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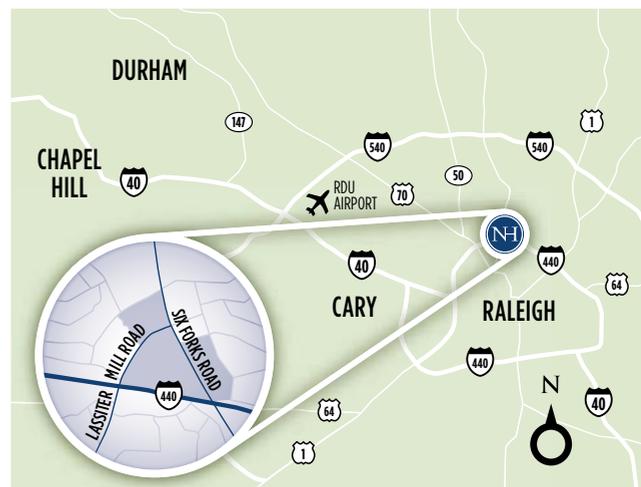
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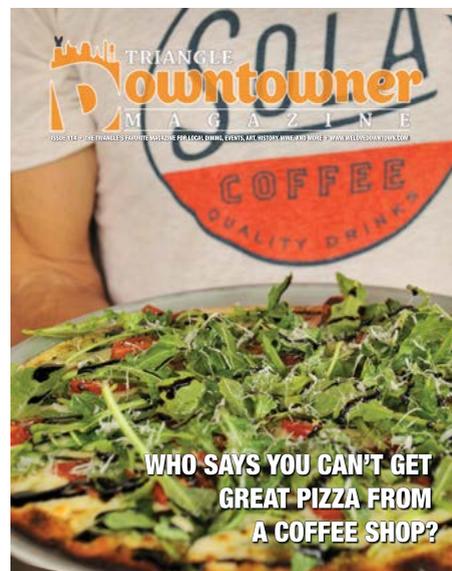
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4. Casual Dining: Sola Coffee Café
8. The Race for Raleigh City Council
11. From the Publisher
14. Triangle Dining: Piedmont Restaurant
16. We ♥ Food Trucks! Thai Box Zing
18. Local Beer: The Triangle Loves Festivals
21. Get Crafty



**ON THE COVER:** After years of hearing about all the great food at Sola Coffee Café, we finally made it in for a Casual Dining profile. We're so glad we did and we truly enjoyed meeting the incredibly nice owners, John and Jeanne Luther. Christy's article on the next page may give you food envy, so don't read it on an empty stomach!

Sign up, find out what's going on downtown and win free stuff!

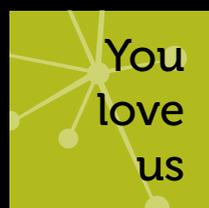


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# Sola Coffee Café

BY CHRISTY GRIFFITH | PHOTOS BY NANCY THOMAS



For many of you reading this, Sola Coffee Café is the best place you've never eaten, because it's the best place you've never *thought* to eat. Don't let the name fool you; there is so much more than just coffee. There's most definitely food, lots and lots of delectable food.

John and Jeanne Luther are two of the nicest restaurateurs you'll ever meet. Sola is their second restaurant after running an incredibly successful bagel shop in Maryland in the 90s. Luckily for us, the Luthers headed down south in 2012 and, with the help of their children, Ben, Marshall, and Sally, set up shop on Lead Mine Road in Raleigh. Many of you hardcore downtowners have probably been missing out on some of their great homegrown eats for more than three years. I sincerely hope that you dog-ear this page and finish reading it at Sola. Really I do.

Once there, you'll find four different bills of fare: **Morning Kitchen** (available until 11am), **Day Kitchen** (11am to 5pm), **Evening Kitchen** (5pm to close), and the **Toast Bar** (available until 11am, then again from 2pm to 5pm). With these menus you're guaranteed to find something mind-blowing, even if you're throwing darts blindfolded to decide what to order. Locavores, take note: you'll enjoy items from local purveyors all over the menu, including Yellow Dog Bakery, Great Harvest Bakery, Homeland Creamery, NY Bagels, the Farmers Market, Lyons Farms, Escazu Chocolate, Vintage Bee Honey, Ford's Produce, and Counter Culture Coffee.

The Toast Bar is kind of what it sounds like: toast. But you won't find the dry toast your momma told you to eat in your first trimester; we're talking thick-sliced, artisan breads covered with a variety of seasonal toppings. I had the Fig & Goat Cheese (\$4.25) on toasted sourdough. The generous amount of chèvre, soft and crumbly, lays under slices of mission figs, honey, salt, and coarsely ground pepper. The Avocado Smash (\$4.25), on multi-grain bread, is insanely creamy and rich, complete with healthy doses of crushed red pepper, black pepper, and large crystals of sea salt that explode in your mouth with each bite. The beauty is in the simplicity, and if you're lucky enough to visit Sola on a day when it's on the menu, you'd be smart to order one... or three. To those avoiding gluten, fear not. All toasts and



Owners John and Jeanne Luther are two of the nicest restaurateurs you'll ever meet.

sandwiches can be prepared with gluten-free bread that actually does not taste like gluten-free bread. Witchcraft I say! (But the good witch kind.)

From the Morning Kitchen menu, the Greystone (\$5.25) is where it's at. The egg is fluffy with nary a dry, overcooked edge—whoever is manning the fry pan is no amateur—and served on a toasted, chewy baguette. While this would be lip-smacking on its own, it gets even better: applewood bacon, tomato, pepper jack cheese, greens, and a maple-sriracha sauce show up to the party as well. Yes, you read that right. MAPLE-SRIRACHA. This sweet/savory/spicy concoction is sheer brilliance and I hope James Beard comes back to life just so he can order one.

The Day Kitchen sandwich offerings are no less inspired and come with your choice of house-made salsa and chips, side salad, or kettle chips. The Sola Veggie (\$9.50) is hearty without the addition of meat. So, even if you're a big ol' carnivore, don't immediately skip this one. Mixed greens, tomato, cucumbers, and hummus are all present and deliciously accounted for, but the stars of the show are the roasted red pepper, pepper jack cheese, and Jeanne's dressing. What exactly is Jeanne's dressing? It's the cufflinks to your veggie jacket, complementary but not overpowering. This slightly sweet, vinegary, all-purpose condiment has stood the test of time for the past twenty years in the Luther kitchen and will be making its debut on local store shelves in the not-too-distant future. Then you'll be free to slather it on sandwiches, sprinkle it on salads, or, most realistically in my case, toss back shot glasses of it.

The Sola Turkey (\$9.50) will also make your heart flutter. The deli meats are all Boar's Head, and are applied to the sandwich with wild abandon; no one goes hungry here. Lettuce, tomato, apple, cheddar, bacon (because, duh, bacon!), and Jeanne's dressing are basically a recipe for a Belinda Carlisle song. *Ooh, Sola, do you know what that's worth? Ooh, heaven is a place on earth!* (North Raleigh, specifically.)

One of John and Jeanne's favorite sandwiches, The Prosciutto (\$10.25), is like eating a delicious antipasto platter without the mess. Fresh mozzarella, roasted red pepper, olive oil, balsamic, and basil join sliced prosciutto on a toasted rustic

chunk of baguette, and it's MAGIC. I love the chew of the bread, the saltiness of the meat, the sweet earthiness of the peppers. I love-love-love everything about it and want to ask for its hand in marriage, and I also understand statements like that will probably be used against me one day when my kids try to have me committed. But my love language is Food, and I regret nothing.



An Heirloom BLT (\$9.75) was one of the Specials of the Day and maybe if we start a Change.org petition, it could make its way onto the regular menu. Because this special is REALLY special. Thick slices of meaty heirloom tomatoes pair well with just about anything, so the holy trinity of avocado, bacon, and mayonnaise (*basil* mayo, y'all!) on toasted brioche bread guarantees that you'll be all moans faster than you can say, "Marry me, sammich!"

The salads are equally as amazing. You feel as though you could seriously be an uber-healthy person just by ordering the Maximized Living Salad (\$10.95). I could totally picture myself eating clean and *not* showing up to a restaurant profile in stretchy pants. That's the power of super greens, cherry tomatoes, chickpeas, cucumber, red onion, almonds, sunflower seeds, parmesan-reggiano cheese, and a strawberry-honey vinaigrette. My salad was topped with turkey, but you could also have oven roasted chicken, tuna, or chicken salad instead.

