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VOL. 12 • NO. 12 • OCTOBER 2026

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NEW BERN

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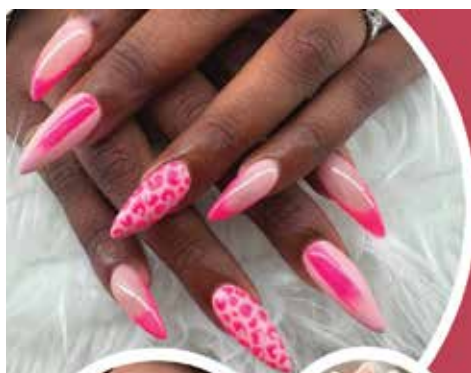
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MumFest Returns to Historic Downtown New Bern October 10-11

Fall fun is returning to Downtown New Bern! MumFest, New Bern's award-winning annual festival, returns October 10-11, 2026, bringing two days of live music, food, shopping, entertainment and family fun to the heart of historic downtown.

Presented by Swiss Bear, Riverside Automotive Group and the City of New Bern, MumFest will feature more than 250 vendors showcasing handmade arts and crafts, local businesses, nonprofits and commercial exhibitors. Festivalgoers can also enjoy a wide variety of food trucks while exploring the retailers and restaurants that Downtown New Bern has to offer.

"MumFest is a really special time in Downtown New Bern," said Karen Sullivan, Executive Director of Swiss Bear. "It's a big celebration of our city, the people who live here, and the businesses that make it so great. Whether you love music, food, rides, or just hanging out with friends and family, there's something for everyone to enjoy."

Music will take center stage throughout MumFest, with a standout Saturday lineup on the waterfront at the North Carolina Education Lottery Music Stage. Sam Morrow takes the stage at 3:30 p.m., followed by The Wilder Blue at 6:30 p.m., bringing two nationally recognized acts to Downtown New Bern for the weekend. Saturday's lineup also features Biscuits & Gravy and Packhouse, while Sunday's live music includes local favorites The Git Down, The Bonafides, Hoff'n'Finch, and Big Jim Kohler. With music filling the downtown streets throughout the weekend, MumFest offers something for every music lover.

Thrill-seekers won't want to miss the Protown BMX Stunt Show and Autograph Sessions, while the Purina Incredible Dog Team will return with its high-energy performances. Law Enforcement K9 Demonstrations and Craven Chaos Roller Derby will add even more action to the weekend.

Families can explore the new MumFest KidsZone, featuring all-day activities, arts and crafts, story time and more. Throughout the festival, visitors will also encounter street entertainment from Mark Lippard, along with performances by local musicians, dancers, theater groups and choruses.

Additional attractions include the Riverside Auto and RV Show, the North Carolina Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association Helicopter Display, the MumFest Mum Arch and Mum Display, and demonstrations from the City of New Bern Electric Department. The New Bern Fire & Rescue Obstacle Course and Dunking Booth will offer more fun at the Fireman's Museum.

"After last year's cancellation due to weather, we are especially excited to welcome MumFest back to Downtown New Bern. This event is truly a team effort, and I'm grateful to our City employees and Swiss Bear for the tremendous work and coordination that make it possible. MumFest brings our community, businesses and visitors together—and in New Bern, everything comes together here," shared Foster Hughes, City of New Bern City Manager.

MumFest also provides an opportunity to experience the restaurants, shops and attractions that make Downtown New Bern a destination year-round. When MumFest began, its purpose was to bring people back downtown, showcase our locally owned businesses, and celebrate the unique character of our historic district. That mission remains at the heart of the festival today. The funds raised through MumFest by Swiss Bear are reinvested into Downtown New Bern to support downtown development, revitalization and projects that strengthen the district for businesses, residents and visitors. When people come to MumFest, they aren't just attending a festival. They're helping invest in the future of Downtown New Bern.



"MumFest is wonderful opportunity to experience everything that makes Downtown New Bern special," said Sullivan. "Our historic streets, locally owned businesses, and community come together to create an experience you can't find anywhere else. We invite everyone to come downtown, explore, stay a while, and enjoy MumFest with us."

For the complete entertainment schedule, vendor information, shuttle schedules, and event updates, visit MumFest.com or follow MumFest on social media.

MumFest is a city-sponsored event produced by Swiss Bear, Inc. and proudly presented by Riverside Automotive Group, now in its eighth year as Title Sponsor, along with North Carolina Education Lottery, WITN, Curtis Media, CarolinaEast Health System, T-Fiber, and City of New Bern.



MumFest®

October 10-11 • www.MumFest.com

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10

Union Point Park

210 E. Front Street

All Day - The Riverside Auto and RV Show

All Day - City of New Bern Electric Department Demos

All Day - MumFest Mum Arch and Mum Display

Purina Incredible Dog Team

10:30am, 12:30pm, 2:30pm, and 4:30pm

Law Enforcement K9 Demonstration

11:00am, 1:00pm, 3:00pm, and 5:00pm

Protown BMX Stunt Show & Autograph Session

11:30am, 2:00pm, and 4:00pm

First Citizens Bank Parking Lot

All Day - The North Carolina Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association Helicopter Display

Chick-fil-A Community Stage

Pollock Street

Howard Matthews Memorial Stage

Middle Street

10:00am - AJ

11:00am - Mac & Mary

12:00pm - Patrick Smith

1:00pm - Charlie Duzan

2:00pm - Elijah Harris

3:00pm - Bag-End

4:00pm - Greg Miller

Corona Beer Garden

Corner of Broad and E. Front Streets

10:00am-8:00pm - Beer sales end at 7:30pm

North Carolina Education Lottery Music Stage

Corner of Broad and E. Front Streets

11:30am - Biscuits & Gravy

1:30pm - Packhouse

3:30pm - Sam Morrow

5:30pm - The Wilder Blue

Fireman's Museum

420 Broad Street

All Day - New Bern Fire & Rescue Obstacle Course and Dunking Booth

KidsZone

Corner of Craven and Pollock Streets

All Day - activities, arts & crafts, story time, and more

Intersection of Broad & Middle Streets

Craven Chaos Roller Derby

11:30am, 1:30pm, and 3:30pm

Throughout Footprint

Mark Lippard

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11

Union Point Park

210 E. Front Street

All Day - The Riverside Auto and RV Show

All Day - City of New Bern Electric Department Demos

All Day - MumFest Mum Arch and Mum Display

Purina Incredible Dog Team

10:30am, 1:30pm, and 3:30pm

Law Enforcement K9 Demonstration

11:00am, 1:00pm, and 3:00pm

Protown BMX Stunt Show & Autograph Session

12:00pm, 2:00pm, and 4:00pm

First Citizens Bank Parking Lot

All Day - **The North Carolina Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association Helicopter Display**

Chick-fil-A Community Stage

Pollock Street

Howard & Friends Music Stage

Middle Street

10:00am - **Stationary Gypsies**

11:00am - **Jeff Huntington**

12:00pm - **James Urban**

1:00pm - **Michael Schott**

2:00pm - **Purple Cabbage**

3:00pm - **Matvix**

4:00pm - **Joe Baes**

Corona Beer Garden

Corner of Broad and E. Front Streets

10:00am-5:00pm - Beer sales end at 4:30pm

North Carolina Education Lottery Music Stage

Corner of Broad and E. Front Streets

11:30am - **The Git Down**

1:00pm - **The Bonafides**

2:30pm - **Hoff ‘n’ Finch**

4:00pm - **Big Jim Kohler**

Fireman’s Museum

420 Broad Street

All Day - **New Bern Fire & Rescue Obstacle Course and Dunking Booth**

KidsZone

Corner of Craven and Pollock Streets

All Day - activities, arts & crafts, story time, and more

Intersection of Broad & Middle Streets

Craven Chaos Roller Derby

11:30am, 1:30pm, and 3:30pm

Throughout Footprint

Mark Lippard

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The Tasty Shack & Tiki Bar: Where New Bern Meets Tiki

By Ann Marie Byrd, Feature Writer

If you've walked down Middle Street lately and thought, "Wait... when did New Bern get its own technicolor portal to another dimension?" you've already met The Tasty Shack & Tiki Bar—at least from the outside.

Sitting at 206 Middle Street, in the former home of the beloved Captain Ratty's, The Tasty Shack & Tiki Bar officially soft opened on August 11, 2026. It's the brainchild of local restaurateurs Von Lewis and Tyler Griffin, already known downtown for Baxter's 1892. This time, they've swapped the polished supper-club vibe for something louder, brighter, and delightfully stranger.

Think: neighborhood eatery meets beach bar meets movie set, with a tiki drink in one hand and your guilty pleasure food in the other. Put something tasty in your mouth.

Not Traditional, Not Sorry

The Tasty Shack & Tiki Bar isn't trying to fit neatly into one box—and that's exactly the point.

"One of our guiding phrases from the beginning has been #NotTraditional #NotSorry," the owners explain. "We want the food to feel familiar and craveable, but we also want the freedom to have some fun with it."

At its core, The Tasty Shack is a modern, tropical-inspired neighborhood spot built around bold flavors, playful ideas, and a menu that refuses to take itself too seriously. Tacos may still have a starring role, but The Tasty Shack is really about craveable food in all its forms—

Continued on page 20

COME TALK

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WHEN THE HOT CHEESE SIGN IS
ON, THE CHEESE IS ON US!*

*Some Restrictions Apply



EatTastyShack.com

206 MIDDLE STREET



The Tasty Shack & Tiki Bar: Where New Bern Meets Tiki

Continued from page 18

burritos, burgers, crispy onion rings, buffalo chicken dip, loaded appetizers, bowls, shareable plates, over-the-top specials, and whatever else the kitchen dreams up. If it's fun, flavorful, a little indulgent, and makes you want another bite, it belongs at The Tasty Shack.

This is the kind of place where you can absolutely order something familiar and leave happy—but you may also find yourself trying a dish that sounds like it was dreamed up late at night by a very talented chef with a sense of humor.

Chef Jay Danielson, who guests may recognize from Baxter's 1892, leads the kitchen brigade, bringing a serious culinary background to a menu designed to be anything but overly serious.

"Being part of The Tasty Shack has given me an opportunity to take everything I've learned throughout my culinary career and apply it to building something fresh, fun, and approachable," Danielson says. His goal? Food that people get excited about, built on recipes and systems solid enough to make the concept work night after night.

In other words: this is not a one-hit-wonder. It's a carefully engineered flavor playground that will keep you coming back for more.



Retro Below, Tiki Above

Walk through the door at street level, and you'll find a spunky, mid-century modern space with tropical hints. It's colorful, playful, and just tiki-adjacent enough that you know something interesting is happening—but it doesn't give everything away.

That's intentional.

"We wanted the restaurant to reveal itself rather than give everything away the moment someone walks through the door," the owners say.

Downstairs has a bright, spunky diner feel—the kind of place that works just as well for a quick lunch, a family dinner, or those "I've got 53 minutes and need something delicious and a margarita" kind of days.

Climb the stairs, though, and the tiki dial turns up. Way up.

The upstairs tiki room is where the escapism kicks into high gear. The lights dim, the artwork gets bolder, the details get weirder (in the best way), and suddenly you're not in downtown New Bern anymore—you're in Professor Tasty's world.

More on him in a moment.

For now, just know this: downstairs is where you can bring your kids for lunch. Upstairs is where you might come back later with your friends, your date, or your sense of adventure.

Continued on page 22

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SCAN ME

The Tasty Shack & Tiki Bar: Where New Bern Meets Tiki

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Serious Cocktails, Zero Seriousness Required

Crave-worthy food may headline the act, but the bar is every bit as important to The Tasty Shack's story.

To build the drink program, Von and Tyler called in a familiar name: Christian Kingsbury, lead mixologist at Baxter's 1892. He's the one responsible for what many are already calling the best tiki-focused cocktail program east of Charlotte.

