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# TRIANGLE**DOWNTOWNER**MAGAZINE — ISSUE 130

Best of Downtowner Awards 2017

NC Theatre Welcomes Elizabeth Doran as New CEO

Triangle Dining - Waraji Japanese Restaurant Turns 20

Bull City Buzz

10th Annual Farm to Fork Picnic Weekend

Bull City Buzz

From the Publisher

Uncorked - Shopping Local for Wine

Crossword Puzzle

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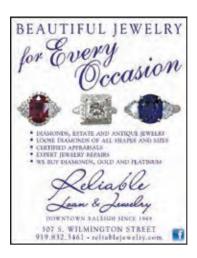






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> Read archived issues from 2006 to current online at www.WeLoveDowntown.com





This is the first of a monthly column highlighting some of the dogs and cats who have called the SPCA of Wake County home for far too long. Since the SPCA is a no-kill shelter, their adoptable pets stay with them as long as it takes them to find a home. This means that when the shelter is full, there's no available space for new pets. Some of these wonderful animals are older or have traits that require special attention or medications but want and need to be loved all the same. We hope you'll consider giving one of these (and the many other) long-timers a place to call home where they can feel safe and be cared for. Visit the SPCA of Wake County for more overlooked pets who could use a new family. You can also visit www.spcawake.org/longtimers or call 919.772.2326.



Mittens Do you dream about having a pet but worry your long hours at work would be unfair to a sociable new friend? Mittens could be the answer. Mittens is an independent cat that won't have a problem keeping an eye on things while you're away. She's been waiting almost six months for a cat-savvy person

who understands her. Mittens is a low-maintenance cat who doesn't expect, or want, her human to be constantly interacting with her. Think of Mittens as the ideal roommate - you have someone else around, but you aren't obligated to always be together. If you think you and Mittens would get along, call 919-772-2326 to speak with an adoption counselor. You can read her full profile at www.spcawake.org/adopt (Photo McCormick & Moore)

Waylon is much more fun than his brown tabby coat leads you to believe. If Waylon's personality matched his appearance, you would be looking at multicolored squiggles and polka dots instead of brown tabby stripes. He has been waiting for almost eight months to find a very special someone to adopt him. Waylon wants a family who wants to spend time with him. He likes people so much he would prefer to be the only feline in the home so he can have your undi-



vided attention. His new family will need to have a sense of humor, as Waylon will keep things interesting. He is about two years old and loves to be brushed. Waylon is FIV positive, but can still lead a happy, healthy life. To speak with an adoption counselor and learn more about him, call 919-772-2326.Read his full profile at www.spcawake.org/adopt. (Photo McCormick & Moore).

This space is donated to the SPCA of Wake County by Triangle Downtowner Magazine because we love our furry friends.



All the votes are counted, tallied, and in the books for the 8th Annual Best of Downtowner Awards. Our team has spent the last few weeks compiling and sifting through all your votes and it was exciting to see the winners begin to emerge as we got closer to finishing. There are lots of new names in this year's list, largely due to the many new businesses opening throughout 2016. Downtown Raleigh, along with North Hills, North Raleigh, downtown Durham, Cary, and Wake Forest have all enjoyed tremendous growth during the last year. In Wake County alone, there are over 60 new people moving in EVERY DAY. All those new people are helping to drive lots of traffic to both new and existing businesses.

It's refreshing to see that our Triangle-wide readers have such diverse and eclectic tastes for dining, entertainment, and business services. As always, the food and drink categories garnered the most votes and, judging by your picks, many of the most popular restaurants use locally sourced, sustainable ingredients, and make a great attempt at being involved in their local community. In general, the foodie scene across the entire Triangle is pretty amazing and we're lucky to have so many great styles, price ranges, and dining categories to choose from.

We're proud to continue featuring only locally owned businesses in the Best of Downtowner Awards, and equally proud to see a few other magazines have begun doing the same. Buying local ensures more of our spending dollars stay right here in our local economy helping to create (and keep) jobs, drive growth, and show support for our community. So, be sure to always buy local first!

We hope this list provides you with plenty of new restaurants to choose from, businesses to patron, and interesting things to do! Be sure to watch for "Best of Downtowner Awards" stickers on business doors and windows and you'll know there's something good waiting for you inside. A huge Thank You to all who voted this year and helped to make the Best of Downtowner Awards a great way to support local business.

All Reader Favorites are listed in alphabetical order.

# **BEST APPETIZERS**

Bida Manda Laotian Restaurant Reader Favorites Crawford and Son

Humble Pie Whiskey Kitchen

# **BEST SANDWICHES**

La Farm Bakery

Reader Favorites Clyde Cooper's Barbeque Linus & Peppers The Pharmacy Cafe Remedy Diner Side Street Café

# **BEST STEAKS**

Angus Barn Reader Favorites Stanbury Standard Foods Sullivan's Vinnie's Steakhouse

# **BEST SUSHI**

Waraji Reader Favorites Cowfish M Sushi

Mura Shiki Sushi Sono

# **BEST SEAFOOD**

**42nd Street Oyster Bar** Reader Favorites 18 Seaboard Margaux's Restaurant Second Empire

#### **BEST PIZZA** Lilly's Pizza

Reader Favorites DeMo's Pizzeria Mellow Mushroom Moonlight Pizza Mothers & Sons Trattoria Patrick Jane's Bar & Bistro

# **BEST TACOS**

Gonza Taco y Teguila

Reader Favorites Centro Gringo A Go Go Jose & Sons Bar & Kitchen Virgil's Tacos Wicked Taco

#### **BEST BBQ**

Wake County: The Pit **Durham County:** Allen & Son Barbecue

Reader Favorites Big Al's BBQ

Clyde Cooper's Barbeque City Barbeque Danny's Barbecue Ole Time BBQ The Q Shack

# **BEST RIBS**

**Angus Barn** Reader Favorites

Bu∙ku Clouds Brewing Clyde Cooper's Barbeque The Pit

# Sullivan's Steakhouse **BEST BURGERS**

Wake County: Bad Daddy's Burger Bar **Durham County: Bull City Burger** 

Chatham/Orange County: Al's Burger Shack

Reader Favorites Abbey Road Chuck's MoJoe's Burger Joint Player's Retreat The Station Whiskey Kitchen

# **BEST MAC & CHEESE**

Poole's Diner Reader Favorites Big Ed's City Market Capital Club 16



Chef Scott Crawford of the newly opened Crawford and Son

Dame's Chicken and Wattles My Way Tavern Oak City Meatball Shoppe

# **BEST CHICKEN WINGS**

Woody's City Market

Reader Favorites Carolina Ale House Clouds Brewing DeMo's Pizzeria & Deli H Street Kitchen Lynnwood Grill & Brewing Concern Sono

# **BEST FRIED CHICKEN**

Wake County:

Clyde Cooper's Barbeque **Durham County: The Pit** 



David's Dumpling and Noodle Bar chef-owner David Mao

#### Chatham/Orange County: Mama Dip's

Reader Favorites Beasley's Chicken & Honey Dame's Chicken and Waffles

Tupelo Honey Cafe

# **BEST HOT DOGS** The Cardinal

Reader Favorites CharGrill Cloos' Coney Island Snoopy's Hot Dogs Tasty 8's Hot Dog Co. Roast Grill

# BEST GRILLED CHEESE SANDWICH

Relish Reader Favorites American Meltdown Food Truck Side Street Restaurant The Station Whiskey Kitchen

