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ADVERTISING AND GENERAL OFFICE INQUIRIES:

www.triangledowntowner.com/pages/contact

PRESS RELEASES:

press@welovedowntown.com

- PUBLISHER & CO-FOUNDER Crash Gregg
- CO-FOUNDERS Randall Gregg, Sig Hutchinson
- BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT Dustin Hubel
- FOOD EDITOR Brian Adornetto
- LEAD DESIGNER Cyndi Harris
- PHOTOGRAPHERS Randy Bryant, Darryl Morrow, Crash Gregg, Robert Pettus
- WRITERS/COPY EDITORS Brian Adornetto, Christy Griffith
- CONTENT MANAGERS Lauren Greene, Chandler Byrd, Erik Moss, Esther McCaskill-Baker

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TRIANGLE **DOWNTOWNER** MAGAZINE — ISSUE 142

- 4 Best of Downtowner Awards - 2019 – It's time to vote!
- 7 From the Publisher
- 8 From the Mayor
- 10 Hidden in Plain Sight – The Raleigh Water Tower
- 13 Social Media Page
- 14 Around Town News
- 16 Dorothea Dix Park – On the way to becoming a reality
- 18 Around Town in the Triangle – Super Kids Benefit
- 19 Crossword Puzzle

ON THE COVER: It's time to vote in the 9th Annual Best of Downtowner Awards! Let everyone know about your favorites by voting at www.TriangleDowntowner.com.

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9TH ANNUAL

Best of Downtowner Awards!

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OF DOWNTOWNER
AWARDS

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It's time to vote again for the Best of Downtowner Awards, where you get to tell us all your favorites throughout the Triangle. We'll tally up the votes and share the winners with you and our other 145,000 monthly Downtowner readers, who really appreciate all the great recommendations each and every year: where to find the tastiest burger, freshest seafood, spot for great dancing, where to adopt a new furry friend, or that go-to place for Sunday Bloody Marys. Your votes help to promote all the great places to dine, drink, shop, and visit throughout the Triangle, which we'll present in our upcoming 9th Annual Best of Downtowner Awards issue.

The Downtowner Awards are about promoting local and you, our loyal readers (PS. we love you guys!). We are truly grateful to be able to live, work, and play here and truly enjoy showing off all the great locally owned businesses that make the Triangle a great place. We've added a few new categories based on your suggestions from last year's Awards, including your fave local Distillery, Coolest New Building (and most Blah New Building), where to buy awesome T-shirts, Juices & Smoothies, and more. Feel free to cast a few votes, finish a section, and then come back later to finish.



Ready to vote?! Remember, being a locally-owned business ourselves, we support the heck out of local business in our Best of Downtowner Awards by not allowing chains or national brands in our results, so be sure to only vote for local businesses. We're glad to see a few other magazines in the area have followed our lead and are doing the same with their contests. Don't forget, voting ends in two months, so vote soon and help your favorites take home the blue ribbon! Check back in our Best of Downtowner Awards issue for all the winners!

We've added some demographic questions to help us learn more about you and as our way to say Thank You, we're giving away 100 Downtowner t-shirts and over \$500 in restaurant gift cards to randomly chosen voters. We'll contact you by email if you're a winner!

Head over to www.TriangleDowntowner.com, click on the **VOTE NOW** banner, and tell us all your favorites. Good luck and happy voting!



FOOD & DRINK

- Most Delicious **Appetizers**
- Can't live without their **Sandwiches**
- Perfectly-cooked **Steaks**
- Incredible **Sushi**
- Just-caught-this-morning **Seafood Dishes**
- Worth driving miles for this **Pizza**
- Best **Tacos** ever
- Finger-lickin' **Ribs**
- The Triangle's best **BBQ**
- Most incredible **Burgers**
- Fluffiest **Biscuits**
- Yummiest **Mac & Cheese**
- Gotta have this **Fried Chicken**
- Not your average **Hot Dogs**

- Fantastic **Chicken Wings**
- A dozen more **Oysters** please
- Get your hands of my **French Fries**
- Delicious authentic **Dumplings**
- Their **Desserts** are OMG
- The **Vegetarian/Vegan Dishes** here are totally awesome
- Favorite foodie-centric **Happy Hour Deals**
- Tastiest **Ice Cream/Frozen Yogurt/Desserts**
- Pass me all their **Bloody Marys** please
- Muy bueno **Margaritas**

RESTAURANTS & BARS

- Best **New Restaurant that Opened in 2018** – Wake County/Durham County
- My go-to **All-Around Favorite Restaurant** – Wake County/Durham County



- Super kid-friendly at this **Family-Friendly Restaurant**
- Never-disappoints **Fine Dining Restaurant**
- Bada-bing **Italian** dishes
- Most authentic **Mexican/Latin American** cuisine
- Scrumptious **Mediterranean/Middle Eastern** dishes
- The most amazing **Japanese** cuisine
- Delish **Chinese** food
- Magnifique **French** cuisine
- I heart all the **Indian** cuisine here
- Seriously authentic **Thai** food
- Spend every morning at this **Coffee Shop**
- Mmm, the smells at this **Bakery**
- You can't eat just one of these **Doughnuts**
- My go-to **Breakfast Joint**



- Favorite **Brunch** worth waking up for
- Buy beans by the wheelbarrow from this **Coffee Roaster**
- Your body says thanks for the **Healthy Food** here
- You'll love the **Value for the Money** at this restaurant
- Ah, this is real **Southern Comfort Food**
- Best **Restaurant for a Business Meeting**
- That awful-yet-awesome **Dive Bar**
- Their **Bar Food** is better than most bar food
- Most helpful **Butcher Shop**



- Most impressive **Wine Menu**
- Mixologist-inspired **Craft Cocktails** here
- Super spirits from this local **Distillery**
- My favorite **Brewery** – Wake County/Durham County
- Busiest **Bar Inside a Brewery**
- Sitting on their **Outside Patio** rocks
- Most extensive **Bourbon/Whiskey Selection**
- Cheer for your favorite team at this **Sports Bar**
- **Friendliest Restaurant Staff** makes this place rock
- My favorite place to go **Dancing**
- Best **Restaurant for a Romantic Date**
- Greenest **Irish Pub**
- Their **Late Night Food** is worth the trip
- Love the view from this **Rooftop Bar/Restaurant**



- **Local Neighborhood Bar** where “everyone knows your name”
- Hippest **Place to Hear Jazz/Blues**
- Get your **Karaoke** fix here
- Satisfy your daily **Juices/Smoothies** fix here
- Mouth-watering **Food Truck**



