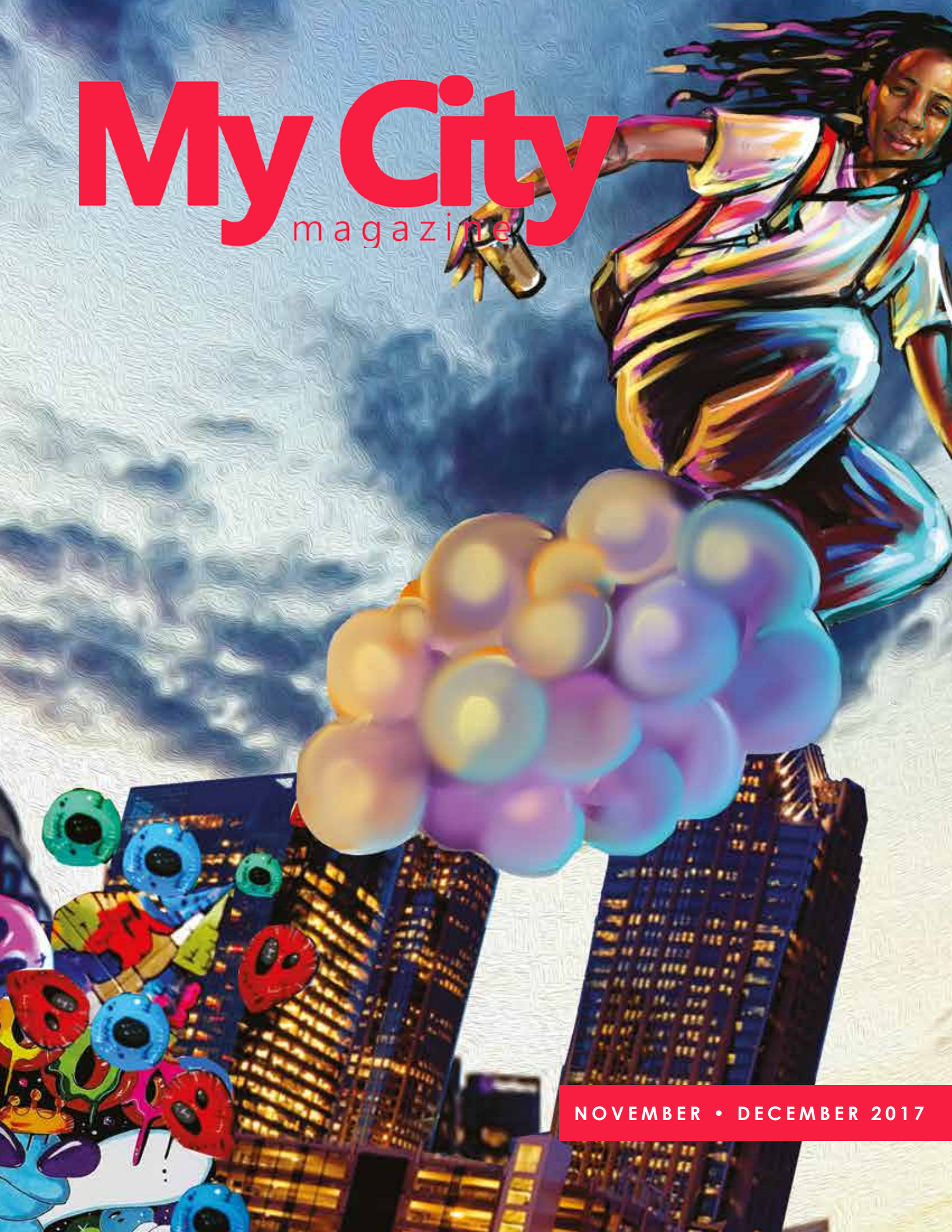


My City

magazine



NOVEMBER • DECEMBER 2017

EDITORS & CONTRIBUTORS

Grant Baldwin

photographer
infofphoto@gmail.com

Martin Barry

columnist, comic strip illustrator
martin.barry@yahoo.com

Jason Burke

creative director, web & magazine designer
jason.burke@atomicdesigncompany.com

Amanda Dickinson

columnist
ababeinbeerland@gmail.com

Ellen Gurley

owner
ellengurley@gmail.com

John Hairston, Jr.

cover illustrator
j_roderick_hairston@yahoo.com

Tommy Heffner

columnist
downlifer1900@gmail.com

Becky Huskins

columnist
beckyb1975@gmail.com

Brandon Lunsford

columnist
bdlunsford@jcsu.edu

**Mandi Murrow**

columnist
mandienglish@gmail.com

Kacie Smagacz

columnist
ohdearkacie@gmail.com

James Lee Walker II

columnist
jamesleewalkerii@gmail.com





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NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2017

