



RALEIGH DOWNTOWNER

MAGAZINE

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 12 ENTERTAINMENT, DINING, ARTS & CULTURE, BUSINESS, EVENTS, MUSIC, AND MORE FREE

Downtown Raleigh Wish List



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ON THE LEFT

Much has changed in downtown Raleigh since 1880 when this oxcart carried materials to surrounding construction. How different will downtown appear to Raleigh Downtowner Magazine readers 100 years from now?

FRONT COVER AND LEFT PHOTO COURTESY NC STATE ARCHIVES



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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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- The Dawson
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- The Cotton Mill
- The Paramount

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The Hudson
West at North
RBC Plaza

DOWNTOWN

- In all Raleigh Rickshaws
- Wake County Courthouse
- Raleigh City Council Building
- Raleigh Chamber of Commerce
- Office of the Secretary of State
- North Carolina Theatre office
- Broadway Series South box office
- Raleigh Urban Design Center
- Empire Properties
- Raleigh City Museum
- Downtown Raleigh Alliance
- Raleigh Times Bar
- Sitti
- Gravy
- Morning Times

- French | West | Vaughn
- Landmark Tavern
- Sheraton Hotel info desk
- Progress Energy building lobby
- Cooper's BBQ
- Capital City Club lounge
- Progress Energy Building commissary
- Fins
- Carolina Café
- Crema
- Spize
- Raleigh Visitors Center

HILLSBOROUGH ST./NCSU

- Second Empire Restaurant
- WRAL-TV5 lobby
- Porter's Restaurant (sidewalk)
- Irregardless Café
- Char-Grill (sidewalk)
- Goodnight's Comedy Club

- Clarion Hotel
- YMCA Hillsborough Street
- Theatre in the Park
- Beansprout Restaurant

CAMERON VILLAGE

- Harris Teeter/Suntrust Bank
- BB&T
- Capital Bank
- Cameron Village Library
- Village Draft House
- York Companies
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- Great Outdoor Provision Company
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GLENWOOD SOUTH

- Sullivan's Steakhouse (foyer)
- 510 Glenwood business foyer
- 510 Glenwood (sidewalk)
- Mellow Mushroom

- Hibernian
- Sauced Pizza
- Pourch/Bassment
- Catch 22
- Sushi Blues / Zely & Ritz (sidewalk)
- Helios Café (sidewalk)
- Salon 21
- The Cupcake Bakery Shoppe
- Primp SalonBar
- Fly Salon
- Lee Hansley Gallery
- Bliss Salon
- Revolver Boutique

HISTORIC DISTRICT

- Legislative Building cafe
- Peace Street Pharmacy
- Oakwood Bed & Breakfast
- NC Museum of History
- NC Dept. of Labor
- NC Dept. of Agriculture

FIVE POINTS/HAYES BARTON

- Hayes Barton Pharmacy
- Hayes Barton Cafe and Dessertery
- Nofo @ the Pig
- Rialto
- Third Place Coffee
- Lilly's Pizza
- J. Edwin's Salon
- Hayes Barton Salon

SEABOARD STATION

- Seaboard Imports
- Seaboard Fitness
- Seaboard Wine
- 18 Seaboard (sidewalk)
- Ace Hardware
- Galatea

MOORE SQUARE

- Artspace
- Duck and Dumpling

Tir Na Nog Irish Pub
Big Ed's (sidewalk)

POWERHOUSE DISTRICT

- Napper Tandy's
- 42nd Street

WAREHOUSE DISTRICT

- Flying Saucer Bar
- The Pit Restaurant
- Jibarra Restaurant
- Deep South—The Bar

MIDTOWN/N. RALEIGH

- Barnes & Noble (Crabtree)
- Borders Bookstore (Creekside)
- Carolina Ballet office
- Capstrat Advertising
- Q Shack (North Hills)

DOWNTOWN RALEIGH

Wish List



BY CHRIS MOUTOS

Whether you're a native, a transplant or a frequent visitor, it's hard not to notice how much Raleigh has changed over the past few years. This growth has garnered plenty of national attention as well as impressive "Best of" accolades from the likes of the Wall Street Journal, Forbes, Fortune, Men's Health, and many others.

Prosperous downtowns fill their entire community with energy and life and are the measure of a healthy city. Downtown Raleigh is more than just the state capital. It has become the epicenter of cultural, economic, governmental, and social activity for the region, and our city planners should be commended for finding avenues for this vitality to emerge. However, we cannot focus on what has been done, but look ahead to the future for even bigger and better ideas on what we can still accomplish. Meetings and charrettes have been held to inspire "big ideas" for downtown, both from officials and citizens alike. We asked city officials and developers what might be on their "downtown wish list" to help shape an even brighter future for not only downtown but Raleigh as a city.

Energy equals success. Success not only translates into lively, destination and event-filled venues for the people and visitors of its city but also successful community and economic benefits. While many citizens are unaware of the positive community impact this may have, planners and economists are very much alert to the opportunities when a city core has a spectrum of options.

Raleigh is lucky to have city leaders who are turning our city into one that improves the quality of life and the environment. It makes sense that we develop our public streets and make them more than just a medium of transportation. How often do we visit a flourishing city and see something that makes us say "What a great idea"? What can we do to have visitors say

the same about their experience here? In other words, what would be on downtown Raleigh's wish list to not only make people visit but keep them coming back?

"I walked an urban greenway in Minneapolis and thought, 'What a great idea to bring back to Raleigh.' It's one more way to promote healthy living, multiple transportation models and our exceptional greenways and park," commented Mary-Ann Baldwin, Council Member At-Large.



The Edison, a four-tower \$400M to be built between Blount and Wilmington Streets, is planned to include office, retail, condominiums, and hotel rooms.

"I would also like to see improvements to the gateways into downtown, making them visually appealing, safer for pedestrians and bicyclists, and more livable. Our current gateways do not celebrate or invite people to the city center and can appear drab and depressing. Let's take advantage of our natural resources and create a Raleigh destination like a downtown waterway and greenway," she continues. "I hate that I have to drive to the mall to buy things as simple as a tube of lipstick. We really need heightened retail that benefits residents, visitors and people who work and frequent downtown."

According to City Council At-Large member Russ Stephenson, "We need to leverage the current down economy to plan wisely and use this slow period to look further ahead and think outside the business-as-usual box. In downtown and throughout the city, we need to focus growth in transit district redevelopments and expand broad transit access benefits which means we would need to work for a countywide funding referendum."

Philip Isley, who served on city council for eight years says, "I would like to see the Edison project that is proposed by Gregg Sandreuter, President of Hamilton Merritt, get started in 2010." When asked about downtown Raleigh's future, Sandreuter was excited to point out that "Raleigh's ability to attract major companies is better than ever. Raleigh is in a healthy adolescence. We are 20 years behind other cities in the redevelopment of our urban core but have been working hard the past five years to catch up."

According to Sandreuter, "The uniqueness of the Edison site and its proximity next to a Fortune 500 company headquarters (Progress Energy) and the RBC's U.S. headquarters puts us in a great place to attract the headquarters location for a major company so the project can begin."

Greg Hatem also believes that downtown Raleigh can attract a major headquarters. "People want to be in Raleigh," he says. "In order for that to happen, we not only need a better vision but also a plan for once they're here. Most importantly, we need to take care of them and keep any promises we make." Asked about his ideas on transportation, Hatem states, "We need transit-oriented development before the development gets here, and we should use this slow economic time to our advantage." But what about his personal wishes? He, too, would like to see a more attractive Raleigh: "Let's clean up Capital Boulevard and make it an appropriate gateway into >>>



The streetcar trolley in this photo traveled down Glenwood Avenue bringing visitors and workers downtown each day.

plazas), a realigned New Bern Avenue to reflect the Christmas plan, a new Downtown South district, a state of the art library and a revitalized Capital Boulevard to become one of Raleigh's great streets."

City Council member Thomas Crowder adds, "First and foremost, kick off Livable Streets II planning and economic development exercise in 2010, building on and continuing the success of the 2002 Livable Streets Five in 5 processes.^{2,3}"

Crowder, like Baldwin, would also like to see a more attractive Raleigh. "We should daylight Pigeon House Creek [part of which runs under Peace Street and along Capital Boulevard] into a vibrant urban mixed-use watercourse and greenway and move forward with a comprehensive gateway and urban greenway construction plan along the downtown rail corridors to merge them with current greenways such as the Walnut Creek Greenway. I'd also like to expand the Christmas Plan by at least doubling the number of public city square parks downtown, restore Chavis Park to its historic grandeur as a major downtown park, rebuild Raleigh's Grand Central Station where the D.C. to Atlanta high speed rail, NC Railroad's commuter lines and the Triangle's rapid light rail systems converge in the warehouse district, and enact policies that will

create housing opportunities downtown for all economic levels such as first time homebuyers and government workers."

The idea of a multi-purpose arena in downtown Raleigh always sparks a lively debate. The location of the RBC Center, along with any projected costs of updating the facility, always brings up the questions of relocating the center near the city core. Charlotte did just that when relocating its Hornets (now Bobcats) Arena from the southwestern part of Mecklenburg County near the airport into "uptown" as well as the Bank of America Stadium, both with resounding success. Similarly, Louisville, KY, has embarked on the construction of its new multi-purpose 721,762 square-foot, \$238M arena located in its downtown core not far from Slugger Field. Other cities have followed suit: Target Center in downtown

our downtown. And I really wish the meter fairy would come and suck up the parking meters."

Mitchell Silver, Director for the Department of City Planning and Urban Design, told us some of the many ideas he would include for his downtown vision: "My wish list includes streetcars, a Grand Central Station type center, a river walk, a large bookstore, 100,000 square feet of new retail space along Fayetteville Street, an arena, wider sidewalks and more public spaces (parks and



The light rail system in Charlotte has been a huge success.



