

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



What's New 2017 – Two Hotels Opening, Third Approved

- Southern Village's 110-room five story **Hyatt Place Hotel** which includes 1,700 sq. ft. of meeting space opened on May 2, 2017. <https://chapelhill.place.hyatt.com/en/hotel/home.html>
- New 123-room **AC Hotel by Marriott** approved for downtown Chapel Hill with pool, fire pit, tapas bar and underground parking. Construction began summer 2016 with September 2017 opening. <http://achotels.marriott.com/>
- Carrboro to get second Hotel. Five-story, 42,228 square-foot **Hilton Garden Inn** expects to break ground in 2017. 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. (Approved but no ground breaking date set). Will provide info, when a definite go.
- 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) <http://carolinasquarenc.com/project> and <http://www.carolinasquare-aps.com/>



What's New in the Arts

The **Ackland Art Museum** has received its largest gift ever, donated from UNC-Chapel Hill alumnus Sheldon Peck and his wife Leena, valued at \$25 million. The unprecedented commitment includes an \$8 million endowment to support a new curator and future acquisitions. The gift of art is 134 primarily 17th-century European masterworks, valued at \$17 million, including seven works by Rembrandt van Rijn. With the Peck Collection gift, the Ackland becomes the first public university art museum in the United States to own a collection of drawings by Rembrandt and only the second university art museum in the nation to do so. www.ackland.org

Los Trompos exhibit on the lawn of the Ackland is **March 22, 2017 – September 17, 2017** is a large-scale, interactive installation of much-larger-than-life spinning tops made of woven fabric (*trompos*) in a variety of colors and shapes. The tops will create a playful destination for recreation and social interaction on the terrace in front of the Ackland Art Museum. Designed by contemporary Mexican designers Héctor Esrawe and Ignacio Cadena, *Los Trompos* are inspired by spinning tops, the children's toys that are popular around the world.

What's New is Science

Morehead Planetarium & Science Center has a new exhibit, 'Firsts in Flight: A Hidden History' which tells visitors about significant contributions made by African Americans to our country's history of aviation and space flight. One half of the circular hall exhibit focuses on African American contributors to aviation in the first part of the 20th Century -- from Emory Conrad Malik to the Tuskegee Airmen. The other half of the circular hall exhibit highlight's contributions made to space flight by African American women in the second half of the 20th Century. Additionally, the planetarium has announced a \$5.2 million expansion, "**#TakeUpSpace**", building project to reimagine this North Carolina icon as a modern-day, technology-advanced science hub. This will be the first expansion since opening in 1949. More than early 60 astronauts have trained in celestial navigation at Morehead Planetarium & Science Center - including 11 of the 12 men who walked on the Moon! As the first planetarium in the South and the only one on a university campus, Morehead would eventually receive the distinct privilege of training those early NASA astronauts between 1959 and 1975. www.moreheadplanetarium.org

What's New in Food, Brews & Farms

Blue Dogwood Public Market <http://www.bluedogwood.com/>

Our indoor market features 15+ small food businesses. See fresh food vendors and food artisans. The retail vendors will make unique, local food accessories, such as custom oyster knives and flavored bitters. And our temporary pop-up vendors guarantee that our market is always fresh and exciting. Browse through our diverse market, grab snacks and a drink, and relax in their upcoming urban beer garden. Additionally, find chocolates, seafood, herbal tea, vegan dishes, juices, gluten-free scones, regional beer, butcher meats, pizza, Latin dishes and more. **Downtown Chapel Hill 306 West Franklin Street. Opening Late Summer 2017.**

Orange County has 8 breweries, with number 9 breaking ground in summer 2017

Newest brewery is farm-based, **Dingo Dog Brewing Company** (2016), North Carolina's first "non-profit" brewery. Located in an up-fitted horse barn on PlowGirl Farm, Dingo Dog strives to craft locally-conscious beers in its "zero waste" facility that features Orange County, NC produce, much of which is grown right outside our doors on the farm. With the incorporation of its parent company, Dingo Dog Charitable Trust (501c3 pending), Dingo Dog will funnel all of its profits into providing capital and operational grants to independent, "no-kill" animal sanctuaries and rescue organizations in North Carolina. Funds are being raised to open a tap room in Carrboro, NC in 2018.

COMING SOON: New small batch nano-brewery and bottle shop, **Gimghoul Brewery & Bottle Co** is breaking ground in summer 2017. This onsite craft brewery will also carry a select assortment of craft beer from NC and beyond. It is coming to the new 45,000 square foot multi-building, retail center in Carrboro, **South Green** that will be located just off Highway 54, serving as the "gateway" to the southern entry of Carrboro. Carrboro and incorporates the character of the town. <http://gimghoulbrewery.com>

Summer 2017 - Botanist and Barrel Winery in Cedar Grove, NC in northern Orange County, NC will brew, ferment and play with delicious fruits and herbs picked at the peak of ripeness to create an enjoyable experience for those that walk through their doors. Experience wine, cider, juice in the tasting room of this farm-based winery. Opened July 9. <https://www.botanistandbarrel.com/>

Chapel Hill's Award-winning Top of the Hill Distillery is handcrafting organic vodka, Moonshine Carolina Whiskey, Piedmont Gin and 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. Popular on-site tours.**

Food

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). In 2017 Reusing was a semi-finalist for Outstanding Chef in the Country and **Gabe Barker, of the Pizzeria Mercato** in Carrboro, was a semi-finalist for Rising Star Chef. Bon Appetit named Pizzeria Mercato one of their three best new pizza joints in America in Fall 2016.

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. Learn about the Bee Hives and the Honey Mead.

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.

Make plans to attend the popular annual **TerraVita Drink & Food Festival, October 18-21, 2017** In Chapel Hill. TerraVita Food & Drink Festival started in October 2010 and has been 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. www.terravitafest.com

Check out Hillsborough, NC

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. See the reconstruction of the **Occaneechi Indian Village** along with Eno River in downtown Hillsborough.

Media Contact: Patty Griffin, Communications Director, Chapel Hill/Orange County Visitors Bureau, 501 W. Franklin Street, Chapel Hill, NC 27516; 919.245.4321 pgriffin@visitchapelhill.org, @PattyGriffinNC, www.visitchapelhill.org @visitchapelhill

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