# **BEST OYSTERS**

42nd Street Oyster Bar Reader Favorites Mandolin Provenance Royale Stanbury

# **BEST FRENCH FRIES**

Carolina Ale House

Reader Favorites Bad Daddy's Burger Bar Chuck's Burgers Coquette Brasserie NOFO @ the Pig

#### **BEST ONION RINGS** Bad Daddy's Burger Bar

Reader Favorites Carolina Ale House MoJoe's Burgers Pharaoh's Grill

# **BEST DUMPLINGS**

David's Dumpling & Noodle Bar Reader Favorites Chirha Chirha Dumpling Kimban Cafe Pho Pho Pho Noodle Kitchen and Bar

# **BEST DESSERTS**

Wake County: Lucettegrace **Durham County: Guglhupf** Bakery & Patisserie

Chatham/Orange County: Weathervane Café

Reader Favorites Bittersweet Crawford and Son Hayes Barton Café Irregardless Cafe Sugarland

#### BEST VEGETARIAN

Irregardless Cafe Reader Favorites

Azitra Restaurant Fiction Kitchen Living Kitchen Neomonde Mediterranean Remedy Diner

#### **BEST BLOODY MARY** NOFO @ the Pig

Reader Favorites Clouds Brewing Raleigh Times Bar Stanbury Tupelo Honey Café Whiskey Kitchen

# **BEST MARGARITAS**

# Centro

Reader Favorites Cantina 18 Calavera Empanadas and Tequila Gonza Taco y Teguila Gringo A Go Go Jose & Sons Kitchen and Bar

#### **BEST MARTINIS**

Sullivan's Steakhouse

Reader Favorites C Grace Coquette Brasserie Fox Liquor Bar

# **BEST LOCAL CRAFT BEER**

Trophy Wife from Trophy Brewing

Reader Favorites Hell Yes Ma'am from Raleigh Brewing Angry Angel from Big Boss Brewing

# **BEST LOCAL LIQUOR**

Topo Vodka Reader Favorites

**Durham Distillery** Pinetop Distillery Raleigh Rum

# **BEST CATERING COMPANY**

**Catering Works** Reader Favorites Ladyfingers Caterers Posh Nosh Catering Rocky Top Catering

# Sweet Magnolias **BEST NEW RESTAURANT**

Wake County: Crawford and Son **Durham County: The Restaurant** at The Durham Hotel Chatham/Orange County:

Pizzeria Mercato

Reader Favorites H Street Kitchen M Sushi Mothers & Sons NanaSteak Royale

Tandem Whiskey Kitchen

#### **FAVORITE GO-TO RESTAURANT** Bida Manda Lantian Restaurant

Reader Favorites Humble Pie Mandolin NOFO @ the Pig Stanbury Taverna Agora

#### **MOST FAMILY-FRIENDLY** RESTAURANT

Cowfish Sushi Burger Bar Reader Favorites Bad Daddy's Burger Bar Cantina 18 Clyde Cooper's Barbeque Elmo's Diner The Pharmacy Café

## **BEST ITALIAN CUISINE**

Wake County: Bella Monica Italian Restaurant **Durham County: Gocciolina** Reader Favorites

Caffe Luna Daniel's Restaurant Mia Francesca

Mothers & Sons Vic's Italian Restaurant and Pizzeria

#### **BEST MEXICAN/CENTRAL AMERICAN CUISINE**

Centro Reader Favorites El Rodeo Gringo A Go Go Jose & Sons Kitchen and Bar Totopos Food and Tequila

#### **BEST MEDITERRANEAN CUISINE**

Neomonde Mediterranean Reader Favorites Jasmin Mediterranean Bistro Mediterranean Deli Sassool Sitti

# **BEST JAPANESE CUISINE**

Waraji Reader Favorites M Sushi Mura Sono Sushi 0

Taverna Agora

# **BEST CHINESE CUISINE**

**Five Star Restaurant** Reader Favorites Beansprout Chinese Peace China Red Dragon Chinese Restaurant

# BEST FRENCH CUISINE

Coquette Brasserie Reader Favorites La Farm Bakery & Café Rovale Saint Jacques

#### **BEST INDIAN CUISINE** Azitra Indian

Reader Favorites Cilantro Indian Cafe Kabob and Curry Royal India

#### **BEST THAI CUISINE** Sawasdee Thai

Reader Favorites Lemongrass Thai Thaiphoon Bistro



The Neomonde family

# **BEST LOCAL COFFEE SHOP**

**Morning Times** Reader Favorites 42 & Lawrence Brew Coffee Bar Devolve Moto Jubala Coffee Sola Coffee Cafe Third Place Coffee

#### **BEST LOCAL BAKERY** La Farm Bakery & Café

Reader Favorites **Boulted Bread** Guglhupf Bakery & Patisserie Neomonde Mediterranean Yellow Dog Bread Co.

# **BEST BREAKFAST**

Rise Biscuits & Donuts Reader Favorites Big Ed's City Market Brigs Restaurant Flying Biscuit Cafe Happy + Hale The Pharmacy Café Sola Coffee Cafe

# **BEST BRUNCH**

Wake County: Bu•ku **Durham County: The Restaurant** at The Durham Hotel Chatham/Orange County: Weathervane Café

Reader Favorites Capital Club 16



Johnny Berry, Whiskey Kitchen's Master of Spirits

Clouds Brewing Elmo's Diner Irregardless Cafe Rue Cler Tazza Kitchen Tupelo Honey Café

# BEST LOCAL COFFEE ROASTER

Larry's Coffee Reader Favorites Counter Culture Coffee Oak City Roasters Raleigh Coffee Company

#### **BEST HEALTHY FOOD**

Happy + Hale Reader Favorites B Good Living Kitchen Neomonde Mediterranean

#### **BEST CHEAP FATS**

Mitch's Tavern Reader Favorites Armadillo Grill Carolina Ale House Clyde Cooper's Barbeque Elmo's Diner Mami Nora's Player's Retreat

#### **BEST SOUTHERN FOOD**

Clyde Cooper's Barbeque Reader Favorites Beasley's Chicken & Honey Big Ed's City Market Farmers Market Restaurant The Q Shack The Pit Tupelo Honey Café Watkin's Grill Whiskey Kitchen

#### BEST RESTAURANT FOR A BUSINESS MEETING

**Second Empire Restaurant** Reader Favorites 18 Seaboard Angus Barn Bida Manda Death & Taxes Fairview Dining Room at the Washington Duke Inn Heron's at Umstead Sullivan's Steakhouse





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Bida Manda brother and sister team, Vanvisa and Vansana Nolintha