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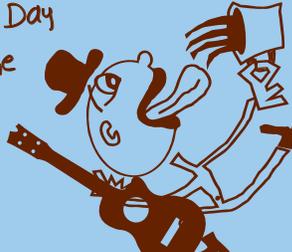
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Minneapolis, Pepsi Center in Denver and Nokia Theater in Los Angeles and Dallas. In addition to the community benefits, the economic impact has created several hundred new jobs and will infuse hundreds of millions of dollars in ancillary revenue near the arena. Multi-

purpose arenas become a symbol for the community and become a focal point of activity and vitality where people come together.

A great summation can be found in “Turning Large Spaces in Great Places,” an article by Alex Krieger, Professor of Urban Design at Harvard University. He states that “for a period of time, before and after an event, sports arenas and other large urban places of gathering energize their surroundings. The areas around them come alive. One need not be a sports fan to feel a measure of excitement as crowds fill the streets and sidewalks while approaching or leaving the arena. Such moments highlight the uniqueness of urban experience: a sense of bustle, of interaction, of curiosity, of anticipation, of the energy accompanying being part of a crowd. The appeal of such experience is partially why venues like arenas and ballparks are returning to the hearts of American cities, having migrated to the suburbs a generation or two earlier.”

This type of public gathering place isn't just limited to just an arena for events. As Raleigh Mayor Charles Meeker told us, “I would like to see the State of North Carolina designate Dix Hill as a destination park and see the preparation of a master plan.” City Councilor at large Russ Stephenson agrees, “We need to plan for a world-class Dix Park.”

As for completed items on past wish lists, we can look to the new City Plaza and the ice skating rink at the end of Fayetteville Street, the Raleigh Convention Center, the Capitol grounds, Halifax Mall, and Moore and Nash Squares as urban places of gathering. The amphitheater opening in April will also be a welcome downtown attraction. Urban destinations and gathering places promote the interaction of people and engage them with the amenities and services of downtown. If the people have a reason to come, they will. Over 15,000 people attended the recent Winterfest held in downtown >>>



Washington DC, Louisville, Seattle and other cities have installed many bike racks that also serve as visually-appealing public art.

Downtown Wishes from People on the Street

BY PETER EICHENBERGER

You just never know what will happen when you surrender control. The plan was to let the public do the talking. Raleigh, the city and the people became the medium of expression. No cues, no leading questions. The approach involved talking to regular people on the street and having them position themselves as the city, with the question being simply, “You are the city, Raleigh. What would you wish for?”

The first magnitude wish list concerned transportation. A great majority of respondents had something to say about getting around the city.

“Bike lanes,” suggested Josh Harris. Bike lanes and infrastructure for pedestrians were to be a recurring motif. Joyce McCarvey, a downtown worker who lives off Dixie, told us. “Even if I can't have a real bike lane system, it'd be great if we could improve what we have. Maybe have more signs and maps of the neighborhood roads.” Joyce said, smiling.

The largest number of transportation wishes was for improvements in public transportation.

Bob Kendall, a woodworker employee at William Peacock's woodworking shop at the Boylan Bridge, spoke quickly about “covered shelters for folks waiting for a bus,” an improvement that is on the way soon. Kendall isn't a current bus customer, but he has been before. He had a generally positive but qualified assessment: “It's convenient. You can step right out, catch a bus and go—as long as you live on certain roads. They need to rearrange the routes and times.” His assessment is a reflection on public transportation's changing role. “The routes were planned years ago to get [house staff] to their work. Things are different now.” There were more than a few, like Bo Yu, a student at NC State, who want to see urban light rails, “right down the medians.”

Donald Harris had a different tack concerning road maintenance. “I know the city's hard up for money, shoot, who isn't, but some of these roads will tear the bottom of your doggone car off.”

The next largest category of responses involved public spaces. David Knight, an involved resident of Devereux Street near downtown, had first mentioned bike lanes, then laid out a new angle and wish: convert the Raleigh Solid Waste facility at Peace and Capital Boulevard back to something more resembling what it was years ago. Knight suggested a recreational facility with multiple



Designated bike paths are on the city's planning agenda and help lead to easier and safer bicycle traffic around town.

purposes, perhaps not as grand as the old WPA era ball field demolished for the garbage trucks, but something that would better serve the needs of the nearby neighborhoods better than “smelling sour milk every morning,” Knight said with a rueful grin.

“I'd like the city to move the sanitation facility somewhere else and have it become a combination greenway and park—and put amateur ball fields back in,” he said. “Make it more like what it used to be when it was old Foggy

Bottom, where the Devereux and the Cameron Plantations met.” He went on to emphasize that Pigeon House Creek had been hemmed in too long. Landscaper David Thome wanted another sort of ball field than did Knight—professional baseball on the site of old Sir Walter Chevrolet where the city plans to construct the new amphitheater. “Think about how cool that would be!”

Jenny, an employee of Moonlight Pizza on Boylan, continued the theme of parks and public facilities the next day. She is positive about what Raleigh has but wanted to see more activities. She had recently visited New York City and described the plethora of things to do. “Every block or so, there's something different.” She went on to stress the importance of the arts to a city. Sandy Shultz wanted more, smaller parks. “So you don't have to go so far to catch a breath of fresh air. Dix would be great, but it is a long way for a lot of people.”

The balance of the wish list ran a gamut, from Marlys DeAlba, a landscape design teacher at Wake Tech wishing for a change in city rules to allow “buskers,” that is street entertainers, more casual food downtown and for “someone to fix up all those houses on Blount Street,” to ArtWalk volunteer Jennifer Bowman's wish was for “more statues.”

There was a semi-major surprise category. “The Infamous Sugar,” a veteran of the urban music scene in several cities, late of Portland, Oregon, was working the door at Slims when I caught up with him. Sugar articulated the category as directly as anyone. His response came without reflection: “a big rock club where local and new acts can play.” He pointed out that since Kings had closed, there was no comparable venue. At Artspace, potter Tim Ayers and my own son, painter David Eichenberger, were more direct. “Kings,” they both said, separately echoing a wish that I was to hear often on that Sunday.

on December 4th, which shows the level of interest in special events, especially those in downtown.

The connectivity of downtown districts to nearby neighborhoods is vital. Vehicle-centric planning promotes suburban sprawl and community disengagement. Designing communities encompasses an entire spectrum of mobility including pedestrians, bicyclists, buses, trolleys, monorail/light rail, streetcars, and motor vehicles. There is always the debate of inadequate transportation, roadway infrastructure, parking, and pedestrian viability to support attractions downtown. The fact that an arena or other attraction is in the city core does not need to cause unmanageable congestion.

Early 20th century photos from Raleigh show that street cars, whether mule-drawn like those in 1886 or electric ones like in 1933, were a constant fixture on the Raleigh street scene. Bloomsbury Park opened in 1912 at the end of the trolley line near Old Lassiter Mill and the trolley traveled down Glenwood Avenue. The trolley lines were designed to efficiently and conveniently bring people in and out of the city. After an absence of five decades, CAT returned the trolley to downtown Raleigh in 1996. A light rail is not only efficient, convenient and effective but also a way to

stimulate the economy. Just ask the folks in Charlotte. Getting to uptown from the south side is easy and effortless. They can go to work, enjoy dinner or a night out or attend a sporting event uptown without getting into their cars or dealing with parking hassles. The areas around the stations are pedestrian-friendly and nearby businesses have prospered from the rail.

How about bridges and skywalks that connect our neighborhoods so we don't have to get into



The San Antonio River Walk and nearby restaurants, galleries, shops, and other amenities attracts millions of visitors each year.

cars? The downtown north district could connect to the Five Points area if Capital Boulevard didn't dissect it. Pedestrian access to the government offices, Seaboard, Peace Street, and Glenwood South districts would allow people to walk or bike to both work and play. And have you ever tried crossing Western Boulevard? A simple item our publisher Crash Gregg suggested was more bike racks in and around downtown so cyclists don't have to use make do with street signs and trees. Taking it a step further in a creative direction, he suggested, "Why not have artistic bike racks? I'm sure there are plenty of local artists who would love to contribute and create unique designs that would serve both as encouragement for alternative transportation and also serve as public art, which plays an important part of any thriving downtown."

Lakes, pools, rivers, creeks, streams, and bays play an intriguing and integral role in environmental and public attractions. A drive into the city on Capital Boulevard will open your eyes to the possible location of our own waterfront as you drive south into the city past Crabtree Boulevard and up to Peace Street. Cities have had incredible success with water feature environments, and our own Pigeon House Branch may provide us the

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ability to create our own unique river walk in the northern quadrant of downtown.

The famous San Antonio River Walk is a great example of a very successful water-based attraction. Millions of people visit the River Walk each year as it provides an urban sanctuary that meanders along the river in central San Antonio. Along the banks of the River Walk there are restaurants, galleries, shops, waterfalls, outdoor art, and areas to relax as you continue south away from the center. The Solid Waste Services admin office (and overnight garbage truck parking) on Peace Street sits on the former site of Devereaux Meadows Ballpark. This would be a great location for our own river walk, running along Pigeon House Branch, beginning just north of Peace Street between West Street and Capital Boulevard, past Wade towards Fairview Road, where it crosses Capital and continues parallel to Capital. Just think, a natural flowing basin



of water with a river walk that could include retail, parks, entertainment, public art, walking and nature trails connecting to the Greenway, and much more.

Supporters would like to see Pigeon House Branch turned into a river walk attraction.

What would it take for this idea to become a possibility? Says Mark Senior, the Senior Project Manager with the Stormwater Services Division for the City of Raleigh, "There are two hurdles to overcome in developing a river walk: first, the State would need to provide a variance under the Neuse River Basin Riparian Buffer rules which state that improvements cannot be made within 50 feet of each side of the creek bed. Another hurdle is weaving a continuous path [through the existing businesses and roads]." The idea of a mixed-use waterway or river walk attraction in downtown Raleigh seems to have a commonality among residents, officials and planners.

