

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.

Picasso's Sports Cafe

123 W Trade St
Charlotte, NC 28202
www.picassosportscafe.com

Devante Powell
Co-Owner
Est. Opening Date: May 16, 2026
Publication Date: May 5, 2026

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

Summary: Picasso's Sports Cafe is opening soon at 123 W Trade St, Charlotte, North Carolina 28202, taking over the former Hooters space in Uptown, with a projected opening around May 2026 pending final inspections. The popular sports bar, known as one of Charlotte's top spots, will serve wings, pizza, burgers, sandwiches, and other classic bar fare, including fan favorites like Buffalo chicken pizza and pepperoni rolls.

Finder's Coffee

1617 S Tryon St
Charlotte, NC 28203
www.finderscoffee.com

H Kim
Owner
Est. Opening Date: July 14, 2026
Publication Date: May 5, 2026

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

Summary: Finders' Coffee is planning to open in summer 2026 at 1617 S Tryon St, Charlotte, North Carolina 28203, with a soft opening targeted for mid-July and a grand opening in mid-August. Led by owner H Kim, the cafe will focus on classic espresso drinks, matcha, and simple, high-quality offerings, including a signature four-ingredient cheesecake in flavors like strawberry, double chocolate, and cookies and cream, within a relaxed space featuring indoor and outdoor seating.

Karak House Coffee

220 N Pine St
Charlotte, NC 28202
www.karakhousecoffee.com

Rohail Malik
Co-Founder
Est. Opening Date: Aug 1, 2026
Publication Date: May 5, 2026

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

Summary: Karak House Coffee is planning to open in August 2026 at 220 N Pine St, Charlotte, North Carolina 28202, led by franchise owner Lythe Elhulu. The cafe will offer Middle Eastern-inspired drinks and food, including signature karak tea, specialty coffees, and flavors like cardamom, rose, pistachio, and saffron, all within a modern, community-focused setting designed for gathering and socializing.

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Mikey's Pizzeria

2320 Bale St
McNeill Pointe
Raleigh, NC 27608
www.vicsitalianrestaurantnc.com

Michael Longo
Owner
Est. Opening Date: Aug 1, 2026
Publication Date: May 5, 2026

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

Summary: Restaurateur Michael Longo, known for Vic's Italian Restaurant, has signed a lease to open a new concept called Mikey's Pizzeria at 2320 Bale St in Raleigh, North Carolina. The restaurant will occupy the former Pizza & Pints space and will feature a kid-friendly, interactive dining experience where guests can build their own pizzas. While an official opening date has not been announced, the project is moving forward following lease execution.

Drift Coffee Shop + Kitchen

1001 Hammell Dr
Ray at the Weld
Raleigh, NC 27603
www.driftcoffee.kitchen

Ben and Michael Powell
Owners
Est. Opening Date: July 1, 2026
Publication Date: May 5, 2026

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

Summary: Drift Coffee Shop + Kitchen has been announced as the first retail tenant at Ray at The Weld (1001 Hammell Dr) near Dix Park in Raleigh, North Carolina. This will mark the brand's second Raleigh location as part of its continued regional expansion. Known for its coffee-focused cafe concept with food offerings, Drift will join the mixed-use development, though an official opening date has not yet been announced.

Taipei Sky BBQ

744 East Chatham Street
Unit F
Cary, NC 27511

Che Wen Hsiao
Owner
Est. Opening Date: July 15, 2026
Publication Date: May 5, 2026

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

Summary: Taipei Sky BBQ is a new restaurant planned for 744 E Chatham St in Cary, North Carolina. Owner Che Wen Hsiao is beginning minor renovations to open the concept within an existing restaurant space. Additional details regarding menu, opening timeline, and concept specifics have not yet been announced.

