

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.

Ladder Company Cafe

104 N Elm St
Historic 1917 Fire Station
Lumberton NC 28358
www.219elm.com

Tommy Vickers
Owner
Est. Opening Date: Aug 1, 2026
Publication Date: Jun 2, 2026

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

Summary: Ladder Company Cafe is preparing to open at 104 N. Elm St. in Lumberton, North Carolina, inside the city's historic 1917 fire station. Owners Tommy and Gidget Vickers have spent the past two years restoring the long-vacant building while preserving its historic character. The approximately 35-seat cafe will focus on artisan sandwiches and lighter lunch fare, with planned menu items including specialty turkey, brie, and roast beef sandwiches. Designed as a communal gathering space, the cafe is awaiting final health department approval and is expected to open in summer 2026, with ownership stating the team is prepared to begin operations immediately once approval is granted.

Sweet July Cafe

201 E Trade St
Charlotte NC 28202

Ayesha Curry
Founder
Est. Opening Date: Jul 6, 2026
Publication Date: Jun 2, 2026

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

Summary: Sweet July Cafe is expected to open in July 2026 at The Ritz-Carlton Charlotte, 201 E Trade St, Charlotte, North Carolina 28202. Created by Ayesha Curry as part of her Sweet July lifestyle brand, the cafe will offer coffee, baked goods, smoothies, and cafe-style fare, along with menu items inspired by Curry's Jamaican heritage. Developed in partnership with The MINA Group, the concept blends California wellness culture with Caribbean hospitality and will be part of the hotel's ongoing transformation in Uptown Charlotte.

Abyssinia

4808 Central Ave
Charlotte NC 28205

Noah Mesgane
Co-Owner
Est. Opening Date: Jul 5, 2026
Publication Date: Jun 2, 2026

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

Summary: Abyssinia appears to be coming soon to 4808 Central Ave, Charlotte, North Carolina 28205, the current home of Queen Sheba Ethiopian Restaurant & Bar. Permit filings submitted by owners Noah and Eden Mesgane suggest a possible rebranding, new concept, or operational change for the longtime Ethiopian restaurant. While details have not yet been announced, the project remains in development, and the owners have indicated that more information will be shared once plans are finalized.

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Giorgios Epicurean Market (GEM)

To Be Announced
Raleigh NC 27608
www.gemraleigh.com

Giorgios Bakatsias
Founder/Owner
Est. Opening Date: Jan 1, 2027
Publication Date: Jun 2, 2026

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

Summary: Giorgios Epicurean Market (GEM), the European eatery and gourmet market founded by restaurateur Giorgios Bakatsias, has permanently closed its location at East End Market in Raleigh. The closure follows an earlier announcement that the business would temporarily close for renovations; however, ownership has now confirmed the location will not reopen and will be replaced by Casa Nama. Bakatsias stated that GEM plans to relocate and reopen in a new location in the future but has not yet disclosed a site or timeline. The concept built a loyal following for its European-inspired prepared foods, specialty grocery offerings, and market-driven menu before closing its East End Market operation

Casa Nama

2020 Progress Ct.,
Suite 150
Raleigh NC 27608
www.lavictoriamex.com

Salvador Alvarez
Owner
Est. Opening Date: Dec 1, 2026
Publication Date: Jun 2, 2026

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

Summary: Casa Nama is preparing to open in Raleigh's East End Market development, replacing the recently closed Giorgios Epicurean Market (GEM). The new full-service concept comes from the JalMex Hospitality Group, led by owner Salvador Alvarez, whose portfolio includes Chido Tacos, Gringo a GoGo, La Buena Vida, La Victoria Cocina and Yatai. Scheduled to open in late 2026, Casa Nama will focus on Japanese cuisine and Asian comfort food, featuring an expanded menu of sushi, ramen, steamed and fried dumplings, ceviches, and other specialty dishes. The approximately 5,000 sqft restaurant is expected to build upon the success of JalMex's Yatai concept while introducing a more upscale dining experience to East End Market.

Deepwell

185 N Main St
Mooresville NC 28115
www.deepwellrestaurant.com

Joe Kindred
Co-Owner
Est. Opening Date: Sep 10, 2026
Publication Date: Jun 2, 2026

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

Summary: Deepwell Steakhouse is expected to open in late summer or fall 2026. The New Orleans-inspired steakhouse is being developed by Joe and Katy Kindred alongside executive chef and co-owner Craig Deihl. The restaurant will feature an in-house dry-aging program and Wagyu beef sourced from North Carolina's W8 Ranch, bringing an upscale dining experience to a historic downtown Mooresville property.

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Piedmont Delicatessen

125 E. Main Ave
Gastonia NC 28052
www.piedmontgastonia.com

Jacinda Jacobs
Co-Owner
Est. Opening Date: June 22, 2026
Publication Date: May 28, 2026

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

Summary: Piedmont Delicatessen, founded by Jacinda Jacobs, Derrick Jacobs, Preston Wilson, and Somer Wilson, is targeting a grand opening on June 22, 2026, at 125 E. Main Ave., Gastonia, North Carolina 28052. The downtown Gastonia concept will combine a daytime deli and hidden speakeasy inspired by vintage baseball history, serving signature sandwiches, cocktails, charcuterie, and other deli offerings inside a restored historic space built around a preserved early-1900s Piedmont cigarette ghost mural.

