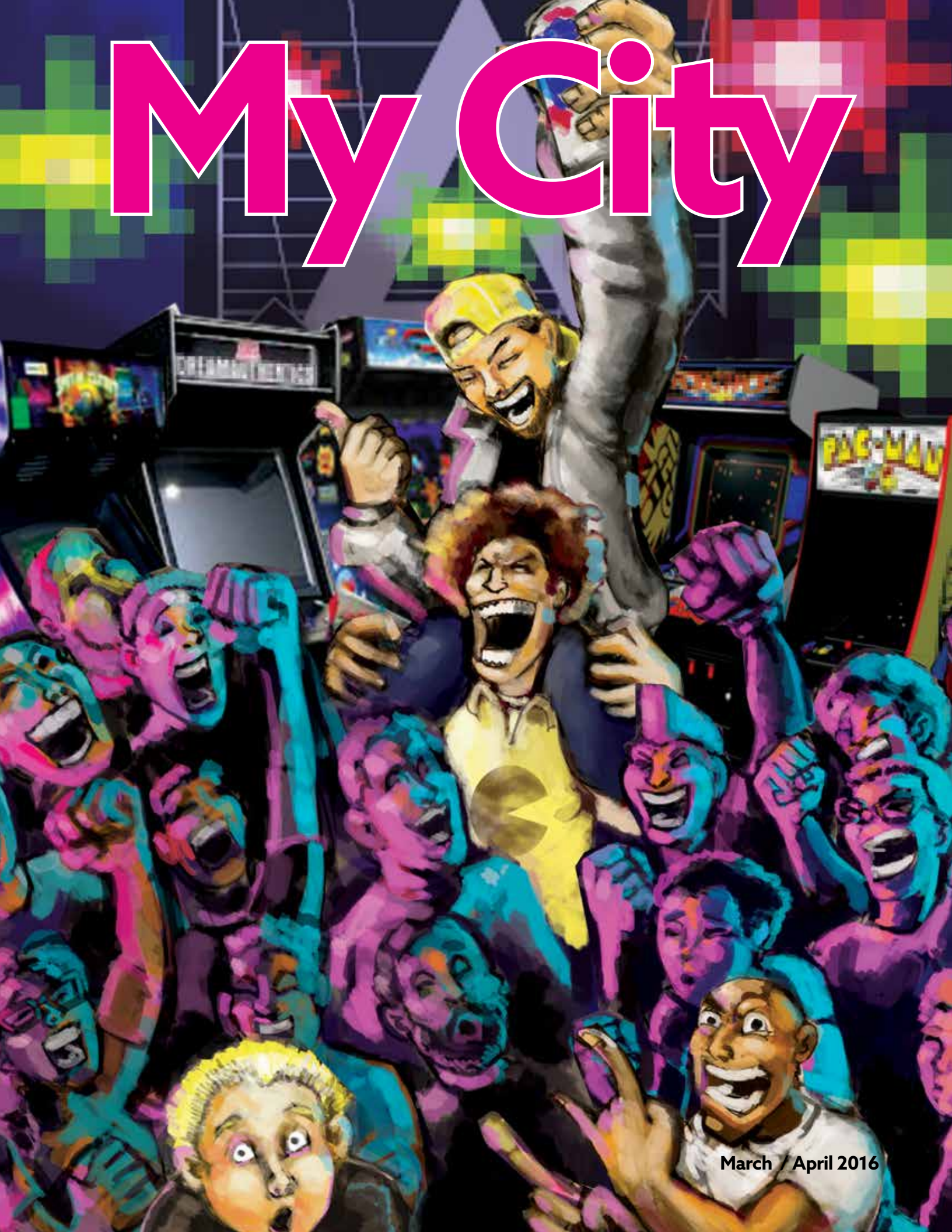


My City



March / April 2016

Letter From The Editor

Hi Charlotte,

Happy Spring. Thanks for picking up this copy of My City Magazine. In this edition, Martin “the Clown” Barry brings us his advice column and his comic strip “Micro Monsters” as he celebrates his last year as announcer of the CharlotteRollerGirls.com. Our music writer, Becky, gives us not one, not two, but three articles reviewing the following bands: the Commonwealth, Hollowborn, Sticky Bandits, Van Huskins, Dust & Ashes, AND the Ghosts of Bannockburn. We are pleased to announce the opening of Abari Game Bar, Amanda talks to the Charlotte Beer Babes, and we check out Reincarnated Roadkill by Corey McGovern. Read along as locals sing the praises of Johnny Moss and as we keep up with Kacie Smagacz’s Move that Dough, and the mom and pop Zone 7 Foods. We also give you a sneak peek at some events happening the next two months.

We hope you enjoy this issue and thank you for reading. Don’t forget to check out the exhaustive event listing on MyCityMagazine.net and subscribe to our weekly newsletter.

Enjoy today and every day,