Reader Favorites

Taverna Agora

Reader Favorites

Havana Deluxe

Reader Favorites

Player's Retreat

Foundation

Whiskey Kitchen

London Bridge Pub

Whiskey Kitchen

Dram and Draught

**BEST SPORTS BAR** 

Carolina Ale House

Tobacco Road Sports Café

Woody's City Market

Whiskey Kitchen

Big Ed's Restaurant

NOFO @ The Pig

Raleigh Raw

**BEST DECOR** 

Reader Favorites

Reader Favorites

Neptunes Parlour

**BEST IRISH PUB** 

Reader Favorites

Hibernian Pub

James Joyce

Doherty's Irish Pub

Saints & Scholars Pub

**BEST PLACE FOR** 

Reader Favorites

Armadillo Grill

Five Star

Capital Club 16

MoJoe's Burger Joint

BEST NEIGHBORHOOD BAR

Snoopy's Hot Dogs

Havana Deluxe

Reader Favorites

Mitch's Tavern

My Way Tavern

Player's Retreat

Whiskey Kitchen

Person Street Bar

**LATE NIGHT FOOD** 

DeMo's Pizzeria & Deli

Ruby Deluxe

Coglin's

Bida Manda

DeMo's Pizzeria & Deli

**Durham 21c & Counting House** 

**BEST PLACE TO GO DANCING** 

Durham Hotel & Restaurant

Leaends Nightclub

Reader Favorites

Milk Bar

FRIENDLIEST STAFF

**BEST WHISKEY SELECTION** 

Humble Pie

Jimmy V's

# **BEST DIVE BAR**

Slim's Downtown Distillery

Reader Favorites Black Flower Deep South Bar Flash House The Goat

#### **BEST FOOD TRUCK**

Cockadoodlemoo Reader Favorites American Meltdown Chirba Chirba Pho Nomenal Dumplings Porchetta

# **BEST BAR FOOD**

Carolina Ale House Reader Favorites Clouds Brewing

Hibernian Pub My Way Tavern Raleigh Beer Garden Raleigh Times Bar The Point At Glenwood

# MOST IMPRESSIVE WINE LIST

Mandolin

Reader Favorites Angus Barn Second Empire Restaurant Standard Foods

#### **BEST CRAFT BEER SELECTION** Raleigh Beer Garden

Reader Favorites Carolina Ale House Clouds Brewing Flying Saucer Parkside Raleigh Times Bar Whiskey Kitchen Yard House

# **RESTAURANT WITH THE BEST CRAFT COCKTAILS**

Stanbury

Reader Favorites C Grace Clockwork Fox Liquor Bar Royale Whiskey Kitchen

# **BEST BAR IN A BREWERY**

Lynwood Grill

& Brewing Concern

Reader Favorites Aviator Brewing Company Crank Arm Brewery Fullsteam Brewery
Raleigh Brewing Company Trophy Brewing

#### **BEST RESTAURANT** OUTSIDE PATIO

Raleigh Beer Garden

#### **BEST PLACE TO HEAR** JAZZ MUSIC C Grace

Reader Favorites

Beyu Caffe Brasa Brazilian Steakhouse Humble Pie Irregardless Cafe'

#### **BEST CUSTOMER SERVICE** The Raleigh Wine Shop

Reader Favorites

42 & Lawrence Angus Barn Brigg's Hardware Heat Studios Raleigh Raleigh Raw

#### **BEST HAIR SALON FOR WOMEN** Alter Eao

Reader Favorites Rottega Junction Salon & Bar Loxxe

#### **BEST HAIR SALON FOR MEN** Arrow Haircuts

Reader Favorites Salon Blu Tesoro Hair Designs Thairapy 101

#### **BEST AUTO REPAIR SHOP** Allen's Automotive

Reader Favorites Benchmark Autoworks Brown's Alignment & Auto Repair Renaissance Auto Care

#### **BEST LOCAL PHARMACY** Person Street Pharmacy

Reader Favorites Hayes Barton Pharmacy Glenwood South Pharmacy and Market Greystone Village Pharmacy

# BEST CHIROPRACTIC OFFICE

Triangle Chiropractic & Rehabilitation

Reader Favorites Chiropractic Partners Crabtree Chiropractic Center Oak City Chiropractic

#### **BEST TATTOO PARLOR Blue Flame Tattoo**

Reader Favorites Mad Ethel's Tattoo Oak City Tattoos Phoenix Tattoo Studio

# **BEST PLASTIC SURGEON**

Cynthia Gregg, MD Reader Favorites
Davis & Pyle Plastic Surgery

#### Synergy Spa & Aesthetics **BEST DENTAL OFFICE** Renaissance Dental

Reader Favorites Ashley Lloyd, DDS Downtown Dental Rebecca Schmorr, DDS Stanley Dentistry Tryon Family Dentistry

# **BEST VETERINARIAN**

City Vet

Reader Favorites Care First Animal Hospital Hidden Valley Animal Hospital Dr. Marlon Sequeira, DVM (mobile vet) Quail Corners Veterinary Hospital Raleigh Community Animal Hospital

## **BEST PLACE FOR YOGA**

110 Yoga

Reader Favorites Bliss Body Yoga Blue Lotus Core Power Yoga Indigo Hot Yoga Center Open Door Yoga



The environmental superhero Larry Larson of Larry's Coffee

# **BEST LOCAL TAILOR**

Lee's Tailors Reader Favorites Glenwood South Tailors North Hills Tailor

# **BEST LOCAL GYM**

02 Fitness

Reader Favorites CORE Fitness Studio Heat Studios Raleigh Madabolic Fitness

# **BEST MED SPA / DAY SPA**

Synergy Spa & Aesthetics Reader Favorites Dilworth Bodyworks Glo De Vie Med Spa Skin Raleigh The Umstead Hotel & Spa

# **BEST PLACE TO ADOPT A PET**

Wake County SPCA

Reader Favorites Cause for Paws Saving Grace Rescue Second Chance

# **BEST LOCAL BOOKSTORE**

Quail Ridge Books

Reader Favorites Letter's Bookshop Nice Price Books Reader's Corner

# BEST VINTAGE FURNITURE STORE

Father & Son

Reader Favorites Form & Function Hunt & Gather Union Camp Collective

# **BEST LOCAL PET STORE**

Unleashed Reader Favorites Paws in the City

Pharmacist-owner Trey Waters and staff

from Person Street Pharmacy

**BEST ANTIQUE SHOP** 

**Revival Antiques** 

Antiques Emporium

Cheshire Cat Gallery

Union Camp Collective

**BEST LOCAL WINE SHOP** 

The Raleigh Wine Shop

Reader Favorites

Hunt & Gather

Reader Favorites

Seaboard Wine

Wine Feed

Wine Authorities

BEST BOTTLE SHOP

Crafty Beer Shop

Pelagic Beer & Wine

BEST LOCAL GIFT SHOP NOFO @ The Pig

BEST WOMEN'S CLOTHING STORE

**BEST MEN'S CLOTHING STORE** 

**BEST PLACE TO BUY JEWELRY** 

Reader Favorites

Paddy O'Beers

Tasty Beverage

Reader Favorites

DFCO Raleigh

Morgan Imports

Edge of Urge

Reader Favorites

Gena Chandler

Revolver Consignment

Art of Style

Art of Style

Reader Favorites

Reader Favorites

Moon & Lola

Quercus Studio

Reader Favorites

Reader Favorites

Briggs Hardware

Lyles Clothing Co.

Nowell's Clothiers

Lumina Clothing Co.

Revolver Consignment

Bailey's Fine Jewelry

Booth Custom Jewelers

Reliable Loan & Jewelry

Diamonds Direct Crabtree

Johnson's Jewelers of Raleigh

**BEST HARDWARE STORE** 

Seaboard Ace Hardware

Burke Brothers Hardware

**BEST GARDEN CENTER** 

Campbell Road Nursery

Fairview Garden Center

& Garden Center

Homewood Nursery

Logan's One Stop Garden Shop

**Bevello** 

Gypsy Jule

State of Beer

Bottle Revolution

Phydeaux

# **BEST LOCAL ART GALLERY**

Artsnace Reader Favorites

Adam Cave Art Gallery Gallery C

## MOST DOG-FRIENDLY BUSINESS London Bridge Pub

Reader Favorites Crank Arm Brewing Devolve Moto Raleigh Brewing Co.

