

My City

SEPTEMBER
OCTOBER
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26



My City

Contributors	2	Joe Middleton: Blue Daffodils	12-14
Letter From The Editor	3	Local Record Store List	15
Bluz and Some Scene Clues	4-6	Events	16-22
Word Search	6	From Scratch: Samatha Ward	23-24
Bluz Coloring Sheet	7	Local Book & Comic Book Stores	25
Farmers' Markets & Farms	8-9	Not-So-Hidden Charlotte Gems	26-27
Ask the Clown: Advice Column	10-11	Micro Monsters	28
Only Dans	11		

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

SEPTEMBER | OCTOBER | 2026

Hello, Charlotte people. Thank you for taking the time out of your day to read this issue of My City Magazine. In this installment, as always, we give you the comic strips "Micro Monsters" and "Only Dans" plus an advice column – all by the Clown. And he gives us an interview with local baker, Samantha Ward. In this issue, we follow Boris "Bluz" Rogers around Charlotte for a few scene clues. Plus Siri Patterson gives us her debut article on Joe Middleton's upcoming album. It's great! The not-so-hidden gems we highlight this time are Archive, Mino's Imports, Black Sheep, and Photo Outfitters. Go support these area businesses. We always share with you a farmers market / farm list, a list of record stores, and a bookstore / comic bookstore list. Also don't forget to check out the exhaustive event listing and subscribe to our monthly newsletter by emailing 'subscribe' to ellengurley@gmail.com.

Enjoy today and every day,

Ellen Gurley and the other My City Magazine personalities



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BLUZ AND SOME SCENE CLUES

PHOTOS & WORDS: ELLEN GURLEY

ILLUSTRATION: JOHN BURGIN



In the '90's, I entered the spoken word circuit and immediately found Boris "Bluz" Rogers to be a prominent figure in that scene. I went on to become a DJ and kinda chilled on poetry, but Bluz kept on keepin' on. With decades of experience and multiple accolades, the man shows no sign of slowing. Former Slam Master, Grammy-nominated Bluz is a big fish in a little pond, but he's here to stay. I hope. After winning three Emmy Awards and countless championships, his main thing is to champion others in the scene. He shares events all over town (monthly) even if he isn't the host or emcee for the night.

Charlotte is the Blackest city in North Carolina (look it up) and if you're having a hard time finding events that reflect the Queen's events, you can always follow Pride Magazine or QC Metro. They are both Black owned publications with a wealth of activities they highlight. Of course you should check out happenings at the Gantt, but they're not the only game in town. If you want to find the heartbeat of town, you need to follow the pulse. That is Bluz for me. I consider him the Godfather of Black Charlotte.

He is humble and that moniker is goofy, so I don't know that he would agree. But, for our purposes, he has a lot of "cousins" and "siblings" around town that he would probably tell you to follow. I'll introduce you to a few of those "aunties" and "uncs".

From working at a record store in the '90's, a time where radio and club DJs actually had to purchase the record to play the music on the air or at a party, I met a lot of folks involved in making Charlotte a fun entertainment mecca.



Stacey Blackman and Mike Kitchen of Sol Kitchen are two of those folks. They are still very much still “at it”, so keep your eyes peeled for them. DR and Smitty are still a big part of the scene and I like Chief Rocka Aking (who throws parties like Off the Wall and Rock Box) and DJ Justice. I call Justice “Encyclopedia Black” (another upapproved, goofy moniker) because reading his posts on social media makes me feel like I’m getting (free) lessons from a professor. Follow him. Cairo Black and Markeith are a team of uncs that throw parties like the Art of Easing. Keep up with them, too. And if you’re into buying vinyl, attend any event that includes the music dealer Gene Brown. He is known for providing samples to the stars (Little Brother, Kanye, etc.) and selling records to regular enthusiasts.

Some other promotional companies to keep an ear out for are Beat Freaq, Su Casa, and Radio Rehab. If you personally know of others, please support them. Following Shawn Allison (DJ Donny Blackaway), better known as the Black Ferris Bueller, though, will be the best move to make to keep up with cool things going on in Charlotte, America. He posts events that you might not otherwise find. Daily.

Charlotte has a great scene. You just have to look around a little bit. We are home to amazing artists Bunny Gregory, William Wacllace, Deener Davis, John Hairston, Jr., and Marcus Kiser. Look out for their stuff all over town. And we have a slew of Black owned businesses that deserve your attention; Mama Bessie's, Reggae Lounge, House of Africa, Musa Moon, Reggae



Central, Archive, No Grease, Mama's Caribbean, and Dupp & Swat are just a few. The Galloways, from Dupp & Swat, have dope events all of the time. And the Colliers, of Leah & Louise and Uptown Yolk, are culinary giants we are lucky to have here. They serve the best food and throw the best dinners. And if you want to keep up with community news and politics, give Braxton Winston and Tonya Jameson a follow.

All in all, there are so many things and people to keep up with in the Black community and it bears repeating how important it is that you follow the Black Ferris Bueller. We at www.MyCityMagazine.net CANNOT keep up with everything. Shawn can. But here's a short list of events you can catch in the months of September and October. You can check our event listing for more and follow the leaders mentioned above. Get out there and support the Black community. It's ok to see the big shows in the large venues, but don't overlook the smaller venues, promoters, and artists. They're our pride and joy.

U	E	I	E	I	L	U	B	U	E	L	L	E	R
S	T	A	C	E	Y	U	N	I	I	T	K	E	E
N	E	H	C	T	I	K	C	U	L	E	E	E	R
B	E	S	I	J	E	C	C	T	N	S	U	D	U
U	L	E	C	Z	B	N	D	E	D	S	J	E	P
B	N	A	A	E	K	Y	G	Z	C	D	Z	E	L
Z	L	G	C	R	N	E	P	C	R	C	Z	A	L
P	U	U	A	K	I	E	E	A	D	T	E	O	P
R	S	R	Z	N	C	S	M	I	T	T	Y	N	T
I	I	B	A	L	T	J	U	S	T	I	C	E	R
D	G	L	U	A	I	T	I	A	C	S	A	O	L
E	O	E	C	M	D	U	P	P	C	L	C	I	S
R	S	M	N	I	E	N	P	Z	E	K	R	L	U
C	O	L	L	I	E	R	S	I	A	C	I	C	N

Black	Clues	Gene	Rocka
Bluz	DJ DR	Justice	Scene
Bueller	Dupp	Kitchen	Smitty
Colliers	Gantt	Pride	Stacey

- 2nd Sundays @ the Harvey B. Gantt Center for African-American Arts + Culture: www.ClassicBlackCinemaSeries.com
- Last Sundays of the month @ Archive: 12-4pm the Art of Easing w. DJs Foundation & Cairo Black
- Tuesdays @ Soul Gastrolounge: DJ Shanti
- Tues., Sept. 1st @ Truliant Amphitheater: Kehlani, Durand Bernarr, Isaia Huron, thearti\$t, Waseel
- Wednesdays @ VINYL: 8pm-1am Wednesdays on Wax w. DJ That Guy Smitty w. residents & guests (see: Oct. 7th Chief Rocka Aking)
- Wed., Sept. 2nd @ the Mint Museum (uptown): 6-10pm Su Casa Presents: Phonte (of Little Brother & Foreign Exchange) w. DJs Bloc & Steel Wheel
- Fri., Sept. 4th @ Petra's: Twinflame Presents: "Soulstice" w. DJs Maal & She's A+
- Fri., Sept. 4th @ the Comedy Zone: Bill Bellamy
- Sat., Sept. 5th @ First Ward Park: 10am Charlotte Soul Fest w. food, music, wellness, art, marketplace & more
- Fri., Sept. 11th @ Stylus Soundlounge: DJ Cairo Black
- Sun., Sept. 13th @ Crown Station: 4-9pm Aktive Presents: Grand Puba w. DJ Justice & more
- Fri., Sept. 18th @ Truliant Amphitheater: Wu-Tang Clan
- Sept. 18th & 19th @ Carolina Theatre: Sainted Trap Choir Presents: "A Night full of Wonder" (the music of Stevie Wonder)
- Sun., Sept. 13th @ Crown Station: 4-9pm Aktive Presents: Protect Ya Neck feat. Grand Puba w. DJ Justice & more
- Sat., Sept. 19th @ Ovens Auditorium: DL Hughley, Don Lemon
- Sun., Sept. 20th @ Truliant Amphitheater: Salt-N-Pepa, En Vogue
- Thurs., Sept. 27th @ Middle C Jazz Club: Chela signs Chaka
- Thurs., Oct. 8th @ Ovens Auditorium: Martin Lawrence
- Sun., Oct. 11th @ Ovens Auditorium: Marvin – the Marvin Gaye Musical
- Oct. 16th & 17th @ Knight Theater: www.CharlotteSymphony.org Presents: the Music of Tina Turner
- Tues., Oct. 28th @ Middle C Jazz Club: Tim Scott does John Coltrane's a Love Supreme
- Fri., Oct. 30th @ Sophie's: Upscale Halloween Party w. DJ Stacey Blackman (costumes mandatory) w. Olympia D.
- Sat., Oct. 31st @ the Visulite Theatre: Let Love Rule (a Lenny Kravitz tribute)



FARMERS' MARKETS & FARMS

FARMERS' MARKETS:

- **7th Street Public Market**, 224 E.7th St., www.TheMarketAt7thStreet.com
- **Albemarle Downtown Farmers Market**, 501 W. Main St., Albemarle, Saturdays 8am-12pm
- **Ballantyne Farmers Market**, 15810 Ballantyne Medical Place, Charlotte, 1st Wednesdays 10am-1pm / March – October
- **Belmont Farmers Market**, 24 S. Main St., Belmont, www.BelmontNCFarmersMarket.com, Thursdays 4-7pm / April – October
- **Bountiful Blessings Farm Fresh Produce**, 4702 Concord Hwy., Monroe, Sundays 11am-6pm / Mondays – Fridays 10am-7pm / Saturdays 8am-7pm
- **Bradford Market, the**, 15915 Davidson-Concord Rd., Huntersville, www.TheBradfordMarket.com
- **Burton Farms General Store**, #1 317 E. Main St., Lincolnton, #2 2401 Northwest Blvd., Newton
- **Charlotte Regional Farmers Market**, 1801 Yorkmont Rd., Charlotte, closed Mondays & Tuesdays / May – September
- **Conover Farmers Market**, 122 2nd Ave. SE, Conover, www.ConoverFarmersMarket.org, Saturdays 8am-12pm / May-August
- **Cotswold Farmers Market**, 4921 Randolph Rd. (at Providence Baptist Church), Charlotte, www.CotswoldFarmersMarket.com, Saturdays 9am / May – October
- **Davidson Farmers Market**, 120 S. Main St., Davidson, www.DavidsonFarmersMarket.org, Saturdays 9am-noon / April – November
- **Denver Farmers Market**, 3618 NC-16, Denver, Saturdays 8am
- **Farm Fresh Farmers Market**, 2103 S. Cannon Blvd., Kannapolis, Mondays – Saturdays 7am-9pm / Sundays 8am-8pm
- **Foothills Farmers Market**, 126 W. Marion St., Shelby, www.FoothillsFarmersMarket.com, Tuesdays 10am-1pm/ Wednesdays & Saturdays 8am-12pm
- **Gastonia Farmers Market**, 410 E. Long Ave., Gastonia, www.GastoniaFarmersMarket.com, Tuesdays, Thursdays, & Saturdays 7:30am-12:30pm / May – October
- **Hickory Farmers Market**, Union Square NW, Hickory, www.HickoryFarmersMarket.com, Saturdays 10am-1pm
- **Highland Creek Farmers Market**, 7101 Highland Creek Pkwy., Charlotte, Wednesdays 3-7pm / April – October
- **Huntersville Growers Market**, 201 Huntersville-Concord Rd., Huntersville, Saturdays 8am-12pm / May – August
- **Josh's Farmers Market**, 558 River Hwy., Mooresville, www.JoshsFarmersMarket.com, Mondays – Thursdays 9-6:30pm / Fridays & Saturdays 9-6pm / Sundays 9am-5pm
- **Kannapolis Farmers Market**, 354 Oak Avenue Mall Dr. (at Oak Avenue Mall), Kannapolis, Thursdays 4-7pm / May – September
- **Kings Drive Farmers Market / Simpson's Produce**, 939 S. Kings Dr., 704-332-6366, Tuesdays, Fridays & Saturdays 6am-7pm
- **Kings Mountain Farmers Market**, 313 S. Battleground Ave., Kings Mountain, April – September
- **Lincoln County Farmers Market**, 225 W. Water St. Ext., Lincolnton, Tuesdays 8am-1pm
- **Lowell Farmers Market**, 101 W. 1st St., Lowell, www.LowellNC.com, Thursdays 4-7pm / June – September
- **Matthews Community Farmers Market**, 188 N. Trade St., Matthews, www.MatthewsFarmersMarket.com, Saturdays 8-11am / March – December
- **Mecklenburg County Market**, 1515 Harding Pl., www.MecklenburgCountyMarket.com, Sundays 12-5pm / Monday – Friday 9am-6pm
- **Mill Hill Farmers Market**, 7601 Matthews-Mint Hill Rd., www.MintHillHistory.com, Saturdays 9am-1pm / May – September
- **Mooresville Farmers Market**, 255 E. Iredell Ave., Mooresville, Saturdays 8am-12pm / June – September
- **Mount Airy Farmers Market**, 232 .W. Independence Blvd., Mount Airy, www.SurrYarts.com, Fridays 9am-12pm
- **Mount Holly Farmers Market**, 226 S. Main St., Mount Holly, Saturdays 8am-12pm / April-October
- **North Meck Community Farmers Market**, 21445 Catawba Ave., Cornelius, Wednesdays 9am-12pm / May – September
- **Pickles Farmers Market**, 136 E.36th St. (at Hart Witzen), Charlotte, Saturdays 8am-2pm
- **Piedmont Farmers Market**, 518 Winecoff School Rd., Concord, www.Piedmont-FarmersMarket.com, Saturdays
- **Pilot Mountain Farmers Market**, 300 S. Key St., Pilot Mountain, Saturdays 3-6pm
- **Pineville Farmers Market**, 100 Dover St., Pineville, www.TownOfPineville.com, Saturdays 8am-12pm

- **Plaza-Midwood Farmers Market**, 2007 Commonwealth Ave. (at Common Market), Saturdays 10am-1pm / April – November
- **Providence Produce Markets, #1** 10636 Providence Rd., Charlotte, **#2** 11252 Lawyers Rd., Mint Hill, **#3** 218 K. Line Dr., Matthews, **#4** 1316 Providence Rd. S. Waxhaw, daily 9am-7pm / April – October
- **Rock Hill Old Town Market**, 300 E. Main St. (at Fountain Park), Rock Hill, Saturdays 8:30am-12:30pm / April – November
- **Rosa Parks Farmers Market**, 1600 W. Trade St., Charlotte, Tuesdays & Saturdays 3-7pm / June – September
- **Rotary Farmers Market**, 126 W. Front St., Salisbury, Saturdays 7am-12pm / May – October
- **Salisbury Farmers Market**, 228 E. Kerr St., Salisbury, Saturdays 8am-12pm / April – December
- **Saluda Tailgate Market**, 214 E. Main St., Saluda, Fridays 4-6pm
- **Selwyn Farmers Market**, 3100 Selwyn Ave. (at Selwyn United Methodist Church), Charlotte, Thursdays 3-7pm
- **SouthEnd Farmers Market**, 2000 South Blvd., Charlotte, www.AthertonMillAndMarket.com, Saturdays 9am-1pm
- **Union County Farmers Market**, 805 Skyway Dr., Monroe, Saturdays 8am-12pm / April – December
- **University City Farmers Market**, 6010 Jasmine Ln., Charlotte, www.UnivCityMarket.org, Saturdays 10am-2pm / May – October
- **Uptown Farmers Market**, 300 S. Davidson St., 28202, Charlotte, Saturdays 8am-12pm / April – December
- **Village at Robinson Farm**, 8410 Rea Rd., Charlotte, Wednesdays & Saturdays 9am-3pm
- **Wallace Community Tailgate Market**, 11202 Harris Rd., Huntersville, Saturdays
- **Waxhaw Farmers Market**, 27283 Waxhaw Pkwy., Waxhaw, www.WaxhawFarmersMarket.org, Saturdays 9am-1pm / April – December
- **Yadkin Farmers Market**, 1230 Tennessee St., Yadkinville, Tuesdays 3-6pm & Saturdays 9am-12pm / May – October
- **Bush-N-Vine Farm**, 1650 Filbert Hwy., York, www.BushNVine.com, spring: pick-your-own berries & peaches / fall: corn maze, pick-your-own pumpkin & hayrides
- **Carrigan Farms**, 1261 Oak Ridge Farm Hwy., Mooresville, www.CarriganFarms.com, spring: pick-your-own strawberries / fall: pick-your-own apples & pumpkins
- **Coddle Creek Farms**, 2200 Coddle Creek Hwy., Mooresville, market: Tuesdays – Saturdays 10am-6pm
- **Cotton Hills Farm**, 2575 Lowrys Highway, Chester, www.CottonHillsFarm.com spring: pick-your-own strawberries & peaches / fall: pick-your-own pumpkins / market: Mondays – Saturdays 9am-7pm
- **Deer Run Farm**, 5540 Hwy. 24/27 E, Midland, spring: pick-your-own strawberries
- **Hodges Farm**, 3900 Rocky River Rd., Charlotte, www.HodgesFarmNC.com, fall: pick-your-own pumpkins & hayrides
- **Hunter Farm, the**, 13624 Providence Rd., Weddington, www.theHunterFarm.org, spring: pick-your-own berries / fall: pick-your-own pumpkin & hayrides
- **McLawland Farms**, 8632 Reedy Creek Rd., Charlotte, market: Wed afternoon May, Sept., & Oct.
- **Patterson Farm**, 3060 Millbridge Rd., China Grove, www.PattersonFarmINC.com, spring: pick-your-own strawberries / fall: pick-your-own-pumpkins
- **South Forty Farm**, 640 SC-274, Clover, farmstand open Mondays-Sundays 10am-6pm
- **Springs Farm Market**, 1010 Springfield Pkwy., Fort Mill, www.SpringsFarm.com, Monday – Saturday 8am-7pm / Sundays 1-7pm / spring: pick-your-own berries & peaches
- **Wise Acres Organic Farm**, 4701 Hartis Rd., Indian Trail, www.WiseAcresOrganic.com, spring: pick-your-own berries / fall: pick-your-own pumpkins / all year: plant & flower sales / reservation only

FARMS:

- **Apple Hill Orchard & Cider Mill**, 2075 Pleasant Hill Ave., Morganton, www.AppleOrchardFarmNC.com, fall: pick-your-own apples / market: Mondays – Saturdays
- **Barbee Farms**, 1000 Shelton Rd. NW, Concord, www.BarbeeFarms.net, farm stand: Wednesdays, Thursdays & Fridays 12-6pm, Saturdays 10am-2pm

- If you would like to see your farm or farmers market on this listing, simply email the info to ellengurley@gmail.com.

- Media partners, please do not copy and paste our list onto your own website or into your own publication. Thank you for respecting the hard work.

WHAT DO I KNOW? I'M JUST A CLOWN

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ADVICE FROM MARTIN "THE CLOWN" BARRY



Q

Dear Clown,

I am writing on behalf of a friend who is in a bad relationship, and I would like to have your advice on what to do. I have known Nicole* since we were 11 years old. She was put to the side by almost everyone in her life. We talked about this often and we identified some of the bad ways she coped with never being a priority. As adults, we both stumbled through relationships, but Nicole would tend to end up stuck in bad places at times and this is her current situation. This guy has her cornered economically, he is extremely insecure and narcissistic, and he tells her to move out every time they have the slightest disagreement. We have discussed this and she wants to leave, but her resources dry up almost immediately. The situation has begun to affect her health. What would you recommend?

Sincerely, Frightened For Her

A

Dear Frightened,

These situations are never good, and they only tend to get worse. If you have availability, offer her space at your place or assist her with getting her out of this and into a shelter or rental space. Reminder that this is crisis management time and that she can grab essentials to get out quickly. If she has things to move later, this can be handled with law enforcement present. Also bear in mind that your support will be needed until she

gets on her feet. It is wonderful that she has a friend like you.

Be safe! Clown

Q

Dear Clown,

A very dear friend died recently, and it has impacted me harder than I had anticipated. I have not been motivated to do much at all and it is bothering me that someone so young could be gone already. This is the strangest time I have ever had, and I don't know where to start to get away from it. Help?

Sincerely, Mourning

A

Dear Mourning,

Grief is a monster. The love we have for the person that died now has no place to go and it can damage us. We don't have a choice in this matter and that compounds the problem. The best recommendations I can offer include making yourself go out and enjoy something, trying something new, leaning on friends and family, and grief counseling. The motivation wall will chip away, and you will feel like yourself again. Just don't give up.

Keep breathing, Clown

Q Dear Clown,
If you punch yourself and it hurts, are you strong, or are you weak?

Sincerely, Unyun

A Dear Unyun,

Don't punch yourself.

Sincerely, Clown

Q Dear Clown,

My job has adopted an AI enterprise platform, and I am resistant to use it due to what has been going around about data centers and water usage. So far, only one division of our company has made AI use mandatory. If possible, I would like to avoid using this altogether. What would you advise?

Sincerely, Human Tech

A Dear Human Tech,

Your feelings on this are valid. Early data suggests enormous depletion of freshwater sources for data centers. The strangest thing about this is that AI only functions based on what we have learned and recorded and it takes less water to hydrate humanity. Many people are not fans of the derivative work that these programs put out. If you are able to get involved in the deployment and responsible use of these tools with your company, it may soften the blow a bit. If you are in a situation where this is an inevitable wave coming your way and you do not want to be part of it, you may wish to seek alternate employment.

Written by a human, Clown

ONLY DANS

BY: THE CLOWN



DANIEL G. JR.

HE HAS NO CLUE

LIKES PACIFIERS

SERIOUSLY, HE HAS NO CLUE



DAN P

COLLECTS BALSA GLIDERS

HAS THREE AFGHAN BLANKETS MADE IN THE 1970S

HAS A STRATEGY FOR EVERY ICE CREAM CONE

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

JOE MIDDLETON: "BLUE DAFFODILS" AND OTHER HOPEFUL THINGS

PHOTOS & WORDS: SIRI PATTERSON



Blue daffodils do not exist — at least not in the natural world. However, with misinformation, artificial intelligence, and social media running rampant, blue daffodils could easily be the next TikTok trending, artificially advancing, 24-hour news cycling development in the horticultural world. Luckily, this is not the case. "Blue Daffodils" is the latest self-produced album from Charlotte-based musician Joe Middleton, and his artistic endeavors are nothing short of a labor of love. This neatly wrapped 45-minute package of 11 songs lets listeners experience love, loss, joy, pain, injustice, and gratitude for life's simple joys.