Ellen Gurley and the other My City Magazine personalities



Ellen Gurley

MyCityMagazine.net

P.O. Box 5606
Charlotte, NC 28299

704.575.6611

Twitter: mycitycharlotte

Instagram: mycitymagazinecharlotte

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Media kits with advertising information can be obtained by contacting ellen.gurley@mycitymagazine.net

Cover illustration by: John Hairston, Jr. Hire him for your next commission or event (he does live art). john.hairston@mycitymagazine.net (This cover is www.AbariGameBar.com)

www.MyCityMagazine.net

P.O. Box 5606 | Charlotte, NC 28299 | 704.575.6611

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Behind My City



Alex Barnette
Designer



Amanda Dickinson
Columnist



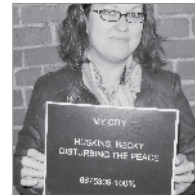
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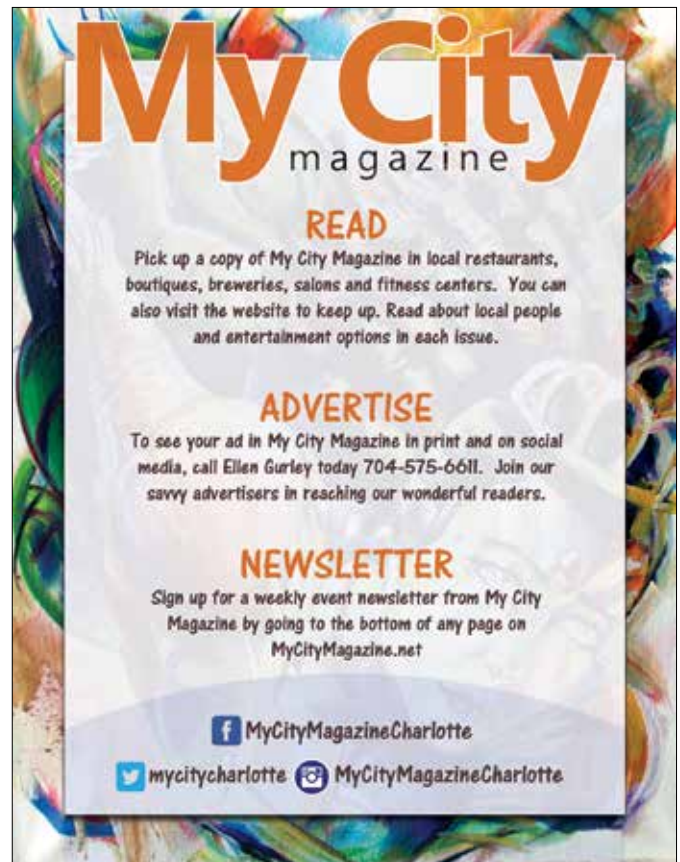
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Ask The Clown

Advice from Martin "The Clown" Barry



Q

Dear Clown,

My friends are using crowd funding sites to finance things they want to do rather than to support a cause or build a business. I think this is wrong. What do you think?

