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ISSUE 155 • THE TRIANGLE'S LONGEST RUNNING MONTHLY • 145,000+ MONTHLY READERS • E-ISSUES AT WWW.TRIANGLEDOWNTOWNER.COM

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**BREATHE DEEP. LACE UP.
DISCOVER DURHAM'S
NATURAL BEAUTY.**

- **REMEMBERING 9/11**
- **WHY THE FUTURE OF
LIVE MUSIC IS BRIGHT**

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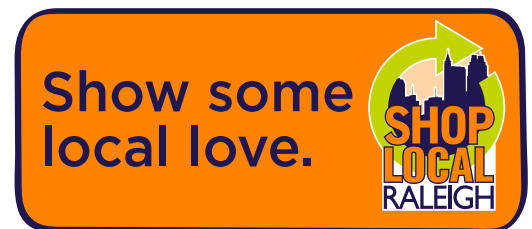


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Breathe deep. Lace up.

Discover Durham's Natural Beauty

When it comes to hiking and biking trails, Durham is rich with a variety of options

Whether you want to explore urban pathways lined with nature preserves, trails through protected forests, or an educational jaunt, Durham has the perfect setting for an active day outdoors. Take a bike tour of Durham's murals with Preservation Durham and The Nasher Museum. Visit **Frog Hollow Outdoors**, which hosts rock climbing, hiking and backpacking, canoeing and paddling excursions in and around Durham's waterways and nature areas. Stroll through a variety of wildlife and fauna at the 55-acre **Sarah P. Duke Gardens**. Head to Falls Lake or to Little River Lake for dock or bank fishing. Perfect your swing at **Durham's seven public and semiprivate golf courses** that feature a diverse range of course settings. Enjoy an afternoon walking to one or several of Durham's public parks in and around downtown, where you can punctuate your excursions with a variety of culinary delights. No matter if by foot or by spoke, Durham is accessible to the curious adventurer.

- www.froghollowoutdoors.com
- <http://gardens.duke.edu>
- www.discoverdurham.com/things-to-do/sports-outdoors/golf

The American Tobacco Trail

The American Tobacco Trail is an uninterrupted 22.6-mile trail, 12 of which are in Durham. It runs along an abandoned railroad bed originally built for the American Tobacco Company in the 1970s. The trail is a 10-foot wide asphalt paved greenway with loose gravel shoulders with a pedestrian bridge over I-40 that connects the northern and southern segments of the trail.

The American Tobacco trail begins just across the road from the Durham Bulls Athletic Park at Morehead Ave and Blackwell Street. Mile markers extend along the gorgeous tree-lined trail so enthusiast can keep track of their progress and keep on top of their whereabouts as they weave through historical and residential areas alike. Rural sections boast plentiful wildlife such as herons, hawks, songbirds, turtles and deer making for a thoroughly enjoyable walk or ride – be sure to call “on your left” if overtaking and know that on weekends the trail can get a little crowded.

Total mileage: 12 of the 22.6-mile trail are in Durham County

Best for: Trail running; walking; mountain biking; biking; wheelchairs; dogs; families; shade

- www.triangletrails.org/american-tobacco-trail

Eno River State Park

Though Eno River State Park was officially established in the early 1970s, archaeology tells us that its trails were walked along and settled upon, long before recorded history. Today Eno River State Park features hiking and biking trails along winding rivers and hills, its waters rolling past mature forests, historic mills, and home sites, and across fords used by early settlers.

Its namesake river flows through Durham for 33 miles before eventually ending up in Falls Lake on the eastern edge. Entry is through one of five access points, each just minutes from downtown amenities, and favored activities include fishing in the Neuse River Basin, paddling the rapids or canoeing through the stream, taking a dip, and of course, hiking. Favored trails include the beginner friendly Cole Mill Trail, while more established hikers might prefer the 3.75 mile Cox Mountain Trail loop which can be lengthened by adding the Fanny's Ford Trail Loop and crosses the river on a suspension foot bridge. All trails are blazed and signed. Two picnic areas provide the perfect spot for enjoying a meal in the open air. The park also has backcountry camping, with all sites requiring hiking in and supplies carried.

Photos: Left: West Point on the Eno (Photo Discover Durham)

Right: West Point on the Eno (Photo Chris Barron)

Below: American Tobacco Trail (Photo Discover Durham)

Total mileage: 33 miles in all, trails range from 1 mile to 6.10 miles one way

Best for: Woodsy hiking; camping; fishing; canoeing; kayaking; paddling; families; picnics

• www.ncparks.gov/eno-river-state-park/home

West Point on the Eno

Six miles north of downtown Durham, West Point on the Eno is a 404-acre park perfect for a leisurely stroll and picnic along the scenic Eno River, or for a mini hike through the woods on one of several park trails. The longest trail, Eagle Trail stretches for nearly two miles along the north bank of the Eno River and offers wonderful views of the Catawba rhododendron and mountain laurel clinging to the rocky bluffs on the opposite bank.

The former home of the Shocco and Eno Indians, this city park includes a historic mill, a farmhouse, and an amphitheater. All three historic buildings are open 1 – 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, April through December. Admission is free. The park gates are open daily, year-round, from 8 a.m. – dark. Frog Hollow Outdoors offers boat rentals on weekends at the Outpost located above the mill dam.

Total mileage: 2 miles in all, trails range from .4 miles to 1.8 miles one way

Best for: Woodsy hiking; walking; canoeing; kayaking; paddling; families; picnics

• www.enoriver.org/what-we-protect/parks/west-point-on-the-eno

Little River Regional Park & Natural Area

Little River Regional Park & Natural Area boasts 391-acres of park and natural area developed from tobacco farmland with seven miles of hiking trails, eight miles of single-track mountain biking trails, and a birding trail taking you through hardwood forest and around the flowing waters. The Little River is one of the cleanest in the state, home to a vibrant aquatic habi-



tat for otter, beaver, rare freshwater mussels, and many other species. The park also boasts two picnic shelters with grills, public restrooms, a group camping area, a horseshoe pit, and a playground.

