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VOLUME 4, ISSUE 4

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What's on the horizon for commercial and residential development downtown



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Build, Live, Work: Development Downtown



By Jeffery Brubaker

As Moore, Nash, and Union Squares are a symbol of Raleigh's past, Green Square – which just recently began construction – is a sign of the future.

center. The state is envisioning environmental design for the buildings that will save energy and materials, filter stormwater, maintain healthy indoor air quality, reduce carbon emissions, and educate adults and children about ecology. But green building elements are just the tip of the iceberg: Green Square is a perfect fit for the future Jones Street, which the city is proposing to designate a “green street.”

Green Square exemplifies three downtown development trends: the public sector working with the private sector; new activities in close proximity to

residential areas; and concerted efforts being made to reduce the ecological footprint in new buildings. Public-private teamwork is one of the most important factors of a thriving downtown, according to Paul Reimel, Economic Development Manager for the Downtown Raleigh Alliance. “What one sector provides adds to the viability of the other.”

Just down the street, the 10-story, mixed-use Powerhouse Plaza has been proposed between West and Harrington Streets. Plans for the 1.27-acre site include ground floor retail space, restaurants at the ground levels

and on the roof, 88,000 square feet of office space, a parking structure, and a Hyatt, the first hotel to serve Glenwood South. Powerhouse is another project that will incorporate green building techniques.

Both projects are part of the recent wave of downtown development activity that is helping to galvanize Raleigh as the Triangle's anchor city and transform it into a major cosmopolitan center with a sustainable future. In the years from 2003 to 2005, 76 development projects were announced

Continued on page 3

The Green Square Complex will be a multi-use development that brings many of the state's environmental offices located in Raleigh together with a nationally significant Nature Research Center. As its name suggests, Green Square will also have numerous features that make it environmentally sustainable.



■ The Raleigh Downtowner Vol. 4, Issue 4



Above: Many consider the re-opening of Fayetteville Street as the beginning of the downtown commercial and residential revitalization.

Photo courtesy of Shannon Hultz

UPCOMING ISSUES

- Volume 4, Issue 5 - Get Out!
- Volume 4, Issue 6 - Downtown Eats
- Volume 4, Issue 7 - Going Green!

RALEIGH DOWNTOWNER The Raleigh Chronicle

617 West Jones Street ■ Raleigh, NC 27603
 919.821.9000 ■ Fax: 919.821.4998
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The Downtowner is a local monthly print magazine dedicated to coverage of downtown Raleigh. The Chronicle is a weekly online publication covering Raleigh and the surrounding community.

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(compared to 43 in the four years before then) comprising over \$1.7 billion in combined public and private investment. In recent years, downtown has welcomed around 400,000 square feet of commercial development. Since July 2006, 62 new businesses have opened. All this activity will result in an estimated \$2.5 billion in downtown public and private reinvestment by 2012.



Recently adding their rooftop spire, the RBC Plaza sold the majority of its residential condominiums in just a matter of days.

CONTINUED GROWTH

Even during the slumping national housing market, downtown Raleigh is continuing to grow – although at a slower pace than before – and is fast becoming

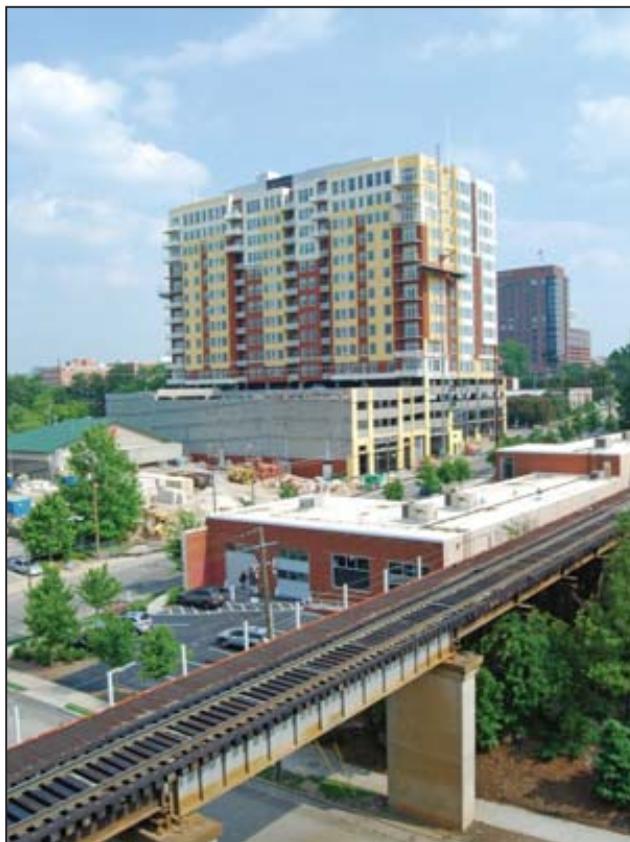
Plans for the 10-story, 1.27-acre Powerhouse Plaza include ground floor retail space, ground level and roof restaurants, 88,000 square feet of office space, parking, and a Hyatt, the first hotel to serve Glenwood South.



a popular place to live as well as work. Over 2,640 units are planned or under construction within a mile of downtown. Forbes recently put Raleigh on its list of ten “recession-proof” cities. Though not completely immune to the influence of the lean economy, Raleigh’s development outlook has avoided much of the economic woes of other markets, such as what has occurred in California, Florida, Nevada, and parts of the Midwest. “Certain projects will have delays or will change in character,” Reimel says, “but this shows the versatility of the area and our ability to react to the current market.”

The variety of development is just as impressive as the pace – the 33-story RBC Plaza, whose spire now towers above Fayetteville Street; Chavis Heights Hope VI affordable housing developments; Bloomsbury Estates’ historic Second-Empire design; the three level Solas building in Glenwood South; and neotraditional, mixed-use developments with ground-level retail, like the Dawson, the West, the Hillsborough, and 222 Glenwood. Diversity in style is an attribute of healthy urban places, standing in contrast to the homogeneity of suburbia. In downtown Raleigh, it means different housing preferences without the raw scale of urbanism of Manhattan or downtown Chicago.

In other words, downtown offers choices to prospective homebuyers – not merely between the



The West at North in Glenwood South will feature luxury residential condos, ground level retail, and a rooftop pool.

number of stories – but also between single-family detached homes, townhomes, apartments, and upscale condominiums. Affordable units are also part of the mix, though affordability (and reliable transit access) will continue to be a critical issue for downtown development. The historic homes of Oakwood, Mordecai, Glenwood-Brooklyn, and Boylan Heights have been there for decades, and a few new developments, such as Village at Pilot Mill, are also incorporating single-family homes.

One is Blount Street Commons, north of the Governor’s Mansion, which will include 25 single-family historic homes and 12 additional lots available for custom homes. The eclectic development is being built in four phases and will also feature condominiums, townhomes, live-work units, lofts, 6,000 square feet of mixed-use retail, and approximately 35,000 square feet of additional retail. Building Blount Street Commons will be a challenge, but one that developer Doug Redford feels is fitting for his firm, LNR Property Corporation: “Our company is attracted to intense and complicated projects.”

The development, whose motto is “History in the (re)making,” will offer its historic single-family homes “unrestored, as-is and where-is,” according to Redford. The homes are part of the Blount Street Historic District, formerly used as state government offices.

Bloomsbury Estates is another blend of past and future. The mansard-roofed development in Boylan Heights will feature units with modern interiors served by a fancy lobby and a billiards room. Located on the site of the original Wake County Courthouse (built in 1771), Bloomsbury's style was popular in the area in the mid 19th century. "We studied all the architecture and the historic nature of the neighborhood in order to determine the architectural style of the project," said developer John Bruckel.

Father and son team Ted Reynolds and David Reynolds have also contributed a great deal to providing residential and commercial units downtown.

The Bloomsbury Estates is built on the site of the original Wake County courthouse (1771), and reflects a 19th century architectural style.



The three-story Solace is close to completion on Glenwood South, and will feature a first-floor restaurant, second-floor nightclub, and rooftop patio.

Their most recent completed project was the Quorum Center, a mixed use tower on the corner of Jones and Harrington Streets. "Originally, this project was going to be a three-story building with an attached parking deck," states David, "however, we partnered with other commercial private sector businesses to create the highest and best use for the site." The result is a 15-story building which

includes six floors of mixed use with residential units beginning on the seventh floor.

Recently, the Reynolds team broke ground for The Hillsborough (formerly known as the Reynolds

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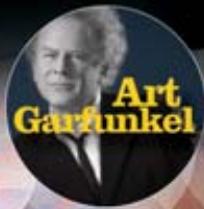
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“A well-connected transit system is vital to maintaining a high quality of life,” says city planning director Mitch Silver.

Tower), a 25-story mixed-use project that will include 118 luxury hotel rooms, 26 residential units and approximately 20,000 square feet of ground-level retail. Reynolds states that “there is supply and demand. There is a shortage of supply for this type of higher-end product in the area.”

