

Story Ideas & Reasons to Profile Chapel Hill and Orange County, NC



What's New & What's Coming in 2016- 2017 Business & Attractions News

- Construction is underway on Chapel Hill Southern Village's 110-room five story **Hyatt Place Hotel** which and includes 1,700 sq. ft. of meeting space. Should open by early 2017.
- New 123-room **AC Hotel by Marriott** approved for downtown Chapel Hill with pool, fire pit, tapas bar and underground parking. Construction begins summer 2016 with 2017 opening.
- Carrboro to get second Hotel. Five-story, 42,228 square-foot **Hilton Garden Inn** expects to break ground in December 2016. This addition to the 300 Main East Main Street development, features 150 rooms, bar & bistro, pool and 10,000 -12,000 sq ft of meeting space. Anticipate early 2018 opening.
- The \$120 million **Carolina Square** will change the look of downtown Chapel Hill at 123 West Franklin Street. It will include one 11-story and two five-story buildings with 246 apartment units, 159,000 square feet of office space, and 42,000 square feet of retail space. An urban **Target** is the retail anchor in the project. The project will have landscaped green space within an urban park including public art and structured parking decks with 880 total spaces. It will also be the home of performance studio Carolina Core. Completion in summer 2017. (Below)



Story Ideas

College Town Visit is more than just checking out the campus classrooms. Make it family fun at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill is the first public university in the country. The campus is home to **Ackland Art Museum** (where you will find the grave inside of the museum's namesake), the **Morehead Planetarium & Science Center** (which served as training ground for early NASA astronauts), **North Carolina Botanical Garden – celebrating 50 years in 2016** (one of the largest in the southeast and home to more than 2,500 species of native plants), the **Carolina Basketball Museum** highlights 100 plus years of Tar Heel Hoops and more. **Kidzu Children's Museum** has a new **outdoor learning garden** at University Place.

Historic Hillsborough in 2015 was a top three Coolest Small Town in America. Home to Mystery Brewery Company and the **ultra popular Riverwalk in downtown Hillsborough** is an accessible, asphalt, wooden bridges, urban greenway that stretches about 1.8 miles along the Eno River corridor between Gold Park in western Hillsborough and trails east of town. This trail for walking, jogging and cycling and provides a comprehensive pedestrian network for recreation and commuting in town. The greenway's downtown portion is the primary route for the N.C. Mountains-to-Sea Trail. Last Fall a **new handmade stickwork** art sculpture by renowned artist Patrick Dougherty opened along with Riverwalk and this summer a **new 95-foot bridge opened** connecting the walk to the to the west with the Historic Occaneechee Speedway Trail to the east.

Carrboro at 105 Years Old Is Quirky and Fun - Scott Conary is an international superstar in the world of coffee. He travels the world as a coffee judge, and in the course of his travels, he hand-selects coffee beans to roast back home at his Open Eye Café. Carr Mill Mall is an 1899 converted textile mill that is home to unique boutiques and restaurants. Home to the Weaver Street Market, the Southeast's largest food co-op. Find everything from antique to cool surplus stores in town. Also home to Cat's Cradle, which has been rocking for more than 40 years. New Restaurants include **Pizzeria Mercato**, Chef Gabriel Barker, with kitchen help from his parents Ben and Karen Barker who ran Magnolia Grill for years. Ben and Karen are both James Beard Foundation winners. Gabe has previously worked at San Francisco's Pizzeria Delfina. **Mercato** just named a top 3 Best New Pizza Restaurant in America by Bon Appetit.

Food, Brew & Farm News

Lots of opportunities to experience chefs/farmers up close and personal. Southern Season, the Triangle's largest cooking school and gourmet food store, hosts ongoing cooking classes at its Chapel Hill store. www.southernseason.com. Participate in the 7th annual **TerraVITA Food & Drink Festival held in Chapel Hill this year September 28-October 1.**

Boxcarr Handmade Cheese in Cedar Grove, NC began producing artisan goat & cow's milk handcrafted Italian-style cheeses in 2015 at a new 2,900 square foot facility on Boxcarr Farms in Orange County... Run by sister and brother team Samantha and farmer Austin Genke and others. Won first place at the 2015 NC State Fair. Now **three** handcrafted cheese companies in Orange County, NC (**Chapel Hill Creamery and Hillsborough Cheese Company**).