Sola carries Rishi Loose Tea, and it tastes as fancy as it sounds. I had the Blueberry-Hibiscus Iced Tea (\$2.00, 16 oz.), which needed no sweetener in order to thoroughly enjoy. Sola has Raleigh's Tribucha Kombucha (\$4.50, 12 oz.) on tap, which is ridiculously fun to say. It was my first time trying Kombucha, and I can't believe how great it was. The delicious apple cider notes reminded me of fall without having to hear anyone mention the words "pumpkin spice latte." If you've been turned off by the taste of Kombucha in the past, I suggest you try Tribucha's at Sola.

The sandwiches and salads are also available on the Evening Kitchen menu, as well as the White Calabrese Sausage Flatbread (\$13.50). You can surely guess from the name of the dish that this Neapolitan-style pizza comes topped with sausage, but that's barely scratching the surface. Fresh mozzarella melts into the pesto >>>



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base just like I melt into my stretchy pants (sorry, salad, better now than later you find out I wasn't ready for a monogamous relationship). The cherry tomatoes are bright, the basil sweet and herbaceous, the arugula peppery, and the artful drizzle of balsamic reduction makes everything play nice together. I wonder if drizzling it on my kids would have a similar effect.



Can you believe we've made it all the way here without mention of hot coffee? I mean, we all thought this was just another coffee shop, right? And, of course, we were all really wrong and regret everything. But, Sola Coffee Café has "coffee" in their name because they make some pretty amazing coffee. I'm the last person you should be talking shop with about coffee, but I feel like you'd go

to your deathbed with but one regret if you don't try the Maple-Cinnamon Latte (\$4.50, 16 oz.). And there are no second chances once you're gone, or else James Beard would be at Sola right now.

Do you sometimes like to skip the whole meal and make a different meal out of donuts? You can do that here. No one will judge you. Those people eating the Maximized Living Salad probably want to order Hot Mini-Donuts, too (\$4.00 per dozen). The flavors available during our visit included Orange Crush, Strawberry, and Lemonade, all of which reminded me of Froot Loops. And please don't mistake that for anything but a compliment, because I love donuts and I love Froot Loops and I love the fact that I finally get to type that, and someone is going to print it. The Orange Crush were especially delightful (because miniature things are usually *delightful!*) with the Sola Shake (\$4.95, 16 oz.), a frozen concoction of vanilla ice cream, milk, and espresso, which tastes like you shouldn't drink it as fast as I did. The Milk & Cookies donuts were better than eating Oreos because, obviously, they were donuts. The Gonza is the donut you should have with a beer (which they sell at Sola, as well as wine, too!). Named after neighboring restaurant, Gonza Tacos y Tequila, this baby is spicy hot. Beer and donuts should be a thing. Let's make it a thing. In truth,

after re-reading that, I guess I'm asking us all to be Homer Simpson.

Sola hosts pop-up events for hometown artists and designers, as well as ice cream socials, a comedic take on trivia, and live music on the regular. Check out [www.solacoffee.com](http://www.solacoffee.com) to find their schedule of events. Whether you're two (if so, you have a remarkable grasp of written language!) or 102 (wow, you've really maximized living!), you'll find yourself welcome at Sola Coffee Café... no matter the Lycra content of your pants. ☺



### Sola Coffee Café

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# THE RACE FOR RALEIGH CITY COUNCIL

BY BOB PHILLIPS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, COMMON CAUSE NORTH CAROLINA | WWW.COMMONCAUSENC.ORG

This year Common Cause North Carolina issues this challenge to all registered voters across North Carolina: vote in your local elections!

Election Day in Raleigh is October 6th. Voters will cast ballots for mayor, two at-large city council members elected citywide and their own local district city councilor. All of Raleigh's leaders are elected on a nonpartisan basis to serve two-year terms. Unfortunately, the vast majority of citizens across the city choose not to participate in these elections and Raleigh's leaders are usually chosen by about one-fifth of the city's voters.

It is natural to see a drop-off in voter participation in non-presidential years, but in 2013—in a city of more than 400,000 people—only 45,000 people voted in the mayoral election! That's just over 11 percent. By comparison, voter turnout in 2012 was 75 percent.

Voter participation that low is pretty staggering, especially for a city of Raleigh's size and importance. As Raleigh continues to grow and evolve at a rapid pace, the people elected to lead the city will be tasked with making important decisions on growth, transit, affordable housing, parks and more, which is why it is so important for citizens to become engaged in local elections and have a say in who those leaders will be.

Fortunately, voters have an opportunity to learn about the candidates running for office and where they stand on key issues by visiting Common Cause North Carolina's 2015 Raleigh Voter Guide online at [www.NCVoterGuide.org/Raleigh](http://www.NCVoterGuide.org/Raleigh). Following is a partial version of the guide. For full questions and answers, please visit the website. Common Cause NC is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to encouraging citizen participation in democracy.

A similar voter guide was not complete at press time, but should be online at [www.NCVoterGuide.org](http://www.NCVoterGuide.org) by the time this issue hits the streets. So if you live in Durham, be sure to read up on the folks running for office in Durham.

**PUBLISHER'S NOTE:** *Since this issue is split before and after the election, we hope those of you who are reading this after Oct. 6 took the time and interest to vote and have your voice heard. We're sure there will be a new face or two representing Raleigh, and perhaps*

*in Durham as well. Whatever the results, we hope all those elected will choose to represent their voters with the best interests of growth, building viable transportation options, helping local business, and assisting those that cannot help themselves.*

## 2015 RALEIGH CANDIDATES

### MAYOR

#### Nancy McFarlane



[www.NancyMcFarlane.com](http://www.NancyMcFarlane.com)  
[www.Twitter.com/nancymcfarlane](http://www.Twitter.com/nancymcfarlane)

**Candidate background/experience** Eight years on the City Council; four from District A and four years as mayor. Association President for the Greystone HOA, Wake County PTA Area VP, President of Ligon Arts Boosters, Coach for Odyssey of the Mind.

**How important is affordable housing to Raleigh's future and how do you propose ensuring that the city maintains an adequate stock of affordable housing?** Housing for people of all incomes is critical. We have had success in the past with Affordable Housing Bonds, and partnering with organizations such as DHIC and other nonprofits to help produce affordable units. We also have committed the proceeds from the sale of city property to that effort.

**What are your ideas to bring more jobs to young people, especially those groups with traditionally higher unemployment rates like young African-Americans?** Job experience helps ready our young people for the work force so we added more positions to our summer program this year to provide more opportunities for experience. We are working more closely with our existing businesses to provide training. Recruit businesses that provide entry-level positions.

**What can, or should, Raleigh do to provide access to efficient, reliable public transportation for all citizens?** Public transportation is the key to our future. Providing

citizen's transportation options helps manage and capture the growth we know is coming, and is critical to maintaining the affordability of the area. We must work with Wake County to assure the passage of the Wake County Transportation Bond in 2016.

#### Bob Weltzin



[www.BobWeltzin.com](http://www.BobWeltzin.com)  
[www.Twitter.com/WeltzinForMayor](http://www.Twitter.com/WeltzinForMayor)

**Candidate background/experience** Bob Weltzin is a current Army reservist and Team Leader, a successful chiropractor practicing in Raleigh for over a decade, and an entrepreneur who knows what Raleigh needs to capitalize on its upward economic trajectory.

**How important is affordable housing to Raleigh's future and how do you propose ensuring that the city maintains an adequate stock of affordable housing?** Affordable housing is a crucial component of Raleigh's ability to attract talented young people entering the workforce, and critical to ensuring that longtime Raleigh residents aren't legislated out of their homes. The first and most urgent related to housing affordability is the UDO, which must be stopped immediately.

**What are your ideas to bring more jobs to young people, especially those groups with traditionally higher unemployment rates like young African-Americans?** Those traditionally underserved by Raleigh's job market would benefit most from city policies that encourage businesses to open or expand, and encourage citizens to spend their money in those underserved areas. To that end, I'll oppose policies that hurt businesses, like sidewalk and patio curfews and ending free parking.