Sincerely,
Earning My Way

A

Dear Earning,

I share your opinion here. Crowdfunding has been used to finance movies, build or start businesses, and collect for causes quite well, but financing a personal trip is not the wisest use of the platform. You may wish to advise your friends to add incentives per dollar amount for what they are trying to accomplish. This way, those contributing get a little return on the investment. They could do anything from provide original art work to washing a car. It will make both parties feel better about it in the end.

Wishing you well-earned experiences,
The Clown

Q

Dear Clown,

I am a live in caretaker for my aunt. She is healthy enough to get around the house, but she cannot drive nor do heavy chores. I have taken on these duties. I have a bit of trouble with the way she has begun to hang on to certain items, though. Her room is filling up with newspapers and magazines that she will not allow me to move or discard. I was not aware of this until the collection filled the space under her bed and in one closet. Now the items are stacked on the floor. Help?

A

Sincerely,
Fear of an Avalanche

Dear Avalanche,

As we may see on television, hoarding can be a psychological problem. Something is missing for the hoarder, so they fill the hole with objects that make them feel secure. Your aunt will likely need to get some sort of help to modify this behavior. To keep this from getting worse, I advise cancellation of all magazine and newspaper subscriptions and perhaps acquisition of an e-reader so that your aunt can still read her regular publications. Serving irony and safety,
The Clown

Do you have a question for The Clown? Write him at Martin@MyCityMagazine.net

Q

Dear Clown,

Why?

Sincerely,
Curious

A

Dear Curious,

Why not?

Kindest regards,
The Clown

Abari Game Bar is Now Open

Words & Pics By Ellen Gurley

Oh, it's ON like Donkey Kong. Abari Game Bar is finally opening its doors for business in NoDa (just shy of the neighbourhood breweries) and My City Magazine and it's staff couldn't be more excited. This anticipation isn't just due to the fact we all lead very empty lives and need more entertainment options to fill the void. It's because we are all nerds and have it bad for nostalgia. Whether a person is born in the '70's or 2007, they love video games from the past. We can all now stop daydreaming about it and go to our place, the place where we belong: Abari.





There are less than a handful of these bar / video game concepts on the east coast and we can now boast having one of our very own right here in Charlotte. Not only do they have a dozen pinball machines and twenty some old school video games but they have eight taps. One of these taps will always be dedicated to Pabst Blue Ribbon and the other seven will feature beers from regional craft breweries. To add to the madness, they will have a liquor license and a full bar.

When I left the owner Zach Pulliman and his brother, they were researching food trucks, entertaining ideas for private parties and figuring out the console gaming set-ups. Rumour also has it that there will be a donut shop opening next door. So grab your piggy bank and meet me at Abari. Respect the machines as these are amazing gems from history. Now go have some fun.

1721 N. Davidson Street, 28205
980.430.4587, www.AbariGameBar.com

Johnny Moss

By Ellen Gurley

Charlotte's (punk and rock) music scene is very much so old school in that there are street teams, flyers, posters, and good old self promotion. Though this isn't just limited to that one genre, it is very much so more prevalent within that vein. Right in the center of that movement is Johnny Moss (embracing fully the digital age and dedicating many hours a day to this effort). He actively shows off his own groups (Dirty South Revolutionaries - which are very much so the author's speed - and T.Cutter - whose name said author refuses to type out in it's entirety



but whose events she proudly puts on her event listing - abbreviated as such) AND dedicates countless hours pushing EVERYONE ELSE'S BAND IN TOWN.

This month, My City Magazine would like to shine a light on the humble and hard working Johnny Moss (devoted father, doting husband, music venue bouncer, and homegrown business man). Just take the attention, dad. (He is often referred to as dad, endearingly, as he is often the one to turn to and look up to on top of also being an actual parent.)