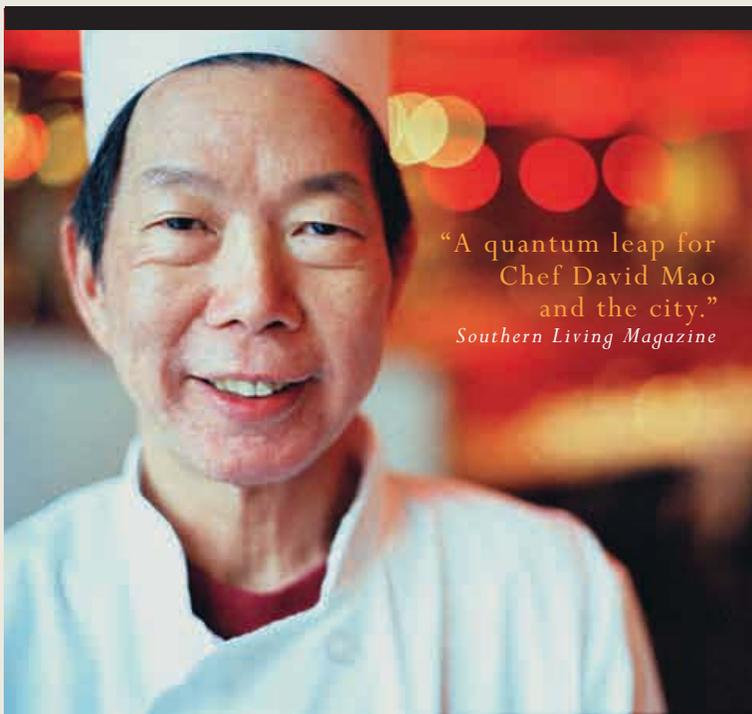
If city planners, developers and residents dare to have the vision and follow-through, the City of Oaks

could become a world-class metropolis. Creating downtown wish lists, even those with unfeasible or difficult projects, helps to begin an engaging and creative process among all those interesting in seeing Raleigh grow and prosper. Where we go from here, how Raleigh's personality develops, and what the future brings is up to us. Better to be bold and creative than end up like so many other lifeless cities with boring downtowns. Wish big, Raleigh! 🍷

Learn More

- 1 To read a great document of wish lists, check out "Big Ideas Raleigh," the resulting document from a charrette held by the city in 2008: www.bit.ly/bigideasraleigh (8.8 MB PDF file)
- 2 Learn what was involved in Raleigh's first Livable Streets planning: www.bit.ly/livable-streets
- 3 Read more about the Liveable Streets Five in 5 Action Strategy: www.bit.ly/Five-in-5

For more information on the long range policy for Raleigh's growth and development, thumb through the 2030 Comprehensive Plan, adopted and amended by the City Council on October 1, 2009: www.bit.ly/2030CompPlan.



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Gravy BY BRIAN ADORNETTO, Assistant Food Editor

As soon as we entered Gravy, we were greeted with a warm smile, promptly seated by a friendly hostess and soon after offered the wine list, a collection of well-chosen, affordable Italians—many of which are available by the glass. That hospitality is the hallmark of all the restaurants in Empire Eats culinary stable and it's just as important as the restoration of the spaces. At Gravy, the background music is a mix of Sinatra, Louis Armstrong, early Billy Joel, and Lou Monte, among others—a familiar soundtrack in many northern Italian-American homes. The dining room's black tables are lit with candles and the walls are adorned with a whimsical mix of scenic, comical and food-inspired paintings. But it's the enormous mural of Little Italy's famed Mulberry Street and the semi open kitchen that give diners a glimpse into the heart and soul of Gravy—the cuisine.

Our meal began as most special occasions in Italian homes do, with a Salumi/Antipasti plate (\$9.45).

It was a mosaic of imported Italian meats and cheeses including fennel cured salami, coppa (herb and spice cured pork) and sopressata (a spicy, dried sausage). It also contained a few hard-to-find cheeses such as taleggio, a slightly tangy wash rind cheese, and Aosta fontina, a rich, creamy and slightly nutty cheese.



Completing the plate were the fresh pesto, grilled Italian bread, fresh fennel, and house-cured olives. We followed with Panzanella (\$7.45) and Tomato and Artichoke Salad (\$8.45). Gravy's Panzanella, a Tuscan bread salad, was hearty and lush with the big, bold flavors. With its abundance of meats, cheeses, and olives, it would be ideal for sharing or as an entrée. Our amiable server, Becca, suggested a glass of Dolcetta D'Alba to go with it and was spot-on. The artfully-presented Tomato Artichoke Salad consisted of crunchy, grilled full stem artichokes, soft and sweet oven roasted tomatoes and paper thin slices of Prosciutto di Parma and was the ideal balance of taste and feel.

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For our main course, we had Eggplant Pie (\$12.95), Fettuccine Nero (\$13.95) and Sautéed Potato Gnocchi (\$12.45).

The Eggplant “Pie” is actually a baked torte with eggplant that’s sliced thin, battered, fried, and layered until it’s three inches tall and then covered with grated Parmigiano Reggiano and Gravy’s signature “gravy,” Italian-American for homemade sauce. (Think eggplant parmigiana without the heaviness of mozzarella.) The creative Fettuccine Nero is as visually striking as it is sublime. The black pasta (made by mixing squid ink into the dough) is tossed with creamy mussels, bright green mint and rings of red chili peppers then topped with toasted bread crumbs. The flavors and textures played off each other wonderfully. The perfectly cooked Gnocchi were light and billowy and paired with grilled portabella mushrooms that resulted in a gratifying earthiness. Its velvety cream sauce had hints of truffle and shallot with ample cheese zest. Another hit.

We finished our meal with cappuccinos, Tiramisu and Vanilla Bean Panna Cotta. The boozy Tiramisu was airy with a soft sweetness, while the ethereal Panna Cotta (Italian for cooked

cream) was cool, creamy and refreshing. It was finished with Rhubarb Coulis and a caramelized sugar sculpture which

added a crème brûlée-like touch.

If you have a taste for the Italian American red sauced classics and are looking for inventive twists on contemporary Italian dishes, you should definitely visit Gravy. New chef Tony Fusco has spent his first three months at Gravy streamlining the menu, revamping recipes and mixing in his own touches. The well-traveled Brooklyn native has made it a point to be on the line every night to make sure that everything leaving the kitchen meets with his exacting specifications to ensure the perfect flavor consistency. He has brought a decidedly New York City Italian touch to the restaurant’s food, saying, “the goal here is not only to do something that no one else is attempting but also to become the best Italian restaurant in Raleigh.”



Tony Fusco

Brian is a culinary instructor, food writer and personal chef. His business, Love at First Bite, specializes in private cooking classes and intimate dinners. For more information, please visit Brian at www.loveatfirstbite.net and his blog chefbrianadornetto.blogspot.com.



Gravy

135 S. Wilmington Street
919-896-8513
www.gravyraleigh.com

Hours:

Monday–Thursday 11:00am–10:00pm
Friday 11:00am–11:00pm
Saturday 5:00pm–11:00pm
Sunday 5:00pm–10:00pm

Cuisine: Italian American

Dining Style: Casual

Meals: Lunch, dinner

Menu Type: à la Carte

Ambiance: Urban family

Service: Attentive and friendly

Dress: Casual

Recommendations: Tomato Artichoke Salad,

Sautéed Potato Gnocchi, Fettuccine Nero

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Parking: Parking decks within a block

Wireless: No

Reservations: Recommended after 6pm

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What do Radio Shack, a few restaurants, a hotel, the Fayetteville Street Tavern, and a “house of ill-repute” all have in common? They were all former tenants beginning at the turn of the century to the summer of 2009 at 112 Fayetteville Street, now home to the recently opened Isaac Hunter’s Oak City Tavern.

Redesigned from the ground up, the new Tavern breathes new life in the old space, with a specific nod to Raleigh’s past. Named after the original Isaac Hunter’s Tavern, where in late 1788, members of the

State Legislature met on to decide where the new state capital should be located. Joel Lane, who happened to own quite a bit of land around the area, didn’t mind picking up the tab on more than one

occasion, and eventually it was decided that Raleigh should be located within 10 miles of Isaac Hunter’s Tavern.

The bar’s new owners decided that bit of history—and the bar’s proximity to the Capital building—were

Isaac Hunter’s Oak City Tavern

BY CRASH GREGG

enough to warrant naming the Tavern after the original.

The atmosphere at Isaac Hunter’s is casual and comfortable. The bar is long and thin and spans from one side of the building on Fayetteville to the other on Salisbury. The custom bar was hand-built by Ben Vogel and utilizes timbers salvaged from an old barn in Guilford County, and tin ceiling tiles were added above the bar to add to the historic character. The owners decided to break up one long wall by removing part of the plaster and framing the exposed bricks. They discovered one area under the plaster where two layers of bricks had been removed—with one set of bricks being laid in 1926—exposing the original wallpaper from around 1900.

They also have one of the only mini shuffleboard tables, complete with sand for proper sliding. The history of why they decided to add the table was

that shuffleboard is the only bar game the fiancée of one of the owners would play, so he made sure they installed one for her. Based on the number of people playing when we stopped by, it is a popular attraction in the bar.

The original kitchen has temporarily been turned into their offices, but plans are in the works to restore it for use eventually. Music in the tavern varies from night to night and they plan on playing everything from hip hop and house to rock and bluegrass, depending on the crowd’s interest.

The tavern is open seven days a week from 4:30pm to 2am, so stop by and meet the owners who will be behind the bar working every night, serving up a full bar menu including an impressive list of bourbons and whiskeys and the original 1788 recipe for Raleigh’s own Cherry Bounce. 🍷



The original Isaac Hunter’s Tavern located near Old Wake Forest Road
(PHOTO COURTESY STATE ARCHIVES)



Isaac Hunter’s Oak City Tavern
112 Fayetteville Street
www.huntersoakcity.com | 919-526-0060

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RALEIGH DOWNTOWNER MAGAZINE

DISCOVER

Hillsborough ST

BY PETER EICHENBERGER

This is the second installment of our “Discover Hillsborough Street” series, intended to bring attention to some of the great businesses that are currently impacted by not only the depressed economy but also by the busy construction happening around them. We urge you to visit these local vendors, especially during this difficult time.

find a barber shop, a convenience store, two wing joints, and two scooter dealers.