Total mileage: 7 miles for hiking, 8 miles for mountain biking ranging from 1 to 4 miles

Best for: Woodsy hiking; walking; bird trail; mountain biking; camping; families; picnics

• www.enoriver.org/what-we-protect/little-river-regional-park

Rolling View at Falls Lake State Recreation Area

Falls Lake State Recreation Area is a collective of seven access areas scattered around the shoreline of an undeveloped, 12,000-acre reservoir, with Rolling View located in Durham. Rolling View Trail is a 2-mile trail connecting campground loops A, B, and C, a swim beach, picnic shelters, group campsites, and boat launch ar-

reas. Keep an eye out for white-tailed deer as you hike through this mixed pine forest.

Rolling View has four group campsites that are hike-in only, with each site accommodating up to 35 people. All campsites have picnic tables, benches, grills, and a campfire ring. Water is available on each site and all campground gates now have 24-hour access.

Total mileage: 2 miles one way

Best for: hiking; canoeing; kayaking; sailing; swimming; families; picnics; camping; RV camping

• www.ncparks.gov/falls-lake-state-recreation-area/trail/rolling-view-trail

Horton Grove Nature Preserve

Opened in 2012, Horton Grove Nature Preserve is Triangle Land Conservancy's largest public nature preserve at just over 708 acres and is situated a mere 10 miles from downtown Durham. Once part of the historic Stagville Plantation, trails are named in honor of the families that long cared for the land.

Trails wind through mature forests, including upland oak-hickory forests, beech slopes, and several stands of mixed pine and hardwoods. Two small native plant meadows have been restored, including a 20-acre warm-season grassland that surrounds the main parking area. These open meadows and grasslands are home to numerous species and provide nesting and foraging opportunities for a variety of birds and pollinators, including monarch butterflies and honeybees. The 0.8-mile *That Makes Kids Imperative Trail* ensures that younger hiking enthusiasts are educated while they exercise, learning about local animals and varieties, including a scavenger hunt!

Total mileage: 8 miles in all, trails range from 0.5 miles mile to 1.8 miles one way

Best for: Woodsy hiking; bird watching; families; picnics

• www.triangleland.org/explore/nature-preserves/horton-grove-nature-preserve

>>>





Left: Duke Gardens (Photo Discover Durham)

Total mileage: 0.8 miles in all

Best for: Hiking; running; nature study; families; picnics; horseback riding; mountain biking; fishing

• <https://dukeforest.duke.edu>

Sarah P. Duke Gardens

Easily one of the most impressive gardens in Durham, Sarah P. Duke Gardens consist of approximately 55-acres of landscaped and wooded areas in the heart of Duke University. Comprising five miles of allées, walks, and pathways, the gardens are divided into four areas, all with their own distinct personalities.

The 6.5-acre H.L. Blomquist Garden of Native plants is a must for those who wish to learn more about plants and wildlife of the southeastern United States, including a sheltered bird viewing station where you can see a host of birds attracted to a nearby feeding station. The Asiatic Arboretum, by contrast is an 18-acre collection of plants that represent the wealth of floral diversity in Southeast Asia, including a Japanese-style arched bridge and garden pond. Doris Duke Center Gardens boasts the Page-Rollins White Garden, a nod to the white-flowered cottage gardens of England, and the Virtue Peace Pond filled with hardy and tropical wa-

Duke Forest

Owned and managed by Duke University, Duke Forest consists of over 7,000 acres of forested land and open fields spread over three counties. It has been managed for teaching and researching since 1931 and though the primary mission of Duke Forest is to serve as a living laboratory and outdoor classroom, public recreation is permitted.

Located along Hwy 751, the Shepherd Nature Trail offers a short, self-guided hike that provides a wonderful introduction to the Duke Forest. Signage along the 0.8-mile loop provides information about the natural

patterns and human activities that have shaped the Forest's past and present. Many trees along the trail also feature species identification signs.

Guidelines are enforced to ensure the rich legacy of research and the unique educational opportunities afforded by the resources within the Duke Forest are protected. These include adhering to forest roads, trails posted *Designated Access Areas*, and picnic areas, dog on leashes at all time, no camping, and horse and mountain bikes must stay on graded and mowed roads – a small price to pay given its numerous forest types and ecosystems.

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ter lilies, lotuses, and marginal water plants. The Historic Gardens are where Sarah P. Duke Gardens began in 1934, with an iris garden that is now the south lawn and Italian-inspired Terrace Gardens. The Fish Pool is located at the bottom of the Terrace Gardens where goldfish and koi entertain visitors.

