

# **RALEIGH** DOWNTOWNER MAGAZINE

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 4

ENTERTAINMENT, ARTS & CULTURE, BUSINESS, DINING, EVENTS, MUSIC, AND MORE

FREE



## *Tying the Knot Downtown*



### **TOASTING THE DAY**

Tips for choosing the perfect wines for your wedding day



### **DOWNTOWN DINING**

Empire Eats' Sitti on Wilmington gets an A+ for food & service

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Summer Fun! We're compiling a big fat list of everything fun we can find to do in and around downtown this summer. Outdoor movies, concerts, shows, events, farmer's markets, and much more. Have a suggestion for us? Send us an email! [ideas@raleighdowntowner.com](mailto:ideas@raleighdowntowner.com)

### ON THE COVER

A fun wedding photo of Leigh Smithart and Duncan Warwick Jr., married on Sunday April 26th in front of the Raleigh Parks and Rec Trolley. Photo courtesy of Craig Carpenter from LusterStudios.com.



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[www.RaleighDowntowner.com](http://www.RaleighDowntowner.com) | [www.raleigh2.com](http://www.raleigh2.com)

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GENERAL PRESS RELEASES:  
[press@raleighdowntowner.com](mailto:press@raleighdowntowner.com)

B-TO-B PRESS RELEASES AND BIZ SECTION INFO:  
[business@raleighdowntowner.com](mailto:business@raleighdowntowner.com)

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The Downtowner is a local monthly print magazine dedicated to coverage of downtown Raleigh. Our online publication encompasses downtown and the surrounding area. The current print issue, ad rates/media kit, rack locations and archived issues are available at

**[www.RaleighDowntowner.com](http://www.RaleighDowntowner.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](mailto:delivery@raleighdowntowner.com). We love hearing from our readers!

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 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  
 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  
 Crema  
 Raleigh Visitors Center

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 WRAL-TV5 lobby  
 Porter's Restaurant (sidewalk)  
 Irregardless Café  
 Char-Grill (sidewalk)  
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 Salon 21

The Cupcake Bakery Shoppe  
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 Fly Salon  
 Lee Hansley Gallery  
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 NC Dept. of Labor  
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 Hayes Barton Cafe and Dessertery  
 Nofo @ the Pig  
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# Tying the Knot

IN DOWNTOWN RALEIGH BY ELIZABETH SHUGG

Planning a wedding in downtown Raleigh takes some thought. Where else can you say “I do” amid a cacao tree-filled rainforest, or under the fractured light of a stained glass window. Walk hand-in-hand through “Kids Way,” or down the same aisle brides have walked for 130 years. Dance next to ancient dinosaurs, or under the glimmer of a crystal chandelier.



PHOTO BY LUSTER STUDIOS—WWW.LUSTERSTUDIOS.COM

You can even show an IMAX movie instead of a slideshow.

For many couples who already live downtown, there’s no better destination for hosting a wedding. The accommodations range from historic halls to museums and everything in between.

“Downtown Raleigh is the center of pretty much everything we do,” says Carmen Evans, who will marry Jay Ritz October 17th in downtown’s historic Sacred Heart Cathedral. “We live and work downtown, and we pretty much spend all our nights out downtown. We both enjoy being able to walk to restaurants and shops. We even met downtown—at Raleigh Times!”

The couple’s guests will be flying in from all over the country. “We don’t really have a theme, but we’re trying to incorporate some local flavor into the events, since most of our guests will be visiting from other parts of the country,” Evans says. “We decided to have our rehearsal dinner at The Pit. Nothing says Raleigh like a little barbecue!”

**Here Comes the History** Evans and Ritz will host their reception at Haywood Hall ([www.haywood-hall.org](http://www.haywood-hall.org)), built in 1799 on lots 190 and 191 at 211 New Bern Place in the then-new state capital of Raleigh. Haywood Hall was named after the Council of State, John Haywood—who was required to live in the capital city—and is the oldest house within Raleigh’s original city limits to remain on its original foundation.



John’s wife, Eliza, maintained beautiful gardens filled with roses, hydrangeas, azaleas, lilies, peonies, daisies and other flower varieties that still encircle the property. With such an esteemed history and beautifully maintained garden, it’s easy to understand why Haywood Hall books up so quickly.

“After you have a day or so to revel in the excitement of your engagement, it’s time to start planning,” Evans says. “If you can at least get your location down in the first couple of months, that’s a good start.”

Just a few blocks away, Empire Properties saved a historic downtown wedding venue from demolition in 2006. Founded in 1875 by Reverend Edward R. Rich as the Church of the Good Shepherd, All Saints Chapel ([www.allsaints1875.com](http://www.allsaints1875.com)) served as an alternative to the only other Episcopal church in Raleigh, which observed the practice of selling pews to members of its congregation. Originally located at the corner of Hillsborough and McDowell streets, All Saints Chapel now sits just half a mile away at 100 S. East Street, and offers an intimate, historic setting for wedding ceremonies and receptions.

“All Saints Chapel has an open floor plan and 18-foot ceilings,” says Sarah Morris, event coordinator for All Saints Chapel. “The interior space is highlighted by five clerestory windows, large stained glass windows above the altar and balcony, and stunning woodwork.”

**Do You Take This Museum to be Your Reception Venue?** We do. Just as many downtown couples flavor their wedding day with local history and food, others opt for the cultural variety only a museum can offer. The North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences ([www.naturalsciences.org](http://www.naturalsciences.org)) at 11 W. Jones Street accommodates seven nature-inspired exhibits—each with an overlook. Sample hors d’oeuvres by a two-story waterfall, enjoy a cocktail out on the wraparound terrace, admire the glass dome with two tiers of lighting, stroll through a forest, visit live animals and study the world’s only complete *Acrocanthosaurus* dinosaur skeleton.

“No other wedding reception venue in the entire Triangle area offers so many options in one location,” says Heidi Sullivan of Friends of the Museum. “You can overlook the large waterfall or the forest, and have cocktail tables placed right next to the waterfall overlook or look down into the forest. You can dance next to dinosaurs that are thousands of years old, and you can expand your

reception to the lovely outdoors with our outdoor terrace that wraps around the building.”

Many couples choose to host progressive receptions at the museum, Sullivan says, which move from floor to floor. Couples can incorporate exhibits and education programs into their reception to provide a diverse mix of entertainment. The museum also provides an ideal setting for rehearsal dinners and bridesmaid’s luncheons.

Then there’s the chocolate. It just so happens the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences is opening its doors to a savory special exhibit May 9 through Sept. 7. “Chocolate” offers a deliciously unforgettable journey through the sumptuous treat’s history and opens all sorts of doors for incorporating this decadent dessert into the wedding reception menu.

“Chocolate is a fascinating exhibit on the history, culture and science of chocolate, where you can step back in the time of the Aztecs and the Mayans and learn about the uses of chocolate as currency and as a tribute to kings,” Sullivan says. “Many people right now are planning fun chocolate and wine pairings,



PHOTO BY LUSTER STUDIOS—WWW.LUSTERSTUDIOS.COM

chocolate fondue receptions, chocolate and cheese receptions, and chocolate tastings as part of their evening and wedding reception as well.”

Just a few blocks away, Marbles Kids Museum ([www.marbleskidsmuseum.org](http://www.marbleskidsmuseum.org)) at 201 E. Hargett Street, also rents out a diverse selection of wedding ceremony and reception space. “We’ve seen an increase in the number of not just receptions, but also ceremonies people are planning here,” says Deidre Albert, director of marketing for Marbles Kids Museum. “We have so many different kinds of spaces on our campus, couples can do almost anything they want.” Our event staff handles everything.”

>>>

Albert says bands and DJs can set up just about anywhere. The IMAX theater is also available for couples to rent. Imagine relaxing “Under the Sea 3D” after a few hours of dancing to the live band just outside in Venture Hall. Now, that’s different.

**Will You be Sophisticated? We Will.** Couples searching for grand staircases, crystal chandeliers and superior service have plenty of choices right along Fayetteville Street. The refined, polished Capital City Club ([www.capitalraleigh.com](http://www.capitalraleigh.com)) sits atop the Progress Energy



Building on Fayetteville Street, offering wedding parties an exquisite view of Raleigh’s ever-expanding skyline. Beautifully decorated dining rooms seat 250, and accommodate up to 400 guests. Award-winning Executive Chef Michael Lustig and his team of culinary experts ensure a memorable fine dining experience while

the club’s staff manages every detail of the reception. Guests can take advantage of the building’s valet service, take the trolley or hop on a rickshaw to return to their hotel when the festivities are over.

Just three blocks down Fayetteville Street on the 28th and 29th floors of the Wachovia Building, the Cardinal Club ([www.cardinal-club.com](http://www.cardinal-club.com)) offers yet another breathtaking panorama of the Raleigh skyline, as well as a grand staircase and elegant dining rooms equipped with fine furnishings and stunning chandeliers. Couples can embellish their event with ice carvings and floral centerpieces, and guests have convenient access to a public parking garage across the street. The Cardinal Club is perfect for receptions or rehearsal dinners, and accommodates up to 500 people.

The new Raleigh Marriott City Center ([www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/rdumc-raleigh-marriott-city-center](http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/rdumc-raleigh-marriott-city-center)), also on Fayetteville Street, connects to the new convention center, which is right in the center of everything. The hotel’s grand ballroom accommodates up to 1,000 guests and couples can add signature ceremony enhancements—from backdrops with



white draping to customized monogram lighting. Outdoor ceremony venues are also available.

Catering options range from dramatic buffets to elegant multi-course meals, and certified wedding planners are available to help couples plan and execute every detail of their ceremony and/or reception. Cherry dance floors, specialty linens, customized place cards, and an extravagant honeymoon suite equipped with champagne, chocolate covered strawberries and breakfast in bed are just a few of the amenities Marriott offers brides and grooms to ensure a memorable wedding experience.

The Sheraton Capital Center ([www.starwoodhotels.com](http://www.starwoodhotels.com)) at 421 South Salisbury Street in downtown Raleigh offers several wedding reception packages and menus to choose from. Elegant dining spaces, well appointed guest rooms and convenient access to the heart of downtown Raleigh makes this popular hotel an even more popular wedding reception venue.

**You May Now Kiss the Photographer, Florist, DJ, Caterer, Bartender and Wedding Coordinator** Wrapping up all of those little extra wedding-planning details is really just as important as ironing out the big ones. That’s why many couples are turning to one-stop-shop services that coordinate and manage all the extras.

“Besides our location, we’re using Catering Works ([www.cateringworks.com](http://www.cateringworks.com)) to handle pretty much everything,” Evans says. “They can do flowers, DJ, food... We chose them because we are both busy and didn’t want to have to shop around for a lot of other vendors—and their food is awesome.”

And that’s really what it all comes down to for most couples: focus on the most important details, and then simplify the rest. It can make a seemingly overwhelming task an enjoyable experience that may be just as memorable as the wedding itself.