**What can, or should, Raleigh do to provide access to efficient, reliable public transportation for all citizens?** Raleigh should seize upon its positioning as a city maturing parallel to the sharing economy, and implement policies that allow more agile services like Uber, Lyft, etc. to do what they do best—which is to provide citizens with both competitively priced transportation and streams of income.



## CITY COUNCIL (at-large)

### Mary-Ann Baldwin



[www.MaryannForRaleigh.com](http://www.MaryannForRaleigh.com)  
[www.Twitter.com/maryannbaldwin](http://www.Twitter.com/maryannbaldwin)  
**Candidate background/experience** Have served four terms on City Council, and currently serve as Chair of Law & Public Safety Committee and on the Go Triangle board.

Professionally, VP of Marketing at Holt Brothers Inc. and executive director of the Holt Brothers Foundation.

**How important is affordable housing to Raleigh's future and how do you propose ensuring that the city maintains an adequate stock of affordable housing?** Affordable housing is our most critical issue. There are several things we must do: develop and approve a strategic plan for affordable housing, especially for city-owned properties; align our housing and transit policies; and ensure that current and future bond monies are adequate to meet the needs.

**What can, or should, Raleigh do to provide access to efficient, reliable public transportation for all citizens?** Raleigh must re-envision its current service and move to a "ridership" model, while also

ensuring that the needs of citizens in Southeast Raleigh and other areas are met. We need to develop 10-15 minute service on more routes, and invest in Bus Rapid Transit to encourage redevelopment and affordable housing.

### Craig S. Ralph



[www.CraigRalphForRaleigh.com](http://www.CraigRalphForRaleigh.com)  
[www.Facebook.com/craigralphforraleigh](http://www.Facebook.com/craigralphforraleigh)

**Candidate background/experience** Lifelong resident; B.S. Planning and Urban Development—currently in my 43rd year of real estate development; Raleigh Transit Authority/Chair of Route Comm.; Board member of Dix 306; Raleigh Telecommunication Comm./Member Downtown Improvement Commission; Founding Member SERA; Current member of Hillsborough Street/Cameron Village Study Area.

**How important is affordable housing to Raleigh's future and how do you propose ensuring that the city maintains an adequate stock of affordable housing?** We lose talented and educated people who graduate from our schools to other areas because they cannot afford to live in Raleigh. I will deed restrict the city's

available land to be used for affordable housing units. I am forming a nonprofit group for the purpose of developing affordable housing.

**What can, or should, Raleigh do to provide access to efficient, reliable public transportation for all citizens?** I will fund the transportation plan approved in 2010 that has not been funded by the current council for over 5 years. As an RTA member, I have worked to provide the best services I can with limited funds while reducing expenses. I will be the top advocate for transit on council.

### Russ Stephenson



[www.RussForRaleigh.com](http://www.RussForRaleigh.com)  
[www.Facebook.com/RussforRaleigh](http://www.Facebook.com/RussforRaleigh)  
[www.Twitter.com/russforraleigh](http://www.Twitter.com/russforraleigh)

**Candidate background/experience** I have represented all of Raleigh for 10 years, helping lead Raleigh's rise to the top of national rankings by providing a high quality of life at an affordable cost of living for all of our citizens.

**How important is affordable housing to Raleigh's future and how do you propose ensuring that the city maintains an adequate stock of affordable housing?** When Raleigh's new affordable housing >>>

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guidelines were recently unveiled, I asked what advocates agree are the two most important unanswered questions: (1) When will we set production goals and (2) When will we establish a reliable and adequate source of funding? Without real goals and funding, plans will sit on the shelf.

**What can, or should, Raleigh do to provide access to efficient, reliable public transportation for all citizens?** As Raleigh grows and urbanizes, so too will our need to provide more efficient mobility options. I look forward to passing the Wake transit referendum in 2016 that will fund an efficient and reliable public transit to serve Raleigh, Wake County and the Triangle for decades to come.

**Matt Tomasulo**



[www.MattForRaleigh.com](http://www.MattForRaleigh.com)  
[www.Facebook.com/mattforraleigh](http://www.Facebook.com/mattforraleigh)  
[www.Twitter.com/MattTomasulo](http://www.Twitter.com/MattTomasulo)  
**Candidate background/experience** I'm a city designer/planner and NC State/UNC alum working with communities to shape healthier, more vibrant and economically prosperous neighborhoods for people to thrive. My projects WalkRaleigh, RaleighBeach and Wanderbox serve as

precedents for innovative community development across the country.

**How important is affordable housing to Raleigh's future and how do you propose ensuring that the city maintains an adequate stock of affordable housing?** Affordable housing is critical right now. We need to balance supply/demand of housing better, and test what's working elsewhere, like land trusts. Land trusts are acting as catalysts for public-private partnership between cities and developers, while building wealth and ensuring longer-term affordability in denser areas.

**What can, or should, Raleigh do to provide access to efficient, reliable public transportation for all citizens?** Raleigh should continue to support Wake's transit plan/Triangle Transit with strategic investment in smaller-scale infrastructure that fosters access to transit. Bikeshare, crosswalks, bike lanes, and bus shelters are ALL actionable pieces of the transit equation that the City can double-down on to support our transit future.

**City Council (District A)**

**J. B. Buxton**

[www.jbbuxton.com](http://www.jbbuxton.com)  
[www.Twitter.com/JBBuxton](http://www.Twitter.com/JBBuxton)



**Candidate background/experience** Vice-Chair, Raleigh Planning Commission; Founder, Education Innovations Group; Deputy State Superintendent, DPI; Senior Education Advisor to the Governor; NC Teaching Fellows Program staff; Master's in Public Affairs, Princeton University; Morehead scholar, UNC-Chapel Hill; Youth soccer coach; Married with three kids.

**How important is affordable housing to Raleigh's future and how do you propose ensuring that the city maintains an adequate stock of affordable housing?** It's a top priority. We need a specific goal for affordable units for which the Council is accountable. The city needs dedicated, long-term financing (through a synthetic TIF approach) for acquiring, preserving and constructing units. Partnerships with developers, cash and other incentives, and locating units near transit are key strategies.

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*continued on page 22*

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## From the Publisher

**N**ovember marks our 10th anniversary and we couldn't be prouder. It's dizzying to think we've been around for that long, reaching over 11 million readers along the way. I can't tell you how much we've enjoyed hearing from our readers each month, getting to know our advertisers and supporters, promoting the Triangle economy, and being part of this incredible creative, entrepreneurial, and burgeoning community.



From our very first issue in November of 2005, we've been honored to sponsor hundreds of charity events, donating in excess of \$650,000 in advertising space to Triangle non-profits. We've partnered with great causes like the Walk for Hope, Women's Center of Wake County, the State Capitol Foundation, Artsposure, the V Foundation, Boys and Girls Clubs, and many others. Our core mission, from the very beginning, has been to help promote local business and play an integral part of our community.

This is something that remains extremely important to us, and we'd like to thank all of you for letting us be part of this incredible journey.

To celebrate our big 10-year landmark, we've partnered with the Internet Summit, and are co-hosting a live music and local beer event that will take place on November 19th from 6 to 10pm. The Internet Summit is a digital marketing conference featuring national speakers including, Russell Simmons and more than 60 high-level executives from corporations like Twitter, Google, LinkedIn, Microsoft, and others. Look for more details soon on our social media pages and our website [www.WeLoveDowntown.com](http://www.WeLoveDowntown.com), and social media pages. For more information on the Internet Summit, or visit [www.internetsummit.com](http://www.internetsummit.com).

We hope you'll join us in celebrating our first decade of being the most-read hyper-local publication in the Triangle!

