

My City

magazine

News • Reviews • Interviews • Viewpoints

OCTOBER 2013

Letter from the Editor

October 2013

Hello there. Thank you for picking up issue number three of My City. We are quite pleased to have you as a reader. The My City Magazine reader is sincerely hip. They love local and live realistically. They're covered in tattoos and enjoying the opera. They're having date night at the club after making time to take the kids to the museum. They're artsy not fartsy. They're Charlotteans and they're hip. The My City team is hip - even if they're nerds. Every word, every detail in design and every image we deliver to you we are certain is not only pertinent but brilliant and of interest to you. Each of our personalities is an expert in their field. After you enjoy our print edition make sure that you visit us online for a frequently updated event and venue listing (including food trucks and their twitters, local farmers markets and more), an artist database from the region (painters to actors), information on all of our team members, many more articles and other fun content for you, our hip reader. You are why we are here.

And this is My City,
Ellen Gurley

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"Night of the Living Hipsters"**

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Teresa Hernandez of Pura Vida Worldly Art

by Mandi English

Teresa Hernandez is a true asset to the artist community in Charlotte and has been for quite some time. She has been a resident of our fair city for over thirteen years. She took a measured approach to deciding where to open her first store, Pura Vida Worldly Art. She found a home in the Plaza-Midwood neighborhood coveted for its independent vibe. After months of researching locations, she found the area a good match in terms of clientele and environment as her multicultural store's home. Knowing that the people in this area are diverse, artistic, spirited and roundly loyal to local business, she set up shop near the corner of Central and Thomas Avenues.

Teresa told me she opened the store with one main goal in mind: to support artists local and worldwide. She notes with passion the bravery of artisans in cities all over the world, where there is little opportunity for financial success. To support themselves, many must walk several miles every day to sell their wares, often making only a pittance before trudging all the way back home. That knowledge became a seed in Teresa's mind and wanting to help similarly disadvantaged artisans, she found that the idea for Pura Vida blossomed. She began looking into the Fair Trade Federation, a company that approves artists and weeds out sweatshop products to make sure the art is true to their stated roots. This dedication to genuine art by genuine artisans is a cause that is dear to Teresa's heart. She tells me that she checks to make sure each product she carries is authentic to its country and is of a good quality.

Pura Vida spent a few good years firmly planted in Plaza-Midwood, offering local music along with her collection of eclectic, worldly art. She also began carrying quality, fair trade coffee and soon added more art from artists in Charlotte and surrounding areas. One of my favorite events to attend at her establishment is the "Day of the Dead" celebration, a holiday from Mexico, her country of origin. This is just one more element of her efforts to stay true to her cultural roots. Teresa has also worked to stay true to her newest community, recently moving from the one artist community in Plaza-Midwood to a new home in NoDa. She is now an essential member of the arts district and supports many community events, including frequenting local



restaurants and businesses and attending as many art openings as she can fit into her busy schedule.

When asked how she feels about the changing face of NoDa and the loss of many of the galleries, she responds that the changes are just a product of the environment and even though there are less actual galleries in the neighborhood, so many of the new places opening are still hanging paintings on the walls. An example is the space shared by Custom and Espada, who took over the Center of the Earth gallery. This group features a monthly artist exhibition complete with an opening reception. She feels blessed that the current stores and businesses attract a steady clientele and that the new restaurants and shops continue to draw more people from all walks of life. This is good for her because the next endeavor for this connected and involved businesswoman is the reshaping of her back room where she is creating a gallery area for paintings and photography.

Also among the myriad contributions Teresa



makes to the community is sharing her business savvy with students in the area. This advice she also shares with me: she humbly declares above all that you must be passionate about what you are doing, you have to love it, and you must be committed. "It's passion," she says, "that can give you the momentum to continue when things are difficult and can serve as a reminder of why you started your business. Understand who your customers are and stay connected to them. Keep them abreast of what you are doing. Loyal customers can be your biggest advocates. Be loyal to your vision but adapt to market circumstances. Keep your pulse on changes in customer needs be they socially or economically driven. Get to know your community. Engage with it and give back to it. There's an intrinsic reward in that but you'll also realize in doing so that you're shaping your community and city."

To find more information, visit www.PuraVidaArt.com. She is always searching for new artisans and crafters and you could be the next featured work in Pura Vida. So walk in, look around, and breathe in the artistry. Kids of all ages are welcome and Pura Vida is a space with wonderful energy that will make your heart smile.

Pura Vida is at 202-A. N. Davidson St., Charlotte, NC 28205. Call them at 704.335.8587. Go visit the one only Teresa. Ω (Photos by Austin Caine)

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Charlotte Ghosts

Thoughts from Ellen Gurley



Ghosts and American reality TV shows are in a sick partnership making the paranormal a mainstream interest. It's like a 'hey, slow down and look at the wreck' as we poke fun at the history of a person's family name. These programs actually mock these spirits, egging them on by cussing them out. Kind of Jerry Springer meets Paranormal Activity. Needless to say, ghosts have been an interest of people of all religions since the beginning of time. Buddhists, pagans and Christians alike all have accounts of seeing, communicating with, or worshipping the dead.

Most cultures have ceremonies honoring the dead while some seem obsessed with it; not just studying the occult but celebrating loved ones' death days more so than their birthdays. It is well known that, historically, Christians have been punished for exploring the paranormal. But with every religion, ghosts are something that isn't fully understood, making it a taboo issue, especially in "this here" Bible belt.

Regardless, many media outlets will engage in Ghostploitation during the month of October.

'Tis the season to spook people. Ghosts are representative of a fear of the unknown. People in general do not want to admit that they don't know what's next, for sure. You don't know what's to come of you once you're ashes to ashes and dust to dust.

I have had many-an opportunity to explore the paranormal. I was even told that due to my Native and European roots that I would be more sensitive, more receptive to ghosts. I can say that I have been in a building that gave me the spooks, but what spooks me the most is a ghost 'leaping' into my soul as I'm walking some grounds somewhere. And that I will take them back with me. This has been heard of though most ghosts are thought to be attached to some property. Some are connected to an object but most are 'stuck' in some real estate or a certain site in the landscape.

I've been in Charlotte my whole life. That's thirty six years. And I was bourne of Charlotteans (my dad moved here in his youth from Wilmington and my mother is a straight from the boat WW2 Greek lady). I've seen a lot of changes in Charlotte,

most are welcome. If this idea that ghosts are attached to real estate (and usually old old old houses), then what is to be said for a place like Charlotte, whose current habitants appear to be attached to nothing from the past? We knock down old buildings and erect highrises faster than I can say, “look at that interesting old...”. So do ghosts then leave once their haunt is plowed to the ground? Some say no.

Ghosts are said to be ‘trapped’ in a certain area. Some are still inhabiting the buildings engaging in the same racket or routine that they once practiced. But usually a ghost is said to be ‘there’ due to a trauma, a trespassing or an unfortunate event that makes their pain or their soul residual in that area. Conversely, if a place brought them a lot of joy that they are unwilling to let go of, then a ghost can also be trapped. This covers everything. Pretty much.

I own a book called ‘Ghost Stories of Charlotte & Mecklenburg County’ by a Stephanie Burt Williams. I bought it in 2003. It is interesting. I enjoy reading history, especially history of a local nature, and it is almost impossible to give an account of a ghost without a little lesson. I enjoyed a lot of it, she shared stories I had heard before. But I have to say that some really old houses “breathe”, doors slam and lights turn off and on due to aging or faulty electricity and poor insulation. So some of the stories were just cute to me. I imagine people in their newly purchased old millwork-filled period homes jumping around at every crack and snap of the windows and foundations. This pleases me. Perhaps I suffer from a bit of schadenfreude. But if you’ve ever had a haunt (especially a trickster or particularly troublesome one), you are not amused.

Paula Mayhew remembers battling a demon and winning. Jennifer Taylor was visited daily by a haunt in her Elizabeth rental. Some say that others are more receptive to seeing ghosts, especially children. I lived in a duplex on Club Road for a couple of years. A horrible tragedy fell upon a family whose daughter rented a place on Club in the late ‘90’s. Her lover and herself were struck by a speeding police officer and the girl lost her life. Her twin and her surviving family went through so much pain in her loss that I will not use their names. But I heard the girl’s name from the lips of not one but two young girls under the age of five who told me that she was their “imaginary friend” (I talked to both of them separately) and came to them several times a week to play with dolls and

keep them company (kids, as stated earlier, are more susceptible to seeing spirits and often times are written off by the family as being imaginary friends). My mouth dropped. Both girls? Two different homes adjacent to where the girl used to live? Coincidence or real? My buddy Gideon seems to think the whole street is haunted and it flows down much like the rainwater.

I grew up attending the Greek church on East Blvd. This is not the first building to house this congregation. They worshipped in the Latta-James Mansion, pictured in ‘Dilworth : the First 100 Years’ by Tom Bradbury (1992), as having two rails for streetcars and unpaved roads. This property is said to be haunted. But what’s creepier is the basement of the building that adjoins the Greek’s current church. Rumour has it that they rented the space to the Ku Klutz Klan under their Sunday school classrooms. I double dog dare you to go down there when the lights are off. I am convinced that bad energy is also a resin.

I used to visit Wad’s every Sunday morning, as a child, to have our bribe of chocolate milk from the cartoon to go to church just down the street. I always loved that place. Wad Smith is said to still be

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there. I worked in that space in my early adulthood, at a place called Sole' Spanish Grille. Ask the Luongs if they enjoyed closing at night. Past management might say it's haunted.