*Elizabeth Shugg is a local freelance writer and editor. Learn more at [www.elizabethshugg.com](http://www.elizabethshugg.com)*



*To save you time and effort, the staff at Raleigh Down-towner Magazine has compiled an extensive list of wedding venues, shops and services in and around downtown. Below you’ll find the categories included and a brief description. Visit our website to view the complete list of over 150 wedding-related businesses and their contact information: [www.raleighdowntowner.com/wedding](http://www.raleighdowntowner.com/wedding)*

**Venues** From churches and historic homesites to museums and sophisticated hotels, downtown Raleigh offers a wide range of venue options for your wedding day. Many of these locations accommodate ceremony and reception space for the bride and groom who opt to host their festivities in one location.



PHOTO BY MEGAN KIME PHOTOGRAPHY - WWW.MEGANKIME.COM

**Music** Whether you hire a band or DJ for your reception, the person in charge of the tunes also plays an integral role in running the reception. “We not only play music, but we direct the flow of the event on the mic and behind the scenes,” says Joe Bunn, owner of Joe Bunn DJ Company.

The music itself extends the wedding’s theme and serves as a soundtrack to the married couple’s relationship. It doesn’t matter if the first dance is to “Always and Forever” by Heatwave or “Open Arms” by Journey, as long as it represents the bride and groom’s love for and commitment to each other.

**Bridal and Formal Wear** Romantic, floor-length wedding dress styles remain popular for 2009, with champagne, pink and platinum beginning to upstage traditional white and ivory dresses. Designers are choosing flowing, soft fabrics like chiffon, tulle and lace; and popular accessories include satin sashes, ruffled hems, cubic zirconia bodices and delicate floral details.

Claire Pettibone, known for her lacy bridal gowns, created a line of wedding cake-inspired dresses this year. She iced her “Charlotte” dress with floral embroidered tulle overlay, ribbon-tie straps and a pearl neckline—perfect for a garden wedding. Vera Wang’s new collection maintains her self-described “easy, fun and relaxed” style, while one Priscilla of Boston cotton faille ballgown-style dress features a corset-seamed bodice, pleated skirt and Swarovski crystal mesh belt.

Shorter veils and elegant shawls are popular this year, and top jewelry choices include crystal brooches, pearls, rhinestones and crystals.

Grooms can’t go wrong with a single-breasted, solid color suit in black, grey or navy blue. Light-weight worsted wools are perfect spring and summer weddings, while heavier gabardine wools are better for fall and winter. Popular tuxedo designers include After Six, Oscar de la Renta, Andrew Fezza, Geoffrey Beene, Fubu, Perry Ellis and Lord West Black.

**Flowers** Not surprisingly, roses remain the most popular wedding flower, but lilies, hydrangeas, peonies, orchids and tulips are also popping out of 2009

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"A quantum leap for  
Chef David Mao and the city."  
*Southern Living Magazine*



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bouquets. Today's brides like to dress up hand-tied bouquets with beads, brooches, jewel pins, pearls, monogrammed satin ribbons and crystal or rhinestone picks. Other embellishments include shells, starfish, feathers, berries and pinecones, thanks to the continuing popularity of beach- and garden-themed weddings. But looser bouquets with a more casual, "just-picked" look



PHOTO BY LUSTER STUDIOS—WWW.LUSTERSTUDIOS.COM

are edging out the classic ribbon-bound bouquet this year, and more and more mothers are carrying posies as opposed to pinning on a traditional corsage.

**Food** Many of today's brides and grooms are hosting multi-course seated dinner receptions preceded by a succession of small plates, rather than the standard three-course meal. A trend toward soup shooters, mini mac-and-cheese cups, one-bite salads and other tiny treats might prelude the main meal, and quality wines and champagnes may be served in lieu of cocktails—although cocktail receptions before dinner are still en vogue. Sushi stations are all the rage and entrees made with locally grown, organic produce are being requested.

As for the cake, couples are asking for handmade icing flowers, shells, starfish, scrollwork and other

delicate details. Lemon, chocolate, carrot, spice and white cakes with buttercream or smooth fondant frostings are among the most common choices, but a more unique trend is to adapt a wedding dress style to a cake. For example, a three-tiered cake in iridescent white fondant, silver ribbon trim and a crystal monogram topper nicely emulates Badgley Mischka's Spring 2009 bridal collection. Adorn the sides of a cake with a scalloped pearl trim and wide fondant satin sash for a Vera Wang-style cake.

**Wedding Coordinators** Will the church flowers match the table centerpieces? Does the caterer offer chocolate tastings, and will there be enough rickshaws to transport your guests from the ceremony to the reception? Let a wedding coordinator save you from the stress of worrying about all of those extra details. They'll take

care of the big-ticket items, like booking the reception hall, and also make sure the ice carving of your first pet together is anatomically correct. Here's our list of certified downtown wedding coordinators. Let one of these professionals handle all of those extras for you.

**Photographers** You gaze into your new husband's eyes, then bend down to kiss your flower girl just before walking down the aisle to greet your guests. You're sure your photographer caught that precious moment on camera, and can't wait to see all of the other memories he captured.

Visiting a photographer's website can offer insight into his or her style and experience.

**Transportation** Couples planning a downtown Raleigh wedding have transportation options that go way beyond the typical limousine. Infuse a little hometown flavor into your celebration by hailing a Raleigh Rickshaw or chartering a trolley for transporting your guests to and from the ceremony and reception. Parking garages are plentiful downtown and can be wrapped into reception packages at some of the larger venues, such as the new Raleigh Marriott City Center or Sheraton Capital Center. 

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**JUNE**

Michael Feinstein: The Sinatra Project ..... Saturday, June 13  
Standing in for the NC Symphony 7:30 pm

Elvis Costello & the Sugarcanes ..... Sunday, June 14  
7:30 pm

**JULY**

John Legend ..... Sunday, July 12

Robert Cray Band ..... Thursday, July 23

**AUGUST**

O.A.R. .... Sunday, August 23

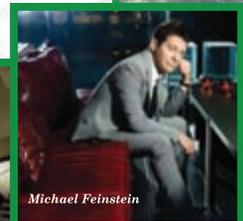
**SEPTEMBER**

Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Benefit Concert II ..... Sunday, September 6

**OCTOBER**

Bonnie Raitt ..... Sunday, October 18

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



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&  
**NC Symphony Summerfest**  
SATURDAYS in JUNE & JULY!



See [www.boothamphitheatre.com](http://www.boothamphitheatre.com) for complete schedule!

# Rusted Root and The Rosebuds Headline Band Together Benefit Concert

**B**and Together NC, a nonprofit organization, has announced its ninth annual concert event that will help raise awareness and funds for The Lucy Daniels Center for Early Childhood, a local organization that helps children live emotionally healthy lives.



This concert event will take place on Saturday, June 6th, from 6pm to 11pm in front of the Lincoln Theatre in downtown Raleigh. Doors will open at 5pm. The evening will feature a number of well-known bands including Rusted Root, The Rosebuds, Chatham County

Line and a late night first come, first serve party with Hobex. More than 3,000 fans attended last year's event to enjoy live music in a social atmosphere. VIP attendees enjoyed catered food and drinks, door prizes and networking opportunities.

In the eight years since its creation, Band Together has raised almost \$600,000 for local charities from contributing sponsors and ticket sales. This year's presenting sponsor is Cargill. For a current list of all sponsors, visit [www.bandtogethernc.org](http://www.bandtogethernc.org). "In addition to Cargill being our presenting sponsor, we're also very appreciative of our media sponsors like the Raleigh Down-towner for donating ad space as well as covering the event to help increase attendance," said Danny Rosin, president and co-founder of Band Together NC. "Band Together NC has a goal to raise awareness and funds for



select local charity organizations. Our event will be a success because of the support from our community, the talented musicians and our phenomenal volunteers. We are looking forward to raising the bar this year for the children of The Lucy Daniels Center with the community's help."

Tickets for the event can be purchased in advance for \$20 or on show day for \$25. VIP tickets are \$125. Event attendees must be 21 years or older.

To purchase tickets, or for more information on the event, visit their website at [www.bandtogethernc.org](http://www.bandtogethernc.org).

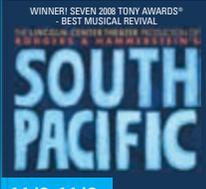


STRAIGHT FROM BROADWAY

# BROADWAY

09/10

## S E R I E S   S O U T H

 <p><b>JERSEY BOYS</b></p> <p>6/24-7/18</p> <p>SEASON SUBSCRIBER WEEK: JUN 30-JUL 5</p>	 <p>WINNER! SEVEN 2008 TONY AWARDS® - BEST MUSICAL REVIVAL</p> <p><b>SOUTH PACIFIC</b></p> <p>11/3-11/8</p>	 <p><b>Cirque Dreams HOLIDAY</b></p> <p>12/1-12/6</p>	 <p><b>XANADU</b></p> <p>2/9-2/14</p>	 <p><b>Little House on the Prairie</b> <i>The Musical</i></p> <p>3/16-3/21</p>	 <p><b>Riverdance</b></p> <p>5/4-5/9</p>
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## WRITERS WANTED

The Raleigh Downtowner Magazine is searching for contributing writers for our new website launching this summer. If you're passionate about any of the topics below, or have another idea for a column, send us an email to [writers@raleighdowntowner.com](mailto:writers@raleighdowntowner.com).

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# RALEIGH DOWNTOWNER MAGAZINE

## Sitti BY BRIAN ADORNETTO

From the full-length windows which give you a front row view of downtown activity, to the refreshing flavors of lemon, mint, and sumac used to season the food (more on that later), Sitti (pronounced Se-thee) is a welcome breath of fresh air in the midst of Raleigh's bustling epicenter.

Longtime Raleigh real estate developer Greg Hatem and the Saleh family of Neomonde fame have joined together in refurbishing the historic Heilig-Levine building, transforming it into an authentic Lebanese restaurant with "local influences." Sitti, Lebanese for grandmother, is stylishly furnished complete with an original 1930s art deco bar from Chicago that has been beautifully restored to its Golden Era glory. In the center of the main dining room sits a large communal table, the top carved from Lebanese cedar, resting on a base once located in the United States Library of Congress. Also displayed in the dining room are several ornate hookahs,

Middle Eastern water pipes for smoking, and an entire wall of historic family portraits from both Hatem and Saleh families. As enticing as the main dining room is, the restaurant also boasts a wonderful urban courtyard (which can be heated in winter and complete with a stage area for live music), perfect for al fresco dining or



a private gathering. There is also a hidden dining room tucked away in the quaint downstairs basement, perfect for a business meeting or birthday party.

The menu may at first seem slightly daunting due to the Lebanese names given to many of the selections. However, general manager Todd Henderson has successfully trained his staff not only in the important art of hospitality but also in translating, explaining and teaching the pronunciation needed to help guests enjoy all that Sitti has to offer. For example, as we sampled the warm, bilowy homemade pita and aromatic dipping sauce, our friendly and enthusiastic server, Christy, adeptly helped us navigate our menus which were broken into cold and hot mezze (small plates similar to Spanish tapas), soups, salads, entrees, pizzettes (house-made flat breads with toppings), and homemade desserts.