Alongside margaritas, and tequila-forward favorites, the bar offers a full suite of tiki classics and tiki-inspired creations: Mai Tais, Painkillers, Zombies, Hurricanes, Saturns, and more, all dressed up in fun glassware and garnishes.

"New Bern has great history that recently includes a fantastic food and beverage scene," Kingsbury says. "I'm delighted to have a hand in the growth of the cocktail side. The Tasty Shack will continue to elevate what New Bern's downtown has to offer."

The best part is how *inclusive* the bar feels. If you're a serious cocktail nerd, you can absolutely nerd out. If you just want a cold margarita with chips and salsa, no one is going to quiz you on the origins of tiki culture. You can be as geeky—or as chill—as you like.

Enter Professor Tasty (Yes, There's Lore)

Some restaurants have a logo. The Tasty Shack has a mascot with backstory.

Meet Professor Tasty: part host, part guide, part slightly eccentric adventurer turned humanoid tiki cocktail mug who seems to have taken a wrong turn somewhere between a classic movie matinee and a tropical expedition. He appears throughout the artwork, the merchandise, the website, and even the in-restaurant experience.

He's not just a cartoon slapped on the wall. He's got an entire fictional world growing around him.

"Coming from a background in show business, both on stage and in film, I've always loved the idea of creating a world for an audience and inviting them into it," says co-owner Von Lewis. "The Tasty Shack has given me the chance to take that same creative energy and apply it to hospitality."



For Von, The Tasty Shack really is one big production—only instead of buying a ticket, you order food and a drink. Professor Tasty is the star, with a supporting cast of running jokes, little traditions, and a design language that rewards repeat visits.

Some of those "ridiculous ideas" the owners once scribbled in notebooks? They're now hanging on the walls.

Continued on page 24



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The Tasty Shack & Tiki Bar: Where New Bern Meets Tiki

Continued from page 22

Hot Cheese, Strange Signals, and Inside Jokes

If there's one thing that tells you this place doesn't take itself too seriously, it's the "Hot Cheese Now" signal.

Yes, that's a real thing.

When the sign lights up, qualifying guests receive free hot cheese for their chips with an entrée purchase while the signal is illuminated. It's intentionally absurd, and that's exactly why it exists.

The Tasty Shack is full of those little moments: jokes on the menu, winks in the décor, strange traditions you'll only notice if you come back more than once. The idea is that over time, locals start to *get it*—to know what the cheese sign means, to recognize Professor Tasty's cameo, to smile at the running gags.

Eventually, this isn't just a restaurant you go to. It's your place, with your in-jokes.

Why New Bern? Why Here? Why Now?

The decision to open The Tasty Shack in New Bern was no accident.

"New Bern has reached an exciting point where its rich historic character, vibrant downtown, strong local community, and growing number of visitors create the perfect setting for something a little unexpected," the owners say.

The building on Middle Street let them do exactly that. From the outside, you're in the center of a historic downtown, surrounded by brick, history, and well-loved local staples. Step inside, and you're in an entirely different universe.

It was also important to the team to carry on the tradition of the space itself, once home to Captain Ratty's, a long-time favorite.

But this isn't a "special occasion only" kind of place. The Tasty Shack is built for flexibility:

- Quick, casual lunches
- After-work margaritas with coworkers
- Family dinners
- Date nights in the tiki room
- Touristy "you *have* to see this place" outings

They want it to be affordable and approachable enough to land in your regular rotation, while still being interesting enough that you show it off to visitors.

And because it's an independent concept built from scratch, it adds to the personality of downtown—giving people another reason to park the car, wander the blocks, and stay a little longer.

Built Like a Show, Run Like a Restaurant

If you sense a theatrical streak here, you're not imagining it. Both owners come from a creative, performance-driven background, and that has absolutely influenced the way they think about hospitality.

"We've always been drawn to the creative side of hospitality: branding, music, theatricality, storytelling, design, and all the small details that turn a restaurant into something people remember," they say. "At our hearts, we are 'show people.'"

Tiki culture, with its love of escapism and atmosphere, fit that instinct perfectly. At its best,

Continued on page 26

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The Tasty Shack & Tiki Bar: Where New Bern Meets Tiki

Continued from page 24

tiki isn't just about what's in your glass. It's about the lighting, the music, the artwork, the sense that you've stepped away from your everyday life for an hour or two.

But even with all the theatrics, they're adamant about something very simple: if the food isn't good and the staff doesn't care, none of the fun matters.

Ultimately, restaurants live or die on basics:

- Food that tastes good
- Drinks that deliver
- Staff who genuinely care
- A place where people feel welcome

The mugs, mascots, and jokes are there to make a good meal with people you like just a little more memorable.



The Team Behind The Tasty Shack

Von and Tyler may own the place, but they're quick to point out that The Tasty Shack is a team sport.

- In the kitchen, Chef Jay Danielson leads the culinary program, bringing experience from Baxter's 1892.
- On the floor, Edwin Rueda heads up front-of-house operations, channeling the same professionalism and hospitality he's known for at Baxter's.
- Behind the bar, Christian Kingsbury crafts the cocktail and tiki experience, keeping it friendly for newcomers and exciting for connoisseurs.
- Abbey Lewis manages events and private bookings, helping transform the space into a venue for special celebrations and gatherings.

And then there's the wider circle: friends, family, advisors, and supporters who helped bring the concept from idea to open doors. Names like Michelle Nasifolgu and Bill Benners are just a few of the people they'll tell you deserve a share of the credit.

"Opening a restaurant is never the work of just one or two people," the team says. "The Tasty Shack is very much a reflection of the community of people who believed in it and helped us get the doors open."

In the end, The Tasty Shack & Tiki Bar is aiming to be exactly what downtown New Bern didn't know it needed: a neighborhood restaurant that's a little weird, a lot of fun, and entirely itself.

The bites are tasty. The drinks are tropical. The cheese sign is... well, you'll have to see that for yourself.

And somewhere in the middle of it all, Professor Tasty is waiting to welcome you in.

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Bear Feet Street Tours: Walking New Bern's History, One Story at a Time

By Ann Marie Byrd, Feature Writer

When most people think of New Bern, they picture waterfront views, brick sidewalks, and bustling downtown shops. For Lindsey Able, owner of Bear Feet Street Tours, those same streets have become both her office and her calling.

"I say that Bear Feet Street Tours is now 'the most New Bern thing you can do,'" Lindsey explains. "I want people to discover the nuances of historic downtown on foot, in addition to the retail shops and eateries. It's more than a history tour."

Bear Feet Street Tours officially began in December 2025, born out of an encouraging conversation with a friend and fellow small business owner. While most people were finishing their last-minute Christmas shopping, Lindsey was at the tax office filing her DBA. On Christmas Eve, she made the business's first social media post. Then she went into what she jokingly calls a "cave" for two months—building a website, researching, and writing tour scripts. On March 6, 2026, she took her first paying guests out on tour.

Since then, Bear Feet Street Tours has quickly carved out a distinctive niche in downtown New Bern. Unlike other local tours that may incorporate history into a broader experience, Bear Feet's singular focus is guided, historical walking tours. But Lindsey is quick to clarify that this isn't a dry recitation of dates and names.

"I don't fancy myself a history savant of any kind," she says. "But I'm a heck of an educator, a storyteller, a researcher, and I'm fascinated by the human experience and how we connect to each other. I think ultimately, that is what history is all about."

Her tours reflect that philosophy. Guests still hear about key moments, places, and figures in New Bern's past, but always through a human lens. "I try to balance facts and dates with the human experience behind every stop," Lindsey says. "People may remember what they see, they may remember what they hear, but people will never forget how you made them feel."

Continued on page 32



Photos by Emily Saunders Photography

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SCAN ME

Bear Feet Street Tours: Walking New Bern's History, One Story at a Time

Continued from page 30

A Love Story with New Bern

Lindsey's path to owning a walking tour company in coastal North Carolina traces back to her roots in a very different kind of tourist destination: Kentucky's bourbon country.

In 2022, she and her husband were living near his family in western Kentucky. They had put their house on the market and were seriously considering a move back to the central part of the state—the area many know as the “bourbon capital.” New Bern wasn't even on their radar.

Then came a three-day vacation that changed everything.

They drove east to New Bern to clear their heads and think through their next steps. “What we didn't anticipate was the feeling of coming over the twin bridges,” Lindsey recalls. “It was like the heavens opened up and the angels sang.” Those three days, packed with one meaningful interaction after another, convinced them to pivot their plans entirely. Instead of moving back to central Kentucky, they sold their house and moved to New Bern—just two weeks later.

“Every time I've stepped out into the unknown since moving here, New Bern has caught me,” Lindsey says. “I've loved New Bern since day one, and she keeps loving me right back. I could never turn my back on that, and I can't talk about any other place in the world with as much affection and genuineness as I do New Bern.”

That reciprocal relationship between Lindsey and her adopted hometown is at the heart of Bear Feet Street Tours. Her routes are designed to help both visitors and locals experience historic downtown through fresh eyes—and feet. She leads guests past familiar landmarks, but also into the stories and lives that shaped the city.

From Bourbon Country to Bear Feet

Lindsey's love for guiding and storytelling didn't start in New Bern. It's woven through her family history and professional life.

“I was a Kentucky girl,” she says. Her grandparents were administrators at the Jim Beam Distillery in the 1980s and 90s, and her grandmother ran the visitor center there. In retirement, that same grandmother worked part-time as a guide for coach bus tour groups. As a child, Lindsey watched her welcome visitors, share stories, and manage the flow of guests through a place people traveled from all over the world to see.

After college, Lindsey followed a similar path for a time, working as a tour guide at Maker's Mark Distillery. But another influence had been running parallel her whole life: small business.

Her parents owned and operated a furniture store, and Lindsey grew up in the middle of it. “I remember being about 10 years old in the room as they negotiated a new order with a sales rep,” she says. “At the end of the conversation I stuck my little hand out to the man and firmly said, ‘Sir, it's a pleasure doing business with ya!’” Always a natural extrovert, she treated the sales floor like a second home. The rhythms of entrepreneurship, customer service, and community connection seeped into her bones early.

Still, college felt like the expected next step—and teaching seemed like the practical path. No one in her family had gone to college before, and she was strongly encouraged to become an educator. Lindsey wanted to major in history, but in her Kentucky hometown most history teachers were also football coaches—a role she knew wasn't for her. “Spoiler—I'm bad at sports,” she laughs. So instead she majored in Spanish, taught in K-12 classrooms for five years, then spent another five as an advisor in the community college system.

Moving to New Bern, however, changed more than her mailing address. “The move

Continued on page 34



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Bear Feet Street Tours: Walking New Bern's History, One Story at a Time

Continued from page 32



began a fundamental shift in reforming my life and who I wanted to be," she says. Within a year, she left her decade-long career in education and took a job downtown at Midtown Olive Oil. That decision unexpectedly set the stage for Bear Feet.

She moved into a place on Johnson Street, started riding her tricycle to work on Saturdays, and spent all day talking to customers. Even after a full shift of conversation, she found she still craved more of New Bern. "I'd peddle home at night and still feel like I didn't get 'enough' of New Bern," she remembers.

So she walked.

She followed the streets to the water, to the library, the cemetery, past the New Bern Academy, the Masonic Lodge, the Presbyterian church. She wasn't researching local history yet; she was simply moving through the city, letting it sink in. "Those walks alone did something to recalibrate my brain," Lindsey says. "It's like the Neuse became my personal true north and gave me a new orientation to home."

For about two years, she was in what she calls a "metamorphosis" season—learning about New Bern, but also about herself. She realized she still loved educating, but not in the traditional classroom sense. She was using her retail jobs as a platform to introduce visitors to the city, instinctively weaving in stories and recommendations.

Then came a pivotal conversation with a friend and business mentor who encouraged her to create something of her own—a way to focus fully on sharing New Bern with others. "After that conversation...it was off to the races," Lindsey says. Bear Feet Street Tours was born.