Someone who has been on the receiving end of Moss' promotion and protection, Gideon Smith has to say about Johnny that he "is a really cool guy with a lot of heart and a big love for music. Not only does he work tirelessly on his own music (and it's awesome), but he works to spread the word on all kinds of bands across the map every single day. It takes a great amount of genuineness, effort, and time to do what he does. Mad respect and props to Moss, I really admire that individual."

While Johnny often finds himself overwhelmed with everything on his plate he does it with a smile and with selflessness. If you ask Johnny, he says if you want to know what it's like to be him "imagine having an above average IQ, anxiety about everything, intermittent explosive disorder" (didn't I mention the punk thing) "and finding yourself constantly surrounded by social injustice". I say, to learn more about that, listen to the lyrics in DSR.

I asked Tiff Tantrum of local band No Anger Control what she thinks of the man and the legend and she had this to say. "Johnny Moss looks out for all musicians and bands, not only in Charlotte, but pretty much all over the country. He loses sleep and sanity to help us live our dreams. I've literally seen him play a set, and then put on his work shirt for the venue, and clean up the stage after the show. He is literally part of everything; booking, playing, bouncing, and anything and everything in between. He's the true definition of DIY, and he's making sure we are all a part of it. Chris Peigler would be proud to see that what he started is being continued through Moss, and many of those around him."

To get to know the father and the husband, you have to get in that inner circle. I just know him as the master cross promoter and rocker. I personally see him as the glue that holds the scene together, you should get to know him on stage. That's just my two cents.





Move That Dough

By Ellen Gurley

I met a young, soft spoken beauty with some homegrown ideas. Kacie Smagacz got the itch for Move that Dough long before she caught my eye and I came to discover that baking is in her blood. She even named her recently acquired mobile pastry truck, Franny Lu, after someone that inspired her. "My grandmother Fran taught me the very basic of baking, the precision of measuring, and the patience that it takes."

Known for her vegan donuts that won't increase your chances of heart disease (like others), how can you not love her ... with your whole heart? "Love takes time" is her motto when you have to wait for the yeast to rise. Patience, spontaneity, and roots all played a part in this venture. Kacie is backed all the way by her close friends, her partner, Phillip Gripper, who has entrepreneur written all over him, too (don't worry, My City promises to keep an eye on him for you), and so many people in the community. Join us in enjoying wholesome sweets and supporting wonderful people with love in their hearts and their treats.

Franny Lu (her travco) was obtained and converted with the intention of solely running off of solar energy. Brilliant! Kacie says "my menu will offer high quality, healthy, baked goods that are without animal byproducts. There is a demand for more vegan options and I am just responding to that need. Move that Dough thrives off of networking. She has partnered with Queen City Forward, Cassee Cunningham of www.AShortWalkHome.com, and UNCC on projects. She aims to continue to work with area non-profits. "I plan to be very social with the goal to use real food to impacts those around me."



- Order her cookies, scones, love-filled cakes, and her soon-to-be nothing less than famous donuts (and yes, she delivers) on her indiegogo. <https://www.indiegogo.com/projects/move-that-dough-baking-co#/> .
- Contact her at: movethatdoughbakingco@gmail.com.
- See videos showing her making some of her creations set to local music. https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=ufWT_h68M0E <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=xEeKK62QwMg>
- Keep up with Move that Dough on Instagram @movethatdoughbakingco
- Like them@ Facebook: <https://Facebook/MoveThatDoughBakingCo> .
- Move That Dough pop-ups including a pastry that is infused with Belgian Wit (with coriander, lemon peel, and thyme) from Birdsong Brewery on March 3rd @ Birdsong in the evening and on March 6th @ the Broken Spoke : 11am-3pm.