While Sitti's menu features traditional recipes from each of the owners' families,



Chef Ghassan Jarrouj's experience and traveled background helps keep the food exciting and relevant by interlacing both modern and local sensibilities. Born just outside of Beirut in the Bekaa Valley, Chef Ghassan has lived in several major U.S. cities, cooking in French, Italian and American restaurants. He has also worked as the private chef for the U.S. Ambassador to Lebanon.

We followed the opening basket of pita bread with a feast of mezze selections. High on our list were the Cheese Rolls—gruyere and Parmigiano-filled crepes, rolled and fried until golden brown and

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seasoned with a touch of mint. They were light, crispy, and intensely addictive. Bathed in a bright sauce of lemon, white wine, shaved garlic, and cilantro, the Graides (Lebanese for shrimp) were tender, moist, and one of the most popular hot mezze among our group.

The Laban bi Khiar (Lebanon's answer to Greek Tzatziki) is a favorite of Sitti regulars as a condiment for their pita but we found it to be the perfect accompaniment for our marinated and masterfully char-grilled Lamb Chop mezze. We also enjoyed the citrusy pan-seared salmon, marinated in fresh herbs and Lebanese spices and served with a refreshing yogurt sauce.

For our next course, we had the Sitti Salad (romaine lettuce with tomatoes, cucumbers, and surprising mint vinaigrette) and the Goat Cheese and Orange Salad with mixed greens, dates, and walnuts tossed with a lemon vinaigrette. The mint vinaigrette received rave reviews but the goat cheese salad stole the show. It was wonderfully balanced with sweet,

tart, creamy, and crunchy elements. The salad was just one of many selections available for our vegetarian-dining friends.

Among our favorite entrees were the Fattah with Lamb and the Chicken Kabobs. The Fattah, braised and shredded lamb served over rice studded with pine nuts and crisp phyllo shards and drizzled with garlic whipped yogurt, was superb. The textures and flavors played off one another perfectly and it was one of the many appetizing highlights of the night. The Kabobs included juicy char-grilled medallions of marinated chicken served with zesty pickled red onions, scrumptious, cloud-like garlic whip and the inspiring Sitti rice with roasted almonds and sumac. For those who haven't been exposed to the spice, sumac is a fruity tart-flavored seasoning made from the dried brick-red colored berries of the sumac shrub common in the Middle East and southeast Europe



(not to be confused with the poisonous North American Sumac, but the two plants are related). This spice is used in many sauces, spice blends and marinades and

is considered essential for cooking in much of the Middle East.

If chocolate is your pleasure, don't miss the Chocolate Fondant, a warm gooey chocolate cake served with old-fashioned real vanilla bean ice cream. If you're feeling a bit more adventurous, Sitti's Baklava is deliciously sweet and buttery. It's wonderful for sharing and pairs well with an after-dinner cup of Larry's Beans fragrant coffee.

Whether you sit at a table near the windows and watch Raleigh pass by or dine al fresco in the courtyard, Sitti is a welcoming, elegant yet affordable, fun and romantic restaurant with fresh flavorful food. Pick almost anything on the menu and you won't be disappointed. 🍴

*Our favorite local foodie, Fred Benton, is taking some time off from his Food Editor position at the Downtowner. Local chef, culinary instructor, and freelance food writer, Brian Adornetto is helping out during Fred's absence. He teaches regularly at A Southern Season in Chapel Hill and his business, Love at First Bite, specializes in private cooking classes and intimate dinner parties. For more information, please visit him at [www.loveatfirstbite.net](http://www.loveatfirstbite.net).*



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LOCAL HISTORY

# Outdoor Recreation in Early Raleigh

BY JENNY LITZELMAN, RALEIGH CITY MUSEUM

As the days continue to warm, stay light longer and we all feel the effects of pollen on our sinuses, we are pleasantly reminded that spring is upon us. Spring and summer is a beautiful time in Raleigh. We emerge from winter hibernation and find ourselves exploring local parks and outdoor venues in an effort to soak up the beautiful changing of the seasons. Cultural events such as outdoor concerts, charity walks and art festivals are just a few examples of how Raleigh citizens have fun in the sun.

Outdoor recreation is as old as the city itself. Early recreation included fireworks, public dances and hunting. Hunting not only provided entertainment, but was also a vital source for food. After the Civil War, however, Raleigh experienced a wave of new outdoor entertainment that revolutionized the city and introduced amusements now considered city staples.



rollercoaster three quarters of a mile long. Part of Bloomsbury Park's appeal was simply getting there. People hopped on streetcars and found the transportation as exciting as the park itself.

In addition to public parks, music, dances, and theater performances engaged post-Civil War audiences in Raleigh as well. Often outdoor concerts and dances took place at parks. The "two step" came to Raleigh in 1880 and as the city moved into the twentieth century, new dances such as the "shimmy" and "cheek dance" erupted onto the scene, alarming older generations. Dancing was not the only subject of controversy as theatrical renditions of *Uncle Tom's Cabin* upset some audiences in 1904.

An outgrowth of theatrical performances came in the form of vaudeville acts in the last decade of the nineteenth century. Vaudeville performances took place at Pullen Park and many people considered the acts very controversial. The first documented performance was with the Cyrene Company in 1899. Despite the immense popularity of the shows, some people still regarded them as "vulgar" and "immoral." The shows, however, increased business for the local streetcars as they carried audiences to and from performances.

Less controversial, but still very exciting, was the arrival of circuses in Raleigh. Much like the vaudeville performances, circuses provided not only entertainment, but also economic benefits to the city. People enjoyed circuses so much that children often got a day off from school when

the circus came to town. Various groups came to Raleigh including Barnum and Bailey's Greatest Show on Earth, Wallace Circus and Sells Brothers and Forepaugh. Wallace Circus introduced Raleigh to the concept of a three-ring circus with simultaneous acts. Circuses were massive undertakings. Some groups had over 1,000 performers and Sells Brothers and Forepaugh had 420 trained elephants.

Circuses, much like public parks and other outdoor amusements, provided people with a chance to relax and escape from the everyday stresses of life. Outdoor recreation today is not so different from 100 years ago. People still enjoy activities such as the circus and theater at Pullen Park. While Raleigh's outdoor recreation has no doubt become more modern, the same basic principle of having fun in the sun remains. ☀



Roller Coaster  
Bloomsbury Park  
Raleigh, NC

Public parks received a facelift at the turn of the twentieth century. Public spaces such as Bloomsbury Park opened in 1912 and had a carousel, dance pavilion, boating pond, penny arcade, and a

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. Check out our newest exhibit, **Portraits of Raleigh: Images of a City and Her People**, which opened to the public March 6, 2009. Part two of **Portraits of Raleigh**, titled **Series II**, opens to the public Friday, June 5, 2009 at 6pm. Hosted in conjunction with First Friday, this opening reception will include live music, drinks, appetizers, and spectacular images of our capital city. If you have any questions, please call 919-832-3775 or check out our website at [www.raleighcitymuseum.org](http://www.raleighcitymuseum.org).



PHOTOS—Left: Boys waiting for the rollercoaster at Bloomsbury Park. Top: Streetcars were an exciting method of transportation used at the turn of the twentieth century



Be sure to read the next issue of the Raleigh Downtowner for our "Summer Guide" full of great events, entertainment and ideas for fun this summer.

# Cameron Park

HISTORIC DOWNTOWN NEIGHBORHOODS: PART 5 *of 7* BY CHRIS MOUTOS

It's interesting how the city planners and developers of early 20th century Raleigh had the forethought to provide efficient and convenient modes of transit to what was considered its burgeoning suburbs. Aside from servicing the original core of downtown Raleigh, streetcars began service to the Oakwood and Mordecai areas for commuting.

Around 1910, the lands of the Duncan Cameron Plantation on the western side of downtown Raleigh were purchased for development for what was slated as a "streetcar suburb" designed to attract middle-class residents who could commute to the city and work. This area became known as Cameron Park and is an area bounded by Peace and Clark Streets to the north, St. Mary's Street to the east, Hillsborough Street to the south and Oberlin Road to the west. University Park has borders contiguous to Cameron Park.

The developers were so confident about the success of this development that the deeds for the lots contained a restrictive covenant that any house constructed would have a minimum cost of \$3,000. The result was a mix of colonial revivals, craftsman and bungalow-style homes built on rolling hills and around creeks with a mix of open spaces. Not immune from the suburbanization era of the 1950's and 1960's, many of the homes in Cameron Park were subdivided into apartments and boarding houses.

On the southern end of Cameron Park is St. Mary's School, founded



in the Episcopalian tradition in 1842. The school encompasses a 23-acre campus located west of Hillsborough and St. Mary's Streets. It is the seventh largest boarding and day school for girls in the country for grades 9 through 12.

Most notably adjacent to Cameron Park is North Carolina State University which was founded in 1887 as the North Carolina College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts. The first class of 72 students began in 1889 with one building and six faculty members. For years, people referred to it as "State College" and the Board of Trustees officially voted to rename the school in the early 1900's. The name change made sense since the curriculums had expanded to include schools of education, science, engineering, business and textiles. The success of State College continued in the decades that followed with the creation of the schools of design, social sciences, physical science, mathematics, veterinary and forestry and the more identifiable name North Carolina State University was adopted. Today over 31,000 students and 8,000 faculty and staff meander among its more than 700 buildings on campus.

The growing population of the downtown "suburbs" necessitated the need for more educational facilities. In 1929, the Wiley Grammar School and architecturally significant Broughton High School were opened.

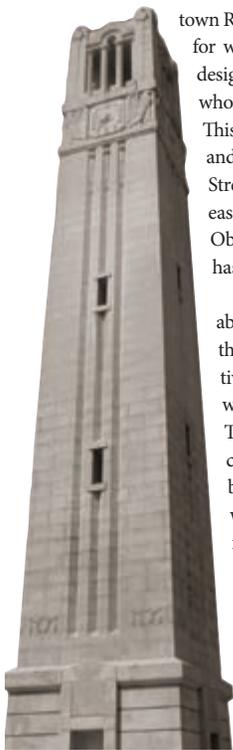
The convenience of Cameron Village on the northern side of Cameron Park began with a vision shared by J.W. York and R.A. Bryan. In 1947, they purchased approximately 158 acres to provide residential living and shopping services close at hand. When the first three stores and single restaurant opened in 1949, it was considered the first open-air shopping center between Washington, D.C. and Atlanta, Georgia. By the 1950's, there were about 65 stores and businesses in Cameron Village. Today, that number tops



over one hundred and Cameron Village remains the premier retail shopping destination near downtown Raleigh. ■

Chris can be reached for comment (and sales inquiries!) at [chris@raleighdowntowner.com](mailto:chris@raleighdowntowner.com).

PHOTOS Left: The definitive symbol of NCSU, the Belltower. Center: Cameron Park Inn. Right: St. Mary's School.