# MOST HELPFUL LOCAL CHARITY

Interfaith Food Shuttle

Reader Favorites Note in the Pocket Oak City Outreach Center The Green Chair Project

# MOST TALENTED LOCAL CHEF

Wake County: Scott Crawford **Durham County: Matt Kelly** Chatham/Orange County:

Andrea Reusing

Reader Favorites Ashlev Christensen Jason Cunningham Jason Smith Teddy Klopf

# **BEST BARTENDER**

Johnny Berry, Whiskey Kitchen

Reader Favorites Kevin Barrett, Dram & Draught Mike Reid/Mike McDonald, Havana Deluxe

### BEST LOCAL ARTIST

**Bob Rankin** Reader Favorites Eric McRay Keith Norval Kyle Highsmith

# **BEST REAL ESTATE AGENT**

Ann-Cabell Baum Reader Favorites

Linda Craft Marti Hampton

# **BEST COMMERCIAL BROKER**

Mikels & Jones Reader Favorites York Properties

#### **BEST REAL ESTATE ATTORNEY** Duane Hall, Attorney at Law

Reader Favorites Nathan Zaleski, Sterling Law





Anya and Arthur Gordon of Irregardless Cafe

Reader Favorites

Ben Townsend,

Townsend Acupuncture

Heather Bree, Tri-Point Acupuncture

**BEST LITIGATION ATTORNEY** 

Bill Young, Hatch Little and Bunn

Anita Bhattacharya Oates, Ostrada LLC

Danny Taylor, DT&Co.
Diane Makgill, 3D by D Designs

Rima Nasser, TEW Design Studio

BEST INTERIOR DESIGNER

Tula Summerford,

Lauren Burns Interiors

Lisa Stewart Design

Reader Favorites

Designs by Tula

and Family Wellness

# **BEST MORTGAGE BROKER**

James & Jean Hedges, Southern Trust Mortgage

Reader Favorites Robert Courts.

Prime Mortgage Lending Sherry Riano, DNJ Mortgage

## **BEST MASSAGE THERAPIST** Lindsay Riggsbee,

Dilworth Bodyworks

Reader Favorites

Jessica Bozza, Julep Massage Therapy Michelle McWhinney, Oak City Chiropractic

# **BEST ACUPUNCTURIST**

Jinmei Xu (Jade), Raleigh Acupuncture Assoc.

BEST SUPPORTER OF LOCAL BUSINESS

Jean Martin, NOFO @ the Pig Reader Favorites Pam Blondin, DECO Raleigh

Evelyn Scruggs Murray, Briggs Hardware

#### MOST INSPIRING COMMUNITY PERSON

Ann Woodward, Scrap Exchange

Reader Favorites Dr. Marsha Gordon Sig Hutchinson Dr. William J. Barber II

## MOST PASSIONATE GOVERN-MENT REPRESENTATIVE

Sig Hutchinson, Wake County Commissioner

Reader Favorites Jay Chaudhuri, Senator Jessica Holmes,

Wake County Commissioner

# MOST ENVIRONMENTALLY-FRIENDLY BUSINESS

Larry's Coffee Reader Favorites

FeelGoodz Mim's Distributing ReDress Raleigh

#### **BEST PLACE TO HEAR LIVE MUSIC (LARGE VENUE)** Cat's Cradle

Reader Favorites Lincoln Theatre Red Hat Amphitheatre The Ritz

#### **BEST PLACE TO HEAR LIVE** MUSIC (SMALL VENUE)

The Pour House Reader Favorites C Grace Deep South Slim's Downtown Distillery

#### **BEST SPECIAL EVENT SPACE** The Merrimon-Wynne House

Reader Favorites Angus Barn Pavilion Bay 7, American Tobacco Campus Bridge Club The Stockroom

#### **BEST PLACE FOR GIRLS' NIGHT OUT**

Heron's at the Umstead Reader Favorites Whiskey Kitchen Wine & Design Vita Vite

#### **BEST PLACE FOR GUYS' NIGHT OUT** Whiskey Kitchen

Reader Favorites Boxcar Clockwork Cloud's Brewing Level Up

Raleigh Beer Garden

## **BEST OVER-30 HANGOUT**

Player's Retreat Reader Favorites Foundation Haymaker Raleigh Beer Garden Sullivan's Steakhouse Trophy Brewing



Gonza Taco y Tequila co-owners Gonza Salamanca and Carlos Rodriguez

#### **BEST HOTEL**

The Umstead Hotel Reader Favorites 21c Museum Hotel Aloft Hotel Durham Hotel

# **BEST GOLF COURSE**

**Lonnie Poole Golf Course** Reader Favorites North Ridge Country Club Raleigh Country Club

#### **MOST FUN OUTDOOR EVENT**

Artsplosure Reader Favorites Brewgaloo

Durham Bulls game Food Tuck Rodeos Hopscotch

# **BEST PLACE TO TAKE TOURISTS**

Downtown Raleigh

Reader Favorites Downtown Apex Downtown Durham Duke Gardens/Duke Campus Museum of Natural Sciences NC Art Museum/Museum Park Umstead Park





Elizabeth Doran

# By Chika Gujarathi

Tn March of this year, NC Theatre welcomed Elizabeth Doran as their new CEO, making her the fourth to hold this position since the Theatre's establishment in 1983. Hailing from California, Elizabeth has spent over 15 years as a producer and leading several arts organizations, including San Diego Theatres, the Pasadena Playhouse, and the State Theatre of California. This is Elizabeth's first venture to Raleigh and we couldn't wait to find out what she's discovered so far and hear about her passionate vision for NC Theatre.

# What attracted you to NC Theatre and the arts community here?

**Elizabeth:** There is more attention to the arts here than a lot of other places in the country. From how we educate our kids to the pride that people have; I find it crosses cultural and political divides big time. You have a very self-feeding ecosystem on arts and culture and sports. Everywhere else I have worked around the country, we always cast out of NY and LA, which drove me crazy. Here, I felt a wonderful brand identity, which was one of the things that attracted me to this job. Raleigh

# **NC** Theatre welcomes Elizabeth Doran as their new **CEO**

is home grown. We are makers. We bring in Broadway talent, and we create Broadway talent, and we match with Broadway level talent. That's super fun.

# How has NC been different than California in terms of arts and theater?

**Elizabeth:** In the West, things were very fused. There was a lot of fusion art; here there are some rooted, very diverse arts that have been attended to. So you have African American dance, and pottery creations from the coast, and bluegrass from the western part of the state. There's a botanical garden of culture, which is a bit different than a melting pot. I was reading about why this is the best test market in America: because there are highly developed, deeply rooted, diverse constituents here. It's not as melded as other places and I think that's really fascinating to me. On top of all that, you still have shared values.

# What new things would you like to incorporate into NC Theatre culture?

Elizabeth: I hope to have more communication with our audiences in the future about our brand. I like to evolve a theater company through partnerships. I have already begun talking to corporate sponsors to see if we can have a meaningful relationship where your brand of being homegrown ties into my brand of being homegrown and then we can help fund this new initiative of what it means to be homegrown in Raleigh. The other thing I want to do is make accessibility very important for our company. There are things we can do to help bring in the vision-impaired, hearing-impaired, families of veterans, and families of kids all across the spectrum. We need to do some science plays here, too... get the PhDs to enjoy something outside of their labs!