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Micro Monsters

by Martin Barry



Events In Your City

By Ellen Gurley

My City Magazine has the most exhaustive event listing in town. We kid you not and we know that we do as we've seen all of the rest. Why go to all the websites when you can go to just one and see the only go-to event listing in town? Subscribe to the weekly event newsletter while you are there. You can do this at the bottom of any page. We spend a lot of time on our list and want you to be able to enjoy it. We no longer have room to list all four pages of events that we normally run in our print edition but we urge you to go to MyCityMagazine.net and subscribe today.

Here are just a few events in the Charlotte area for the months of March and April 2016:

Tues., March 22nd @ Knight Theater

Joe Satriani

Thurs., March 24th @ Knight Theater

Black Violin

Mon., March 28th @ Belk Theatre

Moody Blues

Sat., April 9th @ Amos'

www.SingleCell.us Presents:

Purgatory #69 Pivels : 14th Anniversary

Sun., April 17th @ Knight Theater

Cirque Mechanics Pedal Punk

Saturdays @ Grady Cole Center

www.CharlotteRollerGirls.com

3.05 vs. Greensboro (double header)

4.02 All-Stars vs. DC Rollergirls All-Stars / B-Dazzlers vs. Piedmont Riot

March 25th-27th @ Sheraton Hotel

www.MadMonsterParty.com feat. Chyna, Linda Blair (the Exorcist), Billy Mosley (the Devil's Rejects), Derek Mears (Friday the 13th), James Duval (Donnie Darko) & more

April 1st & 2nd @ Knight Theater

www.CharlotteSymphony.org Pops Presents: Bond & Beyond

Saturdays on www.WFNZ.com 610 AM Sports

Franchise Radio:

8-11am Ray Terry's About Your House Radio

1st Saturdays a month 10-11am

www.MyCityMagazine.net 's Ellen Gurley

3.05 Leisure McCorkle (Senior Research Fellow at www.LEVYNA.com @ Masaryk University, co-founder of the Crank Mafia social club, director of Velotribe & member of the Charlotte Spokes people) on sports psychology & more

4.02 John Morehead of the Fish Factory (from www.Pottery-101.com in Salisbury)

April 3th @ the Mint Museum (uptown)

Viva Mocshino (Franco Moschino's - Italian fashion designer: his work from 1983-1994)

April 19th-24th @ Belk Theater

Beautiful - the Carole King Musical

Events on our website include: sports (for January & February: Checkers, Hornets, Panthers), activities, live music, plays, poetry readings, book signings, comedy, theatre, symphony, opera, dance, museums, art, philanthropy, trade & interest shows, radio, festivals, dance music, DJs, burlesque, karaoke, speakers, film, fashion & so much more. Here are just a few for this issue. Go to MyCityMagazine.net and subscribe today.

Ghosts of Bannockburn

Review by Becky Huskins

Photos: Elizabeth Perkins



Manchester United was on the telly. Pints of Guinness were on the bar. As the sounds of a sad traditional fiddle began to play, the crowds immediately began to woot. No, this isn't Liverpool, Galway, or Glasgow. It was RiRa Irish Pub and Ghosts of Bannockburn were tuning up for their first set on a cold night back in January.

Will Lewis, lead singer and lead guitarist for Ghosts, is definitely the fighting spirit of this band. Several years ago, he and Gene Mackall (drummer) and Bryant "Train" Nash (bassist) were in another Charlotte psycho-billy band called Slick Shift. That band broke up and then years later added on acoustic guitarist Simon Strivelli and fiddler Chris "PK" Chaney to form Ghosts. I could definitely hear the hard-rocking roots of every guy's band history here. It's comes across as a kick-butt folk rock and punk fusion that is not quite

like anything you've heard.

Every guy in the band has traceable roots all the way back across the pond to Scotland (some even over thousands of years). When you see the kilts and hear the voices, you won't have any trouble believing it. Formed back in 2013, the band takes its name from a famous battle in the 13th century while the Scots were working to win their freedom from the English. Many of the songs played by Ghosts of Bannockburn are based on Celtic battle poems and some are from the Irish Republican Army. These songs are public domain and have been covered by many modern bands like The Pogues, Dropkick Murphys, The Dubliners, and Flogging Molly. What this creates is a huge catalog of very recognizable sing-along songs perfect for an Irish pub like RiRa.