THE IMPORTANCE OF COMMUTING

Variety and versatility define not only housing types, but also transportation options. At a time of record gas prices, the location value of downtown developments has never stood out so boldly. A recent NPR story reported that, across the country, home prices have dropped the most in areas with the longest commutes. In fact, prices have continued to rise in the walkable cores of some cities, such as Washington, DC.

In downtown Raleigh, residents may attend a theatre performance at the Progress Energy Center, buy local vegetables at the Moore Square Farmer’s Market, or tour the Museum of Natural Sciences. Further north they can stroll down Glenwood South and frequent any number of restaurants, bars, shops, and cafes at their leisure, all without spending a dime on gas. If all goes according to plan (that is, the recently-announced regional transit blueprint), downtown residents will eventually be able to take rail transit to north Raleigh, Durham, RTP, and Chapel Hill, or even hop on a high-speed train out of state to Atlanta or D.C.

In addition to connecting multiple locations, transit will need to serve multiple purposes: commuter, leisure, and long-distance travel. “A well-connected transit system is vital to maintaining a high quality of life,” says planning director Mitch Silver. “Young professionals want to move to a place that is well-served by transit. If we don’t provide these options, they will move somewhere else.”

LIVABLE STREETS: IT’S ALL IN THE PLANNING

The city is providing supportive planning to facilitate downtown development. Although concepts for a thriving downtown and design guidelines have been articulated as far back as the William Christmas plan of 1792, the major recent impetus has been the Livable Streets Plan of 2003, which put forth five

major goals for improving downtown.

The first two goals – a new convention center and Fayetteville Street’s renaissance as the heart of Raleigh – are coming to fruition. The Raleigh Convention Center and accompanying Marriott Hotel are on schedule to open in September of this year and work on the next phase of Fayetteville Street’s redesign – adding more pedestrian connections at the south end – has been contracted out. Progress on the other three goals – improving the pedestrian environment, regulatory reform, and downtown management and marketing – are well underway. As one example, the city is implementing a wayfinding system of signs and maps to bring a greater sense of place and navigability to downtown for both pedestrian and driver, local residents and visitors alike.

FILLING IN THE GAPS

But despite its accomplishments, the Livable Streets Plan does not cover all the bases for downtown planning. Thus the planning department has drafted the Interim Downtown Framework (IDF) – currently being considered by the planning commission – to fill in three pressing policy gaps of existing downtown planning guidelines before the 2030 comprehensive plan is adopted in 2009.

First, the IDF channels additional ground level retail space to key streets between and around major destinations, placing shops on streets with heavy pedestrian traffic. This is an effort to address the unmet demand for retail space that Silver foresees as one of the biggest challenges in the coming years. What downtown has in its favor is a number of existing and emerging “anchors,” or people generators. Dan Douglas, director of the planning department’s Urban Design Center, explains that the IDF’s goal is to connect the anchors by designating primary retail streets “based on the best opportunity for flourishing.” If the IDF is approved, it could help to usher in what Douglas calls “the front end of a retail ren-

aissance in downtown.”

Second, the IDF envisions three “green streets” – one being Jones Street – that will showcase environmental design. These thoroughfares, designed primarily with pedestrians and bicyclists in mind, will feature the energy-saving LED lighting for which Raleigh is already known, extensive landscaping, reduced speed limits for vehicles, and impervious surfaces to filter stormwater and prevent runoff pollution.

Finally, the framework calls for parking provisions that do not detract from the thriving streetscape, prioritizing underground rather than street-level parking and, if aboveground structures are necessary, “wrapping” them with active use buildings. Parking is an integral part of any downtown, but it need not be so oversupplied or overwhelming that it dulls the pedestrian experience. People aren’t going to visit downtown to gaze at blank concrete walls or parking deck access ramps.

Both the abundance of development and supportive planning contribute to the emerging vision of the downtown of a “21st-century city,” a phrase Silver often uses. Downtown will be a place of diversity, activity, and sustainability. In short, downtown will be a place, in a meaningful sense of the word. Raleigh is growing in all directions, but as downtown is revitalized, the city is gradually returning to its center.

Jeffery Brubaker is a graduate student in city and regional planning at UNC-Chapel Hill and is currently interning with the City of Raleigh Department of City Planning. He can be reached by email at jsbrubaker@gmail.com.

■RD

Downtown’s growth peers through new outdoor construction beside the Boylan Bridge Brewpub.





Two Early Champions of Civil Rights Honored in Centennial Hall of Fame

By Daniel P. Stone, Raleigh City Museum

The Centennial Hall of Fame is an exhibit created in partnership by the Raleigh City Museum and the Raleigh Hall of Fame that honors individuals who have made significant contributions to the City of Raleigh during its first 100 years. Originally displayed at the Raleigh City Museum, the entire exhibit will be presented at the Cameron Village Public Library in August.

Two influential individuals will be inducted this year. Lawrence Macauga Cheek and Manassa Thomas Pope are two African-American men who hurdled through the tribulations of the Jim Crow South. Through their hard work and humble accomplishments, a beacon of light was forever cast upon our city. Both men not only made history, but embodied the pure love of charity for their fellow citizens, eternally indebteding the City of Raleigh to the preservation of their achievements and memory.

The first new inductee is Manassa Thomas Pope. He was born near Rich Square, Northampton County, NC, in 1858. His father and mother were both free people of color in the American South. Pope arrived in Raleigh in 1874 to attend Shaw University. After graduating, Pope furthered his studies at Shaw in the Leonard School of Medicine. In 1887, Dr. Pope married Lydia Walden of Winton, NC.

Dr. Pope established a medical practice on East Hargett Street and in 1901, he built a brick residence at 511 South Wilmington Street. Since his father was a free man of color and was able to vote before 1867, Dr. Pope was able to meet the almost impossible requirement of the "grandfather clause." This clause prohibited African Americans from voting if their ancestors were not able to vote before 1867. Dr. Pope was one of only seven colored men in Raleigh to be eligible to vote in 1902.

In the spring of 1919, he ran for mayor of Raleigh at the head of a non-partisan African-American slate of candidates. Although he didn't win, his running for office was an act of non-violent protest against the Jim Crow atmosphere of the South.

After losing his wife to tuberculosis in 1906, he remarried to Delia Haywood Phillips in 1907. Together they had two girls, Evelyn in 1908 and Ruth in 1910. In 1934, Dr. Manassa Pope died at the age of 76, and his wife died shortly after in 1955.

The second new inductee, who ran on the 1919 ticket for public office with Manassa Pope, is Lawrence Macauga Cheek. He was born on November 20, 1886 in Warren County, NC. Upon graduating from the Normal and Industrial School in 1907, Cheek enrolled at Shaw University where he received an A.B. degree in 1911.

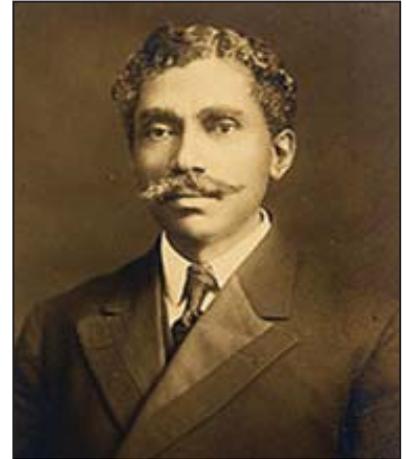
Following his organization of the Oregon Printing Company, Cheek led the creation of the Raleigh Independent Company. This was done for the sole purpose of publishing Raleigh's first African-American weekly newspaper. Serving as business manager and managing editor, Mr. Cheek provided a "voice for the voiceless."

His newspaper not only reported the news, but also helped elevate the African-American race by bringing their plight to the attention of Raleigh citizens. Cheek's newspaper exposed the cruel acts of lynching and promoted cooperation between races in business affairs. On June 24, 1914, Lawrence Cheek married Elean Elizabeth Whitaker. Mr. Cheek died in 1920.

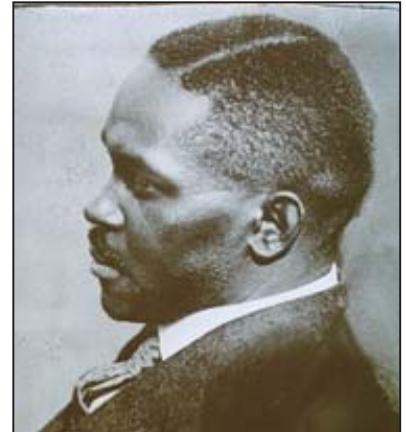
Mr. Cheek's newspaper has been a long-standing channel of information for the city of Raleigh. Founded in 1919, the Raleigh Independent, which has become The Carolinian, has for 90 years served as a source of information for all of Raleigh's citizens.