RETAIL & SERVICES

- Business with the best **Customer Service** – Wake County/Durham County
- Go-to **Hair Salon for Women**
- A super haircut at this **Hair Salon/Barbershop for Men**
- Mani/pedi heaven at this **Nail Salon**
- Convenient, fast and friendly **Local Pharmacy**
- Not just sew-sew service at this **Tailor**
- I see clearly at this **Optometrist/Eyewear Office**
- They sell the **Cooliest T-shirts** here
- Most invigorating **Gym or Place to Work Out**
- You'll love coming to this **Med Spa/Day Spa**
- Always wrinkle-free at this **Dry Cleaner**
- That aaaahhh feeling at this **Chiropractic Office**
- We always rely on this **Catering Company**
- They do a great job at this **Local Auto Repair Shop**
- Even McGruff uses this **Law Firm**
- The IRS hates this **CPA/Accounting Firm**
- Clients love this **PR/Marketing/Ad Agency**
- Trust this **Plastic Surgery Practice** with your skin
- Perfect smile every time at this **Dental Practice**
- Get straightened out at this **Orthodontic Office**
- It's no worries with this **Wedding Planner**
- Never a leak with this **Roofing Company**
- Paperwork is a no-brainer with this **Mortgage Broker**



- Come home to this **Real Estate Agency**
- Best place to learn **Gymnastics/Dance Studio**
- Pets love this **Veterinary Office/Animal Hospital**
- Get limber at this **Yoga/Pilates/Barre**
- Take it to the limit at this **Crossfit Studio**
- **Tattoo Parlor** with the most talented artists
- Most caring place to **Adopt a New Furry Friend**
- I filled my house at this **New Furniture Store**
- All my **Home Accessories** come from here
- Hippest place for **Vintage Furniture**
- Shoppers know to go here for the best **Antiques**
- Got you covered at this **Flooring Store**
- Find the good stuff at the **Clothing Thrift Store**
- They know their grapes at this **Wine Shop**
- Beer-knurds love this **Bottle Shop**
- Buy everything at this **Gift Shop**



- Most fashionable local shop for **Women's Clothes**
- Quite dashing local place to buy **Men's Fashions**
- Best place to buy **Fine or Custom Jewelry**
- It sparkles at this **Place to Buy Diamonds**
- Most convenient local **Hardware Store**
- Best **Car Wash/Mobile Detailer**
- Most-read **Independent Bookstore**
- My green thumb loves this local **Garden Center/Nursery**
- Woof-tastic **Dog-Friendly Business**
- Favorite **Art Gallery** for collecting art
- Earth-friendly **Green/Sustainable Business**
- Most interesting **Store Front or Window Display(s)**
- Coolest **Co-Working Space**
- **Local Charity** making a real difference in our community



OUT & ABOUT

- Greatest **Place to Hear Live Music** – Less than 100 people/More than 100 people
- Photo-worthy **Special Event/Wedding Space Venue** – Wake County/Durham County
- Perfect **Place for a Girl's Night Out**
- Cool **Place for a Guy's Night**
- Discover this **Hang Out for People Over 30**
- My favorite **Movie Theater**
- This local **Hotel** never fails to impress – Wake County/Durham County
- **Best Designed New Building**
- **Most Blah New Building**
- My big-time favorite local **Sports Team**
- Craziest **Sports Mascot**
- Well-designed **Golf Course**
- Best **Place to Work** (local business)
- Most awesome **Outdoor Event**
- My go-to **Place to Take Out-of-Town Tourists**
- **Favorite Place to Pick Up the Downtowner**
- **What New Business, Attraction, or Service** would you like to see in the Triangle? 📍

PEOPLE

- Most talented **Local Chef** – Wake County/Durham County
- Craft cocktail mastered **Bartender**
- Buy everything this **Local Artist** creates – Wake County/Durham County
- **Massage Therapist** can make every knot disappear

- Call this **Attorney** when you need the best
- Most stylish **Interior Designer**
- Spin-tastic **DJ/Event Emcee**
- Most entertaining **Local Band or Singer**
- Don't-Miss **Podcast/Podcaster**
- Most passionate city, county, or state **Elected Official/Government Employee**
- Most prolific community-involved **Entrepreneur**

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From the Publisher

Thank you for joining us for issue 142 of the Downtowner, when voting begins for the 9th Annual Best of Downtowner Awards. We hope you'll take the time to visit our website at TriangleDowntowner.com to tell us all your local favorites. Once we tally up all the votes, we'll present the winners in an upcoming issue so you'll have plenty of fresh new ideas for places to dine, drink, visit, and patron all across the Triangle. We love seeing all the new business names you suggest during the voting process and it shows just how much our area continues to grow each and every year. We love it here and are glad so many of you do too.

We're working diligently in the background on our two new sections of the Downtowner, Triangle Arts and Local Biz, which will showcase some of the artistic and business talent from across the Triangle. For Arts, we'll include visual and performing artist interviews, a calendar with exhibition profiles, gallery and performance listings, First Friday/Third Friday info and event photos, educational video interviews for artists, and host local art events. In Biz, we'll be interviewing local entrepreneurs and startup founders, C-level execs, municipal employees and elected officials, civic and community leaders, business service experts, and others. We'll also host monthly business learning meetings, networking events, and talks from local leaders.

We're in the process of securing a main sponsor for both sections and are also looking for co-sponsors for this huge community project. Sponsorships vary in size and purpose from interviews, events, in-kind (videography, event photography, event rentals, food and beverage providers, etc.). All sponsorships, at minimum, receive branding inclusion through print, web, and social media for a combined exposure to more than 200,000

readers per month. If you or your business are interested in learning more about either the Arts or Biz sponsorship opportunities, please email us at office@welovedowntown.com and we'll be glad to provide more details. We're also looking for contributing writers, photographers, and interviewers for both sections, so please drop us a note to the same email address with links to any writing samples you have.

We're looking forward to highlighting all the talented and passionate people throughout the Triangle and bringing their stories to downtowners everywhere.

