



# RALEIGH DOWNTOWNER™

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 1

RALEIGH ENTERTAINMENT, ARTS & CULTURE, DINING, EVENTS, AND MORE

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## ROMANCE DOWNTOWN



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# Romancing Downtown-Style



By April Stroth

February has long been considered the calendar month for romance.

Certainly Cupid wields his arrows towards the most unsuspecting hearts, with the tradition of Valentine's Day mid-month, but we feel this presence all winter long. Maybe it's the chill still lingering in the air that forces us to snuggle up instead of venturing out. Thankfully downtown Raleigh offers many indoor options for cozy couples to keep their flames burning.

**Food and drink have always been one of the best ways to a man's (or woman's) heart.** A nice bottle of vino to relax the mind and a sensual meal to please the palate can help set a passionate mood. Thankfully, we have many downtown restaurants with a wonderful romantic atmosphere to choose from.

Two favorites offer small, intimate cot-

age-style experiences. Bistro 607 in Glenwood South and Mo's Diner on Hargett are quiet dining restaurants where you'll find a warm ambiance, good service and excellent food. Bistro 607 has more of a European flair, while Mo's is a "place to dine on simple foods prepared with care."



Bistro 607

For a smaller restaurant-style setting that conveys romance, visit the Globe Restaurant or Riviera Mediterranean Resto. The Globe is on Glenwood Avenue, a block south from Bistro 607, while Riviera is in downtown on South Wilmington Street.



The Globe

You'll find a diverse menu at both locations as well as knowledgeable staff to help you choose a wonderfully romantic meal or a good wine pairing to go with dinner. Read more about Riviera on page six of this issue.



Second Empire

If you prefer to impress your date by indulging in more upscale dining, two downtown restaurants, Second Empire and The Mint, offer just such an experience. Second Empire, located on Hillsborough Street in the historic Dodd-Hinsdale mansion, is superbly elegant.



The Mint at One Exchange

Equally classy yet contemporary is the newly opened Mint at One Exchange Plaza located on Fayetteville Street.

Both restaurants also offer bar (tavern) dining areas if you want to

Continued on page 3

## The Raleigh Downtowner Vol. 4, Issue 1 Romancing Downtown



ON THE COVER AND PICTURED LEFT: Carolina Ballet dancers Alain Molina and Lara O'Brien model for us downtown in Riviera Resto's private dining area downstairs.

### UPCOMING ISSUES

**Volume 4, Issue 2:** First Friday and Downtown Galleries

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indulge in the ambience while enjoying a less formal meal.

No dinner date is complete without the meal's denouement, that final flavor that can sway the diner's memory over all that preceded it. It can be as simple as homemade ice cream or as sinful as French silk pie.



Hayes Barton Café

The Hayes Barton Café in Five Points offers one of the finest dessert menus around. The 40's-inspired café evokes romance with soft lighting and the soothing sounds of Sinatra.

One bite of the Chocolate Cappuccino Flourless Torte and you will have your date's eyes rolling back into their head. Seating is limited and the Café is usually busy, so be sure call ahead for reservations. If you can't make it out for dinner, surprise someone with something to go.

Along with a sumptuous meal, the sense of touch has long been associated with love and romance.



Iatria Day Spa

A trip to the spa would certainly make for a memorable dating experience. Two downtown day spas offer perfectly pampering choices. At Iatria Day Spa on East Davie Street, you can relax your day's troubles away. Couples packages are available as are a wide array of services including facials, massages, body treatments, and more.



Oakwood Spa

If you desire something a little less decadent and more affordable, check out the new Oakwood Spa on North Person Street. They're offering great introductory specials and rates on their facial and massage combos.

**Don't forget the affects of smell and color.**

If you're considering flowers, remember that sometimes a little bit goes a long way. Flowers can be expensive but there's no reason to break the bank to show your loved one how much you care.



Ninth Street Flowers

Ninth Street Flowers on Fayetteville Street currently has a walk-in special on large California Gerberas. These big, bright and beautiful flowers will definitely brighten someone's day.

Downtown mainstays, Kelly Odom and Carlton's on Glenwood as well as Fallons Creative on St. Mary's Street, can help you send just the right message with a custom bouquet.

**Want a romantic getaway without leaving town?**

Leave the hustle and bustle of your workweek behind and retreat to a local bed and breakfast for peace and relaxation.



The Oakwood Inn

The Oakwood Inn, located on Bloodworth Street, and the Woodburn Cottage on Woodburn Road are good choices.

The six-room Oakwood Inn is housed in a romantic Victorian home and offers great specialty packages including in-room massages. Take advantage of their theatre and dining specials as they're within walking distance of most downtown attractions.

The more subtle Woodburn Cottage is housed in a "1920's arts and crafts bungalow" and offers two unique rooms, including a soothing garden room with a therma-spa tub. A full breakfast is always included with your stay.



Woodburn Cottage

**A romantic ride for two is an ideal close to a wonderful evening.**



Raleigh Rickshaw

Enjoy a tour of downtown in a horse-drawn carriage or unique ride between destinations in a bicycle rickshaw. Raleigh Rickshaw even provides inclusive packages for transportation, dinner, concerts and events, and their rickshaws are covered for cold or inclement weather.

However you choose to spend your evening, remember that romance is best practiced year-round. Try something different each time you venture out and discover all the romantic destinations that downtown Raleigh has to offer.

Contact information for the businesses mentioned in this article:

**Bistro 607**

607 Glenwood Avenue  
Raleigh, NC 27603  
919.828.0840  
[www.godowntownraleigh.com/go/bistro-607](http://www.godowntownraleigh.com/go/bistro-607)

**Mo's Diner**

306 East Hargett Street  
Raleigh, NC 27601  
919.856.9938  
[www.mosdiner.net](http://www.mosdiner.net)

**The Globe Restaurant**

510-103 Glenwood Avenue  
Raleigh, NC 27603  
919.836.1811  
[www.godowntownraleigh.com/go/globe](http://www.godowntownraleigh.com/go/globe)

**Second Empire Restaurant**

330 Hillsborough Street  
Raleigh, NC 27603  
919.829.3663  
[www.second-empire.com](http://www.second-empire.com)

**The Mint at One Exchange**

219 Fayetteville Street  
Raleigh, NC 27601

919.821.0011  
[www.themintrestaurant.com](http://www.themintrestaurant.com)

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2000 Fairview Road  
Raleigh, NC 27608  
919.856.8551  
[hayesbartoncafe.com](http://hayesbartoncafe.com)

**Iatria of Downtown Raleigh**

150 East Davie Street  
Raleigh, NC 27601  
919.841.0043  
[www.iatria.com](http://www.iatria.com)

**The Oakwood Spa**

112-B N. Person Street  
Raleigh, NC 27601  
919.832.7775, 919.605.2595  
[theoakwoodspa.com](http://theoakwoodspa.com)

**Carlton's Flowers**

609 Glenwood Avenue  
Raleigh, NC 27603  
919.821.3862  
[godowntownraleigh.com/go/carltons-flowers](http://godowntownraleigh.com/go/carltons-flowers)

**Fallons Creative Flowers**

700 St. Mary's Street  
Raleigh, NC 27605  
919.828.4134  
[www.fallonsflowers.com](http://www.fallonsflowers.com)

**Kelly Odom Flowers**

102 Glenwood Avenue  
Raleigh, NC 27603  
919.829.3888  
[www.bloomendirect.com](http://www.bloomendirect.com)

**Ninth Street Flowers**

401 Fayetteville Street  
Raleigh, NC 27601  
919.833.1778  
[www.ninthstreetflowers.com](http://www.ninthstreetflowers.com)

**Oakwood Inn Bed & Breakfast**

411 N. Bloodworth Street  
Raleigh, NC 27604  
919.832.9712  
[www.oakwoodinnbb.com](http://www.oakwoodinnbb.com)

**Woodburn Cottage**

117 Woodburn Road  
Raleigh, NC 27606  
919.828.2276  
[www.woodburncottage.com](http://www.woodburncottage.com)

**J & L Carriage**

919.936.2586, 919.915.0378  
[www.jlcarriage.com](http://www.jlcarriage.com)

**Raleigh Rickshaw**

Raleigh, NC  
919.623-5555  
[www.raleighrickshaw.com](http://www.raleighrickshaw.com)

*April Stroth, a graduate from NCSU, has lived in the Triangle area for eleven years. In addition to a career in state government, Ms. Stroth has been a freelance writer and fashion consultant for the past six years. Photo of Ms. Stroth by Tom Winstead.*



By Joel Morgan

**W**ine and chocolate: separately they both have devotees

worldwide who extol the virtues, flavors, and nuances of each. Together, however, they create an experience that can set the stage for romance, transform an average dessert into an intoxicating experience, and perhaps even soften the most tempestuous tirade. Wine and chocolate come in many varieties and types, both ranging from ephemeral and creamy light/white, to robust and full-bodied dark/red. So how does one pair wine with chocolate? There are a few easy ground rules in doing so but let's take a look at some of the science involved.

For the most part, scientists used to think that the only health benefits of chocolate were that of saving a person's life on Valentine's Day from an angry spouse. Most chocolates contain fat, are high in calories, and had no apparent health qualities whatsoever. Maybe that's why it tastes so good. In 2004, however, nutritionists were investigating the heart health benefits of red wine and decided to test some ordinary chocolate from candy they were eating. They discovered large amounts of antioxidants, the same healthy component chemicals found in fruits, vegetables, tea, and wine. The ensuing research led to announcements that chocolate contains more antioxidants than most green and orange vegetables. In 2007, a study sponsored by Mars Chocolate stated that chocolate thins the blood just like



aspirin, which has been shown to help prevent heart attacks.