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WAKE COUNTY

# Cashmere and Noir Move into Glenwood South

**Cashmere** Two new bars will be hitting Glenwood South just in time for summer. Opening first will be Cashmere. Housed in the old April & George space at 410 Glenwood Avenue, co-owner Brandon Klintworth (of the Warehouse District's ESS Lounge) decided to completely redesign the interior to give the bar a new personality. Inside, there are new contemporary square leather couch/ottomans and curved booths with hanging silk strand dividers. The bar top has been redone in dark granite and the bar wall is backlit through thin-sheared marble squares. The columns and base of the bar are embossed in a faux copper-colored alligator pattern and in the back of the bar you'll find two glass and stainless steel waterfalls that had a previous life in Prime Only just a few blocks north on West Jones Street (more on what's moving into that space in our next issue).



comfortable and upscale feel that the lounge exudes and upon taking a poll, he decided to adopt a no smoking policy inside. Cashmere will be open Monday through Saturday and will feature nightly specials on wines and over 50 flavored martinis plus half-priced discounts on appetizers. The menu offerings include mostly tapas but will also feature special selections from their international chef. Acoustic music will provide a relaxed ambience throughout the week and various local DJs will be spinning more upbeat music on the weekends. Cashmere will open its doors in late May and there are no memberships and never a cover charge.

Visit their website for more information [www.cashmereraleigh.com](http://www.cashmereraleigh.com). Type in cashmere on the bottom of the Raleigh Downtowner's website for more preview photos of Cashmere: [www.raleigh2.com](http://www.raleigh2.com)

Brandon designed the colors, style and warmth of Cashmere for the fairer sex in hopes they'll take pleasure in the

**Noir Bar & Lounge** Opening in late June, Noir will sit to the right of Solas across from Sullivans, in the old Capital

Electronics building owned by ex-Hurricane Bates Battaglia's father, known locally as "Mr. B." The bar/lounge will feature velvet curtains throughout, exposed brick walls and black crystal chandeliers. The handmade wood bar will line the left wall, with leather and velvet couches scattered throughout. There will be a VIP area in the back near the DJ. Like many new bars in the area, smoking will only be allowed outside. There will not be a dress code per se, but fashionable attire is appreciated on the weekends.

Noir was the brainchild of Matt Kenner and his wife Alma after spotting what they think is a niche market open in the Glenwood South area. Matt describes Noir as a "European chic style lounge" and plans to be open Tuesday through Saturday, attracting a diverse crowd with varied music and specials on different nights. Matt's experience in nightlife originated in South Beach where he worked for the legendary Liquid and Tantra bars. Moving to the Triangle in

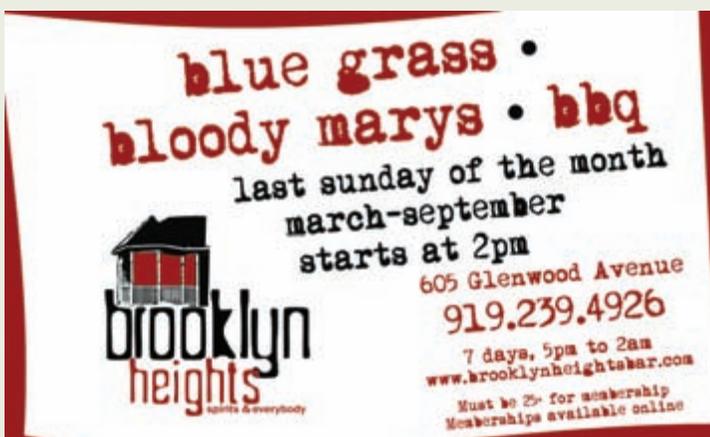
2003 to work for IBM, he stayed in the area, now working for a major telecommunications company. His wife Alma does marketing for an engineering firm and is co-owner of Noir.

Matt turned to longtime Orlando Florida pal Reid Miller when looking for someone to manage Noir. Reid had been a bar manager in the panhandle state for several years, also working as a DJ and project manager for commercial real estate and land developers in the area.

There will not be a cover charge at Noir except for special events. Memberships are currently being offered free on their website, [www.noirbarlounge.com](http://www.noirbarlounge.com) for a limited time before their grand opening this summer. VIP memberships



are also available and gain free access for the card holder and three friends for all events, priority entry on busy nights and free valet parking Wednesday through Saturday. The VIP memberships are available at a discounted price prior to opening, with a limited number available. ☑



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# Weddings and Wines

BY MATT FERN



Whether you are in the throes of planning a wedding or trying to decide your fate at an upcoming celebration of unity, you should take a few minutes to read the following. Since most of us have either had to go to, be in or participate in the ceremonial sharing of vows, we should all keep in mind the difficulty of planning this event and the etiquette of attending someone else's party.

Let's start with the planning portion of the program. I should start by throwing out the disclaimer that while I am not a wedding planner nor do I aspire to be one, I do however understand what people like to consume and typically at what rate. In the beginning stages of planning you will categorize your event through a few key components to help your wedding planner or local wine guy figure out the best options available for you (unless you're Donald Trump serving '83 Cristal, '02 Laguiche Montrachet, or '99 Lynchs Bages).

The **number of guests** will be important to know for rather obvious reasons, the **time of the reception** will matter simply because people drink more in the

evening than in the afternoon, the **length of the reception** will determine consumption per hour, the **month** will affect the red/white ratio, the **type of glassware used** will affect how much waste there is, as people tend to set down and leave a plastic cups easier than they would a wine glass, a seated **dinner versus buffet or passed hors d'oeuvres** will affect people's ability to drink as some will drink more with a base of food while others will become full and not want to drink, a **full bar** will simply provide more options for consumption, and if **I am invited** there'd better be some good sparkling wine.

Since budget is the front runner for conversation in our current economic times, here are a few things to consider in stretching your dollar further. Although grocery stores and big box entities offer very competitive prices on mainstream well-known producers, shopping at your local wine retailer will provide you with more variety, a bit more guidance and a substantial case discount to ease the pocketbook pain a little. Enter Seaboard Wine plug here.

Figure out how much of a selection you would like to have, keeping in mind the more offered the harder the decision

becomes. In most cases one red, one white and a sparkling wine will suffice. Many times at Seaboard we will run into someone that wants to have a few bottles of something sweet on hand to appease the sweet tooth drinkers. This isn't a bad idea as long you don't try to make too many exceptions. Since I fall into the category of having the tastes of Donald Trump but the bank account of a Wal-Mart employee, I would make certain that my wedding would have a few choice bottles of wine for me, my bride and the wedding party. Knowing my friends, a few bottles of whiskey and a keg of Stroh's should work just fine.

Choosing wines for the wedding can prove to be a daunting task as well, simply due to the fact that there are 8,000 varieties of grapes to choose from. That being said, since it's impossible to make everyone happy, deal with it. There are, however, wines which are more suited for a diverse crowd. Choose a wine that has broad appeal, a white with good fruit and balanced acidity, perhaps one of the lesser known varietals such as Orvieto from Italy. When it comes to red wine, choose one with enough of a backbone that red wine drinkers won't be offended, but one that won't leave you feel

like you have "sweaters on your teeth," such as a Malbec from Argentina. If you will be having a sparkling wine for the toast, try to avoid one that you would normally reserve for putting in mimosas. Granted much of this will be tossed aside after the celebratory words uttered by your sauced-up



PHOTO: CRAIG CARPENTER, LUSTER STUDIOS WWW.LUSTERSTUDIOS.COM (919) 951-9196

brother, but there will be a few people like me that will be more than happy drinking the bubbly all night long.

Congratulations to those who are getting ready to make the leap this spring/summer and here's to a long and happy life together. Cheers! 🍷

*Matt Fern is a journeyman in the restaurant and wine business who can be found schlepping wine at Seaboard Wine Warehouse and slinging Macaroni au Gratin at Pool's Downtown Diner. Matt can be reached for comment at [uncorked@raleighdowntowner.com](mailto:uncorked@raleighdowntowner.com)*

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Nick Hagelin and Quentin Jones performing at Black Flower

Adam and Cindy Cave at Adam Cave Gallery on First Friday



Rob, Adam and Cliff up to no good on the Solas rooftop

Top Chef hosts CJ Jacobson, Carla Hall at the NC Farmers Market



Fashion show at Sullivan's Steakhouse with Mr. Albert Designs, hair by Bottega



Soon-to-be-new Glenwood South club Noir co-owners Matt and Alma with manager Reid

# AROUNDTOWNAROUNDTOWNAROUNDTOWN

Brian Williams of Strut 09 & Kaylee Schatz, Mrs. NC 2009



Sam Fisher and band at Deep South the Bar

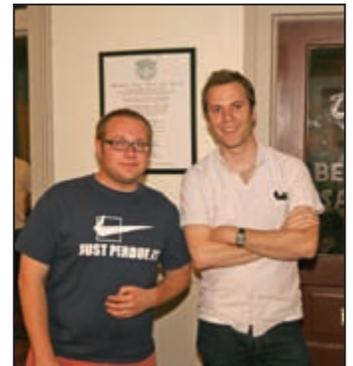


Tift Merritt and Crash Gregg

The great staff at Sitti: Helen, Christy, Helena, and Hanan



Ron tending bar at Black Flower on Cancer Awareness Night



Barden and Greg Behr at First Friday

Photos in this section are from The Mahler Art Gallery grand opening downtown with Tift Merritt



# AROUNDTOWN**AROUND**TOWNAROUNDTOWN

Photos in this section from the parade honoring NC Fallen Firefighters. Their names were named etched into the Fallen Firefighters Memorial in Nash Square



# Downtown Restaurateur Plans Even Bigger St. Baldrick's Events for 2010

BY SHARON DELANEY MCCLLOUD

Even though this year's all day shave-a-thon at the Hibernian Irish Restaurant and Bar was one of the largest in the world this year, owner Niall Hanley has set his sights on making it even bigger



in 2010. More than 400 volunteer "shavees" stepped up to the shears at events Hanley hosted at his Irish pubs in downtown Raleigh and Cary this past February and March, raising \$215,000 in the process. "This is the 'every man's' charity. It doesn't matter if you have five dollars to give or five hundred," said Hanley. Everyone can get involved in some aspect as a shaver, barber or volunteer. I'm thrilled to be part of St. Baldrick's and I hope the momentum continues in the Triangle for years to come."

The success of the St. Baldrick's events in the Triangle can be attributed to the dozens of volunteers like Hanley. In fact, the St. Baldrick's Foundation considers the Triangle area a hot-bed for head shavings as more than 1042 men, women and children bravely shaved their heads bald during the last three months to raise awareness and funds to find a cure for pediatric cancer, the number one disease killer of kids in North America. At this point, the Triangle metro area has raised more than \$430,000 with donations still coming in.