# Do vou see any topics as tabooed in theatre?

Elizabeth: I feel like I am only a month old in the South, but there is an emphasis on togetherness and loving your neighbor here I feel are core values that sit above a lot of the stuff that gets press. Love thy neighbor. Quoting U2, "We are one, but we are not the same, We get to carry each other." I love that idea and I feel this is a value in the South of carrying each other. The most financially difficult show I did in while in California was about two women who fall in love and share a kiss. Women on stage who fall in love is still tabooed, even on the most liberal stage in the country.

# How did you find your path to this career?

Elizabeth: I used to be an actor and singer and I just kept bursting off and saying let's produce this other thing together! I really liked working communally. I liked to develop and work with a team. So I kept pulling out of acting and then I discovered things like spreadsheets, which I love, and then I learned about debits and credits and accounting. I like it all. I can do both. My mom was an English teacher; my dad was a math teacher. So I happen to enjoy both, which is really fun. I wanted to do what I do now - to sit and watch rehearsals and then go do the math, then enjoy the show and community, then go do some more math to break even, and make a profit in a very uncertain industry.

# Where do you find your inspiration?

Elizabeth: My family inspires me. I have three children. My husband has a PhD in American history and I'm swept up in this world we've created. I'm very amazed at the innate compassion of children and I find that very inspiring. I serve on a board for drug and alcohol recovery. I have worked in prisons and with recovering addicts and I am very inspired by witnessing the power of human transformation. Artists who have made this a lifestyle choice inspire me: not because they are full of themselves, but because they have gifted talent.

# What do you miss about your home in California?

Elizabeth: We lived right on the ocean and I actually miss the desert, too. Right now, there's a huge bloom of flowers happening in the desert. But I'm definitely a people person and there are such great people where I lived. I love great communities as much as I love nature. I can't wait to explore all the green here!

# Favorite Southern food you have tried so far?

Elizabeth: Honey and biscuits! I'm going to find a honey and biscuits candle so that I can smell it every morning. I'm a vegetarian and this town is full of vegetarian food that I can't wait to try!









# Waraji Japanese Restaurant Turns 20

By Brian Adornetto, Food Editor • Photos by Crash S. Gregg

n June 11, 2017, Waraji celebrates its 20th anniversary; a remarkable feat given how frequently restaurants come and go. Chef-proprietor Masatoshi (Masa) Tsjimura recalls, "I remember our first day like it was yesterday. The entire time, I continuously ran back and forth between the kitchen, dining room, and sushi bar. It was like that every day for quite a while."



Fresh sashimi with a side of steamed rice

Masa's culinary tale began in 1980 when he moved to central Florida from Shimonoseki, a major fishing village in Japan and home of fugu, the potentially lethal blowfish. He migrated to earn a master's degree



Chef-proprietor Masatoshi "Masa" Tsjimura opened Waraji 20 years ago in 1997.

in operations research from the Florida Institute of Technology to complement the mechanical engineering degree he had earned in Japan. Masa worked his way through school by taking various restaurant jobs and, in 1982, landed a kitchen position at Kanki Japanese Steakhouse and Sushi Bar, where he found his true calling. As he rose through the ranks, he accepted an opportunity



Sunomono Ebi is a refreshing and light cucumber salad with boiled, chilled shrimp in a light vinegar dressing.

to relocate to Raleigh and open the Triangle's first Kanki restaurant. It was also here that he met his future wife, Naomi, who was attending UNC and working at the restaurant to help pay for her education. Looking back, Masa says, "Kanki allowed me to create and try many



Age Nasu, a lightly fried and grilled Japanese eggplant served with miso sauce, is available on the Seasonal Appetizers menu.

different things. They trusted me; first with the sushi bar and later with the entire kitchen." But in 1997, after fifteen years with the chain, Masa decided it was time to open his own restaurant.

When asked about the restaurant's name, Masa explains, "Waraji are straw sandals used long ago when traveling on lengthy journeys. Since I think of this restaurant as my life's journey, I thought it was a good fit. But when I played with the characters, I realized the name had even more significance. The character 'wa' means gather around, 'ra' means enjoy, and 'ji' means taste. So Waraji actually translates to 'gather together and enjoy the taste."

Located in a corner strip mall off Duraleigh Road, Waraji provides typical Western-style tables and chairs as well as traditional Japanese zashiki-style seating

where guests sit at low tables set on tatami (soft, comfortable rice straw mats). In zashiki-style seating, it is customary to remove your shoes before stepping onto the tatami. The entire space offers an abundance of natural light, wasabi green colors, and light wood. The far wall of the dining room features a display of the restaurant's sake collection along with Japanese calligraphy art. Just to the left of the sake wall is the 17-seat sushi bar, where Masa now spends most of his time. If you're lucky enough to secure one of these coveted seats, it is not only probable that Masa himself will prepare your sushi, but also quite likely he will create something unique just for you.

Waraji's long, mostly traditional Japanese menu may seem complicated at first. There are twenty-nine appetizers alone. In addition, a specialty roll page includes maki (traditional sushi rolls) and nigiri (sliced raw



Chef Masa is passionate about providing the highest quality of authentic Japanese cuisine to his customers.



If you like tender beef, you'll want to try Waraji's Negimaki, made with fresh scallions rolled in beef and grilled with teriyaki sauce.

seafood, tofu, egg, or fish roe over vinegared sushi rice). Next comes the dinner page with its list of soups, salads, seasonal appetizers, entrées (which come with miso soup, house salad, and rice), and desserts. The entrées include selections of Teriyaki, Shoga Yaki (choice of sautéed meat or chicken in a ginger-soy sauce), Tempura, Katsu (choice of meat or chicken coated in panko and fried), Yose Nabe (seafood broth, yam noodles, and an assortment of seafood and vegetables), Sukiyaki (beef, vegetables, and yam noodles cooked in a sweet soy broth), Shaba Shabu (think Japanese broth fondue), Ochazuke (Japanese rice soup with seafood), and Zo Sui (Japanese rice stew with choice of egg, chicken, or seafood). The last two menu pages, Dinner Sets and Sushi & Sashimi, describe combination meals and platters. Dinner sets are mostly predetermined, >>>







Ika Butter, seasoned squid sautéed and thinly sliced

multi-course meals for one fixed price. These meals include a soup and salad, maki or appetizer, and entrée for \$16 to \$28 - a remarkable deal. The Sushi & Sashimi page, on the other hand, lists various platters of sashimi (sliced raw fish traditionally served without rice, but you can always order some on the side) and nigiri, as well an assortment of both. If you are overwhelmed just reading the menu or want to try something outside your comfort zone, don't be shy about asking for help. The friendly waitstaff is not only very familiar with the menu but also well versed in Japanese culinary customs. Masa even let us in on a little secret, saying, "Part of the fun for our staff is talking to the guests to see what they like so we can create a custom experience for each one." So take my advice and let them guide you.



Ochazuke, a Japanese rice soup, is traditionally served after the meal. Masa's Sake Ochazuke includes salmon with rice and broth.

Waraji specializes in impeccably fresh seafood, authentic Japanese cuisine (although a handful of Americanized preparations are available), as well as informative and personalized service. If you're craving expertly made sushi or traditional Japanese food or would like to learn about them, Waraji is ready and Masa is waiting to welcome you, as he has for the past twenty years.



Brian is a food writer, culinary instructor, and chef. His business, Love at First Bite, specializes in private cooking classes and intimate dinners. For more information, please visit www.loveatfirstbite.net. Contact Brian at brian@welovedowntown.com.