Cheers,



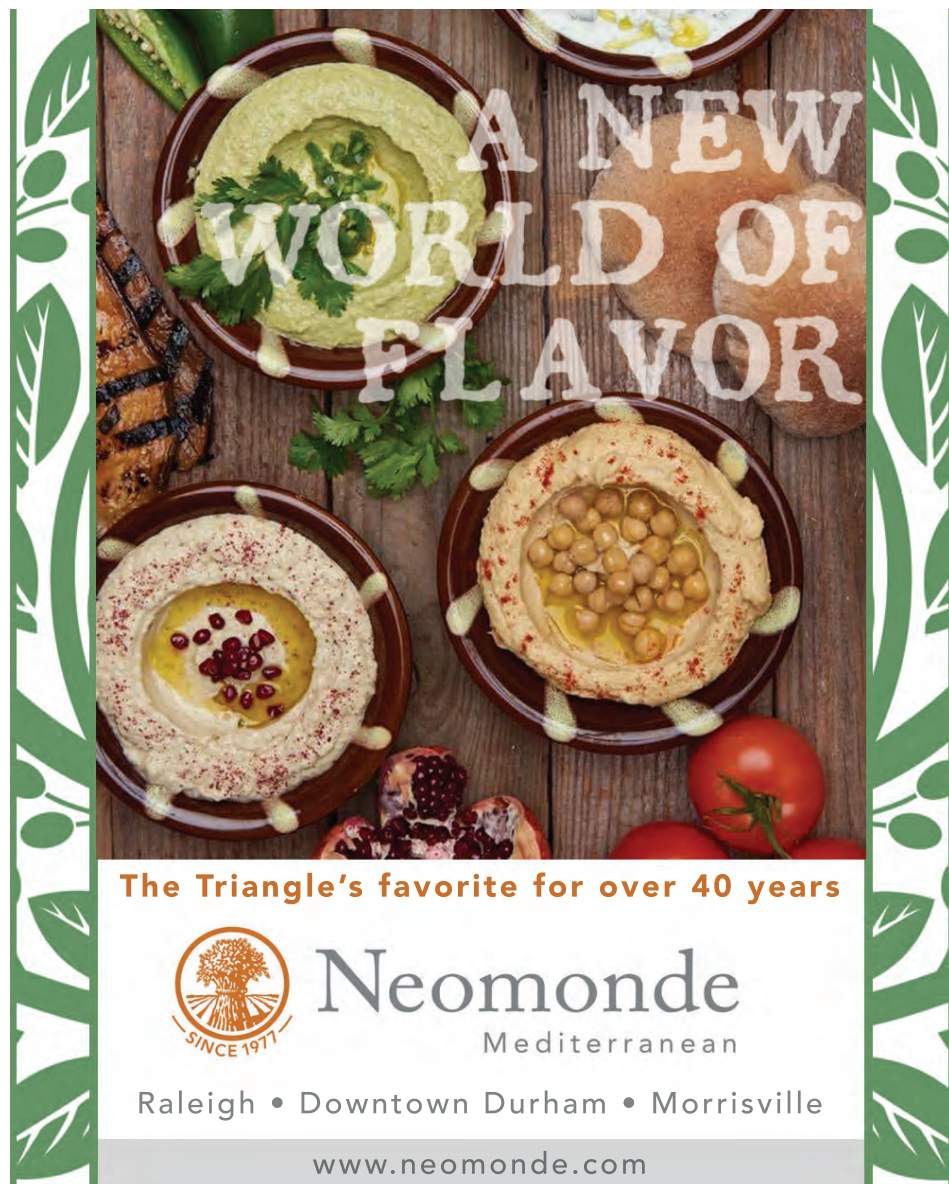
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In this new column, we've invited local Triangle mayors to write about any topics they wish to discuss. Different Mayors will write each month to help them connect with our Downtowner readers. We'll include links to any blogs, vlogs, etc. that each may have for even more insights into other topics of interest.



Over 16 miles of new GoRaleigh bus services in northwest and southeast Raleigh have been added recently. This year, the City will invest another \$1.5 million in new transfer points throughout the bus service area.



Mayor McFarlane with granddaughter Maddie in 2015, when the City of Raleigh agreed to purchase the Dix Park property from the State of NC.

Nancy McFarlane, City of Raleigh Mayor

BY NANCY MCFARLANE, CITY OF RALEIGH MAYOR

Transportation, and more specifically, mass transit, is one of the topics I am asked about most frequently. The City of Raleigh is doing A LOT to improve transportation in the City, and to make connections to other transportation systems, so people can move easily not only throughout Raleigh but throughout the region.

We are excited to have added GoRaleigh services in Northwest and Southeast Raleigh in January, totaling about 16 miles of new service area. These services are along Poole, Barwell, and Rock Quarry roads in the Southeast, and Blue Ridge and Edward Mills roads in the Northwest, providing service to the NC Museum of Art and the NC State Fairgrounds. At \$9 million, this is the largest transit investment spent in a single year, exceeding the total of new investments of the last decade. With the expanded services, additional passenger amenities such as shelters, and benches are being added. About 150 sites are planned to receive some type of passenger amenity add-ons, such as new concrete pads for waiting, benches, shelters, and trash receptacles. Sites without streetlights nearby may receive solar-powered lighting. In addition, about 70 shelters are being added along existing routes as streets are improved. Many of these are part of the 2017 Transportation Bond with improvements similar to those mentioned above.

The Wake Transit Plan is perhaps the most widely known transportation project. In August 2017, Sunday services, which were limited at the time, were added to all routes, and increased service from 8am to 8pm

to 6am to 10pm. These changes resulted in increased ridership by 78 percent. Also, in 2017, the GoRaleigh Route 7 that serves southern Raleigh and Garner increased frequency to every 15 minutes all day. This change immediately led to increased ridership, showing that an underserved need is now being met within the city and region. As a part of the regional effort through the Wake Transit Plan, GoRaleigh is planning to provide additional services to Garner, Knightdale, and Rolesville starting later this year.

The Wake Transit Plan launched the Youth Go Pass last summer, providing free transportation for teenagers. The first quarter the program was up and running, more than 50,000 trips were completed with the passes.

The Bus Rapid Transit, frequently called BRT, is moving ahead. Raleigh has been named the project coordinator for all four BRT corridors. Staff has completed pre-planning and is working to ensure the project's eligibility for federal capital investment funding. Staff anticipates more developments in this process as early as this winter. The Wake Transit 10-year bus operating and capital plan and 5-year short-range bus plan are both in the final stages of approval. This planning document guides how transit services and capital improvements will be phased in, between the years of 2019 and 2027. The City's GoRaleigh system began using compressed natural gas buses this past September. The first 17 buses are working out quite well, and about two dozen more have been ordered. The production time on these buses is lengthy, however, we expect they will be on the road late this summer.

This is going to be another big year for transportation! The City plans to invest \$1.5 million in new enhanced transfer points throughout the system and will be opening a new Park and Ride location at the GoRaleigh Operation Facility, in East Raleigh. We are also working to secure funding for a shared Raleigh and Wake County paratransit facility as well as the new East Raleigh Transit Center; both of which are in the planning and development phases.

