

What's New in Chapel Hill



Hotel News

Experience the [Sheraton Chapel Hill Hotel's](#) \$15 million transformation which reopened in September 2021 after a being closed since March 2020. The newly renovated property has modern, beautifully appointed guestrooms, expansive lobby and new Coffee Bar for a small bites & signature coffee. Drop by the new Blue Corners Bistro & Bar, their signature southern seafood restaurant featuring tapas style sharable plates. Enjoy access to the newly equipped Fitness Center and seasonal outdoor pool. Event venue space includes over 12,000 sq ft of indoor space & brand new landscaped outdoor event deck with 6,900 sq ft.



Visit [The Colonial Inn](#) in downtown Hillsborough, NC which dates to 1838. After being closed in 2001, the renovated historic venue which reopened in November 2020, has 28 elegant sleeping rooms, indoor and outdoor event space, and a bar serving North Carolina's best Hillsborough inspired craft cocktails, local beer, wine and spirits. Experience lunch, dinner and Sunday Brunch and hear ongoing live music during the spring – fall warmers months.

Opened in August 2020, the [Graduate Chapel Hill Hotel](#), is the only Graduate Hotel Property in North Carolina. Highlights the college town with colors and basketball décor as well as some state of North Carolina history. Has Trophy Room bar with food and drinks and even has a room that pays homage to Michael Jordan decorated to look like his UNC dorm room.

Coming - 98-room, four-story [TRU Hotel by Hilton](#), opening April 9, 2022. Plus potential for 100 more rooms in a second building coming to east side of Chapel Hill. A two-story, 136-space parking deck would be built behind the hotel.

Looking ahead – [The Carolina Inn](#) on the edge of the UNC-Chapel Hill campus will be 100 years old in 2024.

Don't Miss Attractions

Visit Chapel Hill's new look [Morehead Planetarium & Science Center](#). The first planetarium in the South reopened in November 2020 after a \$9.2 renovation. The North Carolina icon as a modern-day, technology, and science hub with new main entrance, exhibit hall that pays tribute to UNC's history as a pioneer of science exploration. More than early 60 astronauts between 1959 and 1975 trained in celestial navigation at the Planetarium, including 11 of the 12 men who walked on the Moon, an interactive "maker space"; updated science demonstration stage expanded exhibit galleries showcasing the advances researchers are making in science, health and technology; updated fulldome theater and gift shop. Currently open on the weekends.

The [North Carolina Botanical Garden](#), one of the largest natural botanical gardens in the southeast, features nature trails, carnivorous plant collections, perennial borders, aquatics and herb gardens and the popular annual **Fall Sculpture in the Garden** event with works from nearly 40 North Carolina artists ranging from steel to ceramic, tiny to massive, and abstract to figurative, throughout the garden. Sculpture event runs each mid-September to early December.

The [Carolina Basketball Museum](#) has some new artifacts, including the ball Luke Maye shot to beat Kentucky in the 2017 NCAA Elite Eight en route to UNC's sixth NCAA title, the shoes Roy Williams wore in the final coaching win of his career in 2021 and updated historical panels and video to illustrate the hiring of Hubert Davis as the newest Tar Heel head coach.

[Burwell School](#) in Hillsborough, NC is celebrating its bicentennial (1822-2022). The property includes a lovely old house (ca. 1821, expanded 1848) and two outbuildings on two acres in the town's Historic District. In addition to housing a girls' school this place was home to families through the 19th century and into the 20th. Visit the website for information about [events](#) throughout the year including a birthday event September 17, 2022.

Area Arts Updates

See more than two dozen colorful [murals](#) in Chapel Hill, Carrboro and Hillsborough. Newest ones feature Chapel Hill's African American Trailblazers, blues musician Elizabeth Cotten, colorful Hillsborough mural, Love Hillsborough Tile Mosaic, Carrboro's We Are Community and Black Lives Matter.

News Arts Gallery comes to historic West Hillsborough in old textile mill. The Orange County Arts Commission manages [The Back Studios](#): A 3,000sf space featuring eleven artist studios as well as communal work space and a kitchen which opened in February 2020 and a 7,000 sf multi-purpose arts space featuring the [Front Studios](#) (five artist studios/offices), a [classroom](#), the [Eno Arts Mill Gallery](#), and the OCAC offices. A variety of future arts spaces are in the works, such performing arts space and a community dark room and ceramics studio. The arts commission has in the works a new countywide biennial public art festival scheduled to occur throughout Chapel Hill, Carrboro, and Hillsborough in the summer of 2023. Please follow-up with I Katie Murray with the Arts Commission for the latest plans kmurray@orangecountync.gov.