The chemicals responsible for the maelstrom of discussion around red wine and chocolate are called phenols. Scientists think that the damage done by free radicals can lead to heart disease and some forms of cancer, as well as deterioration from aging. Like the antioxidants in red wine, the phenols that occur naturally in chocolate battle the oxidation action that leads to the buildup of plaque in the arteries.

Now that you are armed with some basic scientific information to justify the indulgence of wine and chocolate, how do you pair them? Here are a few easy steps to help you out.

**Step One:** Find a reputable wine dealer; a good wine retail shop is an invaluable resource. Ask for a good dessert wine or rich red wine with some inherent sweetness. Some examples would be a port, late harvest, amarone, or ice wine.

**Step Two:** Consider different types of wine with different types of chocolate. There is not a particular wine that will go well with all types of chocolate, just as there is not one that will pair well with all foods.

**Step Three:** Have an informal wine and chocolate tasting. Wine tasting and enjoyment is the epitome of a personal experience. Purchase a few wines and a few different types of chocolate. See which ones you and your friends prefer paired together, and which ones you do not. It's often just as important to understand why you don't like some pairings as to why you do like others.

Now you a few basic steps to guide you. Below are a few wine and chocolate pairings to help you out and start you on your way. These are chocolates that I think that will pair well with specific types of wine. Like your fingerprint or a snowflake, each person's palate is unique, so enjoy finding your favorites.

### White Chocolate

Some purists insist that white chocolate is not chocolate at all due to the cocoa content (or lack thereof). Personally, I love white chocolate as it tends to be more mellow and buttery in flavor and pairs well with the following: Mt. Baker Late Harvest Pinot Gris (~\$25), Meinklang Pinot Blanc Organic Ice Wine (~\$36), and Townshend Late Harvest Merlot (~\$26).

### Milk Chocolate

This is perhaps the most well known

chocolate due to its popularity in candy, a creamy chocolate mousse, or chocolate accented cheesecakes. I would pair the following with milk chocolate: Townshend Late Harvest Merlot (~\$26), Hanover Park Port Hanover (~\$19), Mt. Jagged Sparkling NV Blend Merlot/Cab/Shiraz (~\$22), and Begali Lorenzo Amarone (~\$60).

### Dark Chocolate

Dark or bittersweet chocolates need wines that possess roasted, slightly bitter flavors and some chocolate/mocha flavors themselves. Cabernet Sauvignons and Red Zinfandels move to the front of the line. Try these wines with dark chocolate and prepare to be swept away: Bridges Sara's Little Taxi (~\$16), Zerba Cellars Cabernet Sauvignon (~\$37), Maryhill Proprietors Reserve Red Zinfandel (~\$36), and Viu Manent Reserve Malbec (~\$15).

I hope these pairings, along with the information supplied in this article, will spur you to new heights of enjoyment with wine and chocolate. If you have never paired them before you are in for a sinfully decadent experience. The combination of the flavors you will taste is extraordinary. And if for some reason you don't care for chocolate, try the recommended wines solo or pair them with your favorite foods.

*Joel Morgan is a wine distributor for Epicure Wines, committee member for Triangle Wine Experience, former President of the NC chapter of Wine Brats, and an avid wine geek.*



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### THIS MONTH'S READER REWARDS

- Two tickets from **Broadway Series South** to their production of *The Wedding Singer*. [www.broadwayseriesouth.com](http://www.broadwayseriesouth.com)



- Two tickets from the **North Carolina Theatre**, to the upcoming production of *Annie Get Your Gun*. [www.nctheatre.com](http://www.nctheatre.com)

- Four \$25 gift certificates to **Salon 21**, located in the heart of Glenwood South. Trendy and cutting edge, Salon 21 knows your hair speaks volumes about your style. [www.salon21raleigh.com](http://www.salon21raleigh.com)

- Four \$25 gift certificates to the **Blue Martini**, located in the Powerhouse District. Lots of daily specials, great music, and never a cover charge. [www.bluemartiniraleigh.com](http://www.bluemartiniraleigh.com)

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# Landmark Tavern Opens Downtown

By Jedidiah Gant  
 Courtesy of [www.newraleigh.com](http://www.newraleigh.com)

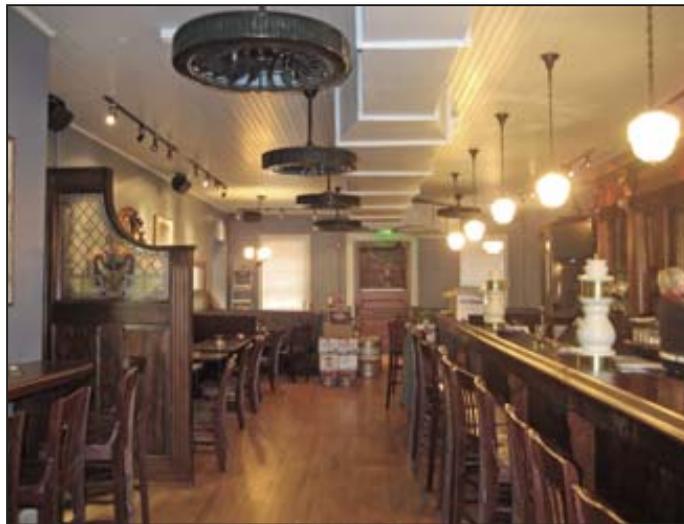


**I**rish pubs. Downtown Raleigh has a handful of restaurants/bars that attach this description to the end of their name,

but are they public houses in the true sense of the word? Most of them are more massive than the shotgun bar space that most authentic Irish pubs are known for in Ireland and the UK. The James Joyce Pub in Durham is one of the few spaces in the Triangle that actually resembles a true Irish pub (clientele: career drinkers, locals and raconteurs), but then again it's owned by an Irish lad. The newly finished Smoking Times is another such bar. Historically, the public house is synonymous with being a neighborhood bar, and Raleigh needs more of these. The Landmark Tavern, which opened in late January, aims to be just that, a big city pub with a small-town atmosphere.

On opening night, it was packed with a diverse crowd filling the space. The bartenders seemed to manage things well and bar-goers agreed it seems to be a good addition to the downtown mix. The beers on tap included Guinness, Bell's Amber Ale, Old Speckled Hen, PBR, and Big Boss's Brown Penny (to name a few). A full selection of bottled beers, wine and liquor is also available.

The Landmark Tavern is located in the recently renovated and LEED Platinum (super green-friendly rating) Heilig Levine Building complex. At approximately 80 people, the capacity



It may not in Dublin, but the Landmark Tavern has a real Irish pub atmosphere

of the space is small. This could lead to either crowding or a nice intimate space; let's hope it's the latter. Manager Shelby Bacchus, wife of local rocker Richard Bacchus, said that the tavern won't serve proper food, only beer, wine, cocktails and bar snacks. This is typical for many pubs in the UK and Ireland, where most are focused on futbol, drinking and chatting up friends.

However, there lies a problem that the lads in Dublin won't come across: in North Carolina, businesses that serve alcohol but no food must require a membership. Therefore, Landmark will have a membership for entrance. This shouldn't hinder too many locals as the membership is a quick survey of the essentials (address, phone number, etc.) and your card comes as a plastic keychain that will fit right between your VIC

and public library cards. The cost is only five dollars per year, which is a small price to pay to support a locally run business. Considering it opens at

is one of the hidden gems of urban space in downtown. A patio/beer garden is another aspect of the Irish pub, and once summer is here, the overflow from the interior will have space to spill out into the sunny courtyard. And what about the pub street sign? We wonder if we'll see Sir Walter's face hanging from the facade in the manner of many true Irish pubs' signage.

Winter is the perfect time to open a new bar. The rain, sleet and cold weather chases pedestrians inside for warmth, and what better way to spend a cold day than with a Guinness and a mate. It may not be an authentic Irish pub, and it could end up being a bit smoky and crowded. But from the looks of it, this new pub is sure to be an essential *landmark* for meeting friends and spotting downtown regulars.

Another Guinness please!

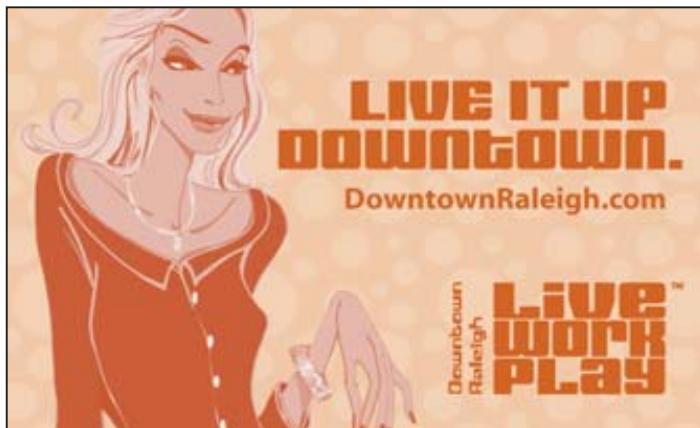


4 pm daily and is in the center of the Central Business District, on what we'll call Hatem's Corner, it will probably be full almost all opening hours.