Like so many things we do as a City, transportation projects are not possible without the support of our residents and partner agencies. Thank you to each and every one of you who have supported our transportation bonds and who use the GoRaleigh, GoCary and GoTriangle systems; as well as the State and Federal agencies who help fund our projects and to the General Assembly and U.S. Congress that provide allocations to the agencies that are being passed on to communities like Raleigh. 🙏

Nancy McFarlane is the 35th and current mayor of Raleigh, NC, and is serving in her third term. She was first elected to lead the city in the 2011 election, and succeeded Charles Meeker, who had declined to run for re-election to another term. McFarlane was elected to Raleigh City Council in 2007 and served two terms before being elected as mayor.

New (and archived) video interviews with Mayor McFarlane can be viewed on the City's YouTube channel at <http://bit.ly/minutesmayorYT>.

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HIDDEN IN PLAIN SIGHT

THE RALEIGH WATER TOWER



The fire station was originally housed across the street from the water tower

By Crash S. Gregg
From interviews with:
Dan Crawford, Executive Vice President, AIA
Ryan Adams, S&A Real Estate

If you ask longtime Raleigh residents about the water tower in downtown Raleigh, many will have no idea what you're talking about. "Water tower?! What water tower?" might be their response. Yes, it does exist and yes, it's right in the middle of downtown Raleigh, hidden by large oak trees, the AT&T building, and in front by an attached two-story office building. The fact that it sits on Morgan Street, a one-way with little pedestrian traffic, adds to its odd shroud of anonymity. When driving with the one-way traffic on Morgan, it's almost impossible to see the four-story tower on the right just after the McDowell intersection, as it is completely blocked by the aforementioned trees and buildings.

Built in 1887, the 85-foot octagonal structure, originally nicknamed the "Morgan Tower," is made from 3-foot thick granite stones and four layers of bricks. It was built to support a 100,000-gallon metal water tank, which was then filled with fresh water pumped through wooden troughs and pipes from Walnut Creek. By the early 1900s, it was the sole water supply for the entire city of Raleigh. However, with continuing residential growth, the tower was soon inadequate to meet Raleigh's water infrastructure needs. It was abandoned by the city in 1924, and a new, much larger tower was built further west. The water tank was removed and the city contemplated tearing down the tower. Luckily, they decided instead to sell it to local Raleigh architect William Henry Deitrick, who converted the space into his office. He built four interior floors in the tower, two with spiral staircases along the inside curved wall. Even with the four floors, the majority of the tower's interior is unobstructed and open all the way up to its crown. A few windows along the walls illuminate the massive 100-plus-year-old crisscrossed heart of pine beams at the apex of the octagonal tower.

Deitrick also renovated the front office building and the two-story maintenance shop behind the tower, connecting the two buildings with a walled garden courtyard. His offices remained in the water tower for almost 40 years until he generously deeded it to the NC Chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA). AIA moved into the tower in 1963, making it their office until 2010, when they had outgrown the mere 1500 square feet of space after almost 50 years.

AIA Executive Vice President David Crawford mentioned in our interview, "We loved showing off the building, but it was difficult to bring in more than four or five people at a time. We tried to invite the community to come and visit the historic tower, but it was almost impossible. The uniqueness of the building was amazing, but that was about the extent of its value as an office space. We enjoyed our time in the tower, but we weren't sad when we moved out. We're glad it's being taken care of and preserved for the future by the new owner."

Many Raleigh residents may remember seeing the tower and its front building with ivy-covered walls throughout the 70s and 80s. Though this gave the buildings a nostalgic and charming look, it was discovered in the 90s that the ivy was actually wicking out the moisture from the grout in the brick and stone and leading to the degradation of the structure. The ivy was removed and much of the grout work redone. In fact,



Tower with metal water tank, circa 1887



Tower courtyard entrance

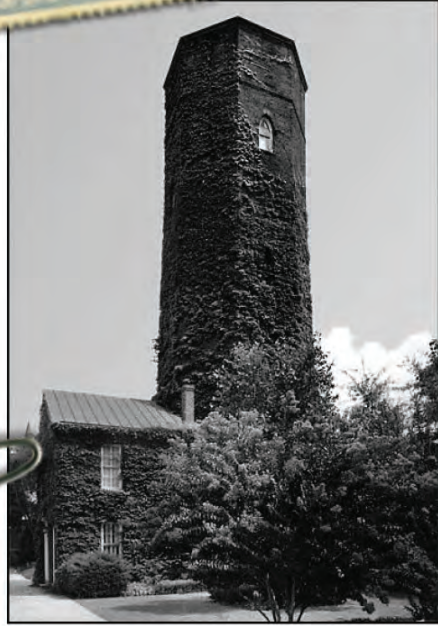
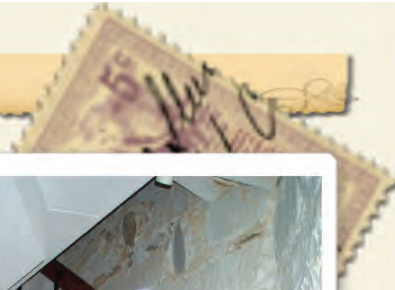