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR



HI CHARLOTTE,

We hope that this issue of My City Magazine finds you holly and jolly during this season of thankfulness. Let us introduce you to Sophie Nguyen of Kitsch & Fancy and DeNeer Davis of Neer Perfection, just in time for gifting. Each installment, Martin "the Clown" Barry gives us his advice column and the comic strip, "Micro Monsters". We stroll through local business Core and meet the people behind the Hard Bop Radio Show. Also in this issue, we provide reviews for Trash Room and Jason Herring & the Mystery Plan. Check our event listing for entertainment ideas in the area. We hope you enjoy this issue and thank you for reading. Subscribe to our weekly event newsletter by emailing "subscribe" to ellengurley@gmail.com.

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

Media kits with advertising information can be obtained by contacting ellengurley@gmail.com.

Cover illustration by: John Hairston, Jr. Hire him for your next commission or event (he does live art). j_roderick_hairston@yahoo.com (This cover is of DeNeer Davis of Neer Perfection).

My City Magazine
P.O. Box 5606, Charlotte 28299
704-575-6611
ellengurley@gmail.com
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SOPHIE NGUYEN OF KITSCH AND FANCY

BY: ELLEN GURLEY



“Her body scrubs are quite popular with grounds sourced from the folks at Magnolia Coffee.”

I found Sophie Nguyen in the spring at an event vending her handmade, natural beauty products that she delightfully calls Kitsch and Fancy. Months later, I invited myself into her workspace. If it wasn't enough that she is cute as a button, her inventory is adorable, too. With names like “You're Not a Regular Mom, You're a Cool Mom”, “OMG”, “Beach Siren” and “Treat Yoself”, her gift boxes are perfect for anyone on your list.

Her studio is impeccably organized with canvases donning her own artwork and inspiration found in every corner. There are labeled tubs, as far as the eye can see, housing bath bombs, body dream oils, bath teas, blood orange lip balms, and pink Cleopatra clay masks. I felt compelled to open each of them to smell all of the bars of cucumber-mint, activated charcoal, and lemon-lavender sea clay soap. Her body scrubs are quite popular with grounds sourced from the folks at Magnolia Coffee. With the beauty market being oversaturated with wares from other entrepreneurs like herself, Nguyen says, “I try to stand out by focusing on what I have had from the beginning which IS pretty products in unique packaging.”



Be the hippest hostess around and impress the guests at any wedding or shower with Nguyen's most popular item; the mini soap favors. Spoil your friends over the holidays with her bijoux beauty bag or a handful of gold mica soaps, all the while supporting local. That's always in.



- Find Kitsch and Fancy at the www.Vintage-Charlotte.com inside Camp North End on Saturday, November 11th.



KitschAndFancy.com
 Instagram.com/KitschAndFancy
 KitschAndFancy@gmail.com
 KitschAndFancy.Etsy.com
 Facebook.com/KitschAndFancy

BILL & SAM FLEMING OF THE HARD BOP RADIO SHOW

BY: ELLEN GURLEY

Internet radio shows are pretty popular with the kids these days. It is also hip for retired folk, too, evidently. Meet Bill Fleming, the original host for the Hard Bop Radio Show. Ever since he gave up the 9-to-5, he has taken his love for all things jazz to the studio. Once a week, Bill and his son, Sam, of www.100Gardens.org fame, meet for two hours of public musical appreciation.

“he really just digs an excuse to hang out with his favourite person, his son.”

Bill makes checklists to see if a song has the components to qualify as jazz. He likes to discuss where jazz has been and in what direction it is going. He enjoys classifying and categorizing jazz, but, mostly, t

Tune in, write to them, and get involved in the discussions. The Flemings aren't just doing the show to entertain themselves. Get into it.

- Check out the Hard Pop Radio Show every Wednesday on www.PMCRadio.org from 7 to 9pm.



Jason Herring & the Mystery Plan Queensland Ballroom

--- ENTERTAINMENT & REVIEWS



BY: ELLEN GURLEY

Jason Herring & the Mystery Plan put out their fifth album this fall. Touting some of the area's most respected professionals, Queensland Ballroom is not ambient rock. It is not house music. It is not jazz. It is all of those genres and more.