A One-Woman Show with a Strong Community

Today, Bear Feet Street Tours is a true one-woman operation. Lindsey is the sole owner, the writer, the marketer, and the guide—powered, as the business name suggests, by her own two feet.

"I am a one woman show!" she says. But she's quick to add that she hasn't done it alone.

Continued on page 36



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Bear Feet Street Tours: Walking New Bern's History, One Story at a Time

Continued from page 34

New Bern Goods, located at the corner of Pollock and Craven, serves as home base and departure point for her Feature Tour route. Lindsey first met owners Sheila and Danny Batten when she started working at New Bern Goods. As soon as she was ready to launch Bear Feet Street Tours, they stepped in with tangible support—from logistics to visibility—that helped the business gain traction quickly. "They've been pivotal in establishing a tour presence on that corner," Lindsey says. The entire staff at New Bern Goods, she adds, has pitched in "in ways both big and small that keep the tours running."

It's a fitting arrangement for a business so focused on connection. Bear Feet Street Tours doesn't just tell New Bern's stories; it's become one of them—woven into the daily life of a downtown that continues to reinvent itself while honoring its past.

How to Walk with Bear Feet

Bear Feet Street Tours departs from New Bern Goods at 301 Pollock Street, right in the heart of historic downtown. Tour schedules and tickets are available online at: www.bearfeetstreettours.com

You can also call 252-349-0849 for information or reservations, and follow Bear Feet Street Tours on Facebook and Instagram for updates, seasonal offerings, and a behind-the-scenes look at life on the sidewalks of New Bern.

Whether you're a first-time visitor or a longtime local who's walked these streets a thousand times, Lindsey's hope is the same: that you'll see New Bern a little differently—and carry its stories with you long after the tour ends.

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An October Journey: A Union Soldier's Return to New Bern

Anthony Giardino, Executive Director, New Bern Historical Society



579 New Berne - The Gaston House

In October 1884, twenty-two years after first arriving in New Bern as a Union soldier, William Garrison Reed returned to the city. A veteran of the 44th Massachusetts Volunteer Militia, Reed had been stationed in New Bern from October 1862 until June 1863. His return was part of a three-week journey through eastern North Carolina to revisit the places where he and his comrades had served during the Civil War.

Reed was not simply a nostalgic tourist. An accomplished amateur photographer, he carried a camera and photographic plates, determined to document the places that remained in his memory from the war. In New Bern, he photographed Fort Totten, Fort Rowan, former campgrounds and barracks sites, the railroad shops, the Gaston House Hotel, and streets and buildings he remembered from his military service. His photographs became an extraordinary visual record of eastern North Carolina twenty-two years after the conflict.

The emotional contrast was striking. Before leaving Massachusetts, Reed wrote in an essay for the 44th Regimental history that he had "feelings hard to describe," almost as though he were "going to war" again. The 44th Massachusetts had been stationed throughout eastern North Carolina, fighting in and occupying parts of New Bern, Goldsboro, Kinston, and Whitehall. Reed reflected further, "I could not picture New Berne without plenty of soldiers moving about, the old forts bristling with cannon, and war vessels on the river." When he arrived, he discovered "great changes," as North Carolina's towns had been

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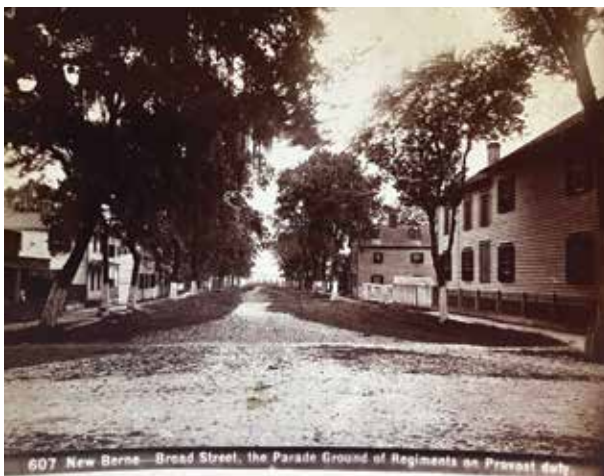


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An October Journey: A Union Soldier's Return to New Bern

Continued from page 42

rebuilt and expanded in the years following Union occupation. One highlight of his visit to New Bern was his accommodation at the reputable Gaston House Hotel, a place where he was not allowed to stay as an enlisted soldier. "Dim memories of the reputation of the Gaston Hotel rose in our mind - those old fairy tales of realms of bliss to which enlisted men were not admitted; of beds with sheets, of tables with white cloths and napkins. We decided to go there, regardless of the exhortations and praises from another stage driver of a rival hotel."



Reflecting on his trip, he noted that, "Those who had been in the Southern army were particularly cordial, and anxious to do all they could to make our trip agreeable. All were hospitable and hoped that more of the boys who wore the blue in North Carolina would pay them a visit."

Reed's 1884 journey was therefore about more than revisiting battlefields and military camps. His photographs preserved a changing landscape, while his diary captured something equally important—the gradual rebuilding of relationships between former enemies.

His visit came during a complicated era when memories of the Civil War remained strong and political and racial tensions persisted throughout the South. Yet Reed's experiences demonstrate that personal reconciliation was possible. Men who had once faced one



William Garrison Reed Seal

another across battle lines could now share memories, offer hospitality and acknowledge their common humanity.

Reed returned to New Bern carrying a camera instead of a rifle and

discovered that some of the people he once considered enemies were ready to welcome him home. His journey offers a remarkable glimpse of a community—and a nation—beginning to move from the bitterness of war toward reconciliation.

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The Trolley That Built Ghent

by Edward Ellis, Special Correspondent

Before automobiles reshaped New Bern, a trolley helped create one of the city's most distinctive neighborhoods.

In 1912, a group of local and Virginia investors organized the Ghent Land Company to develop what was then largely outlying property. But they understood that selling a new suburb required more than streets and houses. It needed transportation. So, at virtually the same time, they organized the New Bern-Ghent Street Railway.



A trolley navigates Spencer Avenue.

The strategy was simple: build the neighborhood, then connect it to downtown.

The trolley began operating in early 1913, running from the business district through Pollock Street and Spencer Avenue into Ghent. Its first three cars were storage-battery vehicles; the system soon became conventionally electric. In its first year, the railway carried thousands of passengers with just nine employees.

For Ghent's residents, the streetcars were more than a convenience. They made suburban living practical. A resident could live in a new house in Ghent and still easily reach downtown for work, shopping, or lunch. Children could ride it to school. At the end of the line, Ghent Park offered recreation. The trolley wasn't merely serving the development—it was part of the development's business plan.

The connection was unusually direct. Fritz Sitterding, a Virginia businessman with railway interests, was a principal investor and served as president of the street railway. Ernest Armstrong and Callaghan McCarthy, prominent New Bern businessmen, were also deeply involved. The same interests that sold Ghent helped provide the transportation that made it attractive.

For roughly sixteen years, the trolley became part of everyday New Bern. Then the automobile changed the equation. By the 1920s, rising car ownership was undermining street railways across America. New Bern's trolleys made their final runs in 1929.



Yet the concept lingered. The rails reportedly remained in the streets until 1939, and traces of them still survive beneath New Bern's pavement. On Spencer Avenue, the broad median occupies what was once the trolley's right-of-way.

The New Bern trolley is, therefore, more than a forgotten transportation story. It is a small, vivid example of how some American cities were once built around streetcars—and how quickly the automobile swept that world away.

Bear Talk

Eddie Ellis is the author of *New Bern History 101* and other works about Craven County's rich heritage. He can be reached at flexspace2@aol.com.



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www.mtishows.com



An Interview with Shalia Fuentes-Matthews

By Jonathan Burger, Craven Arts Council & Gallery, Inc.

Where are you from and how did you end up in eastern North Carolina?

I am originally from Queens, New York. My family and I moved to North Carolina in 2006.

Do you have formal training, or are you self-taught, or a combination of both?

A combination of both. I grew up in a musical household so we were always singing, dancing, and making music. I've also been blessed to have the music teachers I had throughout school and college. They taught me so much about music and helped my voice grow to what it is today. I am forever grateful to have learned from the best!

You work in music, theatre, and film, how do these mediums relate to each other?

They influence each other when it comes to storytelling. When I come up with a film idea, I'm always thinking about the score, what songs would play, and how it would impact the scene. And of course I'm thinking about how I want to convey the emotions through actions and dialogue. I try to visualize as I'm writing so that I'm able to communicate to the actors what I'm going for.

You were recently *Disenchanted* at New Bern Civic Theatre, what was it like working with an all-female ensemble?

It's been so fun! This is my first time working with an all-female ensemble and I think *Disenchanted* has been the best introduction.

Everyone in the cast is extremely talented and I am so honored to share the stage with them. We're in a show that's about pushing back on the societal pressures the not only the princesses face, we face them too - every single day. It's powerful to watch each of them tell their story.

Do you have a dream role?

Dorothy in *The Wiz*!

In there another performer who you admire or inspires you?

My biggest inspiration is my cousin Tori. She is mesmerizing on stage. Her voice, mannerisms, the life she brings to each character. I didn't have a lot of confidence in myself performing when I was little, but I everytime I saw her perform, it made me believe that I could do it too - and now I am, with much more confidence in my abilities.

What one performance, award, or event are you particularly proud of, and why?

I will always be proud of winning the Greensboro 48 Hour Project. It was so intense, but I had the best team I could ever ask for. It got us to Seattle where we got to meet and interact



Continued on page 54



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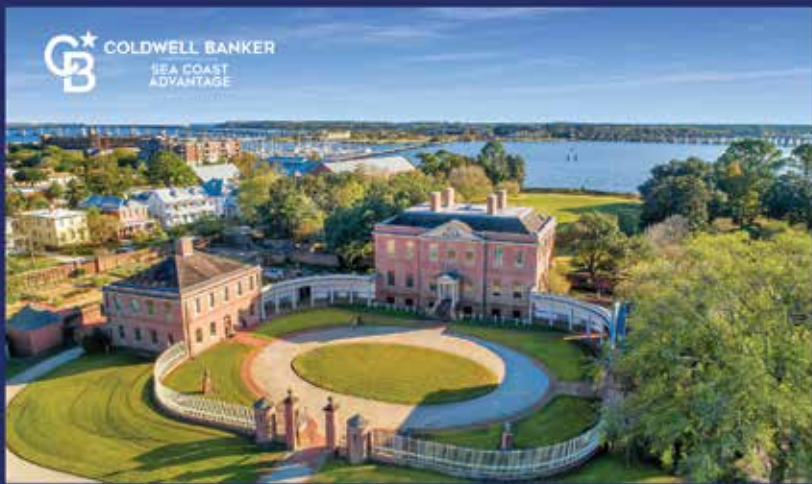
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An Interview with Shalia Fuentes-Matthews

Continued from page 52

with filmmakers from all over the world. An experience I will never forget!

What advice do you have for other performers, or people wanting to get into music or theatre?

Go for it! Immerse yourself in the creative community. There are people with all different backgrounds who will definitely encourage you to do it.

In one sentence, what is art to you?

Art to me is an expression of who I am.

Where else can people find your work?

You can find me on Instagram @shalia.fm and @edgewood.tv



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Dear Henrietta:

I've recently joined a book club in hopes of expanding my mind. Unfortunately, the only parts of me expanding are my waistband and my knowledge of boxed wine.

We meet once a month and spend roughly four minutes discussing the book, and the rest debating charcuterie, streaming shows, and whether Brad from work is "technically single."

How do I turn this back into a real book club without losing my only social life?

Signed,
Plot-Twisted

Dear Plot-Twisted,

You didn't join a book club. You joined a support group for people who buy novels as coasters. Common mix-up.

With a few delicate maneuvers, you can either nudge this crew toward actual reading—or at least fake it so well you feel more literate than lactose-intolerant.

