Our murals
Meet Chapel Hill’s long-time muralist and plan a walking tour on page 4.

Working here
Grow your network with opportunities for young professionals on page 8.

Connecting
Meeting new people in a new place is scary. But we’ll do our best to help on page 3.

presented by The Daily Tar Heel
### About us

Locate is an annual publication of DTH Media Corp. The Daily Tar Heel is the student-run newspaper serving UNC and the community. It is printed three times per week when classes are in session.

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Publisher: DTH Media Corp.

To place an advertisement, contact us at advertising@dailytarheel.com or call (919) 962-1163.

### Our staff

- **Garrett Bolter**  
  Design Team Leader

- **Sarah Redmond**  
  Multimedia Team Leader

- **Keaton Swanzy**  
  Campaigns Team Leader

- **Molly Looman**  
  Managing Director

- **Designers**  
  Amy Metzinger  
  Matthew Meyers  
  Katy Rice  
  Angie Shen

- **Writers**  
  Ashton Capozzi  
  Jack O’Grady  
  Martha Bennett  
  Keaton Swanzy  
  Sarah Clark  
  Catherine Morgan  
  Shepard Barnes

- **Photographers**  
  Melissa Fernandez  
  Matilda Marshall  
  Abe Loven  
  Madison Hoffman

- **Tyler Pollack**  
  Student Advertising Manager

- **Claire Perry**  
  Production Manager

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Chastan Swain knows that life after graduation can be lonely. Swain is the president of the Graduate and Professional Student Federation at UNC, and he, like many other graduate students and young professionals, has had to find his way outside of college, building a community as he goes.

“As soon as you know where you’re headed, look for ways to build a home,” Swain said. “Introduce yourself to your neighbors, join a local running club, or apply to be on a municipal committee… When this feels like it’s not enough, don’t be afraid to reach out to old friends and family – no matter how far away they may be. Their encouragement will help you build something new, and will inspire you to form new relationships.”

With Swain’s advice in mind, the Locate team has compiled a few suggestions for anyone new to town that is looking for a place to call their own.

**GET TO KNOW YOUR NEIGHBORS**

On your quest for new connections, the first place to look is the next door down. Making friends with your neighbors can provide connections close to home – not to mention the occasional cup of sugar.

If knocking on doors or baking casseroles to share isn’t your speed, try sites like Nextdoor to get connected to those who live nearby.

**GO OUT ON THE TOWN**

Walk down the main streets, and you will see them lined with bars, restaurants and social clubs. Some restaurants offer community tables or counter seating for mingling.

Restaurants like Linda’s, which is popular with graduate students and permanent residents, also offer trivia.

**GO TO AN EVENT**

Attend a concert at Cat’s Cradle or Local 506. Attend an improv class at The Pit. Visit an art gallery installation at the Ackland Art Museum. Buy tickets to see performances at Playmakers, Forest Theater, or Memorial Hall.

Chapel Hill and Carrboro both hold regular farmers markets, where you can connect with local vendors and meet other early birds like yourself.

Attend seasonal events such as FestiFall; The Garden Holiday Festival; The Light Up Festival; Cardinal Directions Beer Festival; UNC basketball or football tailgates; and Halloween on Franklin Street.

**VOLUNTEER**

Chapel Hill has a big spirit of volunteering. No matter what you’re passionate about or what your skills are, you likely can find an organization to work with.

“Do whatever you can to feel plugged into your new community,” Swain said.

The University can connect you with volunteer opportunities you can’t find elsewhere. Visit the university website and search for “volunteering.” For example, the UNC site can connect you with the NC Jaycee Burn Center, where you can be a part of a support team for burn survivors.

**NETWORK IN TOWN**

Seek out people who share your interests. Meetup can connect you with reading groups, hiking clubs, foodies and everyone in between.

Get involved with other young professionals through the Chapel Hill Young Professionals, an organization run through the Chamber for a Greater Chapel Hill Carrboro. Its members work to connect each other to opportunities, develop skills and share in professional experiences.

If you are a graduate student, consider the Graduate and Professional Student Federation. The GPSF hosts academic and professional development events, cookouts and LinkedIn resume workshops.
If you've been to downtown Chapel Hill, you've probably noticed them – large sceneries and characters painted on different buildings lining the streets.

While the murals are great decoration and perfect photo ops, for downtown, they mean so much more. Each contributes to Chapel Hill culture and has its own story to tell.

**Why do our murals matter?**

If you’re on the hunt for that true downtown, eccentric feel, Chapel Hill’s murals can give you just that. Our murals are loved by residents and students alike and add a variety of stories that make our downtown unique. Not to mention, all of the murals are great for photos.

If you’re getting to know the feel of downtown Chapel Hill, be sure to explore some of these murals – and don’t be surprised if you see even more along the way. We’re profiling a few of the most well-known murals in town, but this is just the beginning.

**What’s the story behind the murals?**

Chapel Hill resident and muralist Michael Brown has painted a number of murals across downtown since he started his work in 1988.

Let’s dive into some of his favorites to get the scoop on what these murals are about and where you can find them.

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**Pencil**

*Painted: 1991*
*Location: Along Henderson Street across from Tru Deli*

If you’ve seen this mural, you probably asked yourself: What’s up with the pencil?

This 140-foot-long mural was painted to fill the long narrow wall lining Henderson Street. Brown wanted to have fun with this mural and create something eye-catching where the University meets Franklin Street.

Brown said he wanted to present the mural with a message related to the University in an unusual way to fit the scenery of Henderson Street. The phrase “Is mightier than the sword” is printed upside down to depict what a pencil looks like to a left-handed person.