The VMA really missed the mark when the video for "Electric Love" dropped. With cameos from some of Charlotte's best underground movers and shakers (plus the entire band: Otis Hughes, Jason Herring, Patty MacLaughlin, Jeff Chester, and Amy Herring), it is award winning material. <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=dexTsEciz3U&feature=youtu.be>

Combining classically trained musicians with local electronic producers is one of 10mm Omega Recordings' signature moves and with this release, Herring shows, again, his competence to staff an outfit. This album has strong strings and tempting flute throughout and it wouldn't be a true Mystery Plan project without the mood enhancing, seductive vocals. There are three versions of a fan favourite ("Vampires are Lucky") with celebrated remixers' (That Guy Smitty and Paul Jensen) hands all over them and the producer, John Fryer, is also the man

behind such acts as Depeche Mode, Black Needle Noise, Cocteau Twins, NIN, and Lush. Boast worthy. Charlotte's My City Magazine will be using this as the background music for their next dinner party. You decide what you want to set to it.

Other releases out now from 10mm Omega Recordings:

Heart of a Ghost - "Dreaming of the City" - YouTube
youtube.com/watch?v=OZWDiLuXY04

Ania - "Baby, Please" HD
youtube.com/watch?v=rJ447rcihA

Jason Herring & the Mystery Plan "Always" HD
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hHbgqfO9Aek>

Muchacho - "Bessie Mae"
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RzrEH12E13k>

Jason Herring & The Mystery Plan "Swingset" HD
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=leCS-sDWG34>

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TRASH ROOM

WHISKEY AND BAD DECISIONS

WORDS: BECKY HUSKINS

PHOTO: LAUREL STEELE

For this record review, my dear readers, you are going to have to go with me on a sentimental journey. I know that sentimental is probably not a word that you'd put with a band called Trash Room, but stay with me here. Go back with me to a smelly armory in Kings Mountain in 1993 where I saw a band called one3four. That is where I first saw Mike Beeson in a band that was exalted by many underground punks in North and South Carolina. Mike has come a long way since those college band days and had many other excellent bands to show for it, like From the Gun and Reverser, but this is a return to the first band he played in with his bass-playing-wife, Angela. See how this is getting sweet? I think it's probably also one of my favorite bands made entirely up of people that I loved before the band ever happened.

But, before you go thinking this is some kind of syrupy sweet pap, throw on the first track of Whiskey and Bad Decisions, "Words Like Daggers", and give in to its hard-driving take no prisoners grind and powerful lyrics. Singer Amber Comber has had about enough of you and she doesn't mind screaming so. Amber, the Beesons, and drummer Travis Overcash round out a sound of full-on assault on the eight track LP recorded with Brandon Hamby at Dead Peasant Studios in Elkin, NC.

Angela's raw bass opening of "Ether" and Amber's repetitive "don't you wanna go down with me?" makes me want to start up some kind of Riot Grrl reunion. Of course, "Fold Your Hands" sounds like the "be a good girl advice" many of us have heard our whole lives and Mike's guitar pairing with Amber's vocals is nothing short of fantastic. The big shine time for Travis is on "Silence Equals Defeat", which he tells me is his fave on the record and "This is Your Warning". I can just see the sweat flying around that drum kit now. Of course, I also really dig Amber's massive scream on "Silence" and I think this will probably be the big hit of the record due to its timely lyrics.

This is one of those classic bands that formed out of good

--- ENTERTAINMENT & REVIEWS



**"ANGELA'S RAW BASS OPENING OF
"ETHER" AND AMBER'S REPETITIVE
"DON'T YOU WANNA GO DOWN WITH
ME?" MAKES ME WANT TO START UP
SOME KIND OF RIOT GIRL REUNION."**

friends who had a few good bands and dozens of musician friends between them. Amber's first gig was Consumption Casualties and Travis and Mike teamed up in From the Gun. Travis also played in Red Letter Blue and Star Motor Company and the Beesons have been playing together for years (in the above aforementioned one3four and in Iron Lung).

I think the title cut is my favorite mainly for the awesome opening drums and guitar riff. It's the first song the four sat down in a room and joined in on together and it also has a classic line that I will forever love: "you taste like whiskey and bad decisions and I waited all day to lose my mind."

When I first heard about this band some months ago, I thought it was sweet that Mike and Angela were still playing together. (I'm back to the sentimental side of the story now.) Then I watched videos of their shows and heard this record and realized I was using the wrong word. Sure, friends and spouses making music together is charming, but this record is anything but cute. It's energetic, loud and ready to party making me want to get my tuchus out to a Trash Room live show in a hurry. Maybe even take my husband, too.