Also in Dilworth, I worked at 300 East for about eight years. People used to say upstairs was creepy. And no one wanted to be up there alone. I never had a problem. I know that faulty electricity can emit 'strange feelings' (ranging from unpleasant to straight up paranoia, as I have learned from the above aforementioned ghost programs - sigh). Perhaps I just didn't "feel it".

Across the street is the former residence of a local author, a Carson McCullers, 311 East Blvd. She cooked up 'the Heart is a Lonely Hunter', a number of other books, a slew of short stories and some plays (from the '30's to the '60's). They now dish up Indian cuisine in there. It's called Copper. I have seen many businesses in there. I used to tell the patrons of 300 the same thing I'd heard, "no business will last there because the author killed herself and is still in there". A tormented ghost is a three course meal in no thank you. I took a co-worker home one night (late) and we stopped in front of the house across the street. I dared her to travel the stairs. She wouldn't without me. Together we read the plaque outside and took a few steps

toward the home. We both retreated screaming like little kids. We just freaked ourselves out, is all. Right?

The tale I heard was false, I have come to find out. Not only did she not kill herself but she didn't even die there. What's more 'fun' to find out is that she and her husband had a complicated and rocky relationship of bisexuality, love triangles (they were once in love with the same dude) and all-consuming alcoholism. He did try to convince her to kill herself with him but she declined and he did it solo. This happened no where in Charlotte. She had health problems that took her life. And I no longer believe that her former home is haunted. Perhaps the owners of Copper know differently. Maybe he 'floated' back to Charlotte to inhabit this home due to some connection he had with it or someone else who visited often.

I worked in Elizabeth when I lived there off and on for almost twelve years in my grandmother's house in the 2400 block of 7th Street. My first cat used to go to the front door at exactly 7pm nightly in, what I believed was, an attempt to greet my grandfather, who I never met, as this was his usual time to arrive home from work. He died on the front porch there enjoying a pre-dinner smoke. When I had my first child there, I had a baby monitor. This allowed me to see and hear in his room to find out if he awakened. His nursery was my grandmother's den. It had French doors I could close for privacy while he slept. Every morning, at the same time, I could hear newspaper pages turning. She read the Greek paper there daily at that very time. I think they might've both been there. But wouldn't they prefer the hills or beaches of Greece, from whence they came? Can't we choose our place of haunt?



In the disco days, a mayor Lottie of Elizabeth ran everything in Elizabeth once. And she rented out several of the homes on the corner of 7th and Caswell as rooms. There were many-a lassie and bachelor that made that a hot little corner at one point. I wonder if some of them are still hanging out “living” it up.

At the Bayou Kitchen, I’d heard from coworkers an account of a couple who lived in the house next door, the former Elizabeth Tea House. This couple was “tore up” with some addiction. He took his life and she discovered him, upstairs in the home, where she elected to do the same years later. Is this why this building keeps changing hands? Creative Loafing in 2006 said that the Cajun Queen (another New Orleans themed restaurant) had stories to tell. They said there was “a lady that haunted the bar because she wanted to get crunk”. Charming.

In Miss Williams book, another place just down the road is sited as being haunted; it’s Independence Park. But the story seems odd to me. In the 30’s, a basketball coach (Lillian Arhelger) accompanied the Girl Scouts from Myers Park Presbyterian on a trip to the mountains for a swim and a kid named Virginia went over the falls. Lillian jumped after her. The kid survived but the coach’s skull smashed on the rocks and a log stabbed through her face and killed her. Now this coach and teacher (at Central) haunts this park searching for the kid she doesn’t realize survived. She haunts the old swimming pool. Hmmm. I wonder if this makes sense. My mom swam there when she was a child and thinks this is a silly tale. Miss Williams also says that the building next door to the Double Door, which serves as the home of a catering company, is haunted. The owner in the 1980’s called this spirit “Alice”. This haunt could be harmless or nonexistent as she only played with the air conditioning. Electrical things are easily debunked or pushed under the rug. I would imagine the Double Door to be haunted by some of the people who rocked at the “Home of the Blues” as dubbed by Daniel Coston’s book (collaboration) on the thirty-five years of the renown venue (2009). The place and spirits seemed to be married.

I was married once. I wanted the Van Landingham Estate to be the place. Hands down. Once I was considering photographers, Deborah Triplett, who wasn’t my memory capturer for the day but is a wonderful friend, told me that she was married there and viewed photographs of the

owner’s late son in the top window. That bedroom was where my groom and my children got ready for the night. I had a wonderfully white bedroom downstairs for my girls to dress and prepare in. At the end of the night I slept upstairs with the rest of my family. It was dark. All of the furniture and the wall coverings seemed original to the home and still in good shape due to the quality/cost. Parts of the interior and exterior of the home was built from rocks out of the Linville Falls as this rumored apparition’s parents loved to vacay there. Some literature says that stones from water retain paranormal energy. Either way, coupled with the hundred year old rocking horses and the windows that can seat a child but not an adult (I tried and felt like someone was squeezed in there with me), it felt like a busy place even when the employees were gone and my family was asleep. So how was this man’s face seen coming out of this window? I had to lay down in it. Oh, well. I didn’t see the dude in question, luckily, but I will not argue that it’s inhabited by a spirit connected to the place. If I owned that home, you’d have a hard time getting me out of there.

Some of the Victorian era homes in any of the “Ward” neighbourhoods may catch your eye.

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You may say, 'that place looks haunted as crap' and not even know why. I've seen many abandoned or decaying homes with wagon wheels at their drive that scared me and many refurbished period homes that made me feel weird. I imagine I am not alone in this. Let's let me keep thinking this.

I was talking with a friend of mine, Dave, who reminded me of a home I visited a few times while in college at UNCC. He said, "There was a house on Old Concord Road. My friends all lived there and we were throwing a party. It was 2000 and I went to it. We got there and well, let's just say the rest of the story involves a train cutting a car in half, a portrait of the woman who haunts the house and people foaming at the mouth. I swear it's true." I don't doubt him, I remember the old Victorian house at the end of a dirt road over the tracks by UNCC.

There are Charlotte groups dedicated to the study of ghosts. There are tours that travel the streets and pubs of downtown telling a story of times no more. I don't want to go to any hunt or ride horse and carriage through a place now supporting a light rail and become victim to a wandering spirit. I will just let you tell me your stories. A friend of mine recently shared his ghost investigation stories with me. His name is Todd Slingerland and I heard EVPs from him that would make anyone's hair stand up. (See my interview in this issue with him.)

Miss Williams sites a few other places that are haunted in town: the (no longer standing) Antique Kingdom whose doors always opened (house breathing?), the Studio East where I saw an old band, Flyweb record an EP (which was creepy but it may have been the dark lyrics, sure didn't see "brother Ralph"), Alexander Michaels and Latta Plantation (yeah, I believe her. Anywhere you housed a slave against his will is subject to retaining a vibe). She covered other places with the word "Historic" attached to them; such as Rosedale and Oaklawn (home to a Latta spawn). And there's Hopewell Presbyterian Church (holy places can be haunted, huh?), Magic Maze, Hoskins Mill and a certain hall in Queens College.

Some others Williams mentioned were sites of old railroads, firehouses and places where bootleggers hung out. And then the Manor and Carolina theaters. Ghosts love theaters. Sandra Gray (active in art and theatre) heard the same of the Children's Theatre and says it's the spirit of a "hoochie coochie" dancer. I love it. Southpark Magazine's October 2013 has an interview with a

Cheralyn Lambeth who has a book called "Haunted Theaters of the Carolinas". Looks like I will be getting myself and Mrs. Gray a copy.

Bree Stallings told me that as a student at Queens (though not in the above aforementioned hall) she had an experience. "I once saw someone hanging from a tree in the lower quad. I freaked out and called campus police, but nothing was there when they showed up. Turns out, someone had hung themselves from that tree in the late 1800's."

My good friend Marina says that the Dilworth Neighborhood Grille has a story of being haunted from someone back when the whole joint was a bowling alley. And the building in Park Rd. Shopping Center, which is currently a Monkey Joe's, used to be a YMCA a long time ago. And it contains a whole slew of underground rooms extending under the whole parking lot and supposedly a pool. That was all I got out of her, she said it freaks her out to talk about them (must be the Greek blood).

Stories of ghosts are all over town. I hear them all of the time. I lived in the room a woman jumped from at UNCC in Scott Hall. She died. Sometimes my TV would turn itself on in the middle of the night and turn all the way up. Sometimes I didn't stay at the dorm and my neighbours would be mad that they couldn't access my TV to turn it off. I went to high school at West Charlotte and some of the students used to tell me that the Excelsior was haunted. I've also heard that empty textile mills have haunts (maybe by souls mourning for the loss of a thriving local industry). I've heard of the Founder's Hall ghost. This was a woman whose corpse was sold illegally to Duke University. I worked there in an optometrist's office. I didn't see her. Ha. Get it? Eye doctor. I also worked for Bank of America and never saw the Hearst Tower jumper and I'm glad that I did not.