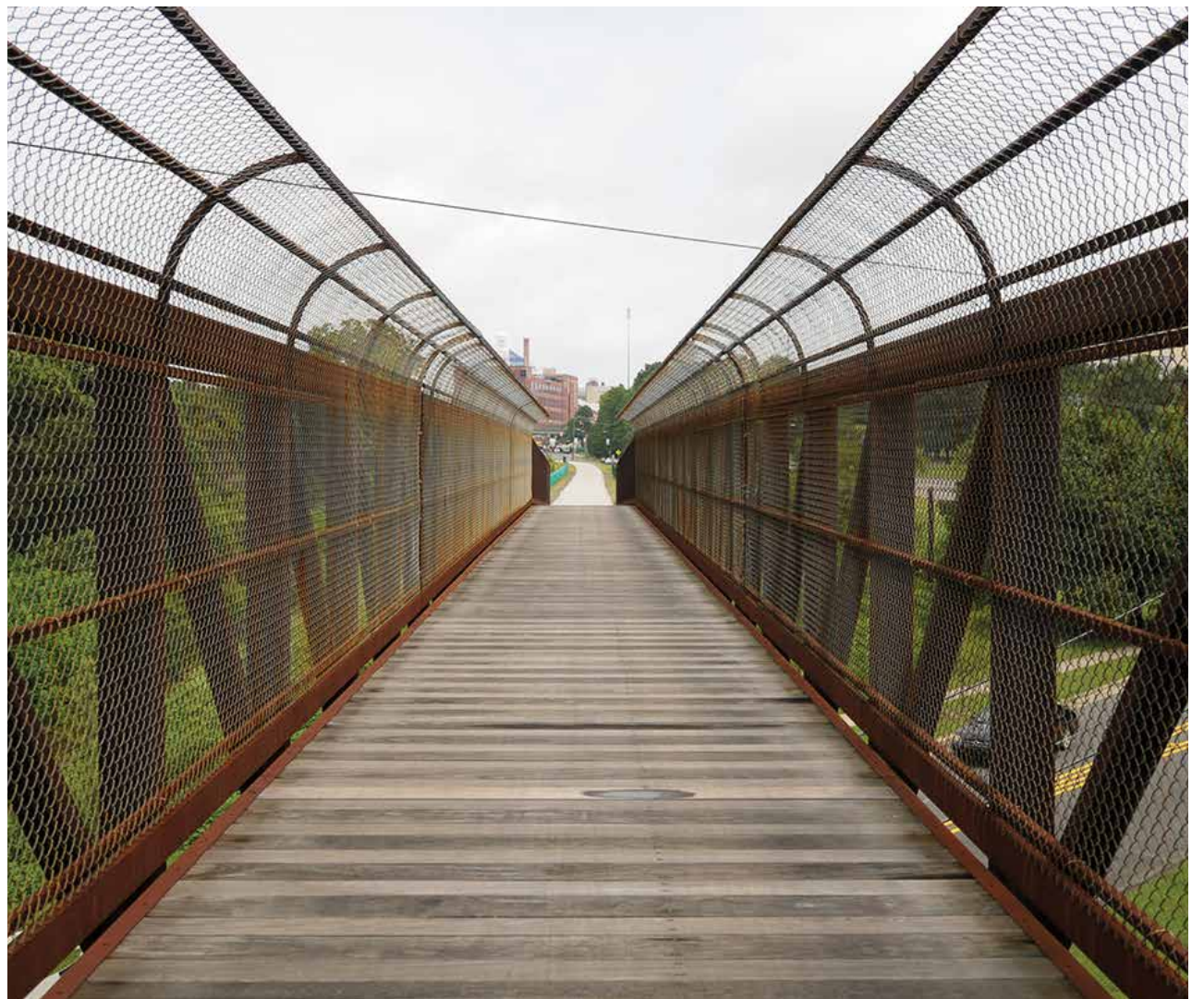
Total mileage: 5 miles in all

Best for: walking; nature study; families; picnics

• <https://gardens.duke.edu>

Through a collaborative partnership with Discover Durham, the Downtowner is proud to help promote Durham and the entire Durham County area. The Durham Convention and Visitors Bureau (Discover Durham) is the official and accredited destination marketing organization for all of Durham County. For more things to do in the Durham area, check out www.discoverdurham.com.

Right: American Tobacco Trail (Photo Chris Barron)



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Why the Future of Live Music is Bright

By David Menconi • Photos by Crash Gregg

Prior to the COVID-19 shutdown, it's safe to say the live music scene in Raleigh, N.C., was thriving. Major festivals dotted the 2020 calendar, outdoor venues were just getting ready to announce their summer schedules and Rolling Stone had just named Raleigh "one of eight cities where live music has exploded." [<http://bit.ly/ral-rs-feb20>]

There's reason to believe that the future is still filled with bright lights and good tunes.

Raleigh's live music venues may currently be standing dark and empty, but that doesn't mean that nothing is happening. Each venue's management is working hard behind the scenes to make sure that, as soon as it's safe to do so, they'll be able to reopen. We spoke to owners and managers at several venues and put three questions to each:

- Why is the future of live music still bright in Raleigh?
- Besides simply being open, what do you miss most?
- How confident are you that your venue will weather this storm and reopen?

Below are their responses.

Van Alston

Co-owner, *Slim's Downtown*

"Even though the venues are not able to be open right now, I'm very happy that the folks who'd normally be playing in our bars have been doing these live concerts online. They're still playing, raising money, and creating. Right now seems like a really fertile period for writing and playing songs. I think there will be a lot of pent-up demand, both for people who want to hear it and for the artists to get out and perform these things.

"I'm looking forward to seeing everybody. Half my

life is hanging around musicians, getting a vibe from them, that's what I miss most – hanging out with creative people. And beer, of course. I drink beer socially, not at home, and I always feel smarter when I'm drinking beer around these creative people.

"We'll definitely weather the storm, there's no doubt about that. We have a sizable rainy-day fund, so we'll be back no matter how long it takes. And we don't want to come back until it's absolutely safe for everybody again."

Michelle Bradley

Interim assistant general manager for venues including *Coastal Credit Union Music Park at Walnut Creek*, *Red Hat Amphitheater* and *Duke Energy Center for the Performing Arts*

"I don't think live music will die, we're just in a little lull while everyone gets their bearings on what the next step will be and how we'll present to audiences going forward. Audiences will have to be smaller, at least at first. I do think artists can't wait to get on stage and perform, and we'll be the home for that.

"I miss seeing people downtown, the walking, the moving back and forth, even just from the parking lot to the doors. I miss seeing downtown alive. We've all gotten so used to downtown Raleigh being so vibrant over the last 10 years, and I want that to come back.

"We're very confident the venues themselves will all be there, and the City of Raleigh is using resources to

make sure they'll be able to come back stronger than ever – safe, clean, healthy, with well-trained staff and security measures to make sure they stay that way. Our venues have something a lot of other venues don't, a city to support them. For that, I am grateful, as an employee as well as a citizen of the community."

Paul Siler

Co-owner, *KINGS/Neptunes Parlour/Garland*

"There will definitely be some pent-up demand, although it's going to have to be different. Feels like when they do let venues operate again, it will probably be at half-capacity until 2021. Maybe the bright spot is it won't be too crowded and you don't have to fight your way to the bar! And it's going to make everywhere you go cleaner. Bars and restaurants will be very, very >>>

Below: Sun70 performing at O'Malley's Pub



diligent about sanitation. Everybody is figuring out how we can entertain ourselves virtually but missing the visceral experience of live music will make it more appreciated when it returns.