Visit the [Ackland Art Museum](#) on the UNC-Chapel Hill campus. The Museum's permanent collection consists of more than 19,000 works of art, featuring North Carolina's premier collections of Asian art and works of art on paper (drawings, prints, and photographs), as well as significant collections of European masterworks, twentieth-century and contemporary art, and North Carolina pottery. Upcoming Exhibits include [Modern Black Culture: The Art of Aaron Douglas, April 22, 2022 - June 19, 2022](#).

Get outside – What's New on the Farm in Orange County, NC

Home to Carrboro's Steel String Brewery's new production facility, is the new [Pluck Farm](#) on Hwy 54 in western Orange County crafting beers with native NC ingredients foraged from the land. Family- & dog-friendly venue featuring a beer garden, food truck pop-ups, lawn games, rolling pastures, plus a disc-golf 4 hole putter and beginner-friendly course (Sampler) and a more technical and challenging 9 hole course (Full-Flight). Property also includes part of the Mountains to Sea Trail.

Visit Chapel Hill's [Spring Haven Farm](#) meeting baby goats, pigs, donkeys, cows and more. While you're enjoying the animals, there will be treats to eat and drink and music to listen to. Kids can take a ride on the Tractor Train Express. The Craft's station features magical farm crafts and fun creations. Bird houses are for sale that you'll be able to build and design as well as pots to paint for your plants. Seasonal events from February to December. Pumpkin carving, movies with goats, s'mores with goats and more. Yelp named Spring Haven Farm the best place to pick pumpkins in North Carolina in October 2021.

Chapel Hill's [Honeysuckle Farm, Tea House and Meadery](#) has tons of new offerings. Recent expansions provide for teahouse room addition, tea tours, meadery tasting room, flowers on the farm, shop for teas and nursery plants, new shaded stage and gazebo, onsite yurt rental, picnics and more. In the spring and summer visit Chapel Hill's [Lavender Oaks Farm](#), a working lavender farm featuring 4000 lavender plants in 9 varieties as well as a farm shop and much more.

What's New in the Drink & Dining Scene

Newly opened [Franklin Motors Beer Garden & Gastropub](#) at 601 W. Franklin Street on the site on the old Franklin Street Motors car lot. Food truck on site, picnic tables and more. (photo)



[Osteria Georgi](#) offers Italian cuisine from its executive chef and partner Dan Jackson, recent winner of the Food Network's Chopped.

In downtown Chapel Hill, [Seafood Destiny](#) just opened at corner of Franklin and Columbia sts. Also find [Dame's Chicken & Waffles](#), as well as [MOMO's Master](#), new Himalayan restaurant. Try churros, coffee and more at the [Epilogue Books Chocolate Brews](#), an independent bookstore and Spanish-style chocolateria that that is expanding next door calling that space [Prologue](#). What's new at Chapel Hill public food market, [Blue Dogwood Public Market](#) at 306 W. Franklin Street. [Coco, Espresso, Bistro & Bar](#) has moved, expanded and rebranded. Coco is an independent, locally-owned coffee shop, pastry café, plant-based restaurant & bar in Chapel Hill's Glen Lennox development continuing as a favorite plant-based coffee and pastry café while it expands to lunches and a full-service dinner eatery and bar with beer, wine and spirits.

Carrboro has welcomed [Grata Café](#) to Carrboro Mill Mall, [Tesoro](#) just across the street, as well as [Mosaic Café & Bistro](#) to Weaver Street.

What's Coming in 2022 - [Rocks + Acid](#) wine shop and bar is coming to Chapel Hill's [Southern Village](#) in early spring. Local chef and restaurant owner Brandon Sharp plans to open his second Chapel Hill restaurant, called [Bluebird](#), in the spring of 2022. This French bistro, occupy space in Meadowmont Village. Sharp also runs and owns **Hawthorne & Wood** in East 54 Chapel Hill, with an upscale menu. UNC alumnus, Sharp moved back to Chapel Hill in 2016 after honing his cooking skills in Napa Valley and New Orleans and wining multiple Michelin stars along the way.

Two downtown popular downtown Chapel Hill restaurants approaching 100th anniversaries – [Carolina Coffee Shop](#) in 2022 and [Sutton's Drug Store](#) in 2023. In the meantime, check out the new [1922 by Carolina Coffee Shop](#), grab and go coffee shop coming next door to 140 E. Franklin Street. It's named for the year Carolina Coffee Shop opened, Chapel Hill's oldest restaurant.

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