Whether you believe or not, you know someone who has told you an interesting story. I don't want to make anyone believe anything that's against their sensibilities (hello, Christians). But I know that when someone tells you their story or shares an experience with you, they are not laughing. So let's not make this a mockery. Either don't believe in it or do. It's your choice. But let's not poke fun of the unknown. That's dumber than Dog the Bounty Hunter. Ω (Photos by Austin Caine)

by Seth Peagler



In the last month, I've learned yet again just how comics can unite our community. I know that sounds admittedly far fetched, but over Labor Day weekend I saw people of every age, race, orientation, and size all digging through boxes of sale comics at Heroes Aren't Hard to Find. You could argue that the crowd was there just for the sale, but it was really something to see such a varied group of people enjoying comics.

The fact is that if you live in Charlotte (and if you're reading this magazine, it's probably safe to say that you do), you live in one of the country's great comics communities. I feel like I'm entitled to say this not because I've been a manager at Heroes for over seven years, but because I've traveled to comic shops and conventions all over the country. But even if you're unaware of how impressive Charlotte's comics community is, you can appreciate the breadth of comics available just by walking into a comic store. October is a prime example of the industry's variety, so if you do happen to wander into one of the local shops, here are just a few of the types of experiences you'll be able to find on the shelves this month.

First up is Peanuts Every Sunday: 1952 - 1955. This first of a planned ten volumes from

Fantagraphics collects the first four years of Charles Schultz' inimitable Peanuts Sunday strips. Some of my first memories of reading are of opening up the Sunday paper to Peanuts. This is one of the universally nostalgic American strips, and if you didn't grow up reading the tales of Charlie Brown and company, you have a lot of catching up to do. October's Sundays collection provides a wonderful opportunity to enjoy a cornerstone of American comics (and art) history. And remember, this is Charlie Brown, so you can introduce your kids to these stories, get them away from everything technological, and enjoy a finely hewn slice of Americana alongside them.

Next up is something that's a far cry from kid-friendly, but a book that will appeal to fans of Kung Fu films. Geof Darrow's *Shaolin Cowboy* gets a brand new debut issue from Dark Horse, and it's a welcome book for any fan of quality art. Like the title implies, there are all kinds of Eastern and Western archetypes on display in this book, but it's all refracted through the lens of Darrow's hyper-detailed graphic art. Like so many things in entertainment, it's gratuitous in its violence, but its energy is contagious, and Darrow's enthusiasm jumps off each page. *Shaolin Cowboy*

offers a prime example of what happens when an artist is in a completely joyous place within his work.

From martial arts mayhem we turn to pulpy goodness, this month in the form of *Black Beetle: Necrologue #1*. Written and illustrated by Atlanta-based creator Francesco Francavilla, *Black Beetle* is an unabashed love letter to all things pulp. This means cool costumes, weird science villains, mob thugs, and monsters all pop up with regularity. What's most interesting to me about Francavilla's series is that it's produced without a trace of irony. He loves these old adventurous genres, and has crafted something in the 2010s that looks like it could've easily been on the newsstands in the thirties or forties. It's timeless in pure way, and an excellent book to jump into with ease.

Then there's a new book called *Pretty Deadly*. This supernatural western comes from Image Comics and three versatile creators in writer Kelly Sue DeConnick, artist Emma Rios, and colorist Jordie Bellaire. We're far enough along in society and comics to where I don't feel the need to qualify these ladies as being "talented female creators." Their respective catalogues speak volumes for themselves. I'm just looking forward to seeing how they take a story about the daughter of Death and twist the genres of supernatural stories and westerns into new shapes.

As with every month, October offers a new issue from a much heralded creator. In celebration of the 25th anniversary of Neil Gaiman's high brow, syllabus-worthy *Sandman*, Vertigo Comics is presenting an all new mini series called *Sandman: Overture*. The series sees a new untold tale of the Dream King from Gaiman and an industry favorite artist in J.H. Williams III. It's bound to attract the literary-minded and everyday comics fans alike - not that those have to be mutually exclusive groups.

Vertigo, along with just about every other major publisher, is choosing October to kick off several new series. You can find brand new horror and fantasy titles from Vertigo in the form of *Coffin Hill #1*, *Hinterkind #1*, and *Witching Hour #1*. IDW Publishing offers up a new comic based on the cult favorite animated series in *Samurai Jack #1*. DC brings *Superman/Wonder Woman #1*. Fanboy glee and rage might erupt at the thought of a series about the relationship between this new power couple, but whether you like it or not, it's at least worth taking note of. And then there's Image Comics' other new pair of series, the *Sci-Fi Rocket Girl #1*, and the espionage thriller *Velvet #1*.

As you can see, there are a gamut of new comics that

hit shelves every single week. If you've never read comics before, don't assume that they're just for kids or that every comic shop is like the stereotypical ones on *The Big Bang Theory*. Whether you're in it just because you liked the film adaptations, or because you want a deep aesthetic experience, comics represent a wealth of options.

If you want to venture beyond the casual occasional reading and experience Charlotte's comics community in full effect, I'd invite you to stop by *Heroes Aren't Hard to Find* on Saturday, October 26th from 10am - 4pm for our Pop Swap. It's the third year we've hosted this event, which is essentially a pop culture swap meet where everyday collectors of records, comics, toys, and more, can set up and sell their own items. There will also be local craftsmen on hand to sell their handmade wares. And since it's so close to Halloween, kids and adults alike are encouraged to give their costumes a trial run. It's one of my personal favorite comics events in Charlotte each year, and a great chance to hang out and celebrate comics and pop culture. More information is available at www.HeroesOnline.com, where you can also find out about all kinds of comics events at Heroes and throughout the state. You can also read more of my musings about comics there every week, and find regular updates for next summer's Heroes Convention. Ω (Photos by Austin Caine)

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'Hood Sh*t

by Liz Eagle



October is going to be a month of transitions for me. I can feel it. I've spent the better part of the past two years being the president of the phenomenal community organization in Villa Heights. I took on the endeavor in October 2011 while a stay-at-home mom of two kids, then ages one and four, with a "the world is my oyster" mentality. I was ready to be a pearl and a catalyst for other pearls in this gem of a neighborhood.

For those unfamiliar with Villa Heights, you may recognize it on your way from Uptown to NoDa or from Plaza-Midwood to Shamrock. We are nestled, really tucked away, from Parkwood, to N. Davidson, up Matheson to The Plaza and back to Parkwood. Most assume it is a part of NoDa proper. Amelie's, NoDa Market and Deli, Watershed Church and various other businesses and non-profits claim the aforementioned 'hood in signage, websites and other endeavors. We all assume the reasoning is because NoDa (which actually begins as you cross under the Matheson Bridge, and is now beautifully illustrated by popular local artist, Will Puckett) is well known and a popular landmark. But to those of us who call Villa Heights home, we know better.

With the exception of a (very) few, the residents of Villa Heights claim the 'hood proudly. We go to meetings, that take place in Amelie's (which is a part of VH), grab drinks at NoDa Brewing (which is in Optimist Park), and have the occasional outing to Cordeila Park (which offers an amazingly beautiful view of Uptown Charlotte). We smile and wave when we see one another walking. We stand in the yard and talk to next door neighbors. We grieve as old

neighbors move out and rejoice as new potential friends and community members move in.

Villa Heights is an amazing location. We are about 2 miles from Plaza Midwood, 1.5 from Uptown, and 1 mile from NoDa (like, the actual NoDa). There are many reasons one would move here, either alone, with roommates or with a family. The housing prices for both renting and purchasing are remarkably lower than NoDa and Plaza-Midwood. It is also more quiet and slow paced than surrounding neighborhoods that boast a lively nighttime scene and various restaurants or other attractions. Our shaded safe haven of a 'hood is home to so many wonderful people of all types and backgrounds. We are incredibly diverse in our demographics and hope so strongly to embrace and connect the differences between us.

In my past two years serving this glorious community, I have had many victories and almost as many defeats. I have made lots grateful for the direction we are taking and a few unhappy with how the neighborhood is going. I assume thus is life and chose to take nothing personally, knowing I have given it my all, even when I have felt I have had nothing to give.

Villa Heights has hosted the Matheson Bridge artist for a neighborhood paint-by-number project in Cordelia Park, where various community members of all ages painted blank walls along the entrance to the Sugar Creek Greenway. We have attended Charlotte's Neighborhood and Business Services Board Planning Retreat. We are working with Parks and Rec to build a community garden that I know would make Leslie Knope proud and Ron Swanson disgusted. We have resident artists working towards a new branding campaign to keep our identity as both Uptown and NoDa encroach our domain with the extension of the Light Rail, scheduled to open in 2017.

And then, this month, I will step down from my twenty-four month stretch as leader of this glorious group of people. I wonder, even as I write this piece, about all of the good that has gone on, which is my true purpose in transcribing this information to all of you Charlotteans. It's not bragging rights for my community or rights I hope we get. It's not even citywide recognition, though we tend to be featured on local news outlets often for

various reasons, both inspiring and gut-wrenching. I write this to encourage you, to inspire you where you are. I believe in this city. I believe in community. I believe we all have purpose right where we are, should we choose to accept it. We can all agree that Charlotte is not perfect: case-in-point, Elizabeth Ave. and those damn rails. Where is the Trolley, Charlotte? Yet our role in this city goes as deeply as we will allow. From branding and grant writing, to making cookies for an elderly neighbor or carpooling with a busy mom or dad, we can all share goodness no matter the capacity to those around us.