“What I really miss most is the rhythm of how a whole evening goes. There’s the tension of whether the band will arrive on-time, then there are usually parking issues when they do, something to do with hospitality. Just little problems that arise and get dealt with. Then the doors open, I’m worried about whether anybody’s gonna come, they do, the show happens. There’s this long period of anxiety and then release of tension as things happen that’s very nice, especially if it goes well and the band, staff and guests are all happy. You don’t think about missing it until you start thinking about it, then you do.”

“Garland, I’m 90-percent sure will be fine. The bars, a little less. I’d say KINGS coming back as it used to be is a 50-50 chance, with a maybe 80-percent chance that it will return with a slightly different angle. KINGS and Neptune’s will be music venues, but there might have to be new ways of thinking about it, other facets to it. What that angle is remains to be seen. The next month or two will be very telling for how the next year will go.”

Chris Malarkey

General manager, Lincoln Theatre

“There’s certainly still a hunger for live music as entertainment. It’s ingrained as a cultural thing for a lot of people to do, and we’re lucky to have a vibrant local music scene. Obviously, people don’t want to be right next to each other right now, but the hunger’s still there.

“I miss seeing the music and also planning our calendar, all the communication between everybody that makes it all happen. There’s a lot more to it than opening the doors, plugging in and playing. I have relationships with a lot of artists and agencies, and a lot of agencies have furloughed their employees. I can’t even get in touch with a lot of people right now. You take for granted that a lot of what you do is mundane, and then once it’s gone, you miss things like talking to an agent from Chicago who you’ve known for 20 years.

“I’m fairly confident we’ll be able to get through this. I’d be a fool to say we’ll ever completely return to normal, but I’m



Plus Dueling Piano Bar in Glenwood South with Tony and Eric

confident the niche will always be there. I hope people will come back and love it as much as I do, that it’s as important a part of their lives as it is mine. One good thing that’s come from this, downtown live-music venues have come together to exchange a lot of ideas and thoughts.”

[Another great article on the VisitRaleigh website, “A virtual tour of performances from Raleigh musicians”: <http://bit.ly/vtour-ral-music>]

Through a collaborative partnership with Visit Raleigh, the Downtowner is proud to help promote Raleigh and the entire Wake County area. The Greater Raleigh Convention and Visitors Bureau (Visit Raleigh) is the official and accredited destination marketing organization for all of Wake County. For more things to do in the Raleigh area, check out www.visitRaleigh.com, where this article originally appeared. This article was produced in partnership with Raleigh Arts, <https://raleighnc.gov/raleigh-arts>.

Below: A packed house with Breakfast Club at Lincoln Theatre in January



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From the Publisher

September 11 has always been a day that brings up memories of a fateful time in American history. Although I was flying over NYC that day, I was fortunate to be on a plane that was not used as a weapon of terrorism and destruction. I was also very lucky that our plane was diverted to the international airport in Gander, Newfoundland, on the easternmost tip of Canada. It's difficult to describe how kind, generous, and welcoming the people were to nearly 7000 strangers forced to land in their small town of 10,000. My attempt to document the experience in this issue doesn't do justice to how thankful we were to the townspeople who were there for us.

In these days of political division, civil unrest, pandemic fears, business closures, personal isolation, and economic recession, it's strange to associate such a dark time as 9/11 with hope for future. I think being immersed in the kindness of strangers during my days in Newfoundland showed me that people can be accepted for who they are, without reservation or hesitation. The inhabitants of Gander looked upon us – people of all colors, social standings, and nationalities – simply as guests who needed their help and they responded ac-

cordingly. They housed us in their homes, gave us keys to their cars, cooked, entertained, walked, and talked with us. We almost doubled the size of their town in a matter of hours, but it took just minutes for them to act, knowing what should be done in order to make us comfortable and safe.

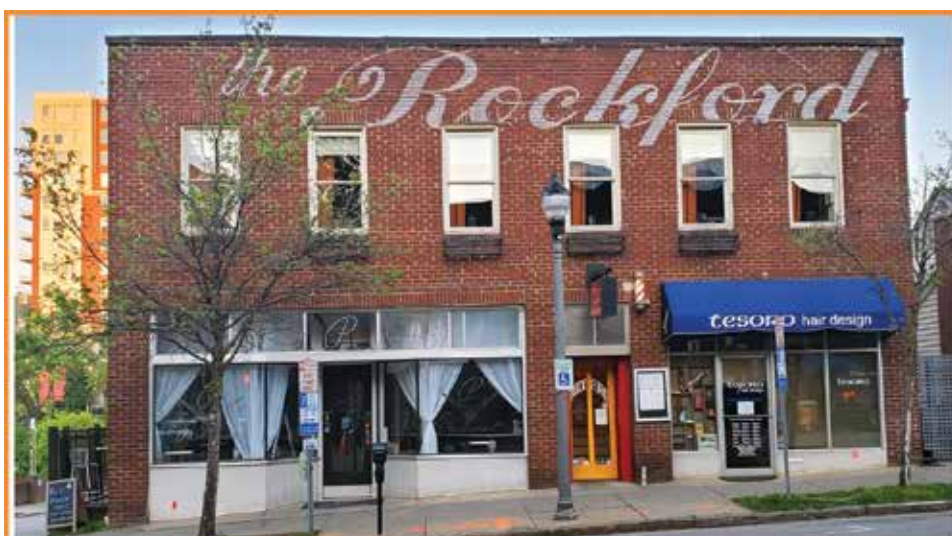
What can we, as humans, learn from this town? The only thing that matters is that we are indeed all human. The color of our skin doesn't matter. Our politics don't matter. Our sex doesn't matter. Where we live doesn't matter. What does matter is how we treat each other. Respect, kindness, decency, equality. Those things matter. Our country, our state, and even our cities are seriously divided right now. It's okay to have different opinions than your neighbors, your workmates, your friends. It's okay to debate and discuss ideas. It's not okay to hate someone for being different. It's not acceptable to threaten or attack someone for having a different view or belief. We, as a society, have gotten to the point where we have zero tolerance, zero filter, zero kindness, zero respect. I have to be honest; it worries me. I worry for my son. I worry for our future.