Cheers,

*Crash*

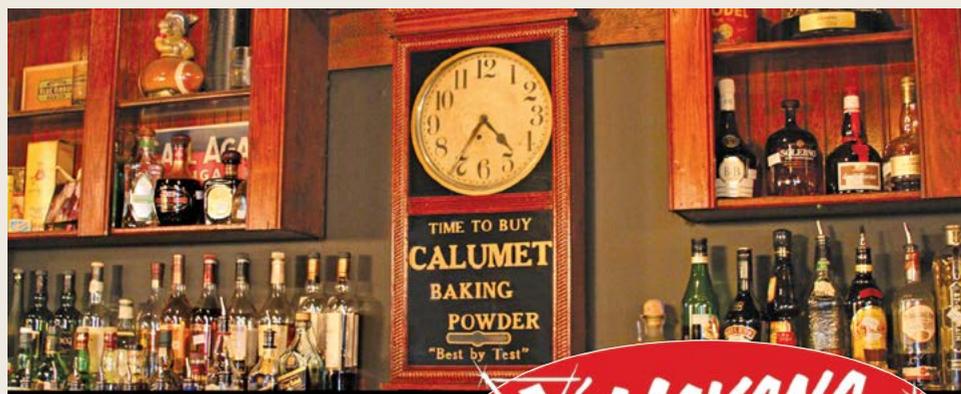
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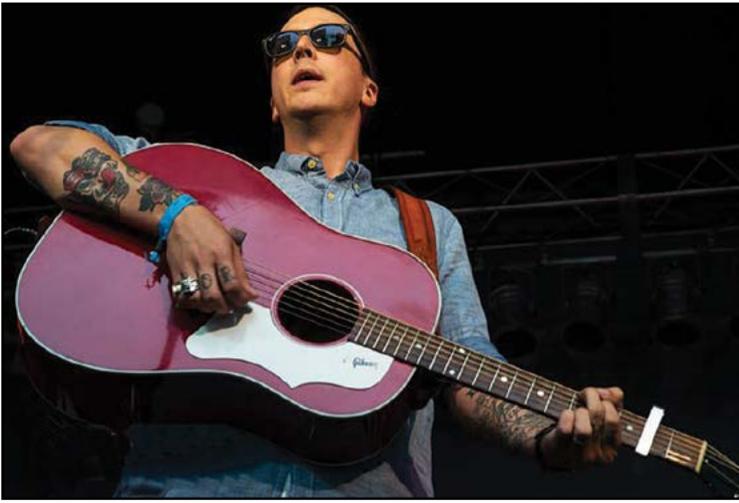


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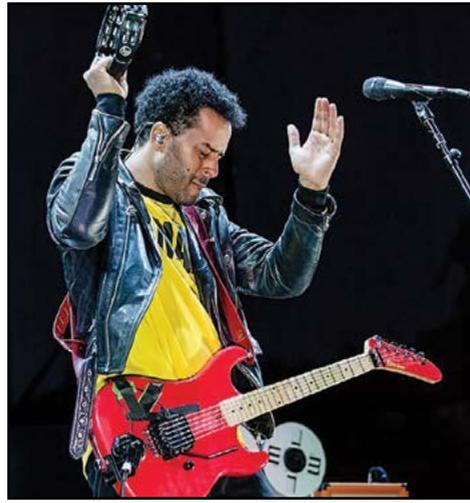
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# Around Town in the Triangle

▼ Just a few Hopscotch photos from our social media pages. Follow us on FB (TriangleDowntowner), Twitter (WeLoveDowntown), and Instagram (TriangleDowntowner). ▼



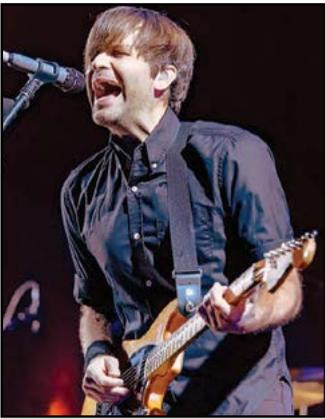
American Aquarium's BJ Barham (Photo Don O'Neil)



Twin Shadow (Photo Robert Pettus)



Jack the Radio (Photo Gus Samarco)



Ben Hibbard of Death Cab for Cutie (Photo Robert Pettus)



Live in City Plaza (above left), Catie Yerkes of Naked Naps (right) (Photos by Don O'Neil)



X playing at City Plaza (Photo Gus Samarco)

▼ SPARKcon celebrates another year of art, music, dance, and all things creative • Photos by Dan Hacker ▼



# Around Town in the Triangle

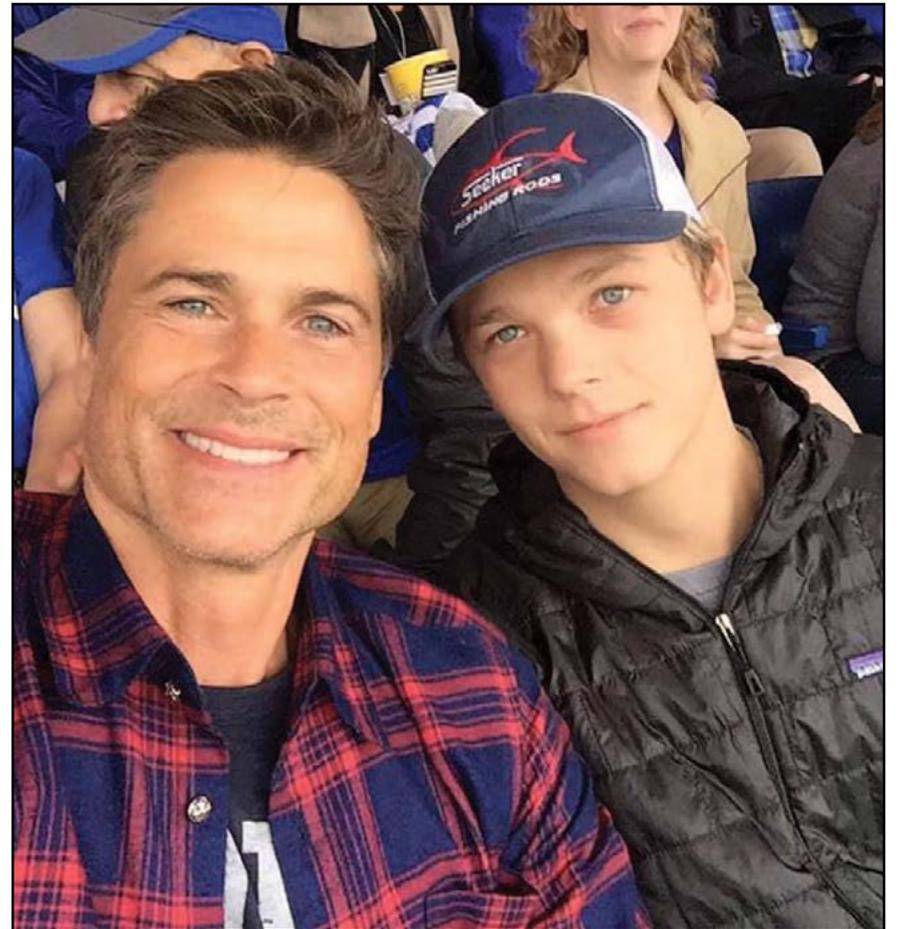


G. Eugene Boyce Center of Advocacy at Campbell Law thanks to a \$8+ million gift from Gene and Pat Boyce. Pictured: Dean J. Rich Leonard, President J. Bradley Creed, and Pat and Gene Boyce.



Our new music writer, Kate, at the newly remodeled Person Street Café

Another Downtowner Rob Lowe sighting in the Triangle, this time at a Duke football game celebrating his son Matthew's birthday, who attends Duke University. Apparently our Facebook fans love some Rob Lowe, with this photo garnering over 111,000 views!



Photos from the popular Apex Jazz Festival in Historic Downtown Apex (photo Russ Pinkston)

▼ Photos below are from the Tryon Palace fundraiser held at the North Carolina State Capitol building • For more info, visit [www.tryonpalace.org](http://www.tryonpalace.org) ▼



LaRae Umfleet and Frank Daniels, Jr.



Dr. Kevin Cherry and Rob Mattocks



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Tryon Palace actors in period costumes



Jim Congleton and Mark Mangum



Crash Gregg, Nancy Thomas and Frank Daniels, Jr.

# Piedmont

BY BRIAN ADORNETTO, FOOD EDITOR | PHOTOS BY NANCY THOMAS



Since opening in 2006, Piedmont has undergone countless changes, not only regarding its menu and management, but also in ownership, style, and cuisine. However, in recent years, the restaurant has enjoyed a sense of stability, at least by restaurant standards, and its consistent, high-quality fare has garnered well-deserved accolades.