# warall

5910 Duraleigh Road, Suite 147 | Raleigh, NC 919.783.1883 | www.warajijapaneserestaurant.com

## \$\$\$\$

Lunch: Mon - Fri: 11:30am - 2pm; Sun: Noon - 2pm Dinner: Mon - Thur: 5:30pm - 9:30pm; Fri - Sat: 5:30pm - 10:30pm; Sun: 5pm - 9pm

Cuisine: Traditional Japanese

Service: Knowledgeable, friendly, and helpful

Wine List: Global, with more than half available by-the-glass

Dress: Casual

Noise Level: Moderate to loud at times

Reservations: Accepted

Parking: Parking lot

Features: Gluten-free, vegetarian, and vegan options; Sushi bar dining; Beer, sake, and wine only; 70 different sake; Sake flights; Daily sushi specials; Monthly wine specials; Take out; Catering; Major credit cards accepted; No television; No wifi

Downtowner Tips: Good for groups and date night; Sign up for the "Waraji Lovers" newsletter (or like on Facebook) to learn about special events, features, and to be entered to win Waraji gift cards; Keep watch for Masa's popular sake dinners (they sell out fast) as well as Waraji's sake classes taught by a certified sake sommelier. Chef Masa also teaches quarterly sushi-making classes at Southern Season in Chapel Hill.



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**UNIQUE HOMES \* FRESH IDEAS** 





# Bull City Buzz

What's Happening in and around Downtown Durham and the American Tobacco Campus By Allan Maurer and Renee Wright





Animal Collective

# **MUSIC:** Moogfest cosmic music and ideas

There are a lot of superlatives we can throw at Moogfest, which debuted last year in the Bull City and returns May 18-21. Avant Garde. Experimental. Cutting Edge. Also: fascinating, fun, and downright huge. The music is mind-expanding; ditto the conversations with the world's top tech innovators.

More than 150 artists, including Flying Lotus, Animal Collective, Golye, and synth pioneer, Suzanne Ciani, are slated and more than 40 performing artist will lead workshops and sessions.

This year Moogfest is dedicating a full stage to protest art installations. Moogfest 2017 also premieres its experimental film series, featuring live scores by 'Stranger Things' composers S.U.R.V.I.V.E., Suzy Analogue, and VHVL collaborate to present the live score to the film they created and directed, "No Moon, No Man." Suzi Analogue will also lead a workshop. Dave Harrington of Darkstar fame premieres the score to the infamous occult film, "Haxan."

Last year, we met a cyborg, made music with balloons, and learned to speak "machine." This year's themes range from Techno-Shamanism to Instrument Design and always - the Future of Creativity. If you can't score tickets (last year many programs sold out), Moogfest still offers a wealth of free installations and events, including special workshops and performances for children. Rolling Stone magazine named Moogfest one of the 30 must-see music festivals of the summer. www.moogfest.com

# FOOD: Washington-Duke Spring Menu

Long our favorite spot for special events and family get-togethers, the Washington-Duke Inn (and Golf Club) on the Duke University campus wins awards in every category. Recently, Executive Chef Jason Cunningham gave us



Washington Duke Inn

a sneak peak of the Fairview Dining Room's new Spring menu, revealing trendy takes on traditional Southern foods.

Local goat cheese, strawberries, grits and sweet potatoes made appearances, along with Lady Edison "hoofed temptress" country ham from Chapel Hill. The Inn locally sources much of its food. The starring role went to a fork-tender domestic lamb chop topped with spiced shrimp. What could mark the change of seasons better? How about a vibrant pea and buttermilk soup, with a fresh green nose and color? It had the fresh aroma of Spring and disappeared just as quickly.

The wines served with these menus are always carefully chosen to go perfectly with the food. www.washingtondukeinn.com



Ira Wiggins Quartet at Beyu Caffee

# FILM: Docs For Us / By Us at the Beyu Caffe

In association with the Southern Documentary Fund, Beyu Caffe screens documentaries by local black filmmakers once a month. Upcoming films take a look

at the impact of Western ideals of beauty on black women and the nearly forgotten, but once vital role played by black washerwomen in our culture. Beyu's new, expanded location allows it to host a wide variety of programming, including open mics on Wednesdays, Latin Jazz on Thursdays, and Sunday Jazz Brunch. www.beyucaffe.com



#### ART + EXERCISE: Mural Bike Rides

The Nasher Museum of Art, Museum of Durham History, and Preservation Durham team up to offer free bike tours of the city's colorful murals. Public artworks grace many buildings throughout Downtown and these tours visit 13 of them. Join the group at 10am at the Central Park Pavilion on the first Saturday of every month from May through November. BYOBike, plus a helmet. A great way to get familiar with Durham's spaces and faces. www.muraldurham.com

# **BEER: The Sours of Spring**

'Tis Spring and the beers are sour! If you haven't tried the latest fave of the craft brew world, this is the time to try a sour. First brewed by the Belgians, their slightly funky flavors are the perfect antidote for tastebuds worn out by overhopped IPAs. You can find fresh sours this spring at several local breweries. Try the bourbon barrel-aged Blond Sour with blackberries at Durty Bull Brewing or a Secret Sour Saison, flavored with raspberries, at the Bull City Burger and Brewery. Stay street-legal by hitching a ride with Tap The Triangle, which runs a draft beer shuttle between Durham breweries on Friday evenings. www.tapthetriangle.com



# 10th Anniversary Farm to Fork Picnic Weekend

By JILL WARREN LUCAS

Tf not for a drought, one of the Triangle's best known Levents to celebrate sustainable farming might not have launched the Farm to Fork Picnic Weekend, which will celebrate its 10th anniversary June 2-4 with events in Raleigh and Fearrington Village.

In 2007, with just weeks to prepare a proper welcome for Slow Food Movement founder Carlo Petrini, Portia McKnight was asked if she and partner Flo Hawley would be open to hosting a gathering on pasture land typically occupied by Chapel Hill Creamery's cows and pigs. The event would challenge about 30 farmers and chefs to collaborate on creating dishes that made best use of locally raised, seasonal ingredients. Oh, and there also would be hundreds of attendees, including farmers market advocates and fans of chefs destined to win prestigious culinary honors.

"Normally, a farmer doesn't hope for a drought, but it helped to protect the pasture that day," recalls McKnight, who has participated each year. "The fact that the soil was compacted and there was very little grass made it easier to say yes."

McKnight recalls the excitement of chefs and their teams, some of whom spent the previous night on the land, cooking and helping to tend her animals. "It was a very heartwarming occasion," she says. "And it sold out so quickly. One of our regular customers begged to help park cars just so she could be there."

Andrea Reusing, who was named 2011 Best Chef Southeast by the James Beard Foundation for her work at Lantern in Chapel Hill, understands the buzz. Months before Petrini's arrival, she attended his Terra Madre convivium in Turin, Italy, which also drew Alex and Betsy Hitt of Peregrine Farm in Graham, Stanley Hughes of Pine Knot Farms in Hurdle Mills, and the late Bill Dow of Ayrshire Farm in Chatham County, which was North Carolina's first certified organic farm. She returned home deeply inspired and with a stronger sense of mission about promoting sustainable farming.

"The picnic was basically about having those farmers who had been at Terra Madre pair with a local chef to create this meal," explains Reusing, who has since opened a second acclaimed restaurant at The Durham Hotel, which hosted a Farm to Fork dinner last year. "It was conceived totally as a one-off to celebrate Carlo being here. We never imagined it would grow into what it's become today."