Wing Zone

2020-104 Hillsborough Street | 919.832.9464
www.wingzone.com

I caught up with Stephen Lane of the Wing Zone who told me they had been open for eight years, but that lately, business has been slow due in part to the economy and the recent construction. Wing Zone is a walk-in, delivery sort of place, a small

footprint business with just a counter. Lane was reflective about life at a business on one of the busiest streets in Raleigh: “There’s always something happening on Hillsborough Street,” he says, waving his hand at the construction work. “Marathons, utilities, always something.” Nevertheless, Lane seemed to be happy to be part of the street scene around N.C. State.



Scooterz

2020-102 Hillsborough Street | 919.832.3585
www.scooterzinc.com



E. Scooters

2010 Hillsborough Street | 919.832.5560
www.electricscootercity.com

Next door to the Wing Zone is Scooterz, which Tad Lowdermilk has owned and operated for two years. Scooterz sells 2- and 4-cycle scooters and motorcycles by Kymco, SYM and TGB up to 500 cc, although a bulk of the business is with the under 50 cc scooters, the ones which don’t require licenses or insurance. Lowdermilk explains their popularity as “sort

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of a go-green thing,” emphasizing that a smaller motor reduces the US’s dependency on foreign oil. Scooterz has a full range of two wheel conveyances and offers performance modifications as well as a full service department. The other scooter store on Hillsborough, E. Scooters, has been selling everything from electric scooters to mopeds and motorcycles since 2003.

owned by Joe Yu. The Bell Tower Mart provides the many and sundry needs of Hillsborough street residents and State students—and offers one of the best selections of incense I’ve seen.



Andy's Wing & Burger

2106 Hillsborough Street | 919.803.6240

At the barber shop at 2104, I could see only one barber inside at work. To interview someone in the process of cutting someone’s hair seemed a bit of an imposition and a risk, so I stepped next door to Andy’s

Wings and Burgers and spoke to Jon Choi. He along with his wife both run and staff this sit-down restaurant that has been a fixture on Hillsborough for a decade or so. Jon enjoys being on Hillsborough Street. “They’re good people,” he tells me. “I like to talk to people, you know, about life, current events like Tiger Woods,” he jokes. Andy’s serves a full range of food, although it was the wings which made the place’s reputation before Jon acquired it. Choi acknowledged his restaurant seemed to enjoy a certain favor among Raleigh’s public servants, police officers and firefighters. “That’s good, right?” he laughs. I mentioned to Jon that I wanted to talk to the barbers, and he pointed to two guys having a bite to eat in the front, Jay Maxwell and Mike Mitchell. “There they are,” he says.

Groom Room

2104 Hillsborough Street | 919.890.5779

Mitchell told me the Groom Room, like most of the businesses in the block had been there for ten years. The Groom Room



charges \$10-12 for the basic haircut. I lifted my toboggan (a Raleigh term, don’t ask me why). “What about this?” Mitchell sized my hat-head up with the practiced eye of a professional. “That’ll cost you \$12,” he tells me, smiling broadly.

If you haven’t been to these local joints, you should. And those trying to get to these addresses should be aware that the work on Hillsborough has changed that access to these businesses. Formerly, one could simply turn off Hillsborough into the parking lot. With the arrival of the roundabouts, one must now drive down to Maiden Lane, and then turn into the parking lot.



Bell Tower Mart

2100 Hillsborough Street | 919.828.5559

Next door at 2100 is the Bell Tower Mart



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Bartender to Bartender

BY FRANK WALSER

Busy Bee bartender Frank "Ten Pins" Walser thought it would be a good idea for one of Raleigh's local bartenders to interview other downtown bartenders. Our response: "Sure! Sounds fun. Why not?" So without further ado, welcome to the first of possibly more columns of Bartender to Bartender.

What do New York, Kansas City and Los Angeles all have in common with Raleigh? At some point, these cities were all home to the one and only Gary Poole. If you're in the downtown area, do yourself a favor and pay a visit to either Slim's or Landmark Tavern. You just might get lucky and stumble upon one of nature's most beautiful disasters: Gary Poole's bartending.



1. What's the worst city you've been to? In my travels, I've never been a huge fan of Philadelphia. Nothing personal, I just never had much of a good time there, and I can—and do—have a good time anywhere and everywhere.
2. Is there any one thing you would change about downtown Raleigh? Yes, I'd open a Chubby's Tacos. Can you guess who's hungry?
3. If you could choose one super power, which would it be? Just one? To become invisible at will.
4. Let's say you had a time machine. To what time would you go back? Yesterday afternoon around

4:30. I forgot to buy milk at the store. I would go back and change that.

5. Which foreign country would you live in? I would have to say France, but only if I could live on the coast of Marseille.

6. What angers you most when bartending? Stupidity.

7. Do you have any guilty pleasures? Justin Timberlake and Pistachio ice cream.

8. What food couldn't you live without? Tacos.

9. What's your favorite exotic animal? Cougars... ha.

10. Where's your favorite hangout in Raleigh that doesn't serve alcohol? Cameron Village Library.

11. Which celebrity do you think you resemble most? I'm the unborn child of Jack Nicholson and Tim Robbins.

Completing a Master's in English Literature at NC State is no easy task. Just ask Shannon Laird while you're enjoying one of her deliciously concocted beverages at Amra's. Shannon is a native of Charlotte but has called Raleigh home since 1999, when she moved here to attend Meredith College. Job market permitting, Shannon hopes to stay in Raleigh, but she would not be opposed to winning the lottery and moving to Paris.

1. If you starred in a sitcom, what would it be called? Twenty-Something.

2. What Guinness World Record are you capable of setting? I'm not sure if there is one for procrastination, but I'd win that one.

3. Is there any one thing you would change about downtown Raleigh? I would give us a major league baseball team.

4. Can you describe yourself in one word? "Curiously exuberant." It's not really one word, but it's fitting.

5. What's the best thing you can find in a gas station store? Creepy candy that you can't get anywhere else.

6. How many meals can you cook without a cookbook? Not enough.

7. Does your drunken alter ego have a name? Dorris.

8. What fashion trend you would ban forever? Stirrup pants and scrunchies.

9. Could you survive in the wild? Maybe, a week tops.



Historic Yates Mill

BY CHRIS MOUTOS

Ever seen a real operating gristmill? (Or even know what it is?) If you venture just a couple of miles south of downtown Raleigh on Lake Wheeler Road to Yates Mill, you'll be transported back to the mid-1700s to a place with more than 200 years of history.

So you ask what exactly is a grist mill? In Colonial America, mills were run by water or wind, which at the time were the most advanced form of power. Used to grind grain, saw wood, full cloth, tan hides, weave fabric, and make paper, water mills (and windmills) appeared in every colonial settlement.

Through the early 1900s, Yates Mill was an important economic hub which provided settlers with much-needed products. In those days, gristmills and the millponds also served as places of social, public and recreational activities since they were built in advance of stores and even towns themselves.

Yates Mill has a long history in Wake County. Samuel Pearson was the mill's founder and it appears he bought the property around 1750 and in 1778 the new State of North Carolina officially gave Pearson the land he had claimed.

Pearson died in 1802 and his son Simon inherited the land where the mill is located. Due to debts owed to the State Bank of NC, Simon lost the property in a Sheriff's sale in 1819, and it was sold to William Boylan, a prominent Raleigh businessman and director of State Bank.

Boylan guided the mill through a series of business plans and significant structural changes likely related to a flood in the early 1800s that severely damaged the original mill.

In 1853, Boylan sold the mill which Phares Yates bought ten years later, including the land around it. When Yates died in 1902, he left the mill to his son Robert, a math professor at North Carolina State College. Yates' beneficiaries sold the property years later to subsidiaries of A.E. Finley Associates, and it operated until a lack of business shut it down in the 1950s.



North Carolina State University took title to the mill and pond in 1963 which was part of a larger tract being used by NCSU for agricultural purposes. The mill went into disrepair, and in 1989 the non-profit Yates Mill Associates (YMA) was formed to preserve and restore

the mill. In 1996 YMA submitted a proposal to Wake County to use the property as a park. After a cohesive effort between YMA, NCSU, Wake County and the NC Department of Agriculture, the Wake County Board of Commissioners approved a master plan for the park.

Historic Yates Mill County Park opened to the public in May 2006. The grounds are open daily from 8am to sunset, where visitors can enjoy the many hiking trails, fishing or a picnic. Tours of the mill are available to the public March through November with corn grinding demos on the third weekend of each month. Visit www.wakegov.com/yatesmill for more information and to download maps.



PHOTOS BY TED SALAMONE

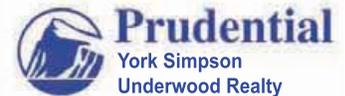
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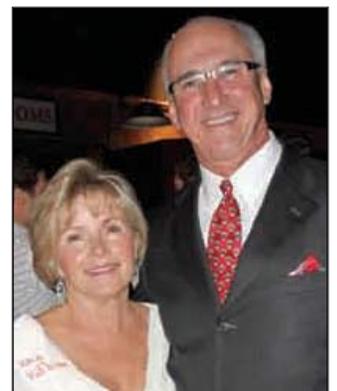
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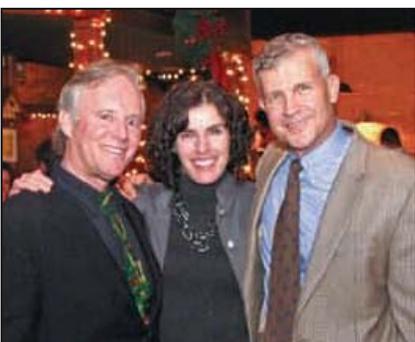


Photos below from the Boylan Artwalk *Photos by Crash Gregg*



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Photos below from the Raleigh Downtowner Magazine's Santa Toy Drive with MeetandCompete.com





Peace China BY BRIAN ADORNETTO, Assistant Food Editor



Almost two years ago, after working in the restaurant industry for over 11 years, newlywed Wei Zhao realized his dream of opening his own restaurant. He had heard of an available storefront in the trendy Shops at Seaboard Station, a creative redevelopment of vintage warehouses built during the 1940s that spans three blocks, and when he saw large parking lot and covered patio, Wei fell in love with the space. He then began the four year journey of turning it into Peace China Restaurant, named in honor of Peace College.