Henrietta's Guide to Book Club Rehabilitation (or Strategic Surrender):

Step One: Diagnose the Species

Most clubs are:

1. **Serious Scholars** – say "motif," bring printed questions, terrify everyone.
2. **Social Swirl** – skim the jacket copy, know each other's dentists.
3. **Hybrid Unicorn** – read and enjoy snacks.

You're firmly in Social Swirl. Turning them into Scholars overnight would be like asking my cats to file my taxes.

Step Two: Sneak in Structure

Insert book talk so gently no one notices. Wait until everyone is one glass in and toss out:

- "Rapid-fire: favorite character and why?"
- "Least favorite. Go."
- "What scene would you cut?"
- "Who would you cast in the movie?"
- "Did anyone like the ending, or should we rewrite it?"

Step Three: Embrace Being The One Who Actually Reads

Every group needs the person who remembers Chapter 3. That's you. Before each meeting, jot down three plot points, two names, one quote (half-remembering is fine). You'll become the historian and feel smug.

And so, there you are! If the group doesn't kick you out, then you managed actually make the book the center of attention, once again.

Love,

Henrietta

Henrietta Craven was born and raised in New Bern and enjoys gardening, hunting bears, and improvisational dance. She is a self-proclaimed expert on a wide variety of subjects including (but not limited to) fashion, mixology, and cooking. Henrietta resides in a lovely Victorian home in downtown New Bern with her five cats: Graffenreid, Bethune, Devereux, Stanton, and Carraway.

If you have a problem, and would like Henrietta to give you some of her home-grown advice, please send a note to: henrietta@newbernmagazine.com.

Disclaimer: keep in mind that Henrietta's advice should be taken lightheartedly, with a sense of humor, and then probably ignored.

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PET ^{OF} THE MONTH

Pet: Violet

Pet Owner: Andrea and Bob Smith

Violet is a spirited three-year-old Mini Australian Shepherd with an unmistakable red merle coat and a personality to match. She's an Arizona native who found her way to New Bern after a chance encounter at a garden nursery in Phoenix, where Andrea was visiting her sister.



"The owner asked if we would love to see their new puppies," says Andrea. "Violet was the only red merle. I fell in love with her." Andrea called the breeder the next day and asked him to hold Violet for eight weeks. He did — and in the process, fell for her too, sending photos of Violet on errands, playing, and being passed around and admired by everyone she met. When Andrea flew out to bring her home, strangers kept stopping them, wanting to hold Violet and snap a photo. It took a little time for the Smiths' other dogs to accept that this Arizona transplant was here to stay in New Bern. Another transplant, just like Violet.

Violet's best friend is Prince, one of the family's Yorkies. The two have been inseparable since Violet came home at Prince's size, though she's long since outgrown him. Her favorite game is dragging blankets out from under Prince, hoping to lure him into play. The Smiths' home is full of toys, and Violet and the family's other Yorkie, Jasmine, are often found flanking Andrea, each clutching a stuffed toy of her own. "It is difficult which gift to choose without hurting the other's feelings," Andrea laughs. "That's kids for you."

Violet is quick with basic commands and fairly obedient, though unfamiliar dogs outside her pack can throw her off a bit. Her signature move, though, is what Aussie owners will instantly recognize: the wiggle butt. Her favorite snack is carrots — no bones or hard chews since she fractured a tooth on one.

Violet joined a household of three other dogs, and her joyful spirit helped soften the loss of the Smiths' oldest dog, Toby, last year. "I believe every dog adapts and takes on the personality of their owner," says Andrea. "She is special to us, and the joy that she gives us is all that matters."

"Sometimes I think she owns me the way I tend to follow her lead," Andrea says. "She is there for me on those occasions when a wrapped-up puppy hug is needed."

We want to meet your furry, feathered, or scaly friend! Share their story, favorite activities, and what makes them special. They could be featured in an upcoming issue of New Bern Magazine!

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No cover. For information, www.baxters1892.com.



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Tentacle

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For information, visit [Confluence Restaurant](#) on Facebook.

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October 2 & 16 • 7-10pm

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\$2 cover. For information, www.baxters1892.com.

Country Night

October 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 • 7:30pm

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Wear your hats and boots and come out for country hits and line dancing.

For information, www.blackbeardstripleplay.com.



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Friday, February 5, 2027



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The CelloVoci and Americana Women will be held at the Orringer Auditorium. The 3 Redneck Tenors and The Kingston Trio will be held at Grover C. Fields Middle School.

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For tickets and more information:

[CravenConcertsInc.org](https://www.CravenConcertsInc.org)

MUSIC

Saxophonist Michael Redman

October 3 • 6-8pm

Gemelli Italian Deli & Bagelry

211 Pollock St.

For information, visit Gemelli's on Facebook.

Dino Pelletier

October 3 • 6-9pm

DoubleTree by Hilton New Bern

100 Middle St.

A fusion of blues, rock, and jazz influenced by Hendrix, Beck, and Clapton.

For information, visit Confluence Restaurant on Facebook.



Joe Baes

October 3 • 6-9pm

Firefly Cafe • 901B Pollock St.

Playing songs you known from the 60's to today, a mix of rock, country, & blues.

For information, fireflycafenewbern.com

Barry Charlton

October 3 & 17 • 7-10pm

Baxter's 1892 • 323 Pollock St.

Come hear some acoustic favorites from the 70s, 80s and onward.

\$2 cover. For information, www.baxters1892.com.

Piano Brunch with Hans Werner

October 4 & 18 • 11am-2pm

Baxter's 1892 • 323 Pollock St.

Enjoy a relaxed and elegant atmosphere as Hans brings his artistry to the keys, performing a delightful blend of traditional pieces and contemporary favorites.

No cover. For information, www.baxters1892.com.

Celtic Music Session

October 4 • 2pm

Trinity United Methodist Church

2311 Elizabeth Ave.

The session tradition is a vital part of the Irish and Scottish musical tradition. You never know exactly who will be there, or which tunes will be played, on a given evening. Listeners, singers, and players of acoustic instruments are welcome. The New Bern session, held monthly 1998 through 2020 in a variety of locations, usually includes such instruments as fiddle, guitar, octave mandolin, tinwhistle, and flute. The repertoire includes the music of Ireland, Scotland, and other Celtic lands: jigs, reels, hornpipes, slow airs, and songs. Audience members are welcome to sing along and sit in on acoustic instruments.

Parking is available behind the church. For information, 252.637.2660.

Dayton Vesper

October 4 • 5-7pm

Baxter's 1892 • 323 Pollock St.

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MUSIC

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Aaron Van Nynatten Duo

October 9 • 7-10pm

Baxter's 1892 • 323 Pollock St.

Wilmington based instrumental jazz group.

\$3 cover. For information, [www.baxters1892.com](#).



The Bonafides - The Great American Songbook

October 9 • 7:30pm

New Bern Civic Theatre

414 Pollock St.

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For information, [www.newberncivictheatre.org](#).

Ben Brannon

October 10 • 6-8pm

Gemelli Italian Deli & Bagelry

211 Pollock St.

For information, visit [Gemelli's on Facebook](#).



Bridge Atlantic

October 10 • 6-9pm

DoubleTree by Hilton New Bern

100 Middle St.

Bridge Atlantic is a soulful rock and pop band performing well-known covers across all genres from this year and all the way back to the 1960s.

For information, visit [Confluence Restaurant on Facebook](#).

Eric Metts

October 10 • 7-10pm

Baxter's 1892 • 323 Pollock St.

Eric Metts is a vocalist and guitarist out of Wilmington, NC. Come hear some acoustic favorites from the 70s, 80s, 90s & today.

\$3 cover. For information, [www.baxters1892.com](#).

Piano Brunch with Lynne Cox

October 11 & 25 • 11am-2pm

Baxter's 1892 • 323 Pollock St.

Lynne fills the air with piano classics, beloved Broadway tunes, traditional favorites, seasonal melodies, and more. It's the perfect backdrop for a relaxed and elegant brunch.

No cover. For information, [www.baxters1892.com](#).

Quincy Jones

October 11 • 5-7pm

Baxter's 1892 • 323 Pollock St.

Quincy brings his favorite tunes to life, and you'll feel like you're listening to the legendary sounds of Duke Ellington or Oscar Peterson.

No cover. For information, [www.baxters1892.com](#).

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 **DOORDASH**

MUSIC

Izzy McCarthy

October 15 • 5:30-7:30pm

Baxter's 1892 • 323 Pollock St.

New Bern native and powerhouse songstress.

No cover. For information, www.baxters1892.com.

Dueling Piano Bar

October 15 • 6:30-11pm

Blackbeard's • 415 S. Front St.

A high-energy night of dueling pianos, audience sing-alongs, and musical showmanship at Blackbeard's Triple Play. Two pianists face off in an interactive battle of crowd-pleasing hits from across the decades.

For information, blackbeardstripleplay.com.



Nostalgic Knights

October 16 • 6-9pm

*DoubleTree by Hilton New Bern
100 Middle St.*

A musical journey thru the golden eras of 70s and 80s rock, pop, and dance, kicking up those feel-good memories of nostalgia!

For information, visit [Confluence Restaurant on Facebook](#).

Jessica Rose

October 16 • 6-9pm

Firefly Cafe • 901B Pollock St.

Featuring original songs from her two full-length albums alongside an eclectic mix of crowd-favorite covers - plus a special tribute to Dolly Parton.

For information, fireflycafenewbern.com

New Bern Bluegrass Jammers

October 17 • 2pm

Brewery 99 • 1030 Pollock St.

All acoustic, all bluegrass every 3rd Saturday of the the month.

For information, visit [Brewery 99 on Facebook](#).



Jessica Rose

October 17 • 6-8pm

*Gemelli Italian Deli & Bagelry
211 Pollock St.*

Recording artist and singer-songwriter Jessica Rose visits from the Tampa Bay Area, Florida for her debut appearance at Gemelli. She'll perform melodic, fun acoustic originals from her two full-length albums, "Sparkly Eyes" and "Pretty Pretty Please" along with a variety of favorite covers. Her music pairs catchy melodies with heartfelt, straight-to-the-point lyrics.

For information, visit [Gemelli Italian Deli & Bagelry on Facebook](#).

Patrick Bliss

October 17 • 6-9pm

*DoubleTree by Hilton New Bern
100 Middle St.*

For information, visit [Confluence Restaurant on Facebook](#).

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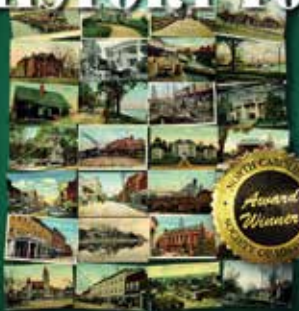
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MUSIC

NC East Coast Punk Rager

October 17 • 7pm

Brown Pelican • 1017 B Broad St.

Four bands. One stage. One loud night in Downtown New Bern. The Brown Pelican hosts a full night of live punk with Good Good Grief, Wayback NC, Five Foot Nuttin, and Forty-Two. All ages show. Drink specials all night.

For information, visit [Brown Pelican on Facebook](#).



CelloVoci

October 17 • 7:30pm

Orringer Auditorium • 800 College Ct.

CelloVoci is a classical-crossover trio featuring internationally renowned cello and vocal duo Branden & James — praised for 'dazzling cello and soaring tenor vocals' (NPR Music) — alongside powerhouse singer/songwriter Effie Passero of American Idol and Postmodern Jukebox fame. The trio presents a tour de force of epic musical collaborations and lighthearted stories that will make you laugh and cry.

For information, www.cravenconcertsinc.org

Jonathan Larson

October 18 • 5-7pm

Baxter's 1892 • 323 Pollock St.

Jonathan fills the air with romantic piano melodies, creating an enchanting atmosphere ideal for date night with your sweetheart.

No cover. For information, www.baxters1892.com.