I hope those that are kind and respectful will prevail. But don't mistake kindness for weakness, because sometimes it's infinitely more difficult to be kind than to take the easy road of hatred. Kindness takes great strength. Some of the kindest people I know are also the strongest.

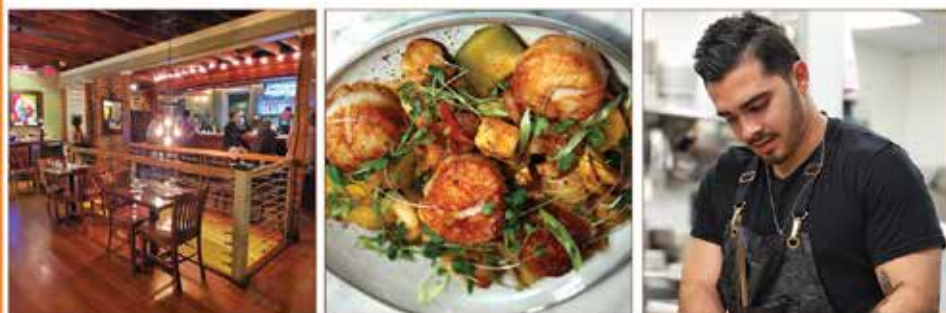
Perhaps nearly 20 years after 9/11, we can still learn a lesson from actions of the people in that faraway place of Gander. Let's try to be a little more accepting and understanding of our fellow humans. It's not really all that hard when you come down to it. As the effects of COVID-19 finally start to dissipate over the next year, let's leave the toxic viruses of hatred, bigotry, anger, and intolerance behind us as well. Together.

Crash

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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: business, visual and performing arts, 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

Downtown Raleigh is starting to finally open back up for business, with many previously closed businesses re-opening their doors. **Happy + Hale**, **Fire Wok**, and **Shish Kabob** (all in Fayetteville Street City Plaza), along with **Jimmy V's** in the Sheraton, and **Crema** (further up Fayetteville Street) are included in that list so far. **Garland** and **Capital Club 16** join the list of downtown businesses that are taking advantage of the expanded parking space outdoor dining campaign from the City of Raleigh. **Bittersweet** built one of the best-looking temporary spaces around, with **North Street Beer Station** also taking advantage of the new outdoor option. The **Downtown Raleigh Alliance** has created a continuously updated web page of open establishments with outdoor dining, listed by downtown districts. You'll find the list here: <http://bit.ly/dra-outdoor-2020>

City Market Grill has opened in the old **High Horse** restaurant space in City Market (208 Wolfe Street). So far, the menu offers three categories, Handhelds (sandwiches such as chicken salad and grilled tri-tip), Skewers (chicken, shrimp, mushrooms), and Snacks (popcorn, pickle plate, fries, street corn, and salad). They have lots of outdoor seating in the area beside the restaurant and it looks like they're open Wednesday through Sunday 4-10pm. Nothing on the City Market Facebook page, which hasn't been updated since Dec 2019. **Katsuji Tanabe** recently closed his open-kitchen restaurant **High Horse** in this location and briefly

took over a guest chef role at **Vidrio** in Glenwood South, which turned into a new Chef in Residence role. We're glad he's stayed in the area with us. www.vidrioraleigh.com

Crafty Crab has opened on Hillsborough Street near Gorman and offers New Orleans style low country boil and other fare. www.craftycrabrestaurant.com

Honeysuckle at Lakewood has opened in the old County Fare Food Trucks & Bar space and is a 4000 sf neighborhood kitchen and bar. It has a huge half-acre outside area with covered patio and picnic tables. Guests will find classic American dishes and handcrafted cocktails. www.honeysucklelakewood.com

Zen Fish Poke Bar has opened their third Triangle location, with the most recent in south Durham next to the Mad Popper. www.zenfishpokebar.com

Another group opening additional locations is **Alpaca Peruvian Chicken**. Their newest location is in Durham at 3726 Mayfair Street in University Hill. www.alpacachicken.com

Don't miss the **Brewgaloo Drive-Through** on Sept. 26 from 1-3pm in the Lincoln Theatre parking lot. The event will feature NC Breweries and the drive through option is taking the place of the annual

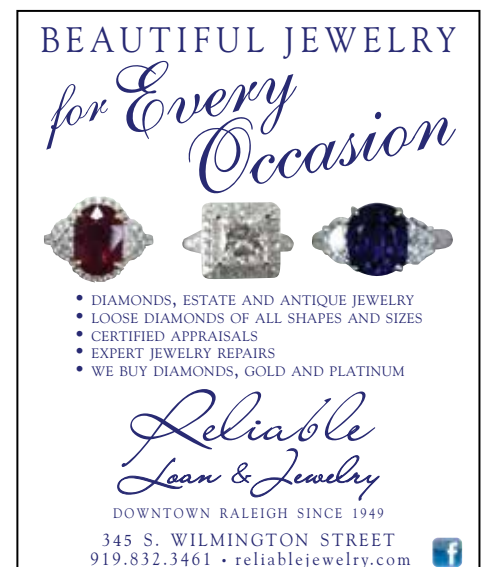
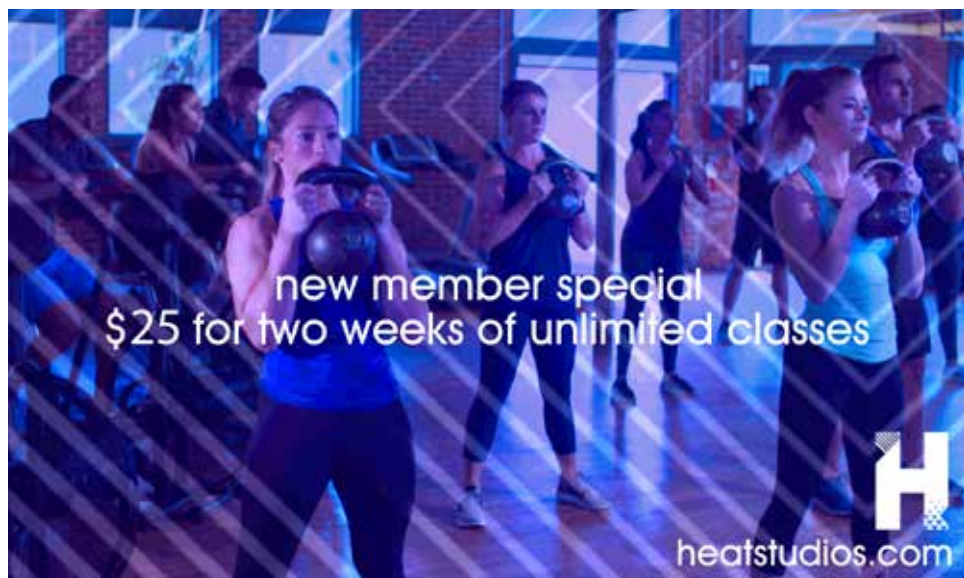
in-person beer event that usually takes place on Fayetteville Street (and has been previously awarded the best beer event in America). www.shoplocalraleigh.org