The Raleigh City Museum is committed to preserving all aspects of Raleigh's history. The museum is located at 220 Fayetteville Street in the old Briggs Hardware Building and keeps hours Tuesday - Friday from 10am-4pm and Saturday from 1pm - 4pm. For more information about the Centennial Hall of Fame, please email info@raleighhalloffame.org or call (919) 787-9617.

Photos courtesy the Pope House Museum Foundation: www.thepopehousemuseum.org and the Raleigh City Museum archives



Dr. Manassa Thomas Pope established a medical practice on East Hargett Street and ran for mayor in 1919.



Lawrence Macauga Cheek (1886-1920) was the founding editor of the Raleigh Independent, the first African-American weekly newspaper in Raleigh, NC

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Ashe County, North Carolina



By Jack Glasure

As I'm driving into West Jefferson, NC, on Hwy 221, the first things I notice are clear blue skies and the lack of taillights on the two-lane road. My window is down and a mountainside of aromatic Fraser fir trees sneaks in. On my right, a small herd of buffalo grazes on the hillside beside a serene lake.

I feel like checking to see if this is a leftover set from *Last of the Mohicans*. But my directions offer no reference to the movie, but just that I'm headed into Ashe County, which is wedged into the upper-most northwestern corner of North Carolina, bordering Tennessee and Virginia. It's been a 3-hour drive from downtown Raleigh, but well worth it as the Friday afternoon air is sweet with blossoms and plants waking up to a late mountain spring. The high clouds to the east, hovering over the Blue Ridge



Parkway, are headed out of the area. To the west, only a spectacular sunset awaits as I make the turn off the highway and head toward downtown West Jefferson.

I search for dinner and find myself torn between Frasers – an upscale bistro-style restaurant with a lively pub – and the choice of driving out to the Glendale Springs Inn – a beautiful turn-of-the-century farmhouse serving a full dinner menu and a large selection of wine. It's still early, however, so I park the car and settle into a smart little café called T. Gray's. A jazz trio is melting the air and the place is filling up with singles. Clearly, this is one of the local watering holes. Other options for nightlife include Frasers Pub, also with live music – usually classical guitar or R&B – or a little place called Bohemia, where you can get a local wine to go with your bluegrass or Celtic music – a pleasantly surprising number of choices for a town of this size.

Then there's the question of "where to stay?" One choice is Buffalo Tavern Bed & Breakfast, a quaint four-bedroom inn with a beautiful view of Bluff Mountain. Managed by a retired professor, innkeeper "Doc" Adams keeps guests entertained with stories amidst the opulence of this 100-plus year-old waystation sitting on an old buffalo trail. Another is River House Country Inn, featuring about a



mile of riverfront on the New River surrounded by 180 acres of mountains and hiking trails. The inn has eight beautiful rooms, with three additional spacious cabins close by, and all include a plentiful breakfast in the price of the room.

To fill your weekend with activities, there are many options around Ashe County. The best hiking is Mount Jefferson State Park, which looms high above the area with an elevation of 4,400 feet. Be sure to check out the Summit Trail and the Rhododendron Trail for breathtaking overlooks. These hikes are rated moderate to strenuous but the views are worth the effort!

You can also visit another state park, this one at the river level. The New River State Park has a first-class, brand-new Visitors Center loaded with exhibits and things to do. Here you'll enjoy the beauty of out-of-the-way rugged hillsides, pastoral meadows and bucolic farmlands that surround the river. The New River flows 320 miles north through Virginia and into West Virginia, and a float trip up the river provides beautifully scenic vistas. Etched into the valleys prior to the formation of the Appalachian Mountains the New River was dedicated as a National Scenic River in 1976. The New River is said to be about 300 million years old – the oldest river in America – second only to the Nile as the oldest river in the world. Within Ashe County, the river is split into two branches: the North Fork and the South Fork. Of these, the South Fork is the most developed for recreational use. Because of its shallow, gentle waters, the South Fork of the river is ideal for canoeing, kayaking and tubing, while the North

Fork is a more wild and undeveloped section of the river, preferred by some of the more experienced canoe enthusiasts. Higher water levels occur during May and June, and August and September are low-flow, lazy floating months. Six outfitters, such as Riverside Canoe and Tube Rentals, offer canoes, kayaks and inner tubes. On weekends at the Riverside General Store, owner Bryan Morrison provides plenty of good food, music and down-home camaraderie on the banks of the New River.

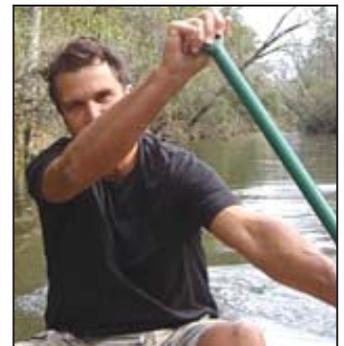
For more on Ashe County and the surrounding area, visit the Ashe County Chamber of Commerce website: <http://www.ashechamber.com>

One Tank Trips is a monthly column about road trips to great destinations within a gas tank's range of Raleigh.

Send us your ideas for future trips or stops along the way we shouldn't miss to onetanktrips@raleighdowntowner.com.

About the writer: Jack Glasure is Chief Marketing Officer at French/West/Vaughan and can be contacted at jglasure@fww-us.com.

■RD



Delivering downtown: Virginia Ward

By Margaret Coulter and AnneMarie Woodard

For more than a decade, Glenwood South has gradually transformed from an aging industrial area into a busy district filled with lively restaurants, successful businesses and chic condominiums.

Many of us, who have been around long enough, have seen these changes occurring, though probably not as intimately as Virginia Ward. Ward began delivering mail to this area for over 12 years and could speak volumes of the amazing changes she has seen. When she originally took this route, she thought it would be the one for her to retire on with more of a quiet, steady pace. Much to her surprise, Glenwood South took on a whole new persona and became the thriving district it is today.

Ward took some time off from her walking route to share with us some fond memories. As you can imagine, having a job that requires walking door-to-door delivering mail affords her the opportunity to get to know the locals on her route. She recalls many of the old businesses long since gone, including a barbershop owner who, she says, "would stand in the front window looking out at Glenwood, shake his head and say, 'I just don't know what is



Virginia has been delivering the mail with a smile for over 12 years to customers around Glenwood South

happening to this town!' He was quite a character."

She also remembers when business started to pick up and restaurants, such as the Hibernian, first opened. "People began to gather outside and the crowds would spill over into the street. There were so few places then where people could come together and just hang out. Suddenly the need was recognized and more popular spots began opening up and the city entered its growth stage." The housing atmosphere also began changing from "old student housing and dilapidated structures to grand condos and refurbished homes and people taking great pride in their surroundings." Ward adds, "I love seeing more people downtown and watching this city thrive; I really love it here."

What many of the people on Virginia's route don't know is that Virginia is also an accomplished singer, performing R&B, country, and rock.

Keep watch as you travel the Glenwood South route, and you just might cross paths with our friendly postal carrier, Virginia Ward. She'll be sure to share with you her bright and knowing smile, and even a little Glenwood history – if you ask.

MRD



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It's Scavenger Hunting Season

First Friday Scavenger Hunt

Event promoting Visual Arts Downtown to award \$1,000 grand prize

Co-sponsored by the Raleigh Chronicle

It's a race to discover the abundance of art in Downtown Raleigh with a grand prize of \$1,000 for the winning team. Teams of up to four players are invited to participate in the First Friday Scavenger Hunt on Friday, June 6, from 6 to 9 p.m. The event, held in conjunction with First Friday, is hosted by the Downtown Raleigh Alliance and the North Carolina Museum of Art Contemporaries, the museum's young professional membership group.



Teams will compete to decipher a list of clues revealing artistic gems in galleries, restaurants, and parks around downtown. The hunt will kick off in City Market in front of the previous Greenshields Brewery (214 E. Martin Street), where participants will receive the list of scavenger hunt clues. Registration and check-in will begin at 5 p.m. The

scavenger hunt will begin at 6 p.m. The contest ends at 9 p.m. at Tir na nOg, where winners will be announced and awards will be distributed. Participants are invited to stay and celebrate.

Each clue will be worth a certain point value based upon difficulty and the distance from the starting point in City Market. The team that returns to Tir na nOg at 9 p.m. with the most points wins. Teams will be required to take a photo of the answer to each clue using a Polaroid camera, digital camera, or cell phone. Participants can utilize bicycles, the Raleigh Rickshaws, Segways, or their own foot power to track down the clues.

The entrance fee to participate is \$20 per team in advance, and \$25 at the door. Tickets to participate will be available through the museum's box office at (919) 715-5923 or online at www.ncartmuseum.org.