Brown also left the pencil slightly dull to convey the idea that while the pencil is mightier than the sword, “the pencil sharpener is mightier than the pencil.”

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**Parade of Humanity**

*Painted: 1997*
*Location: Carolina Coffee Shop (138 E. Franklin St.)*

The Parade of Humanity mural located on the side of Carolina Coffee Shop is hard to miss.

“She was so close to UNC I wanted to do something with precedent and resonance,” Brown said. The mural is of university figures walking alongside each other toward Franklin Street, some of them student assistants and professors he knew at the time.

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**This mural has evolved over time. 1893/Sarah Redmond**

Brown included different characters and symbols to represent university disciplines and departments. He collaborated with student volunteers and other students who passed by, including their suggestions in small details throughout the painting.

In 2014, the mural was vandalized with the words “Black Lives Matter” spray-painted across the wall. In response, Brown cleaned the mural and added a Black Lives Matter armband onto one of the characters, so be sure to search for it when you’re there.

Brown said if he had to pick, this mural would be his favorite.
The Sea Turtles mural is a Chapel Hill favorite. Brown initially wanted to paint a mural with dinosaurs but was turned down by the Chapel Hill Design Review Board. To convey a similar artistic expression, Brown came up with the idea to paint sea turtles since they are similarly prehistoric and endangered creatures. If you’re driving down North Columbia Street, this mural facing what residents call the “Turtle lot” is hard to miss.

The Blue Mural was the first mural Brown painted in downtown Chapel Hill. It features a nighttime landscape of downtown as Brown remembers it from when he was younger. With the help of student volunteers, Brown finished the full painting and restored the mural in 2009.

P.S. The Daily Tar Heel and 1893 Brand Studio are located on the second floor of this building.

Brown’s mural covering the front and side of the building of Pantana Bob’s, a well-known social spot on West Rosemary Street, depicts students filling in images of UNC football players. This was his attempt to pay tribute to the student volunteers that helped him with his murals and add to the school pride of downtown. This funky work adds to the fun vibe of this classic Chapel Hill bar. Folks might tell you it’s only half-done, but don’t worry – it’s not.

Many people think the mural is unfinished, but Brown made it as a tribute. 1893/Melissa Fernandez.
Another way to work:

Make YOUR OFFICE work for YOU

By Jack O’Grady

Whether freelancing or starting a business, young professionals in Chapel Hill in a changing world are used to being their own boss.

And with a work environment as dynamic as many that you’ll find here in the Triangle, they need an office space that works just as hard as they do.

And this space isn’t noisy coffee shops or lonely cubicles.

Chapel Hill professionals, fueled by an entrepreneurial spirit, have found their home in the modern coworking space, and now so can you.

Why coworking works

As with most expanding urban centers, rent in Chapel Hill can be expensive and intimidating for professionals looking to lease an office or open a small business.

For individual freelancers or remote workers, it’s easy to accept working in the many crowded coffee shops that line Franklin Street as the new normal despite their many shortcomings.

“They’re not professional. There’s always somebody moving around and getting another cup of coffee,” said Gregg Gerdau, founder of Carolina Coworking.

“This is what we offer, a quiet, professional place to work.”

Carolina Coworking is one of a few coworking spaces popping up in the Chapel Hill area to meet the demand of increasingly dynamic and independent professionals.

Gerdau prides his business on offering professionals and small business owners a quiet place to be productive without needing to shell out serious money to lease an office over a long term.

In fact, it’s possible to rent a desk at Carolina Coworking for as little as a day at a time.

And all this comes without the hassle of looking after a full office.

Coworking spaces handle internet connection, maintenance – everything that gets between a professional and their job. It all comes down to making more accessible, productive spaces. And people are starting to notice.

Who are your coworkers?

“It’s eclectic,” Gerdau said.

“We’ve got work at home people. We’ve got people who are starting new businesses.

Help Keep Student Journalism Alive

Help us build the future

Donate Today at StartThePresses.org

The Daily Tar Heel

Since 1893
and looking to grow.”

The list of possible coworkers goes on, and it’s one of the biggest benefits of coworking spaces.

Networking opportunities in coworking spaces are always presenting themselves.

Just walking to the water cooler might take you past entrepreneurs, seasoned professionals, up-and-coming creatives and countless other possible connections.

Launch Chapel Hill, another coworking space with a start-up accelerator program, cites the ability to “crowdsource” solutions to urgent problems with your large group of coworkers as a major benefit of coworking spaces.

“Spaces like Launch Chapel Hill, which houses between 12 to 16 start-ups at a time, are buzzing with entrepreneurial energy. And many have the resources to support new business initiatives.

What are your resources?

Besides the knowledge of your coworkers, the resources at coworking spaces range from logistical to entrepreneurial.

Launch Chapel Hill hosts Entrepreneurs-in-Residence, and businesses that are accepted into its start-up accelerator program have open access to a litany of valuable resources and advice.

Carolina Coworking offers lunch and learn sessions that help professionals acquire and hone essential business skills, Gerdau said.

Carolina Coworking also serves as a “super-connector,” in that it helps connect professionals and businesses with venture capital in remote locations, Gerdau said.

“Between myself and our executive and residents, we’ve got tons of experience with starting and growing businesses,” said Gerdau.

Is coworking for you?

Entrepreneurship, networking, learning – every aspect of coworking spaces comes back to one idea: collaboration.

“It’s not lonely. You’re not some individual sitting in the back of a coffee shop,” Gerdau said.