The gift shop for the **North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences** has reopened and the **North Carolina Museum of History** has a new Beach Music exhibit. <https://store.naturalsciences.org> www.ncmuseumofhistory.org/Beach-Music

Wye Hill on Boylan is now open for brunch (we can never have enough brunch spots). www.wyehill.com

After serving Raleigh since 1865, **Briggs Hardware** has moved to **Emerald Isle**. Their new location will feature lots of NC products, including country ham, homemade jams, and sauces, among typical hardware type items. They cited lack of support from local government and other organizations and lack of walk-in traffic (as have other businesses choosing to close). We'll certainly miss you in downtown and wish you the best on the NC coast. www.briggshardwarestore.com

Hear a rumor about a new restaurant, bar, or local business anywhere in the Triangle? Know about something opening soon or already open? Send us an email to news@welovedowntown.com or give us a call at 919.828.8000.





REMEMBERING 9/11 FROM RALEIGH TO NEWFOUNDLAND

BY CRASH S. GREGG, PUBLISHER

On that fateful Tuesday morning 19 years ago, September 11, 2001, I was on a 15-hour flight from Brussels, Belgium, heading back to Raleigh, NC via JFK. At 9:42am, we were flying directly over New York City. Without warning, our pilot suddenly banked the plane hard to the right. People, bags, laptops, and drinks tumbled into the aisles. The cabin door to the cockpit slammed shut and our flight attendants stood directly in front of it. A few minutes later, the captain's noticeably tense voice boomed over the din of people shouting and yelling. He apologized for the abrupt turn and told everyone to remain in their seats with seatbelts fastened. Then silence for what felt like an eternity. Finally, he informed us that our plane was being diverted for an emergency landing on the island of Newfoundland in Gander, the easternmost edge of Canada. We had no idea why. Our jet circled endlessly over the Gander International Airport, watching plane after plane land, with ground officials trying to accommodate all the diverted aircraft. Finally, it was our turn and we were on the ground. Then we waited. And waited. Our plane sat on the tarmac overnight – with no



View of the bay from "Road to the Isles" highway

explanation of what was going on – for over 24 hours. More than 6,600 passengers and crew on 38 jumbo jets on transatlantic routes were stranded alongside us.

Someone pulled out a small battery-powered radio and we managed to pick up a Canadian radio station in French. After some translating, we finally realized what had happened to the Twin Towers. The World Trade Center was no more. Terrorists, planes, collapsed buildings, thousands perished. The world was shaken but we still weren't able to grasp the magnitude of the

event from just a voice on the radio. I had one of the few cell phones on the plane that picked up a signal. While we were trapped on the runway – and throughout our five-day stay in Newfoundland – I offered my phone to anyone who wanted to call family or friends and let them know they were safe and sound in this faraway land. I have to include a big thank you to Verizon (then Alltel) for waiving my massive cell phone bill from the hundreds of calls to people all over the world.

During our time on the plane before we finally disembarked, each person aboard all 38 grounded planes had their background checked for any terrorist ties before we were all allowed to exit, more than a day

Top photo: 38 international jets were diverted to the Gander International Airport in Newfoundland.

Below left: Makeshift beds were set up anywhere and everywhere throughout Gander including the school gym.

Below right: A photo with two of the Gander Airport officials as we were preparing to return to the U.S.





One of the many scenic fishing encampments we saw in Newfoundland



White's Hotel, our small home away from home while stranded in Gander

after we landed. Residents from the small nearby town of Gander brought food, diapers, medicine, and other necessities to the planes, which were carried on board by the Canadian military police. After we were finally allowed to leave the planes, the townsfolk were amazing people. Without any hesitation, they found a place for everyone to stay, nearly 7000 of us from over 100 different countries. With only 500 hotel rooms total in all of Gander, they found a place for everyone; the few small hotels nearby, school gymnasiums, people's homes, and anywhere a makeshift bed could be set up. Food from the townspeople was nonstop, with most cooked by residents. They donated clothes, toiletries, blankets, pillows, medicine, and everything they could to make us comfortable. To understand our impact on this small town, the number of passengers and crew members was equivalent to about 66% of the Gander's entire population of roughly 10,000. I had the pleasure of meeting Gander Mayor Claude Elliot. We spoke about what had happened in New York and Washington DC, about Gander and its people, and what this may mean for the future.

The citizens of Gander could not have been more welcoming, friendly, and compassionate. I was one of the lucky ones to stay in a hotel and shared a very small two-person with three other passengers: a young pilot from Brussels (who later realized he had attended the same flight school in Florida as one of the terrorist pilots), the Athletic Director for the Florida Gators, and a neurosurgeon from Austria. We still didn't have a grasp on exactly what happened until we had a chance to watch the news on a small TV in a local pub near our hotel, more than a day after the event. The gasps from those seeing the horrific images for the first time

We finally deboarded our plane after 24 hours and were taken into the town of Gander aboard buses.



were so deep they were almost tangible. No one spoke for what felt like hours. Hearing the news via radio and seeing the moving imagery on TV were two entirely different experiences. It was very surreal, and we felt like we were somehow caught in a strange shared nightmare. My stranded roommates and I ate and drank together, we explored the town, and rented a car to drive around the scenic island of Newfoundland. I've stayed in contact with my pilot roommate to this day. He and his family still live in Belgium.