I was able and willing to share two years of devotion to my community. Some may have more time, as our previous president Michael Gellar who served seven years. He is truly responsible for curbing crime and helping our neighborhood grow. Some may have less time. One thing is for sure: Charlotte is a city made up of communities and communities are made up of citizens who choose to take action not just when offended but when encouraged.

So my question to you, Queen City, is what can you do? What can you do to make a difference where you are, to make your neighborhood, your street, your home a better place? Is it to serve as a neighborhood chair or to simply roll around your neighbor's trash can? Is it to attend meetings at city hall or to take care of a resident's cat while they are on vacation? The options are as broad as you allow them to be and you can trust that playing your role for the time and in the capacity you are able will absolutely make a difference for the greater good.

So we did an art project and grabbed some beers? So what. What we really did was connect human life and inspire connected living; the hopes of which brought so many of us to this mini city. My hope is that anyone reading this will make a small difference today. Write a thank you note. Attend your next community meeting. Introduce yourself

to the neighbor two doors down. After all you have been making awkward eye contact with for the past six months. Don't be afraid. Be bold and let your boldness start a movement of committed members to something bigger than a zip code and school district. We can do it, Charlotte. We're all in this together, right?

Find your 'hood and attend a meeting:

Plaza-Midwood: October 17, 6:30, Kilgo UMC basement (quarterly, 3rd Thursday)

NoDa: October 1, 6:30, Evening Muse (1st Tuesday)

Villa Heights: October 14, 6:30, Amelie's (2nd Monday)

Elizabeth: October 31, 5-6:30, Independence Park, Trunk or Treat Potluck (meetings annually)

Belmont: October 1, 7-8:30, Belmont Regional Center (1st Tuesday)

Country Club Heights, October 19, 12pm-4:00, Shamrock Park, Festival in the park (meeting November 21, 6:30, St. Luke UMC)

Neighborhood not mentioned? Visit Nextdoor.com to sign up for a social network, specific to your community and begin connecting. Ω (Photos by Austin Caine)



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Todd Slingerland

Interview by Ellen Gurley

My City Magazine's Ellen Gurley recently caught up with her friend, Charlotte Ghost Hunter, Todd Slingerland. He has been plagued with seizures, holding down a full time job and is being a parent and a husband. This is quite the juggling act but he's no clown.

When did your interest first become piqued with the paranormal?

I guess it started when I was young. I remember hiding under my parents' table watching Amityville Horror when I should have been sleeping. My parents live in Mint Hill and still do. Mint Hill was the first big gold rush on the east coast. Behind their house in the woods were some of the first gold mines in the area. As a teen my friends and I would explore the mines. There were at least fifteen different ones to go in and they went for miles underground. I remember there was one we would go into and you would hear sounds like miners working and talking in the distance. We would get to the sound and nothing would be there. One day we went down there. I looked back and saw a man standing in the mine with a light on his helmet. I yelled out to my friend who looked back and he was gone. Needless to say, I had never run home so fast in my life. After that my interest was sparked. The crazy thing is that I was in a car wreck when I was eighteen years old. The car I was in flipped over fifteen times. I was in the back seat with no seat belt. The cop said we all should have been dead. After that I started to notice things around me I had never noticed before;



sounds, feelings and seeing things most people don't notice. Did this near death experience cause my senses to sharpen? I still often wonder.

What type of equipment do you use on an average investigation?

I love to use my Sony digital recorder, Sony night vision camcorder and IR lights to help see that light your eyes can't see in the dark. I use e-pods and rem pods to pick up energy spirits give off. One of my favorite tools is the PSB-7 spirit box. It scans white noise through radio waves at one millisecond each radio wave, which allows spirits to speak within the white noise to get real time EVPs when asking questions. I know it sounds crazy, but I can tell you that it works. I have all kinds of equipment but the best is the body. I can just feel the areas sometimes. I can close my eyes and see visions and things that have happened and that leads me to the hot spots on a location.

What investigations were brought to you as a job; i.e. someone wanting to know if their home or property was haunted? Does that mean that you serve as a paranormal consultant?

I can't give names of the clients or their homes. That would betray trust. Most people worry that their neighbors, family or even their spouses would think they are crazy that they believe they have ghost in their home. But people are becoming more open about the whole paranormal thing and I hope in the future that we can change that even more. But I will say that Charlotte is more haunted than people think. I will tell you Myers Park, Dilworth, Cotswold, Huntersville, Concord and the NoDa areas are the most active places. There was a family I helped in Concord who lost their son in a car wreck. The mother had been seeing and feeling things around herself and in her home thinking it was her son trying to let them know he was ok. I went to her home and by using my PSB-7 spirit box and digital recorder I was able to communicate with him. I had her ask questions to which only she and he would know the answers. He came through, answering them like he was there sitting in the room with us. The dad was really skeptical about the whole thing, but after that night we all were in tears and they felt some kind of collective peace after all. So most of the time, I deal with unwanted ghosts, but I get that one case every now and again that deals with loved ones passed and I feel like I helped them overcome their pain. So yes, I believe every case I do helps the client understand something better or heal faster. So I would say, yes, I serve and as consultant for families I work with.

Which investigations came to you on your own hunch or your own personal interest?

I am a very big history buff; I always love to learn more about the Civil War, the Revolutionary War and the Indians,

any chance I can get. But the place that I go to most often is the Ramah Church Cemetery in Huntersville. The way it (my relationship with this place) began was due to the fact that every time I would drive by the area, something was telling me to stop. Little is written about the people who settled there in the late 1700's, but there were a lot of tragic things that happened to the people in that area - small pox and other sicknesses killed off entire families who settled there. Some graves have mothers buried with their children in their arms or wives with their husbands who had perished fighting in the Civil War. With the work that I have done, I have been able to communicate with some spirits to tell their story so that the people in the area could remember what these people had to go through at that time. A number of graves have no names or headstones to tell who they were and I hope to continue getting them known for the history of the area. I will tell you, I have become emotionally connected with that place and feel honored that I was able to (maybe) help those souls move on now that their story has been heard. The other place that I favor the most is the site of the battle of Waxhaw, known as "the Bufford's Massacre", established on May 29th, 1780. An army led by Abraham Bufford was fighting Loyalist army led by Banastre Tarleton. The American commander refused to surrender and his men were attacked. Many threw down their arms to surrender. Bufford then attempted to surrender but was refused and the fighting continued against his unarmed men. Out of the four hundred men, about one hundred and thirteen were slain outright and one hundred and fifty were so badly injured they could not be moved. About fifty-three prisoners were taken. After this battle the southern Americans started to rise up and join the fight against the British army. That changed the direction of the war in the south. When I was there doing EVPs on the mass grave site, I asked about what had happened to the men and if they fought there. I got responses saying they were murdered or that they were killed in a day's work. Plus there were many other intelligent responses that day. I also caught a soldier's face on the battlefield in a picture.

Are you affiliated in any way to CAPS (Charlotte Area Paranormal Society with founder and director, Tina McSwain)? (www.CharlotteAreaParanormal.org)

When I first started in this field, I did everything solo and I will tell you now that going to haunted locations by yourself in the middle of the night does test your nerves. Then I heard of this group called the Ghost Tracker that meets every last Saturday of the month. This meet up group was put together by Tina McSwain of CAPS. I went to a meet up and met her. The funny thing is that after Tina listened to some of my audio catching a woman's name, I kept coming to meet ups and she asked me to join her team with CAPS. I am honored to be a part of such a great group of people. I have never met a team that is this close or that cares so much about helping people in need. So to answer this question, yes I am a team member of CAPS and am very proud to put on my CAPS T-shirt and help those who need it.

Now I want to ask you about specific investigations. Tell me about the Robert Cleveland house on Parsonville Road in Western Wilkes County?

The Robert Cleveland cabin and slave house was built in 1779. He had thirteen children by his first wife Aley Mathis. In 1791 Aley had twins. Two weeks later on December 19th she and one of the twins died. A few years later Robert married Sallie Johnson and had four children with her. Robert Cleveland and his brother Benjamin played an active part in the Revolutionary War. In the battle of Kings Mountain, Benjamin, in particular, was significant in that he forced General Cornwallis to withdraw into South Carolina. The cabin is really old and neat. It's cool to walk the same floors of a house built in 1779. When I was in the cabin I felt the spirit of his first wife. I conducted a PSB-7 spirit box session in the main room. I asked about Mrs. Cleveland and got an EVP of a woman's voice. Then I asked for one of their names and the same woman's voice said Troy. In my research I found out they did have a son named Troy. Then we went to the slave house. As soon as we set foot in the slave house the energy was very heavy and felt dark. They were doing some remodeling of the slave house and I found writing on the walls which was a curse in voodoo. Jean (also from CAPS) was sitting on the floor and saw a dark shadow move behind me. So I asked the spirit if that was their shadow and I got an affirmative response. We could not stay in there for too long as the energy made me have a headache and I got stomach pains. Was this the curse that the slaves wrote over two hundred years ago still affecting those who visit?

Tell us about the spirit box session on "Cowpens Battlefield" and the voices of soldiers?