Inside the tower

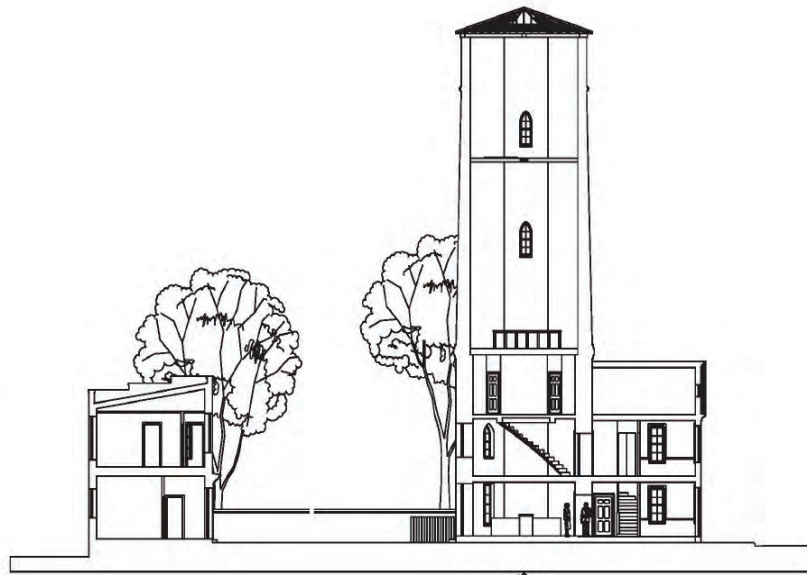


Rear office building

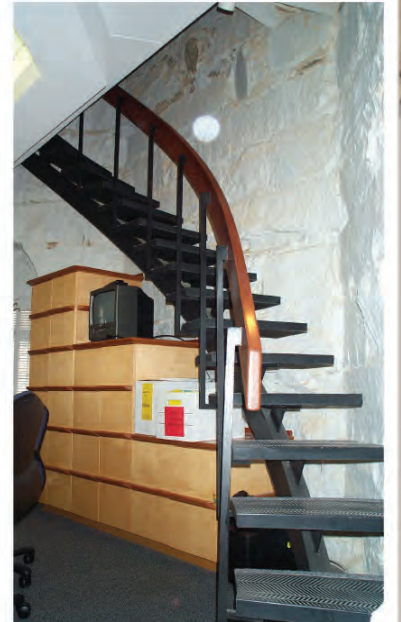




The tower and building covered in ivy, circa 1970



Section view of tower and rear office building



Conference room stairs to third floor

even today, if you stand in the fourth floor conference room long enough, you can actually hear the grout “coming out of the stone walls,” according to David. Luckily, this is only from the internal grout, which doesn’t affect the building’s integrity, and is caused from the pressure of the tons of bricks above the stone slabs.

David told us he believes the tower was the first adaptive reuse project in North Carolina, originally built as a municipal facility, then becoming an architect’s office and later an association’s headquarters. Once the AIA had outgrown the tower, their organization sold it in 2010 to local developer S&A Real Estate and Ryan Adams (no, not the singer). AIA found a suitable empty site at the corner of Peace and McDowell Streets near Seaboard, and built a much larger office space using sustainable designs. Their new modernist building has over 12,000 square feet and plenty of nearby parking, neither of which the historic tower could offer.

S&A leased out the tower and front building to business tenants and has recently made several upgrades to the space to ensure the safety of the tower’s future. It is currently leased by one of the newly popular escape room companies.

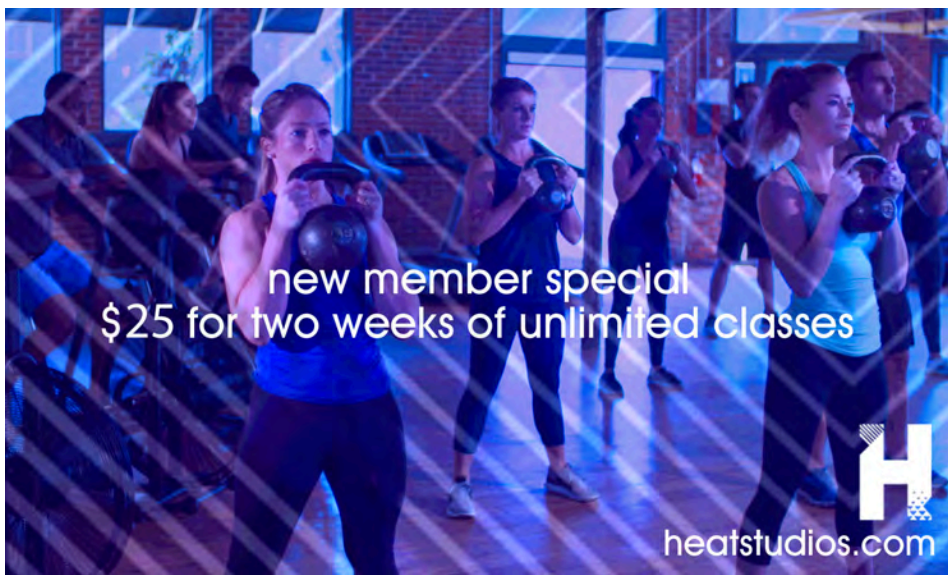
The Raleigh Water Tower is located at 115 W. Morgan Street and is listed as a Raleigh Historic Landmark with the National Register of Historic Places. We hope the tower will remain for a long time as one of Raleigh’s most unique and notable structures. Visit our website for more photos and videos of the tower, including exterior shots of the granite blocks, panoramic photos inside the tower and office buildings, and the courtyard: www.TriangleDowntowner.com and search for “water tower.”



View of the tower roof from the fourth floor



An aerial view of the tower and front office building in 2018



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Around Town News **in the Triangle**

We love hearing about new local businesses and sharing it with our readers. Please keep us posted on any new locally owned restaurants, bars, retail shops, or businesses opening in downtown Raleigh, Durham or across the Triangle. Send an email to news@welovedowntown.com and clue us in. To say “Thanks Y’all,” we’ll pick a random tipster each month to win a free Downtowner t-shirt.

P.S. We’re looking for contributing writers who want to help us report on what makes the Triangle a great place to live, work, play, and shop for both our print issue and our website, www.TriangleDowntowner.com. We have writing opportunities on a wide range of topics: local business, art galleries/artist profiles, dining, breweries/local beer, music/bands, tech, startups, charities, personalities, and just about anything else interesting and different. Email us at writers@welovedowntown.com if you’re interested. Be sure to include a few writing samples and we’ll get back to you asap.

To keep up with news between issues as well as lots of event and food photos, be sure to follow us on all of our social media pages: Facebook www.facebook.com/triangledowntowner • Instagram www.instagram.com/triangledowntowner • Twitter www.twitter.com/welovedowntown



The Dillon – located in Raleigh’s Warehouse district – is home to the newly opened **Oak Steakhouse**, a modern take on the classic American steakhouse. This contemporary steakhouse is the second of five locations that will be located across North Carolina. Each season, the menu will change according to the chef’s choice while still offering a variety of Certified Angus Beef plates that include North Carolina-grown ingredients. www.oakraleigh.com



Boxcar Bar and Arcade has opened their third location at 621 Foster St Durham, NC 27701.