Since opening Peace China, Wei has spearheaded a free weekly "Music on the Porch" live music series Friday nights from April to October in the Shops at

Seaboard Station back parking lot. Offering a fun zone for kids, live music from local bands and beer or wine for purchase, this outdoor event draws between 300 and 500 people reach Friday. He also continues the tradition of co-sponsoring car shows with Ace Hardware on the fourth Saturday of each month during the spring and summer.



Wei Zhao

The interior of the restaurant is bright, airy and impeccably clean and has vintage New York Yankees photos, a flat screen TV, wifi access, and a picture menu board showcasing their most popular entrees. The room's most interesting element is the open kitchen which enables diners to watch the cooks prepare their food using woks the size of flying saucers and paddle-like spoons.

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Peace China's menu highlights the unique flavors of Szechuan, Hunan, Cantonese, and Thai style cooking made by some of the most experienced Asian cooks in the area. It also features a wide variety of favorite Chinese standards at prices that are hard to beat. Additional values can be found in the lunch specials for \$5.25 and combination plates starting at just \$6.95.



Wei and the cooks at Peace China are committed to serving only the freshest, highest quality food possible. For example, all the wontons, rolls, dumplings, rangoons, and pot stickers are made by hand in-house. The Egg Rolls (\$1.20 each) were light, crispy and loaded with fresh shredded vegetables. Our Fried Crab Rangoons (\$3.45 for six) were a delightful surprise. They were creamy and sweet on the inside and crunchy on the outside.

We then sampled the House Special Lo Mein (\$4.95 for a small and \$7.45 for a large), Hunan Beef (\$8.95), Sesame chicken (\$8.95), Tofu Szechuan Style (\$7.25), and Singapore Rice Noodles (\$7.95).



pieces of white and dark meat chicken which are dusted, fried and tossed with a sherry soy sauce. The huge portion of Tofu Szechuan was delicious. The tofu had great texture, the fresh vegetables were crunchy, and the sauce had a nice even heat. The star of our lunch, however, was the Singapore Rice Noodles. Seasoned with ginger, curry, scallions, sesame, chili peppers, and soy sauce, the dish had just the right combination of flavors. It was spicy, sweet, salty, nutty, and overflowing with shrimp, chicken, pork, and scrambled eggs.

With a simple design, quick service and experienced cooks, the spotless Peace China provides fast, fresh, affordable, and great-tasting food. Stop by soon for some of the best quick Chinese food downtown. 🍴

Peace China

802 Semart Drive Suite 106
919.833.8668
www.peacechinanc.com

Hours: Monday through Sunday 11 am until 10 pm

Meals: Lunch, Dinner

Dining Style: Counter service

Cuisine: Asian

Ambiance: Quick serve Chinese

Recommendations: Singapore Rice Noodles, Crab Rangoons, the \$5.25 Lunch

Dress: Casual

Features: Vegetarian and low carb options, MSG-free, combo platters, lunch specials, outdoor seating, child-friendly, take out, and credit cards accepted

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Signs of the Times: The Art of Business Exhibit Opening

BY JENNY LITZELMAN, RALEIGH CITY MUSEUM



On January 8, 2010, the Raleigh City Museum will unveil *The Art of Business*. *The Art of Business* is an artifact-based exhibit that explores the history of commercial art in Raleigh. Through signage, print collateral, packaging, and advertisements, museum visitors will get a glimpse of the beautiful craft that went into designing the business identities of our city's past. The January 8 exhibit opening will include live music and free refreshments. *The Art of Business* will stay open through March 27, 2010, in our A.E. Finley Gallery. Read on to learn about three of the businesses featured in the exhibit.

Snakenburg the Tailor

John Donald Snakenburg was born in Wilson, NC, where his father taught him and his four brothers how to sew. John was the only son to continue the family tailor-



Pine State Creamery billboard advertisement

ing business, and in the 1930s, he brought the store to Raleigh. Naming his company Snakenburg the Tailor, Snakenburg insisted on having 'the' in the shop name as he considered himself the best tailor in town. Snakenburg's confidence was well-founded; he made suits for everyone from the practical public to powerful politicians, including two of Governor Hunt's inaugural suits. People considered Snakenburg not only an excellent artisan but a popular local character as well.



1967 Pine State Creamery advertisement
PHOTOS COURTESY OF RALEIGH CITY MUSEUM

Customers recall stopping by his store for a chat or story as Snakenburg tended to their clothing.

Snakenburg's shop existed in several downtown locations including 220 Fayetteville Street, E. Martin Street and Salisbury Street. After 50 years of excellent service and local celebrity, Snakenburg retired and closed his shop in 1980. According to his daughter Diane Rodger, "people are still wearing his suits that were made 20, 30 years ago."

Pine State Creamery

During World War I, soldiers stationed nearby at Camp Polk requested pasteurized milk (pasteurization being a practice not yet widespread). In response to this increased demand, Dr. Benjamin W. Kilgore established Pine State Creamery. The creamery became part of NCSU's (then known as State College) Extension Service. Securing its charter in 1919, Pine State Creamery went on to sell and deliver milk for many years until it closed in 1996. The company originally began on Salisbury Street but then moved to its final location on Glenwood Avenue, where the building underwent several additions and

renovations. Though the creamery is now closed, the building is still used for commercial purposes in the heart of Glenwood South.

Thiem's Record Shop

Jimmy Thiem, Jr. had a passion for music that started during his childhood. He began his record business in a small section of his father's stationary store when he was a teenager in the 1930s. At first he only sold sheet music but then went on to add records. Soon enough the music section became so popular it grew too large for the store, and Jimmy opened up his own shop across the street from his father's business during the 1940s. First located on 107 Fayetteville Street in the Ambassador Theatre Building, the store moved several times before settling on 26 W. Hargett Street where it remained until the shop closed in 1973.

These three companies are just a few examples of the businesses the museum will highlight in *The Art of Business*. Other businesses include Job P. Wyatt & Son Agricultural Implements, Heilig-Levine furniture, Edwards & Broughton printing, and the first advertising agency to set up shop in Raleigh, The Howard Agency. Learn more about these businesses and join us as we celebrate the opening of *The Art of Business* on January 8, 2010!

The Raleigh City Museum is located at 220 Fayetteville Street in downtown Raleigh and is open from 10am-4pm Tuesday through Friday, and 1-4pm on Saturdays. If you have any questions, please call 919-832-3775 or check out our website at www.raleighcitymuseum.org.



The Raleigh Public Record, Raleigh's non-profit community news site, has teamed up with Raleigh Downtowner Magazine to bring you news and information each month about city and county government. Read more between issues at www.raleighpublicrecord.org.



New council sworn in Wake County Judge Vincent Rozier swore in Mayor Charles Meeker and the new city council on the last day of November. One new face, Bonner Gaylor, joined the seven-member council for the

District E seat. John Odom is back on council representing District B.

This is the sixth term for both Odom and District C's James West. Meeker told the crowd assembled at the convention center for the swearing-in ceremony that they are the longest-serving members.

Amphitheater At the new council's first meeting a trio of capital projects, including the proposed amphitheater and the police station, came up for review and additional funding. Councilors gave final approval for the downtown amphitheater.

The \$1.6 million venue will be built across the street from the convention center, between Dawson and

Government News

BY C. DUNCAN PARDO

McDowell streets. City Manager Russell Allen told the council that the city will team up with Live Nation, one of the world's largest concert promoters, to bring big-name acts to the amphitheater. Allen said the city would also work with local promoters and festival organizers.

Allen said he expects the amphitheater will bring in about \$500,000 in revenue for the city.

Lightner Public Safety Center The new Clarence E. Lightner Public Safety Center also came up for additional funding at the councilor's December meeting. They approved an additional \$2.4 million to move forward with the project design.

The \$207 million Lightner Center will replace the current downtown police station.

Gaylord, whose day job is as a general contractor, questioned the expense of the new project during the December 1 meeting. He said more than \$600 per-square-foot was a high price tag. He pointed to private office bathrooms and showers, a large amphitheater and other expensive features as being excessive.

The city manager said the design was not complete yet and the private showers had been removed from the plans.

Raleigh Mayor Charles Meeker urged council to move the center forward soon. He said the city could save more than \$50 million because of the state of the construction market.

The council will have another opportunity to review the Lightner Center in January before giving the project final approval.

Trash pickup assistance program The Solid Waste Services Department's Need Assistance Program will no longer be available for residents automatically when they reach their 65th birthday. The program helps people who can't bring their trash bins to the curb.

New people enrolling in the program will need a doctor to certify that they're disabled and that there is no one else living in the home who can bring the bins to the curb.

No one will be taken off the program's rolls, but the city will send out notices asking people to consider if they really need the help.

In November, Solid Waste Services Director Frederick Battle told a council committee that changes to the service could save the city more than \$100,000.

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NCSU Threads Fashion Show a Big Success

BY STEPHANIE MEJIA, EDITED BY MELISSA SANTOS | PHOTOS BY GEORGE SCOTT



Eleven students showcased their creativity at NCSU College of Design's Threads Senior Collection, giving those in attendance a preview of what the designers hope might be the rebirth of fashion in Raleigh. Lines crowded around Marbles Kids Museum on Dec. 4 for the sold-out, much-anticipated fashion event of the semester. The night's unofficial theme seemed to be "the evolution of fashion," as designers featured looks inspired by everything from French Rococo and the roaring 20s to Icelandic indie bands and outer space.

Jessica Fulks, the first place winner of the Threads Senior Collection, gave spectators an amazing show with her line, "Harlem Nights." The win was well-deserved, as her line was the most cohesive; the aura, visuals, and construction of the clothing were impeccable. Her pieces included tailored, structured suits and iconic, functional pieces for the everyday man and oversized evening coats, cocktail dresses and floor-length gowns for the modern woman who prefers classic Hollywood glamour.

