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What's Happening in Chapel Hill/Orange County, North Carolina

August 2016 Visitors Travel Update

Welcome Back UNC Students and Families



Chapel Hill will welcome 18,400 undergrads and 10,600 grad and professional students back to campus this month. The Chapel Hill/Orange County Visitors Bureau is participating in the UNC Visitors' Center initiated **Hometown Ambassadors** welcoming new and returning students and families to Chapel Hill for the fall semester. Locals wearing Carolina Blue "information aprons" are stationed along Franklin Street on **Aug 19**, 3 pm - 5 pm and **Aug 20** from 11 am - 5 pm. Additionally, the annual, THE FEEL OF FRANKLIN STREET during the [Week of Welcome](#) (WOW) is **Aug 19** to **Aug 28**. For more information, visit [Chapel Hill Downtown Partnership](#). Fall classes begin **Aug 23**.

WHAT'S NEW



Tourism Tidbits

[Kidzu Children's Museum](#) at University



New Look Website

Visit [VisitChapelHill.org](#) and check out our

Place has a new **Outdoor Learning Garden**. See a large bee hive, raised beds with a variety of native plants and stumps to sit on for storytimes and other programs. Staying outdoors, a new 95-foot long [Footbridge](#) over the Eno River connecting the Town of Hillsborough's **Riverwalk** greenway to the Historic Oconeechee Speedway Trail is open. The **501 West Franklin Street Visitors Center** Saturday hours are now 10 am - 3 pm.



Sundays in Hillsborough

[Sundays in Hillsborough's](#) 12 week concert series begins **Aug 14** through **Oct 30**. Free concerts are on the Old Courthouse Lawn from 2 - 5 pm and 30 minute carriage rides for \$10 per person (kids in laps are free) begin at 1 pm at the Visitors Center at 150 E. King Street. Enjoy area art galleries, historic sites, the Riverwalk, eateries and craft beer. The kickoff concert features Katie Basden, a recent finalist on NBC's The Voice! Also, don't forget the [River Park Concert](#), **Aug 27**.



Bluegrass at Moorefields

The annual outdoor [Bluegrass Festival at Historic Moorefields](#) in Hillsborough is **Sept 10** from 2 pm – 7 pm. Performers include Cook County Bluegrass; Kodiak Farm Boys; Nixon, Blevins and Gage; Vintage Blue; and The Bluegrass Experience. Find a selection of beer and wine, and service from Lost Boys (with gluten free options) and Fetch Hot Dog Co. food trucks. Lawn games will be provided.

redesigned website. We are still making a few tweaks here and there, but take a look and let us know what you think. The photography is king and visitors can quickly find Things to Do, Events, Hotels, Restaurants, Maps & Info, Meetings info, social media links and more. Read our blog and take a look at the in-depth features. The Bureau worked with Simpleview, which has designed multiple destination marketing organizations' websites.



Meet the Heels

The annual [Meet the Heels](#) is **Aug 6** from 4-6 pm in the Eddie Smith Field House on the UNC Campus. From 4-5 pm, the Carolina men's soccer team signs autographs along with photo opportunities with mascots, Rameses and RJ. The football team and head coach Larry Fedora will then have an autograph session (limited to one signed item per person) from 5-6 pm There will also be balloon twisters, inflatables, merchandise, food trucks and much more.



TerraVita Tickets

The [7th annual TerraVita Food & Drink Festival](#) is **Sept 28 – Oct 1**. This year, is an inaugural symposium – A Carolina Food Summit. Also enjoy the popular The Carolina Table: East Meets West dinner. TerraVita will honor chef and TV personality Vivian Howard with a book dinner, celebrating the release of her cookbook. The Sustainable Classroom is back as well as the Hill Fire: Pits, Spits & Grills

Moorefields is located at 2201 Moorefields Road. Tickets are \$15 per person. Teens 13-17 are \$10 and kids 12 and under are free.



Shop & Dine Updates

In Carrboro, [CrossTies BBQ's](#) new sign has been installed and the grand opening is just around the corner. In Chapel Hill, Eastgate Shopping Center is now [Eastgate Crossing](#). **Babalu Tacos & Tapas** and **Chopt** are coming to Eastgate Crossing. Slated to open spring 2017, the two new restaurants will occupy approximately 8,000 square feet and will join **Zoës Kitchen** opening this Fall in creating a quick casual dining destination at the Chapel Hill shopping center. **Chapel Hill Fan Shop** at 304 W. Franklin St. is closed.

dinner. All culminates on Oct 1, with the Grand Tasting on The Green at Southern Village, featuring tastings from more than 40 statewide chefs & artisans.



In the News

Florida Travel Writer Kim Button visited Orange County, NC as part of an **April 27-29** post Society of American Travel Writers Eastern Chapter Conference Media Tour. Button was part of a group of six writers visiting Chapel Hill, Carrboro and Hillsborough. To date, Button has placed several stories and videos from the media tour itinerary such as a [3-Day Weekend](#) featuring The Carolina Inn, [Southern Season](#), [Il Palio and Chef Teddy Diggs](#) and [Honeysuckle Tea House](#). The articles and video blogs appeared **June 8** through **July 12**.

Look Ahead

Mark your calendar for these upcoming Chapel Hill, Carrboro & Hillsborough, NC events.

Sept 5 - [Paperhand Puppet Intervention](#) Shows Weekends Aug 5-Labor Day

Sept 15 - [Harvest Dinner in Carrboro](#)

Sept 16 - [Tar Heel Downtown](#)

Sept 16&17 - [Hog Day](#) returns to Hillsborough

Sept 18 - [Sculpture in the Garden](#) opens to the public at the NC Botanical Garden

Sept 24& 25 - [Carrboro Music Festival](#)

For more events, news and accommodations information, check [VisitChapelHill.org](#)

Photo credits - Welcome Students (Alicia Stemper), Tourism Tidbits - (Kidzu Children's Museum Facebook), Meet the Heels - (Chapelboro), Shop & Dine - (CrossTies BBQ from The Splinter Group)