Instead, coworking spaces put professionals front and center, creating a space where coworkers from different fields can come together to get stuff done.

Whether they’re a part of a start-up, working remotely, freelancing or just need a desk that’s entirely their own, every professional in a coworking space is there to be productive and collaborative.

So who is coworking for?

Coworking is for small business owners who need a space with room enough for big ideas. Coworking is for young professionals who want an office that works just as hard as they do. Coworking is for those who value collaboration in an eclectic workspace and those who just don’t want to worry about a long-term lease yet.

And if it’s for all those people, it’s probably for you, too.
HOW TO MAKE IT HAPPEN:
A Survival Guide For Young Professionals In Chapel Hill

By Jack O’Grady

Finding work in a new city can be a daunting task. Even with all the skills and experience gained from undergrad, there are a lot of steps standing between entering the job market and landing the big interview.

Thankfully, taking those steps is just a matter of knowing local resources and finding the right opportunities.

So, what does Chapel Hill have to offer?

Who’s hiring in Chapel Hill?

• The University

UNC-Chapel Hill and the UNC system is by far the largest employer in the Chapel Hill area. The UNC system offers a level of stability not found elsewhere in the Triangle, and the job postings are much easier to find – not to mention you can easily apply for multiple jobs within one portal.

Gary Alan Miller, executive director of UNC Career Services, directs anyone looking to work for the University to UNC’s human resources website.

There, he says, there are usually, 75 to 100 job opportunities posted at any given time in a variety of fields.

• Remote Opportunities

Chapel Hill is home to a few big names, including a Google office, but opportunities here aren’t just restricted to who’s in town.

As a center for talent, companies from all over the nation look to hire in Chapel Hill, Gerdau said.

Carolina Coworking also makes working remotely easy, offering office space for young professionals on a pay-by-month basis.

“It’s all here,” Gerdau said. “You just walk in and pay a small fee and go to work.”

• Healthcare

Whether it’s the University, Triangle industries, or local companies, healthcare is always hiring in Chapel Hill.

And jobs in healthcare aren’t restricted to only medical school graduates, Miller said.

“You have tech, you have pharma, you have biomedical, you have research organizations, you have consulting,” said Miller.

“There’s a lot of strength in a lot of different areas.”

• You

The entrepreneurship infrastructure in Chapel Hill is already strong, and it’s improving every day.

Carolina Coworking, besides offering office space, puts on programs giving advice and assistance to growing businesses.

Other notable coworking spaces include Launch Chapel Hill, American Underground and The Frontier.

The Chapel Hill Downtown Partnership has also prepared this guide on opening a business in Chapel Hill.

While starting a business or joining a start-up might be intimidating, coworking spaces make it much more accessible and help connect young professionals with other forward-thinkers, Miller said.

• Freelancing
Freelancers have a well-supported community in Chapel Hill.

Notable organizations include The Freelancers League of North Carolina – which holds monthly events and has a referral process to help freelancers find work – and Uncompany, a full-service marketing agency that hires only freelancers.

With the number of businesses in the Chapel Hill area in need of talent, freelancers are always in demand and it’s a lucrative way of gaining experience and connections.

**Finding Your Network**

Chapel Hill, and the Triangle area in general, has a multitude of professional networking groups to join. Think of an industry, odds are there’s a networking group for it here.

One of the most powerful networking groups in the area is the The Chamber for a Greater Chapel Hill-Carrboro, previously named the Chapel Hill-Carrboro Chamber of Commerce.

Membership in The Chamber helps open the doors to business leadership in Chapel Hill.

The Chamber also runs several smaller networking groups that are open to members and non-members, including Chapel Hill Young Professionals and Carolina Women in Business, which they co-run with the Hillsborough chamber.

Miller also recommends for young professionals to not neglect their personal network, from family friends to former classmates.

You never know who the people you know might know. So, one of the most beneficial things for career development might just be making friends – thankfully, that’s easy in Chapel Hill.

**Networking Events**

Beyond organizations, there’s always something going on nearby where young professionals can meet people in their industry:

- Innovate Carolina holds regular seminars on new technologies and cutting edge business at the Top of the Hill Restaurant & Brewery.
- LaunchBio – a nonprofit entrepreneurial organization focused on health tech – hosts a monthly event every first Thursday that brings together hundreds of entrepreneurs and industry members.
- Friends of the Downtown, a Chapel Hill business networking event, meets the last Thursday of every month at 9:30 a.m. This organization focuses on supporting businesses located in downtown Chapel Hill.
- RTP180, usually the third Thursday of every month from 6 to 8 p.m. at The Frontier in RTP. This event brings together the entire Triangle from the universities to the community.
- The Chamber has monthly Business After Hours meetings for in-person relationship-building that are included with membership.
With thousands working, learning and living in Chapel Hill, commuting options in and out of town are plentiful, but can be a headache to figure out. Especially if you are new to the area, getting a good grasp of how to get to your destination on time and on budget can be overwhelming. Limited parking, busy traffic and at times unpredictable bus lines can make anyone frustrated, but it is not impossible to grasp.

From driving to biking, here is everything you need to know about navigating in and around Chapel Hill.

### Driving & Parking

For those who have their own vehicle, driving can be one of the more convenient commutes to Chapel Hill – if you have a parking permit. Although parking is limited, the more you know about driving and parking in Chapel Hill, the better your chances in finding a spot.

“I normally drive because I’ve missed the bus or have to get to class before my next bus comes,” said MPA student Sydney Lawrence, 22. “I try to ride the bus as much as possible but sometimes it is running behind or it is just more convenient to drive my car.”