- Catch them at the World Famous Milestone Club on Saturday, November 4th.
- Download their LP at www.TrashRoom.Bandcamp.com and visit www.Facebook.com/TrashRoomBand to purchase.

---EVENTS

SUNDAYS:

LIVE MUSIC:

@ Comet Grill : 8pm Omari & the Hellraisers
@ Petra's : 2nd Sunday - Jazz Workshop & Improv w. John Shaughnessy
@ the Milestone : 11.05 Flounder Warehouse, the Chroma Divide / 11.19 Village Bicycle
• Nov. 5th @ the Visulite Theatre : the Shadowboxers
• Nov. 12th @ McGlohon Theater : Jesse Colin Young

COMEDY / THEATRE:

@ the Comedy Zone: 11.05 Donnie Baker / 11.12 No Limit Larry / 11.19 Tone X / 12.03 Bruce Bruce / 12.10 Michael Blackson

SYMPHONY / OPERA / DANCE:

• Dec. 10th @ Ovens Auditorium : 1pm & 5pm Moscow Ballet's Great Russian Nutcracker

DANCE MUSIC / DJS / BURLESQUE OR DRAG:

@ the Pizza Peel (Plaza-Midwood) : last Sundays w. DJ That Guy Smitty
• Dec. 31st @ the Milestone : New Years Noir - a dark formal ball w. DJs Spider & Michael Price

MONDAYS:

LIVE MUSIC:

@ the Evening Muse : 8pm "Find Your Muse" open mic band night w. guest headliners
@ the Visulite Theatre : Monday Night Allstars

PLAY OR POETRY READING / BOOK SIGNINGS:

@ the Rabbit Hole : 8-11pm 1st & 3rd Mondays : "Monocle" : Improv Monday

DANCE MUSIC / DJS / BURLESQUE OR DRAG:

@ Snug Harbor : Fresh Grounds Presents: "Knocturnal" w. Justin Aswell & friends + Bboy & MC cyphers
@ Soul Gastrolounge : DJ Mookie Brill

TUESDAYS:

LIVE MUSIC:

@ the Comet Grill : Red Rockin' Chair
@ Smokey Joe's : 9pm open mic night
@ Morehead Tavern : 8pm Bill Hanna Jazz Jam
@ the Evening Muse : 11.14 City of the Sun, Mo Lowda & the Humble / 11.28 Koo Koo Kanga Roo, MC Lars
@ the Neighborhood Theatre: 11.07 the Lone Below, the Wild Reeds / 11.14 Campfire Caravan feat. Mipson, the Brothers Comatose, the Lil Smokies
@ Ovens Auditorium: 11.21 Kirk Franklin, Ledisi, Major / 12.05 the Brian Setzer Orchestra Christmas Tour
• Nov. 28th @ Snug Harbor: Hodera, Small Talks, Ol' Sport, Paperback

COMEDY / THEATRE:

• Nov. 7th @ Blumenthal Performing Arts Center: Break the Floor Productions Presents: After the Curtain

DANCE MUSIC / DJS / BURLESQUE OR DRAG:

@ Petra's : 1st Tuesdays 8pm-12am Bring Your Own Vinyl Night w. Justin Aswell
@ Soul Gastrolounge : DJ Shanti Moore
@ the Stashe House : DJ DR

WEDNESDAYS:

LIVE MUSIC:

@ the Comet Grill : open mic / open jam
@ Petra's : 7:30-9:15pm songwriter open mic
@ Rhino Market : Wak Wednesdays w. Derrick Hines 1st & 3rd w. open mic
@ the Evening Muse: 11.08 Old Salt Union / 11.29 Malcolm Holcombe
@ Snug Harbor - NOVEMBER RESIDENCY: Jaggermouth / DECEMBER RESIDENCY: Dead Sea \$crilla
• Nov. 15th @ the Neighborhood Theatre: the Dustbowl Revival

DANCE MUSIC / DJS / BURLESQUE OR DRAG:

@ Petra's : karaoke w. host Pucci Mane / 1st Wednesdays 10pm Bugalu (patio: Latin vinyl + Lady Go-Go's tortas
@ Soul Gastrolounge : DJ That Guy Smitty
@ Snug Harbor : 10pm-2am back: Modern Heritage Weekly Mixtape w. Michael K. Earle & Luke Stemmerman

THURSDAYS:

LIVE MUSIC:

@ Blue : John Alexander, Ron Brenale, Chris Garges www.Jajazz.net

@ the Evening Muse: 11.02 the Trashcan Sinatras (acoustic) / 11.09 Matthew Mayfield / 11.16 R.LUM.R