Overlooking the historic Durham Athletic Park, this location includes over 70 arcade games as well as 24 craft American drafts, a Neapolitan-style pizza kitchen, and a 1,500 sq foot private event room. www.theboxcarbar.com/durham

Unlike most bars, **The Atlantic Lounge**, is a newly-opened speakeasy on North Person Street that keeps its front door locked. The catch is you need a member’s only key to unlock the door and enter. To obtain a key, guess pay a \$40 membership fee. The owner, Jason Howard, who also owns the Cardinal Bar, wanted something more than your average over-crowded bar. The goal in making the bar exclusive is to create an atmosphere that eliminates large crowds and keeps control in the hands of customers. Once obtaining a key, customers are allowed to bring one guest to enjoy a variety of



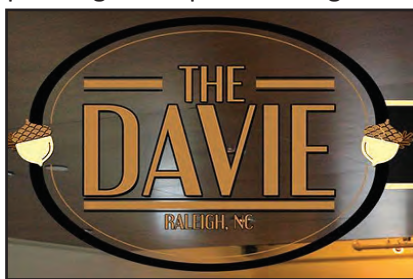
cocktail drinks, craft beers, and wine. Request a key by sending an email to TheAtlanticLounge@gmail.com.



Pine State Coffee – a well-known local coffee roaster – opened its first retail location on the outskirts of downtown Raleigh at 1614 Automotive Way. Owner David Meeker, sells Pine State Coffee at his other business, Runologie, a running and fitness gear store. This local favorite is also sold at several surrounding

businesses including Tasty Beverage Company, Raleigh Provisions, Mofu Shoppe, Liquid State, rootsRaleigh, Taste, Jose & Sons, Drink Drank Drunk, and State of Beer. www.pinestatecoffee.com/locations

The Davie has opened in the old Calavera location. This neighborhood pub offers an aesthetically pleasing atmosphere with great views of down-



town from the huge windows on the second floor as well as leather couches and a wide variety of drinks.

www.facebook.com/thedaviestpub

A local food truck favorite, **The 13th Taco**, recently opened a brick & mortar location in North Raleigh. 13 Tacos & Taps opened this January in the former Chubby’s Tacos spot in Falls River. Boasting an impressive Mexican Fusion Menu and craft beer from local breweries, Chef Jose David Peraza-Arce brings the spirit of his popular mobile food unit to a permanent location. Chef David’s creative creations include the Meatball Taco, The



Missing Link, and Shrimp & Grits. Visit www.13tacosandtaps.com for the full menu.



Joining the ever-growing list of Cary breweries, **Cotton House Craft Brewers** is bringing a new twist to the local craft beer scene. They will be opening up their brewery in a National Historic Site dating back to the year 1900 at 307 Academy St. Cary, NC. Formerly a housing facility for students of the original Cary High School, The Pasmore House is the perfect location for gathering and sharing experiences with friends. Owner Brent Webb and the team of brewers are passionate about joining Cary’s craft beer industry and are ready to open their historic home to the community. www.cottonhousecraft.com

Returning this April, **Shop Local Raleigh’s** annual craft beer festival, **Brewgaloo**, will bring two days full of beer, food trucks, vendors and local bands to Fayetteville St. Every year, craft breweries from all over the area come to Raleigh to put on the largest Craft Beer Festival in North Carolina. For \$45, guests can purchase a sheet of drink tickets which can be used to try small sample pours (2 tickets) or full pints (5 tickets). Admission to the event is free and will feature over 100 NC Breweries, more than 50 food trucks, and dozens of local vendors and bands. Dates for this year’s event are April 26-27, 2019.



Visit www.shoplocalraleigh.org/brewgaloo to purchase tickets or to find out more information about this year’s event.

Rockin’ Rolls Sushi Express recently expanded from a single location on Hillsborough Rd. in Durham. The new location opened at 9650 Strick-

Around Town News in the Triangle

continued...



land Road, bringing the exciting concept of conveyer belt sushi to North Raleigh. For only \$10.99

you can enjoy all-you-can-eat sushi served to you on a rotating conveyer belt. The Kaiten-sushi concept is a Japanese fast-food-style system designed so that sushi chefs can serve customers quickly and efficiently.

Visit www.rockinrollssushi.com/locations for a full menu, business hours & locations.

The Longleaf Hotel & Lounge is moving into the recently closed Days Inn



location on Dawson Street. The building adjacent to Days Inn, which was formally the NC Deli, is being replaced by a new restaurant, (ish) Delica-

tessen (yes, that's the name, not a typo). Matt Fern, previous director of Ashley Christensen's AC Restaurants, plans on opening (ish) after nine months of renovation. The restaurant will be serving a creative variety of deli sandwiches at breakfast, lunch, and dinner.

www.thelongleafhotel.com
www.instagram.com/ish_delicatessen

A Hillsborough St staple has temporarily closed its doors... until next year. **East Village Grill** closed after this year's Super Bowl Sunday to make room for a new apartment complex. EVG will reopen on the ground floor of the complex upon completion in 2020. www.facebook.com/eastvillagegrillandbar

Moonlight Pizza recently closed after 23 years of providing downtown Raleigh with creative pizzas. The restaurant was purchased from the previous Raleigh owners by Goose Hospitality Group in 2016.

A local annual cook-off is coming up soon. **Cook-**



ing for a **Classic 2019** consists of three rounds of eight chefs competing with the winner receiving

a classic car. This year's car is a classic 1982 JEEP Scrambler. The chefs will use secret ingredients to cook three dishes each night of the competition. Those who advance to the next round will be voted in by judges and by popular vote of the guests. The dates for each round are February 25-28, March 4 and 5, with the final round on March 11. The price of tickets increases each round and the proceeds benefitting the Lucy Daniels Center mental health program for children. The starting price is \$75 for the first round, \$100 for the second, and \$125 for the third. www.lucydanielscenter.org/special-events/cooking-for-a-classic