Some of the more notable "shavees" this year included four members of the Carolina Hurricanes. Niclas Wallin, Dennis Seidenberg, Ryan Bayda, and Tripp Tracy all are sporting newly shorn heads and helping spread the mission of St. Baldrick's. "It's a no-brainer and we're happy to do it. The Carolina Hurricanes are committed to supporting non-profit organizations like St. Baldrick's,"

remarked Tracy, television analyst for the Canes. Honoring his father's life was the main motivation for local business owner Jerry Nowell of Nowell's Furniture to lose his locks. "I haven't had cancer, nor have my children, but at the young age of 66, it took my father's life in 1984. We were close, and I used to wear the loss on my sleeve. St. Baldrick's is a wonderful way to quietly, and with a bit of humor, honor my Dad, offer a symbolic show of support, and raise much-needed funds for children and their families who are touched by cancer," said Nowell. Several parents of kids who have undergone treatment for cancer also shaved their heads to show solidarity to their children who lost their hair as a result of chemotherapy. One of those parents was Diane Moore, mother of Colleen Moore of Raleigh who died of bone cancer last June when she was just 9 years old. "I was worried that I would cry when I had my own head shaved. I actually ended up shedding the most tears while watching Elizabeth, one of our neighbors, have her long hair cut (for locks of love) and then her head shaved in honor of Colleen.

She was the top fund raiser for the school (Magellan Charter School) by raising over \$2,000 for the event. I was really proud of her and touched by her act of love and kindness," said Diane.

Since its inception in 2000, St. Baldrick's has raised more than \$60 million for the cause. Worldwide, 160,000 kids are diagnosed with cancer each year and despite tremendous progress, cancer remains the number one disease killer of children in the U.S. and Canada. St. Baldrick's began as a challenge among friends and has grown into the world's largest fundraising event for childhood cancer. Because treatment typically given to kids causes their hair to fall out,



volunteers are recruited to have their heads shaved in public in return for pledges of financial support. Participants find that shaving their head is a small sacrifice in comparison to what these children endure, and want to raise money to help find a cure for children with cancer now and in the future. ☑

To find out how you can get involved with the St. Baldrick's Foundation, visit [www.StBaldricks.org](http://www.StBaldricks.org). Sharon can be reached for comment at [info@mccloudcommunications.net](mailto:info@mccloudcommunications.net).

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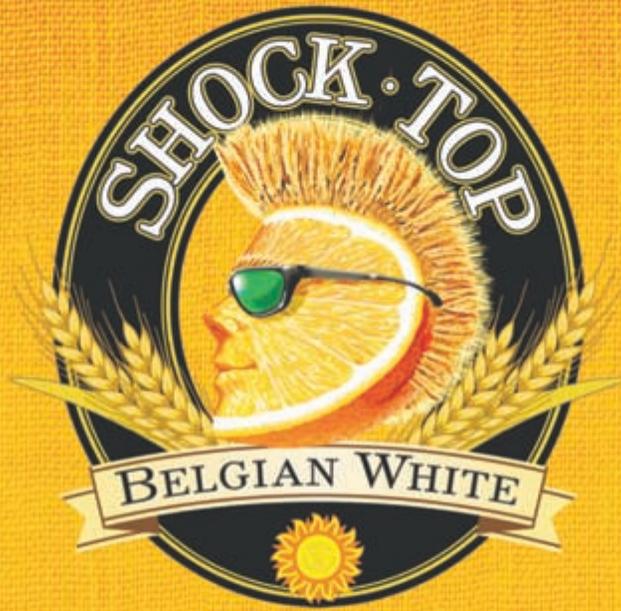
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## Mecca Restaurant BY BRIAN ADORNETTO, Contributing Food Writer



Friendly, nostalgic and inexpensive, it's easy to see why the third generation, family-owned Mecca Restaurant has been a Raleigh institution for 79 years and counting. From the black diner-style countertop with red and white stools, to the black and white tile checkered floor, you will be greeted by smiling faces and feel as though you have entered a living time capsule. After all, it is the oldest continually run family-owned restaurant in North Carolina.

In addition to the old-fashioned booths and diner stools in the main restaurant, Mecca also has a large dining area upstairs which can accommodate larger groups or providing seating for their frequent overflow of customers. Wherever you sit, you'll be sure to hear spirited

discussions of politics, basketball and Hurricanes hockey with the occasional ubiquitous conversation over weather.



*Floye has been a part of Mecca since 1952 after the restaurant was passed on from her father-in-law Nick Dombalis. She still helps her son Paul at the restaurant today.*

With its classic diner look and a true southern menu, Mecca has been serving State Supreme Court Justices, politicians, lawyers, construction workers, and everyday downtown folks since Nick Dombalis first opened the doors in 1930. Twenty-two years later, Nick's son and daughter-in-law, John and Floye, took over the restaurant and ran it side-by-side until 1990. Since then, John and Floye's son Paul has been running Mecca and Floye still works the antique register with a warm smile and stories to tell if you ask her when it's not too busy.

For breakfast, Mecca offers hearty egg platters and made-from-scratch biscuit sandwiches as well as pancakes and omelets. You'll

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be hard-pressed to decide which to choose as they are all extremely popular.

At lunch, the menu changes to crisp fresh salads, homemade soups, hot and cold sandwiches, and entrees that consist of Southern specialties and a few Mediterranean standards. Sandwiches are served with a side of chips and the daily special entrees come with two sides, hot bread, and coffee or sweet tea (always served classic Southern style from the pitcher). Perennial Mecca favorites include New England Clam Chowder, Chopped Sirloin Burgers, Barbecue Pork, Fried Chicken, Italian Spaghetti, and Homemade Lasagna.

Be sure to leave room for dessert because Mecca is also known for its homemade pies and cobblers which change often. If there's still room for more, don't forget to ask for it ala mode!

If you're looking for a fast, friendly, and filling lunch

that is more than reasonably priced, Mecca is your place. You can be in and out with a full belly and a smile on your face in less than thirty minutes, although we recommend staying a bit longer to take in the charm of times gone by. Wander through the restaurant and take a look at many photos of family, government officials and actors.

The Downtowner's publisher, Crash Gregg, summed it up perfectly while we were there: "When we walked through the front door, I felt like we'd stepped back in time 50 years. And what we found inside was good old-fashioned Southern charm and plenty of easy-to-eat inexpensive comfort food." 🍴

*Brian Adornetto is a culinary instructor, freelance food writer, and personal chef. He teaches regularly at A Southern Season in Chapel Hill and his business, Love at First Bite, specializes in private cooking classes and intimate dinner parties. For more information, please visit him at [www.loveatfirstbite.net](http://www.loveatfirstbite.net).*

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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 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 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. Elizabeth is a UNC student working part time for Deep South and the Downtown Live concert series. She is also managing Lucid Talent Agency, a booking agency for local and regional talent.



### Elysium

Album: *Elysium*—EP  
Genre: Alternative/Crunk/Rock  
[www.myspace.com/elysiumnc](http://www.myspace.com/elysiumnc)

With influences including Incubus, Disturbed, KISS and an assortment of 70's rockers, this group knows how to get a crowd going. And Elysium—made up of Wesley Moore (vocals), Jonathan Toler (drums), Will Peck (bass) and Swinez (guitar)—has done just that in the Triangle and beyond over the past few years.

The band made their live debut on Hardcore Live in Raleigh, a show noted for displaying the best in local talent in 2005. In fall 2007, the group recorded their first radio demo with the help of Grammy nominated producer John Custer, who has worked with the likes of Corrosion of Conformity and Cry of Love. In early 2008, Elysium made their radio debut on 96ROCK. Since then the guys have shared the stage with nationally-signed acts Stereoside and Echovale at Hooligan's in Jacksonville, NC. Just months later, they performed in front of thousands in Moore Square Park at Raleigh Downtown Live, opening for national acts Rev Theory, Saving Abel, Eve 6 and Puddle of Mudd.

Catch them at the Volume 11 Tavern in Raleigh on June 12.



### Vienna Teng

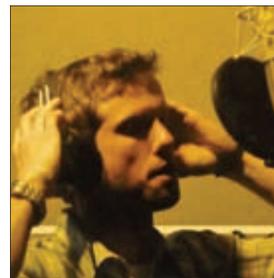
Album: *Inland Territory*  
Genre: Acoustic/Folk/Pop  
[www.myspace.com/viennateng](http://www.myspace.com/viennateng)

A pianist since the age of five and compiling an entire album worth of music by the time she reached 16, Teng has spent much of her life behind the keys. Those keys, however, weren't always black and white or 88 in count. She received her bachelor's in Computer Science at Stanford University before working for Cisco Systems for two years. "These days," she says, "I remember exactly enough to crash whatever computer I'm working on."

Influenced by her parents' record collection (Simon & Garfunkel, James Taylor, Mozart, Beethoven and 60s Mandarin pop) and pianist-songwriters (Elton John, Billy Joel, Tori Amos), Teng released *Inland Territory* in early April. Her fourth album showcases the unique compositions, thought-provoking lyrics and exquisite baseline alto that she has been recognized for over the years.

Teng has been a guest on NBC's *Late Night with David Letterman*, CBS's *Saturday Early Show*, NPR's *Weekend Edition* and CNN's *NewsNight with Aaron Brown*, and opened concerts for Joan Baez, Shawn Colvin and Joan Osborne.

She helped honor the newly-elected Beverly Perdue at the N.C. Governor's Inaugural Ball earlier this year. See her when she returns with the Vienna Teng Trio on May 11 at Lincoln Theatre.



### Jensen Reed

Genre: Alternative/Hip-Hop/Pop  
[www.myspace.com/jensenreed](http://www.myspace.com/jensenreed)

A native of Chapel Hill, Reed has moved on to the big city of Los Angeles. His innovative style provides a fresh break from typical hip-hop today, combining insightful lyrics with sharp songwriting and production.

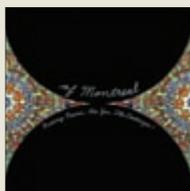
Jensen has performed at numerous sold-out venues in the area as well as opening for Evidence and Dilated Peoples at Santa Monica's Temple Bar and for Pigeon John at The Knitting Factory in Hollywood. Most recently, he reunited with another Triangle native, rap/hip-hop Little Brother from Durham, selling out the Key Club in West Hollywood. Jensen also performed at a major label A&R showcase in Hollywood attended by Capitol, Thrive, Geffen, Interscope, Def Jam, Universal and Warner Brothers representatives.

Not only do we like this guy because he loves music as much as we do, but also because he shares our dislike of Duke basketball. In early March, Jensen Reed's parody video on Duke's Greg Paulus reached 100,000 views on YouTube over a three-day span. This many hits made him the second-most viewed musician on the site, that is, after Britany Spears of course. We suggest you check it out.

## What Gen Y & Z are listening to...

BY ELIZABETH BARRETT  
(Deep South Entertainment)

Wonder what music college and high school 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.