Jared Michael Cline

October 23 • 6-9pm

*DoubleTree by Hilton New Bern
100 Middle St.*

For information, visit [Confluence Restaurant on Facebook](#).

Aaron Davenport

October 23 • 7-10pm

Baxter's 1892 • 323 Pollock St.

Native New Bernian, Aaron Davenport is a vocalist and guitarist and local theatre performer. Come hear some acoustic favorites from the 70s, 80s, 90s, & today.

\$2 cover. For information, www.baxters1892.com.

Brooke White & Black Sheep

October 24 • 6-9pm

*DoubleTree by Hilton New Bern
100 Middle St.*

Playing 80s and 90s favorites.

For information, visit [Confluence Restaurant on Facebook](#).

Bob Laverty

October 24 • 6-8pm

*Gemelli Italian Deli & Bagelry
211 Pollock St.*

Country, blues and rock.

For information, visit [Gemelli Italian Deli & Bagelry on Facebook](#).

John Van Dyke

October 24 • 7-10pm

Baxter's 1892 • 323 Pollock St.

Bringing jazz and blues favorites to life.

*\$4 cover. For information,
www.baxters1892.com.*



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MUSIC

Around the World in 80 Tunes

October 25 • 3pm

Riverside United Methodist Church • 405 Avenue "A"

Simon Spalding performs "Around the World in 80 Tunes" featuring musical instruments and tunes from near and far. Get ready for some fun and exotic sounds at this afternoon of musical globe-trotting!

The instruments come from Wales, Uzbekistan, Turkey, Sweden, China and elsewhere. Simon will share traditional tunes for the instruments, as well as some surprises!

Admission free, but donations to Riverside United Methodist Church will be accepted.

WREN

October 25 • 5-7pm

Baxter's 1892 • 323 Pollock St.

New Bern native, and Baxter's own singing hostess delivers powerful renditions of pop favorites, jazz standards, and more.

No cover. For information, www.baxters1892.com.

Wes Rider

October 27 • 6-9pm

DoubleTree by Hilton New Bern 100 Middle St.

Classic rock, outlaw country, folk, blues and popular music from the 1940's to the present time.

For information, visit [Confluence Restaurant on Facebook](#).

Alisa Mike

October 30 • 6-9pm

DoubleTree by Hilton New Bern 100 Middle St.

For information, visit [Confluence Restaurant on Facebook](#).

Anything But Clothes Halloween

October 30 • 10pm-2am

Brown Pelican • 1017 B Broad St.

Presented by PrettyKVNT Promotions.

Come dressed in your most creative Anything But Clothes look for a night of good music, spooky vibes, and no limits. Sounds by DJ KVNT, hosted by MAK.

\$10 before midnight; early arrival suggested. 21+ only. For information, visit [Brown Pelican on Facebook](#).

Christopher Siren

October 30 • 7-10pm

Baxter's 1892 • 323 Pollock St.

Shaped by the vibrant music scene of New Orleans, he draws inspiration from piano greats like Dr. John and Professor Longhair, blending that rich Crescent City influence with pop, country, and folk to create performances that are both lively and heartfelt.

\$2 cover. For information, www.baxters1892.com.



Smokehouse

October 31 • 6-9pm

DoubleTree by Hilton New Bern 100 Middle St.

New Bern, NC based band that plays Southern, Country and Rock favorites.

For information, visit [Confluence Restaurant on Facebook](#).

Halloween Music & Costumes

October 31 • 7-10pm

Baxter's 1892 • 323 Pollock St.

Enjoy live music inspired by Halloween and fall favorites. Costumes encouraged all night with costume contest beginning at 9pm.

No cover. For information, www.baxters1892.com.



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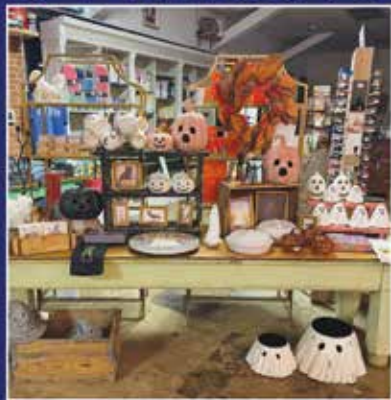


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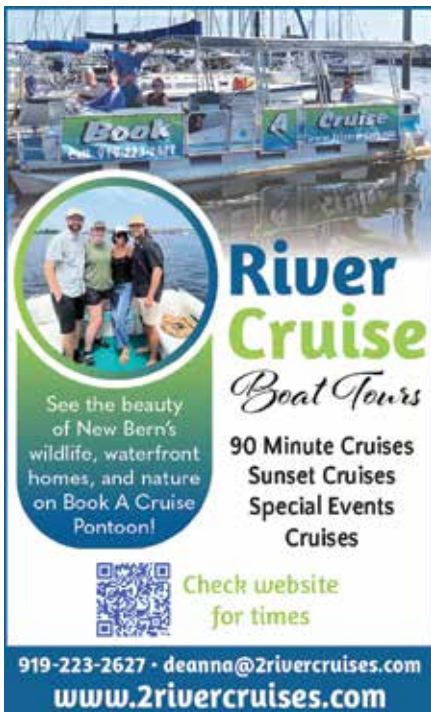


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ArtWalk

October 9 • 5-8pm • Downtown New Bern

ArtWalk is a free, self-guided walk to more than 30 stops throughout downtown New Bern — galleries, shops, restaurants, and nonprofits — featuring art exhibitions, artist receptions, live performances, and special promotions.

For information, 252.638.2577 or www.cravenarts.org.

Community Artist Gallery and Studios

October 9 • 5-8pm • 309 Middle St.

The featured artists for October are Heidi Lock, who specializes in landscapes and plein air using oils and acrylics; Brenda Singh, a watercolorist; and Ann Marie Hodrick, an artisan who specializes in original and handmade jewelry.



Artist Heidi Lock

We are open from 10-8 on Art Walk Fridays. Come in and meet the artists, listen to live music, and have a glass of cheer. The front window for October will feature the theme of "Art is in the Air." Also visit our upstairs Studio Annex where you can see works by Joyce Stratton, Susan Cheatham, Belinda Scheber, and Heide Lock. Our featured emerging artist for September and October is Nicole Athena, who paints amazing large scale landscapes with bold colors in oil.

Visit www.communityartistsgalleryandstudios.org to check on events and art classes. Open on Sunday from 12:30-4, Monday from 10-5, Tuesday from 10-1:30, and Wednesday through Saturday from 10-5.

Director's Gallery: Mum's the Word

Reception: October 9 • 7pm

On exhibit throughout October

Bank of the Arts • 317 Middle St.

Craven Arts Council & Gallery presents their annual exhibition in conjunction with Mumfest, *Mum's the Word*, for the month of October. Each piece in the exhibition features chrysanthemums, with one work to be selected for the 2027 Mumfest logo. A reception during ArtWalk from 5-8pm on Friday, October 9th.

New Bern's annual Mumfest brings thousands of visitors to the downtown area for fun, shopping, and entertainment. As part of the festival, Craven Arts Council & Gallery will host *Mum's the Word*, an art exhibition and contest to select artwork for the upcoming years' Mumfest. The winner will receive \$200 and their piece will be featured on t-shirts, bags, banners, and other promotional items for the 2027 celebration. This exhibition and contest is open to beginner and advanced artists of all ages for submission. Artwork is not limited to chrysanthemums, but must feature chrysanthemums in some way.

For information, www.cravenarts.org.



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Artist Ann Marie Hadrick



Artist Brenda Singh

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HOST

Hosting artists provides a unique chance to connect with artists and support the event by offering accommodations.



Lake Mattamuskeet Sunrise by Karl Mielenhausen

Main Gallery: Coastal Photo Club Exhibition

Reception: October 9 • 7pm

On exhibit throughout October

Bank of the Arts • 317 Middle St.

For the month of October, Craven Arts Council & Gallery (CAC&G) invites the public to view the *Coastal Photo Club Exhibition*, displaying works by local photographers of the Coastal Photo Club. This exhibition features a wide array of subjects captured both national and internationally. The *Coastal Photo Club Exhibition* showcases the variety of styles and materials available to the modern photographer, including framed photos, canvas prints, and metal laminate pieces from different artists. Differences in production are also highlighted, from classic darkroom techniques to advanced digital photo manipulation. Additionally, the display showcases photos from the club's nearly one hundred members, as each submitting artist showcases up to two photos of their collection. CAC&G invites the public to meet the artists at Artwalk on October 9th from 5-8pm.

The Coastal Photo Club was established in 1991 as New Bern Camera Club by Elizabeth Dunn. The group participates and organizes exhibitions for its members at local galleries and spaces, including the New Bern Public Library and the Bank of the Arts. The club also organizes photography oriented field trips and workshops for the membership.

For information, www.cravenarts.org.



Craven Arts's Sculpture Park

Art in the Park

October 10-11 • 11am-4pm

Sculpture Park • Across from Bank of the Arts

Craven Arts Council & Gallery will host Art in the Park, a family-friendly interactive arts event, during Mumfest. From 11 am to 4 pm, the public is invited to join activities including welding demonstrations, rock-painting, and Craven Arts' annual affordable art sale, featuring discounted art supplies, paintings, and more. Art in the Park brings visual arts to the community at Sculpture Park, located across the street from Craven Arts' home facility, the Bank of the Arts.

For information, www.cravenarts.org.

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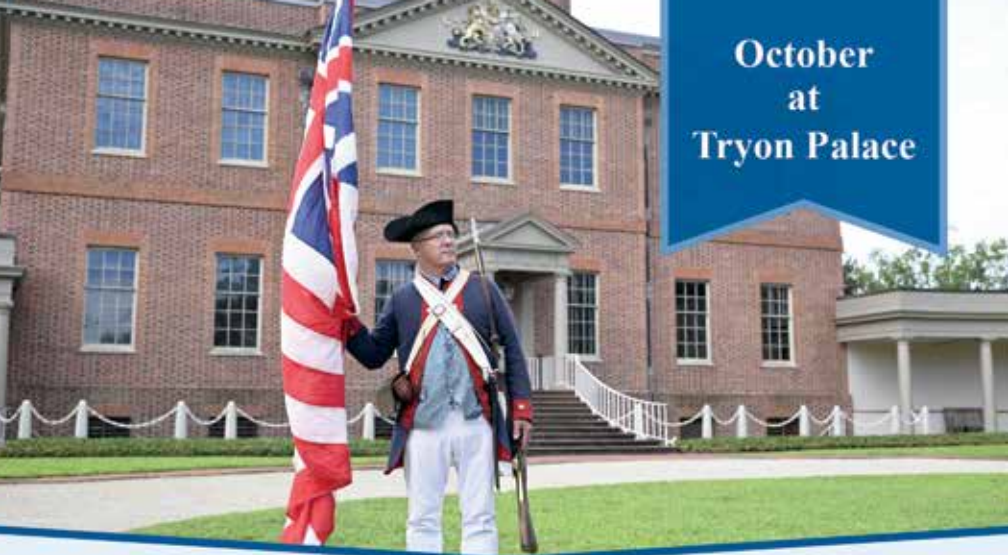
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Oct. 8 - 4:30pm | Tryon Palace | *You can join at the event!*

Fall Heritage Plant Sale

Oct. 9-10 | 9am 5pm | Tryon Palace

Fall Garden Lovers Weekend

Oct. 9-11 | 9am 5pm | Tryon Palace

18th Century Apothecary Workshop*

Oct. 10 | 10:30am | NC History Center

Caswell's Capital Tour*

Oct. 15 | 3:30pm | Tryon Palace

Outlander in the Palace*

Oct. 17 | 3:45pm | Tryon Palace

**Ticketed Event*



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THEATER

Foundations of Dance: Musical Theatre

*Sundays in October • 3-5pm
Stanley Hall Ballroom
249 Craven St.*

RiverTowne Players offers a free 10-week dance program for adults led by New Bern native Amanda Pumphrey. Open to ages 17 and older — no previous dance experience necessary. Participants will work on basic dance skills, coordination, musicality, and learning choreography for musical theatre.