@ the Visulite Theatre: 11.02 Moses Jones, Ziggy Pockets, Jason Moss & the Hosses, Page McKenzie / 11.09 Humming House, Becca Mancari

• Nov. 9th @ the Underground : Brujeria, VooDoo Glow Skulls, Pinata Protest

• Nov. 16th @ the Fillmore : the Shins

• Dec. 12th @ the Milestone : End of the World Party w.Hectagons & more

COMEDY / THEATRE:

@ the Comedy Zone : 11.16 Moshe Kasher / 11.30 Bruce Bruce / 12.07 Michael Blackson

• Nov. 2nd @ Duke Energy Theater : Three Bones Theater Presents: Fahrenheit 451

DANCE MUSIC / DJS / BURLESQUE OR DRAG:

@ Rhino Market : DJ Jah-Sun Rising (Jason Herring) + 1st Thursdays of the month wine tasting

@ Snug Harbor : 10pm-2am Le Bang w.Buckmaster 11.09 DJ Seinfeld

FILM:

@ Canvas Tattoo & Art Gallery : 9pm night at the movies



FRIDAYS:

LIVE MUSIC:

@ the Comet Grill : the Lenny Federal Band

@ the Evening Muse: 11.10 Callaghan, Jesse Terry / 11.17 Tyler Ramsey / 11.24 Ellis Paul / 12.01 Patrick Davis / 12.08 Sarah Peacock

@ the Fillmore: 11.03 JohnnySwim / 11.10 Saint Motel

@ the Neighborhood Theatre: 11.10 Runaway Gin (a tribute to Phish) / 11.17 Gaelic Storm

@ the Visulite Theatre: 11.17 Hayden James, Baynk, Grace Pitts / 11.24 the New Familiars Present: the 6th Annual tribute to Levon Helm Night 1

• Nov. 3rd @ the Spectrum Center : Fall Out Boy

• Nov. 10th @ Keg & Cue : power-take-off, the Asound, Planet Creep

• Nov. 17th @ Ovens Auditorium : Soulful Sounds of Christmas w.Will Downing, Maysa Leak, Alex Bugnon

• Dec. 1st @ the Milestone : Stichy C., Kyng Rash

• Dec. 1st @ Snug Harbor : Demon Eye, Space Wizard

COMEDY / THEATRE:

@ the Comedy Zone: 11.10 Trae Crowder, Drew Morgan, Corey Ryan Forrester / 11.17 Moshe Kasher / 12.01 Bruce Bruce / 12.08 Michael Blackson

• Nov. 10th @ Spectrum Center : 8pm Jim Gaffigan

SYMPHONY / OPERA / DANCE:

• Nov. 17th @ the Center for Dance : [www.](http://www.CharlotteBallet.org)

CharlotteBallet.org Presents: Choreographic Lab

• Dec. 8th @ Belk Theater : www.CharlotteBallet.org Presents: Night at the Nutcracker



SATURDAYS:

LIVE MUSIC:

@ the Evening Muse: 11.11 Patrick Sweany / 11.18 Nora Jane Struthers

@ the Milestone: 11.04 North Elementary, Motel Glory, Trash Room / 12.02 Funeral Chic, WVRM

• Nov. 11th @ Snug Harbor : High Cube, Grace Joyner, Mariah Van Kleeffe

• Nov. 18th @ the Neighborhood Theatre : John Mark McMillan, the Brilliance, Lapeer

• Nov. 25th @ the Visulite Theatre : the New Familiars Presents: the 6th Annual tribute to Levon Helm Night 2

COMEDY / THEATRE:

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

@ the Comedy Zone: 11.11 Trae Crowder, Drew Morgan, Corey Ryan Forrester / 11.18 Moshe Kasher / 12.02 Bruce Bruce / 12.09 Michael Blackson

@ Ovens Auditorium: 11.18 Lewis Black / 12.09 Adam Savage & Michael Stevens Present: Brain Candy Live

• Nov. 25th @ Duke Energy Theater : www.CharlotteMagicShow.com Presents: Mat Lavore

SYMPHONY / OPERA / DANCE:

• Nov. 10th @ Knight Theater : www.CharlotteSymphony.org Presents: Steelpan Orchestra

TRADE / INTEREST SHOWS & FESTIVALS:

@ the Last Word : FNM Magic the Gathering

DANCE MUSIC / DJS / BURLESQUE OR DRAG:

