

# The Midnight Sun

## NORTH CAROLINA'S 1ST IKEA STORE OPENS IN CHARLOTTE

### Inside this issue:

IKEA Opens in Charlotte!	1-2
SAGA Represents Scandinavia at School	3
Discover Alpacas!	4
Danish Summer House for Rent	4
Saab Files for Bankruptcy	5
Lego Store Coming to the Carolinas	6

### Calendar of Events

- Victor Borge, Daughter's Reflections Benefit for SAGA Booth Playhouse  
130 N. Tryon Street  
Charlotte, NC 28202  
Saturday, April 18  
7 pm
- Smorgasbord Luncheon Benefit for SAGA  
Living Saviour Lutheran Church  
6817 Carmel Road  
Charlotte, NC 28226  
Saturday, May 2  
11 am & 1 pm
- UNCC Int'l Festival  
Featuring Café Scandinavia  
Barnhardt Student Activity Center  
Saturday, September 26  
10 am - 6 pm

**Charlotte, NC** – IKEA, the world's leading home furnishings retailer, opened the doors of its Charlotte store – the company's 1st store in the Carolinas – to customers at 9am on February 18. The 356,000-square-foot IKEA Charlotte is located on 25 acres in the University City area at the northeast corner of I-85 and City Boulevard. It is the Swedish company's 1st store and restaurant destination in North Carolina,

5th in the Southeast, 36th in the United States, and 294th worldwide. The store employs more than 400 coworkers and features 10,000 exclusively-designed items, a 350-seat IKEA Restaurant, 49 inspirational room settings, three model home interiors, a supervised children's play area and approximately 1,700 parking spaces.

"We are excited to bring the unique IKEA family-friendly shopping experience to Charlotte and the Carolinas," said Richard Castanon, IKEA Charlotte store manager. "The enthusiasm the IKEA Charlotte coworker family felt about this big day and about opening the store translated into excitement and a great shopping experience for customers."

Before the doors opened, Castanon welcomed the community with a traditional Swedish logsawing ceremony, bringing good luck to the new home and its guests.

In addition to brief remarks by Charlotte Mayor Pat McCrory and IKEA U.S. president Mike Ward, Castanon was joined by Charlotte Councilmember Michael Barnes who raised the U.S. flag; Honorary Swedish Consul Magnus Natt och Dag who raised the Swedish flag; and Mecklenburg County Commissioner George Dunlap who raised the North Carolina flag.



### IKEA CHARLOTTE AT-A-GLANCE

#### IKEA Charlotte Offers...

- Low prices for well-designed, stylish, functional furnishings for every room in the home.
- 49 inspirational room-settings and three model homes reflecting a variety of living situations with creative design ideas that can be brought to life in any room in the home.
- More than 10,000 exclusively designed home furnishings ranging from beds, desks and sofas to cookware, pet products, and kitchens complete with cabinetry and appliances.
- Same-day shopping satisfaction with products in easy-to-transport flat-pack boxes that benefit the customer and the environment.

(Con't on pg. 2)

## IKEA OPENS IN CHARLOTTE *(con't from pg. 1)*

### ***IKEA Charlotte is a Fun Day Out for the Family with...***

- Småland, a supervised children's play area (for children who meet the 37"-54" height requirement) that replicates the look of a typical Swedish farmhouse and forest.
- Additional play areas throughout the store, offering activities for kids shopping with parents.
- A "Children's IKEA" area in the Showroom that also offers fun, interactive play.
- Attention-to-detail amenities such as family-friendly parking, strollers and baby care rooms.



- The Swedish Foodmarket offers Swedish delicacies, treats, and even frozen Swedish meatballs (the same ones served in the store's Restaurant) to purchase and then prepare at home.

### ***No Need to Shop on an Empty Stomach at IKEA Charlotte...***

- Beginning February 19, the IKEA Restaurant will open 30 minutes earlier than the store for a full hot breakfast, including scrambled eggs, potatoes and bacon for only 99¢.
- The 350-seat restaurant also offers lunch, dinner, snacks and dessert, with a diverse menu, including traditional Swedish specialties such as the popular IKEA Swedish meatballs, shrimp sandwiches and salmon platters, as well as pasta, chicken and vegetarian dishes.
- Menu choices for kids include a child's portion of Swedish meatballs or macaroni and cheese, while baby food, bottle warmers and bibs are available for even younger visitors.
- A Bistro near the store's exit serves hot dogs, cinnamon buns, frozen yogurt and beverages.