### Of Montreal

Album: *Hissing Fauna, Are You the Destroyer?*  
Genre: Pop  
[www.myspace.com/ofmontreal](http://www.myspace.com/ofmontreal)



### Lykke Li

Album: *Youth Novels*  
Genre: Alternative  
[www.myspace.com/lykkeli](http://www.myspace.com/lykkeli)



### Junior Boys

Album: *Begone Dull Care*  
Genre: Electronic/Pop/Visual  
[www.myspace.com/juniorboys](http://www.myspace.com/juniorboys)



BANDPROFILE

## Kooley High BY DAN STROBEL, MUSIC EDITOR

**Y**ou can't get much more local, in terms of hip-hop, than Raleigh's own Kooley High. Made up of six N.C. State graduates, including two emcees of much-hyped act Inflowential (who supporters will remember as winners of MTV's Best Music on Campus nationwide competition last year) and



a deejay who hosts his own weekly radio show at WKNC 88.1, Kooley High are confidently rising to the top of the hip-hop game in Raleigh.

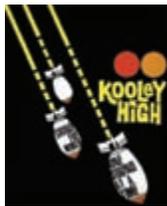
The other three members of the group are no slouches either, with lone female Rapsody signed to Grammy-winning producer and friend of the group 9<sup>th</sup> Wonder's newly conceived JamLa record label and producers Foolery and The Synopsis long-running contributors to the local hip-hop scene.

With all of its members involved in several different projects at any given time, you'd almost be willing to forgive Kooley High if their

concentration wavered. Emcee Charlie Smarts assured me this couldn't be farther from the truth. "Kooley High is a creative outlet that we all take very seriously," he said. "We take part in business related to Kooley High on a daily basis."

Indeed, with the release of two mixtapes and an EP under their belt and plans for the release of their first full-length title *The High Life* due out later this year, it's easy to see Charlie Smarts does not lie. With the seeming lull in activity from Triangle hip-hop groups so far this year, Kooley High's hard work ethic couldn't come at a better time.

When asked about why the local scene seems to be struggling, producer Foolery had a couple of ideas. "I think a lot of the local shows aren't very much fun and that ends up bleeding away from the local support," he said. "To get people out to these shows you have to really make the show an event, there needs to be a good vibe floating through the place the whole night. People go to clubs and music venues because they want to party and socialize. Seven different acts rapping about who-knows-what over sub-par beats is not going to create that type of atmosphere."



By placing an emphasis on the quality of their live shows and consistently releasing quality material (all three of their previous releases have been met with positive critical acclaim), Kooley High hope to ride

the wave *The High Life* will provide tours and venues nationwide.

Borrowing elements in their sound from Triangle legends like The Justus League to more mainstream acts like The Fugees or A Tribe Called Quest, look for Kooley High to pop up in Raleigh and the surrounding areas more often as the release of their first full-length album approaches. 📀

Dan can be reached for comment by email at [music@raleighdowntowner.com](mailto:music@raleighdowntowner.com)



### Kooley High

#### MEMBERS:

Emcee: Charlie Smarts

Emcee: Tab-One

Emcee: Rapsody

Producer: The Synopsis

Producer: Foolery

Deejay: DJ III Digitz

#### Sound like:

An effortless mix of intelligent hip-hop and catchy beats that is best appreciated live

Website and music tracks:  
[www.myspace.com/kooleyhigh](http://www.myspace.com/kooleyhigh)

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**Friday:** DJ Double L @ The Bassment, DJ Snugglz @ The Pourch, \$3 Coronas  
**Saturday:** DJ Sweet Pea, Double L @ The Bassment, DJ Sound Machine @ The Pourch  
**Sunday:** \$4 Skyy drinks, \$2 Miller Lite, Free pool, Football on TV

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DANCERPROFILE

## Margot K. Martin BY ELIZABETH PARKER

During spring of 1998, Robert Weiss set out on a nationwide audition tour to hand-pick the best dancers he could find for the ready-to-be-launched Carolina Ballet. The tour took him up and down the east coast, through the heartland of the country, to the west coast, as far as Seattle, Washington. It was there, at Pacific Northwest Ballet (PNB), that he discovered 17-year-old Margot Katherine Martin. Margot had left her family in Dallas, Texas after her junior year at Ursuline High (a Catholic high school for girls) to settle in Seattle for her senior year and to immerse herself in the intense ballet training at PNB.

Margot is one of the eight founding members of Carolina Ballet still with the company 11 years later. She arrived in Raleigh in August 1998 as an apprentice and is now a soloist dancing many principal roles. Her dance training began at age six when she began taking jazz and even at that young age she says she “loved to shake it,” a trait she has carried over to her role in Lynne Taylor Corbett’s *Snuff Dippin’ Woman* leading critics to label her the “sassy Margot Martin.” By the time she was eight, her dance teacher felt it was time for a little more discipline in her training and suggested she take ballet, which she resisted. However, learning early on to drive a hard bargain, she agreed to take ballet if she were moved to a higher level in jazz, only to find that within a year she was “totally hooked on ballet and dropped jazz.” She studied with Tanju and Patricia Tuzer at Tuzer Ballet in Richardson, Texas.

As a young girl, Margot dreamed of dancing the lead in *Giselle* but today her tastes have turned to more contemporary choreographers, and she finds it particularly rewarding to work with a choreographer as a ballet is being created—such as Taylor-Corbett’s *Carolina Jamboree* and *Picnic on the Grass*; Timour Bourtasenkov’s *Intrigue* and *Visions* (“the surprise is



the performance of Margot Martin...stunning as a seductive spirit tempting the artist into oblivion”); Attila Bongar’s *Yin and Yang*; and Robert Weiss’ *Des Images*, *Time Gallery* and *Waltzes* among others.

Looking back over her career she is quick to say that one of the highlights was the opportunity to dance the title role in Robert Weiss’ *Carmen*. “It was my first major role in a full length ballet,” she explains, “The role was amazing. *Carmen* was an incredibly free and strong spirit. The roles that show the human sides of women are definitely more appealing to me.” As evidenced by the review from the *Wilmington Star News* following the premiere of *The Waltzes of Old Vienna*, “Martin just rocked it.

Her saucy attitude and coy facial expressions as she performed the demanding choreography of taunting her two talented suitors make all women proud.” She does admit, however, that when she danced Balanchine’s *Tarantella* with her family in the audience “I felt I was on top of the world!”

During the past ten-plus years Margot has on several occasions acted as the “dancer rep” for the company, using her negotiating skills to bridge the gap between the company and the administration. When she isn’t rehearsing or performing, Margot is a registered yoga teacher, and is also considering becoming a personal trainer, since she spends a great deal of time working out at the gym. But she also loves being outside with her dog, Harley (yes, named after the motorcycle), a 90-pound boxer/pit bull, her “gentle giant” as she refers to him. Recently, however, she has developed a new interest—decorating her new home, a condominium she bought in north Raleigh not far from the studios. She and Harley are happily getting settled.

Meanwhile back in Texas, Margot’s parents, Kathy and Dominique, have been an integral part of a program called Manegait—a therapeutic riding center for people of all ages with disabilities. “It is a beautiful horse ranch, where children and adults come to ride,” says Margot. The connection between the horses and riders creates an unbelievable healing power; it’s truly a blessed place.” Margot’s older sister, Sarah and her husband live in Austin, Texas with their two-year old daughter Frances and a second little girl born this spring. With these strong ties to Texas, Margot admits to yearning to be closer to her family. “I hope to dance as long as my body will allow me,” says Martin, “but maybe in ten years I will be back in Texas teaching full time.”



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## DOWNTOWN SNAPSHOT

From the Downtown Raleigh Alliance

**D**ear Reader,  
GET CLOSER to one of North Carolina's most vibrant, eclectic downtowns. The Downtown Raleigh Alliance (DRA) is proud to present the 5th Annual Downtown Raleigh Home Tour, Saturday, May 16, 2009, 11 am-5 pm. This is the first time the DRA is hosting the self-guided tour and our goal is to raise awareness of the wide range of urban residential offerings and lifestyles



DAVID DIAZ  
President and CEO  
Downtown Raleigh Alliance  
[www.YouRHere.com](http://www.YouRHere.com)

downtown, from apartments and condos to townhomes and single family residences. Over 20 homes will be featured on the Tour, including some for-sale as well as others just for display. This year there will be a special emphasis on homes that have not been on the Tour in previous years. Tickets may be reserved online for \$10 each at [www.raleighdowntownliving.com](http://www.raleighdowntownliving.com) or purchased for \$14 (cash or check) on-site the day of the event. All attendees will need to check-in at the headquarters located at the outdoor patio of the Wachovia Capitol Center, 150 Fayetteville Street on May 16th. The Tour will take place rain or shine.

As usual, there are a number of fun-filled activities also taking place on Saturday, May 16. We'd like to encourage you to make a day of it and take advantage of all the happenings in downtown Raleigh. Dine at one of the downtown restaurants participating in Triangle Restaurant Week [www.TriRestaurantWeek.com](http://www.TriRestaurantWeek.com), take in the art scene at Artsposure [www.artsposure.org](http://www.artsposure.org) or attend a fashion show as part of the Plaza Condominiums Raleigh Fashion Week & Strut '09 [www.strut09.com](http://www.strut09.com).

I hope you enjoy this issue of the *Raleigh Downtowner*.



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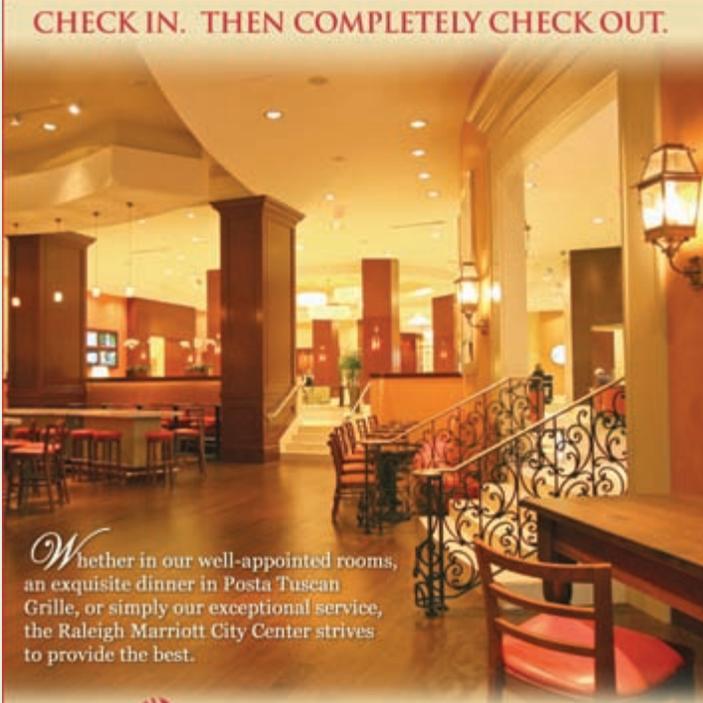
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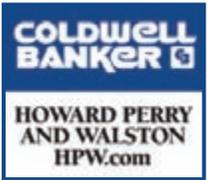
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May 11-15  
**Bike to Work Week '09**

Check [www.GoTriangle.org/BTWW](http://www.GoTriangle.org/BTWW) for details and  
a complete listing of all Triangle Bike to Work Week events.