*Free, registration required. For information,
www.RiverTownePlayers.org*

Disenchanted

October 2-3 • 7:30pm

October 4 • 2pm

New Bern Civic Theatre

414 Pollock St.

Forget the fairy tale — these princesses have something to say. Your favorite storybook royals toss off their tiaras and spill the tea in this hilarious, no-holds-barred musical spoof that's sassy, subversive, and royally irreverent. [R]

For information, www.newberncivictheatre.org.

Walk-In Bathtub Improv

October 10 • 7:30pm

New Bern Civic Theatre

414 Pollock St.

Come have fun with us as we make up fun scenes for you on the spot, based on your suggestions. Joining us again on keyboard will be master musician Jon Larson, as we plunge head-first into musical improv! This show is rated R due to the unpredictable nature of improv comedy (and our audiences). Come on in—the tub's heating up!

For information, www.newberncivictheatre.org.

Legally Blonde Jr.

October 16, 17, 23, 24 • 7:30pm

October 18, 25 • 3pm

Rivertowne Players • 514 Hancock St.

Featuring a cast of local young performers ages 12 to 18, the high-energy musical brings the wit, music, and heart of the Broadway favorite to the RiverTowne stage.

Based on the award-winning Broadway musical and popular film, Legally Blonde JR. follows Elle Woods as she sets out to win back her boyfriend by following him to Harvard Law School. What begins as a romantic mission soon becomes something much bigger as Elle discovers her own intelligence, determination, and ability to succeed without changing who she is.

Filled with upbeat music, lively choreography, comedy, and plenty of pink, the show carries a message that resonates well beyond the stage: do not underestimate yourself or allow others to decide what you are capable of becoming.

For information, www.rivertowneplayers.org.

24 Hour Theatre Project

October 17 • 7:30pm

New Bern Civic Theatre

414 Pollock St.

On Friday, October 16, five writers each receive a genre and a quote for inspiration and have just 12 hours to write an original 10-minute play. On Saturday morning, scripts are assigned to directors, auditions begin at 8am, and the shows are cast on the spot. Casts and directors rehearse all day, and by 7:30pm, the finished productions are performed live for an audience.

For information, www.newberncivictheatre.org.



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7/16 - 7/31

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Alice in Wonderland Jr.
10/14 - 10/24


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RiverTownePlayers.org



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Tuesdays • 7pm

Tasty Shack • 206 Middle St.

Tuesdays • 7pm

Blackbeard's • 415 S. Front St.

Tuesdays • 7pm

Pourhouse 222 • 222 Middle St.

Wednesdays • 7pm

Michael's Pub • 208 Pollock St.

Wednesdays • 7pm

Harry's BBQ • 243 Craven St.

Thursdays • 8pm

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Brown Pelican • 1017B Broad St.

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Tuesday - Saturday • 7:30pm

Black Cat Shoppe • 246 Middle St.

Journey into the depths of old New Bern on a 90-minute haunted tour to the city's most actively haunted homes & burial grounds. Hear eerie tales of ghostly occurrences, including actual encounters during recent ghost tours.

For information, hauntednewbern.com.

Game Night

Fridays & Saturdays • 7pm

PourHouse 222 • 222 Middle St.

Join us for Game Night, featuring Wii Bowling, Mario Kart & more. Grab a drink & get ready to show off your skills in a friendly competition.

For information, visit PourHouse 222 on Facebook.

30 Seconds

Thursdays • 6:30-8:30pm

Brütopia • 1201 Hwy 70 E

Thursdays • 7pm

Pourhouse 222 • 222 Middle St.

Saturdays • 8pm

Blackbeard's • 415 S. Front St.

30 seconds of a song. Can you name it? Mark it off your sheet and race to win. Three rounds of single-winner action lead up to the grand finale — a full blackout round. Come ready to listen!

DJ Bingo

Fridays • 8:30pm

Beartown Bistro • 1200 Hwy 70

DJ Bingo will play a portion of a song & you mark the song title off on your game sheet. Join us at BTB for prizes, food, drinks & some fun.

Farmers Market

Saturdays • 8am-2pm

421 S. Front St.

For information, newbernfarmersmarket.org or 252.633.0043.



Historic Trolley Tours

October 1-31 • 610 Pollock St.

A comprehensive 1 ½ hour trolley tour of historic downtown New Bern. Let us take you back in time as our professional guides recount the fascinating details of this former royal capital of North Carolina.

For information, www.newberntours.com.

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October 1-31 • 301 Pollock St.

Guided tours of historic downtown New Bern, delivered with story-telling flair! Be engaged, entertained, and still learn a thing or two. There's a reason they say it's "The most New Bern thing you can do!" Monday through Saturday starting at 9:30am, Sunday starting at 1pm.

Book tickets at bearfeetstreettours.com or call 252.349.0849.

2 River Cruises Boat Tours

October 1-31 • 10am-6pm

**New Bern Grand Marina Dock Z
100 Middle St.**

Enjoy the beauty of New Bern on a 90 minute river tour to take in nature, wildlife, and waterfront homes.

For information, 2rivercruises.com.

Story Time

October 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 • 10am

Brew H2ouse • 1201 Hwy 70

Story time is a great opportunity for your children to socialize with other young children while developing communication, cognitive, and fine motor skills! We read a selection of books from area libraries, and parents and children can stay afterwards to socialize.

For information, visit [Brew H2ouse's Facebook page](https://www.facebook.com/BrewH2ouse).



Discover Tryon Palace: Caswell's Capital Tour

October 1 & 15 • 3:30-4:30pm

Tryon Palace • 529 S. Front St.

Discover Tryon Palace in a whole new way! Are you ready to uncover the untold story of how North Carolina helped turn the tide of the American Revolution?

"Discovering Tryon Palace: Caswell's Capital" goes beyond the standard Palace tour, exploring in depth North Carolina's pivotal role in winning independence from Great Britain and showcases Tryon Palace as the first state capitol—a symbol of resilience and leadership during America's fight for liberty.

Join us and experience a new facet of our nation's Revolutionary story. Discover the people, the decisions, and the legacy that shaped a nation.

An America 250 program.

Tickets: Adults \$20. Youth ages 6-14 \$15. For information, www.tryonpalace.org.

Sunshine Center

October 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 • 12:30-4:30pm

811 George St.

A social respite group for people living with Alzheimer's or related dementias that meets on Wednesdays. The Sunshine Center offers lunch and a variety of activities in a safe group environment, affording caregivers a few hours to themselves.

Contact the Senior Center at 252.638.1790 to learn more.



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to make an appointment.



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Group Run

October 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 • 6:30pm

Freshwater • 904 Pollock St.

Come out and run with Coastal Sole. You'll meet some amazing people and you can refuel after your run/walk/jog with a pint.

For information, www.freshwaterbeerco.com.

International Film Series: Rule Breakers

October 2 • 2:30pm & 7:30pm

Orringer Auditorium • 800 College Ct.

Inspired by a remarkable true story, *Rule Breakers* follows a determined woman who challenges tradition by creating opportunities for girls to receive an education in Afghanistan, where doing so is considered an act of defiance. As she mentors a group of talented young women, they face growing opposition from those who want to preserve the status quo. Through perseverance, teamwork, and courage, they discover that education has the power to change not only individual lives, but the future of an entire nation.

For information, cravencc.edu/lrc/international-films.

The 99 Mile Club

October 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 • 8:15am

Brewery 99 • 1030 Pollock St.

Our goal is to walk, run, or bike 99 miles by May 29, 2027 and have fun doing it. This group is for all ages and all fitness levels. Finish with breakfast, mimosas, beers, & friends.

For information, www.brewery99.com.

Oktoberfest Vendor Fair

October 3 • 9am-3pm

Brewery 99 • 1030 Pollock St.

We're celebrating the best season of the year! Oktoberfest! This year we are curating a vendor fair that highlights small businesses in Eastern NC (Counties include: Craven, Pitt, Jones, Lenoir, Beaufort, Onslow, Carteret, and Pamlico). This event will showcase goods that are made in ENC by those who call it home.

Rain date October 4. For information, www.brewery99.com.

Living History Day

October 3 • 8am-4pm

New Bern Battlefield Park • 300 Battlefield Trail

Due to expected excessive heat, the date for Living History Day has been changed to October 3, 2026. Join us as uniformed re-enactors from the 5th and 7th NC Infantry Regiments will set up a full period camp.

Both Union and Confederate soldiers will be in camp. Visitors will be able to view several demonstrations and displays including a Civil War surgeon's display, weapons display, and a cavalry demonstration, and artillery demonstration.

Activities will begin with 8:30am morning roll call and inspection followed at 9am by infantry drill. At 9:30am see an artillery demonstration. Afternoon activities will begin with a 1:30pm infantry drill. At 3pm you'll see the trial of a deserter in the camp and at 3:30pm the artillery demonstration. Throughout the day, from 8am to 4pm you'll find a weapons and gear demonstration, a civilian camp, and medical, blacksmith and cavalry displays.

Admission: free. For information, 252.638.8558 or www.NewBernHistorical.org.





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Harvest Fair

October 3 • 11am-9pm

Firefly Cafe • 901B Pollock St.

Harvest Fair is back at Firefly! Kick things off at 11am with live music from Big G & The Double D's in the garden. Spend the day enjoying local vendors, family-friendly fall activities, a wine tasting event, and delicious food. Joe Baes takes the stage at 6pm to keep the music going into the evening.

For information, fireflycafenewbern.com



Pub Run

October 5, 12, 19, 26 • 6:30pm

The Bruin • 224 Middle St.

Join us on Monday evenings for a 2, 3, or 4 mile run. All paces are welcome. Hosted by Coastal Sole.

For information, 252.631.5187.

Freedom to Read Night

October 6 • 3-9pm

Brewery 99 • 1030 Pollock St.

An evening celebrating the freedom to read.

For information, brewery99.com.

Tuesday Night Market at the Park

October 6, 13, 20, 27 • 4-7pm

Havelock City Park

198 Cunningham Blvd.

Enjoy fresh local produce, handmade goods, and a welcoming community vibe.

For information, visit [Havelock Farmers Market on Facebook](#).

National Night Out 2026

October 6 • 5-7pm

Walter B. Jones Park

2 Governmental Ave.

Bring the whole family and enjoy: free food, live entertainment, meet your local first responders, family-friendly activities, community partners and more! National Night Out is a great opportunity to strengthen the bond between law enforcement and the community while enjoying an evening of fun with family, friends, and neighbors.

Admission: free. For information, havelocknc.us.



Fall Heritage Plant Sale

October 8 • 4:30-6pm

(Foundation Member Pre-Sale)

October 9-10 • 9am-5pm

Tryon Palace • 529 S. Front St.

This annual plant sale offers a selection of plants grown locally and in the Palace's nursery yard, as well as a wide variety of perennials, herbs and other fall favorites. The Fall Heritage Plant Sale will be open Friday and Saturday, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Supplies are limited so come early for the best selection.

For information, www.tryonpalace.org or 800.767.1560.

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Fall Garden Lovers Weekend

October 9-10 • 9am-6pm

October 11 • 12-6pm

Tryon Palace • 529 S. Front St.

Tryon Palace gardens will be open for free during MumFest weekend, Friday through Sunday, in historic downtown New Bern. Hundreds of mums and a variety of fall blooming plants will be on display throughout the 21 acres of gardens of Tryon Palace during Garden Lovers' Weekend.

Gardens will be free and open to the public. Interior tours require the purchase of a ticket. For information, www.tryonpalace.org.

Climbers Club of New Bern 105th Anniversary Celebration

October 9 • 7-9:30pm

The Flame • 2301 Neuse Blvd.

The Climbers Club of New Bern presents its 105th Anniversary Celebration, themed 'Legacy Reloaded, Continuing to Build,' also marking the 79th Anniversary of the West Street Colored Library Building.