The turnaround began in 2013 when Eno Hospitality Group, led by Jamie DeMent and Richard Holcomb, joint owners of Hillsborough's Coon Rock Farm, hired General Manager Crawford Leavoy and former Executive Chef Ben Adams. The duo reinvigorated the restaurant by taking advantage of their access to the farm's abundant crops and pastures and providing each guest with a personalized dining experience. Although Adams left Piedmont this past spring to open Picnic, a contemporary barbecue establishment in Durham, the kitchen is now in the adept hands of Greg Gettles, formerly of Magnolia Grill and Herons in the Umstead Hotel and Spa. In regard



to his collaboration with the new chef, Crawford affirms, "We're on a mission to offer delicious, healthy, enlightened cuisine through the lens of locally grown food, and to serve it graciously."

With that goal in mind, Crawford remains focused on Piedmont's exceptional hospitality and beverage program. In fact, he is solely responsible for curating Piedmont's wine cellar, which contains more than 550 wines from around the world and features almost 50 wines available by the glass, 23 of which are dessert and fortified wines. Describing how he developed the wine list, Crawford says, "We search for the best representations of both regions and varietals, but most importantly, we search for wines that are delicious. Our passion is in sharing our love for wine, the stories behind them, and their ability to complement each meal." His dedication was rewarded when Piedmont won Wine Spectator's 2015 "Best of Award of Excellence," the only Durham restaurant to receive the honor, which was "created to give special recognition to restaurants that clearly exceed the requirements of the Award of Excellence."

Piedmont not only cooks to the season, but celebrates the exact moment ingredients reach their peak. This philosophy requires frequent changes to the petite menu, sometimes within the same week, as produce ebbs and flows, so don't get hooked on any particular dish. The beautiful Lil' Farms Sunflower (\$10), inspired by the multitude of sunflowers that Chef Gettles noticed while foraging on the farm, is one such example. This mélange of sunflower petals, baby mustard greens, sunflower

seeds, and sunflower hearts was drizzled with honey vinegar and garnished with gluten-free sunflower seed-potato crackers. While it offers a fresh taste of summer, it will likely vanish before daylight starts to get shorter. On the other hand, I expect that at least elements of the Pan Seared Scallops (\$14) with sun gold tomatoes, charred corn, crisp Johnson County ham, hot pepper-vinegar gel, and buttermilk-hops sauce will last a bit longer. This dish delighted the palate with sweet, tart, bitter, and smoky flavors amid occasional pops of heat, and if you're a double IPA drinking hophead like me, you'll love the sauce.

Gettles' entrees demonstrate a strong command of complex culinary techniques. The Coon Rock Farm Pasture-Raised Chicken (\$26) is a riff on the classic French ballotine. He breaks down the chicken, roasting then pulling the breast and confit-ing then pulling the legs, thighs, and wings. Next, he tosses all the meat together with fresh herbs, places the mixture back into its skin, rolls it up, and deep fries it. It was killer. The Coon Rock Farm Pork Chop (\$24) is smoked bone-in, then deboned, seared, and finished in the oven. The thick, juicy chop was paired with a peanut romesco sauce and Brinkley Farm's pink-eyed purple hull peas. Those peas had me whistling Dixie.

Knowing Gettles has an abundance of local produce at his fingertips, many regular customers





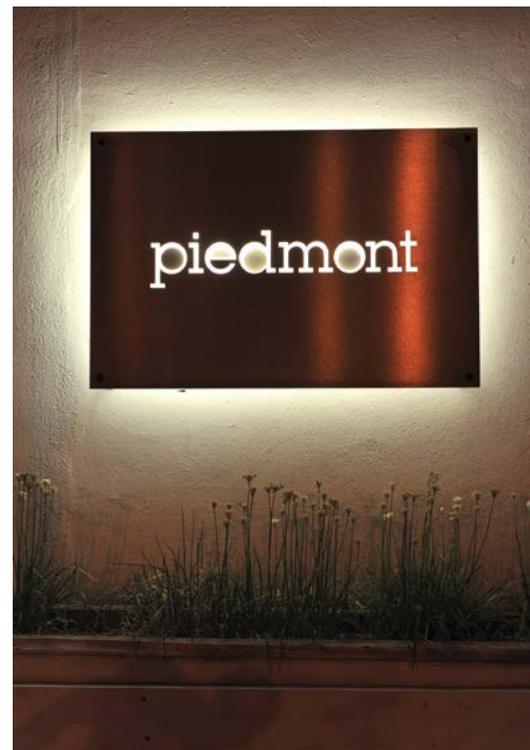
who are vegetarians and vegans request a special plate be created for them. However, had we done that, we would have missed out on the menu's delightful Preparations of Local Eggplant (\$20). Homemade ricotta and sun gold tomato sauce accompanied the beautiful nightshade, which was presented four ways—pureed, roasted, fried, and charred—each better than the last. Our final entrée was the Wild-Caught North Carolina Catfish (\$22). Crusted in Cajun spices and sautéed,

the fish was spicy and sweet with a slight crunch. It was served with bright, creamy lemon grits and finished with “basil tea,” basil pureed with a splash of its blanching liquid. Pure harmony.

The Chocolate-Hazelnut Mousse (\$8), plated to reflect a miniature farm, was a fitting end to our evening. The mousse was dolloped into “hills” and chocolate-hazelnut crunch was sprinkled on top to mimic soil. Fennel fronds portrayed the grass, and sunflower petals the crops. Cucumber consommé, while out of sync flavor-wise, represented the Eno River, and apricot puree reflected the sunrise.

Piedmont has earned a reputation for its inventive hyper-seasonal, regional farm-to-fork dining, award-winning wine list, and stellar hospitality. If you haven't been there yet, or in a while, the time to go is now. 🍴

*Brian is a food writer, culinary instructor, and chef. His business, Love at First Bite, specializes in private cooking classes and intimate dinners. For more information, please visit [www.loveatfirstbite.net](http://www.loveatfirstbite.net). Contact Brian at [brian@welovedowntown.com](mailto:brian@welovedowntown.com).*



### Piedmont

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Downtowners Tips: Be sure to chat with Crawford about your wine preferences and then let him guide your selections. If you'd like to cook at home with restaurant-quality ingredients check out the Eno Hospitality Group's Bella Bean Organics (an online farmers market) and Heirloom Provisions (a small batch artisan provisions marketplace) or Coon Rock Farm's CSA.



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# Thai Box Zing BY RUSSELL PINKSTON



Larry's Coffee loves to sponsor this column because we believe in locally grown entrepreneurs, hard work and tasty things that arrive in trucks! [www.larryscoffee.com](http://www.larryscoffee.com)



If you're a frequent food truck aficionado, there's a fair chance the name Thai Box Zing will ring a bell. You've probably seen their truck out at a brewery or food truck rodeo. You know, it's the one with the chicken wearing boxing gloves, who's about to kick you in the face. They chose the name Thai Box Zing for very simple reasons, because (1) it's Thai Food (2) you get it in a to-go box (3) It's zingy, obviously. It's a catchy name, but once you've eaten there, you'll probably remember them better for having some of the best Thai food around.

Thai Box Zing is a family-operated business. Owners Andy and Sophia Luangkhot hail from Orange County, CA, where they owned a previous



restaurant (their family is originally from Laos). They moved to the Triangle in 2007 to take advantage of the lower cost of living and higher quality of life we all love and share. When I met them at this year's Apex Jazz Festival, Andy's mother was also on the truck stir-frying Pad Thai. The aroma of the fresh garlic and spices cooking inside the truck was fantastic, enveloping me immediately in a surprising type of nostalgia.

I lived in Los Angeles for about 10 years (a city which has the largest concentration of Thai people outside of Thailand—an estimated 80,000), and learned to appreciate the intricacies of Thai food, from *Tom Kha Kai* (a spicy coconut soup with chicken) to *Pad Kee Mao* (or “drunken noodles”).

“A lot of people from California will taste our food and say that it reminds them of home.” Sophia tells me. “In California, Thai food is very common. There are hole-in-the-wall places everywhere.” But in NC, not so much. With a few exceptions (such as downtown's Bida Manda), there is a general dearth of Thai Food in the Triangle, something that Thai Box Zing hopes to rectify.