Wow, what a amazing place to go and visit. Most people might just look and see a boring empty field, but this place is full of soldiers who lost their lives fighting for what they believed in. The battle of Cowpens took place on a very clear and cold morning on January 17th, 1781 led by the great commander Daniel Morgan against Tarleton's army. The battle was over in less than a hour. It was a complete victory for the Patriot force. The British losses were staggering: one hundred and ten dead, over two hundred wounded and upwards of five hundred were captured. Morgan lost only twelve and only sixty were wounded. When I arrived there, I started by closing my eyes and seeing the soldiers crying for help. I could hear guns and canons blasting. We have to remember the events in our history that ultimately led to us living free. I started where they began the fighting using my PSB-7 spirit box. I asked many questions about the fighting on the battlefield and got some amazing and intelligent answers. I asked the spirits to tell me a little about what had happened there and I got responses such as we were shot, there was an explosion and canons broke. It was unreal to me. Hopefully by communicating with these lost soldiers I am giving them a chance to say what happened to them that moved them on into the light. That is what pushes me to do this kind of work. This one is a must see.

Talk to us about hearing your name in the ghost box upon leaving Ramah Cemetary? How many sessions have you done there?


I'm telling you, every time I listen to that video it gives me chills to the core. There are a couple of things about that response that are so unreal to me. I had been going to that place for about six months before I got the EVP. I always start off by stating my name. I like to try to communicate every time I do an EVP session at any location, much like I am talking to the living. So I got out my car and walked to Dr. Weddington's grave site. I had been there many times before and I always got intelligent responses there. As soon as I walked up, I turned on my PSB-7 spirit box. I asked if the doctor was there. Not only did I get an affirmative but he called my name. My whole body was frozen. Every hair on my body was standing like the great, Redwood forest. When I asked for his name, he said that it was Calvin. So I looked up at the doctor's headstone and was stunned by the events that just took place. The doctor's full name is Calvin Weddington. This proves that spirits can learn our names and remember us, and to all the non-believers, that say this device is fake and doesn't work well, I give you this to wrap your mind around. I have been going to that cemetery regularly and I have had my name called three times, twice in that doctor's resting place. I can not count how many times I have visited there, but I take a part of that place with me every time I leave and it will be with me until the end of time.

Tell us about the Kings Mountain Battlefield and your experience there.

What a amazing place to visit. If you have never been there, you should take the time to go. So, on October 7th, 1780, there was a decisive battle between the Patriots and Loyalists in the southern campaign of the Revolutionary War. Patriots defeated the Loyalists, commanded by British Patrick Ferguson. The surprising victory over the British raised morale among the Patriots. With Ferguson dead and his militia destroyed, Cornwallis was forced to abandon plans to invade North Carolina and retreat to South Carolina. While I was walking the grounds I could literally feel eyes watching me from the wooded areas. Using the PSB-7 spirit box I heard a man ask for help. After hearing that, I asked again for a name and a male voice said Ace Brook. I looked this up. There were some Brooks that fought in the battle.

What is the 519 house and what happened there?

I had a paranormal team out west that contacted me saying that a woman named Lisa was having problems in her home here in Charlotte. They were too far away to help, so I called her and after she told me that she was too scared to stay in her own home (she had just moved in a week ago), I knew that I had to go see her. So I called Tina to help me out knowing we would need to cleanse the home of something that did not want the owner there. So before Tina arrived, I did some EVP sessions and a PSB-7 session and got some really intelligent voices. Plus I used Mel meter which reads electric magnetic energy. The readings in the house were very high - anywhere from 9.0 to 12.8



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(and normal homes read around .02). During my session, I asked the spirits to tell me their names and they told me it was Eddie and Nancy Key. They told me they didn't like the new tenant and eluded to having followed her from her former residence. They used my name and told me that the house would never stay painted, which was funny as it pertained to a conversation I had with Lisa earlier about her decorating plans.

Discuss, please, about the murder confession you received at the Stonewall Jackson correction center.

I will have to say that I rarely get spooked enough to be prompted to leave. But after the session I did there I felt that something bad was going to happen if I continued with my investigation. That place is like a college campus. It was a huge two hundred and ninety acre juvenile detention facility when it was opened in 1909. With all of the buildings abandoned now, I can tell you that that place was very much so alive with the dead that still roam the grounds there. Using the PSB-7 I asked if anyone wanted to speak with me and I heard Robert Stunt. The room I was in got really dark and I felt right then and there like I could not breathe; well, like I was being choked. I remind you, I was by myself. Shortly thereafter the spirit confesses to me that he killed a man named Jim with his bare hands.

What workshops or courses do you take to sharpen your skills?

I don't take any courses but I do research on the web, in the library and the best education (for me) is word-of-mouth (with the locals that I see in certain areas before I do a case). On every location I do my research. I really like to do that. And even after I investigate a place, I research again, so I can crosscheck the history or get names of what I might've caught. I like to have some info on the places I go to so I can know the right questions to ask. I think that is why I get so many great responses. I am asking the right ones.

You have a young daughter, has she had any paranormal experiences to date?

It's funny that you should ask that. About three months ago, I started having strange things happening in my apartment. My daughter would run to her room and stop dead in her tracks at her door way. And then she'd say that she was scared to go in there alone. As she put it to me, a bad men was in there and a woman she calls the witch. As the weeks went on, more activity started to happen. I heard a male's voice and sometimes a child moaning or crying. So I began to set recorders up in her room. I caught a very strange voice daring me to listen their mystery. I set up an EVP (after hearing this) and I confronted the spirit and prompted him to leave. He expressed a distain in being threatened. One evening I started to set up my camcorder with night vision in her room and from the den to the hallway where her room is. The first night I caught a ball of energy manifest in the middle of her room and shoot out the door. The next night was the most activity I have ever seen in my life. I

had my camcorder running and fell asleep on the couch. What woke me up was that I heard a man (like he was right next to my ear) say something I could not make out. So I looked up and there (standing over me) was a man's face staring at me. Half of his face was kind of glowing but it was transparent. And it vanished into (like) a cloud of very cold air and moved slowly back into the hallway. I looked at the video that was recording while I was sleeping and that's when I saw him there. A man was standing in the hallway, just staring at me. You can see his eyes, nose, and he has one of those beard and mustache combos that I call civil war. The same night (in our bedroom) he came back and started standing over me in bed. He was talking to me, but in whispers. Then the covers started moving; they started off slow and then with a force they were pulled off of the bed. After that night, I contacted Tina (of CAPS) and told her to come and cleanse my home (and make these three spirits move on). So far so good.

What was your favorite investigation (private home, cemetery, historical site) least favorite?

That is a tough one to answer because I love every place I have ever investigated. You don't have enough magazine space or I would tell your readers about every one of them. So I am going to answer one of each. The family I helped in Concord (the ones who had lost their son in a car wreck) is my favorite. They wanted to know he was safe and with them. Having his voice come through for them and helping them heal and knowing he is ok was very moving. In the Ramah Cemetery I have caught so much evidence from speaking with Civil War soldiers to hearing of family's been struck down with disease. Having my name called back on three separate times, disembodied voices, to shadow people moving. I suggest you just watch all the videos I have on you tube. Grab some popcorn and make a night of it. As far as historical sites go, my favorite would be all of the battlefields; Civil War, Revolutionary War - all of them. If I had to pick, I would have to pick Ramsour Mill Battlefield in Lincoln County. Getting all of those intelligent EVPs on the mass grave site was intense. The response on the battlefield that was a whole sentence long relates to the battle - that was great, you just don't get EVPs like that; the same voice saying twelve words over multiple radio waves - that just doesn't happen. My least favorite was my own home. Seeing my family being harassed and my daughter too scared to sleep in her own room was hard. But I did take some good out of it. Now when I'm helping others, I can understand a little more as I have been in their shoes.

Will you publish a book about your experiences?

I would love to I just need a ghost writer (hint hint). Plus I'd throw too many jokes in there. Until then I will just continue living the book in real time.

Contact Todd Slingerland if you need his services or have any questions at halfcabslinky@yahoo.com or (704)458-6326. To view more images and videos, please visit this article online at www.MyCityMagazine.net. Ω (Photos by Austin Caine)

Events In Your City

Sundays in September

Sundays on www.PMCRadio.org
2-2:30pm Ralph the Friendly
Neighborhood Door Guy
6-8pm Eric Peterson

1-5am Nightly DJ Jason Michael
Sundays @ Soul Gastrolounge
12pm DJ Scott Weaver Presents:
"Disco Brunch"

Sundays @ Cathode Azure
Drag & Tea Dance w.DJ Lil Betty

Sundays @ Smokey Joe's
Greg Brangle & the Blue Tenders

Sundays @ Snug Harbor
"Bone Snugs-N-Harmony" karaoke
w.Bryan Pierce

Sundays @ the Comedy Zone
10.13 Tom Green
10.20 Nephew Tommy

Sundays @ the Fillmore
10.13 Danzig
10.27 We Came as Romans

Sundays @ Scorpio
Gypsy Starr Presents: "Sexy Sundays"
feat. DJ RageN'Ray

Panther's Regular Season
10.06 4:05pm @ Arizona Cardinals
10.13 1:00pm @ Minnesota Vikings
10.20 1:00pm ST. LOUIS RAMS

Sundays @ Twenty-Two
10.06, 10.20 "BRAIN BUSTER
BANANAGANS Trivia" an
unprecedented trivia adventure with
Bill "the Thrill" Cleveland

Sun., Oct. 6th @ Tremont
Mortified Mortician, the Fill Ins, Cold
Blue Rebels

Sun., Oct. 13th @ the Park Expo &
Conference Center
10-5 www.CEGunShows.com (\$10)

Sun., Oct. 13th @ Belk Southpark
6-9:30pm "Lights! Camera! Fashion!"
benefitting www.JLCharlotte.com