Second place winner Brittany Erb's collection, "Concerning

the UFO sighting," was a rendition of what the future holds for fashion. Her simple silhouettes and weightless bleached and dyed jersey knits with an emphasis on ethereal beauty stunned the crowd. Hannah Goff and Ashley Tucker tied for third place. Hannah Goff's line, "Fly Away Bird," featured a mix of 1940's silhouettes, whimsical details, rich textures, velvet, leather, lace,



sequins and was a beautiful mixture of what the working class women wants to wear. "Postscript of Militancy," Ashley's Tucker's collection, was comprised of young, armed, militant men stomping the runway in torn scarves, bomber patched jackets and skinny bootcut jeans; the distressed soldier couldn't have appeared any more fashion-forward.

This semester's Threads Senior Collection showed Raleigh what astonishing designers the NCSU College of Textiles is producing. And after seeing the talent and flair of these 11 students, people are no doubt already looking forward to next semester's show.

To see the winners' entire collections, as well as those of the other seven students, visit www.wix.com/seniorcollection/threads2009.

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Café Mars BY DAN STROBEL, Music Editor

Some cover bands are happy just playing the standard songs. Others, like Café Mars, look to inject a little bit of spice into what you would normally expect from a cover band. “We know that everyone has their own idea of what a cover band at a bar downtown on a Friday night in Raleigh will be like, but we definitely look to be something more than that,” says lead trumpet and vocalist Steve Baker. Fronted by six of the most accomplished musicians in the area, Café Mars is setting the gold standard for live music in the Triangle for clubs, weddings and private events.



Since most of its members have more than 20 years in the music industry, including classical training and studio work with big names like Trisha Yearwood, Eddie Money and Donald Byrd, Café Mars has the credentials to back up Baker’s claim. Newest member Frederick Owens, an original cast member of Smokey Joe’s Café and a Broadway performer for over 30 years, plays a mean keyboard and provides back-up vocals in the band.

Both Baker and Charlotte Gregory, vocalist, share similar duties in Bull City Syndicate, the ten-piece, four-horn cover band from Durham that has been a staple in the region for 15 years. According to Baker, Café Mars, which was founded in 2004, was mainly created for financial reasons. “We found ourselves in Bull City Syndicate being asked to play at corporate events and weddings with a more relaxed, R&B and jazz-type sound, so we figured we might as well create a separate group to play at those types of functions,” he said.

With their services in demand as far north as Maryland and as far south as Florida, the members of Café Mars have enough on their plates to keep them busy, yet they still find enough time to work in and around Raleigh. Baker teaches trumpet and is a freelance trumpeter while guitarist Steven Coon owns Amazing Tone Music store in North Raleigh. Frederick Owens is frequently called away from the area to provide voiceover work for commercials and movies, while bassist Duane Townes plays in Gospel and church groups all over the state. Charlotte works as a nail



tech between gigs and drummer Steve Makar is constantly collaborating and lending his talent to bands and groups in the area.

With the recent establishment of their current lineup and a few performances under their belt, Café Mars is looking to become the “it” band in Raleigh, according to Baker. “We played at the opening of the Convention Center, at the Raleigh Wide Open Festival and the Raleigh Christmas tree lighting at Winterfest,” he said. “We want to be band that everyone looks for to provide whatever type of vibe they are looking for from a live band.”

Look for Café Mars at a handful of venues around Raleigh consistently, including The Pointe on Glenwood Avenue, one of their favorite spots. Check out their full music calendar on their website, www.myspace.com/cafemarsband.

Dan can be reached for comment by email at music@raleighdowntowner.com

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The Deep South

Local Music Review

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 bands 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 Deep South Local Music Review is written by Dave Rose with contributions by Elizabeth Barrett. Dave is the co-founder and 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 producer of the Bud Light Downtown Live summer concert series, featuring national recording artists. Their latest addition to downtown Raleigh is Deep South—The Bar.



Silver

Album: +/-
Genre: Rock / Indie / Alternative
www.myspace.com/silvermusiconline

If you were purchasing Silver's music on iTunes, it might say "For fans of Muse, Kings of Leon and U2". And if you're fans of these bands—and even if you're not—you'd be wise to click "buy now." Silver, a three-piece rock band, from Raleigh cares about their songwriting and it shows. "Beautiful Things," the stand-out track, definitely pays homage to the Brit School of Rock with big strumming guitars and captivating vocal melodies. Patrick Downing (guitars, vocals), Brent Francese (drums) and John Enzor (bass) make up this talented trio. Silver delivers a perfect mixture of unique yet somewhat familiar sounds. Currently, the band is writing for their new EP, which they plan to record in January. Be sure to look out for it and check the guys out when they hit the stage again early next year.



The Desmonds

Album: Chocolate Box
Genre: Rock / Powerpop / Rock
www.myspace.com/wearethedesmonds

The Desmonds were one of the first bands I worked with as a budding music business entrepreneur, and to this day I consider them some of the most talented musicians and songwriters I know. Formed in 1992 as Jeff Carroll and the Desmonds, this band has seen the music industry inside and out. Their debut album, *Chocolate Box*, was released in 1994 and is a local album that should be considered a timeless masterpiece, right up there with the first Dillon Fence EP and Whiskeytown's *Faithless Street*. Now, 15 years later, Jeff Carroll is the owner of Bluefield Mastering, Raleigh's finest mastering studio. Recently reuniting, The Desmonds' newest line up consists of Carroll, Bert Rogers (formally of Crush), Steve Storms, and Joe Fiore.

Though they have no new album recordings, The Desmonds have been on NBC 17's live show, *MyMusic*. They will also be featured on NBC 17's *KIDSmas Special*, scheduled to air on Christmas day.



Old Avenue

Album: knockin' on doors
Genre: Rock/Acoustic
www.myspace.com/oldavenue

Fans of Dave Matthews take notice—there's a new group worth keeping an eye on. Formed in summer of 2008, Old Avenue has all the elements of becoming one of those acts that crosses boundaries and bridges generational and cultural gaps. Combining the melodies of Greg Sullivan (vocals, keys), the natural flow of Mark Cloos (guitar), Sean Steigerwald (drums), and Cameron Conklin (bass), with Jason Hazinski on saxophone, this band is stepping in the right direction toward fame. Their debut album, *knockin' on doors*, was recently introduced in December to a sold-out crowd at Deep South The Bar. The stand-out track on the CD is "It's Over, Right?" Keep tabs on these guys via their Myspace page, and don't miss them live when they come to a venue near you.



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DOWNTOWN SNAPSHOT

From the Downtown Raleigh Alliance

Dear Reader,

The winter season is a great time to experience downtown Raleigh. Whether you want to take in a performing arts show, dine at unique restaurants, or even ice skate under a starry night, downtown Raleigh has it all. On December 4th, City Plaza was energized during the premiere kickoff of AT&T Raleigh Winterfest when an estimated 15,000 people took part in the festivities. And one of the main features of Winterfest is a natural ice rink which remains open for ticketed use through January 31, 2010. Check out www.RaleighWinterfest.com for a schedule of all available dates and times, as well as special events at the rink such as movies, music, and date nights.



DAVID DIAZ

President and CEO
Downtown Raleigh Alliance
www.YouRHere.com

As we embark on opportunities in the new year I want to highlight that during 2009 several significant public and private sector developments were completed in downtown which added nearly 450 condominiums, apartments and townhouses; three separate educational facilities such as a research complex, library renovation and expansion, and a law school; and City Plaza, downtown's central gathering space for a variety of unique events and activities. Each one of these projects helped contribute to the revitalization efforts that are making our downtown a more vibrant and dynamic place in which to be.

Creative ideas and committed individuals help fuel any thriving city and we anticipate seeing new projects come online in 2010 which will support positive momentum for downtown Raleigh. In this edition of the Raleigh Downtowner Magazine you will learn more about future planning ideas and what some people would like to see happen in their city center.

You may find a convenient calendar of downtown events scheduled during the upcoming months, and find information about parking, maps, and the free R-LINE circulator bus at www.YouRHere.com.

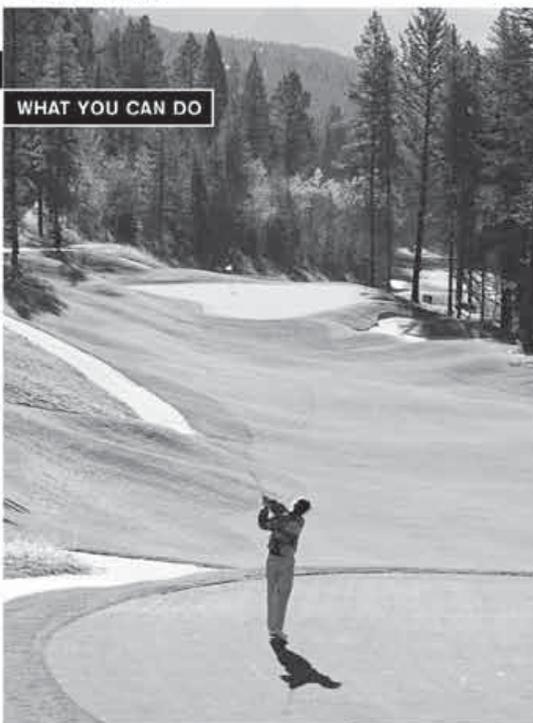
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Evenings: January 11, 12, 13, and 14, or
Daytime: All 4 classes Saturday January 16

CREATIVE DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY

Evenings: January 18, 19, 20 and 21 or
Daytime: All 4 classes Saturday January 23

MACROPHOTOGRAPHY

Evenings: January 26 & 28, or
Daytime: Both classes Friday January 29

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Evenings: February 8th, 9th, 10th, & 11th or
Daytime: All 4 classes Friday February 12th

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The Raleigh Downtowner Magazine is searching for contributing writers and photographers for both our print and web editions. If you're passionate about any of the topics below, or have a new idea you'd like to pitch, send us an email to writers@raleighdowntowner.com.

Music	Travel	Books
Events	Sports	Movies
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Met-Tech, Inc.

BUSINESS PROFILE

You may not have noticed Met-Tech or its outside sign on Wilmington Street even though it's been there for more than 42 years. The company itself, originally named Raleigh Billiard Supply, was founded in 1943, before renaming in 1968 and moving to its current location.



