

All up in your business

Part of a periodic update on local businesses.

Compiled by Summer City Editor Jonathan Moyer. Photos are DTH file.



Franklin Street boutique opens

Sophie and Mollie's, a women's clothing and accessory store, opened a second location on May 16. The first store, located in Apex, came to be three years ago through the friendship of Joan Simpson and Maria Ortega. Simpson was working as a manager in a boutique in Apex, and Ortega often visited her. Simpson and Ortega bought the boutique and re-named it after Ortega's schnauzers, Sophie and Mollie. Simpson said they wanted to open a new location for the business with no luck until a real estate agent came into the stores. "She told us she had this great place in Chapel Hill," she said. "We decided we weren't going to look for a new place for a while, but we looked here and fell in love."



Town barber shop relocates

The Chapel Hill Barber Shop has been cutting hair at University Square since 1967, but that's going to change in the next two months. Don and Drew Ingle, the father-son owners of the shop, will relocate the business to The Courtyard across from the Carolina Brewery at 431 W. Franklin St. in Suite 310. "It's a father-son store, though we're hoping for that to become more of a son-father store soon," Don Ingle said. The owners decided to relocate after they were told the University Square would be torn down. All businesses must vacate University Square by August. Demolition is slated to begin later this year. "We're very sad to leave," Ingle said. "We've been very well treated here."



From Manhattan to Franklin

Mina's Grill is an Italian-American restaurant which opened at 401 W. Franklin St. on June 2. Its first location was only a block away from the World Trade Center on 9/11. "When it collapsed, dust covered the entire place," owner John Hanna said. Eight months ago, he contemplated moving to Chapel Hill after visiting a friend in the area. "I thought it was nice and safe and I feel much better being here, more so than any other place," Hanna said. He visited Chapel Hill again in March and decided that he would move Mina's to Franklin Street. Mina's Grill serves many homemade Italian dishes and sauces, which Hanna said sets his restaurant apart.



Tea house brews first pot

The newest addition to the Pickards Mountain Eco-Institute is Honeysuckle Tea House, an organic beverage shop at 8871 Pickards Meadow Road. Tim Toben, owner of the institute, said he and his wife decided to open the tea house share their knowledge about plant medicine work with the rest of the community. He wasn't sure if many people would make the trip out to the farm, which is almost seven miles from Carrboro. He said he was surprised with the support from the community during the tea house's first month in business. "We've used only local money and the people we know to put it together so it's really been a community investment," Toben said. "The response has been really great, we've had a lot more people here than we expected to."



Rec Room to be place for soccer

Rec Room, located at 108 Henderson St., reopened Thursday, June 12 after changing ownership. Giles and Ama McLeod acquired the bar from previous owner Mike Freas, who sold it to be closer to his son. McLeod said he and his wife decided to buy Rec Room after running into a group of Chapel Hill students who recognized his voice from the radio. McLeod worked for the BBC as a European Soccer Analyst. "We thought of opening a bar and having a place where soccer fans could come and talk about soccer. American soccer fans are very passionate, you know," McLeod said. The McLeods added a projector for screenings of sporting events, and have extended the hours by opening it for lunch.



Relay Foods delivers groceries

Relay Foods, an online grocery based in Charlottesville, Va., recently expanded to Chapel Hill. Relay Foods was founded to provide a simpler and easier alternative to grocery shopping, with access to healthy foods from local producers. Graham Evans, vice president of New Markets, said Relay Foods expanded into Chapel Hill because of the untapped market. "Relay decided to open operations in Chapel Hill because we know that the Triangle is a vibrant, growing area," said Evans. Relay Foods is opening its third pickup location in Chapel Hill, where customers can pick up products from local producers that they ordered through the website.



Local 506 finishes renovations

Local 506 got a makeover. After three days of construction and renovations, the music venue, located at 506 W. Franklin St., painted its showroom, renovated its bar and redid the entire facade. "We opened up the front to make it more inviting, we renovated the bar because we want people to come in for different events other than the music," said Local 506's owner Kippy Perkins. Despite the renovations, Perkins said the feeling of Local 506 hasn't changed. "We decided to renovate to give it a little face-lift, but we kept the same vibe that it had," Perkins said. Perkins said she hopes Local 506 will be a destination people can come to whenever the doors are open.



Campus Calzones on Franklin

When long-time friend Bill Boylan asked Skip King if he wanted to drop his delivery job and join the Campus Calzones team in Greenville, he said absolutely yes. Now three years later, King will lead the expansion of Campus Calzones to Franklin Street with partner Matt Boylan in the building formerly owned by Pita Pit at 115 E. Franklin St. King said they chose to specialize in calzones because nobody else has focused on it. "We think the calzone has its own little niche," King said. Campus Calzones wanted to come to Chapel Hill four years ago but didn't have a good location. Matt Boylan said they are still waiting on construction permits to begin building.

Community center breaks ground

By Jonathan Moyer
Summer City Editor

This article appeared in an earlier edition of The Daily Tar Heel. It has been updated and edited for space.

MAY 22 — The threat of a storm couldn't overshadow the promise of progress on Thursday during the groundbreaking ceremony for the Rogers Road Community Center.

The ceremony took place at 101 Edgar St. on May 15 and signified the beginning of what many hope is a new page in the history of the Rogers Road neighborhood.

When Interim Orange County Manager Michael Talbert failed to get attention with a microphone, he resorted to a two-fingered whistle to cut through the crowd's excitement.

Three years ago, the Historic Rogers Road Neighborhood Task Force began working on bringing back the community center, which was closed in 2012 for fire code violations. The community center is part of reparations for the town landfill built in the Rogers Road community in 1972, which caused environmental concerns.

The community center is slated to open in October this year.

Talbert passed the microphone along to several speakers who talked about their pride in the work the community had done to get to this point. Those who took to the podium ranged from county commissioners to community leaders.

The Rev. Robert Campbell, president of the Rogers-Eubanks Neighborhood Association and the Chapel Hill-Carrboro NAACP, compared the groundbreaking to the dedication of the National September 11 Memorial and Museum, which happened on the same day. He said he was proud of the collaboration that allowed the community center to reach this point. Orange County Sheriff can-



DTH FILE

Leaders of the Orange County community break ground at the site of the new community building on Rogers Road.

didate David Caldwell, who has lived in the area his whole life, said he wanted others to see his vision for the community. His vision includes language classes, computers and other plans which would promote diversity and keep kids off the streets, Caldwell said in an interview May 20.

Commissioner Renee Price attributed the neighborhood's progress to this kind of vision and devotion.

Members of the Chapel Hill Town Council and the Carrboro Board of Aldermen also attended, including Chapel Hill Mayor Mark Kleinschmidt and Carrboro Mayor Lydia Lavelle.

One of the more important attendees was not a local politician, but resident Gertrude

Nunn, who has been living in Rogers Road for more than 90 years and is the daughter of the original founder of the Rogers Road neighborhood.

She said she was thankful the community had worked together to make the community center possible. "I'm looking forward for the younger generation to go there and learn," Nunn said.

Caldwell said he is looking forward to the opportunities presented by the new community center and wants to start where they left off. He said the neighborhood has tons of plans for the center that will be bigger and better than before.

Contact the desk editor at city@dailytarheel.com.

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