Sun., Oct. 20th @ Metrolina Expo
www.DixieGunAndKnifeShow.com

Sun., Oct. 20th @ the Neighborhood
Theatre
James Hunter

Mondays in October

Mondays on www.PMCRadio.org
4-5pm Buckmaster (Cody Hare)
6-7pm "the Weird World of the
Unconventional Music" w. Andy the
Doorbum
7-8:30pm "Corey's Hours of Powers"
w.Corey Alexander Zeigler
1-5am Nightly DJ Jason Michael

Mondays @ Soul Gastrolounge
DJ Mookie Brill

Mondays @ Snug Harbor
Fresh Grounds Presents: "Knocturnal"
w.Justin Aswell

Mondays @ Growler's Pourhouse
DJ Elon Shomaker

Mondays @ the Double Door Inn
Monday Night All Stars

Mondays @ the Evening Muse
"Find Your Muse" open mic band night
w.guest headliners
10.07 Curtis Eller
10.28 Tristan Omand

Mondays @ Twenty-Two
Figure Drawing & Beer Tasting

Mondays @ Central Station
Magick Mike & Ryker + karaoke

Mon., Oct. 7th @ the Chop Shop
Taproot, Righteous Vendetta,
Tattermask, Blu Avenue, Absolute
Conviction

Mon., Oct. 7th @ Crown Station
DJ Selector E (Eric Brayman) Presents:
"Monday Night Mic Fights"

Tuesdays in October

Tuesdays on www.PMCRadio.org
1-5am Nightly DJ Jason Michael
Tuesdays @ Snug Harbor
"Country Tuesdays" w.Derek Dexter
Ghent & Corey Alexander Ziegler. Also
live on www.PMCRadio.org 9-10pm

Tuesdays @ the Chop Shop
www.ZaliPresents.com
10.01 iStandard Prod. Showcase
10.15 Beats Antique

Tuesdays @ the Double Door
Bill Hanna Jazz Jam
10.15 Lindi Ortega

Tuesdays @ Crown Station

Karaoke with Bill "the Thrill" Cleveland

Tuesdays @ the Dandelion Market
Shane "Mr. Red" Elks

Tuesdays @ Dharma
"Free Yoga" feat. DJ Jah-Sun Rising
(Jason Herring)

Tuesdays @ Soul Gastrolounge
DJs Shanti & Brad Pressley

Tuesdays @ Jackalope Jack's
Open Mic Comedy Night hosted by
James Dugan tomakeyoulaugh@gmail.com

Tuesdays @ Smokey Joe's
Band Open Mic Night w.resident band
the Smoking J's (feat. Peter Gray &
Jason Atkins)

Tuesdays @ the Stashe House
DJ DR

Tuesdays @ the Flying Saucer
7:30 & 9:30 Trivia Nite

Tuesdays @ Petra's
10.08, 10.22 Trivia Nights hosted by
Lana Cane

Tues., Oct. 1st @ Ovens Auditorium
the Weekend

Tues., Oct. 8th @ the Fillmore
India Arie

Tues., Oct. 8th @ McGlohon Theater
Aimee Mann

Tues., Oct. 8th @ the Comedy Zone
10.08 Johnny Millwater

Tues., Oct. 22nd @ the Milestone
Wymyns Prysyn, Joint D

Wednesdays in October

Wednesdays on www.PMCRadio.org
12-2pm "The Reverend of Soul"
w.Brad Pressley
2-4pm "Fizzy Pop Rivers" w.Jason
Herring
6-8pm Fresh Ground Presents: "The
Loop Hole" feat.Justin Aswell
1-5am Nightly DJ Jason Michael)

Wednesdays @ Crown Station
Open Mic Comedy Throwdown

Wednesdays @ Volume Lounge
8pm Open Mic Band Night Hosted by:
Joseph Morrison

Wednesdays @ Smokey Joe's
Quinchy & Friends

Wednesdays @ Snug Harbor
September residence w.Abe Reid

Wednesdays @ Scorpio
Tiffany Storm, RageN'Ray
10.04 Lauren Scott, Brittney O'Bryan

Wednesdays @ the Fern
Jim Garrett

Wednesdays @ the Common Market
(Plaza-Midwood)
Free beer tastings

Wednesdays @ the Double Door
10.02 Roger Creager
10.16 Jason Boland & the Stragglers

Wednesdays @ Pinky's
Bike Night

Wednesdays @ the Evening Muse
10.02 John Tosco Presents: "the Tosco
House Party"
10.16 Cope, Abandon Kansas,
Clemency

Wednesdays @ Twin Peaks (Concord)
7-11pm Bike Night (20% off all food)

Wednesdays @ the Comedy Zone
10.02 Tom Segura, Christina Pazsitzky
10.23 Tom Stover (www.
SouthernMadman.com) Presents:
"Southern Fried Vegas" feat. Dustin
Diamond aka Screech + performances
by BethAnn Phetamine & go-go
dancers + live music

Wed., Oct. 2nd @ the Milestone
Joe Smith & the Going Concern

Wed., Oct. 2nd @ the Mint Museum
(Randolph)
7-10pm 2013 Creative Loafing's Best
of Charlotte (26th Annual) www.
CLCLT.com/Events

Wed., Oct. 9th @ Knight Theater
Michael McDonald

Wed., Oct. 16th @ Tremont
Peelander-Z, Black Oatmeal, Your
Fuzzy Friends

Wed., Oct. 30th @ the Time Warner
Cable Arena
Pearl Jam

Wednesdays @ the Fillmore
10.30 Big Gigantic

Thursdays in October

Thursdays on www.PMCRadio.org
1-5am Nightly DJ Jason Michael

Thursdays @ Snug Harbor
DJ Scott Weaver Presents:
"Shiprocked"

Thursdays @ UpStage
www.Touch1Productions.com Spoken
Word Poetry

Thursdays @ the Cosmos Café
"Salsa Thursdays"

Thursdays on www.PBSCharlotte.org
8:30pm Charlotte Cooks

Thursdays @ the Charlotte Transit
Center Uptown (in Bay X)
www.Friendship-Gardens.org Mobile
Market

Thursdays @ the Saloon
"Party for the People : karaoke with
Bryan Pierce"

Thursdays @ Marigny
"Equality Thursdays" w.DJ Ghost

Thursdays @ Julia's Cafe & Books
9am "Cold Reads" feat. George Gray &
more (play reading)

Thursdays @ the Milestone
10.03 Nashville P*ssy
10.17 Mobile Deathcamp

Thursdays @ Studio 1212
"Arts Happening" feat. fire juggling,
DJs, poets, aerial dancing

Thursdays @ the Comedy Zone
10.03 Judah Friedlander
10.24 Bobby Collins

Thursdays @ Blue
John Alexander, Ron Brenale, Chris
Garges www.JaJazz.net

Thursdays on the Greenway
"MET Live"
10.03 Who Rescued Who
10.10 Simplified

Thurs., Oct. 3rd @ the Fillmore
Grace Potter & the Nocturnals

Thurs., Oct. 3rd @ Osso
8pm www.CharlotteSeen.com
Presents: "Fashion Forward
Thursdays"

Thurs., Oct. 10th @ Knight Theatre
Buddy Guy, the Slide Brothers

Thurs., Oct. 10th @ CPCC
5-7pm opening reception for "Forged
Landscapes" by Sharon Dowell &
Ahmad Sabha

Thurs., Oct. 17th @ the Evening Muse
Denison Witmer, Carolina Spence

Thurs., Oct. 24th : Panther's Regular
Season
8:25pm @ Tampa Bay Buccaneers

Thurs., Oct. 31st @ Tremont
Gwar, Iron Reagan

Thurs., Oct. 31st @ Ink Floyd Screen
Printers
8pm-1am St. Paul & the Broken Bones
(playing Otis 'Blue'), Temperance
League

Fridays in October

Fridays on www.PMCRadio.org
2-4pm "The Zap Pow Sound System"
w.Dirty Drummer
4-6pm Mr. Atomic
1-5am Nightly DJ Jason Michael

Fridays @ Whiskey Warehouse
DJ Matt Bolick

Fridays @ Tyber Creek Pub
DJ Wiiz Kid (Steve Warwick)

Fridays in Southend (Camden & Park)
"Food Truck Fridays"

Fridays @ the Comet Grill
the Lenny Federal Band

Fridays @ Piedmont Town Center
7pm-11pm "Southpark Concerts in the
Round"

Fridays @ www.CharlotteHaunts.net
7pm Riding Ghost Tours
8pm Haunted Pub Riding Tour

Fridays @ the Evening Muse
10.04 Nora Struthers & the Party Line
10.18 Poor Old Shine (CD release)
10.25 Tim Easton, John Dugan

Fridays @ Central Station
DJ Eric B.