Strictly speaking, Thai Box Zing actually offers Laotian cuisine, which shares many similar ingredients with Thai food. Laotian cuisine is very vibrant, and exceptional care is taken not only to make the food taste as fresh as possible, but to make sure the overall appearance and color, as well as the aromatics of the dish, are all perfectly aligned. Most Laotian dishes are lightly prepared using very flavorful raw spices like cilantro, lime, and green onion, so that the meal is simple and refreshing to the palate without being so overbearing as the cuisine from neighboring China. With Laotian food, you can pick out the taste and aroma of each ingredient individually, making the



Owners Andy & Sophia Luangkhot

freshness of the ingredients of utmost importance.

Andy and Sophia from Thai Box Zing try to make it to as many local farmer's markets as possible to get their ingredients, some of which can only be found at Asian markets. Their signature is to use a Thai chili pepper to garnish each dish. It's a very classy touch, though I don't recommend eating the hot pepper unless you've got a gallon of milk handy. Though you can order your food mild, Thai Box Zing is increasingly becoming known as a place where “those who like it hot” can get their fix.

The menu at Thai Box Zing is seasonal, and



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changes based on both the availability of some of their more exotic ingredients and the outdoor temperatures. Their soups & curries, for example, don't make it onto the menu until the fall, when the weather begins to cool down a bit. Luckily for us, curry season has just begun.

Their most popular is the *Panang Curry* (\$10). It's a creamy red curry that has the perfect blend of sweet and spicy with fresh peppers, zucchini, and eggplant simmered in a thick coconut milk. They also make a *Yellow Curry* with carrots and potatoes, and a *Green Curry* made with Thai green chilies. Soon they will be incorporating their soups into the menu as well, with a *Tom Kha* coconut soup (which I mentioned earlier as one of my favorites), *Tom Yum* (a hot and sour soup with mushrooms and lemongrass), and a *Khao Piak Sen* (the Lao version of chicken noodle soup topped with fried garlic, green onions, cilantro, and crispy Chinese doughnut pieces).

For appetizers, I tried their *Spring Rolls* (2 for \$5), which were very crispy and loaded with fresh vegetables, served on a bed of lettuce with a sweet Thai chili sauce for dipping. They had the perfect consistency of eggshell-crispy on the outside and soft in the middle, and you can tell that they were cooked in a clean, good quality oil. They also offer



a *Papaya Salad* (\$7) with shredded papaya, green beans, and tomatoes.

For entrees, their *Pad Thai* (\$10-14) is wonderful, offered with a choice of egg, chicken, or shrimp. I'm not usually a big fan of Pad Thai because it is often too sweet for my taste, but Lao-tian Pad Thai is a bit different in that it generally uses more fish sauce and less sugar, making it slightly more tart and not as sweet than most traditional Pad Thai. It was absolutely delicious, and I'm sure it won't be the last time I order it. I also tried their *Basil Chicken* (\$10), which was a delicate blend of basil and spices with a little kick to it.

For dessert, they have a dish of fresh mango in a sweet coconut sauce (\$8), served with sticky rice. Thai Box Zing also offers several other menu items with rotating availability, such as a *Beef Larb*, a *Papaya Wrap*, and *Drunken Fried Rice*.

At present time, they are the only Laotian Thai food truck in the Triangle, but already they are

one of the best! The same family also runs the Thai China Buffet in Durham at the intersection of 55/54. Whether you're already a fan of Thai food, or have just wondered about it from afar, Thai Box Zing should be one of your go-to locations for a tasty, healthy meal while you're out and about. 🍽️



Andy's mom helping out in the kitchen.



This is the first of a monthly column highlighting some of the dogs and cats who have called the SPCA of Wake County home for far too long. Since the SPCA is a no-kill shelter, their adoptable pets stay with them as long as it takes them to find a home. This means that when the shelter is full, there's no available space for new pets. Some of these wonderful animals are older or have traits that require special attention or medications but want and need to be loved all the same. We hope you'll consider giving one of these (and the many other) long-timers a place to call home where they can feel safe and be cared for. Visit the SPCA of Wake County for more overlooked pets who could use a new family. You can also visit [www.spcawake.org/longtimers](http://www.spcawake.org/longtimers) or call 919.772.2326. 🐾 Photos courtesy InBetween the Blinks Photography



**Rambo** is a two-year-old neutered male Staffordshire Bull Terrier and a 62-pound hunk of tail-wagging love. He has been at the SPCA over six months and has been overlooked time and time again. Rambo would love nothing more than to go home with an active family, maybe with a large fenced in backyard where he can "turbo charge" soccer balls (because he sort of looks like one himself with his black and white coat, and squatty legs!). The SPCA is very proud of Rambo for recently completing his AKC Canine Good Citizen Certification course. This is a big deal for dogs, and it means he understand his canine manners! Whoever adopts this brown-eyed boy is getting a great catch. Check him out today at [www.spcawake.org/adopt](http://www.spcawake.org/adopt).

**Toby** is a two-year-old neutered male domestic shorthaired tabby and is the most handsome, dashing cat in all the land. He's a two-year-old with feline swagger and style who has been at the SPCA for far too long for such a good-looking cat. He is such a "people pleaser" that he actually prefers to hang out with humans over other cats! Are you looking for a companion to keep you company as the weather gets colder this fall? Toby's the name and cuddling is his game!



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# The Triangle Loves Festivals

BY RUSSELL PINKSTON | PHOTOS BY ADAM PYBURN



The Triangle is home to some of the most festive people around. We are lucky enough to live in a microcosm of tourism, a collection of highly accessible towns, each vying to attract visitors from one another every weekend. Whether it's a jazz or bluegrass festival, Hopscotch, Brewgaloo, the State Fair, Artsposure, Centerfest, or an infinitude of farmers markets and food truck rodeos in between, you'd be hard-pressed to find a boring Saturday any time soon (especially as we move toward the unstoppable force that is the holiday season).

traffic. Some even have their own currency in the form of tokens.

One of the events I was most looking forward to this year was 919 Beer's Beericana Craft Beer and Music Festival. Beericana is held annually at Sugg Farm Park in Holly Springs—an idyllic country meadow lined with split-rail fences—where beer tents stretch into the distance like some kind of stairway to heaven. This was only the event's second year but already they boasted a lineup of over 60 breweries, as well as more than 20 food trucks and about a dozen other vendors. It was like

as well. Events and festivals allow us to see our customers face-to-face and interact in ways that a web store can't. They are one of a number of businesses that simply would not exist if not for the constant flow of festivals in the area.

It then becomes incumbent on festival organizers, like Adam Eshbaugh and Wayne Holt from 919 Beer, to find a way to attract as many people as possible, so that the vendors can have actual customers to interact with. This usually means providing entertainment. At Beericana, this entertainment came in the form of lawn games and live music. I had the opportunity to talk with Tess Ocaña, an event promoter from Sonic Pie Productions, who provided the bands and the sound system for Beericana. In the months preceding, the organizers culled through binders full of bands until finally settling on the musical acts they felt best suited the Beericana crowd: Empire Strikes Brass, Uncle Lucius, and Dark Water Rising.

"My simple motivation, for 13 years now," Tess told me, "has been happy looks on the audience's faces. I love the fact that I can look out and see literally three generations of people, from dancing 20-somethings, to soccer moms, to baby boomers. Not only do [festivals] bring people together for a common reason, they bring together a diverse group of people."

Beericana brought together a group of around 3,200 for its second iteration. And for the most part, everyone seemed to get along very well, considering the amount of alcohol consumed (one guy got thrown out but we won't talk about him). The beer selection at Beericana was, of course, stellar. It would be easier to list the breweries that were not there, but I don't want to embarrass anyone. Most of the breweries in the Triangle were in attendance, but there was also a wealth of delicious beer from everywhere from Wilmington, NC to Coronado, CA. Beericana provided a terrific opportunity for people to make direct contact with these business



At their core, these festivals are celebrations of our community, a place for the masses computer-tanned faces to stretch their legs when they emerge from their cubicles for the weekend. But it's not all fun and games. Behind the scenes, there is often a small army of volunteers and several months of work that goes into organizing just a single day of festivities. It's not an easy job to plan a massive party for thousands of strangers, yet most weekends we are met with a dizzying array of *rodeos* and *shindigs* and *feasts* of all caliber. It's a wonderful problem to have to decide between SparkCon and the Apex Jazz Festival, but what exactly is the motivation for the organizers who put all these events together? Do they simply enjoy cleaning up after people?

