

# King Canary Brewing Co. is opening a second Lake Norman-area taproom. Here's where

BY JOE MARUSAK

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Mooresville-based King Canary Brewing Co. has opened its second Lake Norman-area taproom, in downtown Davidson behind the Davidson College bookstore, owner Andrea

Gravina said.

"Since opening the doors of King Canary six years ago, the Charlotte-area community has been so supportive of our goal to brew great beer and create a cozy community gathering spot," Gravina said in an email statement. The new taproom

KING CANARY BREWING CO.  
The King Canary Davidson taproom includes these custom hand-whittled bird tap handles.

opened on Friday, Oct. 4, beside Davidson Village Inn.

Gravina called the Davidson taproom a "natural progression" for the brewery, whose flagship location is on Williamson Road, off Interstate 77

Mooresville exit 33.

**WHAT'S BREWING AT KING CARNARY**

The Davidson taproom's 10-tap draft tower holds eight King Canary beers, a Prosecco and a seasonally rotating cider. The open-

ing tap list includes King Canary flagship beers Stud Puffin Pale Ale and Little Wing Blonde Ale, along with its Oktoberfest and other styles.

The taproom has an extensive wine list, with by-the-bottle and glass options, and a cocktail menu with specially selected classic craft recipes.

The Davidson location has traditional bar seating and various other seating areas, including a small raw bar counter.

drop-down awning panels with heating in winter.

Marlee Jeans Raw Bar & Kitchen is the in-house restaurant partner.

King Canary will participate in the town's Oct. 25 Halloween March, Nov. 2 Cookie Crawl and Dec. 5-7 Christmas in Davidson, Gravina said.

King Canary also is part of the Davidson social district.

**KING CANARY BREWING CO.**

Locations: 562 Williamson Road, Mooresville, 28117; 121 Depot St., Davidson, 28036.

Menu: [Instagram: @KingCanaryDavidson](#)

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## HEALTH RISKS

said.

**HOW TO HANDLE CLEANING UP THE MUD?**

Flood water can bring microorganisms from sewage and other sources

inside buildings, according to the EPA. During flood cleanup, exposure to microorganisms can cause allergic or irritant effects, or in some cases even infectious diseases.

The EPA urged resi-

dents are urged to wear an N-95 respirator, sealed goggles, gloves, pants, long-sleeved shirt, and boots or work boots.

NC DHHS also advises residents to clean their hands with soap and water before preparing food or eating after contact with flood waters.

"Never assume that a water-damaged house is

safe," NC Department of Health and Human Services said in a statement to the Observer on Tuesday.

"Going into a building that has been flooded, even after the water is gone, can present a wide variety of hazards that can cause injury, illness or even death," the agency said.

Origami Ink Shop own-

ers Cathie and Jonathan Robbins have been digging through the mud daily looking for anything salvageable. "Cathie and I have been doing most of it ourselves since we could not risk the health of any of our customers who have offered to pitch in," Origami Ink said Saturday on Facebook.

The store, which sells

stationery, fountain pens and gifts, set up a Go Fund Me page Saturday to help rebuild. Origami Ink officials did not respond to multiple requests for comment.

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## LANDSLIDE

sa felt like they had since the day they met.

They felt like the luckiest people in the world.

"We both said that we never thought we would have a house that nice in our life. She was so happy to have it," Jamie says, by phone, from a bed at Cannon Memorial Hospital in Linville, with members of Melissa's family gathered around her.

Then he briefly falls silent.

At the time of the conversation, on Thursday night, it's been not even a week since Hurricane Helene raged across the sky over Western North Carolina. Not even a week since the storm triggered a series of landslides and mudslides that knocked the couple's beloved home off its foundation. Not even a week since he suddenly, violently lost the 41-year-old woman of his dreams.

The father of their 8-year-old son River and stepfather to her older boys takes a deep, shaky breath. Takes a few seconds to compose himself. There are things he's open to sharing about the tragic way Melissa died.

First, however, he wants to talk about the beautiful ways she lived.

**ENAMORED BY EVERYTHING ABOUT HER**

Melissa met Jamie at Baxter when she was still married to her first husband, with whom she'd had three sons.

After her divorce, Jamie was slow to make a move. So she had to make her own, marching up to him while he was sitting in the cafeteria during a power outage — and plopping right down in his lap.

The ice broken, he was able to work up the courage to walk her out at the end of that night. They started falling in love on the spot, as they chatted and flirted through the window of her silver Dodge Durango.

It escalated quickly.

He was enamored by everything about her. The intense love she had for her little boys, Brandon, Sebastian and Ethan. The ability to pull off camouflage clothes and mud-covered boots one minute, a fancy girl dress the next. That fearlessness. That contagious laugh.

Those eyes, and the way

they looked (as her young-

er sister Elizabeth de-

scribes them) like the

color of honey in a jar

when it's held up to the

sunlight.

They spent years dating before he formally proposed ... but leading up to that day, he informally popped the question over and over — with Ring Pops, or little black-plastic spider rings (because she loved Halloween), or other assorted toy rings he'd pull out of vending machines near the fronts of stores they shopped at.

Jamie would drop to a knee while holding his 25-cent offering and wearing a silly grin; she'd just laugh and wave him off.

*You have to find a better way to propose,* Melissa would tell him, every time.

Finally, on Halloween in 2013, he did it for real, secretly taking the day off to carve "Will You Marry Me?" into a collection of pumpkins, finishing his project literally the second she walked through the front door of their apartment.