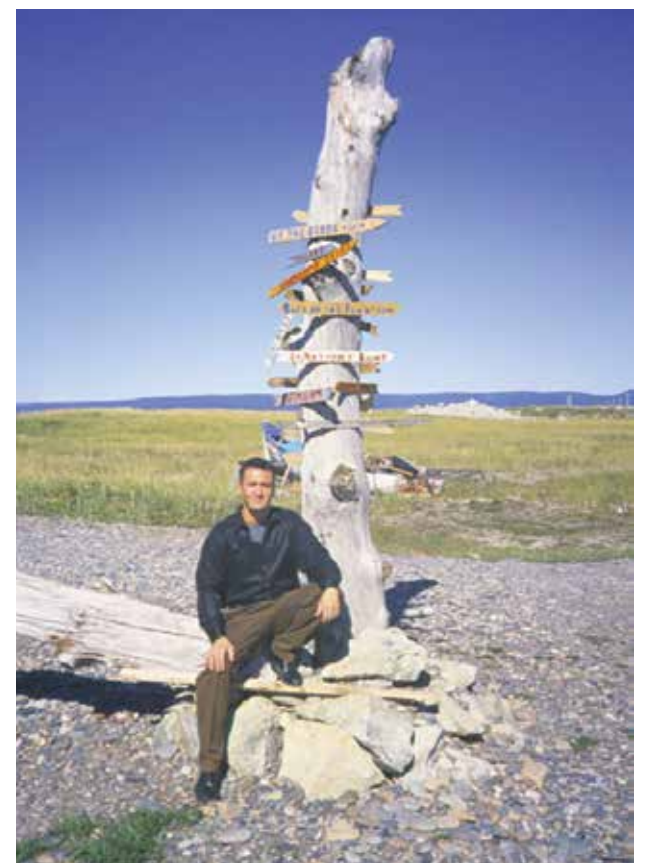
Newfoundland is a beautiful and rugged island, with almost as many fishing shacks, scrub brush, and rocks as people. The sea cliffs and coves were striking, as were the sunsets and sunrises along the coast. While traveling throughout the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador, we also witnessed beautiful waterfalls, beaches, and glacial fjords. I'll admit it wasn't one of the places on my travel bucket list, but I'm thankful for the remarkable experience, even though the reason for being there was painful. I would like to go back there again someday for a visit.

I missed my son who had been born in April, my family, and my friends back in Raleigh, who all felt a lifetime away. We were stranded in Gander four more days while even more extensive background checks were completed on everyone. Once those were completed and domestic airspace was once again open, we were given the all-clear to return to the States. It was an eerie feeling walking into the Atlanta airport with the captain and crew and not a soul in the entire airport other than staff who welcomed us back into the country with cheers and hugs. It was a feeling I had not experienced before or after until flying post-COVID, with many airports nearly as empty. Our diligent Delta Air Lines captain, who made sure we were all comfortable and safe throughout our stay, wished us well and shook everyone's hand as we parted ways. The events of 9/11 and our detour to the small town with a big heart will forever be a part of me, and the amazing kindness and open arms of the people of Gander is welcome evidence that genuine humanity is still alive and well. We were glad to go home, but sad to leave our new hosts.

During these trying times of the pandemic, political divisiveness, civil unrest, and economic recession, it's more important than ever to consider what others are going through and do what we can to be part of the solution, not add to existing problems. Be kind. Be considerate. Be aware. No matter where we live, how we look, or what we do, we're all human and the exact same

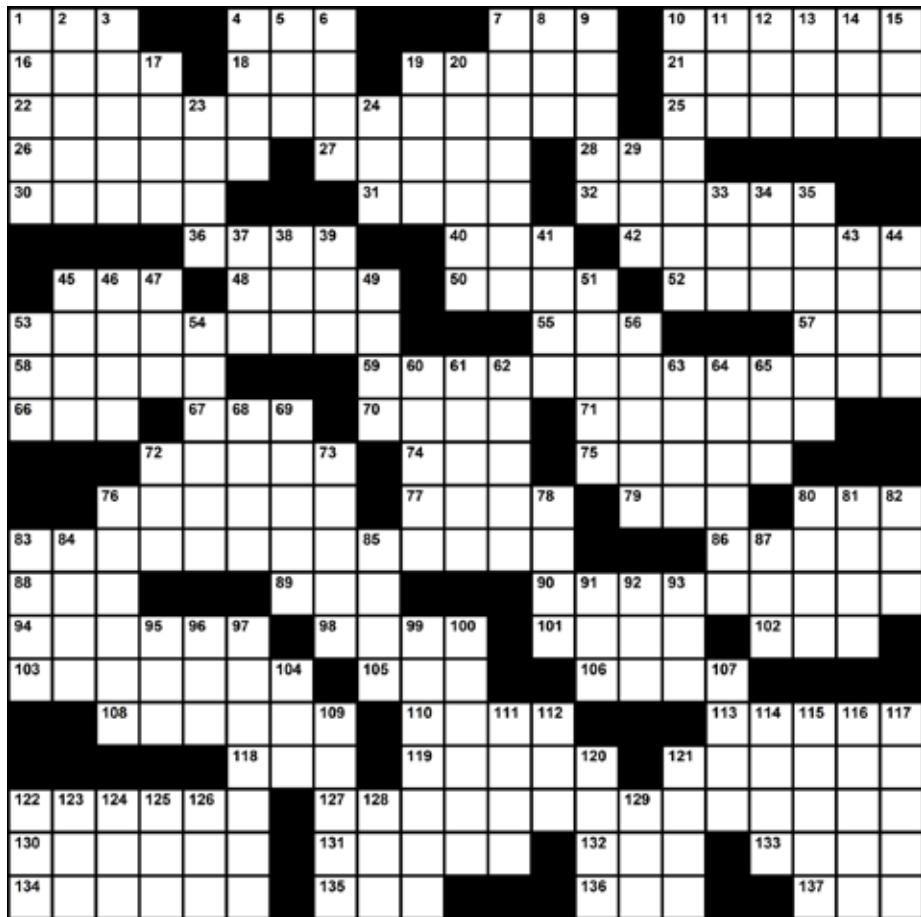
on the inside. If we can learn how to show true compassion and empathy to ALL our neighbors, near and far, the better off we will be as a whole. We're in this together. We can learn a valuable life lesson from the people in that small town of Gander. Thank you for taking care of so many strangers – without question or hesitation – as if they were family and for setting a remarkable example of what humanity can truly aspire to be. 🙏