This is Middleton's second self-produced collection, following his debut album in 2019, "Highway Tremolo." While most of the songs featured in "Blue Daffodils" were recorded in the last five years, the versatility in Middleton's lyricism and composition in the country/folk style can be attributed to a lifelong dedication to music. From opener to closer, he blends acoustic southern gothic descants, energetic heartland rock anthems, and soulful protest folk vocals. Middleton's grounding tone, unfeigned lyricism, and Americana style reverberate throughout the record, with qualities reminiscent of John Mellencamp and Bruce Springsteen, artists Middleton said he has been inspired by throughout his career. From track to track, he dips in and out of reality, weaving spun tales with tongue-in-cheek observations of modern society. "This new album, this is probably — it is the best thing I've ever done," Middleton said. "You know, I'm not a bragger, but it's coming together really well. It's kind of everything I've ever wanted to do with recording."

The album was recorded and mixed at Traffic Sound Studio in Denver, North Carolina. Middleton said working with studio owner David Rhyne, alongside the many local musicians featured on the record, was game-changing. Staying true to his roots, he often draws inspiration from his local peers like recent NC Music Hall of Fame Inductee David Childers. Middleton reimagines one of Childers' classics in the opening track, "Lonely Beauty," in which Childers accentuates Middleton's full-bodied approach on the harmonica. The melancholic, nostalgic lyrics paired with lively acoustics and harmonious back-ups set the tone for the album in its entirety. The bridge, "Oh, the sound of thunder off in the distance/And the rain that never fell," is immediately followed by a jubilant harmonica solo from Childers, illustrating the irony deeply embedded in the record: Life is hard, so choose your battles wisely and be grateful for the little things.

Inspiration strikes Middleton from every direction: becoming a grandfather, caring for his wife through sickness and celebrating her recovery, losing close friends, turning on the TV, reading the comments on Facebook. The title track, "Blue Daffodils," originated from a post Middleton made online, asking people to comment about things that give them hope or joy when they're feeling down. Songwriter Zach Meadows commented, saying his grandmother called every flower a daffodil, and she loved "the blue ones." "To her, it was a symbol of new beginnings, new life, when the flowers bloom in the springtime," Middleton said. "It's kind of like a contrast between the bad and the good, so when things are bad — the news is bad, the world's crap — you can look out your window and see the flowers blooming."

Calling for listeners to find their own Blue Daffodils, the stripped-down, raw acoustic track serves as a soothing lullaby for a world filled with strife. "A strike of a match is a spark to a flame/is a hand in a hand and an ease to the pain," sings Middleton. Supported by the ethereal vocals of Texas singer-songwriter Jaimee Harris, the message is uplifting and hopeful, something Middleton

said he often struggles to write without sounding disingenuous, but felt he needed to include on the album. One of the more distinctive songs featured on the album is a raw, spoken-word track that tells the story of a one-off encounter with a hauntingly beautiful woman outside of the bar. "Anna (Brown Eyes)" is told from the perspective of a folk singer leaving a gig and narrated with a gruff, even-tempered tone, captivating a tale told after a long night of drinking. Middleton's skill as a storyteller is on full display, ensnaring listeners with simple dialogue and a monotonous backing of steel guitar, violin, and piano. Heidi Sidelinker twists the final knife with delicate vocal pads that serve as an eerie "the end" to a tragic tale.

Closing out the album, Middleton leaves listeners with a hard-hitting final message. "My Own Eyes" honors the late Renee Good, a 37-year-old Minneapolis woman murdered by ICE agents in January, 2026. "It's not the kind of song you want to write; it's just something you have to write, 'cause it just really makes me angry," Middleton said.

This is not the first protest folk song in Middleton's



portfolio; he has written about Emmitt Till, a 14-year-old boy who was lynched in 1955, and the nine victims of the Mother Emanuel AME Church mass shooting in 2015. "My Own Eyes" was released earlier this year, with all the proceeds benefiting a Minnesota charity.

"Another bullsh*t story/Makes me sick and f*cking tired/And don't tell me what it is/When I've seen it with my own eyes," he sings, with a unique fire behind his steady voice. With a simple, driving piano backing him, Middleton is a preacher at the pulpit, demanding the world pay recompense for a tragic death by refuting slanderous claims lobbied against Good, the victim. The song is heartbreaking but empowering, a balance Middleton displays mastery of throughout "Blue Daffodils." It's a record you could sing along with in the car, play to soothe the rapid-fires of your mind, or put on as a backing track for a good long cry. The lifelong dedication Middleton has to cultivating his craft is laid bare.

I've been looking for "Blue Daffodils" in my life since I listened to this album: When I am the first car stopped at the train tracks, and I can look at all the graffiti; Falling asleep to low rumblings of thunder; Folding my laundry and matching every last sock with its pair. Maybe it's because the song can easily get stuck in



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your head, but Middleton's message seems to stick with you. Life is hard, but there will always be good if you look for it.

"Blue Daffodils" will officially be released on September 18th. Listeners can find Joe Middleton on most music streaming sites, as well as Bandcamp, Instagram, YouTube, and Facebook.

Editor's note: Not only is local legend David Childers on this star-studded album alongside Jaimee Harris and Heidi Sidelinker, but also Jason Atkins, Kerry Brooks, Geoff White, James Brock, Mike Bader, and Jim Ashton



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See Joe & his son, Jordan
Sunday, September 13th @ The Evening Muse.

LOCAL RECORD STORES

- **COLLECTING PROBLEMS**
1682 Katy Ln., Fort Mill, 29708
- **GABBA GABBA HUH? RECORDS & EARWAX RECORDS**
246 N. New Hope Rd. (inside Vintage Village at Eastridge Mall), Gastonia, 28054
- **HARDY BOYS RECORDS & COMICS**
 - 701 Keswick Ave., Suite 106 (at Camp NorthEnd), Charlotte, 28206
 - 1616 Camden Rd., Suite 140, Charlotte, 28203
 - 11237 Lawyers Rd. (inside Homestyles Gallery), Mint Hill, 28227
- **HEY BOO RECORDS & OLD DOG RECORDS**
500 S. Main St. (inside Main Street Antique Mall), Mooresville, 28115
- **JAMPAC RECORDS**
111 S. Main St., Monroe, 28112
- **JG'S VINYL**
322 W. Main St., Gastonia, 28052
- **LUNCHBOX RECORDS**
825 Central Ave., Charlotte, 28204
- **MAD JACK'S RECORDS & COMICS**
315 W. John St., Matthews, 28105
- **NOBLE RECORDS** (moving soon)
11500 E. Independence Blvd., Unit F, Matthews, 28105
- **OLD TOWN VINYL**
21333 Catawba Ave., Cornelius, 28031
- **PALMETTO GROOVE RECORDS**
 - 108 N. Congress St., York, 29745
 - 406 E. Catawba St. (inside River Antique Mall), Belmont, 28012
- **POET'S VAULT**
6424 South Blvd. (inside Sleepy Poet Antique Mall), Charlotte, 28217
- **PREMIUM SOUND**
2615 Central Ave., A, Charlotte, 28205
- **RAMBLE ON RECORDS**
111 Caldwell St., #103, Rock Hill, 29730
- **RECYCLABLE RECORDS**
662 N. Cannon Blvd., Kannapolis, 28083
- **REPO RECORD**
3325 Commonwealth Ave., Charlotte, 28205
- **REVOLVER RECORDS**
107 Main St., McAdenville, 28101
- **REWIND / A GOODWILL RECORD STORE** (opens Sept. 4th)
100 W. Matthews St., Matthews, 28105
- **ROCKIN' ROB'S RECORDS**
 - 17017 S. Main St. (inside Joyful Pleasures), China Grove, 28023
 - 107 South Main St. (inside Magnolias Home & Maker's Market), Lexington, 27292
 - 15 Murphy Dr. (inside Evenbrooke Marketplace), Lexington, 27295
- **ROCK STAR RECORDS & CDS**
127-A N. Main St., Mooresville, 28115
- **SALTY'S JUKEBOX**
5865 NC-27 W., Vale, 28168
- **SELL YOUR SOUL RECORDS**
124 S. Main St., Mooresville, 28115
- **SPOOKY'S RECORDS & COLLECTIBLES**
902-A Bessemer City Rd., Gastonia, 28052
- **THAT'S MENTAL RECORDS**
1919 Commonwealth Ave. (inside Petra's / Little Shop of Petra's), Charlotte, 28205
Thursdays-Saturdays 12pm-6pm
- **VNYLWRKS**
4420-A Monroe Rd. (inside the Common Market Oakwold), Charlotte, 28205
Saturdays 10am-4pm

** It is recommended that you google the venue for the hours of operation before you visit.*



EVENTS IN YOUR CITY

SEPTEMBER | OCTOBER | 2026

SUNDAYS:

SPORTS | ACTIVITIES:

- www.CharlotteKnights.com @ Truist Field: 9.13 time TBD vs. BUF
- www.Hornets.com @ Spectrum Center: 10.11 7pm vs. Milwaukee Bucks
- www.Panthers.com @ Bank of America Stadium: 9.13 1pm vs. Chicago Bears / 10.04 8:20pm vs. Detroit Lions / 10.25 1pm vs. Tampa Bay Buccaneers
- @ the Harvey B. Gantt Center for African-American Arts + Culture: 12:30-1:30pm yoga on the rooftop
- Sun., Oct. 11th @ the Comedy Zone: 2pm R&B bingo

BEER | WINE | FOOD:

- @ 300 Restaurant: ½ off wine by the bottle
- @ Sir Edmund Halley's: 1/2 off wine by the bottle
- Sun., Sept. 13th @ Divine Barrel Brewing : Sazon Latin Food Festival
- Sun., Sept. 27th @ Tommy's Pub: 10am Splash Pad coffee pop-up & market w. Occums Emporium

LIVE MUSIC:

- @ Amos': 9.06 Anees / 9.27 the Haunt
- @ the Boatyard (Lake Norman): Mystic Vibrations
- @ the Comet Grill: Omari & the Hellhounds / 1st Mondays Monday Night Live Band w. Shana Blake, Chris Bryant, Michael Haywood, Pete Lents, Johnny Flash, John Woodward & more
- @ the Common Market (Oakwold): 4:20-6:30pm 3rd Sundays w. the Eastland Jazz Combo (Aaron Carlisle, Brent Dunn, Mark Crowson)
- @ the Evening Muse: 9.13 Joe Middleton, Jordan Middleton / 9.20 Goodnight, Texas / 9.27 Taylor Bickett, Bridey Costello / 10.04 Magenta Wave / 10.18 Maris (SOLD OUT)
- @ the Fillmore: 9.06 Hulvey / 9.27 Loathe / 10.11 Trombone Shorty, Orleans Avenue / 10.18 the Story So Far
- @ Middle C Jazz Club: 1st Sundays Courtney Montgomery / 9.06 Justin Varnes (music of Art Blakey) / 9.13 Noel Freidline, Maria Howell, Joe Gransden (music of Sammy Davis Jr., Peggy Lee, & Bobby Darin) 9.20 Jasmine E. (the music of Cece Winans) / 9.27 Patrick Lamb / 10.04 Jeff Ryan / 10.11 Brian Simpson / 10.18 Euge Groove
- @ the Milestone: 9.06 Doom Scroll, Hans Gruber & the Die Hards / 9.13 Regence, General Purpose, Little Mountain Kart Club / 10.18 Lee Bains III, Late Bloomer, Ryan Lockhart
- @ Neighborhood Theatre: 9.27 Stanley Simmons / 10.04 Sophie Hunter / 10.11 the 502S / 10.25 Jai'en Josey
- @ Smokey Joe's: 6-9pm James Brock & friends + potluck dinner