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The Kitchen

125 Amberglow Rd
Asheville, NC 28804

www.autocamp.com/location/asheville

Neil Dipaola

Founder & CEO

Est. Opening Date: May 21, 2026

Publication Date: April 30, 2026

Location Type: Regional

Lead Type: New Opening

Average Check: \$20 and Under

Menu Type: Classic/Varied

Summary: The Kitchen will be opening on May 21, 2026, at 125 Amberglow Rd, Asheville, North Carolina 28804, as part of AutoCamp Asheville. The concept will feature a casual dining setting with offerings such as eat-in and grab-and-go items, breakfast, lunch and dinner options, and beverages including fresh coffee, tea, beer and wine, with dishes crafted by local chefs and partners.

Good Times Lounge

300 N College St
Charlotte, NC 28202

Kristen Wallace-Williams

Owner

Est. Opening Date: June 3, 2026

Publication Date: April 30, 2026

Location Type: Independent

Lead Type: New Opening

Average Check: \$20 to \$50

Menu Type: Bar & Grill/Pub

Summary: Good Times Lounge will be opening in June at 300 N College St, Charlotte, North Carolina 28202. Owned by Kristen Wallace-Williams, the concept will feature an upscale cocktail lounge with a refined nightlife atmosphere, offering a social, drinks-focused experience geared toward a 30-and-up crowd.

The View

155 Pinnacle Ln
Mooresville, NC 28117

www.theviewlkn.com

Kristen Wallace-Williams

Owner

Est. Opening Date: June 14, 2026

Publication Date: April 30, 2026

Location Type: Independent

Lead Type: New Opening

Average Check: \$20 to \$50

Menu Type: American

Summary: The View will be opening in mid-June at 155 Pinnacle Ln, Mooresville, North Carolina 28117. Owned by Kristen Wallace-Williams, the concept will feature a two-story, family-friendly waterfront restaurant and bar with offerings such as American cuisine, weekend brunch, and a full-service dining experience, alongside boat access with nearby slips and a beer garden and sports lounge-style atmosphere.

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D'Lujo Grill

2822 New Birch Dr.
Raleigh, NC 27610
www.d-lujo-grill.menustic.com

Luis Marcano
Owner
Est. Opening Date: May 10, 2026
Publication Date: April 30, 2026

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

Summary: D'Lujo Grill is opening a second location at 2822 New Birch Dr in Raleigh, North Carolina, expanding its Venezuelan steakhouse concept. The menu will feature traditional dishes such as carne en vara (slow-cooked beef skewers), cachapas, tequeños, and skewered meat tacos, along with family-style platters designed for sharing. Owner Luis Marcano indicated the new location is targeting an opening in approximately two weeks as final preparations are completed, sometime in May 2026.

Cuya Cafe & Cocina

413 Glenwood Avenue
Suite 200
Raleigh, NC 27603
www.cuyaraleigh.com

Charlie Ibarra
Owner
Est. Opening Date: May 5, 2026
Publication Date: April 30, 2026

Location Type: Independent
Lead Type: Reopening
Average Check: \$20 and Under
Menu Type: Mexican

Summary: Cuya Cafe & Cocina is preparing to reopen at 413 Glenwood Ave, Suite 200 in Raleigh, North Carolina following renovations that include a major patio expansion and introduction of a new cafe concept. The updated space will feature a retractable pergola roof and climate-controlled patio, increasing seating capacity by approximately 40–45 seats. The concept is expanding into daytime service with a counter-service breakfast and cafe program offering espresso drinks, matcha, pastries, and Latin-inspired breakfast items, while continuing its dinner service with a Latin-focused menu. The restaurant is targeting a reopening May 2026 pending final preparations.

Early Bird Cafe

736 N Main St
Fuquay-Varina, NC 27526

Tracy Gower
Owner
Est. Opening Date: May 28, 2026
Publication Date: April 30, 2026

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

Summary: Early Bird Cafe LLC is a new breakfast concept planned for Fuquay-Varina, North Carolina, with a registered address at 736 N Main St. Owner Tracy Gower announced the upcoming cafe via social media, noting plans to operate Monday through Friday from 6 a.m. to 11 a.m., with potential Saturday hours to be added. Hiring is currently underway for key staff positions with a target start date at the end of May, indicating a near-term opening timeline.