Festivals are so pervasive in our recreation that they have become a necessary link in our economic system. They are a backbone for many local businesses that do not own brick-and-mortar stores but exist, instead, almost exclusively in these ephemeral locations. Festivals are, essentially, miniaturized economies—street malls erected for a day and filled with temporary vendors and foot

a small city unto itself (one where you could have unlimited beer... in tiny little glasses).

I spoke with several event organizers and vendors from Beericana in order to get a more complete picture of how these festivals come into being, and for what reasons. What I found was that not only do festivals provide recreation for the people in attendance, but they are also an essential outlet for many local businesses to connect with their customers, creating an environment that enhances the community by promoting local commerce.

One of the vendors I frequently bump into at these events is Jud Patterson from Oak City Collective, a design company that sells Raleigh-centric apparel and merchandise. Aside from an online store, Oak City Collective exists solely as a tent at these types of festivals. Whenever I see them, I always enjoy stopping by to chat with Jud about some of their new designs. When I met him at this year's Beericana, I asked him how he felt about having a tent as his storefront. "Not only are festivals a great way to simply sell products," Jud told me, "but many connections are made there



owners and brewers, sample their new creations, and give immediate feedback. It's a very organic way for a business to connect with its customers.

"It's a community builder," said Adam from 919 Beer when I asked him the motivations behind organizing Beericana. "That's what I really like, and that's what the craft beer community is all about. It's about bringing people together and having a good time." 919 Beer uses the word "BEER" as an acronym for "Building, Engaging, Educating, Resourcing." The Beericana festival itself went to benefit two non-profits, Shop Local Raleigh and the NC Brewer's Guild. They also do a weekly podcast about local craft beer and beer news, available on iTunes.

Event organizers have the dual responsibility of satisfying both the vendors who set up shop there and the attendees who choose to give them their time and money. It seems fairly clear that the motivations of festival organizers (at least for Beericana) are community-oriented, so this leaves us with the question of what effect festivals like Beericana actually have on the community. It's all well and good that festivals help to support local businesses, but if they weren't any fun, no one would go to them. They are a place where the community



quite literally comes together for a common cause. Usually, that cause is to have a few drinks and socialize with friends and family—and, perhaps, to even make some new acquaintances. I know several couples who either met or had their first dates at festivals (and a few of them are still happy today).

This is really the crux of it all, that a happy community is one that knows how to come together

and simply have a good time. So, keep going out there and supporting local businesses by going to festivals, the happiness of your community may depend on it. 🍻

*Russ is a photographer, brewer, author, and screenwriter. He's a Raleigh native who has recently returned home after a decade of writing (and drinking) in NYC and Los Angeles.*

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# GET CRAFTY



Craft cocktail recipes from local Triangle speakeasies

In our new monthly Get Crafty column, we solicit the talents of local purveyors of spirits, craft beer, and wine to show off their craft cocktail skills. Each month we'll have a new recipe that takes advantage of seasonal ingredients, local flavor, or perhaps just the personality of the artisan sharing their concoction with us. We always enjoy recommendations from our readers, so send us suggestions for folks you'd like us to include in future issues -> [getcrafty@welovedowntown.com](mailto:getcrafty@welovedowntown.com)

This recipe comes from Mike Reid, owner and bartender at Havana Deluxe, a mainstay in downtown Raleigh's drinking establishments for the past 19 years. Located in historic Glenwood Avenue with only a lone awning sign to announce its presence. Havana is an understated place where those in the know go to enjoy a great cocktail, good conversation, and to catch up with old friends. It's a real



bartender's bar and it's the closest thing to Cheers you'll find anywhere in Raleigh. In this year's Best of Downtowner Awards, Mike was voted as a Reader Favorite in the Best Bartender category and Havana garnered the same in Best Whiskey/ Bourbon Selection. That's a pretty good pedigree for this month's Get Crafty...

### Havana Deluxe's "The Dictator"

- 2 oz Gentleman Jack
- 1 oz Dolin Blanc Vermouth or Lillet
- Juice of 1/2 lemon

"Years ago, we ran across a drink recipe called The Ambassador and we decided to create our own version of it, hence the name derivation, The Dictator. Pour the first two ingredients together, add fresh-squeezed lemon juice, then pour over crushed ice. This clean, simple drink makes for a perfect drink for spring or fall weather. It goes well with any of the premium cigars we sell. You can enjoy your smoke at the bar while watching one of the many cult movies we enjoy playing for guests, like 'Big Trouble in Little China.' Unless there's a Canes game on, then of course it's hockey all the way." 🍷

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**Candidates** *continued from page 10*

bus service, including much shorter wait times; Rapid Bus Transit in key locations like the New Bern Avenue corridor; and a commitment to commuter rail in the region.

**Dickie Thompson**



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[www.Facebook.com/DickieforRaleigh](http://www.Facebook.com/DickieforRaleigh)  
[www.Twitter.com/DickieThompsonA](http://www.Twitter.com/DickieThompsonA)

**Candidate background/experience** Lifelong Raleigh resident. NCSU graduate in Civil Engineering. Worked

for 38 years with family business with over 50 employees. Member of the Raleigh Planning Commission for seven years, three as Chair. Current Chair of RDU Airport Authority.

**How important is affordable housing to Raleigh's future and how do you propose ensuring that the city maintains an adequate stock of affordable housing?** Affordable housing is very important to Raleigh's future. We should do more to ensure it is spread throughout the City, and done in conjunction with improved transit. I would use housing bond dollars and zoning to leverage public-private partnerships to increase Raleigh's affordable housing stock.

**What can, or should, Raleigh do to provide access to efficient, reliable public transportation for all citizens?** We should take an all-of-the-above approach to transit so we can provide more choices to our citizens. I would continue to work closely with Wake County on the development of their Transit Plan that integrates all 12 Wake municipalities, and support the needed referendum to implement that plan.

**Edwin (Eddie) Woodhouse**



[www.WoodhouseForRaleigh.com](http://www.WoodhouseForRaleigh.com)  
[www.Facebook.com/woodhouseforraleigh](http://www.Facebook.com/woodhouseforraleigh)  
[www.Twitter.com/eddie4raleigh](http://www.Twitter.com/eddie4raleigh)

**Candidate background/experience** I have a long career in constituent service and public affairs, which instilled in me a

strong belief in listening and responding to the concerns of citizens. My career has focused on navigating government bureaucracy to benefit the people.

**How important is affordable housing to Raleigh's future and how do you propose ensuring that the city maintains an adequate stock of affordable housing?** Affordable housing can add great value to Raleigh. As an appointee for HUD, I worked with the Community Development Block Grant Program, providing communities with flexible resources to address

affordable housing. Additionally, I helped draft Raleigh's 10-year plan to eliminate homelessness. I am the only candidate with these experiences.

**What can, or should, Raleigh do to provide access to efficient, reliable public transportation for all citizens?** District A citizens tell me Raleigh's bus system does not efficiently deliver them to job sites. Circuitous routes and long transfer wait times disrupt schedules. Raleigh should collaborate to find locations that allow for parking cars and coordinate those with bus routes.

**City Council (District B)**

**David Cox**



[www.DavidCoxForCouncil.com](http://www.DavidCoxForCouncil.com)  
[www.Facebook.com/dcoxforcouncil](http://www.Facebook.com/dcoxforcouncil)  
[www.Twitter.com/dcox4council](http://www.Twitter.com/dcox4council)

**Candidate background/experience** BS Biochemistry, MS/PhD Computer Science, researcher industrial auto-

mation. Past Public Policy Chair Chapter, National Kidney Foundation; President, Chapter, Transplant Recipients International; Chair, North Raleigh Citizens Advisory Committee; volunteer with physically/mentally challenged individuals through Good Shepherd Lutheran Church.

**How important is affordable housing to Raleigh's future and how do you propose ensuring that the city maintains an adequate stock of affordable housing?** We need policies that allow people to live throughout the city regardless of income. I support zoning that promotes mixed housing, density bonuses, and funding housing with grants, tax incentives, and lower property taxes for low income families, especially seniors.

**What can, or should, Raleigh do to provide access to efficient, reliable public transportation for all citizens?** Make bus service convenient with more routes, more stops, and increased frequency. We should provide shelters and technology for up to the minute information. We should invest in park and ride. And we should continue to pursue rail as an option.