As a university town, Chapel Hill experiences rush hour toward the start and end of class days. Monday through Friday, the biggest congestion can be expected mid-morning–10 a.m. to 11 a.m.–and around lunch hour–12 p.m. to 1 p.m. “I find the most traffic pretty much anywhere on campus at 8 a.m. and between 4 - 6 p.m,” Lawrence said. “Also, class changes produce a lot of traffic around the pedestrian areas; South Road, Franklin, and Cameron are where I see traffic the most but will be lightest around 10 a.m. on all of the main roads.”

If you’re planning to drive to Chapel Hill or UNC’s campus, you will most likely need a parking permit. You can purchase a parking pass for the town-owned lots, but the wait list is pretty long – get on it in advance if you can at parkonthehill.com. In the meantime, daily parking is available at parking meters and on the ParkMobile app for around $1 to $1.50 an hour.

Depending on your parking needs, the town of Chapel Hill has partnered with the mobile app, ParkMobile, to help with those on-the-go. Through the app, you can pay/prepay, view what parking spots are available, choose your parking time and even opt into alerts when your meter is about to run out.

The app is free of charge and can be found on the App Store or Google Play. But be cautious: If you want to avoid service charges, use the meters, because the app does charge a small fee per transaction. If you’re in a hurry, though, the app is the better bet.

“I use the metered parking and the Parkmobile app,” Lawrence said. “It is extremely convenient because the meters never seem to be working and take forever.”

And don’t forget – parking in Chapel Hill town-owned lots is free on holidays, weekends and after 8 p.m. Extra charges might apply for football home games.

If you want a parking space on campus, there are 10 parking lots available for annual passes. Through a lottery system, around 800 spots are available for graduate students in the College of Arts and Sciences. If you are a student concentrating in medicine, law or business, there are other options to keep you closer to your school.

Although each school operates their parking lottery slightly different, the general guidelines to be aware of are:

1. Students will register for parking based on resident status and class year. Registration will take place between June and July prior to the academic year.
2. If found to not pay one’s permit fee by the designated date, or incorrectly claim resident or class status, students will be asked to forfeit their permit.
3. For more information on receiving a parking pass for the academic year, go to move.unc.edu/parking.

### Buses

The Chapel Hill Transit bus system is the second largest transit system in North Carolina and covers over 7 million rides a year. Plus, it’s free to all.

“Fort a town this size, they are great,” said Alice Mahood, 44, a graduate student at UNC.

“That being said, of course there could be some improvement. I find it more convenient to take the bus here than I did when living in Boston, so that speaks volumes for how well it is operated and planned.”

Mahood likes to bus for her commute not only because it is better for the environment, but she also walks nearly two miles a day for exercise.

“The closer you are located to the campus, the more frequently the buses run,” she added. “Make sure you watch for your bus and flag it down if you are not in a heavily trafficked area.”

If you’re a student or faculty member not living in Chapel Hill, though, there are still many options to commute if you don’t want to drive.

For those in Chatham County, there is free travel through the Chatham Transit Express that also offers a free park and ride option. Similar commute choices for Greensboro, Burlington, Hillsborough, Mebane and Graham through GoTriangle. If you are commuting to or from Durham or Raleigh, CHT’s provider, GoTriangle, offers frequent bus lines to various locations across the Triangle for as low as $2.25 one-way.

For more stop and fare options, check out gotriangle.org.

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**Biking**

Biking is also another option in navigating the town and campus. Ranked nationally as a silver-level Bicycle Friendly University by The League of American Bicyclists, UNC offers services to students and faculty ranging from discounted U-locks to access to repair stations with registered bikes. Many prefer biking because it gives more independence than bus schedules and is more cost effective/environmentally friendly than driving and paying for parking.

“As far as why I bike, it came down to eliminating the other options,” MPA student Brian Farmer, 22, said. “Unfortunately, with traffic and other unpredictable hazards, it’s less risky to walk or ride my bike as far as getting to class on time. I would prefer a safer option, but this gets me to class on-time more consistently than any other method.”

Getting students and faculty closest to where they need to be in a timely fashion, Farmer agrees that the campus is equipped with an adequate amount of bike racks, but isn’t sure if they are always kept up with.

“It isn’t so much the trouble of finding a bike rack as it is finding an open bike rack,” Farmer said.

Farmer feels that a few more bike racks in central campus may do the trick, but some oversight on the current racks in use may be more needed.

“It may be just as helpful to remove bikes that have been left and are obviously no longer being used,” Farmer said.

Both in and around campus, bike lanes are another development for biking in Chapel Hill. Although not part of his daily commute, Farmer likes the idea and believes they should be implemented more.

“It gives rooms for cars to pass, which avoids some of the most risky situations I face—a car nearly wrecks into me or another car while trying to pass me in an inadvisable situation,” Farmer said. “Ironically, I think bike lanes may also help with bad bikers. I’ve seen some cyclists weave in and out of traffic, and not adhere to the rules of the road.”

Chapel Hill is aiming to be more accommodating to bicyclists with the development of the Rosemary Street Bike Lane project, part of the Chapel Hill Bike Plan, that is scheduled to be completed by 2020.

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**Chapel Hill Transit hours**

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**WHAT YOUR UBER DRIVER WANTS YOU TO KNOW**

Stacy Wynn is a true Chapel Hill native. His parents were professors at UNC-Chapel Hill and he attended Chapel Hill High School.

He worked at The Daily Tar Heel for 30 years, doing everything from paste up to delivering the paper.