– Compiled by Chandler Byrd & Lauren Greene

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Dorothea Dix Park

On the way to becoming a reality

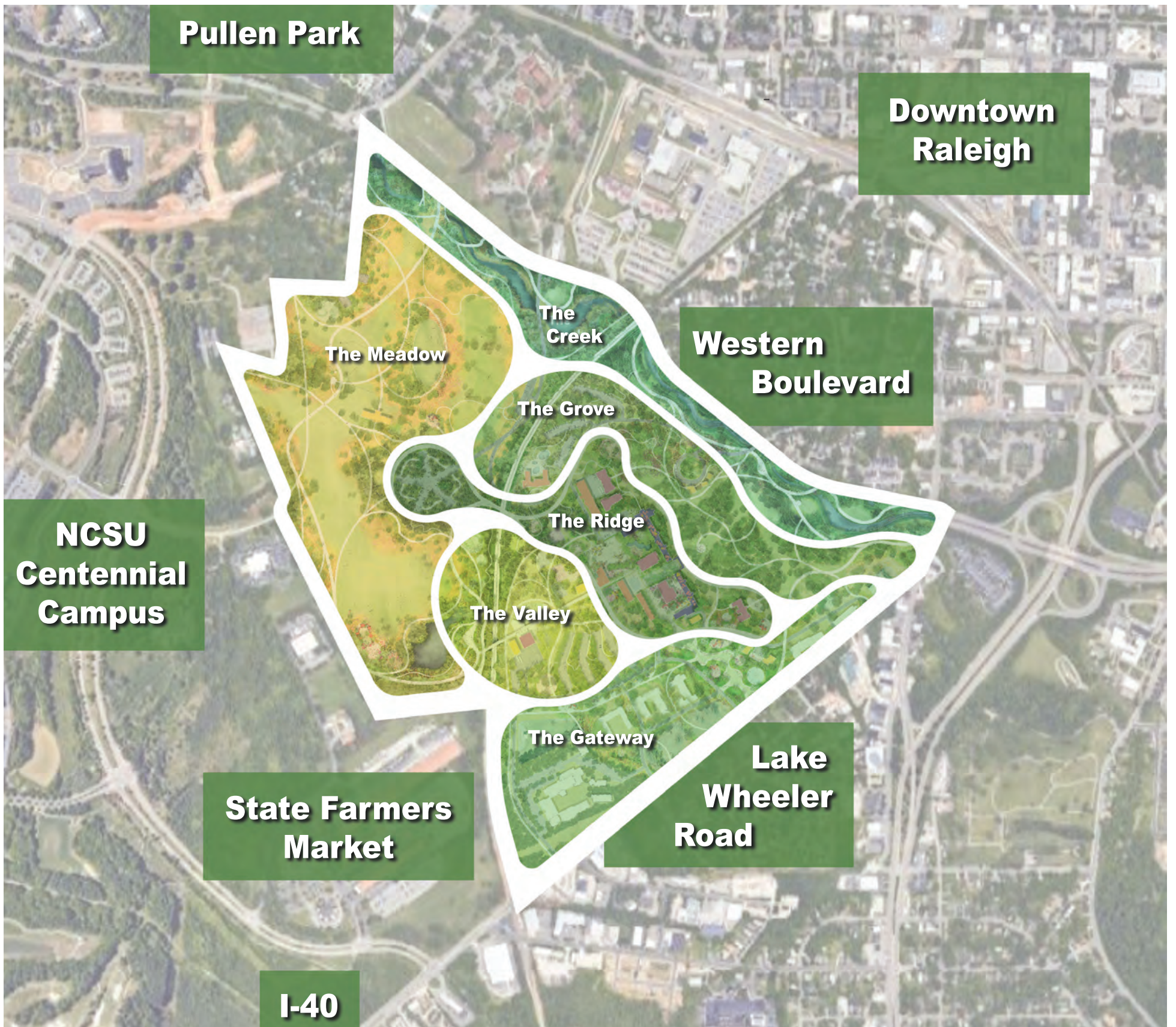
BY LAUREN GREENE

After acquiring Dorothea Dix campus from the state of North Carolina, the city of Raleigh invested time to carefully formulate a plan to turn the location into a public park with engagement

and feedback from the public. This presents a unique opportunity for the city to build an amazing public space right in the midst of the city's center.

A recently completed Master Plan for the 308-acre

site unfolds the future for the park in detail. Dix Park will become a common space for diversity and enjoyment for many generations to come. This Master Plan is the result of 18 months of consultation with the NY-based design





It's not hard to see why Holly and GusGus were the winners of the Dix Park sunflower photo contest.



It couldn't have been a more beautiful day for last year's SunFest at Dix Park.-

firm, **Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates**, input from Executive and Advisory Committees, and public comments and ideas from five community meetings, making this the largest public process the city has ever launched. Raleigh City Council will vote the Master Plan on for approval on Tuesday, Feb. 19, and hopefully, by the time some of you are reading this, the plan has been approved.

Three main core principles make up the Master Plan that will transform Dix Park into a place that is sustainable for decades to come. The park needs to be connected to the city through bridges and pathways, as well as being an open place for a variety of groups coexist together. As the park will be built on a historic location, rather than demolishing the past, the plan is to keep some of the existing buildings so that visitors will be able to experience part of the rich history that has existed in Raleigh for over a century.

According to the Master Plan, Dix Park will feature six unique landscapes: the Creek, the Meadow, the Ridge, the Grove, the Gateway, and the Valley. Rocky Branch, a neglected creek, will be widened to improve the natural habitat. The Meadow will connect Pullen Park to the NC State Farmers' Market while

providing an open field for visitors to explore and relax. Entering the historic section, The Grove will consist of mature oak trees and gardens. The Gateway will be how visitors will enter the park. Currently, the park has entrances from Western Boulevard near downtown, I-40 (Lake Wheeler Road), and the Fuller Heights neighborhood. The Ridge will be the historic center of the park where buildings from the original campus remain. Some of these buildings will be torn down to make room for activities and a loop that will connect all the landscapes together. The last landscape, The Valley, will be transformed into an amphitheater for concerts and gatherings. This area will also feature a trestle walk that allows individuals to cross from The Ridge to The Meadow.

The first step to making Dix Park a reality implements Phase One of the Master Plan. Phase One (120 acres of 308) is referred to as "Welcoming Edges and

Entries" and consists of physical improvements with the goal to open and connect Dix Park to surrounding areas. These improvements include restoring the creek, rehabilitating some of the early buildings, building a new main entry with a plaza and play areas, installing multi-use paths along Lake Wheeler Road, enhancing the historic cemetery, and creating interim parking.

Throughout the planning process, the city of Raleigh welcomed ideas and opinions from the public to help improve the Master Plan. As future phases for the park are developed, response by the public and careful consideration by the City Council will determine the final decisions of the park. Dix Park will be a place is constantly evolving to meet different needs for upcoming generations. 📖

In our next issue, we'll follow up with an article that includes information on the City Council vote, more details about the park, interesting ideas for park connectivity, and quotes from the design firm, City employees, Executive and Advisory Committee members, and other community leaders.

To read the full Dix Park Master Plan or the shorter Executive Summary, visit www.dixpark.org. There is also a calendar of events, photos, and maps of the park.



