

Restaurant Activity Report—Lead Report

Current Real Estate Transactions, Leases Signed, Ownership Changes, and Business Brokerage Activity.



For restaurant contact information, please call Restaurant Activity Report at (315) 790-8151.

Franko's Prime

8460 Honeycutt Road, #112
Raleigh, NC 27615
www.frankosprime.com

Nunzio Scordo
Owner
Est. Opening Date: Jan. 30, 2026
Publication Date: Jan. 15, 2026

Location Type: Independent
Lead Type: New Opening
Average Check: \$20 to \$50
Menu Type: Pizza/Italiaz

Summary: Franko's Prime, a new upscale steakhouse concept, is set to open in North Raleigh at Lafayette Village, occupying the former Driftwood Cantina space. The restaurant is led by a group of industry veterans including Nunzio Scordo, Justin Bee, Keith LoGrande, Joe Farrell, and Steven Hayes. The menu will feature made-from-scratch dishes highlighting USDA Prime beef steaks, fresh seafood, and an extensive wine selection.

Tche Gaucho Brazilian Steakhouse

3741 Sumner Blvd., #150
Raleigh, NC 27616
www.tchegauchousa.com

Patric Emmer
Owner
Est. Opening Date: July 1, 2026
Publication Date: Jan. 15, 2026

Location Type: Regional
Lead Type: New Opening
Average Check: \$20 to \$50
Menu Type: Latin American

Summary: TCHE Gaucho is planning to open a new restaurant in North Raleigh at Triangle Town Center, located at 3741 Sumner Boulevard. The concept is moving into the former 1865 Steak & Seafood space, which was announced but never opened. While an official opening date has not yet been announced, the project has been confirmed by local sources, and additional details are expected to be released as the opening approaches.

Dixon's

207 N Chester St
Gastonia, NC 28052

Eric McClarnon
Founder & Owner
Est. Opening Date: April 1, 2026
Publication Date: Jan. 15, 2026

Location Type: Independent
Lead Type: New Opening
Average Check: \$20 to \$50
Menu Type: BBQ

Summary: Dixon's, a new barbecue restaurant, is planned for the former Cavendish Brewing space at 207 N Chester St, Gastonia, North Carolina 28052. The concept is part of a redevelopment led by Sugar Creek Brewing in partnership with restaurateur Martin Sprox and will open alongside a Sugar Creek taproom and brewery production facilities. Dixon's will focus on barbecue offerings, with the space currently preparing for extensive construction ahead of its debut, and an opening timeline has not yet been announced.

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Casa Azteca

129 W Trade St
Charlotte, NC 28202
www.casaaztecan.com

Est. Opening Date: Feb. 16, 2026
Publication Date: Jan. 15, 2026

Location Type: Regional
Lead Type: New Opening
Average Check: \$20 and Under
Menu Type: Mexican

Summary: Casa Azteca is opening soon at 129 W Trade St, Charlotte, North Carolina 28202, taking over the former King's Kitchen space in Uptown. The modern Mexican restaurant is operated by Azteca & Don Pedro Group LLC, which also owns the original Casa Azteca location in Mooresville. The Uptown location will focus on fresh ingredients and signature cocktails, with a menu expected to include fajitas, quesadillas, burritos, tacos, and salads.

Dash In

12715 Albemarle Rd
Charlotte, NC 28227
www.dashin.com

Mijoung Choung
CEO
Est. Opening Date: Mar. 23, 2026
Publication Date: Jan. 15, 2026

Location Type: Regional
Lead Type: New Opening
Average Check: \$20 and Under
Menu Type: Sandwich/Soup/Salad

Summary: Dash In plans to open a new location at 12715 Albemarle Road, Charlotte, North Carolina 28227, as part of the brand's expansion into the Charlotte area. Operated by the Wills Group, the site will feature a 5,600 sqft convenience store with fuel pumps and a car wash, along with Dash In's made-to-order food program offering breakfast sandwiches, pastries, hot sandwiches, flatbreads, grilled burritos, salads, wraps, burgers, chicken wings, and tenders.

La Isla Cafe

504 E Central Ave.
Raeford, NC 28376

Edwin Carrillo
Owner
Est. Opening Date: Feb. 1, 2026
Publication Date: Jan. 15, 2026

Location Type: Independent
Lead Type: New Opening
Average Check: \$20 and Under
Menu Type: Latin American

Summary: La Isla Cafe is scheduled to open February 1, 2026, at 504 East Central Avenue in downtown Raeford. The family-owned Puerto Rican cafe is being opened by Edwin Carrillo alongside his daughter, Amaryllis Carrillo, and wife, Barbara Gotay. The lunch-focused concept will feature a rotating daily menu of Puerto Rican favorites such as arroz con gandules and lechon, served in a family-friendly setting inspired by mid-20th-century Puerto Rican culture.

