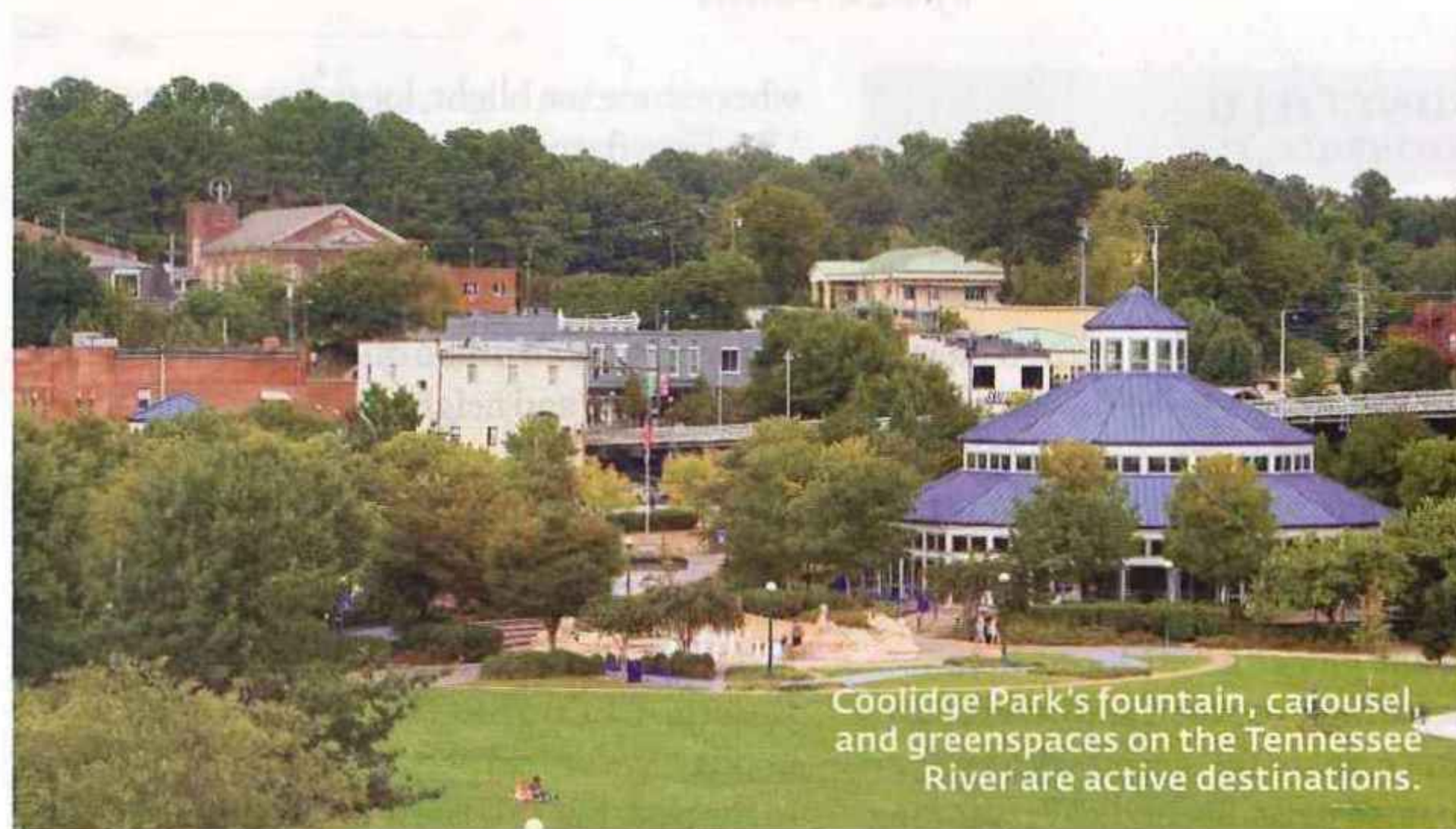


10
BEST
**COMEBACK
NEIGHBORHOODS**



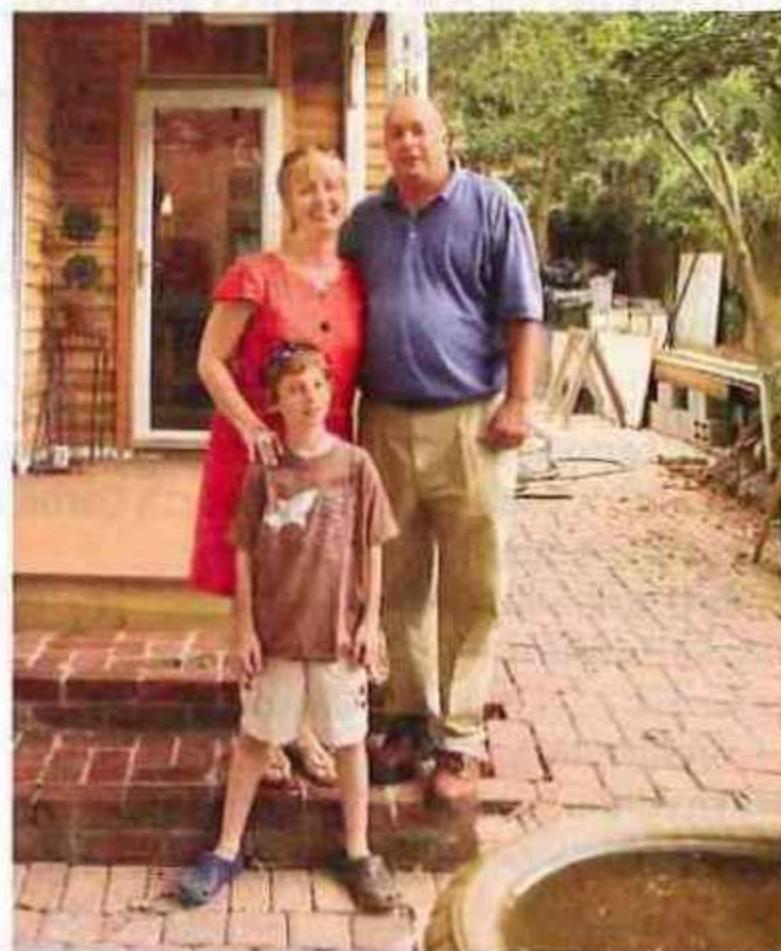
Reopening the 2,370-foot Walnut Street pedestrian bridge sparked an awareness of the potential of the NorthShore.



Coolidge Park's fountain, carousel, and greenspaces on the Tennessee River are active destinations.



ABOVE: Bungalows built during Chattanooga's industrial past maintain their charm today. RIGHT: Mike and Karen Thompson, with son Grayson, are restoring one of the first homes built in North Chattanooga.



2 NORTH CHATTANOOGA
CHATTANOOGA, TN
**Cross the Bridge
To Downtown**

"Not long ago most people couldn't find North Chattanooga," says Mike Thompson, who grew up in the neighborhood. "They ignored this side of the river and this neighborhood was falling apart." The first surge of renovations in North Chattanooga coincided with the transformation of the downtown riverfront from an industrial port into a destination. In 1993, the reopening of the Walnut Street Bridge as a walkway to the NorthShore provided the catalyst for even more people to rediscover the neighborhood. Case in point: Mike and his wife, Karen, rescued an 1890s Victorian-style house just before the first wave of neighborhood improvements. As they've restored their home, fellow renovators have snatched up ornate Victorian houses and small bungalows around them. "I've seen North Chattanooga reborn," says Mike. "It has great architecture and new parks, and I've counted 25 restaurants within a 20-minute walk." *northshorechattanooga.com*

PHOTOGRAPHS: LAUREY W. GLENN