Songs like "Scottish Soldier" and "Drunken Sailor" have literally been performed for centuries, but these guys put a modern spin (on it) that really makes you want to celebrate. They even performed "500 Miles" by the '90's group The Proclaimers and all I wished was that my son was old enough to stay up that late to hear it.



And did you know there was such a thing as pirate rock? Me, neither, but I was a believer after I heard "Keelhauled", a cover by a pirate metal band called Alestorm. All I can say is, aaaaarrrrghhh! For a moment, I wasn't sure if I was in the middle of that old Scottish battle, a Sam Adams commercial, or the start of a rough-and-tumble rugby match. One thing was for sure ... it was fun!

As if a siren call of Celtic music was sounding out through the doors, the bar got more and more full as the band played through their sets. There was a lot of swaying with pint glasses, boot tapping, and even a few guys and girls Irish jigging it.

And I defy anyone to not get the song "Will Ye Nae Come Back Again?" stuck in your head for days. I'm just sayin. In talking about their fascination and dedication to their roots, Gene says of Will, "he's the most Celtic guy I know".

Riding on a current high of accolades, Ghosts of Bannockburn were recently awarded the Charlotte Music Award and performed in the Novant Health Thanksgiving Day Parade in Downtown. Given all that, these "boyos" take it all in stride and look forward to their next gigs and having fun with their friends and fans. Look for a new album available at all of their live shows this spring.

UPCOMING SHOWS

- Thurs., March 17th @ J McCrosky's (Hickory) (the most sacred of all the Celtic holidays: St. Patrick's Day)
- Friday, March 18th @ RiRa
- Sat., April 16th @ Historic Rural Hill (Huntersville) at the Loch Norman Highland Games



Zone 7 Foods

By Ellen Gurley

My City Magazine's favourite type of businesses to push on you are mom and pops. This particular one (Chris and Emily Russell) are the epitome of the balancing act with a blended family, a budding business in Zone 7 Foods, and an invested interest in the community. I met them at the NoDa Farmers Market one Saturday and have since shared air time with them at WFNZ. I have raved on their breads and inhaled their chili. I literally can't say enough good about these folks.

Zone 7 Foods is serving up pizza, soups, and TV dinners that you can take home and enjoy and let's face it - wanting convenience doesn't have to be an ugly (American) thing. Being busy is just the way it is. They are just catering to that demand while using ingredients from regional, sustainable farms to make their amazing and ready-to-go meals. You can't go wrong with their use of sustainable meats, cheeses, and vegetables while they are supporting many local sources each week.

They are open Thursday and Friday from 11am-2pm and are located right behind Gus' Sir Beef (at Wendover & Monroe). They are also available Saturdays (9am-1pm inside the Neighborhood Theatre when there's bad weather and 8am-12pm in the lot beside that venue when it's nice out) at the www.NoDaFarmersMarket.com.

None of their food have fillers, dyes, emulsifiers, stabilizers, or artificial flavoring. Menu items change according to the season and some vegan options are available (they also serve up delicious things for carnivores). Check them out for yourself and we all win when we support our own region AND, of course, the mom and pops.

Zone7Foods.com
4113-A Monroe Rd.
Charlotte, NC 28205
zone7foods@gmail.com



The Commonwealth, Hollowborn, Sticky Bandits, & Van Huskins

Review by Becky Huskins

There was a three night birthday fest this past winter for local music legend, Johnny Moss. As I've mentioned before, I am on "mom duty" most evenings. That being said, I couldn't make it to all three celebrations, however I managed to make it to the final one and choosing the Sunday night show may have been the best decision. I got to catch The Commonwealth, Hollowborn, The Sticky Bandits, and Van Huskins.