@ the Common Market (Plaza-Midwood) : 1st & 3rd Fridays w.DJ That Guy Smitty

@ Heist Brewery : 2nd Fridays w.DJ That Guy Smitty

@ Scorpio's : DJ Lin Benfield + MC Tiffany Storm

@ Vinmaster Wine Shop : 7-11pm DJ DR

@ Whiskey Warehouse : DJ Matt Bolick

@ Workman's Friend : DJ Wiiz Kid (Steve Warwick)

@ Petra's : last Fridays : Mirror Moves ('80's/'90's)

w.DJs Cody Hare & Jah-Sun Rising (Jason Herring)

FILM:

@ Cinebarre : 1st & 3rd : Rocky Horror at Midnight feat. www.ThatType.com

TRADE / INTEREST SHOWS & FESTIVALS:

@ Spandex City Comics : 11am Pokemon league

• Nov. 11th @ Camp North End : www.Vintage-Charlotte.com

DANCE MUSIC / DJS / BURLESQUE OR DRAG:

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

@ Pure Pizza : 1pm www.EatMoreBuff.com Drag Brunch w.Buff Faye

11.25 "Super Hero & Villains" / 12.16 "Frosty the Yellow Snowman"

• Dec. 16th @ the Milestone : New Wave Undertow w.Michael Price

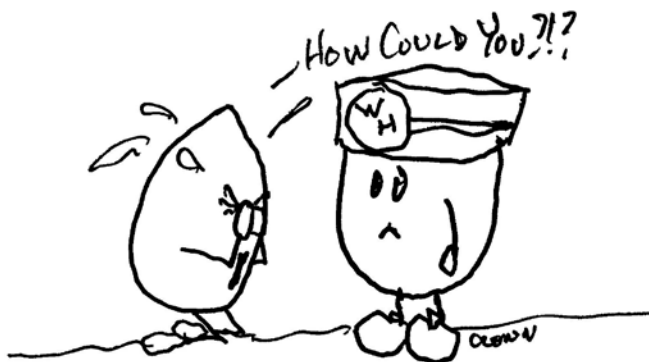


SPECIAL OR MULTIPLE DAY EVENTS:

- Dec. 8th-17th @ Theatre Charlotte: A Christmas Carol
- Dec. 13th-17th @ Ovens Auditorium: Les Miserables
- Nov. 17th & 18th @ Belk Theater: www.CharlotteSymphony.org Presents: Beethoven Violin Concerto
- Dec. 1st & 2nd @ Belk Theater: www.CharlotteSymphony.org Presents: Magic of Christmas
- Dec. 9th-23rd @ Belk Theater: www.CharlotteBallet.org Presents: Nutcracker
- THRU Dec. 2nd @ the McColl Center for Art + Innovation: Leah Rosenberg: Color for the People
- THRU Dec. 3rd www.InsideOut.org @ Beatties Ford Rd. Corridor / Biddleville, Smallwood & Seversville / Washington Heights / West Blvd. Corridor / Dilworth / Plaza-Midwood
- THRU Jan. 21st @ the Mint Museum (Randolph): Art in the Book - artists as illustrators (feat.Dali, Kent, Bearden & more)
- THRU Jan. 22nd @ the Harvey B. Gantt Center for African-American Arts + Culture: Simple Passion, Complex Vision: the Darryl Atwell Collection AND Instill & Inspire: Selections from the John & Vivian Hewitt Collection of African-American Art AND Immortal: a New Series by: Miya Bailey AND Sloane Siobhan: Archetypes of the Subconscious
- THRU Feb. 4th @ the Mint Museum (Randolph): Charlotte Collects - Contemporary Couture & Fabulous Fashion
- THRU Nov. 19th : www.Carolina.RenFestInfo.com
- Dec. 30th & 31st : www.ShenYun.com/Charlotte Chinese Festival

Send an email to ellengurley@gmail.com with "subscribe" to receive a weekly email with an up-to-date event listing for Charlotte and the surround from My City Magazine.