*To learn more about 9/11 in Newfoundland, check out the Youtube documentary about the amazing people of Gander and how they accepted the thousands of people who landed on their doorstep unexpectedly: <http://bit.ly/youtube-gander-911>. There were also several books written on the subject (including "The Day the World Came to Town") and a Broadway Play, *Come From Away*, which captured the event and emotions around it (<https://comefromaway.com>), which is currently scheduling shows in early 2021.*





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Devices and Gadgets

ACROSS

1. H.S. math
4. Theory
7. Six-year VIP
10. Lock sites
16. Short-billed rail
18. Top secret?
19. ___ lunch
21. Land on Lake Victoria
22. Multipurpose tool
25. Aka cell
26. Back roads
27. Get ready to drive
28. Shaq's sch.
30. 60s rebel singer
31. Wall St. letters
32. Choose
36. "It's Impossible" singer
40. Env. extra
42. Atmospheric phenomena
45. Waiter's need
48. Stuffed chicken
50. World War II important event
52. Source of DNA evidence, often
53. Houston stadium
55. Make the calls
57. Entreat
58. Carpenter's tool
59. Pix maker
66. Zap
67. ".... magic"
70. Yemen seaport
71. Plunges into liquid
72. Pan, e.g.
74. John, to Ringo
75. Ringle
76. Mame, for one
77. Simpsons' character
79. Nabokov novel
80. Montgomery of jazz
83. Desktop go-with

86. Modern-day tablets

88. K-O connection
89. "What did I tell you?"
90. Theoretician
94. Emblem of victory
98. Some cameras, abbr.
101. Genesis brother
102. Chest muscle
103. Makes possible
105. Permit
106. Andes tubers
108. Supple
110. Feathery scarves
113. Cut-glass object
118. Richard Bach novel
119. Guitar stroke
121. Come back again
122. Health gadget
127. Online essential
130. Cast out
131. Picks up
132. Familiar address for a man
133. Useless, in batteries
134. Wholly
135. Female sib, briefly
136. Stomach muscles
137. Numbered hwy.

DOWN

1. Syrian leader
2. Menial
3. Give the third degree
4. "___ a Teen-age Werewolf"
5. Polite address to a customer
6. People in charge, abbr.
7. Allowance
8. Spider is one
9. Christmas carols
10. Dense, puffy cloud
11. History-textbook

adjective

12. Catch in the act
13. Daw's cousin
14. Blood test letters
15. Envelope that comes back to you
17. No longer in port
19. ___-doke
20. Brand new
23. Harmony
24. Monetary unit of Japan
29. Word after Red or Black
33. Geological time span
34. USMC rank
35. Families
37. Accepted
38. Padua possessive
39. Original manufactured item
41. Golfer's transport
43. Assert as a fact
44. It's a long story
45. Autocrat until 1917
46. Wee
47. Canada's Grand National Historic Park
49. Sacred Hindu writings
51. Fermentation agent
53. Furry alien comedy
54. East
56. Goes with fauna
60. Lazybones
61. Hollow crystal lined stone
62. Combined
63. Reminded
64. Attack violently
65. Spanish for month
68. Cosmonaut, Dennis
69. Prods
72. Police blotter abbr.
73. Nods

76. Occurring every year
78. Liquorish flavor
80. Undertake
81. Cabinet dept.
82. Compass point
83. M.'s counterpart
84. Middle-eastern kingdom
85. Hive component
87. Make a sharp explosive noise
91. "In excelsis ___"
92. Lister's abbr.
93. 80s group who sang Take on Me
95. Baseball score
96. Chicago transports
97. South African nation
99. Snubs
100. "Quit that!"
104. Many a delivery
107. Description
109. Whimpers
111. Kindergarten instruction
112. Jack of "Barney Miller"
114. On a pension, abbr.
115. Cooler
116. Young hog
117. Paris newspaper, with "Le"
120. Org. with the Sun and Sky
121. Civil War soldiers
122. G-men's org.
123. McKellen who played Gandalf
124. Dynamite acronym
125. C.V.
126. Philosopher suffix
128. Third guy with the same name
129. Gist

AMERICAN TOBACCO CAMPUS



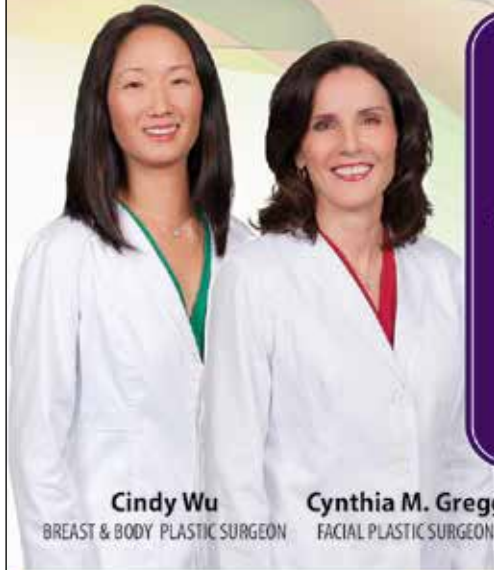
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