All Kinds

2116 New Bern Ave.
Suite J
Raleigh NC 27610
www.littlebluebakehouse.com

Carl Vick
Owner
Est. Opening Date: June 26, 2026
Publication Date: May 28, 2026

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

Summary: Carl and Allison Vick are preparing to open All Kinds at 2116 New Bern Ave., Suite J in Raleigh, North Carolina, next to their existing Little Blue Bakehouse concept. The business will combine local artisan crafts and pottery sales with a beer and wine program designed as a casual community gathering space. Ownership stated the concept was created as an extension of the bakehouse after local makers expressed interest in selling products through the couple's existing business. All Kinds is expected to open within the next two to four weeks (approximately end June or early July 2026) with planned operating hours around 11am-9pm and a focus on wine service, local goods and light grab-and-go snacks.

Palm Berries

9325 JW Clay Blvd
Suite 211
Charlotte NC 28262
www.palmberriesllc.com

Noor Mehmood
Co-CEO
Est. Opening Date: Jul 15, 2026
Publication Date: May 28, 2026

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

Summary: Palm Berries is preparing to open a new location in mid-summer 2026 at 9325 JW Clay Blvd., Suite 211, Charlotte, North Carolina 28262. The health-focused concept is known for its acai bowls, smoothies, protein bowls, and fresh fruit offerings, with a focus on quick service, fresh ingredients, and wellness-oriented menu options near Charlotte's university area.

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Kahlovera Mexican Bar & Grill

431 W Franklin St
Chapel Hill NC 27516
www.kahloveratacos.com

Edy Barahona
Owner
Est. Opening Date: Jul 1, 2026
Publication Date: May 28, 2026

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

Summary: Plans have been submitted for Kahlovera Mexican Bar & Grill to open at 431 W Franklin St. in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, in the former "Pay-For Dios!" restaurant space. Owner Edy Barahona is leading the project, which is currently in the planning and permitting stages. Limited operational details have been released at this time, though the concept is expected to feature Mexican cuisine and bar service.

La Victoria Cocina Mexicana

2519 Fairview Rd.
Raleigh NC 27608
www.lavictoriamex.com

Salvador Alvarez
Owner
Est. Opening Date: Oct 1, 2026
Publication Date: May 28, 2026

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

Summary: La Victoria Cocina Mexicana is planning to open its second location at 2519 Fairview Rd. in Raleigh, North Carolina, in the former Mandolin restaurant space. The concept currently operates a location in Cary and is part of the growing JalMex Hospitality Group, which also includes La Buena Vida, Fonda Lupita and Tacos Number Juan. Reports indicate the new restaurant is expected to open this Fall 2026 in the Hayes Barton neighborhood. The expansion continues the group's growing presence in the Triangle dining market with a focus on Mexican cuisine and hospitality-driven concepts.

NY Halal Express Grill

1611 Prospect St
High Point NC 27260

Est. Opening Date: June 12, 2026
Publication Date: May 28, 2026

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

Summary: NY Halal Express Grill is preparing to open its first brick-and-mortar restaurant soon at 1611 Prospect St., High Point, North Carolina 27260, after building a following through its Greensboro food truck operations. The halal grill concept will serve hot fresh meals alongside cold beverages from its new location inside a gas station, marking a major expansion for the growing business.

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Emmy Squared Pizza

601 S Tryon St
Charlotte NC 28202
www.emmysquaredpizza.com

Rod Jones
Chief Operating Officer
Est. Opening Date: September 2026
Publication Date: May 27, 2026

Location Type: Casual Dining
Lead Type: Planned
Average Check: \$20 to \$50
Menu Type: Pizza

Summary: Detroit-style pizza expansion

Giorgios Bakatsias' Greek-Inspired Eatery

14 Harnett St
Wilmington NC 28401
giorgiosgroup.com/kipos-wilmington

Azam Mehdi
Managing Partner
Est. Opening Date: November 2026
Publication Date: May 27, 2026

Location Type: Restaurant (Independent/Multi-Unit)
Lead Type: Planned
Average Check: \$50 and up
Menu Type: Mediterranean

Summary: Noted restaurateur Giorgios Bakatsias plans to open a new Greek-inspired eatery in the former Tequila's Waterfront space.

Maneki

The Alley at Latta Arcade
Charlotte NC 28202
www.irreverentlyrefined.com/maneki

Est. Opening Date: November 2026
Publication Date: May 27, 2026

Location Type: Restaurant (Independent/Multi-Unit)
Lead Type: Confirmed
Average Check: \$20 to \$50
Menu Type: Asian/Japanese

Songbird

East End Market
Raleigh NC 27601
songbird.bar

Est. Opening Date: June 2026
Publication Date: May 27, 2026

Location Type: Restaurant (Independent/Multi-Unit)
Lead Type: Planned
Average Check: \$20 and Under
Menu Type: American

Summary: Cocktail Bar

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Chipotle

Bloc development at Glenwood
Avenue and Hillsborough Street
Raleigh NC 27603
www.chipotle.com

Richardson, Deshawn

President

Est. Opening Date: July 2026

Publication Date: May 27, 2026

Location Type: Chain

Lead Type: Confirmed

Average Check: \$20 and under

Menu Type: Mexican (burritos,
bowls)

Bourbon Steak

201 E Trade St
Charlotte NC 28202
www.bourbonsteak.com

Veronica Arroyo

executive pastry chef

Est. Opening Date: November
2026

Publication Date: May 27, 2026

Location Type: Hotel

(Independent/Multi-Unit)

Lead Type: Confirmed

Average Check: \$50 and Up

Menu Type: American