New look **Crossroads Chapel Hill** restaurant at The Carolina Inn and Il Palio restaurant at The Siena Hotel both reopened in late 2015 after extensive renovations. **Il Palio Chef Teddy Diggs** named in January 2016 as one of 16 chefs to watch by Restaurant-Hospitality Website. Coming new Stoney River Steakhouse and Grill to University Place (first location in North Carolina).

Yesteryears Brewery in Carrboro, NC opened in 2015 with IPAs, saison and more in the new 300 East Main Street locations next to Cat's Cradle. Tap room shares space with Gray Squirrel Coffee Shop. **Regulatory Brewing Company** Hillsborough, NC's first nanobrewery and will offer three flagship beers – a Kolsch, Hazelnut Brown Ale and American IPA – along with a seasonal beer. Regulator buys at least 75% of the ingredients (and often times more than 90%) in each batch of their beer from local farms. **COMING** - In Carrboro, **Dingo Dog Brewing Co.** plans to open a brewery on Plow Girl Farm just west of Carrboro by spring, with a taphouse in town by 2017. The brewery's founder, a 16-year-old St. Bernard mix named Dingo, and his human co-founder, Tim Schwarzauer, **envision a brewery that's also a 501(c)3 charity with every cent of profit to a foundation that Schwarzauer and his brewer, Billy Gagon, are setting up that will support animal rescue groups.**

Craft Beer Scene is strong with Chapel Hill's longstanding 21 year old **Carolina Brewery** and **Top of the Hill Restaurant & Brewery**. As well as Carrboro's **Steel String Brewery**, **Starpoint Brewing** and Hillsborough's **Mystery Brewing Company** with their **Public House providing tours, tastings and special events.** Mystery Brewing's Public House (Taproom) is expanding adding a kitchen to serve food.

Chapel Hill's Award-winning Top of the Hill Distillery is handcrafting organic vodka, Moonshine Carolina Whiskey and Piedmont Gin and new in 2015 Eight Oak Carolina Whiskey created from scratch using only organic Carolina wheat and botanicals distilled in a copper pot & Columns from a 5th generation German still maker. **It's the only certified organic and local distillery in the deep South. Legislation allows for people taking a tour to be able to purchase one bottle of spirits per year on site. Popular on-site tours.**

Chapel Hill is home to two 2011 James Beard Award Winners **Andrea Reusing** (Best Southeast Chef) of Lantern and the restaurant **Crook's Corner**, An American Classic. Lantern was a semi-finalist for 2013 Outstanding Restaurant in the James Beard Competition. **Aaron Vandemark, a six-time James Beard Best Southeast Chef nominee (2011-2016) and chef of Panciuto in Hillsborough** (pop 6,600).

Visit **Chapel Hill's Honeysuckle Tea House** and old apothecary. Recycled telephone poles support the pagoda-style roof, and the tables were made from a 98-year-old pine tree that fell down during a storm. Organically grows its own produce, invents recipes for tea blends, tinctures, honey-wines, soups, salves, chocolates, soaps, balms.

What's old is new again at the Vintage 80s video game arcade with beers, cocktails and music new to downtown Chapel Hill. Come play "Ms. Pac-Man," "Donkey Kong" and "Frogger" at **The Baxter Bar and Arcade** is open at 108 N. Graham Street.

Mark Your Calendar Fall/Winter Festivals

Carrboro Music Festival in September 24-25 s a two day event featuring over 180 musical acts on 25 stages, free all over town.

TerraVITA Food & Drink Festival named one of the "10 Southern Food Festivals You Need to Taste" by *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution* and "4 Can't Miss Southern Food Festivals" by PeterGreenberg.com – has earned its reputation as a premier culinary event in the Southeast because of its devotion to highlighting local and sustainable food and beverages. 7th Annual festival **September 28-October 1, 2016.** Additional dinners, tasting events, educational classrooms, after parties, chef demos, and more. This year, first time 4-day event. www.TerraVitaEvent.com **Numerous Media events** planned.

Visit Annual Events List for Holiday Events <https://www.visitchapelhill.org/events/annual-events/>

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