Fridays @ the Comedy Zone
10.04 Judah Friedlander
10.11 Tom Green
10.18 Nephew Tommy
10.25 Bobby Kite

Fridays @ UpStage
10.04 7:30pm Improv Charlotte
Comedy Show (+ dinner service)
10.11 Mon Frere Presents: All for One
and Whatever - the Highly Anticipated
Revival

Fridays @ Sullivan's Steakhouse
"Beer & Beats" w.resident DJ Selector E
(Eric Brayman)

Fri., Oct. 4th @ Espada Bicycles / Custom
GONZO solo exhibition "Derivations" (something that naturally develops or is developed from something else)

Fri., Oct. 4th @ NoDa Brewery
7pm 7th Annual Beards BeCAUSE "Clean Shaven" kickoff + music by Derek Murray (benefitting the Battered Women's Shelter)

Fri., Oct. 4th @ Finz (Matthews)
Perfect Strangers

Fri., Oct. 4th @ Puckett Studio
9pm new work by William Puckett + music by Little Bull Lee, Jesse Clasen (of HRVRD), the Bear Romantic

Fri., Oct. 11th @ Winedown (Harrisburg)
Perfect Strangers

Fri., Oct. 11th @ the Double Door
Eilen Jewell

Fri., Oct. 18th @ Snug Harbor
Temperance League

Fri., Oct. 18th @ Amici's (Concord)
Perfect Strangers

Saturdays in October

Saturdays on www.PMCRadio.org
1-5am Nightly DJ Jason Michael

Saturdays @ the Roxbury
DJ Jody

Saturdays @ Book Buyers
10am "Story Hour" (for ages 3-5)

Saturdays @ www.CharlotteHaunts.net
7pm Riding Ghost Tours
8pm Haunted Pub Riding Tour

Saturdays @ the Double Door
10.05 the Coal Men, Reagan Boggs
10.19 the Loudermilks, Leadville
Social Club, John Howie, Jr., Rosewood Bluff

Saturdays @ Bistro La Bon
"Alter Ego Saturdays" w.DJ that Guy Smitty

Saturdays @ Tyber Creek Pub
DJ Wiiz Kid (Steve Warwick)

Saturdays in Charlotte
2pm www.TourDeFood.net

Saturdays @ the Common Market (Plaza-Midwood)
10am-1pm Farmers Market w.the Farm at Dover Vineyards
PM 10.26 Annual Halloween Fiasco

Saturdays @ Central Station
DJ Eric B., BethAnn Phetamine, Bella Nichole-Dior Jade

Saturdays @ Amos'
10.05 www.Singlecell.us Presents:
"Purgatory 54 : Danse Macabre 5 feat. Lechter, Aesthetic, Nemesis, Djinn, the Nitechylde, Danny Phoenix, Satan Herself & much more
10.16 www.ZaliPresents.com Matt Nathanson

Saturdays @ the Comedy Zone
10.05 Judah Friedlander
10.12 Tom Green
10.19 Nephew Tommy
10.26 Bobby Collins

Saturdays @ the Evening Muse
10.05 Chris Trapper, Archie Powell & the Exports, Elim Bolt
10.12 Easter Island, Garlic City
10.19 Case Conrad
10.26 the Broadcast

Saturdays @ the Haunted Mill
www.Singlecell.us Presents: "L'Art Pour L'Art : Wicked Nightmare" feat. Torch SCP, Dave Harlequin, Ecchi

Saturdays @ Dharma
10.05 Dubtribe Sound System, Nat Eichler, Chuck Martin
10.12 Cyantific, Tony Dubz, Will Love, BZ, Yellow Fever, Mojo-T, Masta Flex

Sat., Oct. 5th @ Symphony Park
11am-7pm "Great Grapes!" www.UncorkTheFun.com

Sat., Oct. 5th @ the Belk Theater
Indigo Girls

Sat., Oct. 5th @ Ballantyne Village
the 4th Annual Cigar Festival of the Carolinas www.LiteUpCharlotte.com
benefitting Beds for Kids

Sat., Oct. 5th @ Bathtub Gin (Mooresville)
Analog Daze

Sat., Oct. 5th @ Madison's Coffee House (Indian Trail)
"Cup of Humor" feat. comics: Darryl Smith, Rob McDonald, Roxanne McDonald, James Dugan, Ed Fox

Sat., Oct. 5th @ Tremont
Antiseen 30th Anniversary, the Meatmen, the Hookers

Sat., Oct. 5th in downtown Kannapolis
1-5pm www.KannapolisArts.com

Sat., Oct. 5th @ Four Friends Brewery
Grand Opening feat.the Wiggle Wagons, gogoPilot (+ Brixx mobile pizza oven)

Sat., Oct. 12th @ Lowe's
Motorspeedway
Sprint Cup Series

Sat., Oct. 12th in Plaza-Midwood
the Annual Chili-Cookoff (benefitting Hospice) www.PMCCookoff.com

Sat., Oct. 12th @ the Park Expo & Conference Center
9-5 www.CEGunShows.com (\$10)

Sat., Oct. 12th @ Freeman's Pub (Gastonia)
Analog Daze

Sat., Oct. 12th @ Theatre Charlotte
7pm Charlotte Improv Musical Variety Show the Chuckleheads Celebrates 6 years. + comedy & prizes

Sat., Oct. 12th @ the Blake Hotel
9am-5pm "Fresh Expo" www.theFreshExpo.com

Sat., Oct. 12th @ the Visulite
Justin Wells, Unknown Hinson

Sat., Oct. 19th @ the Fillmore
Ben Rector

Sat., Oct. 19th @ Metrolina Expo
www.DixieGunAndKnifeShow.com

Sat., Oct. 19th @ the ZMax Dragway
www.HeroRush.com/NC Obstacle Race

Sat., Oct. 19th @ the Party Pedaler
7pm the Note Art Show of Musical Sculpture by Colleen Galeazzi

Sat., Oct. 19th @ 145 Club (Winnsboro)
the Game Face Blues Band (feat. Richard Johnson & Etta Lea)

Sat., Oct. 19th @ the Chop Shop
Radio Rehab Presents: PETE ROCK & CL SMOOTH, Camp Lo & more

Sat., Oct. 19th @ the Neighborhood Theatre
the New Potato Caboose

Sat., Oct. 26th @ the Booth Playhouse
Dylan Moran

Sat., Oct. 26th @ the Highland Mills Lofts
NoDaWeen Festival w.vendors, music & beer from Birdsong, NoDa & Heist

Sat., Oct. 26th Charlotte www.JunkRescue.com

8am-1pm "Junk Sale" 1.800.JUNK.911
Sat., Oct. 26th @ Coyote Joe's
"the Back Yard Jam" feat. Justin
Moore, Chris Stapleton, & Out of the
Blue

Sat., Oct. 26th @ Heroes Aren't Hard
to Find
10am-4pm "Pop Swap" w.records,
toys, comics & more

SPECIAL OR MULTIPLE DAY EVENTS

- THRU Oct. 5th @ Actor's Theatre of
Charlotte : "Bloody, Bloody Andrew
Jackson"
- "Flight of the Butterflies" @ www.
DiscoveryPlace.org in IMAX
- Fridays & Saturdays @ 316 DJ Jay-R
- Mon-Thurs @ Dilworth
Neighborhood Grille : Kids Eat Free
(w.purchase of one adult entree)
- Saturdays in Charlotte : Learn to
Compost : different locations each
time / workshop www.WipeOutWaste.
com
- Nightly at Central Station : Coby Lee
massage \$5 / 10 minutes
- Sat., Oct. 5th & Sun., Nov. 3rd @
Reedy Creek Park 2pm "Eco Race"
- THRU Oct. 3rd @ Shain Gallery
: "Introductions" (five new artists:
Kelley Brugh, Karen Hollingsworth,
Lynn Johnson, Sydney Licht, Adele
Sypesteyn) : opening 6:30pm Sept.
13th
- Oct. 2nd-6th @ Time Warner Cable
Arena : Disney on Ice "Let's Celebrate"
- Thurs., Oct. 3rd (7pm) & Sun., Oct.
6th (3pm) : Shakespeare Carolina
Presents: "Frankenstein" @ UpStage
- Oct. 3rd - Nov. 11th @ CPCC :
"Forged Landscapes" by Sharon Dowell
& Ahmad Sabha (Oct. 24th 12pm
Sharon Dowell artist lecture in Ross
Gallery / Oct. 29th 12pm in AU 011
Ahmad Sabha ceramic workshop)
- Oct. 5th-Nov. 24th Renaissance
Fest. www.RoyalFairies.com / www.
RenFestInfo.com
- Fri., Oct. 11th & Sat., Oct. 12th @
the Fillmore : "Burlesque : Strip Strip
Hooray" feat. Dita Von Teese
- Oct. 6th-18th Renaissance Fest www.
RenFestInfo.com
- THRU Nov. 3rd @ the Mint Museum
: "New Eyes on America : the Genius of
Richard Caton WOODVILLE"
- THRU October 12th @ the Harvey B.
Gantt Center : www.WellsFargo.com/
KinseyCollection : Shared Treasures of

Bernard & Shirley Kinsey

- Oct. 18th-19th www.
CharlotteBBQandBlues.com
- Oct. 19th, 24th & 27th @ Belk
Theater : www.OperaCarolina.org
Presents: Verdi's "Aida"
- THRU Oct. 21st Fire in the
City Competition Dining www.
CompetitionDining.com (different
places each time; including Carpe
Diem, Heist, Cowfish & more)
- THRU Oct. 20th @ the Light Factory
: "Cue the Sun" (BeHailu Academy)
(opening reception 6-8pm Fri., Oct.
18th)
- Oct. 30th-Nov. 3rd @ Booth
Playhouse : www.MovingPoets.org
Present: "RE[LOADED]" + "the Left
Foot Smile" & "Three"
- THRU Dec. 29th @ the Mint Museum
(Randolph) : the American Art Tile
- THRU Dec. 31st @ the Mint Museum
(Randolph) : Threads of Identity (attire
of the people of Mexico & Guatemala)
- THRU Jan. 2014 at www.
MintMuseum.org Randolph : "Elegance
& Ease" feat. designs by Dior, Balmain,
Saint Laurent