- @ Truliant Amphitheater: 9.13 James Taylor / 9.20 Salt-N-Pepa, En Vogue
- @ the Underground: 9.13 the Bouncing Souls / 9.20 President / 9.27 Michael Franti Trio / 10.18 Chad Gray / 10.25 Sueco
- Sun., Sept. 13th @ the Rooster (Gastonia): Villain over Heroes, Midnite Massacre, the White Horse, Taking November
- Sun., Sept. 13th @ Crown Station: 4-9pm Aktive Presents: Protect Ya Neck feat. Grand Puba w. DJ Justice & more
- Sun., Sept. 20th @ Skyla Credit Union Amphitheatre: Shaboozey
- Sun., Sept. 20th @ VAPA Center: 4pm Blankstate, No Anger Control, Unwed Sailor, Motocrossed
- Sun., Sept. 20th @ Snug Harbor: Outer World, Patois Counselors, Azad, Faye
- Sun., Sept. 27th @ the Visulite Theatre: the Machine (a Pink Floyd tribute)
- Sun., Oct. 4th @ Carolina Theatre: Vitamin String Quartet, Girl Named Tom
- Sun., Oct. 11th @ Bojangles Coliseum: MercyMe, Jeremy Camp, Tim Timmons, Sam Wesley
- Sun., Oct. 18th @ Spectrum Center: Teddy Swims

COMEDY | THEATER:

- @ the Comedy Club at Duckworth's: 9.06 J-L Cauvin / 9.20 Matt O'Brien / 9.27 Kleon the Comedian / 10.04 Leah Lamarr / 10.11 Matt Bergman / 10.18 Jack Sullivan / 10.25 Steve Hofstetter & Friends
- @ the Comedy Zone: 9.06 Bill Bellamy / 9.13 Jae Anderson / 9.20 Rachel Scanlon / 9.27 Charleston White / 10.04 Arnez J. / 10.11 Alfred Robles / 10.18 My Cousin Tiera / 10.25 Trish Suhr
- Sun., Oct. 11th @ Ovens Auditorium: Marvin – the Marvin Gaye Musical
- Sun., Oct. 18th @ Bojangles Coliseum: Gabriel Inglesias

MUSEUMS | ART:

- @ the Levine Museum of the New South: 1/2 off admission / 1st Sundays free
- @ the Mint Museum (Uptown) : 1-4pm free admission for kids + hands-on art activities, yoga & more

TRADE | INTEREST SHOWS | FESTIVALS:

- @ East 8th Vintage: 10am-6pm sidewalk community rummage sale w. various vendors

DANCE MUSIC | DJS | BURLESQUE | DRAG:

- @ Archive: last Sundays 12-4pm the Art of Easing w. DJs Foundation & Cairo Black

- @ the Common Market (Plaza-Midwood): 2-4pm DJ That Guy Smitty
- @ Dish: 2nd & 4th Sundays 3pm "Go-Go Gary" w. DJs Lee Lally (Adverb) & friends
- @ Petra's: 1st & 3rd Sundays "Hazy Sunday" feat. DJs Ray & Probably Will (enter via back alley)
- @ Reggae Lounge: 3rd Sundays 5-10pm Mad Max Presents: "Retro Sundays" w. DeeJay Kross (+ Ludi & dominos)
- @ Starlight on 22nd: 4-8pm Soul Sundays w. DJs Guy Nowchild, Cree, J-3, Vincent Tyson, James Bethea

FILM:

- @ the Harvey B. Gantt Center for African-American Arts + Culture: 2nd Sundays 2pm the
www.ClassicBlackCinemaSeries.com

MONDAYS:

SPORTS | ACTIVITIES:

- www.Hornets.com @ Spectrum Center: 10.26 7pm vs. Washington Wizards
- @ Sir Edmund Halley's: trivia night w. Merely Players

BEER | WINE | FOOD:

- @ 300 East Restaurant: ½ wine by the glass

LIVE MUSIC:

- @ the Evening Muse: 7:30pm Find Your Music open mic 9.21 Blake Kelly
- @ the Fillmore: 10.05 Artemas / 10.26 AJ McLean Presents: Alexander James
- @ the Neighborhood Theatre: 9.07 Nino Paid / 9.21 French Police / 9.28 the Bros Landreth / 10.05 Weathersday / 10.19 L7
- @ Petra's: 7-10pm Bill Hanna Legacy Jazz Jam
- @ Smokey Joe's: Bluegrass Mondays w. Chad Andrew Harris, Steven Davidson & friends / 1st Mondays Jamorah
- @ Snug Harbor: 9.14 Brown Horse, Chore Coat / 10.12 Sex Mex, I Hate Dave / 10.19 Gully Boys, Polyanna, Bangzz / 10.26 Passion Mango, cherry pick
- Mon., Sept. 7th @ the Milestone: Dollar Taxes, Somnium, Leaving for Arizona, I Hate Dave, Whistlestop + an arts market
- Mon., Sept. 21st @ Skyla Credit Union Amphitheatre: Yeat

TRADE | INTEREST SHOWS | FESTIVALS:

- @ Oak Steakhouse: 11am Ben's Friends (sobriety meetings for individuals in food service)

DANCE MUSIC | DJS | BURLESQUE | DRAG:

- @ VINYL: 8pm DJ Mister Williams
- @ Snug Harbor: 8pm All my Friends are Fly w. DJ See Bird Go & guests / 1st Mondays "What's Good" w. DJ MF Burns & guest DJs or performers (benefitting local charities)
- @ Soul Gastrolounge: DJ Saudade (Don Poush)

KARAOKE:

- @ Starlight on 22nd: 7-10pm karaoke

TUESDAYS:

SPORTS | ACTIVITIES:

- www.CharlotteKnights.com @ Truist Field: 9.08 6:35pm vs. BUF
- www.Hornets.com @ Spectrum Center: 10.06 7pm vs. Brooklyn Nets

BEER | WINE | FOOD:

- @ 300 East: 1/2 off wine by the glass
- @ the Goodyear House: kids eat free
- @ Infinity Live: \$2 taco night
- @ Tip Top Daily Market: 10% off bottles of wine

LIVE MUSIC:

- @ Amos': 9.01 Eihwar, Frayle / 10.06 Willow Avalon / 10.20 Neoni / 10.27 Hey, Nothing
- @ Bart's Mart: open mic
- @ the Comet Grill: Red Rocking Chair
- @ Crown Station: 8-12pm open mic/improvised jam w. Jay Cooper & friends
- @ the Evening Muse: 1st Tuesdays Tosco Music open mic
- @ the Fillmore: 9.22 Taste of Chaos / 9.29 Starbomb / 10.13 the Revivalists / 10.20 Benjamin Tod, Lost Dog Street Band / 10.27 John Cameron
- @ Jackalope Jack's: 9pm Eternally Grateful (Dead covers)
- @ Middle C Jazz Club: 9.15 Broadway after Dark w. host Jessie Booth / 10.20 Broadway after Dark w. host Jessie Booth
- @ Moochie's Tavern: open mic night
- @ the Neighborhood Theatre: 9.01 Emarosa / 9.08 Uncle Acid & the Deadbeats / 9.15 the Mars Volta (SOLD OUT) / 9.22 Cyril Neville Plays The Dead / 10.06 Kyle Gordon / 10.20 Andrew McMahon (SOLD OUT)
- @ Petra's: 9.15 Jazz Vocalist Showcase / 10.27 Molly McGuire, CHUM, How Come
- @ Smokey Joe's: open mic night w. the Smokin J's
- @ Snug Harbor: 9.01 Added Color, Celadon / 9.15 Bitchin Bajas, Zodiac Lovers / 9.29 Dildox, Problems, Lofidels + DJ Spider
- @ Spectrum Center: 9.01 Brandi Carlile / 10.20 Katseye / 10.27 Sombra
- @ Snug Harbor: 9.08 Balaclava, M.A.T.B., D. Sablu, Doltz / 10.06 Emanuel Wynter, Brandon Tenney / 10.20 Hole Dweller, Sub Deviant
- @ Truliant Amphitheater: 9.01 Kehlani, Durand Bernarr, Isaia Huron, thearti\$t, Waseel / 9.08 the Hayley Williams Show / 9.15 Babymetal
- @ the Underground: 9.15 Inayah / 9.22 Gnash / 10.06 Rebecca Black / 10.13 Igorrr
- @ VisArt (Video) Café: 2nd Tuesdays 7:30-9pm Mike Strauss Trio w. guests
- @ the Visulite Theatre: 9.22 Emmaline / 9.29 Nogu Svelo / 10.20 Maddie Zahm, Molly Grace
- Tues., Sept. 1st @ the Milestone: Who They Fear, Left on Red, Featherweight, Screwed Ends, Unthreaded
- Tues., Sept. 15th @ Skyla Credit Union Amphitheatre: Malcolm Todd
- Tues., Oct. 27th @ Knight Theater: Indigo Girls, Linda Perry

COMEDY | THEATER:

- @ the Comedy Zone: 9.22 Nasser Al-Rayess / 10.13 Landon Bryant, Mary Ryan Brown
- @ Starlight on 22nd: 7-10pm comedy open mic
- Tues., Oct. 6th @ the Comedy Club at Duckworth's: Kevin Sullivan

DANCE MUSIC | DJS | BURLESQUE | DRAG:

- @ Soul Gastrolounge: DJ Shanti
- @ VINYL: 8pm DJ Mister Williams

KARAOKE:

- @ Petra's: 1st Tuesdays – piano bar karaoke w. Ryan Stamey

KIDS:

- Tues., Oct. 27th @ Ovens Auditorium: Sonic Live in Concert

WEDNESDAYS:

SPORTS | ACTIVITIES:

- www.CharlotteIndependence.com: 9.02 7:30pm @ Mecklenburg County Sportsplex (Matthews) vs. Portland Hearts of Pine
- www.CharlotteKnights.com @ Truist Field: 9.09 6:35pm vs. BUF
- www.CharlotteFootballClub.com @ Bank of America Stadium: 10.28 7:30pm vs. CF Montreal

BEER | WINE | FOOD:

- @ 300 East Restaurant: ½ off wine by the bottle
- @ Central Coffee: 15% off pounds of coffee
- @ Dilworth Neighborhood Grill: 6:30pm 1st Wednesdays
www.CarolinaBrewMasters.com meeting

LIVE MUSIC:

- @ the Evening Muse: 9.02 Drew White Band, Jesse Fox, Gasoline Gypsies / 9.16 Watts McCormick, Kris Hitchcock / 9.23 Admiral Radio, Leon Timbo / 10.14 Hunter Root
- @ the Fillmore: 9.16 Phantogram / 9.30 Soccer Mommy, Snail Mail / 10.14 Bethel Music / 10.21 Arch Enemy, the Black Dahlia Murder
- @ Middle C Jazz Club: 9.02 William Green & Karen Bryant (music of Joe Sample) / 9.09 Robbie Cunningham / 9.16 Tim Scott / 9.23 Curtis Salgado / 9.30 Shemaine & Crimson Soul / 10.14 Pasquale Grasso / 10.28 Tim Scott does John Coltrane's a Love Supreme
- @ the Milestone: 9.16 Her New Knife, Bedrumor, Scrllett, Cold Summer II / 9.23 Squeamish, Arlomite, Syndicate 99, Young Death God, January Knife
- @ Neighborhood Theatre: 9.23 Hazlett / 9.30 Austin Meade / 10.07 Verygently / 10.14 All them Witches / 10.21 Abbie Gamboa
- @ the Rooster (Gastonia): 7-10pm singer songwriter open night w. Kennon Knight
- @ Smokey Joe's: Josh Daniel, Kerry Brooks, Jim Brock
- @ Snug Harbor: 9.02 Squid Plssee, Dr. Blood's Orgy of Gore, Nihilist Militia / 9.09 Memorials / 9.30 Dirty Sound Magnet, Gran Moreno / 10.14 Sooflay, Pleasure House, HP Armstrong

- @ Spectrum Center: 9.23 Gorillaz / 10.14 Don Omar
- @ Starlight on 22nd: 7-10pm open mic
- @ Truliant Amphitheater: 9.09 Empire of the Sun / 9.16 John Fogerty, Steve Winwood
- @ the Underground: 9.30 Ryan Beatty / 10.07 Finn Wolfhard / 10.14 Kelela / 10.21 Peelingflesh
- @ the Visulite Theatre: 9.16 Tophouse, GoldenOak / 10.21 Ratboys, Smidley
- Wed., Sept. 9th @ Bojangles Coliseum: Ken Carson
- Wed., Oct. 7th @ Skyla Credit Union Amphitheatre: Wave to Earth

COMEDY | THEATER:

- @ the Comedy Club at Duckworth's: 9.02 Casey Balsham / 10.14 Maggie Hughes DePalo / 10.21 Nate Meeker
- @ the Comedy Zone: 9.02 Dan Lamorte / 9.09 Patrick Warburton / 9.16 Anthony Mroczka (psychic medium) / 9.23 Gaurav Kapoor / 9.30 Manuel Angel Redondo / 10.21 Charles McBee / 10.28 Julian Cross
- @ Crown Station: open mic comedy

DANCE MUSIC | DJS | BURLESQUE | DRAG:

- @ Soul Gastrolounge: DJ See Bird Go
- @ Tommy's Pub: 9pm Shindig w. DJs Blondzai & HostModern
- @ VINYL: 8pm-1am "Wednesdays on Wax" feat. DJ That Guy Smitty w. residents & guests - 1st Wednesdays Jay Cooper (VonFunk Hauser), 2nd Wednesdays Danielle Kharman, 3rd Wednesdays Scott Slagle, 4th Wednesdays Will Gilreath (Probably Will) - 10.07 DJ Chief Rocka Aking
- Wed., Sept. 2nd @ Mint Museum (uptown): 6-10pm Su Casa Presents: Phonte (of Little Brother & Foreign Exchange) w. DJs Bloc & Steel Wheel

KARAOKE:

- @ Petra's: karaoke w. Klaytastic
- @ TCB 54 Hundred Bar & Grill: 7-11pm karaoke w. DJ Storm

SPEAKERS:

- Wed., Sept. 23rd @ Ovens Auditorium: Dante Gebel

THURSDAYS:

SPORTS | ACTIVITIES:

- www.CharlotteKnights.com @ Truist Field: 9.10 7:04pm vs. BUF
- @ Armored Cow Brewing: 7pm trivia
- @ the Common Market (Oakwood): 7-9pm trivia

BEER | WINE | FOOD:

- www.PBSCharlotte.org: 8:30pm Charlotte Cooks
- @ 300 East: 1/2 off Matilda Wongs
- @ Cabarrus Creamery (Concord): 7-9pm 2nd Thursdays Cabarrus Homebrewers Society
- @ Eddie's Place: 9:30pm music bingo / trivia night w. prizes

LIVE MUSIC:

- @ Amos': 9.24 Upon your Dead Body, When the Sun Sets, Letters to Part / 10.01 Brenn! / 10.15 Silverada, the Pink Stones

- @ the Evening Muse: 9.03 Memphis Lightning, Jared Petteys, the Headliners / 9.10 Visit Neptune, superstar / 9.17 MJT, Arkose / 9.24 Lucy Kaplansky / 10.01 Thomas La Vine / 10.08 the Takes, Primal Static, Ranford Almond / 10.15 Prince of Eden, Nolen Durham / 10.22 Adam Paddock, Willingdon / 10.29 Jackie Evans (SOLD OUT)
- @ the Fillmore: 9.03 Jack Harlow / 9.10 Linea Personal / 10.01 Alicia Villarreal / 10.15 Thundercat / 10.29 Earl Sweatshirt & Mike
- @ Mariposa (at the Mint): 5-8pm Shana Blake & Gary Marcus
- @ Marquee: Rhythm 4U Band feat. Erika Morrison
- @ Middle C Jazz Club: 9.03 Yellowjackets / 9.10 JD & Familiar Strangers (Bobbie Bluu, Monnlyfe, Kerri Lashawn) / 9.17 Chela sings Chaka / 9.24 J-Rod Sullivan & the 4 Korner / 10.01 the Voltage Brothers / 10.08 Java Band / 10.15 Gregg Karukas / 10.22 Haley Reinhart / 10.29 Acoustic Alchemy
- @ Neighborhood Theatre: 9.03 the 4411, Juniper / 9.10 Here Come the Mummies / 9.17 North Mississippi Allstars / 9.24 Benny G / 10.01 Saxsquatch / 10.08 Shawn James / 10.15 the Infamous Stringdusters
- @ Ovens Auditorium: 9.10 Juanes / 9.24 Ryan Castro
- @ Petra's: 9.03 Sweat Transfer, Infinitesfreefall, Ego Death Machine / 9.10 MA, Vigil for Flower, Saarta Hannah / 10.15 Colby T. Helms, the Virginia Creepers
- @ Queen City Grounds: open mic
- @ Rhino Market (Morehead): 1st & 3rd Thursdays jazz w. the GTO Trio (John Shaughnesy, Greg Jarrell & Phillip Howe)
- @ Skyla Credit Union Amphitheatre: 9.24 Charley Crockett / 10.08 Gregory Alan Isakov
- @ Smokey Joe's: 9pm-12am Shana Blake & friends' "Menagerie Jam"
- @ Truliant Amphitheater: 9.03 Bryson Tiller / 9.10 Staind / 9.17 the Strokes
- @ the Underground: 9.03 Rio da Yung OG / 9.17 Curyman II / 9.24 Fantasy Fangirls / 10.01 Saint Levant / 10.15 Plini / 10.22 Scene Queen
- @ the Visulite Theatre: 9.24 the Grass is Dead / 10.01 Paul Thorn / 10.08 Jenna Davis, Ava Liv Mabry / 10.15 the Brothers Comatose, Featherpocket Stringband / 10.22 Alana Springsteen, Kyle Schuesler
- Thurs., Sept. 17th @ Tommy's Pub: 8pm Bottle of Smoke
- Thurs., Oct. 1st @ Carolina Theatre: Mariachi El Bronx
- Thurs., Oct. 8th @ Coyote Joe's: Tyler Nance, Shane Proffitt, Taylor Austin Dye, Cole Goodwin, Kelsey Hart
- Thurs., Oct. 8th @ the Amp Ballantyne: Clint Black, Midland
- Thurs., Oct. 29th @ Bojangles Coliseum: Gavin Adcock
- Thurs., Oct. 29th @ the Milestone: Feyleux, Corpse Dust, New Romantics, Haunt3d

COMEDY | THEATER:

- @ the Comedy Club at Duckworth's: 9.03 Darren Brand / 9.10 Katherine Blanford / 9.17 Ian Fidance / 9.24 Ed Bassmaster / 10.01 Shannon Fiedler / 10.08 Katie Boyle / 10.15 Gabby Bryan / 10.22 Joey Avery / 10.29 Learnmore Jonasi
- @ the Comedy Zone: 9.03 Tee Sanders / 9.10 Patrick Warburton / 9.17 Comedian CP / 9.24 Russell Peters / 10.01 Vidura Bandara Rajapaksa / 10.22 Michael Longfellow / 10.29 Martin Moreno
- Thurs., Oct. 8th @ Ovens Auditorium: Martin Lawrence

MUSEUMS | ART:

- @ the Harvey B. Gantt Center for African-American Arts + Culture: 6-10pm 3rd Thursdays free: Gantt After Dark
- @ Levine Center for the Arts: 12pm 3rd Thursdays Take an "ArtBreak"

DANCE MUSIC | DJS | BURLESQUE | DRAG:

- @ the Music Yard: 2nd Thursdays "Reset" w. DJs Probably Will (Will Gilreath), AXNT, FZXXX
- @ Pinhouse: "Cigar Vibes" w. DJ Stacey Blackman
- @ Scorpio: 10pm School of Drag hosted by Erica Chanel – Dorm Thursdays (free with student ID)
- @ Soul Gastrolounge: 7pm DJ That Guy Smitty
- @ VINYL: 8pm DJ (Justin) Aswell

KARAOKE:

- @ Hattie's Tap & Tavern: 9pm-1am karaoke
- @ the Rooster (Gastonia): trivia & karaoke
- @ Tommy's Pub: 8pm karaoke w. KJ Notorious J.A.M.

FRIDAYS:

SPORTS | ACTIVITIES:

- www.Hornets.com @ Spectrum Center: 10.23 7pm vs. Atlanta Hawks
- www.CharlotteKnights.com @ Truist Field: 9.11 7:04pm vs. BUF
- www.CharlotteCheckers.com @ Bojangles Coliseum: 10.16 7pm vs. Hartford Wolf Pack / 10.23 7pm vs. Springfield Thunderbirds
- Fri., Sept. 11th @ Open Door Studios: 10am free fusion dance classes w. Baran Dance & Cambodian Legacy Project

BEER | WINE | FOOD:

- @ Armored Cow Brewing: University City food truck Fridays
- @ Cabarrus Brewing Co. (Concord): 1st Fridays Cabarrus County food truck Fridays
- @ Duckworth's: 1/2 off wine by the bottle
- @ Fountain Park (Rock Hill): food truck Fridays (May-September)
- @ Hi-Wire Brewing: 5:30-9pm SouthEnd food truck Fridays
- @ Lenny Boy Brewing Co.: food truck Fridays
- @ Resident Culture: food truck Fridays
- @ Trinity Presbyterian Church: Cotswold food truck Fridays

LIVE MUSIC:

- @ the Amp Ballantyne: 9.11 Broken Hearts / 9.25 Houndmouth, Daniel Donato's Cosmic Country, Molly Tuttle
- @ Amos': 9.04 Hell Awaits (a Slayer tribute), Tornado of Souls (a Megadeth tribute) / 9.11 the Nashville Nights Band / 9.18 A Lot like Birds, Blight Town, Murals / 9.25 Given to Fly (a Pearl Jam tribute) / 10.09 Stop Light Observations / 10.16 Julia Cole, Jordana Bryant
- @ Bechtler Museum of Modern Art: 1st Fridays jazz
- @ City Cellar (Lincolnton): 3rd Fridays 6-9pm Shana Blake & Ben Davenport
- @ the Comet Grill: the Lenny Federal Band
- @ Coyote Joe's: 10.09 Lauren Alaina, Ashley Kutcher / 10.16 Jake Worthington, Bailey Marie
- @ the Evening Muse: 9.04 Angie Aparo / 9.11 Bermuda

