

The Winter Farm

WELCOME TO SUMMERFIELD

By Alexa Corbett



As a young girl, Holly Carter desperately wanted a horse, but, while her family did have a farm, they weren't "horse people".

When she was eight, her father agreed to get her a horse, on two conditions; that she learn to whistle loud enough to be heard from 100 acres away, and that unless "she had a fever of 104", she would take care of all the horse's needs, everyday. The horse she got was 35 years old, and had spent the majority of his life mistreated, starving and neglected. Rip Van Winkle, named by her mother after Holly's favorite book, was her pride and joy, and it wasn't long before she brought him back from the brink, and the both of them gained a true friend. This was only the start of a lifelong passion.

Holly feels she owes much to the horses she grew up with. As a young woman, she specialized in showing thoroughbreds in the hunter-jumper world. Working and training with them taught her compassion and respect. "You have to realize, it's like driving a sports car. You have this 1,400 lb animal, and if you didn't respect its power, you could get seriously hurt. As a rebellious teenager of the 60s, I needed to learn that respect in an honest way." As an adult, Holly worked as an interior designer, but continued to ride and show horses as

a hobby. Through her work with the animals, she made connections that helped her business, and as a result.

In 2006 Holly began rescuing thoroughbreds, and in 2013, semi-retired from her job to fully pursue the dream. The organization was named after the first horse that they took in, a thoroughbred jockey Club named Winter Escape who still resides at the farm today. The Winter Farm rescues thoroughbreds in sad situations and takes in retired race horses to be retrained for a second career. Rehabilitation goes both ways for the people and the animals; "Thoroughbreds have an amazing work ethic and they need to have a person and a purpose." Holly believes that while helping traumatized animals is no easy task, it is one of the most rewarding things a person can do in their life.



"Some horses are overwhelmed, dysfunctional, depressed, and they really just want to be left alone, so you have to create a relationship where they know you, you know them, and they can begin the recovery process." One of her favorite sayings is 'Consistency overtime equals Trust', and The Winter Farm's mission reflects this. "They hear your voice,

the horses get to know you, and you can feel the connection. These are horses that are born to race, and jump; they're attached to a person, they need a person to have a purpose, and working with them will give you one too. Helping them through this heals your soul, it washes away your own hurts."

The Winter Farm has been an amazing success story in their off track thoroughbreds rehabilitation since its inception. "What makes us different is that We have the passion and the facilities to care for these horses. Our organization is a champion for these thoroughbreds."



Several of The Winter Farm graduates have been adopted by former equestrian Olympic medalists, who also want to give back to the animals they worked so hard with. One graduate in particular was a reserve High Score champion in his division at the Winter Equestrian Festival, in Palm Beach Florida in 2018!

Now that The Winter Farm has officially moved to Summerfield, Holly Carter invites the residents to get involved and help them on their mission. Currently they are in need of either financial support, or building materials for paddock fencing, a proper horse shelter, and a tractor. Thoroughbreds are built to run, so proper pasture management is super important to ensure that the animals have enough space! If you'd like to join us in supporting this amazing organization, contact The Winter Farms on their Facebook page or by email, TheWinterFarm@outlook.com. The Winter Farm OTTB Rescue & Retirement is a non-profit 501c registered within the state of North Carolina under the EIN# 47-1495347. Feel free to go visit them at their new location, 5920 Khaki Place, Summerfield NC.

From all of us here at Summerfield Living, Welcome home to The Winter Farm!



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Expert Contributor

The Advantages of Selling Your Home DURING THE HOLIDAYS

By Julie Trogdon



IT'S OFFICIALLY FALL AND WE CAN SEE AND FEEL THE CHANGES IN THE AIR.

After a hot and humid North Carolina summer, most people welcome the cool air, fire pits with friends and family, hot chocolate, and the beautiful changing leaves. But how do those changes affect the real estate market? Isn't Spring the best time to sell a home? And what about the upcoming Holidays? Should sellers wait until the first of the new year? The answer to that last question is NO. The holiday season is a great time to sell your home, and here's why:

Less Inventory. Home buyers purchase homes year round; If a seller waits until Spring to put their home on the market, when inventory increases, they'll be competing with more sellers. By putting their home on the market during the Holidays, sellers are able to better position themselves and take advantage of low inventory.

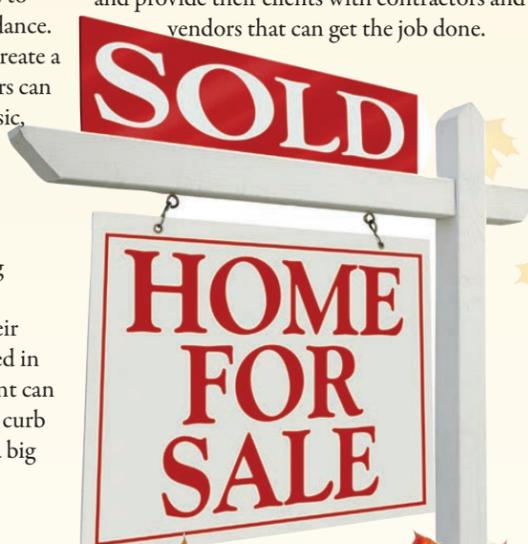
Serious buyers. If a buyer is bundling up to venture out into the cold weather to look at homes, you can bet they are serious! We are fortunate in our area to have mild Winters

and often warm days during the holidays, but we've also had snow in early December. Some home buyers, however, need to buy a home quickly. They may have an expiring lease or are being relocated for a job. There may be family or health issues that require a better suited floor plan. They may not have the ability to wait until the Spring market.

Cozy home and Happy smells. Sellers often think they should not decorate their home for the Holidays but that's simply not true. What a great opportunity to showcase their home. This is also the perfect time to utilize the expertise of a Realtor for guidance. Simple decorations inside and out can create a warm feeling for potential buyers. Sellers can bake cookies, play cheerful Holiday music, and turn on the gas logs so buyers can warm up by the fire.

Pictures from different seasons Sellers may worry that their landscaping will not look as attractive in the Winter months. They can share photos with their Realtor from the other seasons to be used in marketing materials. A good seller's agent can also advise their clients on best outdoor curb appeal. Often, small changes can make a big difference.

Hire a Reliable Agent. One of the most important things a seller can do is hire a reliable Realtor who is not going to disappear for weeks around the Holidays. An experienced agent will help take some of the stress of selling a home away. Even if a seller wants to wait until the first of the year, or Spring to put their home on the market, they should still reach out to their trusted Realtor months before. Most homes need minor repairs, updating or decluttering before going on the market. A seasoned Realtor will be able to advise sellers on what they should focus on and provide their clients with contractors and vendors that can get the job done.



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