TRAVEL TO EVENTS

- Tweetsie Railroad : Oct. 4th, 5th,
11th, 12th, 18th, 19th "Ghost Train
Halloween Festival" - www.Tweetsie.
com
- THRU October www.NCZoo.org /
Asheboro : "Dinosaurs"
- Oct. 3rd-5th North Myrtle Beach
www.SCStateHOGRRally.com
- Fri., Oct. 4th 7pm 14th Annual
Pawley's Island Wine Gala www.
PayleysMusic.com
- Sat., Oct. 5th www.BlueRidgePRIDE.
com
- Sat., Oct. 5th @ Eastern Radiologists
(Greenville) : Benefit Ride for the Cure
& Car Show
- Sat., Oct. 5th @ the HOB (Myrtle) :
Pure Cult (a Cult Tribute), the Stike-o-
matics, Danny "the Pit Bull" Thompson
& more
- Oct. 9th-20th www.SCStateFair.org
- Oct. 11th-13th Weekend Two of the
www.ACLFestival.com @ Zilker Park
feat. the Cure, Depeche Mode, Lionel
Richie, Kaskade, D.Angelo, Kings of
Leon, the Jon Spencer Blues Explosion
& many many more
- Oct. 11th-13th @ www.
RockinghamDragway.com Jim
McClure Nitro Nationals

- Oct. 12th-13th & 19th-20th The
Annual Georgia Apple Festival
+ Arts & Crafts Show @ Ellijay
Lions Club Fairgrounds www.
GeorgiaAppleFestival.org (Sat Antique
Car Show / Sun Parade)
- Oct. 12th-13th www.AtlantaPride.
org
- Oct. 15th-19th NYC www.CMJ.com
- Oct. 17th-20th New York City : New
York City Wine & Food Festival www.
NYCWFF.org
- Oct. 24th-26th New York City :
Wine Spectator's 33rd Annual www.
WSWineExperience.com
- Oct. 25th & 26th Columbia, SC
: "Cola-Con : Hip-Hop, Comics &
Culture" feat. the Foreign Exchange,
Dead Prez & many more
- Fri., Oct. 25th @ Gallery 102
(Lancaster) Donny Pines, the Bone
Diggers, Robin Zarvada
- Oct. 25th - 27th Asheville, NC www.
MountainOasisFestival.com feat. Nine
Inch Nails, Pretty Lights, Bassnectar &
many more
- Oct. 26th in Lexington www.
BarbequeFestival.com
- THRU Nov. 1st Hiddenite, NC @ the
Hiddenite Center - the work of Jerry
Kirk

To see your event on this list,
email it to:

ellen.gurley@mycitymagazine.net.

And, as always, the

www.MyCityMagazine.net website
has a full venue listing to correspond
with the events above.

Thank you. @mycitycharlotte
(704)575-6611

Contributors



John Hairston, Jr., Cover Illustrator - John Hairston, Jr. has been an artist for as long as he can remember. A North Carolina native, he created art before he could read or write. Throughout his grade school years, he spent the majority of his time drawing superheroes and listening to any old soul or hip hop records he could get his hands on. Little did he know that his love for all things spandex-clad and funky would play such a major role in his development as an artist. Under the guidance of his high school mentors and college professors, he learned to tap into these components to create a style of artwork that seamlessly blends political satire, social commentary and obscure pop-culture references. Hairston graduated from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Illustration and began his career as a professional artist illustrating storyboards for a string of independent films and several television ads. He has done commissioned pieces for numerous art collectors and various non-profit organizations. Hairston's work is currently on display in various art galleries all over the East Coast and Charlotte, NC.



Ellen Gurley, Columnist/Sales/Owner - Ellen Gurley has been in media and journalism (and sales in both advertising and marketing for print), web and radio for over fifteen years. She brings to the table a relationship-based approach on partners and team members.

A dedication to all things local and better choices for entertainment have brought this poet, artist and DJ and her brain child to the market, MY CITY Magazine with a crew of amazing peers, all experts in their field. Enthusiastic is an understatement when describing this woman.



Austin Caine, Photographer - Austin Caine has been capturing souls for well over ten years, with a passion for photography that consistently drives him to outshine his own work. From his humble beginnings as "that annoying guy always taking pictures" at his friends' parties to a respected artist working with numerous talents within the entertainment and fashion industries. There's no telling where his incredible photographic journey will land him next. He enjoys being immersed in the moment and has developed a keen eye for freezing those intense fleeting images that define our most memorable experiences. The most important thing to remember about Austin is that he is a perfectionist and (should you have the chance to grace his lens) he will make certain you absolutely love the photo before he'll let you out of his sights!



Mandi English, Columnist - Mandi is a salon owner, hair stylist and make-up artist with twenty years of experience working in the fashion print, wedding and beauty education industry. Her personal passion lies in a mindful movement towards achieving a healthy and balanced life. Mandi's not an easy gal to keep up with. On any given week, you will find her making over clients at her salon in Plaza-Midwood, styling models in Carolina Place Studio for Belk ecommerce and other freelance beauty opportunities, making brides more beautiful, throwing events with other local businesses, working at her kids' school, gardening at her Country Club Heights home, doing yoga at one of her frequent haunts, making dinner with veggies from said garden for said kids, crafting jewelry and fashions from cool finds and generally wishing there were a few more hours added to the day for more fun projects. Bottom-line, this lady is all about living well, treating the body and the planet right and looking your best while doing it.

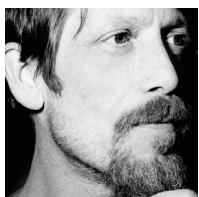


Liz Eagle, Columnist/Sales - As an NC native, Liz Eagle is an enthusiast of all things Charlotte. This includes, but is not limited to: local beer, neighborhood associations, the uptown vs. downtown quandary, greenways, hating University, Jack Beagles, mothers who think they should be in the pilot episode of "Real Housewives of Mecklenburg County", art markets, alley shows at Common Market, and an endless supply of free events to attend.

Being wife to a handsome young buck, momma bear to two lively little ones, president of an unassuming neighborhood and tender of a lively local bar, have lead Liz to love and thrive in this city, hoping to leave it better than she found it and to find humor in all of Charlotte's nuances.



Seth Peagler, Columnist - In 2003, Seth Peagler received a B.A. in English from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. Like all good English degree-holders, he spent much of his twenties looking for creative ways to use said degree. In between odd jobs of teaching at after school programs, delivering phone books, and cleaning carpets, he wrote lots of songs and poems, and played in numerous bands around the the state. In 2007, he landed a job at Heroes Aren't Hard to Find, Charlotte's biggest and best-loved comic shop. In addition to managing Heroes' warehouse, Seth also acts as a contributing writer to the Heroes Blog, and is an organizer of the annual Heroes Convention. A native Charlottean, Seth happily lives here with his wife Heather and dog Faith. You can read weekly musings about comics at www.heroesonline.com.



Alex Barnette, Webmaster - Alex Barnette loves selling things online, print work, small business, clean websites and consulting with new and existing companies on the business process. He spends his time 'tweaking' bleepy noises on his computer, brushing-up beautiful images, and 'raging' at the "DJ show" (where he performs sporadically around Charlotte).



Kat Sweet, Designer - There's hardly a moment that goes by that Kat Sweet isn't involved in some form of art. She graduated from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Painting, but spends most of her time coding websites and creating ads for print. She's been sewing and crafting since she was old enough to hold a glue gun, and baking casseroles holds a special place in her heart. Kat is also a single mother of a fantastic little lady who is her best friend and awesome sidekick. When she's not stuck in front of a computer or hunched over an art project, you can find her riding bicycles around town with her club, RTA.

Check out some of our upcoming Events!

10/1 - iStandard producer Showcase

10/4 - **DR3AM5 #2 - Cosmic Voyage** - EDM Fest.

10/7 - **Taproot** - Righteous Vendetta, Tattermask, Bluavenue, Absolute Convixtion

10/8 - **Beard & Moustache Club of NC Monthly Meeting**

10/12 - **Orgy**/Astrid Haven - **SiHC-or-Treat**

10/15 - **Beats Antique**

10/18 - **Congo Relief Benefit**

10/19 - **Pete Rock and CL Smooth** - Mecca & the Soul Brother Tour

10/25 - **King Los** - Zero Gravity Tour 2 w/Mark Battles

10/26 - **The Mantras** - w/ Bubonik Funk and Stamper

10/28 - **Kurt Vile and the Violators** w/ Beach Fossils

10/29 - **Coast 2 Coast** - artist Showcase

10/30 - Kids like you and Me - A film documenting the Black Lips tour of the Middle East

10/31 - **Halloween Party** - Dress like your favorite musician/band!

Featuring: **St. Paul & the Broken Bones** covering Otis Redding's "Otis Blue"

11/1 - **The Black Lips**

Coming Soon:

Junior Brown, Papadosio,

Dopapod, **Bauer**,

Mid Atlantic Music Conference,

Matrimony, Bob Schneider,

Bro Safari, Torro Torro,

CRNKN, and more!

Check out more events - Get more info:

CHOPSHOPNODA.COM

399 E. 35th ST.
28205