MICRO MONSTERS




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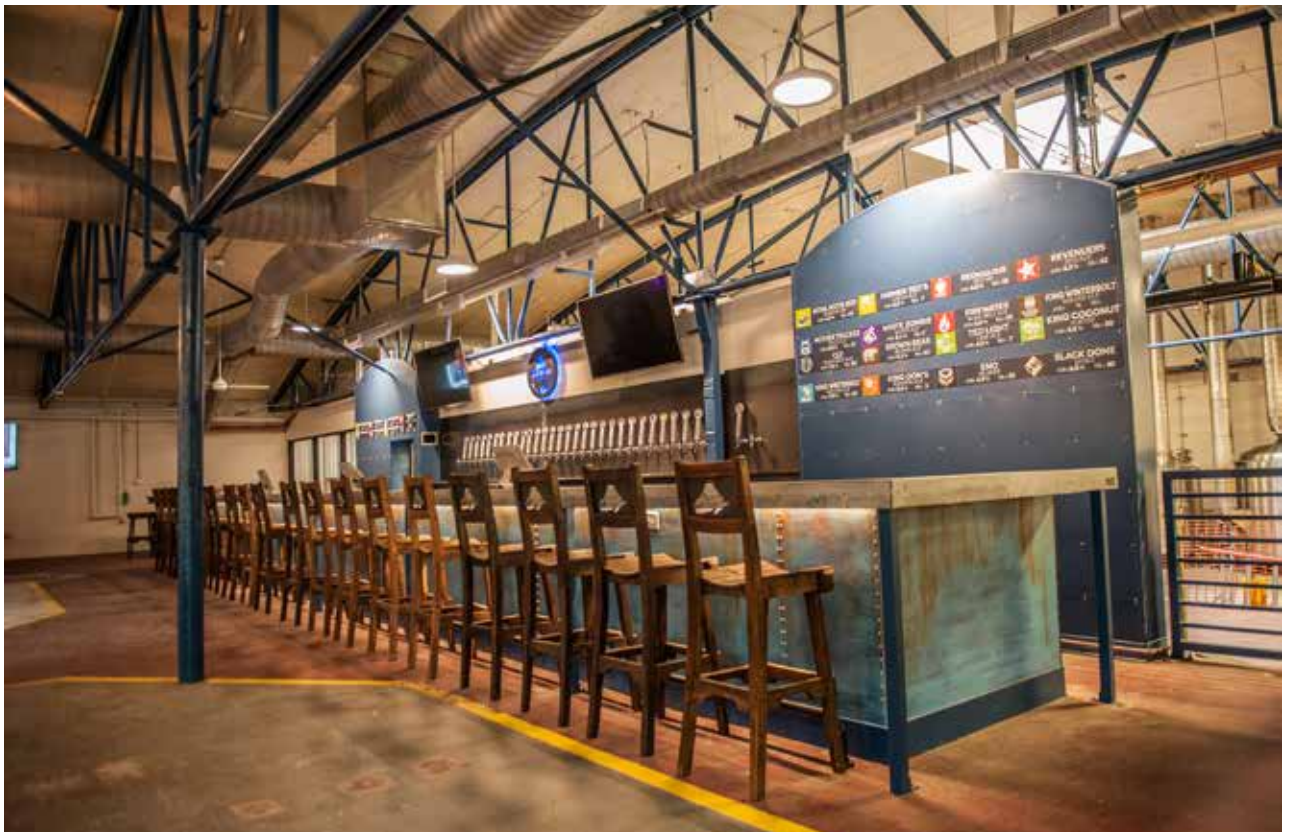


--- COMMUNITY NEWS

CORE DESIGNS

BY: ELLEN GURLEY

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF CORE & JUSTIN DRISCOLL



"YOU THINK IT, WE DESIGN IT,"

Hollis Nixon and Brendon Bryant are the people behind Core Designs in Charlotte. Their shop and showroom is located just shy of NoDa on Service Street. CONcrete REimagined is their hashtag and their mission statement all wrapped up in one simple phrase. If a discussion about concrete hardens your grey matter, let me assure you that it is anything but boring in 2017, with any colour in the rainbow that can be matched. Indoors or out, concrete is one of the most durable materials around, retaining its original look and integrity essentially forever, and, due to its liquidity, it can be formed into any shape imaginable. Plus, if you like it green, they use thirty-five-percent recycled materials and precise measurements, reducing waste to a near zero. Cranking out organic, residential and commercial orders weekly, Core stays quite busy.

Core was the group behind all of the concrete designs at Catawba Brewing, providing interior and exterior bar tops and the cobalt blue vanities in their restrooms. They do everything, including the kitchen sink, and they don't stop at fireplaces, ping pong tables, or corn hole sets with your logo. "You think it, we design it," Hollis says about anything that you can come up with for your home or company. Make an appointment to discuss your next project or business concept with Core Designs today.