For additional information on the First Friday Scavenger Hunt, please visit www.GoDowntownRaleigh.com/FirstFriday

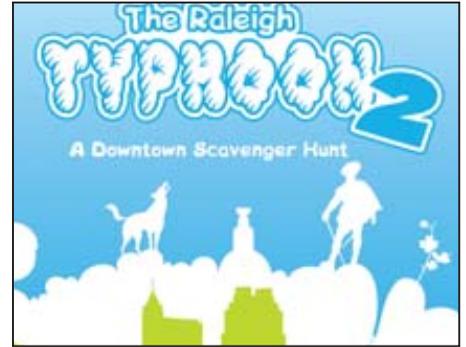
Raleigh Typhoon Scavenger Hunt

Year Two of the Typhoon entices Raleigh sleuths with prizes valued at \$4000

Co-sponsored by the Raleigh Downtowner

The heart of downtown Raleigh serves as the playing field for the Raleigh Typhoon scavenger hunt. This scavenger hunt was the brainchild of Mat Curran and Juan Matta, who thought the event would be a great way to promote their new business and add to the fun of our burgeoning downtown. The Raleigh Typhoon was their response to "there's nothing to do in Raleigh!"

Last year, nearly 350 participants teamed up to find scavenger hunt items and perform tasks on a clue list. A few of these tasks included riding a Raleigh Rickshaw, lounging on Couchtrip, performing in an Elvis sing-a-long, and putting a few puzzles together. One of the more complex puzzles involved hunters figuring out that the "pan-optic-cylinder" was our iconic Clarion hotel. The clues then led them to a suite, prompted them to knock and reveal a password; this granted them access to the cityscape, where they had to find an octopus on a rooftop.



Each team is required to bring back certain token objects and to have a digital camera in order to prove that they find scavenger hunt items.

The Raleigh Typhoon may not be the easiest scavenger hunt, but it is definitely an entertaining way to spend time in downtown Raleigh with friends. The Raleigh Typhoon is not a race, and participants are encouraged to take their time, as there are a few pitfalls that may delay hunters along the way. The winning teams' rewards are bountiful, with prizes valued around \$4500, including checks and gift cards to many of the participating businesses.

Each team must consist of at least two participants (21 and older) and may have a maximum of eight participants, with a registration fee of \$8 for each participant. The Raleigh Typhoon 2 is taking place on Saturday, June 21st and the organizers are working hard to make it bigger and better than last year. Visit their website for more details on how to sign up at www.theraleightyphoon.com

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THIS MONTH'S READER REWARDS

- Two tickets from **Carolina Ballet** to the June 5-8 performances of Carolina Jamboree. www.carolinaballet.com
- Two tickets from **North Carolina Theatre** to the July 11-20 performances of Peter Pan. www.northcarolinatheatre.com



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If you have suggestions for another location where you'd like to see the Downtowner, email us at delivery@raleighdowntowner.com. We love hearing from our readers!

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Duck and Dumpling
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Sunflowers Restaurant



By *Fred Benton*
Food and Dining
Editor

(833-4676) and pick up at their drive-thru window, which is for pick-up only.

Downtowner publisher Crash Gregg and I joined two friends for lunch at Sunflowers just the other day. Crash ordered the Grilled Rib Eye on a roll with fixings including horseradish sauce (\$7.25) and I have to admit it looked exceptionally tasty. The rib eye was moderately thick, had excellent flavor and was generous-sized. It was unlike any rib eye sandwich steak I've ever tasted, with most relying on those thin five-ounce frozen steaks. I also fell in love with my own order, a California Club (\$6.25) that featured turkey breast, havarti cheese, romaine, tomatoes and ranch dressing, all grilled—with the special ingredient of avocado. I noticed there was no discoloration with the avocado. If you want quintessential fresh then get the California Club. It's so big I couldn't finish it!

Maybe that's because I did a special tast-

here's why I like Sunflowers at 8 West Peace Street: I can eat a huge sandwich with a salad or a cup of soup and I leave feeling satiated on health food. Well, it isn't "health food" in the usual meaning of the term. The fact is that the ingredients here are so fresh one can't help but feel virtuous upon leaving. You can also feel good about the fact that you've just dined at one of downtown Raleigh's favorite lunch hangouts.

Sunflowers, owned and operated by Deborah and Clay Ferebee, opens each day, Monday through Saturday at 11 a.m. Particularly on weekdays if you want to avoid long lines you can do one of two things: get there and order lunch prior to 11:45 am or call in advance



ing beforehand, a tasting of the various composed salads plus the Pear-Pecan Salad. The chicken salad needed a bit more mayo for my taste; its cubes of white meat chicken were blended with red seedless grapes. But the genius of

this salad is the strong hit of lemon – the flavor, not the sour juice. Brilliant!

Another goodie is the tuna salad, with its

Continued on page 13



TS. "I could tell you stories. But that would be breaking bartender/client privilege."
- Jay, the beer whisperer

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THE RALEIGH TIMES
TO-DAY'S NEWS TO-DAY

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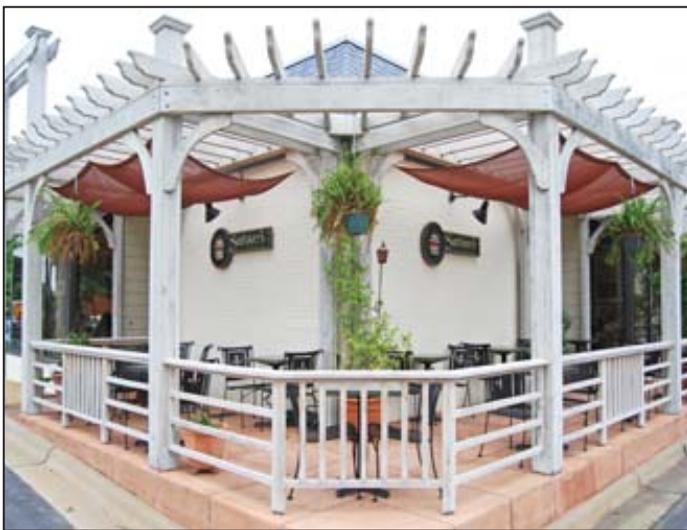
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Continued from page 12

straightforward use of a good-quality white albacore. Thumbs up also on the potato salad. Less interesting to me was the egg salad, which I thought was a little bland.

But what absolutely put me into transport was the yellow cake with an authentic boiled caramel icing—a tad

grainy, just like my mom used to make for my birthday. Through this cake I found home at Sunflowers! I want to mention that I was most impressed with the interior of Sunflowers: the outside arbor, which at once whisks one to Tuscany, and most of the interior, including the fabulous eye-catching tables, were created by Clay Ferebee.

■ RD

QUICK BYTES: SUNFLOWERS

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8 West Peace Street
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Lunch Mon.-Sat. 11am - 3pm
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Average Lunch Check: \$8

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Web Site: www.sunflowersraleigh.com

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Jim Goodman, president of Capital Broadcasting, and wife Barbara in the lobby of the Mint Restaurant after enjoying lunch with Downtowner publisher Crash Gregg



Richard and R.D. DeMartino, owners of Café Tiramisu and North Ridge Pub, at the private opening of their newest venture, Cameron Bar & Grill



Jeff Glenn and Lynnette at the George



Dawn, Brad, AnnCabell, and Stephanie at the Prevent Blindness NC



Mike and Ann taking advantage of a quick and easy Rickshaw ride

AROUNDTOWNAROUNDTOWNAROUNDTOWNAROUND

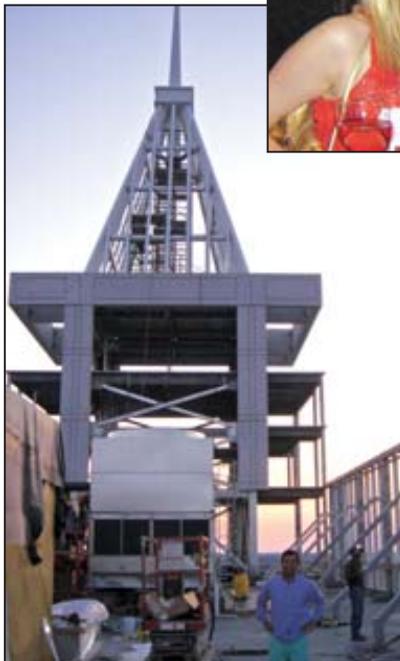
Patrick and Kirsten from City Limits Saloon



Shannon, Kendal and Whitney



Antoine beside the newly erected spire atop the RBC Plaza



Carrie and Alexandra downtown

Downtowner Food Editor Fred Benton and Edwina Shaw at the private opening of the Cameron Bar & Grill



Roland Schoettle, CEO of Optimal Technologies at their recent ribbon-cutting downtown, Mayor Meeker, and David Diaz, DRA Director
photo courtesy Eugene Bur

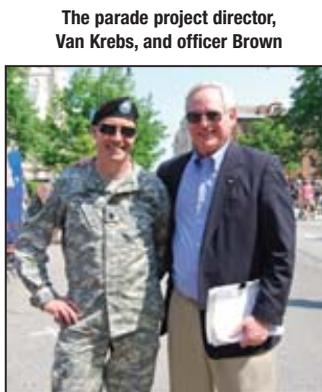




Twirling color guards



A soldier in the crowd admiring the parade



The parade project director, Van Krebs, and officer Brown



Our parade photographer, Colton



Meeker and wife applauding the soldiers in the parade



Uniforms from Raleigh's past



TOWNAROUNDTOWNAROUNDTOWNAROUNDTOWN



Mitch Silver of the City Planning Department shares his Big Ideas for downtown Raleigh



Attendees split up into groups and brainstormed on unique and diverse ideas for downtown Raleigh's future. Participants included Sig Hutchinson (TTA), Mary Ann Baldwin (Raleigh City Council), Crash Gregg (Raleigh Downtowner Publisher), and many others.