**The Landmark Tavern**  
 117 E. Hargett Street  
 Raleigh, NC  
 (919) 821-9865

The interior of the bar is full of wooden booths, chairs and tables, again matching the aesthetics of the typical Irish pub. Stained glass, antique light fixtures above the bar and smoke filtration fans act as the rest of the decor. At the back of the space is a door to the exterior. Bacchus stated that it will, in the near future, lead to an outside patio. The patio will be located in a great open-air courtyard of the Heilig Levine Building, which

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# A Hidden Gem Downtown: Riviera Mediterranean Resto & Lounge



By Fred Benton  
City Style Editor

It would be easy to define Riviera as a tapas restaurant. Like the term “bistro,” the American public has taken the word “tapas” to heights of upscale *frou* it doesn’t deserve. To the French, a *bistro* is what a diner is to Americans, and to the Spanish, *tapas* is a small plate served in wine shops that rests atop a glass of wine: an *amuse bouche* to promote the consumption of wine. The munchie on the plate is highly flavored to best complement the wine ordered. Tapas isn’t a meal and it isn’t a mini-buffet. However, Americans have changed the concept of tapas to suit their own need for trendy dining.

They’re harvested from the cold Atlantic waters of the eastern seaboard of Canada. Served with various dipping sauces, I particularly enjoyed the aioli and each oyster was a small shellful of heaven! Riviera doesn’t always have the sweet bivalves but they’re in season now!

Two other Small Plate winners with big flavors are the *Garlic Shrimp* (sautéed with garlic, chorizo sausage, tomatoes and white wine, \$9) and *Colorado Lamb Brochettes* (tri-pepper crusted lamb served with a citrus-mint dipping sauce, \$8).

The big winner for me, under Large Plates, was the *Pan Roasted Mahi Mahi* (\$19) and after the first bite, I was hooked like a shark going after tasty bait.



The street-level middle floor of Riviera, which houses their main restaurant seating

sweets, so she came up with *Caramel Apple Beggar’s Purse*, which she deemed healthy probably because of the apples. Along with the apples, her recipe included peanut butter, honey and chocolate; a deceptively simple affair made all the more glorious with homemade puff pastry, baked then served with a cinnamon anglais, caramel sauce, blackberries, sliced strawberries, and sprinkled with powdered sugar. Our dinner guest, Jack Glasure (oft-author of our One Tank Trips column), described the dish as a “destination dessert”, which we agreed was truly accurate.

equipped with a drop-down screen for presentations. It’s also available for large dinner groups that value their privacy or just want to feel ultra VIP. On the weekends, stay for dancing upstairs in the hidden lounge area, which showcases a gorgeous deep blue lavastone bar and leather couches, and has a hip New York feel to it. Riviera can be found on South Wilmington, one block east of Fayetteville Street, just a quarter block north of Hargett. It’s a great yet understated reason to head out for a night downtown.

**Riviera Mediterranean Resto & Lounge**  
135 South Wilmington Street  
919.834.7480  
Reservations accepted  
[www.rivieraresto.com](http://www.rivieraresto.com)

■RD



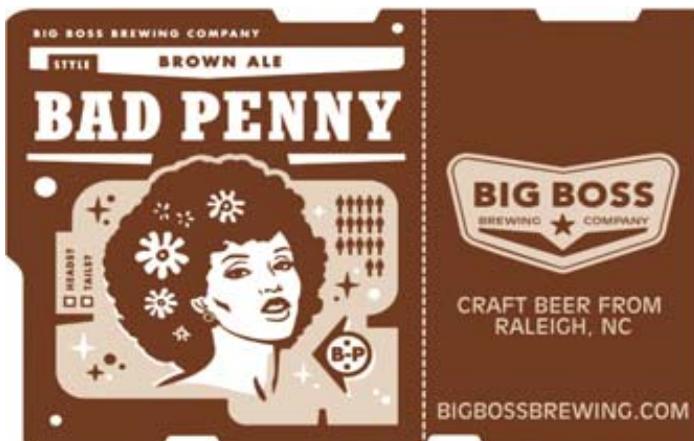
Move upstairs to the lounge/dance area after dinner in the restaurant

I view Riviera as a bright spot on the downtown landscape, where you can order thoughtfully constructed food that both teases and satisfies the palate to the extent you wish to be satisfied. One page of the menu is given over to Small Plates; the other side, Large Plates. It comes across as the perfect dichotomy for both the gourmand (more interested in quantity) and the gourmet (more interested in quality).

Riviera owners George Ghneim and Phillipe Ragot conceptualized this restaurant with food that was flavorful but wasn’t overly expensive for their patrons. Nothing is over \$20. It’s fair pricing here based on the quality of the food offered.

My compliments to our helpful waitperson of the evening, Jonathan Halbur, and most assuredly to the talented chef, Pete Susca. A dessert we absolutely loved is a heritage recipe that Pete’s grandmother would make him when he was a child. He loved

Categorically the best raw oysters I have ever eaten were here at Riviera.





# Black History Month

## The Legacy of Raleigh African-American Colleges and Universities

By Raleigh City Museum Staff

In the early 1800s John Chavis, freedman, patriot, and graduate of Liberty Hall Academy (now called Washington & Lee), opened his school for children of both races in a newly founded Raleigh. In spite of racial prejudices, Chavis was well renowned for his scholarly training, and many of Raleigh's well-to-do sent their children to be taught by him. He educated future senators and governors, but also insisted on teaching many local African-American children. Chavis valued a quality education and dreamed of a time when his African-American students would be afforded the same opportunities as others.

Years later, after the Civil War, Henry Tupper took huge strides toward making Chavis's dream a reality. He moved to Raleigh and began holding classes for African-Americans in an effort to train them for ministry. These classes, which started meeting in 1865, would later become Shaw University. In addition to being the first African-American university in the South, Shaw would also be the first school to open classes to African-American women, in 1866.

In 1868, just a few years after Shaw's founding, the Episcopal Church opened St. Augustine's College for African-Americans. The school's primary purpose was to train educators for African-American communities throughout the South. In the early years, the need for teachers was so great that often students at St. Augustine's would only stay one year before returning to their communities as teachers.

While St. Augustine's was graduating teachers as rapidly as possible, Shaw continued to break ground by consistently opening new fields of study to African Americans. The Leonard School of Medicine opened in 1885, and the Law School was opened in 1888. In 1896, St. Augustine's opened a training hospital, St. Agnes, the first training hospital for African-Americans from D.C. to Atlanta. By 1936, St. Agnes was seeing over 27,000 patients annually.

In the midst of all this advancement on the east side of town, a former Shaw student, Rev. Morgan Latta, founded another school in the Oberlin community. With classes beginning in 1892, Latta University would be the first school founded by an African-American in Raleigh. Latta sought to provide educational opportunities to anyone interested and admitted men and women, children and adults. Although the school was forced to close in 1920 due to financial difficulty, the grounds have continued to serve as a resource to the community over the years.

During the Civil Rights movement of the mid-1900s, Raleigh's African-American educational institutions played a vital role. Ella Baker of Shaw University would found SNCC (The Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee) and many of Raleigh's African-American college students would participate in non-violent protests in Raleigh and throughout the South.

Today the legacy of these groundbreaking schools is still felt. Shaw and St. Augustine's continue to educate students. Meanwhile, the Latta House Foundation preserves the memory of Rev. Latta's school and provides character building educational programs for kids based on lessons from the life of the school's founder.

The Raleigh City Museum is committed to preserving all aspects of the city's history. Join us this month and visit our newly opened Higher Education in Raleigh: Foundations of A Legacy exhibit. The exhibit features the stories and artifacts from all of Raleigh's universities and colleges. While there, you can also visit As We March On: Raleigh's Journey Toward Civil Rights and learn more about how local African-Americans struggled to earn equal rights. The Raleigh City Museum is located at 220 Fayetteville Street in the old Briggs Hardware building. The museum is open Tuesday through Friday from 10am-4pm and Saturdays from 1-4pm. For more information call 919-832-3775 or log onto [www.raleighcitymuseum.org](http://www.raleighcitymuseum.org).



John Chavis, one of the city's first educators  
Courtesy of Washington & Lee University



A 1916 Shaw University Classroom  
Courtesy of Shaw University Archives and Special Collections



St. Agnes Hospital Nurses in 1949  
Courtesy of North Carolina Division of Archives

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# The Deep South Local Music Review

By Dave Rose

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



**Laura Reed and Deep Pocket**  
 "soul:music"  
[www.laurareedanddeepocket.com](http://www.laurareedanddeepocket.com)

Laura Reed and Deep Pocket attempt to use music as a medium for positive change by using a fresh approach to performance and entertainment. The group's style ranges from high-energy R&B and funk to down-tempo soul. Audiences can relate to their socially conscious lyrics and upbeat message of inspiration.

The roots of the group's sound and message come from Laura Reed's early life in South Africa. The band was formed in the summer of 2006. They have shared the stage with the Dirty Dozen Brass Band, the Blue Rags and Yo Mama's Big Fat Booty Band.

Laura Reed and Deep Pocket recorded their debut album at Echo Mountain Studios in Asheville, NC, and released the CD in October 2007. The band has many dates planned throughout the Southeast, including visits to Asheville and Greensboro, NC. They will be performing at the Pour House Music Hall in Raleigh on March 26. Look out for Laura Reed and Deep Pocket; you'll be hearing much more from them in the future.



**Cougar Magnum**  
 "The Green Disc"  
[www.cougarmagnum.com](http://www.cougarmagnum.com)

Cougar Magnum is a five-piece band that formed in Raleigh in September 2006. They blend blues, jazz, alternative rock and funk into a new genre of music that they call "modern jam." The band's dual guitars and four-part harmony vocals "make your feet move and your jaw drop."