First off, THE COMMONWEALTH... I just love these guys. To be honest, I pretty much dig any Simon Strivelli music project being that all of the bands he tends to be in seem to be all about working hard and having a good time. I guess that's why we call it oi, huh? To call this band anthemic is just too simple, though you honestly can't

help but sing along to songs like "Time Goes By". These guys just make me want to pogo and drink beer ... and I've never done either! Their homage to the Charlotte scene, "City I Love", would make any Queen City music lover's heart grow three sizes bigger. Check The Commonwealth's Facebook page for upcoming dates in spring and summer around Charlotte and Raleigh.



HOLLOWBORN, out of Columbia, South Carolina, describe themselves as melodic metal/dbeat. Even though it was only the third show for this band (total), I could tell they'd all been playing individually for a long time, and founding members Peyton Costill and Dwayne Dandy say they have been jamming together for "forever". All four of these guys were really good at their instruments, and I could definitely

hear the speed metal influence in their sound (think Megadeth). They cite their major influences as Skeleton Witch and Disfear. All I know was this was the kind of deep sound you feel all the way to your chest. Hollowborn will be cruising back through Charlotte later in the year.

THE STICKY BANDITS

... mmmm, mmmm, mmmm. Gastonia's own bluesy-rock band is a force all its own. Robbie Thornton, the rhythm guitarist and lead singer, brings a wild energy to the band that kinda sounds like classic rock meets garage rock. I'm not sure how else to describe it, but you can't beat a band that has a song titled "Foosball Crossroads". There's a definite roots-rock vibe that will appeal to the true southerner in you and a metal flavor that will wake up your inner head banger. Keep an ear open for their debut album coming out later this spring. (If you have a minute, ask Robbie the story about this totem-pole mic stand. You will NOT be disappointed.)

And as for VAN HUSKINS, well, just look at my last name and

you know I can't really be fair here. I will simply say they're a lot of fun to see and their song titles basically tell you all you need to know. I mean, "Suck Butt Thurston"? C'mon, people! Sheesh, I love this town!

- THE COMMONWEALTH is at The Station on April 9th.

- HOLLOWBORN will be playing March 31st at Columbia's New Brookland Tavern

- See THE STICKY BANDITS at The Nest in Gastonia on March 5th.

- Check out VAN HUSKINS on April 1st at The Dirty Hippie on South Boulevard with THE STICKY BANDITS on the same bill.



Betty, to growing up and figuring yourself out in Exit Plan. Heather Himes crafts a song as superb in its beauty as in its tragedy.

I was driving through upstate South Carolina just as the sun was setting while I listened to Bone to Pick for the first time. This record was writing my own personal Southern gothic novel with tales

of infatuation in Over the Moon right down to having just about enough with the title track in itself. By the time you finish the CD, which I suggest playing through in its entirety without shuffling to reach its full climactic impact, you will feel like you've watched a wonderfully well-crafted movie of a life.....maybe even your own.

To gain the complete sincerity of D&A is to see them live. Each woman in the group brings her own personal talent that makes these songs come alive; the sonorous flute and harmonies of Jude Salinas, the trance-like heart-beating percussion of Tiffany Goodman, Leah Erin

Dust & Ashes

Review by Becky Huskins

Photo: Graham Morrison

Confession: I have a musical crush on Dust & Ashes. To see and hear them live is truly its own reward but listening to their lush first album, Bone to Pick, made me hear more than I'd ever gotten in a club. Their style is hard to pin down, but simply calling it Americana or folk doesn't do it for this quintet. I think what moves me is the full swelling of such beautiful vocals mixed with a complicated instrumentation while telling a story; from childhood tragedies in Queen

Smith's gorgeous cello melodies, Alea Tuttles heartbreaking vocals and piercing viola all tied together by Heather Himes haunting balladeering turn these songs into moments and the moments into memories.

