

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 (320) 300-4488.

Oakwood Deli

702 E Main Street
Durham, NC 27701
<https://www.oakwooddeli.com/>

Est. Opening Date: 8/1/2026
Publication Date: 6/23/2026

Location Type: Regional
Lead Type: New Opening
Average Check: \$20 and under
Menu Type:
Sandwiches/Soups/Salads/Deli

Summary: Oakwood Deli plans to open a second restaurant location at 702 E Main St, Durham, North Carolina, in a new facility currently under development. The expansion will bring the Raleigh-based deli concept, currently operating at 331 New Bern Ave. in Raleigh, into the Durham market. Limited details regarding the size, and opening timeline have been released, and the project is still in the planning stages.

Fogo de Chão

4325 Glenwood Ave
Raleigh, NC 27612
<https://www.fogodechao.com/>

Barry McGowan
CEO
Est. Opening Date: 11/1/2026
Publication Date: 6/23/2026

Location Type: Franchise
Lead Type: New Opening
Average Check: \$50 and up
Menu Type: Steak/Seafood

Summary: Fogo de Chão has signed a lease to open a new location at Crabtree Valley Mall in Raleigh, North Carolina, at 4325 Glenwood Ave, taking over the former Uncle Julio's space. The internationally known Brazilian churrasco restaurant is expected to open before the end of 2026. The concept is known for its elevated rodizio-style dining experience featuring fire-roasted meats, tableside service, Market Table selections, and Brazilian-inspired side dishes. This will add a major full-service restaurant tenant to Crabtree Valley Mall. No official opening date has been announced at this time.

Ritrovo

70 Westgate Pkwy
Asheville, NC 28806
<https://www.ritrovoavl.com>

Anthony Cerrato
Owner
Est. Opening Date: 7/13/2026
Publication Date: 6/23/2026

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

Summary: Ritrovo is expected to open in July at 70 Westgate Pkwy, Asheville, North Carolina 28806. The new pizzeria is being developed by the Cerrato family, owners of Gemelli, Strada Italiano, and Social Lounge. Taking over the former Gemelli space in West Asheville, Ritrovo will offer an Italian-inspired gathering place, with its name translating to "hangout" in Italian.

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Phil's Tavern

3449 Robinhood Rd
Winston-Salem, NC 27106

Peyton Smith

Owner

Est. Opening Date: 7/24/2026

Publication Date: 6/23/2026

Location Type: Independent

Lead Type: New Opening

Average Check: \$20 to \$50

Menu Type: Bar & Grill/Pub

Summary: Phil's Tavern is planned for 3449 Robinhood Rd, Winston-Salem, North Carolina 27106, in the former Vincenzo's space. The restaurant is being developed by Peyton Smith, owner of Mission Pizza and Phil's Tavern, Inc., following the submission of plans for approximately \$650,000 in renovations to the 3,500 sqft facility. The new operation will bring the Phil's Tavern concept to the Robinhood Road location.

La Vita Dolce

700 Market St
Chapel Hill, NC 27516
<https://www.lavitadolcecafe.com/>

Ann Johnston

Owner

Est. Opening Date: 7/5/2026

Publication Date: 6/23/2026

Location Type: Independent

Lead Type: Update

Average Check: \$20 and under

Menu Type:
Bakeries/Coffee/Snacks

Summary: UPDATE!! We previously reported that La Vita Dolce, the community cafe in Chapel Hill's Southern Village, was planning to relocate into the former Market & Moss space a few doors from its existing location. Ownership has now confirmed the move is targeted for early July 2026. The new location will nearly triple the cafe's size, allowing La Vita Dolce to transition into an all-day concept with expanded hours, enhanced bar service, and additional space for community events. The cafe will continue offering espresso drinks, house-made gelato, wine, craft beer, panini, and small plates, while creating a more versatile experience that can accommodate everything from morning coffee to evening martinis. The current location will remain open until shortly before the move.

Sumo Hibachi

3605 Groometown Rd
Greensboro, NC 27407
<https://www.sumohibachiorder.com>

Est. Opening Date: 7/15/2026

Publication Date: 6/23/2026

Location Type: Independent

Lead Type: New Opening

Average Check: \$20 and under

Menu Type: Asian

Summary: Thai Sumo Hibachi is opening soon at 3605 Groometown Rd #115, Greensboro, North Carolina 27407. Under new ownership, the restaurant is transitioning from a Japanese concept to a Thai-focused dining experience. The menu will feature Thai favorites such as Pad Thai, curries, fried rice, soups, and noodle dishes, along with hibachi offerings.