In 2007, Cougar Magnum played virtually every live music venue in Raleigh, including the Brewery, the Berkeley Café, the Pour House, and the Downtown Event Center. They have performed alongside acts such as Parmalee and Kepteclectic, proving that "they can rock with anyone anywhere!"

"The Green Disc" was recorded at Raleigh's Low Watt Recording in November 2007. Low Watt has recorded bands such as the Capulets and Juniper Lane.

On a side note, Cougar Magnum appeared on the *Judge Mathis* TV show in January. The case involves a "battle of the bands" competition and its prize package.



**Joe Hero**  
 "A Hero's Welcome"  
[www.joehero.com](http://www.joehero.com)

I like the name; it's got that great "Kid Rock" vibe. But none of these guys are likely to be found beating up Tommy Lee over a former Baywatch star. They seem a little more grounded and it shows in their music.

Joe Hero has a familiar story for bands, starting with three college buddies who have performed together for years. The sound is pop mixed with splashes of punk (I hear some Foo Fighters influence). They recently completed the recording of their debut album, most of which can be found on MySpace or PureVolume.com.

Joe Hero has performed in several venues in NC, including the Brewery and the Dive Bar in Raleigh, as well as the Library in Chapel Hill, and will continue to play local venues in 2008.



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

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# A Trip into March Madness



By Charles Upchurch

Photos courtesy Franklin Hotel

With all due respect to Wolfpack and Blue Devil fans, One-Tank Trips heads to Tar Heel country this month for March Madness, and the metropolitan allure of the Franklin Hotel. Whether you choose to prowling Franklin Street during the ACC Tournament (March 14th through 16th), or during the NCAA Tournament opening rounds (March 21st through 23rd), you'll be in hoops heaven in Chapel Hill.

Fanhood aside, The Franklin Hotel, a new luxury boutique hotel on Franklin Street, is a discovery worth making. Anchoring downtown Chapel Hill's booming West End, The Franklin is an easy walk to the historic UNC campus, as well as the shops, restaurants, bars, museums, galleries, and performing arts venues in this preeminent college town. As your base camp, The Franklin offers unsurpassed comfort and convenience.

Once a quaint collegiate village, Chapel Hill has evolved into an enclave of sophisticated urban culture. Add the excitement of NCAA basketball and warm spring weather, and you have a lively atmosphere



offering many opportunities to watch tournament games in bars and restaurants that often match the energy in the arena. We'll offer up a few suggestions for dining and game watching, but first, let's check in at The Franklin.

First you'll want to linger in the understated elegance of *Roberts at The Franklin*, the hotel's lobby bar and patio. Roberts exudes casual sophistication. High, carved ceilings soar above the pewter-finished bar and Italian marble fireplace, giving the room a clubby ambience. Double glass doors open to a sidewalk patio offering comfortable outdoor seating. Relax, linger and enjoy.

The Franklin has 67 stylish guestrooms and suites showcasing archival photographs of historic Franklin Street. Each room features either a private patio balcony or arched windows that open to tree-top views. Luxury appointments include a wall-mounted 32" LCD HD TV (important for late-night tournament highlights). If nothing less than a 42" HD TV will do, ask about the luxury penthouse VIP suites, where you can really settle in.

If you need a workout before venturing out for an evening with Dicky V., there's a gym located on the fourth floor, overlooking the sunlit atrium. The fitness center features a spacious exercise studio equipped with an elliptical, Bowflex treadmills, TreadClimbers, and an Ultimate 2 Gym.

Now you're ready. You can dive into the student scene and relive undergraduate glories, or keep it more urbane and cosmopolitan. Our tip: mix it up a little. After all, this is March Madness, baby!



For the energy of the student cheering section you can venture into the usual haunts such as Woody's, He's Not Here or Goodfella's (still a favorite). But the best game watching experience for our money is at Ham's, just across the street from The Franklin. There's good grill fare, hard-working bartenders, a rabid Carolina crowd and the Tar Heel sports radio play-by-play blasting over the noise. Hardcore only here, please.

We also highly recommend West End Wine Bar. They offer over 100 wines by the glass (and PBR in a can) and have excellent TVs behind the bar. A rooftop patio distinguishes West End as Chapel Hill's only three-floor venue. Yes, there's more downstairs. The Cellar features three pool tables, a full bar and a 1200-song jukebox. This is truly one of Chapel Hill's best kept secrets.

For a break from roundball, check out Lantern, which specializes in simple, authentic Asian food in a sleek urban setting. The striking dining room and bar were designed by NC native (and current NYC resident) David Doernberg, a designer working in the film industry. Note the cinematic influence in Lantern's chic, seductive hideaway bar. Try an exotic cocktail or simply surrender to the expert care of the mixologist on duty.

Another favorite option is 411 West, serving up Mediterranean-inspired pizzas, pastas, seafood, and steaks. Score seats at the bar near the cozy warmth of the wood-burning pizza oven. The TV is right there and you won't miss a play.

If you're still on Franklin Street Sunday morning, try brunch at Crook's Corner. Selections ranging

from their traditional country breakfast to the gumbo omelet, fried oysters and eggs, and legendary shrimp and grits have earned Crook's a national reputation for creative Southern fare.

If you need a special incentive to get that certain someone to accompany you on your b-ball adventure, the Franklin Hotel offers a Regal Romance package with flowers, chocolates, chilled champagne and breakfast in bed. There's also a Date Night on Franklin Street package that may do the trick. Check with the hotel for all details, special services and rates.

The most impressive thing about this to-do list is that these terrific venues, along with several others we would also recommend, are all within a couple blocks of each other. March is a great time to explore Chapel Hill's West End and discover something new.

## The Franklin Hotel

311 West Franklin Street  
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Phone: 919.442.9000  
Fax: 919.442.4040  
[www.franklinhoteln.com](http://www.franklinhoteln.com)

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

*Send us your ideas for future trips or stops along the way we shouldn't miss to [onetanktrips@raleighdowntowner.com](mailto:onetanktrips@raleighdowntowner.com).*

*About the writer: Charles Upchurch is Vice President at French/West/Vaughan and can be contacted at [cupchurch@fwv-us.com](mailto:cupchurch@fwv-us.com).*

# “The Drowsy Chaperone” is Anything But Drowsy



By Rachel Gragg

In an era where flapper dresses became the new style, Babe Ruth set a home run record, and Herbert Hoover is elected president, comes the story of the 1920's original musical comedy, *The Drowsy Chaperone*.

The 1920's went by such names as the Jazz Age, the Roaring Twenties, the Age of Intolerance, and the Age of Wonderful Nonsense. Whatever you call it, the era embodied the beginning of modern America. *The Drowsy Chaperone* truly is a musical within a comedy that brings to life the exuberance of the 1920's.

The production tells the story of a modern-day musical theater addict known simply as “Man in Chair.” To chase his blues away he drops the needle on his favorite LP – the 1928 musical comedy, *The Drowsy Chaperone*. From the crackle of his hi-fi, the musical magically bursts to life on-stage, telling the tale of a pampered Broadway starlet who wants to give up show business to get married. Her story is intertwined with those of her producer who sets out to sabotage the nuptials, her chaperone, the debonair groom, the dizzy showgirl, the Latin lover, and a pair of gangsters who double as pastry chefs. Man in Chair's love of *The Drowsy Chaperone* speaks to anyone who has ever been transported by the theater.

Jim Lavery, general manager of Broadway Series South, responded, “After seeing *The Drowsy Chaperone* in New York I knew that Raleigh had to get this remarkable show in our season. The audience in New York couldn't stop laughing, I couldn't stop laughing; it was like nothing I had ever seen before. The comedy is cleverly done and the talent is astounding.”

Broadway Series South presented eight performances of *The Drowsy Chaperone* at Raleigh Memorial Auditorium in February, and audiences fell in love with the show. For all those fans of “*The Mary Tyler Moore Show*,” Georgia Engel, who played Georgette on the television show, was on stage as lead character Mrs. Tottendale, and was still as charming as ever.

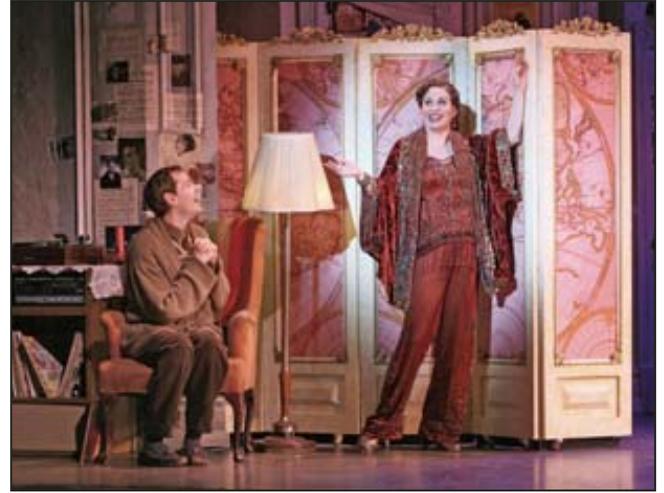


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# Go Ahead, Try It On

By Kelly Hubbard



**T**here are two extremes when it comes to clothing customers. Some are chronic week-

end shoppers hunting for the latest trend while others stay within their comfort zones with the usual styles and colors. "We have regulars who come in every Friday and literally walk out wearing their outfits for the night. Others will branch out and say, 'I never would have tried that,' after finding a great, trendy outfit," said Paige Garner, owner of fab'rik in Cameron Village. "Either way, I love that people are taking risks and trying new things."