Search Party, Miki Fiki / Ace Monroe // 9.18 Sean Hayes wsg Etienne de Rocher (Haunted Shed) / Reeve Stimpson, Kids Table // 9.25 Eliot Bronson / 10.23 Fo Daniels, Gavin Kelly

- @ the Fillmore: 9.25 Julia Wolf / 10.02 Grupo Duelo / 10.09 Niko Moon / 10.16 Clutch / 10.23 JpegMafia
- @ Middle C Jazz Club: 9.04 Marcus Adams & Tony Exum Jr. / 9.11 Chris Standring / 9.25 September in the Park (a Chicago / Earth, Wind & Fire tribute) / 10.02 Brandon Stevens / 10.09 Four80East / 10.16 Chrissi Poland / 10.23 Paul Taylor / 10.30 Jackiem Joyner
- @ the Milestone: 9.11 Fires in the Distance, Hinayana, Sometime in February, Celaris / 9.25 Wyndrider, Pondigger, Holyroller, Sixyearhex / 10.16 Hank Sinatra, Revelwood Mission
- @ Neighborhood Theatre: 9.04 the Dirty Guv'nahs / 9.11 Kanii / 9.18 Edgehill / 9.25 Castle Rat / 10.02 Jammy Buffett / 10.09 Rising Appalachia / 10.16 Colby Acuff / 10.23 Tiana Major9 / 10.30 Ethan Regan
- @ Ovens Auditorium: 10.09 Edith Marquez / 10.16 Arcangel
- @ Petra's: 9.11 Carolina Down Boys, Ryan Cassata, Mandako / 9.18 Ask Carol, Flame Tides, Groove Skeletons / 9.25 Deore's Tantrums, Modern Moxie
- @ the Rooster (Gastonia): 9.04 Awakening Ghost, Seasons, to be a King & more / 9.11 the Hand off, Leaving Echoes, Rothschild, Marissa is Missing / 9.25 DurtE, Shawn Paris / 10.30 Pretty Boy Floyd, Stone Whiskey, Permacrush & more
- @ Skyla Credit Union Amphitheatre: 9.11 Billy Currington, Kip Moore / 9.18 Rainbow Kitten Surprise
- @ Snug Harbor: 9.04 Ashlyn Uribe, Vitcon / 9.18 the Inspector Cluzo, Lightwatch / 9.25 Telescreens / 10.02 Ryan Davis & the Roadhouse Band, Styrofoam Winos, Motocrossed / 10.09 the Yawpers, Emily Burdette / 10.16 Cortisa Star
- @ Spectrum Center: 10.02 Kasey Musgraves / 10.09 Phoebe Bridgers / 10.16 the Smashing Pumpkins
- @ Substrate: 7pm Cosmic Collective
- @ Tommy's Pub: 9.04 Council Ring, G-gnomes / 10.09 Flame Tides, gogoPilot / 10.23 the Local Odyssey / 10.30 Beyond the Portal
- @ Truliant Amphitheater: 9.18 Wu-Tang Clan / 10.09 Fuerza Reginda / 10.16 Five Finger Death Punch
- @ the Underground: 9.04 the Aquabats / 9.11 Lyfe Jennings / 9.18 George Birge / 9.25 Emo Nite / 10.02 Noah Rinker / 10.16 Drew Sidora
- @ Visulite Theatre: 9.04 Schur, Fai Laci / 9.11 Franklin Jonas & the Byzantines / 9.25 Sort of Damocles (the music of Rocky Horror & more) / 10.09 Yacht Rock Radio / 10.16 Nospun, Abacab (a Genesis tribute) / 10.23 Supernova (an Oasis tribute) / 10.30 Magoo
- Fri., Sept. 18th @ Bojangles Coliseum: Young Thug, Nav
- Fri., Oct. 30th @ Carolina Theatre: Bruce Cockburn, Livingston Taylor

COMEDY | THEATER:

- @ the Comedy Club at Duckworth's: 9.04 Darren Brand / 9.11 Katherine Blanford / 9.18 Ian Fidance / 9.25 Ed Bassmaster / 10.02 Shannon Fiedler / 10.09 Katie Boyle / 10.16 Gabby Bryan / 10.23 Joey Avery / 10.30 Learnmore Jonasi
- @ the Comedy Zone: 9.04 Bill Bellamy / 9.11 Eric Eaton / 9.18 Jeff Dye / 9.25 Russell Peters / 10.02 Arnez J. / 10.23

Michael Longfellow / 10.30 Kevin Nealon

- @ the Common Market (SouthEnd): 7pm open mic comedy w. Jacob Manluc
- @ Ovens Auditorium: 9.11 Nurse John / 9.25 Mojo Brookzz / 10.02 George Lopez
- @ Tip Top Daily Market: 3rd Fridays 8pm comedy open mic
- Fri., Sept. 18th @ the Rooster (Gastonia): Officer Eudy (benefitting Hope United Survivors Network)

SYMPHONY | OPERA | DANCE:

- @ Belk Theater: 10.02 www.CharlotteSymphony.org Presents: Back to the Future in Concert / 10.09 www.CharlotteSymphony.org Presents: Rimsky-Korsakov's Scheherazade / 10.23 www.CharlotteSymphony.org Presents: Schubert's Symphony No. 9
- Fri., Sept. 11th @ Knight Theater: www.OperaCarolina.org Presents: Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's Requiem

MUSEUMS | ART:

- 1st Fridays @ Dilworth Artisan Station: gallery crawl
- 2nd Fridays @ Oak Street Mill (Cornelius): art, music, & vendors

TRADE | INTEREST SHOWS | FESTIVALS:

- @ Tip Top Daily Market: 4:20-5:20pm High Time Happy Hour – 20% off all herbal delta & CBD products

DANCE MUSIC | DJS | BURLESQUE | DRAG:

- @ Marquee: DJ C-Rob
- @ the Reggae Lounge: "Fyah Fridays" w. DJ Dr C & guests
- @ Rhino Market (Morehead): 6-9pm Vinyl Fridays w. DJ Tober
- @ TCB Hundred Bar & Grill: 7-9pm "Pull up Fridays" w. DJ Stacey Blackman
- @ Tommy's Pub: 9.18 Tool Chest Productions Presents: amateur burlesque & variety show / 10.16 Rockabilly Riot w. DJs Christian Hoefle & Dil3mma
- @ VINYL: 8pm DJ A-Minor
- Fri., Sept. 4th @ Petra's: Twinflame Presents: "Soulstice" w. DJs Maal & She's A+
- Fri., Sept. 11th @ Stylus Soundlounge: DJ Cairo Black
- Fri., Oct. 30th @ Sofie's: Upscale Halloween Party w. DJ Stacey Blackman (costumes mandatory) w. Olympia D.

SPEAKERS:

- Fri., Oct. 23rd @ Carolina Theatre: Matt Fraser (live psychic readings)

FILM:

- @ the Spoke Easy: B-Movie Fridays

KIDS:

- Fri., Sept. 25th @ Belk Theater: www.CharlotteSymphony.org Presents: Bugs Bunny at the Symphony
- Fri., Oct. 23rd @ Ovens Auditorium: Undertale – the Determination Symphony World Tour

SATURDAYS:

SPORTS | ACTIVITIES:

- www.CharlotteCheckers.com @ Bojangles Coliseum: 10.16 6pm vs. Hartford Wolf Pack / 10.24 6pm vs. Springfield Thunderbirds
- www.CharlotteFootballClub.com @ Bank of America Stadium: 9.05 7:30pm vs. Houston Dynamo / 9.26 7:30pm vs. Chicago Fire FC / 10.31 1pm vs. Orlando City SC
- www.Hornets.com @ Spectrum Center: 10.24 6pm vs. Miami Heat / 10.31 6pm vs. Philadelphia 76ers
- www.CharlotteIndependence.com: 9.12 7pm @ American Legion Memorial Stadium vs. Westchester SC / 9.26 7pm @ Mecklenburg County Sportsplex (Matthews) vs. Fort Wayne FC / 10.10 7pm @ Mecklenburg County Sportsplex (Matthews) vs. New York Cosmos
- www.CharlotteKnights.com @ Truist Field: 9.12 5:35pm vs. BUF
- @ Tommy's Pub: 9.26 bingo w. the Primes / 10.17 bingo w. the Primes
- Sat., Sept. 12th @ Pierson Dr.'s Independence Blvd. underpass mural: 10-11am community cleanup w. Sharon Dowell & Hilary Siber Edwards

BEER | WINE | FOOD:

- @ 300 East: 1/2 off wine by the bottle
- Sat., Sept. 5th @ First Ward Park: 10am Charlotte Soul Fest w. food, music, wellness, art, marketplace & more
- Sat., Sept. 12th @ Lenny Boy Brewing Co.: www.CLTCoffeeFestival.com
- Sat., Oct. 10th @ Victoria Yards: 11am www.CharlotteVegFest.com

LIVE MUSIC:

- @ Amos': 9.05 Wicked Jones, Cronic Disorder, Circle of Echoes / 9.12 Lips like Sugar / 9.19 Dark Side (a Pink Floyd tribute) / 9.26 Caligula Blushed (a Smiths & Morrissey tribute) / 10.03 Failing Andrea, Unthreaded, Taking November, midsummers / 10.17 Graham Barham / 10.24 Kidd G / 10.31 Blue Monday
- @ the Evening Muse: 9.12 Will Hoge, Jon Tyler Wiley / 9.19 Ross Adams, John Dungan / Calder Allen // 9.26 aha Coma, the Mystery Plan / LaureNicole, Lower Management // 10.03 Brandon Wisham, Kanaan Brock, Avery Roberson / Six Foot Blonde, Noah Richardson // 10.10 Will Dempsey, Erin Kirby / 10.31 Doom Gong
- @ the Fillmore: 9.12 Esdeekid / 9.19 Black Veil Brides / 9.26 Glaive / 10.17 Waylon Wyatt / 10.31 Sammy Rae & the Friends, Melt
- @ Middle C Jazz Club: 9.05 Maria Howell & Ray Greene / 9.12 Ranky Tanky / 9.19 Jeff Kashiwa / 9.26 Karen Briggs / 10.03 Take 6 / 10.10 Brian Simpson / 10.17 Erin Stevenson / 10.24 Paul Taylor / 10.31 Jackiem Joyner
- @ the Milestone: 9.26 Glass Chapel, Redder Moon, IIOIOIOII + DJ Spider / 10.03 Ego Likeness, Secret Idol, Solemn Shapes + DJ Spider
- @ Neighborhood Theatre: 9.12 Jervis Campbell / 9.19 Jenna Raine / 9.26 Owen Riegling / 10.03 Gable Price / 10.10 Daley / 10.17 Bombargo / 10.24 AJ Lee, Blue Summit
- @ Petra's: 9.05 Meredith Parks, Tomahawk Baby, Anna Kimm / 9.12 Ultraviolet Sapphic Dance Party