### ***IKEA Charlotte Shopping Conveniences...***

- Customers can pick-up catalogs at the store and also receive help from a furnishings consultant.
- Measuring tape, pencils, store maps, yellow shopping bags and 3 types of carts are available.
- Many conventional and self-checkouts ensure efficient customer purchasing.
- Home-delivery, assembly, kitchen installation and rent-a-van services can be arranged at store.

With IKEA Charlotte open, there are 294 IKEA stores in 36 countries, including 36 in the U.S., where new stores are being planned in: Centennial, CO; Somerville, MA; and Tampa, FL. IKEA believes home is the most important place in the world and, since its 1943 founding in Sweden, has offered a wide range of home furnishings and accessories of good design and function, at low prices so the majority of the people can afford them. IKEA has been ranked in *FORTUNE's* annual "100 Best Companies to Work For" list (three years in a row), *Working Mother* magazine's annual list of "100 Best Companies for Working Mothers" (four years in a row) and *Training* magazine's annual "Top 100" ranking of companies that excel at human capital development (five years in a row). IKEA incorporates environmentally and socially responsible efforts into day-to-day business, and continually supports initiatives that benefit causes such as children and the environment. For information about IKEA, please go to [www.IKEA-USA.com](http://www.IKEA-USA.com).

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# SAGA represents Scandinavia at local school

Harrisburg Elementary School held their International Cultural Day on February 21, 2009. SAGA and the Sons of Norway represented Scandinavia at the event, and a great time was had by all!



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## DISCOVER ALPACAS!



Looking for something to do on the weekends that doesn't cost much? Come and visit a local alpaca farm, the next best thing to reindeers.

Happy Hills Alpaca Farm is located near Monroe, just south of Charlotte. They have 12 alpacas including some small babies that you can visit and feed.

Alpacas are very gentle and love children. The farm also specializes in producing beautiful, natural hypo-allergenic yarn out of the alpaca fleece. This yarn makes wonderful scarves, baby clothes and sweaters. Happy Hills Alpaca Farm offers visits and tours of the farm tailored

to your needs. Open by appointment. Please call **704 207 3725** or **704 296 9717** for details.

*Kaarlo and Valerie Hietala*



### Garter Stitch and Lace

Cast on 39 sts. Knit 1 row. Start pattern.  
1-6 Knit across. (4 ridges in all).

7 K3, \* yo, K2 tog, repeat from \* across, ending in K2

Repeat row 7 until you get the desire length ending with the right side row. The last six rows just knit across (makes garter stitich border) . Then bind off.



## Summer House for Rent in Denmark

Going back to visit family, visiting your roots, or just a Scandinavia enthusiast...



We have a beautiful summer house available for rent in Northern Sjaelland (Zealand) - a bike ride from the ocean and the expanse of sand dunes there, through "troldekskoven", a forest preserve. It's a picturesque house with a straw roof and cobblestone courtyard set in the woods near Denmark's largest inland lake, Aereso. On a large open lot complete with badminton, horseshoes, fire pit, two patios,

bicycles, and separate guesthouse. Sandhuset sleeps 9 people, with two bedrooms in the main house, one bedroom across the courtyard and another, with own bath, in the guesthouse. Main house includes an eat-in kitchen, large cozy family/living room with a wood burning stove and a TV, and the master bedroom has an extra sitting area. Please see photos.

By foot or bike: Kobmand - grocery parlor, Grill - hot dogs, etc, ruins of ing trails through woods or around

Nearby: Fredericksborg historic cas-with quaint cafe's, shops and movie fresh and smoked fish, farm visitamals, horsebackriding, and much



for all your needs, Bakery and coffee shop/ice cream monastery from Middle Ages, Geological Museum, hik-lake, fishing, and the beach.

tle/museum, Tisvilde - old fishing village/ tourist town theater, Esrum kloister museum , Gilleleje - harbor with tions petting ani-more.