While Redneck Dyke has garnered enough attention and even a little radio airplay to be considered the break out hit of the record, I think my favorite would have to be Have Heart. The harmonies sound like sweet but firm marching orders: "keep your hopes high, keep your head low, keep your eyes closed, mind your manners, mind your studies, mind your mother, to church on Sunday...." Sweet lord, that song is about empowerment, but not the kind most of us women are used to hearing. Maybe it takes a group of headstrong and talented women to say the things we've all been saying to ourselves.

Put this album on your device and listen on your next drive.....maybe a couple of times. By the time you get to your destination two things will probably have happened: you will either be deeply in love with or completely over your loved one

Reincarnated Roadkill

by Corey McGovern
inspected by Ellen Gurley

Exciting, young Corey McGovern takes time off from mountain climbing, hiking, and otherwise exploring to create one-of-a-kind, regionally, sought-after Reincarnated Roadkill leather accessories. Upon her recent leave from tattooing people, she has taken to beautifying the no longer living flesh.

In a similar technique to tattooing, she creates beautiful conversation pieces. She mostly produces highly coveted soon-to-be family heirlooms while sometimes incorporating a client's family roots. Often times, she cranks out commissions with someone's favourite cult figure and she is no stranger to just doing the basic initials.

My personal favourites are a coyote messenger bag, Opossum earrings, and a Boba Fett billfold. No matter what the job, she includes a piece of herself and always wants the purchaser to be fully pleased with her product. And she doesn't disappoint. I will let the photos of her pieces speak for themselves.


* Disclaimer: All animals are delighted to live again in this art.

EMAIL: reincarnatedroadkill@gmail.com

WEB: <http://reincarnatedroadkill.com>








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Charlotte Beer Babes

Bethany Burr : Queen Bee of Charlotte Beer
by Amanda Dickinson



Charlotte Beer Babes

Michigan native, Bethany Burr moved to Charlotte and has instilled herself in our glorious craft beer scene. When she took over as leader of the Charlotte Beer Babes, Bethany wanted to stay true to the vision that had already been established in the club. The club was founded by Tracie Guild and passed on to Burr in 2014. They wanted to create an environment where women could enjoy and learn about beer without unwanted attention. Women from all over attend the meetings. Everyone from homebrewers, to newbies, to wine drinkers attend. Even Suzie Ford of NoDa Brewing has attended a meeting or two. The Beer Babes started out as a monthly meeting and has grown to include, monthly brewery visits, road trips to out of town breweries, and charity events. Just this year alone, Charlotte Beer Babes assisted in events that raised over \$58,000 for various organizations.

The biggest event that Burr is a part of is Charlotte Oktoberfest. She took over as marketing director last year and it's a huge job. Oktoberfest is one of the largest beer festivals in the southwest. Started by the Carolina BrewMasters 15 years ago, the volunteer only organization has raised over \$400,000 since its inception. This year alone, even with the terrible weather, the festival had over 4,000 people involved and was able to donate \$12,500 each to The Ada Jenkins Center, Beds For Kids, Greater Charlotte SPCA, and Operation Homefront.

Apart from the work Bethany does with the Beer Babes and Oktoberfest, she also volunteers at the USO of North Carolina. Located in the main atrium of the Charlotte Douglas International Airport, the organization provides many services for our troops and their families. The USO offers deployment and homecoming support, reading programs, family meals, computer access, emergency travel support, and numerous other services for the families of our deployed servicemen and women. The North Carolina USO receives no federal funding or financial support from the national USO. They depend solely on donations, private grants, and volunteers like Bethany to make it work.

If you are interested in The Charlotte Beer Babes, they can be found on Facebook, Twitter, and Meetup. You can always visit the webpage at www.Cltbeerbabes.wordpress.com.

Bethany lists all of the upcoming events on these pages.

Coming in April!

Kreshon

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