- @ the Rooster (Gastonia): 9.05 PostCHAOS, We Rise to Fall, Helle's Bridge / 9.19 Excide, Wicked Jones, Cronic Disorder / 9.26 Haymaker, Wolves, Seneca Burns, Frailskin, Dying Oath, Villain over Heroes, Inferior Design, Black River, East Viridian & more / 10.03 Polkadot Cadaver / 10.17 Whole Lotta Presence (amLed Zeppelin tribute)
- @ Skyla Credit Union Amphitheatre: 9.05 Needtobreathe / 9.26 Flatland Cavalry / 10.03 Dermot Kennedy / 10.10 Two Door Cinema Club / 10.24 Rawayana
- @ Snug Harbor: 9.05 Abby Jeanne & the Shadowband / 9.12 Ratbasterdz screening + No Sign of Life, Infinxty, Shotwithagun, Process//Sleep // 9.19 W.I.T.C.H., Pearl & the Oysters / 9.26 Peach Candy Nut Boys, Once Below Joy, Shock Tea / 10.03 Pretty Baby, Alcantara, Night! Night!, thisislandearth / 10.10 She's Green, Witches Exist, smush
- @ Tommy's Pub: 9.05 Infinite Free Fall / 10.03 Motorgoat
- @ Truliant Amphitheater: 9.05 Suicideboys, Destroy Lonely / 9.12 Iron Maiden / 9.19 Treaty Oak Revival
- @ the Underground: 9.05 Channel Tres / 9.12 Golden (K-Pop party) / Kawaii Rave // 9.19 Jet - Down the Moonlit Mile Revue / 10.03 Lily Rose / 10.17 Rodrigo y Gabriela / 10.24 Blake Whiten / 10.31 Hawthorne Heights
- @ the Visulite Theatre: 9.12 Yo Mama's Big Fat Booty Band / 9.19 Angry Chair (an Alice in Chains tribute) / 9.26 the Dirty Doors (a Doors tribute) / 10.10 Yacht Rock Radio / 10.24 Barstool Rodeo (Widespread covers) / 10.31 Let Love Rule (a Lenny Kravitz tribute), Evenflow (a '90's tribute)
- Sat., Sept. 12th @ Ovens Auditorium: the Bassment Yard
- Sat., Sept. 26th @ Carolina Theatre: Lucinda Williams
- Sat., Oct. 3rd @ Spectrum Center: Weezer
- Sat., Oct. 17th @ Bank of America Stadium: Ed Sheeran
- Sat., Oct. 17th @ the Amp Ballantyne: Trampled by Turtles, Futurebirds

COMEDY | THEATER:

- @ the Comedy Club at Duckworth's: 9.05 Darren Brand / 9.12 Katherine Blanford / 9.19 Ian Fidance / 9.26 Ed Bassmaster / 10.03 Shannon Fiedler / 10.10 Katie Boyle / 10.17 Gabby Bryan / 10.24 Joey Avery / 10.31 Learnmore Jonasi
- @ the Comedy Zone: 9.05 Bill Bellamy / 9.12 Eric Eaton / 9.19 Jeff Dye / 9.26 Russell Peters / 10.03 3pm Davide De Pierro / 6 & 8:45pm Arnez J. / 10.24 Michael Longfellow / 10.31 Kevin Nealon
- @ Ovens Auditorium: 9.19 Don Lemon, DL Hughley / 10.10 Adrian Uribe

SYMPHONY | OPERA | DANCE:

- Sat., Oct. 17th @ Knight Theater: www.CharlotteSymphony.org Presents: the Music of Harry Potter

MUSEUMS | ART:

- @ Charlotte Studio Artists: 10am-4pm gallery crawl
- @ ClearWater Artists Studio: every 2nd Saturday 10am-4pm Open Studios
- @ the NASCAR Hall of Fame: 2nd Saturdays interactive program exploring racing
- @ Legion Brewing (lawn): 2nd Saturdays art market (Apr.-Nov.)

TRADE | INTEREST SHOWS | FESTIVALS:

- @ the Local Pick Up (Rock Hill): 11am-6pm musical instrument consignment
- @ the Rooster (Gastonia): 1st Saturdays "Misfit Market" (records, collectibles, makers & more)
- @ Spandex City Comics: 11am Pokemon league
- @ VisArt (Video) Café: Improv Building Blocks – improv comedy workshop w. April Kirby
- Sat., Oct. 10th @ Truist Field: 11am Charlotte Bookpalooza

DANCE MUSIC | DJS | BURLESQUE | DRAG:

- @ the Milestone: 9.19, 10.17 "Digital Noir" w. DJ Spider & guest
- @ Marquee: DJ 360
- @ Mezzo Market: 7pm DJ Jah Sun Rising (Jason Herring)
- @ Substrate: 3rd Saturdays "LoveLee Days" w. DJ Adverb (Lee Lally) & friends / last Saturdays w. DJ Saudade (Don Poush)
- @ Tommy's Pub: 9.12, 10.10 Requiem Goth Night w. DJs Sanity Ana & Dil3mma
- @ Heist Brewery: 4pm Tutto Mondo reunion
- Sat., Oct. 3rd @ Sofie's: Upscale Singles w. DJ Stacey Blackman

FILM:

- Sat., Oct. 17th @ Carolina Theatre: 8pm Rocky Horror Picture Show (Spooktacular) + a meet & greet w. Barry Bostwick

SPECIAL OR MULTIPLE DAY EVENTS:

SPORTS | ACTIVITIES:

- Thursdays-Sundays www.FunnyBus.net (starts @ 7th Street Station)
- Historic Uptown Neighborhood Tour www.CharlotteNCTours.com (daily)
- Sat., Oct. 3rd @ Grady Cole Center: Charlotte Roller Girls-www.CLTRD.org

BEER | WINE | FOOD:

- Tuesdays-Saturdays @ Great Wagon Road Distillery: tours
- Fridays & Saturdays 10pm-4am: Food Trucks on Freedom
- Southern Food Bicycle Tour www.CharlotteNCTours.com (daily)
- Sept. 18th-20th @ Charlotte Motor Speedway: FoodieLand

LIVE MUSIC:

- Sept. 18th & 19th @ Carolina Theatre: Sainted Trap Choir Presents: "A Night full of Wonder" (the music of Stevie Wonder)
- Oct. 2nd & 3rd @ Knight Theater: Tosco Music Party – www.FabFestCharlotte.org (Beatles tribute)
- Oct. 7th & 8th @ Spectrum Center: Olivia Rodrigo

COMEDY | THEATER:

- Sept. 8th-13th @ Belk Theater: Hell's Kitchen (the musical)
- Sept. 10th-13th @ VAPA Center: www.CharlottesOffBroadway.com & Mental Health Reimagined Present: "Right Before I Go"
- Sept. 11th – Oct. 4th @ Theatre Charlotte: Come from Away
- Sept. 24th-27th @ Lincoln Theatre Guild (Lincolnton): RENT w. director Ashleigh Curry, stage manager Bryan Rife & choreographer Mekeisha Rivers
- Oct. 13th-18th @ Belk Theater: the Great Gatsby (a musical)

SYMPHONY | OPERA | DANCE:

- Oct. 16th & 17th @ Knight Theater: www.CharlotteSymphony.org Presents: the Music of Tina Turner

MUSEUMS | ART:

- Liberty Walk: self-guided tour of the American Revolution – www.CharlotteLibertyWalk.com / www.HandHeldHistory.com contact@meckdeck.org
- Sept. 19th – Jan. 31st @ Mint Museum (uptown): Corey Pemberton – Living Well
- Sept. 26th – Feb. 1st @ Bechtler Museum: Making an Impression – Pioneering Latin American Printmakers
- THRU Oct. 18th @ the Mint Museum (Randolph): Interventions – Weaving Joy, Woven Resistance
- THRU Oct. 25th @ the Mint Museum (uptown): Caravaggio – Revolution

TRADE | INTEREST SHOWS | FESTIVALS:

- Thursdays-Saturdays @ Petra's: 12-6pm Little Shop of Petra's w. vintage housewares, clothes, records & more
- Sept. 4th-7th in downtown Matthews: www.MatthewsAlive.org Festival
- Sept. 11th-13th @ Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church: www.YiasouFestival.org Greek Fest. (Fri. & Sat. 11am-10pm / Sun. 11am-6pm)
- Sept. 11th – Nov. 1st @ Carowinds: SCarowinds
- Sept. 19th & 20th @ Belk Theater: 30th Annual www.IndiaFestival2.iacofcarolinas.org
- Sept. 25th-27th @ Freedom Park: www.FestivalInThePark.org
- Oct. 3rd – Nov. 22nd @ 16445 Poplar Tent Rd. (Huntersville): www.Carolina.RenFestInfo.com (Saturdays & Sundays)
- Oct. 3rd-12th in uptown Charlotte: www.HolaCharlotteFestival.com

FILM:

- Sept. 22nd-27th @ the Independent Picture House: www.CharlotteFilmFestival.com

KIDS:

- Oct. 1st-4th @ Bojangles Coliseum: Disney on Ice – Spotlight Magic

• If you would like to see your event on this listing, simply email the info to ellengurley@gmail.com.

• Always check with the venue before you plan your outing for any cancellations, age requirements, and potential handbag size limitations.

• Other media outlets, please do not copy and paste our exhaustive event listing onto your own website or into your own publication. Thank you for respecting the hard work.

• To receive a monthly event newsletter, email "subscribe" to ellengurley@gmail.com.

FROM SCRATCH: SAMANTHA WARD

AN INTERVIEW BY THE CLOWN

The appeal of baked items must somehow be part of our DNA. Realtors encourage sellers to bake items prior to showings, schools and clubs most frequently use bake sales or raffles for baked good for fundraisers, and some religions pray for daily bread. Charlotte is fortunate to have a large variety of local culinary talent. Within that talent pool, some individuals become prominent through product innovation, quality, exclusivity, and community engagement. Samantha Ward is one of these extraordinary talents producing baked goods that will leave you with cravings for more. Samantha is currently producing baked goods for L'Ostrica. The Clown has been a fan of this baker for quite some time and had an opportunity to catch up with Samantha recently.



CLOWN: Where did this journey begin for you?

SAMANTHA WARD: At a young age. I've always enjoyed creating and all forms of art. If not pastry, I would've taken up some form of art (painting, sculpting, etc). Roping the art into the pastries and cakes is where I was sold. The rest is history!

C: Have you been baking since you were very young?

SW: I started in my teen years. Baking full time in the industry since I was 17.

C: Tell us about some of the most impactful things you have learned through schooling, mentoring, and experience.

SW: Honestly, do things how you see fit. Find the people that you want to learn from. Find the template that works for you. There is no right or wrong way. Make your journey unique. Everyone has an opinion, so form your own and don't let anyone deter you from where you want to be.

C: What is your vision for people experiencing your products?

SW: I just want them to experience joy. That's what food is all about; sharing a joyful moment with others, celebrating a joyous moment with you and the treat.

C: What are some factors that inspire your creativity?

SW: I love seasonal produce and global ingredients.



way, we shall see. But for now, Charlotte remains my home.

C: What message would you like to share with aspiring bakers?

SW: Explore the world. Work everywhere. See where you fit in the industry. There's so many amazing cities and cultures to be experienced.

C: What goals are ahead for you as a person?

SW: To find balance. Continued happiness. I'll always strive to keep pushing as a chef, but right now the wave is high, so I'll keep on it till I'm not.

C: In ten words, describe the rest of your life.

SW: Free. Creative. Unconventional. Busy. Adventurous. Flavorful. Colorful. Caffeine. Magical. Shenanigans.

L'Ostrica

4701 Park Rd, Unit D, Charlotte, NC 28209

market 11am-2pm Wed.-Sat. / dinner and bar service from 5pm Wed.-Sat. (reservations recommended)

Sunday Supper is a single seating at 5:30pm and reservations are required.

www.LOSTRICAclt.com

Taking the time to research pairings and what flavor profiles go well with others. Also, other cultures are always a win for me. I love learning how different parts of the world create their dishes, then integrating certain aspects of those flavors and techniques into my dishes.