* These photos above were taken at the "What's Your Big Idea?" planning forum sponsored by the City of Raleigh *



Tim, Ashton, Ann and Mike at the Prevent Blindness Ball



Celebrating Jeff Satterwhite's 40th at the Pourch



George Clinton at the recent Band Together event downtown photo courtesy www.richardcox.smugmug.com

Dress For Summer Success



By Kelly Hubbard

Want to know what's hot for summer? Simply stroll through any of Raleigh's trendy clothing shops or thumb through any current fashion magazine and you'll realize that the hottest trend of the season is the summer dress.

Ban Younan, a Raleigh native, has always had an eye for stylishly fun dresses and has recently noticed them becoming the trend of the fashion-forward starlets from NY to LA. Younan enjoys wearing dresses because they are not only fashionable, but comfortable and easy to wear, as well. She personally prefers straight-cut dresses and bold colors when she browses the Raleigh boutiques, but her best-kept fashion secret is to bring along her mom. "My mom really has an eye for what's current, and I like to go shopping with her because I value her opinion," Younan said.



Yoana Baraschi offers fun, flirty dresses with a flair of sophistication.

This season, anything goes when it comes to dress designs, fabrics and colors. Whether your style is frilly and feminine or bold and beautiful, there's a dress for you. "This year, if you don't have a dress for the summer, you'll be missing out on a fun trend," said Jill Harris, owner and manager of the Certain Things boutique in North Hills. In fact, a significant section of the store is dedicated to this summer style.

No matter what your age or style, there are dresses for you. Several of the popular dress patterns mix the bold look and feel of the '70s with an updated style. Isle, a popular brand, features dresses with colorful polka dot designs on different lengths and patterns. A particularly popular ankle-length brown, Isle dress has orange, gold and magenta dots. Another vibrant one in yellow falls above the knee and has a linear polka dot pattern with green, pink and orange dots.

Continued on page 17



David, why is your restaurant non-smoking?

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Also at Certain Things, the Nally + Millie brand offers the epitome of the summer dress: short with a gray and black floral pattern with bursts of pink and yellow details. The dress, with cap sleeves and smocking around the bust, is fitted at the top but has a blended material allowing



Nally + Millie offers the ultimate summer dress, fitted yet flowing with a feminine floral pattern.

the dress to be flouncy and girly.

If you're looking for a more simplistic, solid look, go for the "little black dress" of summer by Evo Vorro. It is a sleeveless black dress with a sleek, high neckline. The front of the dress has pleats that gather at the waist, and it is hand-crafted in the U.S.

Above all, dresses are a low-maintenance, versatile way to twirl through the summer months. "If you're going to invest in a few staple dresses, you'll want to be able to wear them for different occasions: out on the town, dinner plans, or just running daily errands," Harris said.

Certain Things also carries a colorful, comfy collection of T-shirts and dress-



A lovely polka dot dress by Isle brightens up any summer wardrobe.

es by Michael Stars, which are highly recommended by Harris. Michael Stars made a name for himself with his amazingly comfortable line of T-shirts. This is the second season that he decided to offer dresses with the same "casual couture" as his T's. They're offered in a great assortment of summery colors: an ocean blue dress with a scoop neck and pockets, a teal dress with a crew neck or a pink dress with a V-neck. All are made with breathable fabric and are machine washable, making them pleasurable low-maintenance.

If you are looking for a dress that's a bit more formal, you'll find the Yoana Baraschi line at Monkees in North Hills. This designer offers dresses

that are best described as "upscale summer" – girly but with a flair of sophistication. With flirty pinks and reds, ribbons and floral embroidering, you can keep your cool while looking glamorous.

Summer will be here before you know it, so go on and find a few dresses to express your style, but mostly, to get ready for some fun in the sun.

■RD

Isle and Evo Vorro: Any length, pattern, or style dress of this designer is in fashion this summer.



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- Gourmet magazine

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Each month, we look at three local bands within a wide range of music types, from rock to reggae, country to classic. You won't find any negative or bad reviews here, just the bands who are worth hearing in your favorite local music hangout. Enjoy the reviews, check out the bands when they're in town and be sure to mention you read about them in the Raleigh Downtowner Deep South Local Music Review.



The Balsa Gliders "Summer of Tank" www.myspace.com/thebalsagliders

So, when was the last time you saw two lawyers, a PhD, a librarian, a Mongolian miner, a banker and a priest hanging out together at a bar? Better yet, at a church after hours? Every Tuesday, around 10pm, that's where the members of The Balsa Gliders can be found: at an Episcopal church in Raleigh, which they use as a practice space. If you think that's shocking, wait until you hear what these rockers do during the first half of their day.

Before the founding Gliders migrated to Raleigh, they made their homes in Capitol Hill neighborhoods, working as Senate staffers and journalists. After being signed by Intelligent Records, they recorded "Cookout," their first LP, in Pittsboro with ex-Squirrel Nut Zipper, Ken Mosher. It received 4.5 stars in AllMusicGuide and secured them a spot at Cincinnati's MidPoint Music Festival. The record tells that classic coming-of-age story, narrating their journey along the I-85 collegiate corridor from Atlanta ("Backwards") to Chapel Hill ("Ken Scholl Would Go") to Richmond ("New South Gothic") to Dupont Circle ("Ski Chalet") – no wonder it earned such widespread airplay on college radio.

After their move to Raleigh, followed by a three-year hiatus, the PhD, the librarian, the Mongolian miner and the two lawyers added a clergyman and a banker to the mix. "Summer of Tank," their five-song EP, features staples from the band's previous live outings. The record doubles as a storybook, as the guys melodically paint portraits of low-country fishing piers, Virginia prep schools and even mismatched poolside furniture. And

as far as their producer knows, it may be the only record to name-check "Pall Mall" cigarettes.

These guys lay it all on the table and don't make any apologies... nor should they. Some kids grow up wanting to be rock stars. Others dream of making it big in the business arena. Who ever thought that you could have the best of both worlds? Meet The Balsa Gliders. * Don't miss The Balsa Gliders' rare acoustic show June 15 at Deep South-The Bar, PLUS their July 26 performance with the Old 97s at Downtown Live!

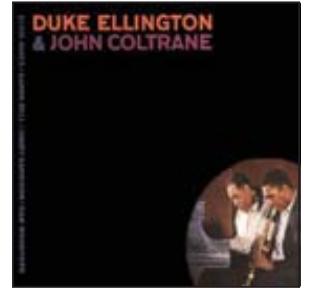
Duke Ellington & John Coltrane "Duke Ellington & John Coltrane" www.johncoltrane.com

There's not much that can go wrong when you bring together these two jazz visionaries. Originally recorded on September 26, 1962, the compilation has now been re-mastered to suit someone with even the most modern musical taste, as the muffled, poor-quality sound characteristic of many early jazz recordings is fully eliminated. But for those of you who still love those original and untainted tracks, I promise you won't be disappointed.

In a short span of time, they cover blues, ballads and an Afro-Cuban rhythm with "Angelica." Not to mention the final number, "The Feeling of Jazz," which certainly would have made for an appropriate album title.

Born in Hamlet, NC and raised in High Point, Coltrane is the most influential tenor sax player in jazz history and a leading force in the introduction of spirituality into jazz. Despite Ellington's greater reputation and experience, especially at the time, the record is surprisingly co-led. Whether you prefer one of these artists over the other, the melding of Coltrane's modern, yet masterful improvisation with Ellington's catalytic experience will leave any previously biased fan with an equal appreciation of both artists.

Duke Ellington. John Coltrane. One album. Could you ask for anything more?



Ascella Vega "Put It In Motion" www.myspace.com/ascellavega



Before the March release of "Put It In Motion," this band said hopes for the success of their debut EP were "as high as the stars Ascella and Vega." Only a month after its release, two of their songs – "Bright Future" and "House on a Hill" – have already been chosen for a compilation CD that will be distributed to over 100 college campuses nationwide. Ascella Vega's unique blend of rock, pop, jazz and experimental sounds portrays the varied influences recognized in each member of the band.

The five-member band from Raleigh, including Adam Newson (vocals/keyboards), Gray Henderson (guitar/vocals), Reaves Greer (drums/percussion), Mark Voller (bass) and Ryan Wooten (guitar/vocals), formed in 2005. Last fall, they headed to Morrisville and hit the studio. The end result was "Put It In Motion," which was released on March 26. In the next few months, it will be available on iTunes.