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Big Papa's Empanadas

1812 Rozzelles Ferry Rd
Charlotte, NC 28208

Jonathan Leonard

Owner

Est. Opening Date: 7/21/2026

Publication Date: 6/18/2026

Location Type: Independent

Lead Type: New Opening

Average Check: \$20 and under

Menu Type: Mexican

Summary: Big Papa's Empanadas, a new restaurant from chef Jonathan Leonard, is expected to open in August at 1812 Rozzelles Ferry Rd, Charlotte, North Carolina 28208. The counter-service restaurant will specialize in oversized empanadas with creative sweet and savory fillings, while also offering street tacos, grilled chicken wings, hand-cut fries, and prepared meals through Leonard's Freshly Cracked meal-prep business.

Southern Grounds & Co

To Be Announced
Charlotte, NC 28205
<https://www.southerngrounds.com>

Annie Harmer

Director

Est. Opening Date: 7/20/2026

Publication Date: 6/18/2026

Location Type: Regional

Lead Type: New Opening

Average Check: \$20 and under

Menu Type:

Bakeries/Coffee/Snacks

Summary: Southern Grounds & Co., a Florida-based cafe brand founded by Mark Janasik, is planning a location in Charlotte's Plaza Midwood neighborhood, Charlotte, North Carolina 28205. Known for its hybrid coffee shop, bakery, and restaurant concept, the company serves specialty coffee, breakfast items, sandwiches, salads, bowls, burgers, pastries, and other cafe fare as it prepares for its first expansion into North Carolina.

Renaissance Rooftop

118 South Pearl Street
Rocky Mountain, NC 27804
<https://www.therenaissancerooftop.com/>

Daniel Bellamy

Owner

Est. Opening Date: 6/30/2026

Publication Date: 6/18/2026

Location Type: Independent

Lead Type: New Opening

Average Check: \$20 to \$50

Menu Type: Bar & Grill/Pub

Summary: Daniel Bellamy, Tina Bellamy, and investors are preparing to open Renaissance Rooftop at 118 South Pearl Street in downtown Rocky Mount. The new rooftop restaurant, bar, and event venue is targeting a June 2026 opening and will feature curated cocktails, small plates, brunch offerings, seafood, lamb chops, crab cakes, seasonal fish, and other Eastern North Carolina-inspired dishes. The venue is expected to include indoor seating for approximately 60-100 guests plus a rooftop patio accommodating 25-35 guests. Renaissance Rooftop plans to host live music, networking events, wellness programming, art showcases, poetry events, DJs, private gatherings, and community-focused experiences.

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Lucky AF

3510 Wade Ave
Raleigh, NC 27607
<https://www.getluckyaf.com/>

Chris Tsui
Founder - Eat Restaurant Partners
Est. Opening Date: 2/1/2027
Publication Date: 6/18/2026

Location Type: Regional
Lead Type: New Opening
Average Check: \$20 and under
Menu Type: Asian

Summary: Richmond-based Eat Restaurant Partners is expanding in Raleigh with plans to open Lucky AF, an Asian fusion restaurant, at Ridgewood Shopping Center on Wade Avenue. The concept will occupy a former retail space recently converted for restaurant use by Regency Centers. Lucky AF currently operates a successful flagship location in Richmond's Scott's Addition neighborhood and serves sushi rolls, poke, dumplings, bento boxes, and other Asian-inspired dishes. Chris Tsui, president of Eat Restaurant Partners, said the company always intended to expand its Raleigh presence following the opening of Wong's Tacos at GlenLake. Construction is expected to begin in the coming months, with an opening targeted for early 2027.

TRYSeafood Grill Cary

525 E Broad St
Fuquay-Varina, NC 27526
<https://www.tryseafoodgrill.com/>

Regina Scott
President/CEO
Est. Opening Date: 8/15/2026
Publication Date: 6/18/2026

Location Type: Regional
Lead Type: New Opening
Average Check: \$20 to \$50
Menu Type: Steak/Seafood

Summary: TRYSeafood Grill, a seafood restaurant based in Cary, is expanding with a second location in Fuquay-Varina. Owner Regina Scott has submitted plans to open the new restaurant at 525 E Broad St. The project represents the brand's expansion into southern Wake County and will bring the seafood concept to a new market while maintaining its established Cary operation.

Danny's Cafe

2461 S Church St
Burlington, NC 27215
<https://www.dannyscafeandcatering.com>

Makayla Lackey
Co-Owners
Est. Opening Date: 8/1/2026
Publication Date: 6/18/2026

Location Type: Independent
Lead Type: Relocation
Average Check: \$20 to \$50
Menu Type: American

Summary: Danny's Cafe, a family-owned restaurant operated by Makayla and Tyler Lackey, is relocating to a new 7,000 sqft location at 2461 S Church St, Burlington, North Carolina 27215, with an opening planned for August 1. Taking over the former Michelle's Kitchen & Table space, the restaurant will bring its dining, catering, and event operations under one roof while adding a juice bar, coffee bar, mocktail menu, and private event space.