Other attractions: Copenhagen with it's many museums, historic sights, canal tours, Tivoli gardens, restaurants , etc. Roskilde's Domkirke (historic church with Royal tombs) and the Viking ship museum, various festivals, flea markets and summer parks throughout Zealand.

For pricing and availability see: <http://www.blocket.se/vi/19847091.htm> Or contact Anette in the USA at: [abhandson@yahoo.com](mailto:abhandson@yahoo.com)



**Would you like to see your friends and family in *The Midnight Sun*? We would, too! Send your photo or recipe submissions to [Jenn@ScandinavianConnection.org](mailto:Jenn@ScandinavianConnection.org) by Friday, April 10.**

## GM unit Saab files for protection from creditors

From the Associated Press:

STOCKHOLM – General Motors Corp.'s Swedish-based subsidiary Saab went into court protection from creditors Friday so the unit can be spun off or sold by its struggling U.S. parent, officials said.

The move is a last-ditch effort to get Saab in order for sale, but the danger of a collapse still hovers over the ailing brand because neither GM nor the Swedish government appears ready to provide enough money to keep it going as a freestanding entity.

An application to reorganize the brand was filed at a district court in Värnersborg, in southwestern Sweden, Saab spokeswoman Margareta Hogstrom said. It was approved later Friday.

GM, which is seeking help from the U.S. government to avoid bankruptcy at home, hopes the three-month reorganization process will put the Swedish brand into shape for a sale, GM spokesman Chris Preuss said. "We fully intend to be out of Saab by the end of the year," he said.

Preuss said \$1 billion was needed to keep the company running, of which GM was ready to pay \$400 million. The U.S. automaker had asked the Swedish government to guarantee the rest, but "the guarantees have not materialized," he added.

The Swedish government, which insists that Saab's survival is GM's responsibility, rejected the request because GM's business plan wasn't "realistic," Industry Minister Maud Olofsson told The Associated Press on Friday.

"I spoke to GM today and told them that 'you have to go through this and present a credible and sustainable alternative,'" she said after a news conference in Stockholm. "For that, more capital is needed. GM or someone else needs to provide that capital."

Managing Director Jan Ake Jonsson, said Saab Automobile would be recreated as an independent unit, adding it wouldn't be easy.

"Many have already suffered considerably as a result of the crisis in the automobile industry and sacrifices will be a part of our future, but after a period of tough decisions we will have laid the foundations for a new beginning," he said in a statement.

The move would give Saab protection from creditors while it restructures in a process somewhat similar to Chapter 11 bankruptcy in the U.S. Under Swedish law, a company that files for reorganization is protected from bankruptcy during the process and cannot pay debt acquired before the filing.

GM said in a statement that Saab would continue operating normally. Detroit-based GM said it would make sure suppliers are paid so they keep shipping. "GM is fully committed to maintaining a viable and successful local and global supplier base during the Saab reorganization," Bo Andersson, GM group vice president for purchasing, said in a statement.



Saab's managing director, Jan-Ake Jonsson, determined bankruptcy would be the best way to gain investors for the car firm.

Saab said it would seek funding "from both public and private sources" to keep the company afloat. With three new models ready for launch in the next 18 months — the 9-5, 9-3X and 9-4X — managing director Jonsson said Saab has "an excellent foundation" to grow, assuming it can get funding for engineering, tooling and launch costs.

"Reorganization will give us time and means that help these products to market while minimizing the liquidity impact of Saab on GM," Jonsson said.

In its own restructuring plan, GM said Tuesday it would need up to \$30 billion from the U.S. Treasury Department, up from a previous estimate of \$18 billion and including \$13.4 billion it has already received. It also said it would need to cut 47,000 jobs worldwide and close five more U.S. factories. GM said it needed about \$6 billion in support from the governments of Canada, Germany, Britain, Sweden and Thailand to provide liquidity for its overseas operations in those countries.

Saab has around 4,500 workers, mostly in Sweden.