Perhaps you caught them April 26 in Moore Square at the Raleigh World Beer Festival, known for its tradition of featuring only the best local music. Or maybe performing with the Pat McGee Band at the Lincoln Theatre a few weeks prior? Wooten, a senior at UNC-Chapel Hill, also lent the band's talent to the University's Kind of Blue project, which raises money for Raleigh's Community Music School.

If you're a fan of The Black Crowes, The Killers and Foo Fighters, you'll be a fan of Ascella Vega. And even if those acts don't make it onto your list of favorites, Ascella Vega is certainly worth a listen. Otherwise, we wouldn't be talking about them!

The Deep South Local Music Review is written by Dave Rose, who is the co-founder and co-owner of Deep South Entertainment. Formed in 1995, Deep South Entertainment is a record label, artist management company, and concert event production company with offices in Raleigh, North Carolina, and Nashville, Tennessee. Deep South is best known locally as producers of the Bud Light Downtown Live summer concert series, featuring national recording artists. Their latest addition to downtown Raleigh is Deep South-The Bar.



What Gen X & Y are listening to...

By Elizabeth Barrett (Deep South Entertainment)

Wonder what music high school and college students are listening to and downloading onto their iPods? Each month we'll give you a quick look as to what you're likely to hear blaring out of dorm room windows on college campuses, and out of car windows throughout the Triangle.



Sound Tribe Sector 9
"Artifact"
www.sts9.com
(electronica)



Daft Punk
"Alive 2007"
www.myspace.com/daftpunk
(dance)



Widespread Panic
"Light Fuse Get Away"
www.widespreadpanic.com
(rock)

EVENTS CALENDAR

ON STAGE CALENDAR

Brought to you by 42nd Street Oyster Bar and their commitment to the performing arts and artists in Raleigh. 919.831.2811
508 West Jones St., Raleigh

May 30-June 22

Raleigh Little Theatre presents
Radio Gals



Set in the late 1920s, *Radio Gals* is centered around an enterprising woman, Hazel

Hunt, of Cedar Ridge, Arkansas. Upon her retirement as the town music teacher, she receives a Western Electric 500 watt radio transmitter and begins broadcasting as radio station "WGAL." What comes out over the local airwaves is a small town diary, calendar, and stream of consciousness – sort of a Molly Bloom crossed with the Farmers' Almanac – with generous dollops of singing and playing by Hazel's "all-girl" orchestra, "the Hazelnuts," and that lovesick flapper Gladys Fritts.

However, due to Hazel's habit of

"channel wandering," her broadcasts are not always so local. And listeners as far away as Montreal and Manhattan can testify. Enter O. B. Abbott, Federal Radio Inspector, intent on rescuing the airwaves from gypsies like Hazel Hunt. However, Mr. Abbott soon falls prey to the blandishments of the Hazelnuts, and the Shangri-La that is Cedar Ridge. Inspector Abbott, it turns out, also has a fine tenor voice, plays a mean accordion, and in the course of things falls for the flapper...

For more information, call 919.821.3111 or visit their website at: www.raleighlittletheatre.org

June 5-8

Carolina Ballet presents
Carolina Jamboree



Choreography by Lynne Taylor-Corbett. Music by The Red Clay Ramblers. Part

Broadway/Part Hoedown. They're back together again! Broadway choreographer Lynne Taylor-Corbett and Tony-award winning string band The Red Clay Ramblers blend bluegrass and ballet for a foot-stomping good time.

For more information, call 919.719.0900 or visit their website at www.carolinaballet.com

June 6-8, 19, 21, 26 & 28

Theatre in the Park presents
Dearly Beloved

Directed by Ira David Wood III



Dearly Beloved is a story of a completely dysfunctional but loveable family in the throes of another series of life changing events. The Futrelle Sisters are throwing a wedding that will not soon be forgotten in the small town of Fayro, Texas.

Call 919.831.6936 for more information or visit their website at www.theatreinthepark.com

June 13-15, 20, 22, 27 & 29

Theatre in the Park presents
Dearly Departed

Directed by Ira David Wood III



This hilarious comedy, set somewhere south of the Mason-Dixon Line, tells the

story of father Turpin's funeral and its aftermath, not to mention the dizzying array of crazies who are attached to him. This husband and patriarch of

the family, was not exactly God-fearing, or even perhaps likeable, and as a result, his extended family has a variety of responses to his passing.

June 4-15

Hot Summer Nights at the Kennedy presents
Rumors



One of Neil Simon's most popular plays, *Rumors* is a farce about

four couples who are at the townhouse of a deputy New York City mayor and his wife to celebrate their tenth wedding anniversary. The party never begins because the host has shot himself in the head (it's only a flesh wound) and his wife is missing. His lawyer's cover-up, gets progressively more difficult to sustain as the other guests arrive and nobody can remember who has been told what about whom. Doors slam and hilarity abounds as the couples get more and more crazed.

Call 919.828.3726 for more information or visit their website at www.hotsummernightsatthekennedy.org

June 18-29

Hot Summer Nights at the Kennedy presents
The Robber Bridegroom

Continued on page 21

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We operate at your convenience. Because our office hours are by appointment, if it's before work, during the day, or after work, we'll find what works for you and your schedule.



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Mississippi, The Robber Bridegroom is the story of the courting of Rosamund, the only daughter of the richest planter in the country, by Jamie Lockhart, a rascally robber of the woods. The proceedings go awry, thanks to an unconventional case of double-mistaken identity. Throw in an evil stepmother intent on Rosamund's demise, her pea-brained henchman and a hostile talking head-in-a-trunk, and you have the recipe for a rollicking country romp. It's one of the only genuine bluegrass scores ever heard in a Broadway musical, giving this unusual tale of the Natchez Trace a distinctive sound all its own.

Call 919.828.3726 for more information or visit their website at www.hotsummernightsatthekennedy.org

July 11-20

North Carolina Theatre presents **Peter Pan**



Don't miss James M. Barrie's ageless theatrical fantasy! Get ready to

be cast under Neverland's timeless spell as Peter, Tinkerbell and the Darling children take a magical journey to visit the Lost Boys, pirates...and one giant Hook! This adventurous masterpiece will send you flying on a delightful trip to the fountain of youth. For tickets, call 919.831.6950 or visit their website at www.nctheatre.com

EVENTS CALENDAR

ALL SUMMER:

Downtown Live Concert Series

The Triangle's premier FREE outdoor concert series, located in Downtown Raleigh's Moore Square. All events rain or shine.

May 31, 2008

The Wailers

June 14, 2008

Cravin Melon

June 28, 2008

Blind Melon / Carbon Leaf

July 12, 2008

Alter Bridge / Tantric

July 26, 2008

Old 97's / The Connells

August 09, 2008

Bad Company Vocalist Brian Howe

August 23, 2008

Puddle of Mudd / Eve 6 / Saving Abel

Moore Square Movies in the Park

Bring your lawn chairs, picnic baskets, popcorn, and blankets (no alcohol please), and enjoy a movie in Moore Square. Movies start around dusk (~8:30pm) and are FREE.

Movie Schedule

Saturday, June 7

Alvin and the Chipmunks

Saturday, June 21

Shrek the Third

Saturday, July 5

Close Encounters

Saturday, July 19

Charlie Wilson's War

Saturday, August 2

The Bourne Identity

Saturday, August 16

Bucket List

Saturday, August 30

Nims Island

Saturday, September 6

Transformers

Moore Square Farmers Market

Raleigh's only downtown Farmers Market is located under the canopy of

oak trees in Moore Square (at the intersection of Blount and Martin Streets) every Wednesday. Items for sale will include a huge variety of seasonal fruits, vegetables and plants from local growers, pasture raised meats from local farmers and a range of handmade items from local artisans, including breads, cheeses, and ice cream. The market will also feature local musicians, rotating crafters and the live chef series.

SINGLE DAY EVENTS:

July 11-20

Friday June 6th

First Friday Scavenger Hunt

It's a race to discover the abundance of art in downtown Raleigh. Teams of up to four participants compete for a \$1000 grand prize by deciphering a list of clues that will reveal artistic gems in galleries, restaurants, and parks around town. The hunt begins in City Market and ends with a celebration at Tir na nOg.

To purchase tickets in advance, visit www.ncartmuseum.org/buytickets.shtml

For more information, call 919.832.1231 or visit www.godowntownraleigh.com

BL BUD LIGHT presents **DOWNTOWN LIVE** 2008. FREE CONCERTS - Saturdays - Moore Square Park, Raleigh NC. Part of the at&t Concert Series.