**John Odom**



[www.OdomForCouncil.com](http://www.OdomForCouncil.com)  
**Candidate background/experience** 16 years serving on the Raleigh City Council. Served as Mayor Pro-Tem under the last 3 Mayors and have served on all council committees. I am a small business owner in

the city of Raleigh.

**How important is affordable housing to Raleigh's future and how do you propose ensuring that the city**

**maintains an adequate stock of affordable housing?** Affordable housing is very important. The City of Raleigh has an affordable housing plan and I support that. However, with all the new growth particularly downtown we should think about using a percentage of new dollars from that growth and always look at land the city already owns.

**What can, or should, Raleigh do to provide access to efficient, reliable public transportation for all citizens?** We should have more covered bus stops so that everyone feels comfortable and safe while waiting for the bus. We also need to increase the frequency on some of our routes.

**City Council (District C)**

**Corey Branch**



[www.CoreyBranch.com](http://www.CoreyBranch.com)  
[www.Twitter.com/Corey4DistrictC](http://www.Twitter.com/Corey4DistrictC)

**Candidate background/experience** I'm a Raleigh native with 15 years of corporate experience. I have been on the Raleigh Transit Authority since 2011. I have worked

with WakeUp Wake County, Raleigh-Wake Citizens Association and other community organizations to address local issues.

**How important is affordable housing to Raleigh's future and how do you propose ensuring that the city maintains an adequate stock of affordable housing?** Affordable Housing is important to maintaining a workforce in Raleigh. We must have housing that allows all who work in Raleigh the option to live within any community in Raleigh. Working within the state laws, the city must work to find finance programs while also establishing public-private partnerships.

**What can, or should, Raleigh do to provide access to efficient, reliable public transportation for all citizens?** Reviewing the Raleigh transit system, which is awaiting completion of the Wake County Transit Plan since 60% of the Wake County plan will impact the Raleigh Transit system. Based on the outcome of the plan, the Raleigh system then must be reviewed and updated to ensure an efficient and reliable system.

**Eugene Weeks**



[www.WeeksForRaleigh.com](http://www.WeeksForRaleigh.com)  
**Candidate background/experience** Retired Military Veteran—Air Force—20 years. Retired Wake County Educator—Broughton HS—19 years. Former Chair of the Raleigh Human Relations Commission and Raleigh Parks Advisory Board. Advocate for over



15 years for Southeast Raleigh and the HBCU schools.

**How important is affordable housing to Raleigh's future and how do you propose ensuring that the city maintains an adequate stock of affordable housing?** Affordable Housing is very important for now and in the future. With continued growth we need to be proactive and look at ways that the city can work with developers and realtors through private partnership to produce more affordable housing. Affordable Housing should be available in all areas of Raleigh.

**What can, or should, Raleigh do to provide access to efficient, reliable public transportation for all citizens?** The city should make sure that reliable public transportation is available to all citizens. Busses should arrive and depart at least every 15 minutes. All transit stops should have a bus shelter, not a bench. Continue to look at alternatives such as Bus Rapid Transit and Rail Rapid Transit.

## City Council (District D)

### Kay C. Crowder



[www.CrowderForCouncil.com](http://www.CrowderForCouncil.com)

[www.Twitter.com/Crowder4Council](http://www.Twitter.com/Crowder4Council)

**Candidate background/experience** District D native, in AventWest for over 30 years. Sales, management and finance career. General Sales Manager at WPTF-TV, then

client services at Edward Jones. Past president of neighborhood association and elementary school PTA, 20-year volunteer for Special Olympics.

**How important is affordable housing to Raleigh's future and how do you propose ensuring that the city maintains an adequate stock of affordable housing?** Very important. We need housing that is affordable for everyone, including longtime residents being squeezed out of this residential market, seniors on fixed incomes, and young people just starting their careers and families. I support the \$20 million affordable housing plan currently being refined by the City Council.

**What can, or should, Raleigh do to provide access to efficient, reliable public transportation for all citizens?** Foremost, Raleigh must improve bus service. I want to work with local businesses to promote ridership through incentive programs. We must make transit safe and easy to access—I know of bus stops located in ditches! Every stop needs a shelter with sidewalks and crosswalks to reach it safely.

### Ashton Mae Smith

[www.AshtonForRaleigh.com](http://www.AshtonForRaleigh.com)

[www.Twitter.com/ashtonmae](http://www.Twitter.com/ashtonmae)

[www.Facebook.com/ashtonforraleigh](http://www.Facebook.com/ashtonforraleigh)



**Candidate background/experience** Raised in Raleigh, but have traveled/lived globally. I'm the daughter of a small businesses owner, and work for Citrix, an international tech company. I'm active in transit planning and afford-

able housing, and board chair for the City of Raleigh Museum.

**How important is affordable housing to Raleigh's future and how do you propose ensuring that the city maintains an adequate stock of affordable housing?** It is critically important for Raleigh to be the inclusive, world-class city that we'd like it to be. We should focus on affordable housing near transit, working with developers and landowners to find innovative solutions to create safe, quality housing in all districts, for all our residents.

**What can, or should, Raleigh do to provide access to efficient, reliable public transportation for all citizens?** While the largest part of the transit system will be managed by the County, it is critical for Raleigh to ensure an excellent user experience for the distance between homes and stations, as well as stations and destinations. This includes complete sidewalks, safe pedestrian crossings, bike lanes, and covered stops.

## City Council (District E)

### DeAntony Collins



[www.DeAntonyCollins.nation-builder.com](http://www.DeAntonyCollins.nation-builder.com)

[www.Twitter.com/Collins4RAL](http://www.Twitter.com/Collins4RAL)

**Candidate background/experience** I relocated to Raleigh in 2002, and I have been a teacher and administrative professional for Bright Horizons Family Solutions for nearly a decade.

**How important is affordable housing to Raleigh's future and how do you propose ensuring that the city maintains an adequate stock of affordable housing?** Affordable housing is very important to our city. It should plentiful and spread across the districts, and not merely localized in one area of the city, to foster functioning mixed income communities.

**What can, or should, Raleigh do to provide access to efficient, reliable public transportation for all citizens?** Raleigh should promote increased coverage with smarter bus routes, integrated sidewalks and bike lanes throughout, complete with more park and ride stations in existing lots and covered bus stop shelters to shield riders from the elements.

### Bonner Gaylord

[www.BonnerGaylord.com](http://www.BonnerGaylord.com)



[www.Twitter.com/BonnerGaylord](http://www.Twitter.com/BonnerGaylord)

**Candidate background/experience** I am a Raleigh native, a UNC graduate, a husband, a father and the General Manager of North Hills. I became a city councilor because I wanted to give back to the city that gave me so much.

**How important is affordable housing to Raleigh's future and how do you propose ensuring that the city maintains an adequate stock of affordable housing?** It is critically important that as Raleigh grows we ensure everyone has the opportunity to live within our city. Larry Jarvis has built a ten-part plan to promote affordable housing options and we are pursuing all ten options.

**What can, or should, Raleigh do to provide access to efficient, reliable public transportation for all citizens?**

Raleigh should encourage growth to concentrate in urban areas. This makes it easy for people to access transit, work, eating and shopping close to where they live. We also need to be investing in a more robust transportation system and adding buses to cut wait and ridership times.

### Edie Jeffreys



[www.EdieForDistrictE.com](http://www.EdieForDistrictE.com)

[www.Twitter.com/Edie4DistrictE](http://www.Twitter.com/Edie4DistrictE)

**Candidate background/experience** Raleigh native; Active in the Five Points Citizens Advisory Council for over 15 years; Leader in a Neighborhood Conservation Overlay District rezoning of over a thousand properties in Five Points East; Founding member of a neighborhood advocacy organization, Community SCALE.

**How important is affordable housing to Raleigh's future and how do you propose ensuring that the city maintains an adequate stock of affordable housing?** Raleigh has need of a diverse workforce. It's important for housing to be available for all income levels in proximity that allows folks to reach their jobs. Affordable housing allows low income and retired folks to afford food, medication, and other essentials and stimulate the local economy with their spending.

**What can, or should, Raleigh do to provide access to efficient, reliable public transportation for all citizens?** Raleigh should support and promote the work of Wake Transit in its effort to provide effective public transportation options. I think Raleigh and Wake County should explore the use of vehicles other than large buses and light rail. 🚗

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15

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