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brendon@coredesignsonline.com
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--- PEOPLE

DENEER DAVIS OF NEER PERFECTION

BY: ELLEN GURLEY

DeNeer Davis came to start her business merely by accident. While recovering from an injury that literally took her out of the game (basketball), Davis started passing the time painting sneakers for friends. The word spread, she began monetizing this hobby, and, as we know the way supply-and-demand works, Neer Perfection was born out of way to get more product out into a market hungry for unique apparel. Joking with her father, nearly a decade ago, that she wouldn't need something to fall back on, she dismissed the idea of having to do anything but ball, though Davis toyed around with art all the while.

Davis' story isn't unlike many others', with circumstances that caused her to grow up faster than nature intended. Talking to her is like watching a black and white sketch take on colour. She knows that there is only one place to go and that is up ... and she fully intends to get there, though she maintains her humility by keeping two feet on the ground, never forgetting from where she came.





Expect big things from DeNeer Davis of Neer Perfection. She is available for commissions, but her site has tons of stock, including, but not limited to, hand-painted canvas Converse hightops, Nike runners, and tons of splashworthy hoodies. My City Magazine thinks that Charlotte is fortunate to have Davis here, throwing around the word blessed like her splatters of paint. Get to know her and scoop up some one-of-a-kind pieces today.



DENEERDAVIS@GMAIL.COM
704-200-7771
WWW.INSTAGRAM.COM/NEERPERFECTION
WWW.TWITTER.COM/NEERPERFECTION
WWW.NEERPERFECTION.BIGCARTEL.COM





WHAT DO I KNOW? I'M JUST A
CLOWN : NOV. / DEC. 2017
"ASK THE CLOWN" : AN ADVICE
COLUMN BY MARTIN "THE
CLOWN" BARRY

Dear Clown,

I just found out that my uncle is involved in one of those videos showing police violence against people and he has been recognized by some friends of the family. He was placed on paid leave during the investigation and he is now reinstated on full time patrol. I watched this video. He is the third to arrive and comes in swinging his baton at the legs of the suspect. I do not know how to talk with him about this. Help?

Sincerely,

Concerned Niece

Dear Niece,

I cannot imagine how it must feel to have family in one of these videos on either side of the conflict. My best advice is for you to consider that no punishment was assigned to him for this incident and have a discussion with him about what happened. If the discussion includes some remorse for response to a high tension situation and he was just doing as trained, then things can be normal between you two. If, however, he makes jokes about it or acts like he was carrying out some righteous plan, then you may have a rift that cannot be healed.

Peace signs on police cars,

The Clown

Dear Clown,

Every time I go to my favorite spot, there is a woman there that I know who gives me the stink eye every single time I see her. For the life of me, I cannot figure out how I have wronged this individual and it would be nice to have a little peace. What would you suggest?

Sincerely,

The Nice Lady

Dear Nice Lady,

Next time you see her, just hug her and tell her it is good to see her. She will either come to peace with the situation or get a restraining order. As someone that gets a LOT of stink eye, I would just let it go and laugh it off, though.

It will be OK,

The Clown

Dear Clown,

My parents divorced when I was a child and I spend time at each residence while I am attending college locally. My mother re-married almost too quickly after their divorce and my father did not even date anyone until recently. Now that he has started dating someone, she is always

at his place, which I don't mind. The problem I have is that I can hear them "doing things" when I spend the night there and one night, they left the door open and I saw them "doing things." My father's girlfriend looked right at me and smiled. I am thinking that I may never go back, but I love my dad and I don't want to hurt him. What would you do?

Sincerely,

Put Off

Dear Put Off,

I would... (sorry... I just threw up again). PLEASE have a discussion with your father about this and I am certain he will hold off "activities" while you are staying at his place. If this problem remains, then you may have no choice but to come over for day visits only until things cool down a bit between them. The part where she looked at you and smiled is a bit horrifying. (I hope she sees this.) The most important part is that this does not damage your relationship with your father. I am confident that you two have enough respect for each other to make this better.

She really looked at you and smiled??

The Clown

Dear Clown,

My mother has made some big charitable donations this year. My siblings and I are concerned that she will give too much away and that nothing will be left when she is gone. How can we get her to back off of these donations?

Sincerely,

Two of Five

Dear Greedy... I mean Two of Five,

It seems to me that your mother can do as she pleases with her assets. Charitable donations are not a bad thing at all. If she gives away every penny, that is her choice. Unless she is giving away assets to the point where she lives in a hovel eating cat food from cans, this is not something I would consider problematic. If there are significant assets left when she is gone, I hope you get the smallest bit or nothing at all. When is the last time you visited her?

Love over money,

The Clown

Do you have a question for The Clown? Write him at martin.barry@yahoo.com





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