Fab'rik appeals to a wide range of fashionistas; its clothing makes shopping fun while living up to the glamour of the high-fashion industry. Having opened last August, it has quickly gained a reputation as the go-to place to find the ever-popular "cute little dress." Not to be confused with the



Holli Nelson in an empire waist dress by Angie

"little black dress," of course, because today's dresses are taking on extreme colors, from vibrant pinks and greens to neutral taupes and crèmes.

Believe it or not, dresses offer a very easy, versatile look. A dress can be paired with other closet staples like leggings and jackets or stand as an outfit on its own. Holli Nelson, textile technology major at NC State

University, effortlessly pairs tall, black suede Pierre Dumas boots with just about any short dress in the store. For example, a bold, red jersey dress by Angie has an empire waist and embroidered flower detail along its v-neck. The dress falls right above the knee so it can be worn with leggings or boots for the cool weather but paired with flip flops or sandals when the seasons shift.

With fashion, less can be more; exposing your shoulders or just a hint of your knee can be very appealing. The rules are changing; pantyhose are no longer a requirement and leggings can be worn in just about any color. Nelson described an outfit that her friend put together by taking a patterned v-neck dress by Juno NY and pairing it with a black turtleneck and tall boots. The dress had a bubble detail at the bottom that draws a little attention to the knee and gives a finished look.



William Rast jeans and long-sleeve "I Love You" tee by Juno

Another way to stretch your wardrobe is with coats and jackets. If you are looking for the latest trend that every-

Continued on page 13

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Continued from page 12

one can enjoy, trenchcoats are the way to go. Fab'rik carries many in varying styles and colors. It's often the small details that designers add to a piece that makes it stand out.

A beautiful trenchcoat by BB Dakota has details in all the right places. The beige coat has a clean line, fitted at the top with a slight flare. The Peter Pan collar and flare cuffs are accented with thick, chocolate trim, and oversized brown buttons pull the look together. "Trenchcoats can take you



Neutral dress by Kanvas and trench coat by BB Dakota

from winter through the breezy weather in April. They look great with denim, khaki and linen," Garner said.

Since jeans are always a major point of interest, fab'rik customers have become very familiar with brands like Seven and Citizens of Humanity, but William Rast by Justin Timberlake is quickly becoming one of the most requested lines of denim. It could be because stars like Jessica Simpson and Jessica Biel are known for wearing them, but Garner says the jeans are visually appealing, with flattering cuts and stitching. Want a spring preview to warm up your winter? Keep an eye out for William Rast mini-skirts and long shorts to hit the shelves in March and April.

If you want to find a romantic date outfit but still keep it casual, wear a long-sleeve tee with a pair of skinny jeans. It's the perfect look for the cooler weather because it keeps you warm but shows off your shape. Fall in love with a black fitted tee by Juno with a chic, "I love you" screenprint design that would make any date feel the same.

For a shopping tip, don't be afraid to buy on a whim. Some "comfort" shoppers have a tendency to see an item they like, leave to think about it, then



Holli in patterned dress with bubbled hem by Juno NY

return to find another savvy shopper has already snatched it off the shelf. Fab'rik's rotating merchandise ensures there will always be something new to take into the dressing room, but hot items go quickly. If you have the opportunity to buy a great find, seize it!

It is always helpful to bring a friend for a second opinion while shopping. Schedule a Rock Star Shopping Party at fab'rik and you and 10 to 20 of your closest friends can have private

access to the whole boutique after hours. Complimentary beer and wine is served and all purchases made during the party receive a 20% discount.

Fab'rik is a small boutique founded by Dana Spinola five years ago in Atlanta. Over the past two years Spinola decided to expand the brand with three stores in Georgia and four additional franchise locations. Garner has always had a love for clothing and felt connected conceptually and personally with Spinola's model for a reasonably-priced boutique.

As a full-time employee at Lenovo, Garner satisfies her passion for clothing through fab'rik. She is on a mission to help people realize that they can find an affordable balance between style and comfort. "Nothing is better than finding a great outfit. You look good, you feel good, it's the whole experience," she said. "At fab'rik we want people to feel welcome and warm. The products have to equal the shopping experience, because that's what it's all about."

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<u>Monday 2/18 (10:00pm-1:00am)</u> CHRIS SUITER	<u>Thursday 2/28 (9pm-1am)</u> CAFÉ MARS
<u>Wednesday 2/20 (9pm-1am)</u> VOODOO FLUTE	<u>Friday 2/29 (9:30pm-1:30am)</u> STONEAGE ROMEO
<u>Thursday 2/21 (9pm-1am)</u> CAFÉ MARS	<u>Saturday 3/1 (9:30pm-1:30am)</u> MAGIC PIPERS
<u>Friday 2/22 (9:30pm-1:30am)</u> SOUL PSYCHEDELIQUE	<u>Sunday 3/2 (9:30pm-1:30am)</u> STRETCH
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Cabell and crew at opening night of Broadway Series South's "Cats"

Cameron and Mark Mitchell at The Pouch for his birthday party



Stacy and Dominique from NBC-17



Brian and Stacia downtown

Toni from Salon 21 out with Karen



Tito Hernandez and Ray Walker of the North Carolina Theatre

# AROUNDTOWNAROUNDTOWNAROUNDTOWNAROUND

Paul Sessums and Jill McKay, two of the four owners in The Pouch/Bassment



Jedediah Gant and Jon Zellweger from Clearscapes, and Ladye Jane Vickers of the Raleigh City Museum

Lee, John and Lori



Roman Gabriel, legendary quarterback of NC State and later of Rams and Eagles fame, at Amra's with business partner Chico. Roman is back in town and is starting a new limousine service in Raleigh.





**Chef Mario and staff at the Triangle Wine Experience**



**George Ghneim and Phillippe Ragot, proprietors of Riviera Resto**



**Jen and Brooke downstairs at The Bassment**



**Rachel Gragg and Michelle Bernal from Broadway Series South**

**Whitney, Salt and Nikki from 96 Rock**



**Lisa Grele Barrie, managing director of the North Carolina Theatre, in the Backer's Club at the Dreamgirls Premier with Dr. Catherine Evans, Theatre Board Member (who had a walk-on role in Dreamgirls!), and Dr. Herbert K. Land, NC Theatre supporter**

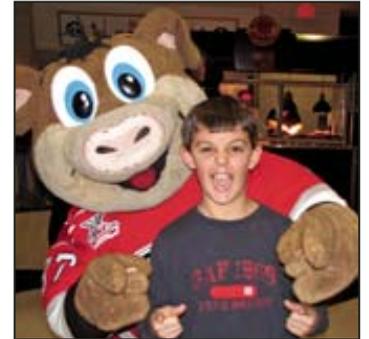
# TOWN AROUND TOWN AROUND TOWN AROUND TOWN



**Stockton and Colton out for doughnuts at Krispy Kreme**



**Alex (Johnson Brothers Distributing), Joel (Epicure Wines), and Hai (Fine Wine Trading) at the Triangle Wine Experience**



**Stormy and young Canes fan**



**Dave, Laura, Mike and Jacquie from 93.9 at opening night of "The Drowsy Chaperone"**



**Caniac kids at a recent Hurricanes game**



**Storm Squad cheerleaders and the RBC mascot**

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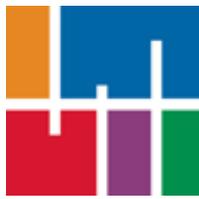
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# Finding Your Way Downtown

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The logo above created for downtown Raleigh through the Downtown Raleigh Alliance represents the unique characteristics of downtown's different districts while preserving the importance of interdependence between downtown's identities. In the logo, each district utilizes a separate color to symbolize its distinctiveness; the districts fit together like pieces of a puzzle to form a vibrant color palate that embodies Downtown Raleigh's aptitude for providing something for everyone. In addition to the colors representing different districts, the mixed spectrum also implicitly conveys the importance of a diverse mix of living, working, and entertainment options that make downtowns successful.

In the near future, the district colors will assist visitors by serving as an integral part of the new wayfinding system downtown by illustrating the geographic relationships between districts. Hanging banners are currently being displayed in each district, that reflect their referential color.

In our next five issues, the Raleigh Downtowner will take a quick look at each of the five districts providing a detailed map of each area and important points of attraction.



Copy provided by the Downtown Raleigh Alliance. For more information, visit [www.GoDowntownRaleigh.com](http://www.GoDowntownRaleigh.com). Downtown graphic courtesy of the City of Raleigh Planning Department.

# Raleigh's Newest Address, Circa 1869

By Scott Misner

Once the center of downtown Raleigh's most prestigious address, Blount Street is set to return to its heyday with the creation of Blount Street Commons. The revitalization of this magnificent street covers six blocks and 21 acres in the heart of the city, and is expected to be complete by 2010.

For the last half-century, Blount Street has been home to the William Thomas House Bed and Breakfast, carefully maintained by owner Sarah Lofton, and the Governor's Mansion, but not much else. The state bought most of the properties and converted some historic houses into parking lots and used others as offices.

"We can't replace what was destroyed, but we can recreate the feel of what was there with designs in keeping with the neighborhood," said Doug Redford, senior project manager, LNR Property Corp., the developer spearheading Blount Street Commons.



The proposed Blount Street Commons development plan

"Today, what we have is the fabric of a historic district with holes in it," he said.

Pointing to the Farwell House, Redford continued, "There you have a beautiful Queen Anne-style home, set off in a parking lot. As a residence, it doesn't make sense where it is now, so we'll move it across the block to give it

a more appropriate setting."

The area's shift back to residential is expected to reinvigorate the district and preserve its historic significance. Situated between downtown and Historic Oakwood, Blount Street Commons combines 19th-century charm with 21st-century lifestyle to encourage public interaction.