**CAPITAL AREA KICK-OFF EVENT**  
Friday, May 8th, 3:30 – 7:30 p.m.  
Marbles Kids Museum Courtyard

**APEX BIKE TO WORK WEEK**  
Saturday, May 9th, 9 a.m. – Noon  
Apex Farmers Market next to The  
Historic Train Depot downtown.

**DOWNTOWN RALEIGH  
PUBLIC RIDE WITH  
COMMUNITY LEADERS**  
Friday, May 15th, 8:30 – 9:30 a.m.  
Bicentennial Mall, North side  
(by The N.C. Museum of Natural  
Sciences)

**HISTORIC DOWNTOWN  
WAKE FOREST BIKE RACES**  
Sunday, May 17th, 8 a.m. – 6 p.m.  
306 S. White St., Wake Forest

Thanks to Capital  
Area Bike to Work  
Week Sponsors:



# 10 QUESTIONS

with B. Grant Yarber, President and Chief Executive Officer of Capital Bank

BY CRASH GREGG

**1 Tell us about your background and how you got in to banking.** I grew up in the Mississippi Delta where my family had a little country grocery store and my father was a sharecropper. Upon graduating from Missouri College, I landed my first job in North Carolina in Asheville in real estate. After a couple years, I moved to Charlotte and went through the training program as a credit analyst, evaluating companies from the smallest mom and pop grocery store up to Fisher Price. After that I did banking stints in Memphis, Saint Louis and Florida. I came to Capital Bank almost six years ago, originally to be the number two guy and then became president shortly after arrival and then CEO about six or seven months later. I've been here ever since.

**2 What you learn from growing up in your family business?** Hard work and perseverance. No one in my family finished high school and the only person I knew who was college graduate was our doctor. My parents were hard workers and they genuinely felt that education was extraordinarily important, so they had very high standards for my sisters and me. A "B" was unacceptable and my oldest sister and I were very driven. I was eight years old running a cash register, working in the fields and driving a tractor. We would open our store at 6:00am in the morning, go to school, then come back and work the store again, getting home around 10:00pm. I would do some of my homework at the store and some at night. It was pretty much a seven day a week kind of deal. You learn a hard work ethic, which I'm grateful for, but you have a lot of time to think when you're sitting in a tractor plowing an eighty-acre field with no music and no air conditioning. I hate to say it, but one of the biggest motivating factors in my life was air conditioning. I knew I wanted a job when I grew up where I didn't have to work outside. A hoe in your hand in the middle of a soil bean field in the Mississippi Delta in mid July, and you're very motivated to do well in school.

**3 How is Capital Bank involved in the community?** As a North Carolina

bank, we try to find areas where we can have the biggest impact in each community. We have different facets of our community involvement. One is the volunteerism that we expect all of our officers—if not all of our employees—to find something to be involved in. We're very involved with Breast Cancer Awareness and Pretty in Pink, which helps women who are suffering from breast cancer and provides money when they can't afford treatment. We're also significant partici-



pants with the V foundation's programs. We're involved with the fine arts—not only the visual arts but the performing arts—as they relate to education and children mostly. We've been a benefactor of the Carolina Ballet, Opera, North Carolina Symphony and the North Carolina Theatre and help support their education programs. I really enjoy the Capital Awards which recognizes excellence in high school musical theater, not only in performances but also the people who work on stage and in lighting and in sound; those that are often not recognized. One of my favorite things that we do every year is the Coats for the Children Campaign. I know what it's like to grow up and not have a coat. It's such a basic need for winter items and we work with the Salvation Army and WRAL, raising hundreds of thousands of dollars and collected tens of thousands of coats over the last three or four years.

**4 What's your take on the current home and mortgage market?** Obviously as a financial institution, as our clients

suffer through this recession, we suffer along with it. I believe that this is the best opportunity in all of our lifetimes to buy a house, both on the pricing side as it is absolutely a buyer's market, on the mortgage side you'll never see rates this low again. One of the things I'm most concerned about in this recession is consumer confidence and the velocity of money. When everything stops, good people lose their jobs. Until the housing market recovers, the rest of the economy

is not going to recover. However, I think we've seen the bottom and I'm very optimistic about 2010 and 2011.

**5 What's your favorite food?** I love and eat a lot of fish, seafood almost of any kind really. I like steak too. I probably shouldn't but I do. A nice big fillet works for me.

**6 Do you have a favorite movie or movies?** *To Kill a Mockingbird* is my favorite book and favorite movie. And I love the *Godfather*; it was an incredible movie.

**7 How do you prefer to read your news—in print or online?** I do both. I read the *Wall Street Journal* and a few other publications every morning. Then throughout the day I read online news. I don't get home in time for the evening news so I watch the 11:00pm broadcast.

**8 What's your favorite spectator sport?** I'll have to say it's hockey since I moved to Raleigh. I've always been a big baseball fan too. Actually, scratch that—I

really love short track racing. Unlike NASCAR these are drivers who actually work on their own cars. My dad and I went to races when I was young and he was a mechanic too, so it's a favorite of mine. We sponsor Jonathan Cash out of Oxford and Burt Myers who runs a super-modified. I'll go to the symphony on Friday night and then Saturday night you're going to find me at a racetrack somewhere in either South Boston or East Wake or out in the middle of nowhere.

**9 What kind of changes would you like to see or new businesses or anything else new in downtown Raleigh in the next few years?** We absolutely must have some retail on the bottom floors and not just restaurants. It needs to be a place that people will come to on weekends as well. I would have like to have seen a sports complex downtown because again I think that brings a lot of people in at night and helps sustain the restaurants and the other businesses and the art community. I want to see local, small boutiques like you would find at North Hills, Crabtree and Cameron Village. I think that would be a great addition to the fabric of downtown. Right now we're in the middle of a recession it's going to be hard to find someone to take that risk, but I think as the economy begins to recover and more and more people see downtown as a place for opportunity. Unfortunately, you can't buy a shirt or a tie downtown and I don't think there's anywhere you can find a *Forbes* or a *Fortune* magazine. There're enough people down here now that would warrant that, but we do need more residents here as well. I think we're a year or so off from the number of downtown residents that would attract more downtown businesses.

**10 What does the "B" stand for in your name?** B? I'm Southern so I have a double name: Bobby Grant. I was called that as a child but as an adult I started using my middle name. My family still calls me "Little Bobby" plus I'm a Junior too. My dad was "Big Bob" and I was "Little Bob" and what it made it even more ironic that he was a big man and I was a little fella. 🍷

# Greater Raleigh Convention and Visitors Bureau (GRCVB)

## An interview in the words of Dennis Edwards, President and CEO

— BUSINESS PROFILE —

The opening of the convention center put us at a different level in terms of national and even state competition for conventions. Prior to the opening, the Raleigh area in general really wasn't considered for most national groups. Over the last few years we've opened up nine new hotels in Wake County and with our new convention center, it has elevated the destination as a strong area of consideration. Buildings like the Marriott, the Renaissance and the five-star Umstead Hotel in Cary have given us more full service hotels to offer.

Our challenge is many of our competitor cities have been in the national field for years, whereas we're a newcomer to the market. It has taken time to educate meeting planners and organizations that "we now have this new product and here are all the reasons you need to come." Fortunately I think we've done a very good job on elevating our presence and booking business. HVS is a feasibility company that the city hired to evaluate and determine whether or not we needed a convention center. We've actually more than doubled the production they thought we would have by now—in terms of bookings—so that's been very encouraging.

We also opened an office in Washington, D.C. about a year ago. Most national associations are headquartered in the D.C. area and we felt it was very important to have a daily presence in that marketplace to make sure people knew we were around. In January we hired a sales rep firm based in Chicago with offices in Chicago, Atlanta, Denver, Los Angeles, and the Northeast, and that has really helped us get our presence out as well.

We're finding that our key markets are science and technology, health and medical, and higher education. That's obviously because of what we have in our backyard. A lot of our success has been because of local residents are on national boards or members of associations and use their influence to drive business into the area. We work very closely with the business community to let them know what we can do to help bring the business here. We take the burden off of the host's responsibilities and do a lot of the work that needs to be



done when they're hosting a convention. That has worked out extremely well.

We looked at the fact that we're now at a different playing level and we need to elevate our level of service to our customer. If we're going to play in the big leagues, we have to make sure that we can service these groups when they come. About a year ago, we opened up our visitor information center in the Raleigh City Museum on Fayetteville St. to make sure that we had street level presence. Also, on a monthly basis, we send out convention alerts to all the downtown businesses, restaurants and transportation companies to alert them of all the major groups that are coming in so they can properly staff themselves. We also tell them the number of people and the type of group that's coming such as if it's all women or younger kids. That way if it's a Tuesday night and we have 2,500 people coming in, the businesses will be properly staffed. If businesses are not on the email list but would like to be, they just need to send us an email that can be found in the convention services section of our website. This communication is extremely important to our business community.

There's another way businesses can be involved. We worked with Wake Tech to create a three-hour customer service training program to talk about the importance of customer service, how to deal with difficult customers, the importance of tourism, and how frontline people can be engaged and provide better service. Wake Tech conducts the program but all the groundwork in terms of content was done through us. This program is offered on a monthly basis and limited to forty people per class. The cost is \$30 per person and we've been sold out every month. If

companies want to do their own private session, that can be done as well. North Carolina Natural Science Museum, RDU, the Art Museum and Pepsi have all done sessions for their own staff. We welcome and encourage that.

Looking at areas of improvement, the R-Line helped a lot. We also started a conversation with John Brantley at RDU to ensure that we had another form of transportation other than just taxicabs. We've solidified a deal with SuperShuttle, so visitors can go one way from the airport to downtown for \$16 or get a roundtrip ticket for \$28. That's almost half of what a cab fee would be. Giving delegates more affordable options is important, certainly in this climate that we're facing today.

The economy has definitely had an impact on the travel and tourism industry overall. In terms of convention bookings, we're finding that things have absolutely not slowed down. In fact we're probably busier than we ever have been. Part of that is because our destination is new, and from a safety perception it's very positive. We're not a luxury resort area so we're still very affordable in terms of transportation, hotel rates, dining options, etc. With our cost of living lower than most convention areas, we've kind of taken advantage of the economy and economic conditions.

Outside of the area, Raleigh has a great reputation and people have been reading great things about us. So when we start knocking on doors, they welcome us and want to hear more about the destination. That's been a great sell for us. We've got a good reputation for quality of life, and all these other accolades such as the best place to do business, and that I think really helps us sell the area for conventions, meetings and sporting events. It's a circle effect.

We launched a new brand and logo about a year ago, putting a new skin on our website, making sure it's very interactive. We're now in the process over the course of the next six months on doing video on all of the major attractions and putting that on our website. We'll have a two-minute video on every museum, on all the performing arts centers, and a welcome from every mayor. If you want information on Cary or Raleigh, it will have a quick message from the mayor on what makes their city unique and what's good from a visitor's perspective. It's going to be an extremely well-done interactive piece. Our hope is that once we get all the video completed, we want to develop an in-room hotel video on our area. So if you're staying at the Marriott in downtown Raleigh, we'll run a five-minute downtown video on a special channel. Hopefully we'll have all the videos completed in the next twelve months and available for any hotel that would like to have it.