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Big Cat

1000 Brookside Dr.
Raleigh, NC 27604

Cheetie Kumar
Owner
Est. Opening Date: Mar. 15, 2026
Publication Date: Jan. 20, 2026

Location Type: Independent
Lead Type: New Opening
Average Check: \$20 to \$50
Menu Type: Classic/Varied

Summary: Big Cat is scheduled to open in March 2026 at 1000 Brookside Drive in Raleigh's East Mordecai neighborhood. The new concept is a collaboration between local hospitality leaders behind Aija, Mala Pata, and Locals Seafood, including Cheetie Kumar, Paul Siler, Marshall Davis, Angela Salamanca, and Justin Pasfield. Big Cat is designed as a hybrid neighborhood restaurant, market, and bar, offering tavern-style food meant to be approachable and suitable for everyday dining. Planned offerings include smoked chicken, grilled lamb, seafood sourced from Locals, salads, sandwiches, and soft-serve ice cream, along with a small market selling wine and prepared foods.

Mad Dash

214 N Tryon St
Charlotte, NC 28202
www.maddashkitchen.com

Corey Jones
Owner
Est. Opening Date: Mar. 14, 2026
Publication Date: Jan. 20, 2026

Location Type: Independent
Lead Type: New Opening
Average Check: \$20 and Under
Menu Type: Sandwich/Soup/Salad

Summary: Mad Dash is coming soon, opening in mid-March at 214 N Tryon St, Charlotte, North Carolina 28202, as the brand expands from its longtime stall at the Market at 7th Street into a full brick-and-mortar space at Truist Plaza. Owned by Corey Jones, Mad Dash will focus on an expanded sandwich lineup while keeping favorites such as the Spicy Dasher Chicken Melt and Blackened Shrimp Po'boy, alongside burgers, wraps, seasonal salads, and wings.

Laurel Market

1900 E 7th St
Charlotte, NC 28204
www.laurelmarketdeli.com

Susan Hardman
Owner
Est. Opening Date: Feb. 22, 2026
Publication Date: Jan. 20, 2026

Location Type: Independent
Lead Type: Relocation
Average Check: \$20 and Under
Menu Type: Sandwich/Soup/Salad

Summary: Laurel Market is coming soon to a new location at 1900 E 7th St, Charlotte, North Carolina 28204, relocating from its longtime Cherokee Road site. The family-operated market and deli is known for made-to-order breakfast and lunch sandwiches and salads, including The Traveler and The Laurel Market sandwich, and the larger 3,500 sqft space is expected to add a wine bar.

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Dash In

8311 Dixie River Rd
Charlotte, NC 28278
www.dashin.com

Mijoung Choung
Owner
Est. Opening Date: Feb. 21, 2026
Publication Date: Jan. 20, 2026

Location Type: Regional
Lead Type: New Opening
Average Check: \$20 and Under
Menu Type: Sandwich/Soup/Salad

Summary: Dash In is coming soon to The River District in West Charlotte at 8311 Dixie River Rd, Charlotte, North Carolina 28278, positioned near the I-485 gateway. Launched in 1979 by The Wills Group and led by president and CEO Julian Wills III, Dash In combines fuel and car wash services with a made-to-order food program offering breakfast sandwiches, pastries, hot sandwiches, flatbreads, grilled burritos, salads, wraps, burgers, and chicken wings and tenders, marking one of several planned expansions for the brand in the Charlotte region.

R Bar

5395 Ramsey St
Fayetteville, NC 28311

Brian Thompson
Owner
Est. Opening Date: Jan. 31, 2026
Publication Date: Jan. 20, 2026

Location Type: Independent
Lead Type: New Opening
Average Check: \$20 to \$50
Menu Type: Bar & Grill/Pub

Summary: R Bar is in development at 5395 Ramsey Street in Fayetteville, taking over the former Last Call Sports Bar space. The concept is owned by Brian Thompson, who has been cleaning and refreshing the building, which operated as a bar for more than 20 years prior to the transition. R Bar is planned as a dive-style sports bar with a neighborhood hangout atmosphere, aiming to modernize the space while maintaining its longtime bar identity.

Lake Norman Cheesecakery

6 Boston Way
Asheville, NC 28803
www.lkncheesecakery.com

Kim Greene
Owner
Est. Opening Date: Mar. 1, 2026
Publication Date: Jan. 20, 2026

Location Type: Regional
Lead Type: New Opening
Average Check: \$20 and Under
Menu Type: Bakery/Coffee/Snacks

Summary: Lake Norman Cheesecakery is planning to open a new location in Asheville's Biltmore Village, moving into the former Well-Bred Bakery space directly across from Corner Kitchen. According to a social media announcement from Historic Biltmore Village, the dessert-focused concept will offer a wide variety of cheesecake flavors, including vegan options. The shop is led by founder Kim Greene and is known for creative cheesecake desserts and specialty treats.