Special touches make this urban neighborhood unique. Residents at Blount Street will be able to walk to Burning Coal Theatre in the renovated Murphey School. Abundant green space will form a streetscape of wide sidewalks that link historic homes with carriage homes, row homes, garden flats and live/work space. Over the next two years, the "holes" Redford mentioned will give way to new shops, restaurants and residential lofts over ground floor retail.

Designed to assimilate with the community's architectural heritage, this new construction will give Blount Street Commons a turn-of-the-century feel with urban convenience.

"What's great about this neighborhood is there's a lot of historic fabric to work with to keep new designs appropriate," said Steven D. Schuster, historian and architect with Clearscapes in Raleigh. "It's not too confining."

New buildings at Blount Street will

Continued on page 17

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- Greg Cox, News & Observer

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promote a “visual conversation” with the historic styles already existing, according to Schuster. Construction follows the Raleigh Historic Districts Commission guidelines, based upon those from the National Register of Historic Places.

“It will be a good neighbor with 21st century architecture that defers to the existing historic styles,” he said.

This means new construction at Blount Street won’t copy history, though a good designer takes elements of each period, reinterpreting them in a contemporary way. Schuster noted that new buildings are not more important than the buildings already in existence.

This mindset is good news for purists, since several existing historic homes will be moved within the Blount Street district and made available to the public. The Gay House and the Worth House were moved this past December, and were met with great fanfare at their new locations on Person Street. Contrary to a mention in last month’s issue, the historic Hawkins-Hartness House (the Lt. Gov’s mansion) will not be moved.



Artist rendering of a Blount Street Commons carriage house

Several other historic homes will change addresses to improve their context within the neighborhood, “...a more appropriate setting along Blount Street to recreate this grand avenue,” said Redford.

These historic homes will then be made available for public sale, allowing individuals to take advantage of historic tax credits.

Excitement is building as first-phase construction is underway on the site bounded by Blount, Person, Polk and Peace Streets. By 2009, the next governor can expect a cheerful welcome from a host of new neighbors next door on Blount Street.

*Did you know? Blount Street Commons has its own coffee. The unique “Blount Street Blend” is now available at Capital City Grocery.*

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

*Author Scott Misner is an urban Raleigh resident and public relations professional. He preaches what he practices as an adjunct professor at UNC-Chapel-Hill.*

■RD

## The Pouch/Bassment in Glenwood South

By Rachel Single

**T**rying to decide whether to go to a stylish, modern bar or one that’s more low-key and laid-back? There’s no need to choose if you’re at 407 Glenwood Avenue. You can have the best of both worlds without leaving the building. Opened this past October, The Pouch and the Bassment are perfect additions to the Glenwood South bar scene. Complete with a “basement”, outdoor front “porch,” and possibly a rooftop bar in the near future, it lives up to its name.

The Pouch, located upstairs, is alluring with its warm, subtle colors, Southern flair, and deep drink menu. It has an upscale, yet comfortable atmosphere with a beautiful granite bar, sofas, and LCD screens. Its outside porch overlooks the action on Glenwood South in both summer and winter. DJs spin the latest hits every Friday and Saturday night.

The Bassment is located underneath



Ex-Hurricane Mike Commodore recently celebrated his birthday with friends at the Bassment

The Pouch, with the entrance outside. Paul Sessums, one of the owners, told us the concept of how “The Bassment” came to be. When he and the other owners (Ralph Nelson [of Nelson’s Restaurant], Jillian McKay, and Vinson Barrisio) were collaborating on ideas, they decided they wanted to recreate “the place in high school where one kid had a really cool basement. You went there for all

the parties, and he had video games, a pool table, street signs, the works. There was always one kid in every neighborhood like that.”

The walls are covered with LP covers from the 70s, 80s and 90s, and old-school arcade games Frogger and Donkey Kong and a pinball machine complete the vintage feel. The music range is vast, and in one night you are

likely to hear anything from Air Supply, Neil Diamond, or Def Leppard, as well as newer artists like Kanye West, Buck Cherry, Kid Rock, and Gwen Stefani. Sessums adds, “We love to play the music that you haven’t heard in a while that makes you want to dance or sing. We’re all about bringing back nostalgia and having a good time.”

The Pouch and The Bassment attract a diverse crowd and are already known for having some of the best bartenders in town. Sessums, a State grad, has slung drinks in many of the most popular bars that have passed through Raleigh and pools that expertise with his co-owners for a high level of customer service. Stop in and check it out on your next trip down Glenwood South.

**Pouch:** Wed-Sat, 7pm-2am  
**Bassment:** Tue-Sat, 7pm-2am  
407 Glenwood Avenue  
919.836.1501

■RD

# EVENTS CALENDAR

## ON STAGE CALENDAR

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

### February 12-17

 Broadway Series South presents  
The Drowsy Chaperone



Get ready to be transported to a magical, wonderful world! A world where the critics are

in awe, the audiences are in heaven and the neighborhood is buzzing with excitement. Welcome to THE DROWSY CHAPERONE, the new musical comedy that is swooping into town with tons of laughs and the most 2006 Tony Awards of any musical on Broadway! It all begins when a die-hard musical fan plays his favorite cast album, a 1928 smash hit called "The Drowsy Chaperone," and the show magically bursts to life. We are instantly immersed in the glamorous,

hilarious tale of a celebrity bride and her uproarious wedding day, complete with thrills and surprises that take both the cast (literally) and the audience (metaphorically) soaring into the rafters.

More information:  
[www.broadwayseriesouth.com](http://www.broadwayseriesouth.com)

### February 21-March 2

 Carolina Ballet presents  
Balanchine

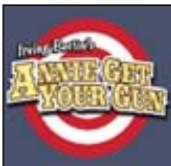


George Balanchine created works of beauty and intrigue that solidified him as one of the most influential ballet artists of the 20th century. Join Carolina Ballet as they present Apollo, considered by many the best example of neo-classical ballet, and Balanchine's first masterpiece, Raymonda Variations, a Raleigh premiere of Balanchine's tribute to the great Russian ballet of his youth. The Raleigh Downtowner is proud to be the media sponsor for this production.

For more information, call the BalletLine at 919.719.0900 or visit [www.carolinaballet.com](http://www.carolinaballet.com)

### February 23-March 2

 North Carolina Theatre presents  
Irving Berlin's Annie Get Your Gun



Annie Oakley is the best shot around and agrees to join Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show in just

enough time to fall head over heels for the production's headliner, Frank Butler. Business and romance pull the trigger for a duel in Irving Berlin's classic songs "Anything You Can Do" and "There's No Business Like Show Business." This sharpshooter hits the mark every time! Starring Larry Gatlin as Frank Butler.

More information: [www.nctheatre.com](http://www.nctheatre.com)

### March 25-30

 Broadway Series South presents  
The Wedding Singer



A new romantic musical comedy based on the hit movie, The Wedding Singer is "one

big party!" (Newsday)

It's 1985 and rock-star wannabe Robbie Hart is New Jersey's favorite wedding singer. He's the life of the party – until his own fiancée leaves him at the altar. Shot through the heart, Robbie makes every wedding as disastrous as his own.

Enter Julia, a winsome waitress who wins his affection. The only trouble is that Julia is about to be married to a Wall Street shark, and unless Robbie can pull off the performance of the decade, the girl of his dreams will be gone forever. With a brand new score that pays homage to the pop songs of the 1980's, The Wedding Singer takes us back to a time when hair was big, greed was good, collars were up, and a wedding singer just might be the coolest guy in the room. For more information, visit their website at: [www.broadwayseriesouth.com](http://www.broadwayseriesouth.com)

Photographs of Alexander Rivera" and other exhibits. On Feb. 10, don't miss Raleigh's own Capital City Five, who will perform uplifting spiritual and gospel music. Youngsters and adults will enjoy a program by award-winning children's book authors Eleanora Tate and Carole Boston Weatherford. They will discuss how African-American history, such as the Greensboro sit-ins in 1960, inspires their stories.

Take a cultural trip around the world during a Feb. 2 performance by Raleigh Little Theatre's Storytellers to Go! On Feb. 13, trace the literary trails of North Carolina's Mountain region with author Georgann Eubanks. Check out these happenings and more at the N.C. Museum of History. All programs are free, and parking is free on weekends.

For more information about these events, call 919-807-7900 or access [ncmuseumofhistory.org](http://ncmuseumofhistory.org).

### Now through April

NC Museum of Art

Friday evenings at the museum take on a new spin with Art in the Evening. Museum visitors can relax in a casually chic environment and enjoy a selection of fine wines or a microbrew beer, available for purchase at the lobby bar. Docent-led tours of the collection will begin at 6:30 p.m. in the lobby. The museum galleries remain open until 9 p.m.

Through the end of April, the museum also presents its Winter Film Series, featuring a classic film screening every Friday at 8 p.m. The film will be accompanied by silent film pianist David Drazin. The Winter Film Series screenings cost \$5 for general public and \$3.50 for students and members. Film tickets can be purchased in person through the Museum Box Office, on-line at [www.ncartmuseum.org](http://www.ncartmuseum.org), or by phone at 919.715.5923.

Admission to the museum's permanent collection and Art in the Evening is free.

### Tobacco Road Sports Café

Coming soon! Come for the food, stay for the game... Watch for details in the Raleigh Downtowner.