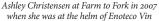
The nonprofit Farm to Fork Picnic Weekend has grown into a three-day event that consistently features top Triangle chefs, farmers, culinary artisans and beverage producers. This year's keynote speaker at the June 2 Sustainable Supper is culinary historian and food justice advocate Michael W. Twitty, who has conducted extensive and deeply personal research on enslavement in North Carolina and across the South. His eagerly anticipated book, "The Cooking Gene: A Journey Through African-American Culinary History in the Old South," will be published in August.

As much as Farm to Fork is a thinking foodie's delight, it also is a fundraiser. Proceeds support the Center for Environmental Farming Systems (CEFS), which develops and promotes just and equitable food and farming systems that conserve natural resources, strengthen communities, improve health outcomes, and provides economic opportunities in North Carolina and beyond, and the PLANT Farm Enterprise Incubator at the W.C. Breeze Family Farm in Hurdle Mills, which incubates new farmers and offers training on small scale sustainable farming techniques.

CEFS Director Nancy Creamer says Farm to Fork not only helps beginning farmers prepare for lasting success but also creates and builds vital relationships among farmers and restaurants that need to source fresh ingredients.

"The benefit for both is exposure; the opportunity to







Carlo Petrini and Andrea Reusing at the first F2F Picnic event in 2007



Flo and Portia with Hannah

create new markets and connect with a larger consumer base," says Creamer, a professor of sustainable agriculture and community-based food systems at N.C. State. "It's a great way to keep the community engaged and aware of what it takes to put food on the table."

As successful as the festival has become, Reusing laments that the term "farm to fork" has become a cliché in recent years. A stunning 2016 series, "Farm to Fable," in the Tampa Bay Times revealed how unscrupulous restaurateurs were claiming false relationships with farmers and knowingly mislabeling ingredients as local.

"I think what's important to think about is that every

time we make a choice to support a local farm, we're doing something really powerful for our community," Reusing says. "Everyone has the right to healthy local food. The real challenge now is to expand access beyond farmer's markets and food coops to our entire community.

"Ideally," she adds, "this won't have to be a fundraiser one day and can just be a party. We shouldn't have to raise money to support new farmers because there would be plenty of them, and everyone would support them throughout the year."

McKnight says Chapel Hill Creamery is happy to support efforts to attract smart, capable people to

hands-on farming, as opposed to more lucrative adjunct businesses. "We need to support the people who want to take their smarts and use it to work the ground, work with the animals, and produce the food," McKnight says. "This program helps people who actually want to run the farm achieve their goal. As someone who hopes to one day retire from farming, I'm glad to know there will be people ready to step up and carry on."

Tickets are available online at www.farmtoforknc.com for 10th anniversary Farm to Fork Picnic Weekend events.











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# From the Publisher



ur Best of Downtowner Awards issue is finally here and there are lots of new ideas for dining, places to hang out with friends, professional services, and ways to get involved in your local community. While you're reading through all the winners, we hope you'll discover a few places you might want to check out. We always do and it makes us appreciate the time our readers take to share all their favorites with us. I'm sure all the local businesses that placed in this year's awards appreciate it as well. The Best of Downtowner Awards is the direct result of your input and we're grateful to bring a new list of winners to you each year.

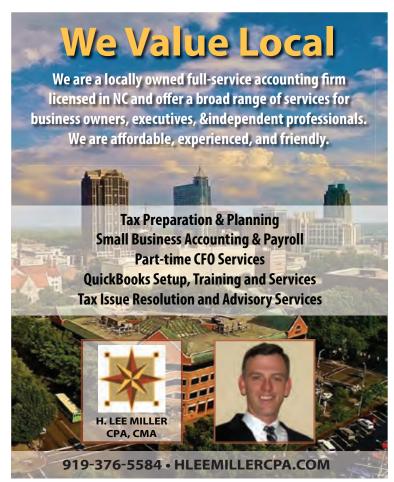
Our new website is live! Visit www.triangledowntowner. com to check it out. Here, we'll have lots of online news and articles between the monthly print magazines with new topics added each month. Want to help? We need more contributing writers! Would you like to promote all the great things about the Triangle that make it one of the top places

to live, work, and play across the country? Are you passionate about the amazing food, people, music, arts, retail, charities, history, entrepreneurs, and more? Do you enjoy writing and want to show off the community we live in and love? Send us a writing sample and tell us what you'd like to write about to writers@welovedowntown.com. We look forward to hearing from you!

Cheers Crash Gregg

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Best of Downtowner Award for Best Wine Shop.

Seth Hoffman and James Voltz, co-owners of Raleigh Wine Shop with last year's

By James Voltz

he last decade has seen a sea of change in the way we shop for nearly everything. From dog treats to automobiles, houses to spouses - and even wine - the barrage of big box stores, warehouses, and online options have created a seismic shift in our daily lives and neighborhoods. Whether it's Costco, the latest website or a newest app, it seems like everything is available everywhere, and possibly one day delivered by drones. Yet despite all of this, and with apologies to Mr. Twain, we at The Raleigh Wine Shop are happy to report "the death of independent retail has been greatly exaggerated." For us, this is because we offer our customers the selection, pricing, service, and personal experience that chains don't and websites can't.

Unlike chains, we don't have a corporate mandate to sell certain wines and our selection of wines isn't made by number crunchers in far away corporate headquarters. The people who help you at our shop are the same ones that select all of the wines we bring in. We taste thousands of wines a year from all over the world to select the handful that meet our strict standards. And when you combine our carefully curated selection with our passion for serving our customers, it allows us to the opportunity to get to know your palate and match it with exactly the wine you want.

Not only do people want a wine that tastes good, but more and more want to know about its history - where the grapes are grown, who grew the grapes, and how the wines were made. Just as the farm-to-table movement gained traction in the restaurant industry, a similar movement is underway in the wine world. We are regularly asked about the provenance of the grapes and our wines. We're delighted to chat about natural, organic, biodynamic farming, what is (and isn't) added to the wines in our shop versus the manufactured wines found elsewhere, and where it all comes from. And if all of that isn't your cup of tea, we're equally delighted to simply choose a wine on your behalf while you rest comfortably, knowing that it came from a responsible producer.

After the proliferation of big box wine stores came wine websites, online wine clubs, and wine apps, the sheer volume of which I lost count of long ago. Functionally, the vast majority of these entities operate identically to the chains that came before them. You might read on one of their wine descriptions: "92 points and only \$24.99! You're going to love it!" But what exactly does 92 points mean? Who's doing the scoring? And what happens if you don't like the same types of wine that the scorer likes? Instead, we prefer to have a conversation to find out what sort of wine you would like to drink, your preferences, and what you've enjoyed in the past. If I gave you "a great price" on something you don't actually want, are you sill getting a good deal? A wine club will ask you just a few trivial questions and then use an averaging algorithm to make wine suggestions. We prefer to give recommendations based on a face-to-face conversation to learn your personal preferences and favorite wines, and then help find the wines that are right

Shopping

for Wine

Local

There's a feeling out there that if you receive less service, or no service at all (like sitting in front of your computer shopping at 3am), that you'll at least get a better deal than if you went to a small, specialty retailer. If your wine budget is in the "Three Buck Chuck" range and that makes you happy, I think that's fantastic. But if you prefer to spend just a few dollars more, then shopping at a good independent wine store doesn't have to cost you any more than shopping online, and the result is that your money will go further on a better bottle of wine (and more of it stays right here in our local economy!).