Tickets \$65 per person. Attire: Elegant Semi-Formal/After-Five; purple and gold accents encouraged. For tickets contact Nedria Von Bailey at 301.661.0518 or mikkibw20747@yahoo.com.



18th Century Apothecary Workshop

October 10 • 11:30am

Tryon Palace • 529 S. Front St.

What would you do if you were ill or injured in the 18th century? Join Charles Brett, Apothecary-Surgeon, to explore period medical treatments and the role of medical practitioners in colonial North Carolina! What You'll Learn: As an apothecary's apprentice, you'll review surgical and bandaging principles to treat injuries and explore the healing properties of medicinal plants. As part of this workshop, you'll have the opportunity to compound a medicinal recipe for treating ailments using period tools and techniques.

Tickets: \$35 (plus tax) and include materials. For information, www.tryonpalace.org

MumFest MUMosa 5K & Fun Run

October 11 • 7:30am

Union Point Park • 210 E. Front St.

The annual MumFest MUMosa 5K is back on the streets of historic downtown New Bern! Hosted by New Bern Parks & Recreation, runners will enjoy a partially closed course winding through the heart of the MumFest festival footprint — and a free mimosa at the finish line.

Fun Run 7:30am (\$20); 5K 8:00am (\$40). Packet pick-up and day-of registration begins at 6:00am. Register at runsignup.com/Race/NC/NewBern/MumfestMUMosa5kFunRun



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Fun in the Sun NC 15th Collector Car Event

October 15 • 1:00pm

101 Howell Rd.

Come join Uncle Benny and Carol as we once again bring fellow car enthusiasts together for our 15th Annual Collector Car Event in New Bern.

For information, email Carol@carolhuff.com.

Night Garden Market

October 15 • 6pm

Gardens at Isaac Taylor • 228 Craven St.

Come join us for our monthly Night Market! Shop local vendors, Listen to live music, visit our bar, and food truck.

For information, tildyfloral.com

Outlander in the Palace Tour

October 17 • 3:45-4:45pm

Tryon Palace • 529 S. Front St.

Step into Tryon Palace and explore Diana Gabaldon's award-winning Outlander series. Learn about the lives of your favorite characters and their interactions with historical figures and events during the tumultuous period of the American Revolution. A must for fans of the series and history lovers alike.

For information, www.tryonpalace.org or 252.639.3500.

Walk to End Alzheimer's - New Bern

October 17 • Check-in 9am, Opening Ceremony 10am

Union Point Park • 210 E. Front St.

The Alzheimer's Association Eastern North Carolina Chapter invites residents of Craven County and nearby areas to join the fight to end Alzheimer's at the Walk to End Alzheimer's - New Bern. The world's largest event to raise awareness and funds for Alzheimer's care, support, and research, the Walk brings communities together each year in a powerful show of solidarity.



On Walk day, participants take part in the Promise Garden ceremony before setting out on the walk. During the ceremony, walkers carry flowers of various colors, each representing their personal connection to the disease — whether as a caregiver, family member, or someone living with Alzheimer's themselves.

"This is a pivotal moment in the fight against Alzheimer's," said Christine John-Fuller, executive director of the Alzheimer's Association Eastern North Carolina Chapter. "With new treatments and proven lifestyle habits that support brain health, there is real hope. Together, we can build a brain-healthy future and help end this disease."

The need is urgent. More than 7 million Americans are living with Alzheimer's — a leading cause of death in the United States — and nearly 13 million family members and friends serve as caregivers. In North Carolina alone, more than 210,000 people are living with the disease, supported by 338,000 caregivers. In Craven County, 11.8% of residents age 65 and older are affected.

To register as a participant, team captain, or learn about becoming a sponsor or volunteer of Walk to End Alzheimer's - New Bern, visit act.alz.org/NewBern or call 800-272-3900.

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252.631.3315 | shopatsmallbatch.com

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Forever Yours: Poetry in the Gardens & Isaac Taylor's Letter

October 22 • 5:30-7pm

The Gardens at Isaac Taylor
228 Craven St.

A live literary experience where a love letter from the past is answered by poetry from the present. Poet Sheena Powell introduces her collection *Polyhymnia* in an intimate garden setting.

Tickets: \$45, include a specialty welcome cocktail, chef's selection bento box, signed copy of Polyhymnia, a replica of Isaac Taylor's letter, and floral posey take-aways. For information, thegardensit.com or text FOREVER to 252.617.1665.

EPIC Toss Cornhole Tournament

October 24 • 10am

Whitford Plantation

1542 Crump Farm Rd.

The Friends of EPIC Center present their annual cornhole tournament benefiting the EPIC Center's mission to remove barriers to motherhood and support families in Eastern NC. Teams of two compete for cash prizes, with registration open until 9:30am the day of the tournament.

\$45 per team, with cash prizes for top teams.

Register by October 9 to receive a free event shirt. For information, easternpregnancy.net or 252.523.9516.

Ghostwalk: Voices of Freedom

October 22-24 • 6-9:30pm

Downtown New Bern

Now in its 36th year, Ghostwalk is a family-friendly fall event that combines spirits from New Bern's past, talented local volunteer actors, historic sites, and a fun-filled, creative environment. For three evenings in October you'll be able to step back in time and visit with ghosts of lively New Bernians, spirits, specters, and ordinary folks. You'll visit 13 "ghost sites" in Cedar Grove Cemetery and on the porches of historic homes. In keeping with this year's theme, "Voices of Freedom, Tales from 250 Years", you will hear stories and meet characters from all across our 250 year history.



The 36th Annual Ghostwalk is Oct. 22-24 from 6-9:30pm at 13 ghost sites in historic New Bern. Guides will lead you through the stops in Cedar Grove Cemetery, where you will hear entertaining stories based on real historical characters and events straight from New Bern's past. The remainder of the event is self-guided, with historical spirits telling you their compelling tales on porches in downtown New Bern. Local historic churches offer a variety of low-cost meals for Ghostwalk visitors and prepare yourself to see some special guests creeping through the cemetery during your visit. Watch for something "thrilling" at the New Bern Academy Green. And keep your eyes open for special apparitions like the Veri-Good Bakery (an oldie but a goodie).

Tickets: Adult advance are \$20 with a special \$17 price for active-duty military, students and Historical Society members. Adults day of the event, \$25. Children under 12 are \$5, children under 3 are free. Your ticket is your Ghostwalk map. Good for all three nights. For information, 252.638-8558 or www.NewBernHistorical.org.

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Fall & Christmas Festival

October 24 • 10am - 1pm

Solid Rock Global Methodist Church
3551 Trent Rd.

Bring the whole family to Solid Rock's Fall and Christmas Festival Open House! Enjoy a bake sale, face painting, indoor and outdoor games, a photo booth, free popcorn, and handmade crafts including wreaths, ornaments, and kitchen items. Free hot dog lunch provided.

Gilmore Girls Inspired Walking Foodie Tour

October 24 • 1pm

Downtown New Bern

A walking foodie tour through downtown New Bern inspired by the iconic eats of Gilmore Girls. Enjoy a burger slider from "Luke's Diner," coffee and pastries à la Lorelai and Rory, a Sookie-approved dish paired with a beverage, a shopping stop in "Stars Hollow," and a scoop of ice cream from "Taylor's Olde Fashion Soda Shoppe." Trivia and music along the way.

For information, foodietoursnc.com



Trick or Treat on the Street

October 24 • 4-6pm

Historic Downtown New Bern

Downtown New Bern merchants open their doors for a safe, family-friendly trick-or-treat experience along the streets of historic downtown. Kids and families in costume are invited to stroll the streets downtown as local businesses hand out candy.



Truck or Treat

October 24 • 5-8pm

Tuscarora Landfill • New Bern

Coastal Environmental Partnership presents their 4th Annual Truck or Treat — Touch a Truck and Trunk or Treat all in one night! Face painting, pick-your-own pumpkins, and a free hotdog dinner. Costumes encouraged.

Free to the community. For information, bit.ly/TruckorTreat2026Interest

Circa 1850 Slave Quarters & Far Cemetery Tour

October 25 • 1pm

The James City Historical Society
911 Howell Rd.

The James City Historical Society is pleased to offer the community a free guided tour of the circa 1850 Slave Quarters & Far Cemetery, honoring a significant chapter in the region's history. Come learn about the people, places, and stories that shaped our community and help preserve this important part of James City's history.

For information, www.jamescityhistory.org.

Costume Party for Adults with Disabilities

October 26 • 4-6pm

West New Bern Recreation Center
1225 Pinetree Dr.

Adults with disabilities are invited to join a free costume party at West New Bern Recreation Center. Come dressed in your Halloween best and enjoy an afternoon of spooky fun with friends.

Free admission; registration required. For information, 252.639.2916 or NewBernNC.gov.

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Lion's Club Bingo Fundraiser

October 27

Brewery 99 • 1030 Pollock St.

For information, www.brewery99.com

Paint Night with the Fries

October 28 • 6pm

Brewery 99 • 1030 Pollock St.

Join Charlie and Susan Frye for a paint night experience.

Registration required. For information, www.brewery99.com

Halloween Preschool Parade

October 30 • 9:30am

Corner of Broad & Middle St.

New Bern

New Bern Parks & Recreation invites preschoolers to put on their costumes and join the Halloween Preschool Parade! Line up at 9:15am at the corner of Broad & Middle Street. Groups are encouraged to pre-register.

For information, 252.639.2901 or www.newbernnc.gov.

City of Havelock Trunk or Treat

October 30 • 5:30pm

1 Recreation Dr. • Havelock.

Calling all ghosts, goblins, superheroes, and little monsters. Get ready for a spooktacular night of Halloween fun at the City of Havelock Parks & Recreation Trunk or Treat. Put on your favorite costume, bring your candy bucket, and join us for a frightfully fun evening filled with treats and Halloween excitement.

For information, visit [HavelockNC on Facebook](#).



Bernin' to the Beach

October 31 • 8:30am-2pm

New Bern to Atlantic Beach

The 11th annual Bernin' to the Beach is a safe, slow-paced bike ride from New Bern to Atlantic Beach benefiting Bike Box Project and the fight against Parkinson's disease.

Limited to 100 cyclists, with two rest stops, state police support, and lunch at the finish line. Virtual participation also available.

For information, bikeboxproject.org.

Missions Market

October 31 • 9am-3pm

First Baptist Church • 425 Pollock St.

Come support local missions with your purchase of beautiful handmade crafts, decor, and food items by First Baptist Church members and their friends.

Enter through the Family Life Center; parking at the corner of Pollock and Hancock Streets.



Witches Ride

October 31 • 5pm

Union Point Park • 210 E. Front St.

Kids and adults of all ages are invited to dress up and decorate their bikes with a festive Halloween theme for a bike ride around historic downtown.

Free. Prizes awarded for most creative costume and bike. Register at newbernnc.gov or 252.639.2901.



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MUSIC



Halloween Party in the Park

October 31 • 5-8pm

Union Point Park • 210 E. Front St.

New Bern Parks & Recreation presents a full evening of Halloween fun. Kick off with the Witches Ride at 5pm. Trick-or-treating, games, and activities run 5:30 - 8pm, with a costume contest at 6pm featuring prizes for funniest, scariest, most original, and best overall. Movie in the Park at 6:30pm featuring Hocus Pocus.

For information, 252.639.2901 or www.newbernnc.gov

Movie in the Park: Hocus Pocus

October 31 • 6:30pm

Union Point Park • 210 E. Front St.

After moving to Salem, Mass., teenager Max Dennison (Omri Katz) explores an abandoned house with his sister Dani (Thora Birch) and their new friend, Allison (Vinessa Shaw). After dismissing a story Allison tells as superstitious, Max accidentally frees a coven of evil witches (Bette Midler, Sarah Jessica Parker, Kathy Najimy) who used to live in the house. Now, with the help of a magical cat, the kids must steal the witches' book of spells to stop them from becoming immortal.