The present day owner, Michael Mettrey (the "Met" in Met-Tech), is a NCSU mechanical engineering grad who taught at State for 15 years before bringing his manufacturing experience to the family business. He decided to change the direction of the company from merely supplying billiard supplies to include designing and fabricating custom home tables, making Met-Tech the oldest manufacturer of pool tables in North Carolina.

Met-Tech supplies pool tables to dealers along the East coast, but also sells directly to the public from their downtown Raleigh office, saving customers about \$600-800 per table. Typical table designs sell for \$1850 and includes everything needed for a proper billiard room delivered and installed. Completely custom-designed or hand-carved tables start at \$5000. One client brought back photos of a table designed in the 20s that he had seen for \$35,000 in New York. Met-Tech made an exact duplicate for the customer for just \$6000. They're able to compete with and usually beat pricing on imported tables because of the cost involved in shipping overseas. Their tables are built to much more exacting standards and are among the highest quality in the industry.



Mahogany is still the main wood used in making pool tables, but Michael has been trying to direct the company in a more eco-friendly direction the last few years. He uses other woods such as tulipwood, a fast growing and more renewable tree. "Mahogany," Michael explains, "is going to be a renewable wood in the future as they're now starting to do a lot of mahogany plantation growing like they did pine in the early 30's here, but it will be 20 to 30 years before that happens."

"When we first started manufacturing tables, they were mostly for commercial use, so we were doing big, massive heavy tables. Some were so over-built I swear they weighed about 1,200 pounds. Over time we've improved the finishes and construction and we now produce a table that's not just a pool table, but a nice piece of furniture."

Met-Tech tables can be found in the governor's mansion, Hurricane players' homes, and a few world-famous pool players across North Carolina. When asked if being around pool tables for so long helped his pool game, Michael laughed and replied, "I can shoot a decent game, but I wouldn't say I'm a great player. I've shot with Luther "Wimpy" Lassiter, and it was amazing to watch him play."

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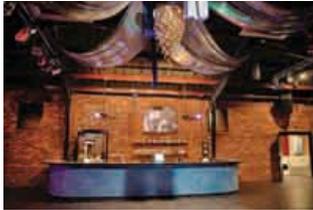
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New Downtown Businesses

Below is a list of new consumer businesses that have opened downtown since our last listing. Drop us an email with any new business openings, closings or news: biz@raleighdowntowner.com



Tantra

310 S. West Street
919.834.9333
Lounge: Thur-Sat: 7pm-10pm
NightClub: Thur-Sat: 10pm-3am
www.tantraraleigh.com

Upscale nightclub and "ultralounge" located at the end of West Street. Located in the

previous Office Nightclub space, Tantra features a completely redecorated interior with modern atmosphere featuring a new VIP area, two dance floors waterfalls, crystal chandeliers, glass fire pits lava bar surfaces and a custom jelly fish aquarium.

Fubar

412 W. Davie Street
919.671.6066
www.facebook.com/fubar.raleigh

Dance club and party bar for the college crowd in the previous Oxygen Bar space. Foam machines, theme parties, and lots of energy.



Isaac Hunter's Oak City Tavern

112 Fayetteville Street
919.526.0060
Mon-Sun: 4:30 pm-2:00 am
www.huntersoakcity.com

In the spirit of the original legend, Isaac Hunter's Tavern captures the spirit of that local watering hole

that changed North Carolina forever, and became the birthplace of our hometown. Signature cocktail list has quite a few recipes that you might never have heard of unless you were around back in Joel Lane's day.



Shotbox Espresso/ Crumb & Coffee

323 W. Martin Street, Space 100
919.413.8134
<http://shotbox.gamilacompany.com>
www.justcrumb.com/blog
Weekdays: 7am-7pm
Saturdays: 9am-2pm

Specialty coffee, drinks and cakes. Located in the DesignBox space on W. Martin. Involved are Carrie Gephart, former baker at Hayes Barton Café, Rich Futrell (from Durham's Counter Culture) and Ty Beddingfield (original owner of Third Place Coffee in Five Points).

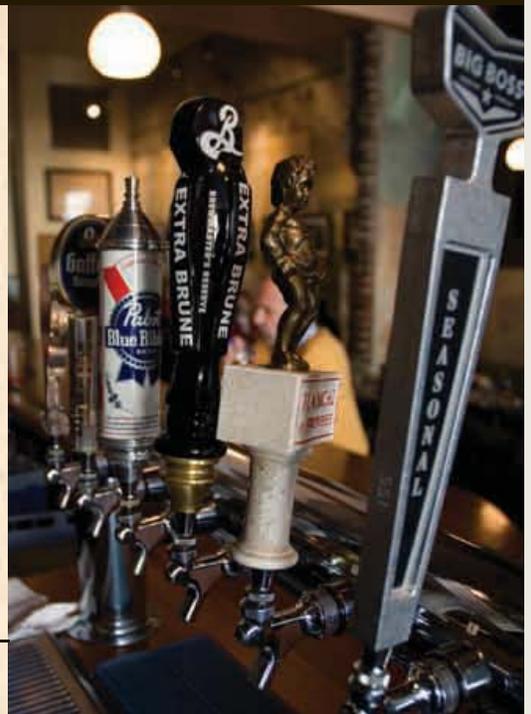


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December 31, Thursday

The N.C. Symphony presents a **New Year's Eve Holiday Extravaganza** in the Meymandi Concert Hall. An Evening of Prodigious Talent featuring some of the most outrageously talented young musicians from North Carolina and beyond demonstrating jaw-dropping feats of virtuosity. Grant Llewellyn, Director. Visit ncsymphony.org for tickets and information or call 831-6060.

December 31, Thursday

First Night Raleigh is a weather-proof **New Year's Eve Celebration** of the arts and community featuring performances in 28 indoor and outdoor venues throughout downtown Raleigh. The festival includes the early afternoon Children's Celebration, early & late countdowns, the People's Procession, music, dance, theatre, the giant Acorn Drop, and fireworks. Scheduled to appear are Annuals, Crucial Fiya, Justin David, Barbara Bailey Hutchison, Bob Margolin, Lenny Marcus Trio, Red Herring Puppets, Transactors Improv, El Gleno Grande and many others. * First Night Raleigh admission buttons will be available at local Harris Teeter and Rite Aid stores, as well as other local outlets, beginning December 1. Buttons are \$9 in advance for children ages 6-12 and adults. Children five and under are admitted free. At the event, buttons are \$10 for children ages 6-12 and \$12 for adults. Call 832-8699 or visit www.firstnightraleigh.com or www.artsplasure.com for more information. The event begins at 2:00 pm and goes until....

January 1, Friday (New Year's Day)

First Friday Downtown Gallery Walk. Visit the galleries, listen to live music and delight in a divine culinary experience and take advantage of the First Friday Specials offered by all participating restaurants.

January 3 & 17, Sundays

Sledding Ramps at the AT&T Raleigh Winterfest Ice Rink in City Plaza. Snow My Yard will create a winter wonderland with sledding ramps open from 12 noon-5 pm. This activity is FREE for anyone wearing their ice rink admission wristband. Visit www.RaleighWinterfest.com for more information.

January 7, 14, 21, 28 (Thursdays)

Date & Skate at the AT&T Raleigh Winterfest Ice Rink in City Plaza. Make memories in downtown Raleigh. Couples can enjoy "Date Night Specials" at participating downtown restaurants and then simply show their receipt to receive a \$4 discount for admission for two to the ice rink. That's only \$8 for admission (includes skates) per couple! Free carriage rides will also be available from 6 pm-9 pm for anyone wearing their ice rink admission wristband. Create a special night for that special someone.

January 8, Friday

The Raleigh City Museum's newest exhibit, **The Art of Business** opening from 6-9 pm. This exhibit will be an artifact heavy display of commercial art from Raleigh's past, including signage, print collateral, packaging, and advertisements. Museum visitors will get a glimpse of the beautiful craft that went into designing the business identities of our city's past. Live music and refreshments. Admission is free. Visit www.raleighcity-museum.org or call 832-3775 for more information.

January 8-9, Friday-Saturday

The N.C. Symphony presents **Mozart's Genius.** Mozart's final three symphonies, all written inside of six weeks for no apparent reason—there were no commissions or special premieres at hand. Did Mozart foresee

his coming death? We'll never know, but these works are the culmination of everything the composer had done up to this point in his life. He was writing for the sheer joy of it, playing with themes, playing with the listener. Meymandi Concert Hall. Visit ncsymphony.org for tickets and information or call 733-2750.

January 9, Saturday

Tools & Toys. Second Saturday is kid's day at the Raleigh City Museum 2-3pm. Learn about the history of play through hands-on activities with the toys of our past. Explore how toys have changed over time, how they were made and used, and talk about the toys of our future. Kids will get a chance to play historic games and learn how to make toys such as cornhusk dolls and marbles at home. Admission is free. Visit www.raleighcity-museum.org or call 832-3775 for more information.

January 11, Monday

Watching movies just got a whole lot cooler. Join the fun at the AT&T Raleigh Winterfest Ice Rink for an outdoor screening of **"Ice Age"** at 6:30 pm. Visit www.RaleighWinterfest.com for more information.

January 14, Thursday

The N.C. Symphony presents **Joshua Bell.** Arguably one of the world's preeminent violinists, Joshua Bell has won the hearts and minds of audiences and critics alike. In this special one-night-only engagement, he'll play Bruch's Scottish Fantasy with the orchestra. Featuring Grant Llewellyn, Music Director. Meymandi Concert Hall. Visit ncsymphony.org for tickets and information or call 733-2750.

January 15-16, Friday-Saturday

The N.C. Symphony presents **Fiesta Latina.** Hear the vibrant sounds and pulsing rhythms of sones, huapangos, boleros and more! Featuring the thrilling Mariachi Cobre, a traditional Mexican mariachi band best known for their frequent performances at Walt Disney World's Epcot Center. Featuring Grant Llewellyn, Music Director and Mariachi

Cobre. Meymandi Concert Hall. Visit ncsymphony.org for tickets and information or call 733-2750.