As we were drafting this article for the Downtowner, we were informed that we had once again won the award for not only Best Wine Shop, but also Best Customer Service. I'm not only mentioning this as a humble-brag, but it brings me to the most important point of what you should expect from independent retailers (and us): an invaluable shopping experience that is tailored to your needs and a by-product of doing something we truly believe in and love, all while serving the amazing community in which we belong.

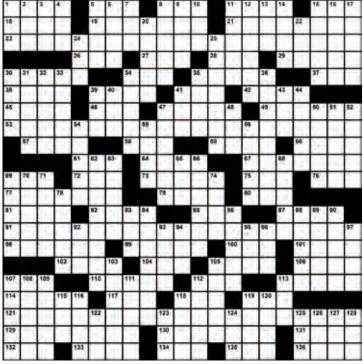
James is the co-owner of Raleigh Wine Shop, a locally owned purveyor of wines and various provisions. James can be reached through their website at www.RaleighWineShop.com.



# DOWNTOWNER MONTHLY CROSSWORD PUZZLE



Want to win a Downtowner T-shirt? Email us a photo of your completed puzzle to xword@welovedowntown.com. We'll pick a random winner each month. Need a hint? Visit our website for the answer key: www.welovedowntown.com. No cheating!



#### **ACROSS**

- 1 Pool exercise
- 5. PC program
- 8. Wee hour 11. Alternative to plastic
- 15. Abbr. after a comma
- 18. Beget
- 19. File
- 21. Blade of a rotor
- 23. Mamas and the Papas' song
- 26. German resort
- 27. "Have some" 28. Cap material?
- 29. Filch
- 30. Colorful parrot 34. Least amount (abbr.)
- 35. Autocrats of old
- 37. Doze (off)
- 38. Bug-eyed 39. Hidden valley
- 41. Prevent
- 42. Ponzi scheme, e.g.
- 45. Sparkling wine 46. Harebrained
- 47. Jute fiber
- 49. Beloved 53. Thelonius Monk song
- 57. Gaelic language
- 58. Be indisposed
- 59. Conclusion starter
- 60. First family's home
- 61. Basis of some divisions 64. Luck, in Ireland
- 67. Minds
- 69. A fifth of "Hamlet"
- 72. Beluga yield 73. Construct
- 75. Long, long time to Billie Joe" 76.
- 77. Coleridge character
- 79. Word repeated
- after "Que," in song 80. Cellular stuff

- 81. Caddie's offering
- 82. "Anna and the King of
- 85. Photo
- 87. Bank posting
- 91. Drifters' song 98. Record player
- 99. Nursemaids of India
- 100. Charged item
- 101. "Little Caesar" role
- 102. Broken
- 104. Epitome of easiness 105. Halftime lead, e.g.
- 106. New driver, typi-
- 107. Be up
- 110. Hail
- 112. Took the cake,
- say 113. Gives a hoot
- 114. Charm
- 117. Aquatic shocker 118. Biblical verb ending
- 119. Global finance
- group 121. Stones' song
- 129. Wyoming city
- 130. Someone who
- keeps a journal 131. Brain wave
- 132. Chucklehead
- 133. Lavish affection (on)
- 134. Animal house
- 135. Advanced degree?
- 136. Picks up a pickup,
- maybe
- DOWN 1. 60s drug
- 2. It's inspired
- Earlier suffix
- 4. Yellow, for one 5. Sandler of "Big
- Daddy"

- 6. D.C. bigwigs 7. Fraternity letter
- 8. Hyperion, for one
- 9. Whip mark
- 10. Bonanza find 11. Approximately
- 12. Arab rulers (Var.) 13. Masseur's work-
- place, maybe
- 14. Does some tailoring
- 15. Fey
- 16. Beat
- 17. Belief system 20. Draft holder
- 22. Cattle call 93. Attack, with "into" 24. Kitten's cry 94. Everyday article 95. Toothed wheel
- 25. Throw a monkey wrench into, e.g. 96. Chemical suffix
- 30. Defensive spray

from algae

poetry

source

51. Alter

52. Doltish

54. Long (for)

55. "Good one!"

56. Mathematician

63. Chill-inducina 65. "Get the picture?"

62. Ends one's travels

40. Note

41. "Humph!"

44. Choral work

47. Leering watchers

48. Dashboard abbr.

34. TV, radio, etc.

35. Bangladesh currency

36. Metrical analysis of

39. Clock standard, abbr.

- 97. Many eras 31. Mojave plant 103. "They go offstage," 32. Nightclub charge
- in Shakespeare plays 33. Materials derived 105. It'll knock you out

66. Codfish and haddock

68. Gobble down cookies

70. Diamond measure

74. Spanish appetizer

84. Center of some dances

92. Contents of some bags

69. Cockeved

71. Cache

78. Lifeless

83. Carte start

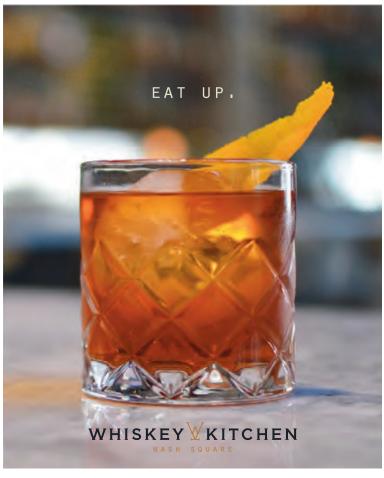
86. Insinuating

88. Blood line

90. Mike holder

89. Judge

- 107. Berry
- 108. Wet nurses
- 109. Radio sounds
- 111. Little laugh
- 112. Hindu principle
- 113. Freon, generically 115. Farm area
- 116. Got a good look at
- 118. Buffalo's county
- 43. Magazine revenue 119. Research facility, abbr.
  - 120. Maker of holes 122. Married a Beatle
- 50. Bucking bronco show 123 Annex
  - 124. Folks 125. Emergency
  - 126 Altar vow 127. Green, in a way
  - 128. Neon, e.g.







# LUXURY APARTMENT GUIDE

Thinking of moving to downtown Raleigh, North Hills, or in between? For more information or a tour of any of the apartments below, call 919.828.8888.



The Alexan North Hills Apartments - 1Br/1Ba to 2Br/2Ba (635-1301 SF). Starting at \$905 per month.

North Hills - 4209 Lassiter Mill Road, Raleigh 27609



Devon Four25 - Studio, 1Br, 2Br (588-1281 SF) Starting at \$1250 per month. Downtown - 425 Boylan Street, Raleigh 27603



Jones Grant - Studio, 1Br/1Ba, 2Br/2Ba (680-1502 SF).
Starting at \$940 per month.
Midtown - 1040 Wake Towne Drive, Raleigh 27609

Manor Six Forks - 1Br/1Ba to 3Br/2Ba (722-1362 SF).

Starting at \$980 per month.

Midtown - 900 East Six Forks Road, Raleigh, NC 27604



Park & Market at North Hills - Studio, 1Br/1Ba, 2Br/2Ba (633-1370 SF). Starting at \$1115 per month. Midtown - 41 Park at North Hills Street, Raleigh 27609



Skyhouse - Studio, 1Br/1Ba to 3Br/3Ba (587-2694 SF). Starting at \$1132 per month.

Downtown - 308 S Blount St, Raleigh 27601

Call 919.828.8888 for more information or to be featured on this page.