Five years ago, he started driving for Uber and Lyft after realizing he could turn his love for driving into some extra cash. His long history in Chapel Hill now lends itself to outsmarting traffic and giving visitors the scoop on his hometown.

Locate’s Ashley Peterson spoke with Wynn to learn how he gets around the Chapel Hill area.

**Locate:** What’s your advice for getting to Raleigh-Durham International Airport?

**Wynn:** It can be difficult to get an Uber or Lyft very early in the morning. A lot of times I’m the only one out there from 3 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. because most drivers doing the bar crowd will go home after 2:30 a.m. Even if there are multiple drivers out, most will not drive 15 or 20 minutes away to pick up a ride.

If you have somewhere important that you need to be at a certain time – it might be better to call a cab. Getting to RDU usually takes about 25 minutes from campus, but anybody leaving from campus or Carrboro should allow an hour and a half before their flight. During rush hour, it can take longer than that.

**Locate:** What’s something that frustrates you as a driver?

**Wynn:** One of my biggest bugaboos is when I get a request that’s 15 minutes away, and when I get there, they’re still getting ready and I have to sit and wait another 5 minutes. Please be aware that these drivers are volunteers that are working off your schedule so be kind! And I could care less about tips. I absolutely appreciate them, but I never expect any ride to come with tips.

**Locate:** Any secret shortcuts for getting around town?

**Wynn:** A lot of people don’t know that you can go through South Campus from Highway 54 to get to Carrboro. Taking Cameron Avenue and South Road can save some time except during class changes. I always recommend allowing extra time during class changes because you can be stuck waiting at a crosswalk for a while. The traffic guards at both crossings on South Road have helped immensely with that. Also don’t forget that there’s a nice cut-through using Stadium Drive to get straight to Ridge Road quicker.

**Locate:** How do I avoid rush hour traffic in Chapel Hill?

**Wynn:** I always have a number of backroad ideas. I listen to WCHL radio for their traffic reports and change my routes in accordance. I hate I-40, especially during rush hour and 15-501 between Chapel Hill and Durham can be a real nightmare, so I try to avoid that too.

**Locate:** Do you have any funny stories about the people you’ve driven?

**Wynn:** Oh, yes, so many. My favorite is when I picked up a young male Duke student on campus going to a Prohibition-themed party at a fraternity. He was wearing a shiny tuxedo coat with white lapels, a big old fat hand-tied bow tie and black shiny shoes. He opened the door to get in and I think I got high off the smell. I had to ask, so I said, “So no pants, huh?”

“Oh, I think I left them in the frat house,” he replied.

I will say that I’ve never lost track of my pants on a night out.

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**WHAT YOUR UBER DRIVER WANTS YOU TO KNOW**

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<td>CM Route, CW Route JFX Route</td>
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<td>Southern Village</td>
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<td>MLK Jr. Boulevard</td>
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<td>Hedrick Building</td>
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**WHAT YOUR UBER DRIVER WANTS YOU TO KNOW**

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<tr>
<th>Lots</th>
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<td>Jones Ferry</td>
<td>CM Route, CW Route JFX Route</td>
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<td>Carrboro Plaza</td>
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By Sarah Clark

Looking to relocate to the Chapel Hill area? There are many options out there for young professionals and graduate students, so no matter what you’re looking for in a neighborhood or home, you’ll likely find the perfect place. Locate storyteller Sarah Clark has compiled everything you need to know about nine neighborhoods of the Orange County area.

Carrboro

Carrboro is often associated very closely with Chapel Hill, but we think this little town has a quirky personality that is all its own. The town is popular with the bike-to-work type and is a quick walk to Chapel Hill and the University’s campus, but it stands out on its own with top-tier restaurants, breweries, cozy cafes and a concert venue that attracts big talent.

Young professional Mimi Pham enjoys the convenience and atmosphere she finds in Carrboro. The commute is easy, she says, and there are plenty of safe bike paths to get around. The residents of Carrboro are big on outdoor spaces, community engagement and art. Don’t miss the weekly farmers’ markets, where all of this comes together on the town green in an explosion of Carrboro.

If you enjoy a laid back community, Carrboro is just this and more with a focus on art, craft and nature. Explore the farmer’s market and local craft stores to feel refreshed and inspired.

Chatham County / Briar Chapel

Are you ready to buy a home? We recommend Chatham County, full of family-friendly neighborhoods that are just a hop, skip and a jump from downtown Chapel Hill via U.S. 15-501. New homes pop up left and right in Chatham County, especially in Briar Chapel, a mixed-use development with restaurants, medical offices and a pharmacy located right at the entrance. The homes range in price from $250,000 to upwards of $750,000 – so, it’s not just for people buying their second or third home.

Chatham County is certainly quieter than its northern counterpart, but it’s growing every day. Soon, the mixed-use Chatham Park will offer entertainment spaces and even more food and retail to the county, and we anticipate everyone will be heading south on 15-501 instead of north.

Realtor Judy Weinstock says that Briar Chapel is “amenities galore” and because the development is new, the more modern floor plans of the homes may appeal to young professionals looking for something fresh.

Apart from Briar Chapel, you’ll find many hidden gems hidden throughout Chatham County. Fearrington Village is just one example of these gems. This small community is home to cows and goats whose coats make them resemble Oreos—seriously, you should Google it.

Want more land and more space to stretch out? Further down 15-501 is downtown Pittsboro, another wonderful feature of Chatham County. The downtown area is small and peaceful, but you can find a variety of retail spaces as well as an old school soda shop.

Chatham County, as a whole, is an up and coming area that offers a lot of charm. If you want to live somewhere that embraces the local community and its creativity at a slower pace, Chatham County is the place for you.