January 22-23, Friday-Saturday

N.C. Symphony presents **Old World Elegance.** Associate Conductor Sarah Hicks makes her debut on the Classical Series with this delightful concert. Starting with the greatest of Liszt's tone poems, Les Preludes, the performance concludes with Dvorák's charming Symphony No. 8, an elegant old world piece which examines nature, harmony and symmetry. Also on the program is Mahler's Songs of a Wayfarer with guest soloist Randall Scarlata. Meymandi Concert Hall. Visit ncsymphony.org for tickets and information or call 733-2750.

January 23, Saturday

The 13th annual charity **A Winter's Tale Gala** hosted by the Methodist Home for Children. Black tie optional and includes dinner and live and silent auctions with all proceeds benefiting MHC which is a community-based organization providing support and services to ensure children grow up in safe and loving homes. 6-11pm at the Raleigh Convention Center. For more information, call 754-3621 or visit www.mhc.org.

January 24, Sunday

The **Raleigh Chamber Music Guild presents WINDSCAPE** at the Fletcher Opera Theater at the Progress Energy Center at 3 pm. Since 1994, this collection of highly acclaimed New York-based solo artists has led audiences on unique musical journeys through time and place. The quintet, the ensemble-in-residence at the Manhattan School of Music, complements vivid sonic landscapes with engaging narratives in creating an experience that is culturally enlightening and musically rich. Visit www.rcmg.org or call 821-2030 for ticket information.

January 25, Monday

Join the fun at the AT&T Raleigh Winterfest Ice Rink for an outdoor screening of **"Blades of Glory"** at 6:30 pm. Visit www.RaleighWinterfest.com for more information.



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BEST OF THE BEST!! And now our new READER POLL!! (see below) 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 product and service. This list is the sole property and decision-making of Fred Benton and BetterlivingNC Productions and is not affiliated with the Raleigh Downtowner. This list is a companion information guide that Benton presents on WCKB radio and is 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!*

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!*

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

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

William and Garland Motel - Hwy.58, Salter Path, 252-247-3733. *BEST budget-friendly family accommodations on the Crystal Coast!*

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

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

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

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

The Lamplight Inn - Henderson 252-438-6311. *Pet-friendly; great breakfasts! www.lamplightbnb.net*

Springfield Inn - a bed and breakfast, 252-426-8471, springfield@springfieldbb.com. *In Hertford, BEST breakfast! Farm-fresh everything!*

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

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

Broadway Series South - Progress Energy Center for the Performing Arts, 831-6060. *BEST dramatic arts performances; stellar 09 season that includes "Chorus Line" and "Wizard."*

READER EMAIL POLL: What is your favorite restaurant in Raleigh?
Please send your vote to betterlivingnc@yahoo.com.

January 25, Monday

The **Band of the Irish Guards and Royal Regiment of Scotland** brings all of the pomp and grandeur of the British Empire to Raleigh. A gifted group of musicians was gathered by Queen Victoria in 1900 to commemorate the bravery of the Irish Regiments, and quickly gained a reputation for excellence. It was the Band's responsibility to inspire an esprit de corps among the troops, and it traveled extensively throughout both World Wars to give morale-boosting performances for those on active service. Now renowned across the globe, these Regimental Bands uplift spirits with rousing marches, folk songs, and Celtic dances performing the music of England, Ireland, Scotland, and Wales. Show playing in Raleigh Memorial Auditorium. Call 831-6060 or visit www.broadwayseriesouth.com for ticket information.

January 28–January 31, Thurs–Sun

Broadway Series South presents **Xanadu**. Taking audiences back to 1980 California, this hilarious new musical follows the beautiful Greek muse, Kira, who descends from Mt. Olympus to Venice Beach to inspire a struggling young artist named Sonny, as she helps this aspiring painter to find his voice, discover true love and build the world's first roller disco. Show playing in Raleigh Memorial Auditorium. Call 831-6060 or visit www.broadwayseriesouth.com for ticket information.

January 30–31, Saturday–Sunday

PineCone-Piedmont Council on Traditional Music presents PineCone **Winter Music Festival**. A two-day festival celebrating 25 years of traditional music! Saturday features singer-songwriters, virtuoso instrumentalists and a touch of world music tradition. Sunday highlights some of the best in bluegrass, from the traditional to the contemporary. Saturday starts at 6 pm with Kris Kristofferson, Tift Merritt (with special appearance by Raleigh's own Community Music School Choir), Tony Rice Unit, and Bearfoot. Sunday starts at 2 pm with Ricky Skaggs & Kentucky Thunder, Dale Ann Bradley, Michael Cleveland & Flamekeeper, Danny Paisley & the Southern Grass. Meymandi Concert Hall.

For more information visit www.pinecone.org or call the PineCone box office at 919-664-8302.

February 5–6, Friday–Saturday

The N.C. Symphony presents **Fire And Ice** in the Meymandi Concert Hall. Rising young piano phenomenon Yuja Wang in Rachmaninoff's scorching Concerto No. 3—that's the fire. Two great works by Sibelius—the universally-loved Finlandia and the craggy, bold and monolithic Symphony No. 4. That's the ice. A remarkable program that will challenge the orchestra and light up the audience. The entire classical world is buzzing about Yuja Wang. A great opportunity to see a rising young star at the beginning of her ascent! Grant Llewellyn, Music Director. Visit ncsymphony.org for tickets and information or call 733-2750.

February 12, Friday

The N.C. Symphony presents **Mozart and Tchaikovsky**. Associate conductor Sarah Hicks will lead the orchestra in three great works by two of classical music's iconic composers—first, Mozart's delightful Overture to Don Giovanni, then music from Tchaikovsky's Suite No. 4, "Mozartiana," and his great Violin Concerto, performed by North Carolina Symphony Concertmaster Brian Reagin. Visit ncsymphony.org for tickets and information or call 733-2750.

February 12–13, Friday–Saturday

Comedy of **Bill Maher**. For the last fifteen years, Bill Maher has set the boundaries of where funny, political talk can go on American television. First on "Politically Incorrect" (Comedy Central, ABC, 1993-2002), and for the last seven years on HBO's "Real Time," Maher's combination of unflinching honesty and big laughs have garnered him twenty-one Emmy nominations. In October of 2008, this same combination was on display in Maher's uproarious and unprecedented swipe at organized religion, "Religulous," directed by Larry Charles ("Borat"). The documentary has gone on to become the 7th Highest Grossing Documentary ever. Show playing in Raleigh Memorial Auditorium. Call 831-6060 or visit www.broadwayseriesouth.com for ticket information.

February 14, Sunday

Valentine's Day Doo Wop Show. Herb Reed's Platters, The Tams, Harold Winley's Glovers, Maurice Williams & The Zodiacs, & Johnny Thunder. Show playing in Raleigh Memorial Auditorium. Call 831-6060 or visit www.broadwayseriesouth.com for ticket information.

February 12–14, February 18–21

Theatre in the Park presents **Don't Cry For Me, Margaret**. Directed by David Ira Wood III, this hilarious, historically based, behind-the-scenes look into what might have happened during the screenwriting process of "Gone with the Wind." Theatre is located at 107 Pullen Rd. Call the box office at 831-6936 or visit www.theatreinthepark.com for ticket information and show times.

February 12–28

The Raleigh Little Theatre presents **Veronica's Room** by Ira Levin. This chilling mystery thriller by the author of Rosemary's Baby and Deathtrap straddles the thin line between fantasy and reality, madness and murder. With his signature blend of mystery and Gothic horror, Levin has crafted a tale where people are not who they seem and anything can happen to anyone at any time. If there is a lesson to be learned from this thriller, it may be "don't talk to strangers." RLT Sutton Main Stage Theatre (Reserved Seating). Tickets on sale now from etix.com or from the RLT Box Office at 919-821-3111.

February 14, Sunday

North Carolina Symphony presents **A Broadway Romance** featuring current Broadway stars performing 37 great love songs from 13 of your favorite Broadway hits. Bring your special Valentine to this one-night-only event and listen as our love story unfolds on stage. You'll be entertained by popular songs from West Side Story, My Fair Lady, Chicago, South Pacific and many more. Meymandi Concert Hall. Visit ncsymphony.org for tickets and information or call 733-2750.

February 14, Sunday

Valentine's Day Doo Wop Show. Herb Reed's Platters, The Tams, Harold Winley's Glovers, Maurice Williams & The Zodiacs, & Johnny Thunder. Show playing in Raleigh Memorial Auditorium. Call 831-6060 or visit www.broadwayseriesouth.com for ticket information.

February 18–March 7

The Carolina Ballet presents **Cinderella** at the Fletcher Opera Theater. Part of the Family Series, this unique program begins with a one-hour version of Robert Weisz's *Cinderella*. Slightly shorter than the original production, it is just perfect for little ones with early bedtimes. Some families will decide to only see that portion of the program, exiting into their own happily-ever-after. For those who can stay, you will be treated to works by George Balanchine, the father of American ballet. For ticket information, visit www.carolinaballet.com or call the Ballet Line at 719-0900.

February 19–20, Friday–Saturday

The N.C. Symphony presents **Brach And Brahms**. Shostakovich's driving, rhythmic and challenging Cello Concerto No. 1 with guest soloist Lynn Harrell, whose enormous strength, energy, forceful personality and virtuosity are definitely up to the task. Also on the program are Bach's sparkling and lively Orchestral Suite No. 4 in D Major and Brahms's architectural masterpiece, Symphony No. 4. A journey of orchestras, conductors and musicians. Grant Llewellyn, Music Director. Visit ncsymphony.org for tickets and information or call 733-2750.

February 20, Saturday

Get The Led Out: The American Led Zeppelin. Dubbed by the media as "The American Led Zeppelin," GTLO presents a two hour plus set that spans the mythic career of the legendary British super group. And with it, they are achieving strong box office scores throughout the Mid-Atlantic. Show begins at 9 pm at Memorial Auditorium in the Progress Center for the Performing Arts. Call the box office at 831-6060 for more information and tickets.

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