Analysts said Saab was too small to survive on its own in the beleaguered auto market. If the reorganization is successful, potential buyers could include Chinese automakers like FAW Group Corp., Shanghai Automotive Industry and Dongfeng Motor Corp., said Matts Carlsson, of Goteborg Management Institute.

Stephen Pope, chief global markets strategist for Cantor Fitzgerald, said the brand had suffered under GM's ownership.

"The really sad thing about Saab is that in the 1980s when yuppies were looking for a flashy, fast and stylish ride, Saab was mentioned in the same breath as BMW and Mercedes Benz," he said. "There's nothing special about them anymore."

Originally an aircraft maker, Saab started manufacturing cars after World War II. General Motors bought a 50 percent stake and management control of Saab Automobile in 1989 and gained full ownership in 2000. The aircraft division remains a different company.

GM's other European brands are Opel in Germany and Vauxhall in Britain. GM also markets its Chevrolet brand in Europe.

German officials have indicated that they are willing to help keep open Opel plants, but are insisting that the company outline a long-term plan for the division first.

Economy Ministry spokesman Steffen Moritz said in Berlin Friday that the automaker is expected to produce that concept "by the end of next week."

### Spring Massage Special for Early Week

Nothing feels like a massage after a cold and damp winter. Wake up your body with a nice full body-massage to rejuvenate, flush out toxins, soften stiff muscles, and start fresh and new for the next season.

Spring rate for early week (Mon, Tues, Wed): \$40 for one hour massage (regular \$50).

Please contact Lisbet Kan at 704 651 6704 or e-mail: [lisbetkan@hotmail.com](mailto:lisbetkan@hotmail.com)

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## Mission Statement

**SAGA of the Carolinas**, a non-profit organization, is organized to promote cultural exchange between the United States and the Nordic Countries of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden; to preserve and enjoy the Scandinavian traditions, customs, history and cultural heritage; to increase understanding of the Nordic people and societies among Americans; and to provide a forum where people interested in Scandinavia can meet and enjoy Nordic culture and activities.

## Calling all Scan-Am Groups!

If your group or organization would like to have your events or news included in the next issue of *The Midnight Sun*, please send your submission to [Jenn@ScandinavianConnection.org](mailto:Jenn@ScandinavianConnection.org) by Friday, April 10.

## In Lego land, this is bliss

From [newsobserver.com](http://newsobserver.com):

LEGO lovers are about to have a haven for their plastic building passions.

The LEGO Store is coming to Crabtree Valley Mall.

The 2,000-square-foot store will open this summer, selling "just about every LEGO product you can imagine," said company spokeswoman Julie Stern.

The store will be on the mall's lower level, near Center Court in the old Sharper Image spot.

Its arrival is one of the more positive bits of retail news in the area lately,

with major chains such as Circuit City closing as the economy continues to sour.



Photo Courtesy of Lego

400 Million - Number of people (adults and children) who play with LEGOs each year  
130 - Countries where LEGO products are on sale.  
7 - Number of LEGO sets sold each second.  
62 - Number of LEGO bricks for every person on Earth  
40 Billion - Number of LEGO bricks it would take to reach the moon.

The store is a bit of a coup for Crabtree. It will be the first LEGO store in the Carolinas. There are only 23 nationwide. Stern said she didn't know why Raleigh was picked but said that the company tries to place stores in areas where interest in LEGOs is high.

"Raleigh is a good LEGO market," she said.

Shoppers will be able to buy everything from a single LEGO block to full building kits.

The store will have play tables, 8-foot LEGO models for inspiration and the company's "Pick-A-Brick" wall that sells LEGOs out of bulk bins like candy.

And, if you're looking for a little inspiration, LEGO stores routinely host "build events," where people come in and build LEGO projects. Occasionally, stores will also be visited by master builders, who are the ones who build life-like LEGO statues.

Interest in the store should be strong, said Karen Kornegay, marketing manager for the Morehead Planetarium in Chapel Hill, which hosted LEGO-palooza last week.

The planetarium has hosted the event for five years, and each year it has gotten bigger, she said.

"Some people raise dogs, some people show horses, some people do NASCAR," Kornegay said. "This is what they do. This is their passion."