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July 26 OLD 97'S	Aug 9 BAD CO Greatest Hits Bad Company Vocalist Brian Howe also Will Howe Jim Strain Lor'Daugh	Aug 23 PUDDLE OF MUDD OF EVE6 Saving Abel	ALL SHOWS FREE Admission Family Friendly Gates at 2:00 Music: 2:30 2 days Kids Zone Games & Mascots Local Food Vendors

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BLUE MARTINI MUSIC CALENDAR

Wed. May 21 > Voodoo Flute (ladies nite!)	Mon. Jun 2 > Russ Thompson
Thu. May 22 > Blue Healer	Tue. Jun 3 > Open Mic w/ Jason Adamo
Fri. May 23 > Slow Down Willie	Wed. Jun 4 > Voodoo Flute (ladies nite!)
Sat. May 24 > The Heaters	Thu. Jun 5 > TBA, Champagne Thursdays
Sun. May 25 > Andy Coats	Fri. Jun 6 > TBA, \$5.00 bombs
Mon. May 26 > Russ Thompson	Sat. Jun 7 > TBA, \$5.00 drink specials
Tue. May 27 > Open Mic w/ Jason Adamo	Sun. Jun 8 > TBA, \$5.00 fruit martinis
Wed. May 28 > Voodoo Flute (ladies nite!)	Mon. Jun 9 > Russ Thompson
Thu. May 29 > Handsome Al	Tue. Jun 10 > Open Mic w/ Jason Adamo
Fri. May 30 > West Street Band	Wed. Jun 11 > Voodoo Flute (ladies nite!)
Sat. May 31 > Zydecopious	Thu. Jun 12 > TBA, Champagne Thursdays
Sun. Jun 1 > \$5.00 fruit martinis	Fri. Jun 13 > TBA, \$5.00 bombs
	Sat. Jun 14 > TBA, \$5.00 drink specials

REAL ESTATE



GOVERNOR'S POINT

Fabulous location! Governor's Point townhome (Glenwood & Peace) Beautiful 2bd, 2.5bth, 2 car garage. Walk to Glenwood South & Cameron Village. Open layout, lots of light & storage. Just listed \$325,000. Tracey Kunz, broker/ Doro Taylor Realty 795-8513 www.dorotaylor.com



MORDECAI

Classic 1930 2 story home with large elegant formal spaces and center hall plus extraordinary open kitchen, breakfast room, screen porch & deck on double lot. 3 or 4 bedrooms, 3 baths. 1210 Mordecai Ave. \$695,000. Peter at Prudential. 919-971-4118. Pictures, maps and floor plans at www.peterRumsey.com



CAMERON PARK HOME

Stately 1920's home overlooking Cameron Park. Enjoy the space of a single family home while still being walking distance to Glenwood South! Lovely 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath home with separate cottage. \$779,900 www.hilarystokes.com.



HISTORIC OAKWOOD

Craftsman style bungalow with central hall, living & dining rooms, eat-in kitchen, Georgetown patio plus 3 or 4 bedrooms, 2.5 baths. The May Budd House. c.1921. 405 N. East St. \$437,921.

Peter at Prudential. 919-971-4118. Pictures, maps and floor plans at www.peterRumsey.com



HISTORIC OAKWOOD

A city skyline view, two porches, a deck and parking. The Robert Lee Horton House ca. 1897 is strikingly modern and classically elegant. 323 E. Lane St. 3 or 4 bedroom, 2 baths. \$585,000. Peter at Prudential. 919-971-4118. Pictures, maps and floor plans at www.peterRumsey.com



BOYLAN HEIGHTS

East Village NYC meets west Raleigh NC. This 1924 detached Bungalow has been stunningly rebuilt in & out equaling the

best condo for style and amenities, plus it has a yard and offstreet parking. Energy Star rated. 3 BR. 2 BA. 1014 W. Cabarrus St. \$465,000. Peter at Prudential. 919-971-4118. Pictures, maps and floor plans at www.peterRumsey.com

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Continued on page 23

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- RBC PLAZA CONDOS, unprecedented living in downtown Raleigh's tallest building, Jackie Savage and Neal Hussey, 919-227-7323
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- YARBOROUGH PARK, townhomes in Mordecai from \$250K, Laura Bromhal, 919-601-1616

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510 GLENWOOD

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DAWSON ON MORGAN

Gorgeous 3BR/2.5BA unit at the luxurious Dawson on Morgan. Hardwoods, stainless appliances, granite countertops! HUGE bal-

cony w/ great view! Walkable downtown location! 2 Elevators. Secured entry & parking! Storage unit under parking deck! Built-in wet bar w/ glass shelving & beverage appliance! 3 pantries in kitchen! Built-in dressing area in master bdrm. \$529,000 Call Lisa at TGA for more info: 828.0077

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FRIDAY JUNE 6 6-9 PM

FIRST-FRIDAY SCAVENGER HUNT

GRAND PRIZE: \$1,000

IT'S A RACE to discover the abundance of art in downtown Raleigh. Teams of up to four participants compete to decipher a list of clues that will reveal artistic gems in galleries, restaurants, and parks around town. Heat kicks off in City Market and ends with a celebration at To No Nag.

Register in advance through the NCMA Box Office at (919) 715-5923 or on-line at www.ncartmuseum.org/buytickets.shtml

Entrance fee \$20 Per team in advance \$25 day of event

For more information, visit www.GoDowntownRaleigh.com/FirstFriday

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By Fred Benton
Food and Dining Editor

I remember Hamid Mohajer from Glenwood Grill, when as chef he helped establish that inside-the-beltline eatery as a “must dine there.” Holly is the sister of Karen, from the restaurant *Karen’s* fame, a restaurant in Cameron Village that was the most uptown and sophisticated in the city at the time. So, a union between Holly and Hamid should be extraordinary. And it is, exhibited each evening at their restaurant, Mo’s Diner, located across from Moore Square on the corner of Person and Hargett streets. Holly and Hamid are more than business partners; they’re also married.

The restaurant facility is made from a rehabbed house (circa 1880, blue with yellow shutters) and still manages to retain the quaintness that could have been reminiscent of the Capital City’s more charming past when folks lived downtown in houses, not condos, and downtown was a neighborhood more than business center. For me, this is a real selling point for Mo’s, sitting on the front porch watching the city go by just as the original owners might have done years before. But I’m sure they never ate so grandly as my publisher and I did on a recent evening there.

We began our exploration of the menu with **Baked Oysters with Fresh Spinach, Bacon and Hollandaise (\$9)** and **Sautéed Spinach and Cheeses with Baked Phyllo (\$8)**. I’m guessing that the person who ate the first oyster must have done so to find out if this bivalve was a luxurious viand. Despite being baked, the oysters retained their natural succulence and weight in this glorious play



on Oysters Rockefeller, and the hollandaise was fully emulsified. The sautéed spinach preparation was a delight because the other ingredients of carrots, tomatoes and spinach had ebullient freshness. I felt I could pig out on this dish and not gain an ounce (I’ve convinced myself that butter doesn’t really add calories).

Hopefully, the superb peasant bread with a compound butter (softened sweet butter mixed with finely minced green herbs) also won’t add to my waistline, even though we couldn’t stop eating it. Help! Noshing on bread like a beaver chewing through wood, we finally decided on our entrees, though Crash picked the one I wanted. He’s my boss, so I gladly gave in. The mutually coveted prize was **Grilled Marinated Flank Steak with Bearnaise (\$19)**. And after tasting a sample, I figured he won the trophy dish of the evening. But not so. A bit grumbly, I had ordered another house specialty, **Pan Fried Catfish with Remoulade and Sautéed Spinach (\$18)**. I had desired the richness and elegance of a flank steak, not fish. But boy, when my fork first bit through a tender, paper-thin fried

crust of cornmeal into the succulent white meat, I was as hooked as the poor catfish. This preparation is an absolute winner! I’ve been dreaming about it ever since. True!

I’d learned earlier in the evening that Holly had taken a cake decorating class as I inquired about an exquisitely garnished two-tiered confection iced with fondant. I really wanted to bury my face in it and drown in calories. I managed to resist the temptation, but still asked our very helpful waitress

Mo’s Diner

about the cake. It wasn’t on the menu but she suspected there was some of the restaurant’s signature birthday cake left, one of Holly’s creations. I begged for a piece and they were kind enough to indulge. The cake tasted like a light but rich pound cake, both chocolate and yellow layers with pastry cream and raspberries and a chocolate fondant icing. Happy Birthday to Mo’s! (And happy dessert for me).

Mo’s Diner – wow! I’m happy to recommend this eatery which has been a part of the downtown restaurant scene for 11 years. One item to note: when you arrive, the lot on Person Street next door is not part of Mo’s. It’s a private lot; so don’t forget to pay if you park there. If the lot is full, there’s almost always plenty of parallel parking in the street out front.

Mo’s Diner
919.856.0980
2306 East Hargett Street
Reservations accepted

The Banana Napoleon had the neighboring table yearning for dessert



BETTER LIVING

BEST OF THE BEST!! Fred Benton knows the Triangle! Benton, long-time lifestyle journalist covering the Triangle for over 20 years, has definite ideas about businesses that he feels are particularly consumer-friendly and offer superlative products and service. This list is based entirely on the recommendations of Fred and betterlivingnc productions, and is a companion information guide that Benton presents on WCKB radio, heard throughout southeastern NC.