### All February

North Carolina Museum of History

Celebrate Black History Month at the N.C. Museum of History in Raleigh. As part of February's programs, the museum offers African American History Tours featuring the new exhibit "Bearing Witness: Civil Rights



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### BLUE MARTINI MUSIC CALENDAR

<p>Sun. Feb 17 &gt; TBA (\$5 drink specials)</p> <p>Mon. Feb 18 &gt; Russ Thompson</p> <p>Tue. Feb 19 &gt; Open Mic with Matt Kush</p> <p>Wed. Feb 20 &gt; Voodoo Flute (ladies nite!)</p> <p>Thu. Feb 21 &gt; Andy Coats</p> <p>Fri. Feb 22 &gt; Slow Down Willie</p> <p>Sat. Feb 23 &gt; The Heaters</p> <p>Sun. Feb 24 &gt; Andy Coats</p> <p>Mon. Feb 25 &gt; Russ Thompson</p> <p>Tue. Feb 26 &gt; Open Mic with Matt Kush</p> <p>Wed. Feb 27 &gt; Voodoo Flute (ladies nite!)</p> <p>Thu. Feb 28 &gt; Chop Shop</p> <p>Fri. Feb 29 &gt; Adrian Duke</p>	<p>Sat. Mar 1 &gt; TBA (\$5 drink specials)</p> <p>Sun. Mar 2 &gt; TBA (\$5 fruit martinis)</p> <p>Mon. Mar 3 &gt; Russ Thompson</p> <p>Tue. Mar 4 &gt; Open Mic with Matt Kush</p> <p>Wed. Mar 5 &gt; Voodoo Flute (ladies nite!)</p> <p>Thu. Mar 6 &gt; TBA (champagne Thursdays)</p> <p>Fri. Mar 7 &gt; TBA (\$5 bomb specials)</p> <p>Sat. Mar 8 &gt; TBA (\$5 drink specials)</p> <p>Sun. Mar 9 &gt; TBA (\$5 fruit martinis)</p> <p>Mon. Mar 10 &gt; Russ Thompson</p> <p>Tue. Mar 11 &gt; Open Mic with Matt Kush</p> <p>Wed. Mar 12 &gt; Voodoo Flute (ladies nite!)</p> <p>Thu. Mar 13 &gt; TBA (champagne Thursdays)</p>
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A	510 Glenwood	6
B	Bishops Park	
C	The Paramount	7
D	Governor's Point	
E	West	8
F	1001 Hillsborough	
G	The Quorum	9
H	150 St. Mary's	
I	Park Devereux	10
J	The Atrium	
K	Byrum Building Condos	11
L	Cameron Village Condos	
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O	630 North	13
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Q	Governor's Square	14
R	Founder's Row	
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U	The Hillsborough	
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W	Palladium Plaza	18
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Y	Lafayette	19
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BB	Martin Place	
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GG	The Glen on Peace	
HH	Park Rowe	23
II	The Plaza – RBC	
JJ	The Cotton Mill	24
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# REAL ESTATE

## REAL ESTATE



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rear of building. Glenwood Agency Real Estate 828-0077 For sale \$675k

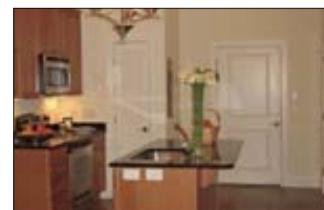
### WIREWOOD DRIVE 2 BR

1031 Wirewood Drive: 2 bedroom/1.5 bath condo. Several upgrades, new flooring, cathedral ceilings, all appliances included! Offered at \$179,900. Call Tonia at 609-5206 to schedule a showing. Visit [www.toniaz.com](http://www.toniaz.com) for info on upcoming CONDO TOURS in Bishops Park!



### DAWSON ON MORGAN UNIT

Gorgeous 3BR/2.5BA unit at the luxurious Dawson on Morgan. Hdws, stainless appliances, granite countertops! HUGE balcony with great view! Walkable downtown location! Two Elevators. Secured entry and parking! Storage unit under parking deck! Built-in wet bar with glass shelving & beverage appliance! Three pantries in kitchen! \$539,000 Call The Glenwood Agency for more info at 919-828-0077.



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### CHARMING 5BR/2.5BA ON CLARK

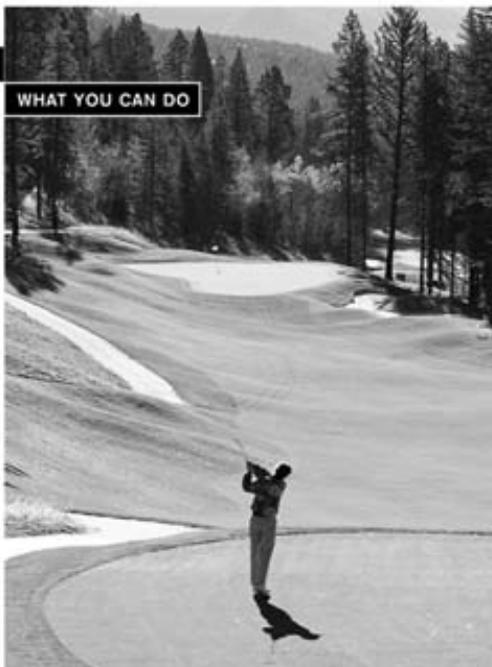
5BR/2.5BA on corner of Clark & Pogue, neighbor to the Rose Gardens! Brand new paint, beautiful colors. Living room with

Continued on page 23



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Fred Benton *knows* the Triangle! Benton, former syndicated columnist, long-time food editor of SPECTATOR Magazine, reviewer for Citysearch.com, food writer for METRO Magazine, radio personality, and City Style editor for the Raleigh Downtowner, is pleased to recommend to our readers the following as "better living" businesses of particularly high standards and quality.

**York Simpson Underwood Realty** - Our roots in the Triangle community run deep. To learn more about the residential real estate company voted "Best In The Triangle" visit www.yshomes.com.

**Angus Barn** - Glenwood Avenue, close to RDU International Airport, 787-3505. The premier steak house in North Carolina: the legend of the fine cuisine here continues every evening. Award-winning wine cellar. Reservations recommended.

**42nd Street Oyster Bar** - 508 West Jones Street, Raleigh, 831-2811. Best fried oysters ya ever smacked lips over! 42ndstoysterbar.com

**larrybeans.com** - Your web site for premium "fair trade" coffees: can't live without their El Salvador Dali coffee blend! Larry's Beans purveys to only the finest coffee houses. 828-1234

**The Point at Glenwood** - 1626 Glenwood Avenue at Five Points, Raleigh. Neighborhood ambiance. New menu! 755-1007

**NoFo** - 2014 Fairview Road, Five Points, Raleigh. The café for breakfast, brunch, lunch & dinner. And the retail for provisioning the luxurious larder and cooking accoutrements to turn functional kitchens into art spaces. nofo.com. 821-1240

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

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

**Seaboard Wine & Tasting Bar** - Seaboard Station, Raleigh, 831-0850. Uptown ambiance with focus on exceptional European wines with knowledgeable staff. Complimentary wine tasting,

Saturdays, noon to 4 p.m. seaboardwine.com

**Cafe Tiramisu** - North Ridge Shpg Ctr. near Ace Hardware, Falls of Neuse Road, 981-0305. Best pork dish around: Stuffed Pork Loyn Chop. But all is noteworthy at this family-owned Italian eatery!

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

**Sew Fine II Draperies and Interiors** - Sutton Square Shpg Ctr, 5850 Fayetteville Rd., Durham, 806-3638. A Hunter-Douglas Centurion member. Free at-home consultations. Visit sewfine2.com

**Waraji Japanese Restaurant** - Duraleigh Road, 783-1883. "If you knew sushi like I know sushi" then you'd KNOW Waraji! Warajirestaurant.com. Lunch and Dinner.

**Glenwood Grill** - Glenwood Village Shopping Center, 782-3102. Upscale casual, neighborhood grill with memorable food prepared by chef John Wright. Menu changes every two weeks. One of my favorite hangouts. Glenwoodgrill.com

**Nina's Ristorante** - 8801 Leadmine Road, Harvest Plaza, 845-1122. Owned and operated by "mom and pop" Chris and Nina Psarro. Nina, to me, is the Goddess of Italian cookery. Nina's Ristorante is critically acclaimed as the best Italian restaurant in the area!

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

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- QUORUM CENTER, beautifully appointed 1, 2, and 3 bedroom condos with unparalleled city views, Connie Floyd, 919-931-0222
- RBC PLAZA CONDOS, unprecedented living in downtown Raleigh's tallest building, Jackie Savage and Neal Hussey, 919-227-7323
- THE VILLAGE AT PILOT MILL, single family homes from \$450K, John Butler, 919-838-5050
- YARBOROUGH PARK, townhomes in Mordecai from \$250K, Laura Bromhal, 919-601-1616

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YSU LENDING CHRISTIE'S GREAT ESTATES

Country music legend, Larry Gatlin, will star as “Frank Butler” in the North Carolina production of *Annie Get Your Gun*, which runs February 23 to March 2, 2008 at Raleigh Memorial Auditorium at the Progress Energy Center for the Performing Arts.



Larry is best known for teaming up with his brothers in the late 1970s, where they became one of country music’s most successful groups of the 1970s and 1980s. He has a total of 33 Top 40 singles, which include his solo recordings and those with his brothers.

*Annie Get Your Gun* is the story of Annie Oakley, who enters a shooting contest, wins and agrees to join Buffalo Bill’s Wild West Show in just enough time to fall head over heels for the production’s headliner, Frank Butler. Business and romance pull the trigger for a duel in Irving Berlin’s classic songs “Anything You Can Do” and “There’s No Business Like Show Business.”