Average Rent for a 1-Bedroom and Average Home Price

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<tr>
<th>Neighborhood</th>
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<tr>
<td>Durham</td>
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<td>Carrboro</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ephesus/Blue Hill District</td>
<td>$800</td>
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<tr>
<td>MLK Corridor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Southern Village</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glen Lamoine/S-4</td>
<td>$850</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Downtown Chapel Hill</td>
<td>$900</td>
<td>$280,000</td>
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Source: Judy Weinstock, realtor. Graphic by Amy Metzinger.

Downtown Chapel Hill

With homes, condos and apartments to choose from, downtown Chapel Hill is a great location that also includes a variety of dining and shopping options. Home to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, this town buzzes with life as students and visitors can be seen all around the area.

Realtor Judy Weinstock says that what downtown Chapel Hill offers is unique; it has that university feel that you can’t get anywhere outside of Chapel Hill. The area is quickly developing, adding more and more housing options as the area becomes increasingly popular. It is also close to the UNC Hospitals, Ackland Art Museum and Carolina Performing Arts. In addition to the university’s buildings are bars and restaurants that line Franklin Street, the main street of Chapel Hill. Here you will find food and snacks for any mood you’re in, like bubble tea, churros, delicious burgers, hotdogs and much more.

Chapel Hill has experienced a lot of recent development that has added to the almost city-like feel of this area. On the other hand, pricing can be hard to navigate in Chapel Hill as prices at restaurants and bars can be pretty high for a young professional, or anyone in general.

It will take some time to figure out how to make Chapel Hill work for your lifestyle.

You will also figure out which parts of Franklin Street match your vibe, East and West Franklin Street offer different atmospheres, with East being more focused on nice restaurants and a more mature vibe than East Franklin Street.

If you’re a working young professional, downtown Chapel Hill may be a good fit for you. Though it’s not particularly cozy or community-oriented, for the individualistic young professional who is focused on work and meeting friends out, this is a great area for that.

Durham

Lower rent, more space and a rich arts and culture community make Durham a popular place for young professionals, especially those who have more recently left college or don’t have families.

Durham’s housing market is more competitive if you’re looking to buy, but you can find apartment complexes with available units in almost every neighborhood in the city, from the 15-501 corridor to downtown Durham.

This quirky city is also popular with couples or friend groups who have...
jobs or are studying both at Duke and UNC. You can get to either university’s campus in around twenty minutes, depending on traffic, and many people you’ll meet have allegiances with one or the other.

Durham’s got a lot. The downtown area is packed with restaurants, bars and entertainment venues, like the Durham Performing Arts Center and the Carolina Theater. Keep an eye out for popular shows like Hamilton which pop in at DPAC throughout the year.

UNC graduate student Qian says she and her roommate like “it’s a great place to live,” Horne said. “It is hard to go into campus for quick errands because I have to find parking or park and ride a bus.”

Durham has a vibrant energy and an additional convenience that is hard to match. If you like entertainment, spending time with friends and experiencing top-notch food, we recommend Durham over any other neighborhood.

### Ephesus / Blue Hill District

If you like to live close to everything you might need, the Blue Hill District is the place for you. This is the area around East Franklin Street and Ephesus Church Road that the town of Chapel Hill has recently rebranded. Homes in this area are walking distance to a variety of trendy grocery stores, shopping centers, restaurants and entertainment.

UNC graduate student Mengyu Qian lives in this area and enjoys that she can pop over to a grocery store with her roommate and then cook from home without needing to trek into Durham or elsewhere.

Homes in the Blue Hill District are close to different grocery stores, shopping centers, restaurants and movie theaters. Not to mention it is a very short commute to Downtown Chapel Hill. The Blue Hill District offers many amenities within a relatively small area.

Qian says she and her roommate like to cook at home, so the short walk from their home to the grocery store is ideal for them.

This area is convenient. You can get to Durham and Chapel Hill in just a short drive. Traffic can be a bear, though, so if you prefer quieter roads, this might not be the best fit.

### Hillsborough

Hillsborough is a smaller, quieter community full of history and is popular with families. “If you’re a history buff, there is a lot to learn about here in Hillsborough,” said Realtor Judy Weinstock.

You can take a walk through downtown to understand the historic charm this town has to offer. The Historic District of Hillsborough is home to the old courthouse and numerous historic buildings. Old homes with beautiful gardens and wrap-around porches are a common sight in Downtown Hillsborough.

Hillsborough offers a variety of living spaces, from rentals to single-family homes, from condos to townhomes, and we think it’s quite cozy. It’s great for families or folks who need to get to Chapel Hill, Durham or Mebane quickly, but don’t want the hustle and bustle of city life.

Hillsborough has its own Weaver Street Market, a popular co-op grocery store that you can also find in Carrboro and Southern Village, among other locations.

But even better: Grab lunch at Weaver Street and then head to the River Walk, one of Hillsborough’s most popular outdoor activities. The paved pathways weave through the trees with direct access to the river.

### Glen Lennox / 54

Just a short ride down 54 is the Glen Lennox Apartments, which Ali Zuercher, a young professional who works in Chapel Hill, says is an affordable location that offers an intergenerational community.

These apartments are not only close to Chapel Hill but close to grocery stores, restaurants and a park. You will also find gyms, restaurants and grocery stores off of 54. The S or V buses can take you into downtown Chapel Hill in just a little over 10 minutes, making Glen Lennox an even more convenient place to live.