Angus Barn - Glenwood Avenue, close to RDU International Airport, 787-3505. *The BEST steaks!*

42nd Street Oyster Bar - 508 West Jones Street, Raleigh, 831-2811. 42ndstoysterbar.com *BEST Seafood Salad!*

larrybeans.com - 828-1234. *Your web site for BEST coffees.*

The Point at Glenwood - 1626 Glenwood Avenue at Five Points, Raleigh, 755-1007. *BEST Reuben Sandwich!*

Lilly’s Pizza - Five Points, Raleigh, 833-0226. lillyspizza.com *BEST pizza! BEST house side salad! BEST beer selection!*

Abbey Road Grill - Located corner W. Chatham and Old Apex roads, 2 miles from downtown Cary. 481-4434; abbeyroadgrill.com *BEST burger, BEST onion rings!*

Dakota Grill - 9549 Chapel Hill Road (Hwy. 54), intersection with Cary Parkway, 463-9526. *BEST exotic burger (double bison burger), and BEST chili for pepperheads*

Apex Chiropractic - Apex, 362-9066. *I could hardly walk. Acupuncture saved my life!*

Trish the Dish Catering - Raleigh, 852-0369. *Fabulous fun food for the budget-minded!*

Waraji Japanese Restaurant - Durableigh Road, corner of Durableigh and Pleasant Valley roads, 783-1883. *“If you knew sushi like I know sushi.” BEST sushi! warajirestaurant.com*

Cafe Tiramisu - North Ridge Shpg Ctr, near Ace Hardware, Falls of Neuse Road, 981-0305. *BEST stuffed pork chop! BEST fried cheese souffle!*

Simpson’s Beef & Seafood - at Creedmoor and Millbrook roads, 783-8818. *BEST prime rib! BEST coconut shrimp!*

Jibarra - 7420 Six Forks Road, corner SawMill and Six Forks, 844-6330. *Hit the Tequila Lounge here for the BEST house Margarita!*

NoFo - 2014 Fairview Road, at Five Points, Raleigh, 821-1240. *BEST retail for feeding the eye and palate. nofo.com*

The Duck & Dumpling - 222 S. Blount Street, 838-0085. theduckanddumpling.com *The BEST Peking Duck!*

London Fish & Chips - Wellington Park Shp. Ctr., corner of Tryon and Cary Pkwy, 859-8999. *BEST authentic Fish & Chips (Haddock)!*

Nina’s Ristorante - 801 Leadmine Road, Harvest Plaza, 845-1122. *BEST NY-style Italian!*

The Black Mountain Inn - 828-669-6528. *Best in Black Mountain! Pet-friendly!*

The Lamplight Inn - Henderson, 252-438-6311. www.lamplightbandb.com - *Relaxing!*

If you would like to propose your enterprise as a better living business to be included on this list please email Fred at betterlivingnc@yahoo.com or call 782-5276.

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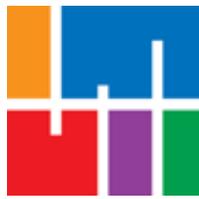
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Finding Your Way Downtown

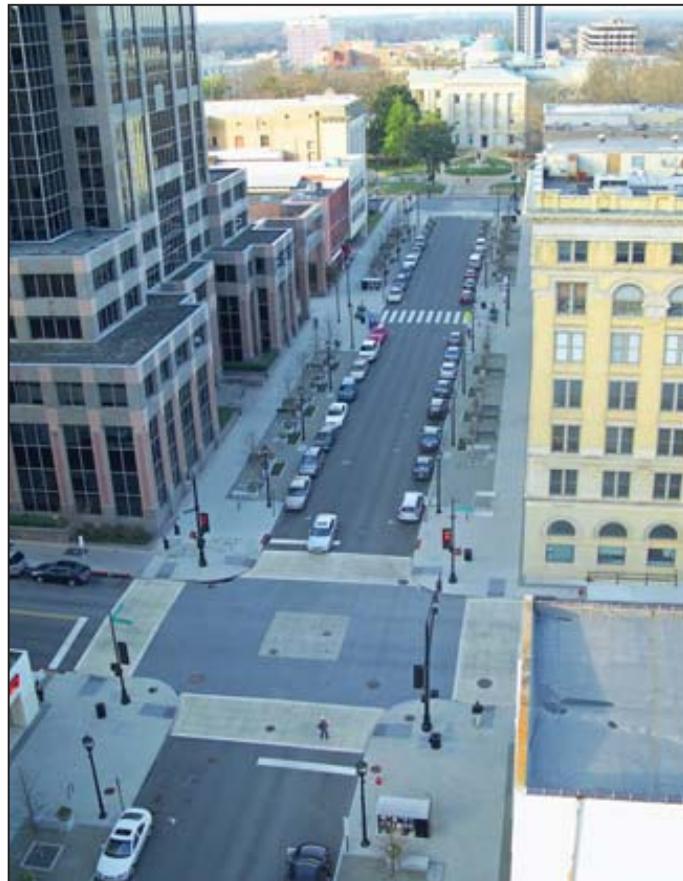
Part 3 of 5, Fayetteville Street District

The Fayetteville Street District has been the destination of visiting presidents for generations, and was the birthplace of Andrew Jackson in 1808. It hosted the travel path of the 1996 Olympic torch, and is the downtown home to the famous falling Raleigh acorn, which marks the end of the New Year's Eve countdown to midnight.

Outlined by Morgan Street on the north and Martin Luther King Boulevard on the south, and Wilmington and Dawson Streets to the east and west, the re-opening of Fayetteville Street in recent years has spawned new life back into the once-thriving area. Home to a booming business district and the soon-to-open Raleigh Convention Center, F-Street runs from Lenoir Street to the State Capitol Building. It boasts 28-foot-wide sidewalks mandated by the Livable Streets Plan, with landscaping and benches for visitors to enjoy.

For those wishing to walk back in time, visit the Raleigh City Museum in the historic Briggs Building for a glimpse of Raleigh's distinguished past. Those who enjoy the performing arts can head over to the Progress Energy Center for the Performing Arts. There they will find the Carolina Ballet, North Carolina Theatre, Broadway Series South, the North Carolina Symphony, and the North Carolina Opera. For a livelier sort of entertainment, a wide variety of bars, restaurants and cafés are available to choose from, including a grand meal at the Mint, Belgian draft at the Raleigh Times Bar, or live music at Slim's.

This diversity of choices ensures there's something for everyone. Come savor the past, relish the present, and anticipate all that the future will bring to the Fayetteville Street District.



Fayetteville Street District

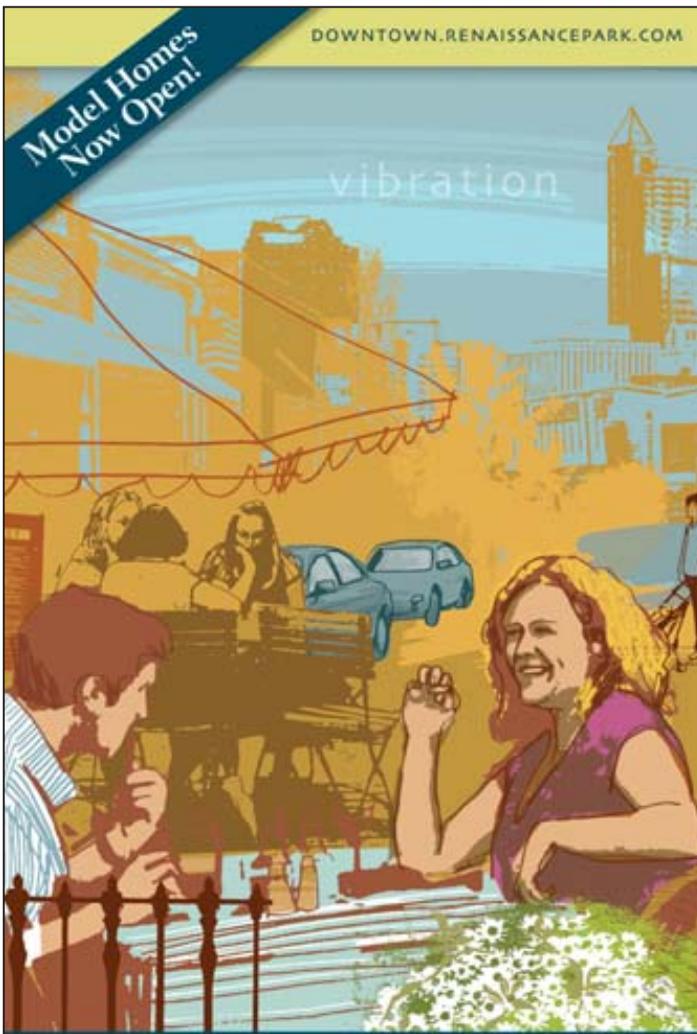
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