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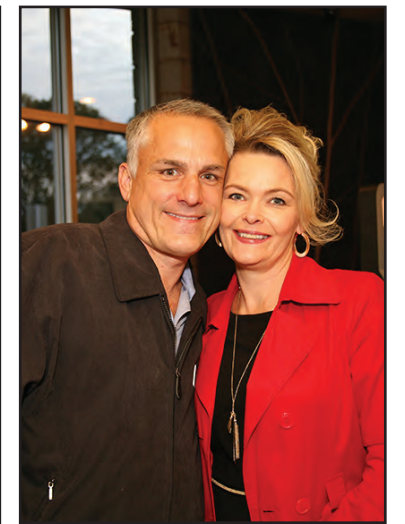
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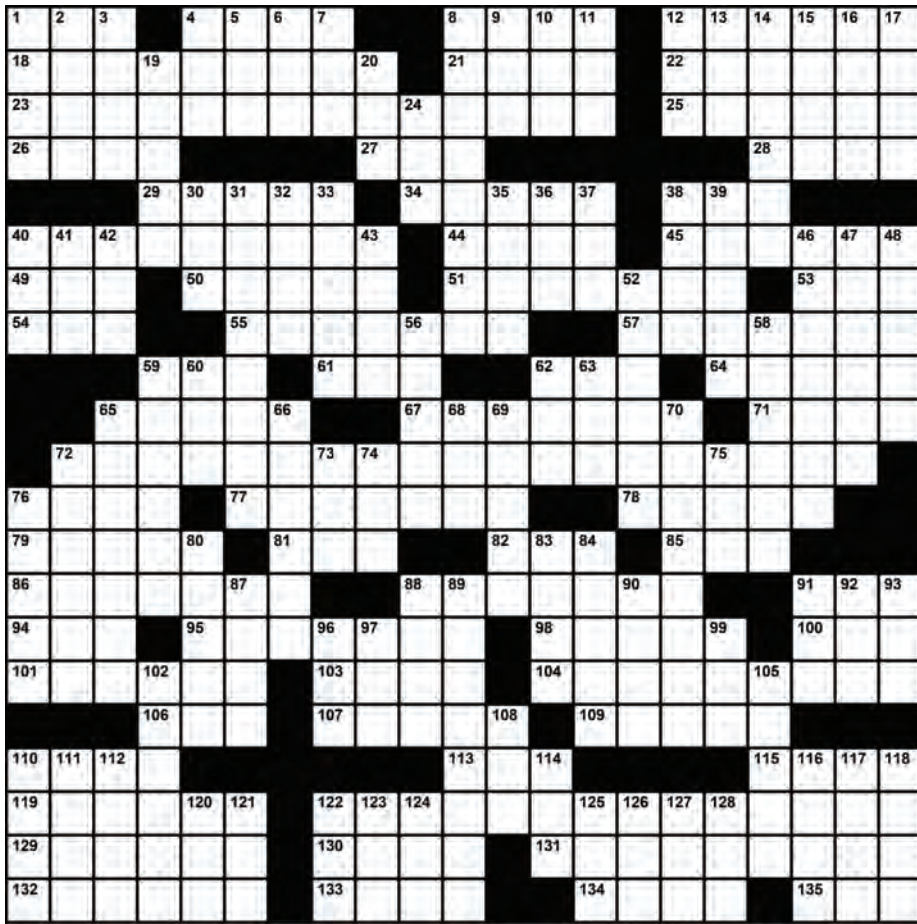
Around Town in the Triangle

Rufus Edmisten established the Super Kids Scholarship Program in 1989 as a way to ensure that worthy students obtain the development, support, and education they need as a foundation for independence and success. The program supports students who have shown they can overcome adversity by mentoring young people who have the potential to become high achievers who have been recommended to the program by a community member. Since the program's inception, the Foundation for Good Business has awarded over 90 scholarships to Super Kids, many of whom are the first in their families to graduate from high school. Since these students' families are unable to provide them with financial assistance in most cases, the Super Kids' scholarship may be the only way they can afford college. The photos below are from the most recent Super Kids Benefit held at the State Farmers Market Restaurant. To learn more at this program or to be a sponsor for the next benefit this fall, please visit www.specialsuperkids.com.





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!



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“7”

ACROSS

1. 2nd letter addendum
4. Beautician, at times
8. Kunis of Hollywood
12. Like a lemon
18. Easier than stick-shift
21. Andes' tubers
22. Reno state
23. Stevie Wonder's 7
25. There are seven of them, goes with 44 across
26. Collaborate
27. Bleat of a goat
28. One side of a vote
29. Saxon starter
34. Letter-shaped workbench groove
38. Corp. bigwig
40. Thin paper
44. See 25 across
45. Small fasteners
49. UK TV
50. More infrequent
51. Biblical prophet
53. Tuba note?
54. Chop down
55. Williams of "Ugly Betty"
57. Similar to a web
59. _____gow poker
61. End of the year month, for short
62. Poorly
64. More than unpopular
65. Page of music
67. Counting calories
71. Greek letters
72. Western remade in 2016
76. Jazzman Saunders
77. Cold symptom
78. Mubarak's predecessor
79. Put together
81. Internet addresses

DOWN

12. What's more
13. B follower
14. Chekhov's first play
15. Early 20th-century art movement
16. Futilely
17. Small islands
19. Free Willys
20. NYC transport
24. "Who ___?": Saints fans' chant
30. "All Songs Considered" network
31. Substance
32. Old Italian money
33. Incessantly
35. Actress, Minnelli
36. Common tip jar item
37. Sound of reproach
38. Algonquian speaker
39. Serious grime
40. Gov. health org.
41. Berlioz's "Les nuits d'_____"
42. Vane dir.
43. Kind of diagram
46. Defamatory phrase
47. Hire
48. Outbuildings
52. Coastal features
56. Speak derisively
58. Feeding stage of insects
59. Spanish chef's concoction
60. Bank letters
62. Suffix with chlor-
63. Vietnam War Memorial designer
65. Relating to a word sequence
66. Enkindle
68. Nothing at all
69. Biting
70. Russian empresses
72. Strains
73. Barely beat
74. No _____, ands or buts
75. Dean's e-mail address ender
76. Mazda convertible
80. Stringed musical instruments
83. Catches red-handed
84. Joplin of ragtime fame
87. Beheads
88. "Hey!"
89. Abuse
90. Bring on board
91. Game played in "Crazy Rich Asians", _____ Jongg
92. Choose
93. Local fund-raising grp.
96. Parker part
97. Big fuss
99. Grissom's first name, on "CSI"
102. Cafeteria-goers
105. Decorated, on a French menu
108. Fig. in identity theft
110. "The heat _____!"
111. Pants maker Strauss
112. Nights before
114. N.F.L. stats
116. Pristine plot
117. Coin across the border
118. More scraps
120. Confidentiality agreement, for short
121. Father's pride
122. Not guzzle
123. Low-ranking U.S.N. officer
124. Venture capitalists, abbr.
125. Redheaded doll
126. Legislator's cry
127. Jokester
128. Approves



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