Though Glen Lennox Apartments are right off of 54, it’s still easy to feel secluded in this neighborhood, as the clusters of homes and trees make you feel farther from civilization than you actually are.

Not to mention, accessibility to 54 is a huge bonus, as this road can take you straight into Downtown Chapel Hill and Durham.

Glen Lennox is definitely on the more affordable side of the spectrum as far as housing goes for the Chapel Hill area. However, the price can jump much higher when we look at some of the other communities off of 54, like Environs Lofts or Meadowmont.

Further down 54 you will find other neighborhoods and amenities like cafes, restaurants, salons and much more. One of these neighborhoods is Meadowmont, which is a big, family-friendly community with a central plaza, outdoor walking paths and even a cafe that sells delicious bubble tea.

### MLK Corridor

There are a lot of neighborhoods, apartment complexes and shopping centers located along the Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard corridor in Chapel Hill. Similar to the Blue Hill District, we think the MLK corridor is valuable because of its convenience.

It's a short commute to downtown Chapel Hill, although traffic can back up from Franklin Street, not to mention only a short way from Interstate 40, which will take you to Durham and Raleigh. You can catch multiple routes of Chapel Hill Transit buses or use a park and ride.

“It’s nice having options getting to work in the mornings,” said young professional Rachel Myers who lives in this area.

The MLK corridor might not be for those who prefer to walk or bike to work, as hills and traffic make that tougher. But this area is popular with graduate students, young professionals, faculty and staff, especially those who are looking for a quiet rental community.

### Southern Village

Want to find a neighborhood with a mix of convenience and community? Drive down 15-501 past UNC Hospitals to the Southern Village area.

This neighborhood is centered around a mixed-use development with a movie theater, a grocery store, restaurants and cafes. “Southern Village has done a good job fostering the community feeling,” Weinstock said.

The neighborhood is known for its movies on the lawn and outdoor concerts. There is plenty to do in this contained neighborhood. Its walkability and accessibility to these amenities, as well as nearby bus lines, are some of Southern Village’s most popular features.

Anyone commuting to the University, especially South Campus or UNC Hospitals, can get there in just a few minutes. If you don’t want to deal with parking in Chapel Hill, commuting is made easy with a bus stop and park-and-ride lot located near the entrance of the neighborhood. Buses NS and V will take you right to campus with a 20-minute ride.

The charm of Southern Village is harder to describe but easy to see and feel. The accessibility to the main plaza and the walkability rivals that of any other area in Orange County.

### Finding Your Place

No matter where you end up in Chapel Hill, Carrboro or Chatham County, the home is just the first step of the process.

Finding your footing in a new place can be scary, but, luckily, a good long walk on a Saturday may have you stumbling upon your new favorite coffee place, a community center or a family-owned business.
WHERE TO CALM YOUR COFFEE CRAVINGS

By Shepard Barnes

Best Place for More Than Just Coffee: Mediterranean Deli
410 W. Franklin St., Chapel Hill

Although Mediterranean Deli might not be your first thought when picking a spot for a cup of coffee, it has a great variety of food and beverage options. Some of its popular coffee options include locally sourced Chapel Hill coffee as well as Turkish coffee. The restaurant has a unique selection of mediterranean food options, including a wide assortment of bakery items. Popular dessert options such as baklava, lady fingers and burma are always a treat. Try out Mediterranean Deli next time you are looking to expand your food and coffee palette!

Best Place to Do Work: Caffe Driade
1215-A E. Franklin St., Chapel Hill

Caffe Driade offers a unique coffee shop atmosphere for people looking to get work done. Located on East Franklin St. and set away from the road itself, the shop is away from the hustle and bustle on Franklin’s main stretch of road near campus. Although indoor seating is limited, the abundance of outdoor seating is appealing on days when the weather is favorable. For those lucky enough to get a seat inside, the atmosphere is pleasantly warm and cozy.

Best Family Friendly Coffee Shop: Johnny’s Gone Fishing
901 W. Main St., Carrboro

Johnny’s Gone Fishing is a cute, family-friendly coffee shop located off of W Main St. in Carrboro. The coffee shop occasionally offers events including live music and workshops that create a welcoming environment for people of all ages. The abundance of table space makes it easy to bring the whole family. The coffee shop is a fantastic choice all year round, especially for those looking to find a shop away from most college students.

Best Study Spot: Bread and Butter
503 W. Rosemary St., Chapel Hill

Bread and Butter is a cafe located on Rosemary Street that offers an assortment of beverages and baked goods. The cafe is especially known for its scones and brioches, hence the cafe’s name. The cozy atmosphere inside the cafe makes for a wonderful spot to hunker down and do homework for an afternoon. The quiet, laidback setting is conducive to a productive day of drinking coffee and enjoying warm baked goods while studying. Despite its location on Rosemary, few undergraduates students venture this far for a coffee shop.
Moving to Chapel Hill? Here’s what you need to know.

By Catherine Morgan

Chapel Hill has always been appealing to young professionals looking to embark on a new adventure, both professionally and personally.

From the lively sporting events on campus to shopping along Franklin Street or visiting the Ackland Museum, Chapel Hill always has something going on.

New to the Hill? Want to know what to expect when looking for a place to live?

Euliss: Don’t get carried away.

Euliss: Don’t get carried away.

We sat down with Ryan Euliss, a realtor at Allen Tate, who answered our burning questions.

Locate: What’s the best piece of advice you can give to young professionals looking to find a starter home?