**Raleigh Downtowner:** Tell us a little bit about the show, *Annie Get Your Gun*, and the character you play.

**Larry Gatlin:** Well, *Annie Get Your Gun* is one of the old classic theatrical production/musicals. You’ve got some of the music that almost everyone recognizes. Well, maybe not the younger generation – they’re more familiar with High School Musical. My seven-year old granddaughter can sing High School Musical front to back, which is a good thing. From AGYG “Anything you can do I can do better”; everybody knows that song. And “There’s no business like show business” is one of the most familiar songs in the canon of American musical theatre. It’s a great show by Irving Berlin and a lot of fun. The show is based on an old tale of the true-life story of sharpshooter Annie Oakley and her love affair and romance with Frank Butler.

I play the character of Frank Butler, and of course he’s a charming, witty, glib, handsome, debonair, world-famous horseman (Larry says this with a sly grin, evident even over the phone) in Buffalo Bill’s Wild West Show.

I’ve seen the production on two or three occasions, once on Broadway with my dear friend Bernadette Peters, who played the part of Annie, and another time with Reba McEntire. They offered me the role of Frank in New York, but at the time I was in Myrtle Beach under contract to a theatre that had my name on it, so I wasn’t able to do the show. It’s honestly one of the great heartbreaks in my life that I never got the chance to do the production with either Bernadette or Reba in New York, but that’s the way it goes. I’m going to get the chance to do it now with Lauren Kennedy however, and I’m really looking forward to that with great anticipation and joy.

**RD:** Have you had the opportunity to work with Ms. Kennedy before?

**LG:** No, I have not, but I have friends in the North Carolina Theatre community who say she is just wonderful. My dear friend Dave Clemmons (who casts shows through Dave Clemmons Casting Agency), raves about her. As does Marcus Lovett, who was the second man to play the Phantom on Broadway after Michael Crawford left and took the show on the road. Marcus Lovett – a great young man, wonderful singer – called me out of the clear blue sky the other day to let me know that I was going to get to work with Lauren. So I know that from those two mentions, she could not come any more highly recommended.

I’m really looking forward to hearing her sing and be able to do this wonderful, great old show.

**RD:** What part of your career are you the most proud?

**LG:** That’s kind of like asking a parent which one of their kids they love the most. It’s just impossible. My mother said something very wise to me once. I’m the eldest of the three Gatlin brothers, and my youngest brother Rudy asked her, “Mama do you love me as much as you love Larry?” She answered, “I love you the same; I’ve just loved him longer,” which I thought was a brilliant, very insightful answer. So I would have to say – I love the songwriting, I love Broadway, I love writing musicals, but the thing that I’ve loved the longest is the wonderful association with my two brothers, and the singing of music together. We’ve done everything from the little Pentecostal churches in west Texas to the Grand Ole Opry House to Carnegie Hall to the sand dunes in the middle of the Saudi Arabian desert for the troops. I would have to say that my oldest love is the love of my brothers, and having the honor of my God to write pretty good tunes. I’m good at that and I’m grateful for that ability. If I had gone to school to learn how to write songs, to learn how to be a songwriter, and taken composition classes and been a music theory major and then boasted about it, that would be bragging. I didn’t do any of that – I was given a gift from that almighty

entity I choose to call God, so when I say when I’m good at it that’s not bragging, it’s a way of saying I’m thankful for that gift. I was an English major, but just learning how to read and write well, and reading the classics does not automatically prepare you to

become a hit songwriter with the credits that I am grateful to say I have under my belt.

**RD:** Other than performing, were there any other jobs or careers that you entertained?

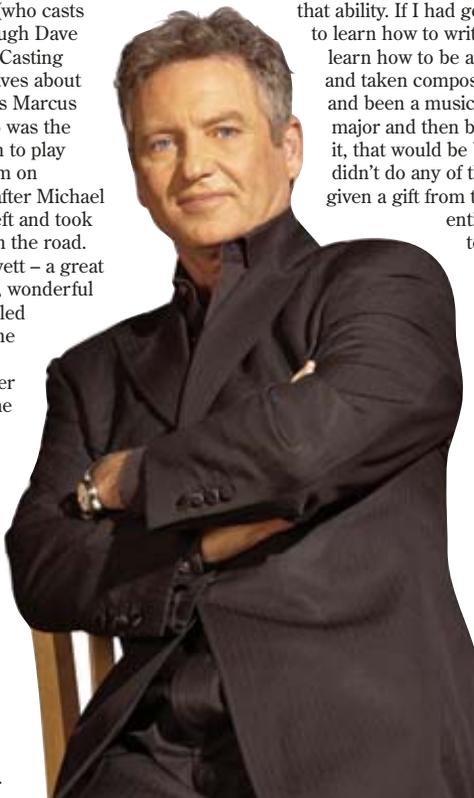
**LG:** I went to law school for six months, but when I was six years old I walked on the stage with my brothers and won a talent contest in Abilene, Texas. Ever since then, I’ve always known in my heart that this is what I wanted to do.

**RD:** Is there any advice you would give to local musicians who are trying to break in to the music business?

**LG:** Well, first of all, the music and record business that I knew no longer exist. They’ve changed dramatically because of the internet. The record business, or CD business, just doesn’t exist anymore. So the paradigm has changed. As far as giving advice, I’m not going to say anything, except what my friend Kenny Rogers once said when someone asked him the same thing: “You do it because you love it, first and foremost. Give yourself x’ amount of time – 5, 10, 15 years, set your agenda, set some parameters, and say I’m gonna do this because I love it, for 10 years or whatever. Then, if you become successful, if you make it, then you can say, ‘I made it’. If you don’t make it, then you can say, ‘I loved it.’ It’s a win-win.” That’s sage advice, and I have given that on numerous occasions, and wish I’d thought of it. I’ve said if you love it, everything will take care of itself. But when you really think about it, it’s like anything else. It’s like being a football player, or a teacher; you do it because it moves you and because you’re passionate about it. Give yourself a chance to hit the big time, and then if you don’t make it and you decide to give up after 10 years, you can say, “Wow, wasn’t that a blast! I loved it.”

**RD:** Have you been to Raleigh before?

**LG:** I’ve been to Raleigh many times. We’ve done concerts there and I’ve played golf with Wally Jones, who runs the NC Theatre where we’re producing the show. I have friends there and I’ve performed Will Rogers in that same auditorium years ago, so I’m not a stranger to Raleigh. I look forward to seeing all those nice folks again and playing a little golf. It should be fun.





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# North State Bank Opens Downtown

**N**orth State Bank president and CEO Larry Barbour announced that North State Bank has opened its sixth Wake County office, and chose downtown Raleigh for the location.

"This was an exciting move for our bank," said Barbour. "Downtown Raleigh is really coming alive, and we couldn't think of a better place to be.

Our office is flavored with some of Raleigh's richest history," Barbour comments, "and the market is a perfect fit for us, as we specifically cater to the needs of the attorneys and other professionals working in downtown every day. I am pleased with the leadership of Brian Summers, our downtown market

executive, and the strong team he has working with him."

North State's office opened in December 2006, and is located at 16 W. Martin Street, suite 1200, in the old Capital Club building. A grand opening celebration was held on Tuesday, January 29th, with the theme centered around the decade the building was built, the 1920s. Mayor Meeker and DRA president David Diaz were present at the opening.

Founded in 2000, North State Bank is a full-service community bank, serving Wake and New Hanover counties through seven full-service offices.

Company info: [www.northstatebank.com](http://www.northstatebank.com)



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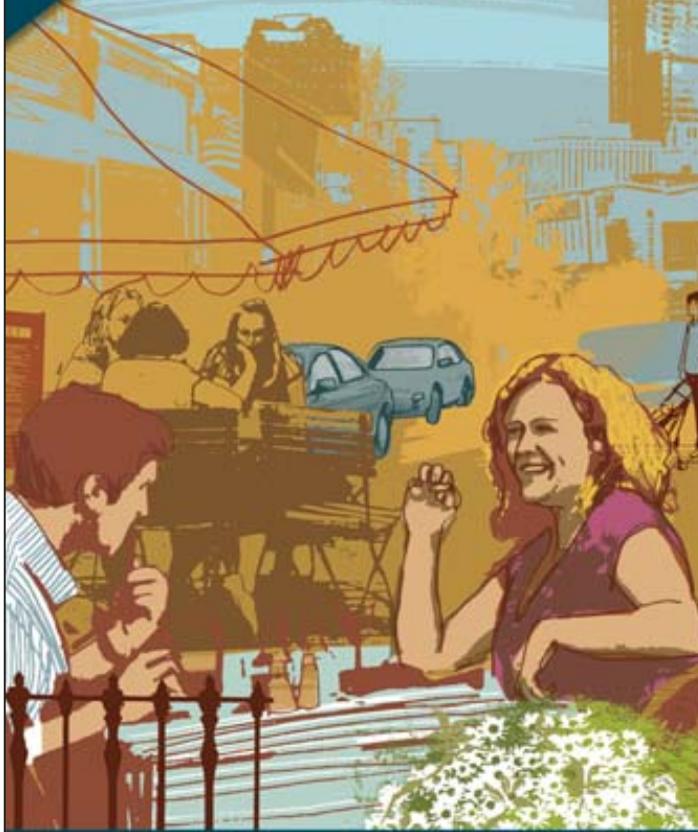
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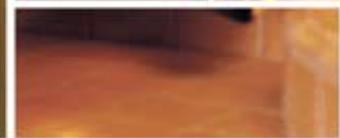
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