We're advocating for an outside feasibility study to be done with the county and city of Raleigh to determine the next big thing we should spend our inter-local funds on. Is it an expansion of the convention center? Is it a new sports arena down the road? We believe a good study should be done by an outside party to tell us what would work best here including the cost and the best location for it to be successful. It shouldn't be whoever raises their hand first gets the money. By the time you finish the RFP to find that right company and the study is done, it should take about a year. In the next two or three years more inter-local funds should become available and it's good to be prepared when they are. Hopefully we'll get buy-in from the county and the city to do the study and make educated, wise decisions down the road. Fortunately I think they've made primarily good decisions with how the inter-local funds have been spent but I think if you sit 30 of us in a room, we'd probably come out with 30 different ideas. So let's use due diligence and do it the right way.

*For more information about the GRCVB, visit their website [www.visitraleigh.com](http://www.visitraleigh.com), call (919) 834-5900, (800) 849-8499 or email: [visit@visitraleigh.com](mailto:visit@visitraleigh.com).*

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<http://1111cliftonstreet.epropertiesites.com>

**OAKWOOD**

Next to new in Historic District! Fenced cul-de-sac lot, fiber-cement siding. Updated kit w/granite tops, prof range, hrdwds, blt-ins, formals, lg fam room. 4BR, 2.5Ba \$414,900  
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**BELVIDERE PARK**

Adorable cottage in perfect move in condition. New bathroom, updated kitchen w/tile floor, refinished hardwoods, new roof & windows, newer HVAC. 2BR, 1Ba \$169,900  
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# EVENTS CALENDAR

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

**May 11-17 Triangle Restaurant Week** • Join local restaurants in celebrating their local culinary talents, exquisite cuisine, and dynamic atmospheres during Triangle Restaurant Week! Participating restaurants are offering fixed price, three-course meals including an appetizer, an entree, and dessert. • Participating downtown Raleigh venues include The Mint, Bogart's American Grill, Dos TaQuitos Centro, Redroom, Sono, The Globe, Vic's Restaurant and Zely and Ritz. • For more information on the event, visit [www.trirestaurantweek.com](http://www.trirestaurantweek.com).

**May 14-16 The Plaza Condominiums Raleigh Fashion Week & Strut 09** • Location: Raleigh Convention Center • May 14 Day: Beauty, Talent and Healthy Living Seminars, Vendor Booths, Trunk Shows. 9pm: Runway Show Raleigh's Emerging Artists (Including selected NC State's Art to Wear designers) • May 15 Day: Beauty, Talent and Healthy Living Seminars, Vendor Booths, Trunk Shows • 3 pm: Runway Show "High School Talent Showcase, Fashion, Musical Theatre, and Dance." 9pm: Runway Show "Women's and Men's Formal and Evening Wear" • May 16 Day: Beauty, Talent and Health, Fashion, Music, Dance... and More Fashion! • Note: Strut 09 will air a total of 4 times as a 90-minute television special, twice in primetime on CW22 and MyRDC. 9pm: Strut 09, Fashion, Music, Dance... and More Fashion! National designers, including Alexander Julian and Peter Millar Fashions, return to their "Carolina Roots". • For more information on the event, visit [www.strut09.com/schedule.html](http://www.strut09.com/schedule.html).

**May 15-17 Broadway Series South** • Raleigh Memorial Auditorium • **Thomas & Friends Live! On Stage: A Circus Comes To Town** • When Thomas makes a big mistake, all the engines on the Island of Sodor must work together to prepare for the exciting event under the Big Top as Thomas proves he's a really useful engine once again. Along the way, Percy, James, Gordon, and of course Thomas, join with Sir Topham Hatt and the townspeople from the Island of Sodor to welcome a colorful cast of circus performers in an engaging story that demonstrates the importance of friendship and cooperation. • For tickets on sale now, call 1-800-745-3000 or go to [www.broadwayseriessouth.com](http://www.broadwayseriessouth.com) or [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com).

**May 16-17 Artsposure** • Location: Moore Square • Time: Sat. Art Market (11 am-7 pm); Sun. Art Market (10 am-5 pm) • Michael Lowder, executive director of Artsposure, says "you will always experience great art and have lots of fun at the Artsposure spring festival." The festival will feature more than a dozen musical performances including headlining contemporary swing band Big Bad Voodoo Daddy. The Art Market showcases the talent of more than 170 juried visual artists and crafters from across the country. Artwork by fine artists and crafters exhibiting in 11 different categories will be available for purchase, including painting, photography, pottery, jewelry and more. Kidsposure provides arts and crafts activities and entertainment for kids such as the Sandbox Band and NC Theatre's presentation of sections from "High School Musical." Other highlights include an interactive installation that allows participants to create their own music with DJ technology, a Student Art Exhibit, life-size chess games and a large sand sculpture created by Ed Moore. Artsposure is free to the public and is held rain or shine. • For more information on the event, visit [www.artsposure.org](http://www.artsposure.org)

**May 16 5th Annual Downtown Raleigh Home Tour** • Location: Downtown Raleigh • Time: 11am-5pm • The Home Tour, hosted by the Downtown Raleigh Alliance, is a self-guided tour of urban living from condos and lofts to townhomes and single family residences. It's an area of inspiring contradictions—classic, turn-of-the-century architecture alongside crisp, state-of-the-art modernism. Whether you're looking for a single-family home, historic

neighborhood or a condominium overlooking the city and beyond, rest assured—you're about to get a closer look at a space you'll want to call home. The cost is \$10 in advance and \$14 at the door (cash or check only at the door). • To purchase tickets online, go to [www.godowntownraleigh.com/hometour/tickets](http://www.godowntownraleigh.com/hometour/tickets). For more information, visit [www.RaleighDowntownLiving.com](http://www.RaleighDowntownLiving.com).

**May 17 Koka Booth Amphitheatre** • **Carolina Bluegrass Festival—Benefit Concert** • Gates open at 12:00 pm and curfew is at 10 pm. The Del McCoury Band is headlining with support from The Tony Rice Unit, Rhonda Vincent & the Rage Doyle Lawson & Quicksilver and more. Reserved and tables are \$50 and general lawn admission is \$35 (kids 10 and under are free). A portion of the proceeds will go to Stop Hunger Now a non-profit organization based out of Raleigh. Raffle tickets will be available for purchase on event day only and prizes include a Banjo with autographs from band members! • Tickets are available at [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com). For more information, go to [www.carolinabluegrassfestival.com](http://www.carolinabluegrassfestival.com).

**May 23 SkirtChaser Raleigh 5K** • Location: Downtown Raleigh • Time: 5 pm • The SkirtChaser Race Series is an experience unlike any race you've run and any block party you've attended. Not only is it a brand new running race format, giving women a head-start on the men in a fun atmosphere, the entire event is innovative, from packet-pickup to the Block Party and all of its sponsors. From walkers to pro-runners, the SkirtChaser Race Series invites you to experience the most fun you've ever had while working out! • For more information, visit [www.skirtchaser5k.com](http://www.skirtchaser5k.com)

**May 25 Memorial Day Ceremony** • Location: North Carolina State Capitol • Time: noon • The Tarheel Detachment #733 Marine Corp League will have a wreath laying ceremony with speaker beginning at noon by the Veteran's Monument located on the north side of the North Carolina State Capitol grounds facing Edenton Street. The State Capitol building will be open for tours from 11 am-1 pm. • For more information, visit [www.ncstatecapitol.org](http://www.ncstatecapitol.org)

**May 28 Time Warp 2009!** • Presented by: Raleigh City Museum • Location: Raleigh City Museum • Time: 6 pm-9 pm • Time Warp is an annual fundraiser that is a fun and exciting way to support the museum's future exhibits and education programs. Time Warp guests can expect live music, delicious treats catered by Personal Chef Services, flowing drinks, a silent and live auction, and a raffle. This year's auction includes great finds such as Buck Creek Bowls, Earthen Vessels pottery, Biltmore Estate admission tickets, Rebecca Rousseau art, Triangle Segway tour tickets, Black Cat Beads jewelry, season tickets to Burning Coal Theatre Company, an autographed Carolina Hurricanes hockey stick, and many more. Other items include vacation retreats to Emerald Isle and gift certificates to local restaurants such as Angus Barn, Lilly's Pizza, and 42nd Street Oyster Bar. • To reserve your spot for Time Warp purchase advance tickets by calling (919)832-3775 or stopping by the museum. Tickets for non-members are \$50 and tickets for RCM members are \$40. For more information, visit [www.raleighcitymuseum.org](http://www.raleighcitymuseum.org)

**May 28-31 Carolina Ballet** • Raleigh Memorial Auditorium • **Beauty and the Beast** • Choreographed by Robert Weiss • Summing up a season of passion and beauty is the world premiere of artistic director Robert Weiss' Beauty and the Beast. With an original score by Karl Moraski (Cinderella), costume designs by David Heuvel (Swan Lake, Cinderella, Firebird and The Gardens at Giverny), and scenery by Jeff A. R. Jones (Nutcracker, Swan Lake), this fairy tale can be enjoyed by people of all ages. With Robert Weiss at the helm, this Beauty and the Beast is sure to be both entertaining and artistically meaningful. • For tickets, call the BalletLine at 919.719.0900, visit the box office at the Progress Energy Center for the Performing Arts at 2 East South Street, or visit [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com).

**May 30 Bud Light Downtown Live** • Location: Moore Square • Time: 2 pm-11 pm • The Triangle's premier FREE outdoor concert series, located in Downtown Raleigh's Moore Square. All events rain or shine. Candlebox, multi-platinum grunge rockers, will kick off the 2009 Downtown Live season! Parmalee and Big Rick & The Bombers are also playing. • For more information, visit [www.raleighdowntownlive.com](http://www.raleighdowntownlive.com)



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<b>Scope: the NC Landscape</b> First Friday Reception: June 5	June 5-25	<b>New Media Exhibit</b> First Friday Reception: November 6	November 6-25
<b>Seeing Red</b> First Friday Reception: July 3	July 3-30	<b>Sale for the Season</b> First Friday Reception: December 4	December 4-24
<b>Fur &amp; Feathers</b> First Friday Reception: August 7	August 7-27	<b>visual art exchange</b> 325 blake street, city market, raleigh gallery hours: tuesday - saturday 11-4p.m. <a href="http://www.visualartexchange.org">www.visualartexchange.org</a> 919.828.7834	
<b>N.E.W. Show</b> First Friday Reception: September 4	September 4-24		

Visual Art Exchange is funded in part by the City of Raleigh based on recommendations of the Raleigh Arts Commission. Visual Art Exchange is supported by the United Arts Council of Raleigh and Wake County, with funds from the United Arts Campaign and the North Carolina Arts Council; an agency funded by the State of North Carolina and the National Endowment for the Arts. VAE is supported by the North Carolina Arts Council with funding from the state of North Carolina and the National Endowment for the Arts, which believes that a great nation deserves great art.

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