Euliss: Don’t get carried away. Nail down some amenities that are desired “must-haves” and go from there. Affirm that you want to live “below your means” and your emotion will lend more towards common sense vs. getting lost in upgrades that many “move-up” homes possess. They can always be added later and may not cost as much as you might think. Be willing to bend on some items such as with or without a garage, deck, porch, etc. Starter homes will most always appreciate better than more expensive homes, protecting your investment.

Nail down financing with a local lender. They all can compete with rates, and it’s important to have a pre-approval letter from a lending institution that a listing agent knows versus online lenders.

This helps to assure a seller that you can indeed buy their home without any hiccups, contract to close.

Locate: Let’s say I’m a new graduate of UNC looking to find a place that’s just close enough to stores and restaurants but far away enough to not be overwhelmed with the college atmosphere. What are some first steps I should take?

Euliss: Well first, I would say to determine what the new lifestyle will be, having newly graduated from the realm of the previous surroundings. Where will be work, and what type of commute will the new life provide? How will this affect the daily routine and what are the bare requirements to maintain a successful transition?

From there, determine what restaurants or amenities are desired to be nearby and whether walkability is as important as it may have been in previous tenancies, perhaps while a student.

What will be most important to you as a recent graduate, and how will this affect your new daily routine? Where will your time be spent for work, play, and recreation? Who will be involved? How will you get there?

If new to the area, your local real

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16
What you need to know about moving to Chapel Hill

CONTINUE FROM PAGE 15

Euliss: For the past few years, the Triangle's housing market has been on a blistering pace, as thousands of people moved here to take well-paying jobs and find a place to settle down. And even as mortgage rates rise and the Triangle's relative affordability compared to other metro areas tightens, the area’s housing market tends to remain strong. Though we have seen a declining rate of population coming into Chapel Hill versus previous decades, there is constant evaluation of land-use planning and development for more types of housing.

The rural buffer around the city is constantly reevaluated as the need for townhouses, apartments, and cluster developments are being lobbied for.

Chapel Hill has always been a bit pricey to live, though strong demand for living and working here seems to provide healthy sales and appreciation. Each year we have a large population of undergraduates coming in, and upon graduation, many move due to lack of jobs to keep them in the area.

We are working on attracting families that are interested in more than just apartment living, and one current building trend has gone vertical to accommodate the limited amount of land for development use. This may tend to stress more of the parking situation dilemma discussed in prior question.

Euliss: Well, that depends. Buying power is higher in N.C. for many, so depending on income, their money may stretch further. This would increase the likelihood for home ownership in these examples.

Chapel Hill houses many millennials and young professionals, and I sell houses each year to this large percentage of the population.

Lifestyle plays into millennial homeownership.

Statistically, this group of the population has delayed things like marriage, or having children, compared to previous generations. Millennials tend to change jobs more often, also compared to previous generations, so lifestyle will determine if they want to be locked to one single position or community for too long.

The Urban Institute found 37 percent of 25- to 34-year-olds were homeowners in 2015, and the Pew Research Center found an identical percentage of millennials were married in 2017. I find that when career or family path is more locked in, these folks are certainly buying homes vs renting. The investment is more clear for return when lifestyle, income, and career path are more defined.

While many are still figuring out these paths, Chapel Hill has a strong investor market, also, which supplies rental properties for individuals that may only reside for a few years, giving the opportunity to move with brevity or uncertainty.

Euliss: Some of the biggest mistakes millennials make when purchasing a home is jumping straight into larger homes and new new new, without considering smaller models or “fixer uppers.” New construction usually depreciates for a little bit after completion versus their counterparts, and younger buyers tend to go with what they know rather than completely explore all options available.

It is important to know what you are getting into with renovating. However, if this fits into the lifestyle, it just may make more financial sense bringing a house from zero to ten rather than paying the premium to start at 10.

The biggest mistakes renters make are only sticking with online listing portals. Real estate brokers have access to the Residential Listing Database where online portals may miss listing availability options.

Looking for rentals either too early or too late can also hurt a tenant from acquiring the right lease opportunity, and having a guarantor ready can be important for the tenant that thinks they can afford the rent when the landlord may just not agree. With this being said, renting in off months versus high season can gain cheaper monthly rents. Lastly, don't get stuck on a certain amenity. Evaluate what you really need to gain the most options at your disposal.

Euliss: Yes. The standard deduction has changed which can affect purchasing power for first time home buyers versus prior law. In 2017, the standard deduction was $6,350 for a single filer. Under the new 2019 law, the standard deduction for single filers has increased to $12,000. With this increase, filers can no longer claim personal expenses.

Euliss: That depends on desired criteria and price point. There are many wonderful neighborhoods in Chapel Hill that bring happiness to many homeowners.

Do you desire public transportation, want to be near families with children, surrounded by young professionals or students, walkability to restaurants or other amenities? Do you desire a yard for a pet or prefer HOA maintained grounds and exterior maintenance?

Comparing your “must-haves” and “do-withouts” with desired price point will categorize what neighborhoods you might want to consider. Further scrutiny might tend to educate what you may have to give up to live in one neighborhood versus another.

Locate.: Is the Chapel Hill area growing or declining in terms of the housing market?

Locate.: Are most young professionals or millennials renting or buying? Do most have roommates or live alone?

Locate.: What are some of the biggest mistakes young people make when looking to buy or rent?

Locate.: Are there any new homeowner laws that could affect potential buyers?

Locate.: Are there any new neighborhoods or areas you recommend more than others?

Locate.: Are most young people moved here to take well-paying jobs and find a place to settle down and even as mortgage rates rise and the Triangle’s relative affordability compared to other metro areas tightens, the area’s housing market tends to remain strong.