Admission: free. Concessions will be available for purchase on site. For information, NewBernNC.gov or 252.639.2901.



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MONDAYS

Jim Kohler & Friends • 7pm

TUESDAYS

Team Trivia • 7pm

WEDNESDAYS

Karaoke • 8pm

THURSDAYS

Country Line Dancing • 7pm

Collins Sample Band • 8pm

FRIDAYS

Country Night with DJ Mike on Deck

Dance Party Inside with DJ Fox

SATURDAYS

Live Music • 7:30pm

30 Second Rocks • 8pm

DJ Mike • 10pm

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ORIENTAL



Ol' Front Porch Music Festival

October 2 • 1pm

October 3 • 11am

Oriental waterfront

The Ol' Front Porch Music Festival returns with a full weekend of free fabulous music. Nearly 30 acts will spread across a dozen porches and venues throughout the village, spanning bluegrass, gospel, jazz, Latin, zydeco and Celtic folk.

Anchoring the weekend, the Riverfront Stage features Farayi, Caleb Caudle and the Robbie Fuls Band on Friday, and Los Sabrosos Del Son, Unknown Tongues, The Barefoot Movement and Tan and Sober Gentlemen on Saturday, with performances running into early evening both days.

Beyond the main stage, the village's front porches and community venues come alive throughout the weekend. Rose, Lynch, Abboud, Decker, Stallings, Hadley, Messer and Thompson porches each host multiple sets, with performers including Hoff & Finch, Moores Creek Bluegrass, Mark Tesh, Pamlico Flutes, Brant Island Strings, Dust Parade, Harbor Sounds, Ken Belangia, David Holt and Down East Dulcimers, among many others. Oriental United Methodist Church hosts two performances Saturday with the Gospel Ensemble & Friends, and evening sets close out Friday and Saturday at New Village Brewery with Noah Cobb and Ryan Rubich.

*All performances are free. Golf cart shuttles available.
For information, olfrontporch.org.*

Open Mic Night

Wednesdays • 7pm

The Silos • 1111 Broad St.

For information, www.silosnc.com.

Live Music

Fridays • 7pm

The Silos • 1111 Broad St.

For information, www.silosnc.com.

Ken Belangia

October 2 • 4pm

New Village Brewery • 702 Broad St.

Country, roots rock and gospel.

For information, www.newvillagebrewery.com

Packhouse

October 3 • 5:30-8pm

New Village Brewery • 702 Broad St.

For information, www.newvillagebrewery.com

Rotary Club of Oriental Car Show

October 10 • 10am-3pm

Lou Mac Park • Oriental

The Rotary Club of Oriental's annual car show features classic and custom vehicles at Lou Mac Park. Check-in and registration opens at 9am.

Dash plaques for all registrants, food and beverages available for purchase. Pre-register \$25; \$30 day of show.

For information, orientalrotary.org/oriental-car-show.

Big Jim Kohler Blues Band

October 16 • 6-8:30pm

New Village Brewery • 702 Broad St.

No frills Chicago Blues played with the honesty and intensity of a country preacher.

For information, www.newvillagebrewery.com

Noah Jackson Cobb

October 17 • 5:30-7:30pm

New Village Brewery • 702 Broad St.

For information, www.newvillagebrewery.com

Third Annual Gala & Auction

All That Glitters

to benefit Broad Strokes Gallery, Inc.

Friday, November 6

6 - 9pm

Come enjoy good food & drink
and bid on original artwork
in support of our incredible local
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operate

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gallery
or online at
www.broadstrokesgallery.com



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November 1st
2:00pm & 7:00pm



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Photography Exhibition + Competition

FOCUS:NC

North Carolina Through the Creative Lens

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Pamlico County Arts Council
is the designated County partner
of the North Carolina Arts Council,
a division of the Department
of Natural and Cultural Resources,
a state agency dedicated to the
promotion and protection of North Carolina's
arts, history and culture.

Join us for the opening reception on
Saturday, October 17, 2026, from 10
a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Pamlico County
Library in Alliance, NC, where you can
immerse yourself in a diverse collection of
compelling imagery, cast your vote for the
People's Choice Award, and witness the
incredible talent and unique perspectives.

ORIENTAL

FocusNC Photography Exhibition & Competition

Saturday, October 17 • 10am - 3pm

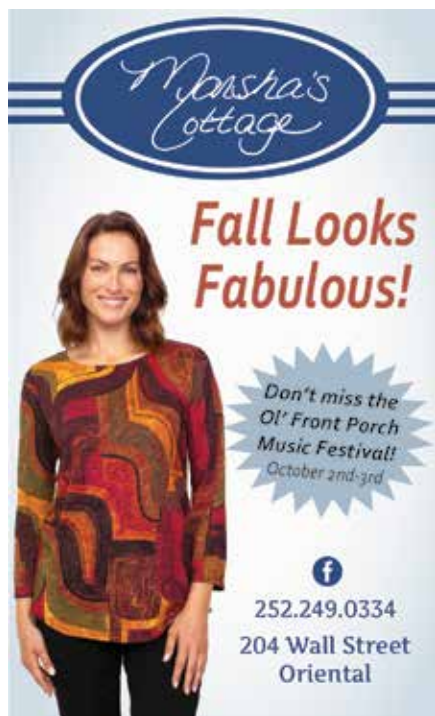
Pamlico County Library • 13896 Hwy 55

The Pamlico Arts Council presents the 2026 FocusNC Photography Exhibition & Competition, a celebration of visual storytelling and artistic excellence from across North Carolina. The opening reception showcases work from Amateur and Professional photographers, and for the first time, features a Student Best In Show award, ensuring photographers at every stage of their journey have a chance to shine.

Cash prizes are awarded across multiple categories. The Overall Best in Show (sponsored by Nature & Wings Photography) carries a \$500 prize. Additional awards include Judges Choice, Best in Show (Student), and category winners in Landscape, Nature, Photojournalism, Portrait, and Still Life. Visitors can cast up to two votes for the People's Choice Award between 10am and 2pm, with winners announced shortly after. Photographers do not need to be present to win.

Photographers are still welcome to enter — no entry fee, up to three submissions, and photographs must have been taken in North Carolina. All entries must be framed, wired, and ready to hang, with a maximum size of 11" x 14". Image drop-off dates are October 10 at Mariners Realty (704 Broad St., Oriental) and October 15-16 at the Pamlico County Library. The exhibition remains on display through November 1, with image pickup available at the Library on November 1 or by arrangement at Mariners Realty.

For information, pamlicoarts.org



Marsha's Cottage

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Music Festival!
October 2nd-3rd



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ANNUAL

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ORIENTAL

Haunted Night at the Museum

October 22-24 • 7pm

October 29-30 • 7pm

Oriental History Museum

802 Broad St.

Have you ever wondered if anything in the Museum is haunted? Dale Montgomery brings ghost stories and spooky tales from around the area to the Museum for five shows to get you in the Halloween mood. It's going to be a Scream!

Free, donations accepted. Shows are approximately one hour. Not recommended for children or those with serious health conditions. Doors open at 6:30pm, interactive shows begin promptly at 7pm — late arrivals will not be admitted. Flashing lights, frightening images, total darkness and loud sudden noises. For information, orientalhistorymuseum@gmail.com.

TerraTones

October 24 • 6-8pm

New Village Brewery

702 Broad St.

Eclectic mix of country, pop, rock, folk, alternative and jazz from the 60s to today.

For information, www.newvillagebrewery.com

Solomon Eichner

October 25 • 4:30pm

Old Theater

609 Broad St.

Come be captivated by the technical brilliance, emotional depth, and distinctive artistic style of internationally recognized classical pianist Solomon Eichner.



Two seasons ago Eichner performed at the Old Theater in celebration of Sergei Rachmaninoff's 150th birthday. This season his performance will honor the 100th anniversary of George Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue* which remains one of the most iconic and influential works in the concert repertoire, seamlessly blending classical traditions with jazz-inspired rhythms and energy, representing the spirit of American creativity and innovation.

Originally from Baltimore, Eichner is a graduate of the Manhattan School of Music and the Peabody Institute of The Johns Hopkins University. He currently resides in Chapel Hill, NC. Eichner is a prizewinner of the Liszt-Garrison International Competition, Washington DC International Young Artists Competition, Golden Key Carnegie Hall Debut Competition and Miami Music Festival Concerto Competition.

Tickets: \$30. Available at Nautical Wheelers or pamlicomusic.org. Join us for Prosecco on the Porch before the show.

History of the Ol' Front Porch Music Festival

On exhibit through December

Oriental's History Museum

802 Broad St.

Inspired by the Ol' Store where people gathered after work to play music, this three-day festival held each October celebrates the musical heritage of North Carolina on front porches and venues throughout historic Oriental's walkable village and on a Riverfront Stage at Lou Mac Park. Musicians present Folk, Americana, Bluegrass, Country, Jazz, Gospel music and more. Visit the Museum to learn more about the inspiration for the festival, how it all began and view our amazing collection of festival memorabilia collected over the years!

Admission: free; donations gratefully accepted. Open Fridays 11am-3pm and Saturdays 1-4pm. For information, email OrientalHistoryMuseum@gmail.com.





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**639 PLANTATION PARKWAY
ORIENTAL, NC**

Inviting 3BR/2BA home features beautiful water views, comfortable layout, screened porch and a spacious enclosed workshop. Neighborhood amenities include a clubhouse, swimming pool, tennis courts, & community boat ramp!

\$435,000



**5529 SANDPIPER DRIVE
ORIENTAL, NC**

Elegant 3BR/3BA brick home includes a boat slip with quick access to the ICW and Pamlico Sound. Features an open floor plan with 9-foot ceilings, hardwood floors, spacious gourmet kitchen, and a bonus room above the garage!

\$550,000



**349 CREEK PLACE ROAD
ARAPAHOE, NC**

Well-appointed 2BR/2BA home on 1 acre in a quiet neighborhood with no HOA. Features a gas fireplace, a built-in gas grill, wired-in generator, hot tub, two-car garage with attached workshop, and separate carport with enclosed storage area!

\$349,000



**205 HIGH STREET
ORIENTAL, NC**

Charming 3BR/2BA retreat with Neuse River views. Features a metal roof, encapsulated crawlspace, well-designed layout, spacious living room, screened porch, expansive dock, and detached two-car garage with workshop!

\$679,000



**4007 TARPON DRIVE
ORIENTAL, NC**

This new construction 3BR/3BA home delivers panoramic water views and is designed for elegance and comfort. Features a spacious master suite, wood flooring, plush carpet, durable VIP in high-traffic areas and light-filled open living spaces that flow seamlessly to a generous covered porch!

\$645,000



**5517 SANDPIPER DRIVE
ORIENTAL, NC**

This waterfront, 3BR/2.5BA estate features a 72' deep-water dock, first-floor primary suite, oak floors, expansive windows, and open living spaces. The updated kitchen showcases Bosch appliances and quartz countertops!

\$775,000



**509 BROAD STREET
ORIENTAL, NC**

This 3BR ranch offers a spacious backyard that includes the "Bottle House" built in 1951 using cement and bottles collected from a former tavern. Located in the MUI zoning district, the property presents a variety of possibilities!

\$294,000



**3465 JANIERO ROAD
ARAPAHOE, NC**

This beautifully updated coastal home offers 2BR, 2 flexible bonus spaces, and 2.5BA. Features quartz countertops, Merilatt Classic soft-close cabinetry, restored wide-plank pine floors, and GE Profile WiFi appliances!

\$590,000



**427 BAY SHORES ROAD
MERRITT, NC**

A Private Coastal Retreat on 10.77 Acres. Features rich wood flooring, gas log fireplace, screened porch, first floor primary bedroom with an en-suite bath, stainless appliances, detached double garage with a finished upper level!

\$373,500

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