C: What is your favorite item to make?

SW: As simple as it is, bread and scones. I've made a million cakes and plated desserts. As fun as that is, bread and scones will always win!

C: What music is usually playing in your kitchen?

SW: Music is such a huge part of my life. I could be jamming to ANYTHING! You'll hear everything from Led Zeppelin, Tool, Ambrosia, George Strait, Celine Dion, As I Lay Dying, Spiritbox, Jason Aldean, etc.

C: You do quite a bit to give back every year. What causes are near and dear to your heart?

SW: Food is community. And without our community, the food industry wouldn't thrive. I think it's incredibly important to support and give back to those who support you. I always will be part of Chefs Against Cancer, Giving Kitchen, and Cookies for Kids.

C: What goals/dreams are ahead for you as a baker?

SW: I honestly don't know where I'll go from here. It has been a wild ride thus far. If an opportunity comes my



LOCAL BOOK & COMIC BOOKSTORES

BOOKSTORES:

- **BELMONT BOOKSHOP**
7 N. Main St., Belmont, 28012
- **BLANK GENERATION**
2902 N. Davidson St., Charlotte, 28205
- **BOOK BUYERS**
3040 Eastway Dr., B, Charlotte, 28205
- **BOOK EXCHANGE**
345 1st Ave. NW, Hickory, 28601
- **BOOK LADY, THE**
3515 W. Hwy. 74, Monroe, 28110
- **BOOK RACK, THE**
10110 Johnston Rd., #5, Charlotte, 28210
- **CLEARY'S BOOKSTORE**
105 N. Main St., Mt. Holly, 28120
- **CORKS, COOKS, & BOOKS** (CCB Bistro & Vine)
295 Herlong Ave., Suite 401, Rock Hill, 29732
- **FRED & JUNE'S BOOKS**
162 N. Main St., Mooresville, 28115
- **FRIENDS BOOKS ON MAIN**
206 E. Main St., Rock Hill, 29730
- **GOLDBERRY BOOKS**
12 Union St. S., Concord, 28025
- **GROUNDS BOOKSTORE AND CAFÉ, THE**
8335 Browne Rd., Charlotte, 28269
- **JULIA'S CAFÉ & BOOKS**
1133 N. Wendover Rd., Charlotte, 28211
- **LIBERTY BOOK COMPANY, THE**
1037 Oakland Ave., Rock Hill, 29732
- **PARK ROAD BOOKS**
4139 Park Rd., Charlotte, 28209
- **PARSIFAL BOOKS**
106 E. 1st St., B, Lowell, 28098
- **SECOND LOOK BOOKS**
4519 School House Commons, #230, Harrisburg, 28075
- **SO MUCH MORE TO THE STORY BOOKERY**
130 S. Main St., Monroe, 28112
- **TALL STORIES BOOK & PRINT GALLERY**
164 S. Cherry Rd., Rock Hill, 29732
- **THAT'S NOVEL BOOKSHOP**
330 Camp Rd., Suite B (inside Camp North End),
Charlotte, 28206
- **TROPE BOOKSHOP**
1516 Lyon Ct., Charlotte, 28205
- **TROUBADOUR BOOKSELLERS**
1721 Sardis Rd. N., 7C, Charlotte, 28270
- **UPSTAIRS BOOK NOOK**
11237 Lawyers Rd. (inside HomeStyles Gallery &
Specialty Shops), Mint Hill, 28227

• URBAN READER BOOKSTORE

305 McGill Ave. (inside Gibson Mill Market), 205 McGill Ave., Concord, 28027

• WALLS OF BOOKS

20920 Torrence Chapel Rd., B6, Cornelius, 28031

• WELLINGHALL BOOKS & COFFEE

2101 Carmel Rd., Charlotte, 28226

COMIC BOOKSTORES:

• ALL THINGS COLLECTIBLE

5102 Wilkinson Blvd., Gastonia, 28056

• A. PENNYWORTH'S COMICS

11025 Monroe Rd., D, Matthews, 28105

• CENTRAL CITY COMICS

2600 Central Ave., G, Charlotte, 28205

• CHEWY'S CARDS & COLLECTIBLES

5719 W. Hwy 74, Indian Trail, 28079

• COLLECTING PROBLEMS

1682 Katy Ln., Fort Mill, 29708

• DOC'S BASEMENT

427 E. Catawba St., Belmont, 28012

• HARDY BOYS RECORDS & COMICS

- 701 Keswick Ave., Suite 106 (at Camp NorthEnd),
Charlotte, 28206
- 1616 Camden Rd., Suite 140, Charlotte, 28203
- 11237 Lawyers Rd. (inside Homestyles Gallery),
Mint Hill, 28227

• HEROES AREN'T HARD TO FIND

417 Pecan Ave., Charlotte, 28204

• MAD JACK'S RECORDS & COMICS

315 W. John St., Matthews, 28105

• MAC'S HEROES & VILLAINS COMICS

11229 E. Independence Blvd., B, Matthews, 28105

• PARKER BANNER KENT & WAYNE

21500 Catawba Ave., A, Cornelius, 28031

• POET'S VAULT

6424 South Blvd. (inside Sleepy Poet Antique Mall),
Charlotte, 28217

• REBEL BASE COMICS & TOYS

701 S. Sharon Amity Rd., C, Charlotte, 28211

• SSALEFISH COMICS

10099 Weddington Rd., #118, Concord, 28027

• SPANDEX CITY

8420 Bellhaven Blvd., Charlotte, 28216

** It is recommended that you google the venue
for the hours of operation before you visit.*

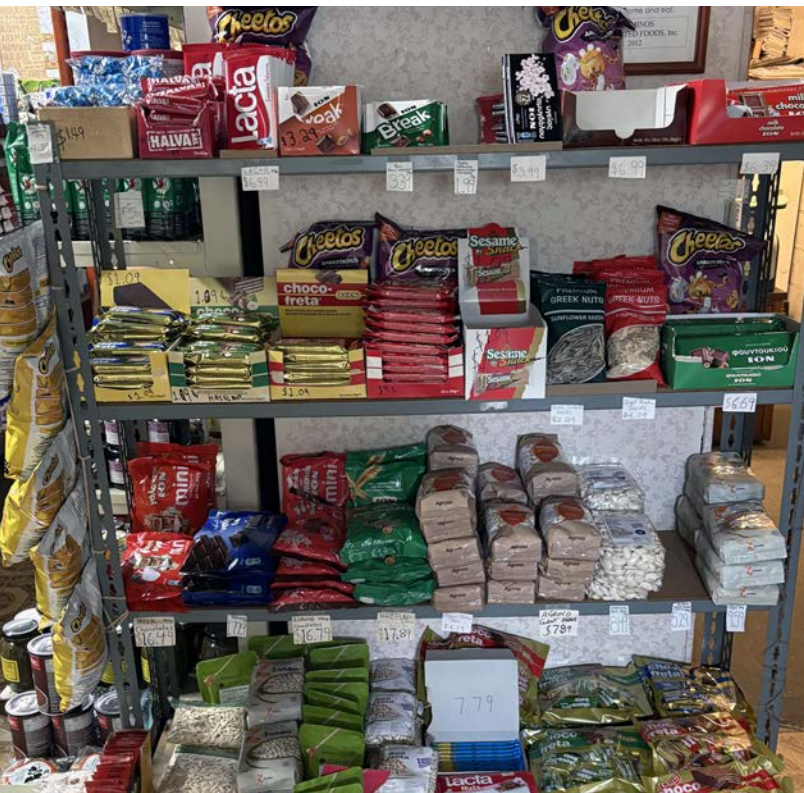
NOT-SO-HIDDEN CHARLOTTE GEMS

ARCHIVE CLT

2023 BEATTIES FORD RD., #500,
CHARLOTTE, 28216

Go grab some juice or a latte at Archive and enjoy the laid-back atmosphere of a café with records plus gifts galore. A bonus is the stack of OLD yearbooks from Johnson C. Smith and West Charlotte Senior High that you can flip through.

V



< MINOS IMPORTED FOODS

11016 MONROE RD., SUITE B,
MATTHEWS, 28105

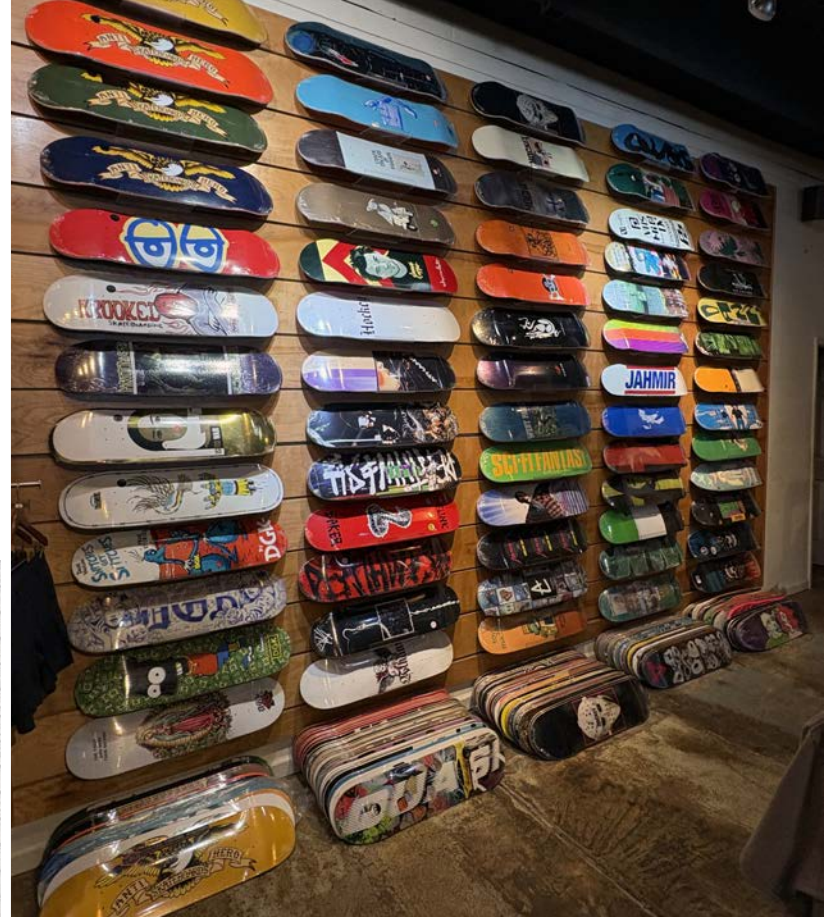
Tucked in the back of a warehouse is a Greek food wholesaler that you might not know about. Minos has been there since the 90's. Go grab some restaurant-quality cheeses, olives, meats, and more.

BLACK SHEEP

830 LAMAR AVE., CHARLOTTE, 28204

Just off of Central Avenue (across from the Thirsty Beaver) hides Charlotte's oldest skate shop, Black Sheep. But, guess what? You don't have to be a shredder to appreciate sweet sneakers and T-shirts. Go check them out.

V



< PHOTO OUTFITTERS

4732 MONROE RD., #130,
CHARLOTTE, 28205

Film is not dead. Pop into Photo Outfitters and see that for yourself. Any skill level is welcome and the staff is there for hands-on support for your hobby or your professional shooting needs. They even have a full-service lab. Get to know them today.

MICRO MONSTERS

BY: THE CLOWN