In the run-up to the big day, Jamie accidentally saw her in the first wedding dress she bought.

Feeling superstitious, she sold it.

The second one was a traditional-looking stunner that she wore in their October 18, 2014 ceremony, which they held in a majestic field in Roan Mountain, Tennessee.

Everything proceeded perfectly, from her older boys serving as groomsmen right down to the four-leaf clover Jamie found on the walk to where they posed for their wedding portraits.

Two years later, they welcomed River, a red-headed bundle of joy that made their family of six complete.

And Melissa loved nothing more than spending time with them doing ... pretty much anything — whether that meant taking the boys for the hundredth time to trapse through Backyard Terrors Dinosaur Park just across the state line in Tennessee; or dressing up like superheroes with River; or just getting fast food from the drive-through with Jamie, parking next to the restaurant, and talking about life as they watched traffic go by.

The only thing that dissatisfied her in life was her job, and she solved that last year when she left it to start her own cleaning business, enabling her to spend more time with Jamie and the kids.

It seemed as if her life couldn't get much better.

But then it started raining.

**'THE HILL BEHIND IT WAS TERRIFYING TO US'**

Melissa's younger sister, Elizabeth Hensley, had always felt extremely uneasy about Melissa's home.

On the couple of occasions when she and her fiancé Tony would come up from where they lived over and over — with Ring Pops, or little black-plastic spider rings (because she loved Halloween), or other assorted toy rings he'd pull out of vending machines near the fronts of stores they shopped at.

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tree toppled over, taking out a transformer near the road and pulling down a power line onto their driveway. The winds picked up even more speed.

Yet in the midst of it all, Melissa saw something beautiful — something she'd seen during other hard rainstorms: a little waterfall behind the house, running down that very steep, very tall hill.

She took a video of it with her phone and brought it back to show Jamie. *Look how pretty this is,* she said to him.

Before long, the wind died down, and with no electricity and no TikTok or TV, Jamie, Melissa and River sat on their front porch and watched the river, which had swollen over its banks. The storm seemed to settle after that. They hoped the worst was over.

And then, right around 11 a.m. Friday, they heard a crash.

**LANDSLIDE AFTER LANDSLIDE AFTER LANDSLIDE**

They jumped up, ran through to other side of the house, and reacted in horror as they saw that landslide had taken out their detached garage.

The messy pile of mud and debris was redirecting rainwater toward the main house and both Jamie and Melissa were frantically trying to move logs and vehicles to try to divert the flow of the water down the driveway. Jamie ran upstairs to get something — he now can't remember what — but while looking for it, there was another even louder crash, almost like an explosion.

Jamie felt himself being crushed as the house seemed to cave in on him. The house groaned and popped and snapped as it slid down the bank into the river. Jamie screamed for River, who called back in a way that implied to Jamie that his son was OK.

Although Jamie was bleeding from a gash in his head and his back was in searing pain (he'd later learn his spine was fractured), he was able to get clear of the wreckage and make his way halfway up the bank to where River was stuck in muddy water.

As Jamie was picking him up, he looked up and saw Melissa standing over the foundation where the house had been — just in time to hear her scream, "*Babe, watch out!*"

In the next moment, he shoved River up the riverbank and lunged after him. Then an instant later, there was another thunderous crashing sound as

a third landslide pummeled their property. When he looked up again, Melissa was no longer there.

Jamie raced up the hill as fast as he could, fighting against gravity, mud, serious injuries and panic. He got to where their house had stood just a few minutes earlier and saw nothing but a swath of empty land. He screamed for her again and again. But she was gone.

River's new superhero.

Even more so, they're just so grateful that they have her back. That they know. They can't imagine how they'd be feeling right now if she still was missing. If she'd been somehow lost forever out there. So they were glad, on Monday morning, to have found at least some small sense of peace.

Then later that day, they found something that gave Jamie yet a little bit more.

**A MEMORIAL FROM THE BEST DAY OF HIS LIFE**

Jamie was with Melissa's family, all of them in the throes of unimaginable grief. Talking about Melissa. Talking about that house. About how she was gone, and how it was gone, and how all the memories they'd made together were literally lying in ruins.

"I would do anything," he said at one point, "to have her wedding dress back."

The room stayed quiet for several seconds. Then

Melissa's oldest son Brandon, 22, suddenly stood up. "Come on," he said to his brothers Sebastian, 21, and Ethan, 17. Melissa's father Brian joined them, too, as they got into a car and drove over to Minneapolis via the one road that still provided access to where Jamie and Melissa's house once stood.

Together, the boys managed to cut their way into the old downstairs master bedroom, which was wedged between some trees, and together they disappeared into the hole.

When they came out, Ethan was holding onto his mother's wedding dress.

"They come carrying it in, and it was completely caked in mud and soaking wet, but they found it," Jamie recalls, crying softly.

Asked why he'd wanted it back so badly, he gives the simplest and sweetest possible answer: "Cause it was the best day of my life, the day she married me."

The 10th anniversary of that day is Oct. 18, by the way — and if Helene had chosen another path, they almost certainly would have celebrated the occasion in the place they loved more than any other.

At home.

A GoFundMe has been established to help Jamie, Bernice and their sons:

[gofundme.com/f/help-jamie-and-his-sons-rebuild-their-lives](http://gofundme.com/f/help-jamie-and-his-sons-rebuild-their-lives)

*Theoden Janes:*

704-358-5897;

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"I guess she's gonna be

the best mom ever."

— Theoden Janes

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