorable way to learn about the quaint town so prominently featured in the two bestselling novels and the motion pictures.

"We wanted to create a unique experience featuring the locations in Beaufort that were inspired by Nicholas Sparks and referenced in his books and the movies," stated Betsy Cartier, co-owner of Hungry Town Tours.

"We're excited about the adaption of "The Choice" coming to the big screen," stated Betsy Cartier, co-owner of Hungry Town

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16





Bring your landscape
into the light.

PLAN YOUR SPRING LANDSCAPING
DESIGNS WITH US NOW!

Carolina Home & Garden is now taking
consultations to plan your spring landscape lighting
and design dreams. Brighten up your landscape and
be the envy of all your neighbors.

**CERTIFIED LIGHTING EXPERTS
OVER 20 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE**

4778 Highway 24 • Newport

252.393.9004

VISIT US ON FACEBOOK FOR DETAILS!

Nicholas Sparks, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

Tours. "The novel is all about Beaufort, Front Street, the waterfront and the historic district. We can't wait to see how Beaufort is portrayed in the movie," she said.

"I always tell people that Nicholas Sparks nails it in his novel 'The Choice' when describing Beaufort," she said.

According to Sparks, "For the most part, the film tells a story that appeared in the novel. However, because film and novels are two entirely different mediums, there are always going to be differences between the novel and the film."

Tours for "A Ride to Remember" are at 10 a.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday and 4 p.m. Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday. For 15 years old and older, each tour, which will last about an hour and 15 minutes, is limited to eight participants. Cost is \$20 each and includes a local guide, bottle of water, taxes and bike rental.

"This time of year, we have some flexibility in scheduling by letting people create their own tour time. 'If they want to do the tour at 9 a.m. and we have nothing scheduled, we will do 'A Ride to Remember,'" said Cartier.

That flexibility and customer service at Hungry Town Tours has earned them the 2015 TripAdvisor Certificate of Excellence. The tour company is ranked the # 1 Activity on the Crystal Coast by reviewers on TripAdvisor.

Tour participants have the option to purchase a softcover copy of "The Choice" or "A Walk Remember" signed by Nicholas Sparks for \$50, with 100 percent of the proceeds for the books going directly to the Nicholas Sparks Foundation, a nonprofit educational organization.

To learn more about Hungry Town Tours, call 252-648-1011 from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily to make advance reservations. You can learn more online at hungrytowntours.com or visit their location at 400 Front St., Beaufort.

ABOUT HUNGRY TOWN TOURS Hungry Town Tours offers several unique bicycle and walking tours in Beaufort. On the Hidden Beaufort Tour, participants learn what makes Beaufort beautiful, historic and a little unique. Tour participants pedal through 300 years of Beaufort's history on easy-going beach cruiser bikes. Other history tours include the Early Morning Risers Tour and Legends & Lore of the Sea. A Ride to Remember features places in Beaufort that were inspired by Nicholas Sparks and referenced in his books, "A Walk to Remember" and "The Choice." On the culinary tours, Hungry Town Tours promotes restaurants with locally-sourced food that allow for an enhanced guest experience for those visiting Beaufort. They pride themselves in working with restaurants offering fresh, local products that support local fishermen and farmers. The food tours include the Beaufort Culinary Tour, North Carolina Shrimp Tour, the North Carolina Oyster Tour, Beaufort Lunchbox Tour and Bike, Brunch & Bubbles. Hungry Town Tours offers a variety of walking tours including the Historic Beaufort Walking Tour, Food by Foot Culinary Walking Tour and the Sunday Brunch Walkabout. Hungry Town Tours is the first business in Carteret County to be accepted into the NC GreenTravel Initiative. They successfully promote green from "spoke to fork" by combining nature-based travel with culinary tourism through bicycle tours. For more information, call Hungry Town Tours at 252-648-1011 or visit them online at www.hungrytowntours.com. They are located at 400 Front Street in Beaufort.

ABOUT THE NICHOLAS SPARKS FOUNDATION The Nicholas Sparks Foundation is a nonprofit committed to inspiring and transforming students' lives through education, curriculum development and life changing international experiences, so they are prepared to embrace a life of being active learners and engaged global citizens. For information on how you can get involved with the Nicholas Sparks Foundation, visit their website at nsparksfoundation.org. 