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Ranked 11th in Nation by "Gourmet" Magazine



Durham has earned a reputation as one of the most sophisticated dining destinations in the Southeast, thanks in part to its thriving colony of acclaimed chefs and eateries.

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Flyer and Web Page Celebrate Durham Achievements in 32 Categories



"300+ Great Things About Durham" is a convenient distillation of attributes that make Durham a great place to visit, live, and grow a business.

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[Durham's "Other" Airfield](#)

Throwback Airfield is Base for Carolina Barnstormers, Empire Aviation



Most people know that Durham is served by RDU International Airport, but less known is Durham's "other" airport, Lake Ridge Airfield located off East Geer Road near Falls Lake.

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Since DCVB launched the official Durham Community Event Calendar in 1990, Durham's official source for events and happenings has evolved from a hard-copy listing to an online, interactive, searchable graphic calendar.

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Quicker, More Accurate Search to Find Official Durham Information



The custom Google-powered site search adds yet another dimension of usability and functionality to Durham's award-winning official tourism and information site.

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September 19, 2006

Durham Restaurant Turns Twenty

Ranked 11th in Nation by "Gourmet" Magazine

Durham has earned a reputation as one of the most sophisticated dining destinations in the Southeast, thanks in part to its thriving colony of acclaimed chefs and eateries.

Many point to Ben and Karen Barker, chef-owners of Durham's acclaimed Magnolia Grill, as a spark that ignited national recognition of Durham's dining scene and the emergence of a colony of talented and inventive chefs. And now for the second time since its opening, Magnolia Grill has been named the nation's 11th best restaurant by *Gourmet* magazine (October 2006 issue).



In November, Magnolia Grill will celebrate 20 years of dishing out its unique blend of neo-southern flavors to Durham residents and visitors alike, including notable celebrities such as Michael Jordan, James Taylor, Ted Koppel, and Gregory Peck.

After graduating from the Culinary Institute of America, Ben (executive chef) and Karen (pastry chef) made several stops before deciding on a converted specialty grocery store on Ninth Street in Durham as the location for their own restaurant. On November 13, 1986, the Barkers opened the doors of what would become one of the most recognized restaurants in America, Magnolia Grill.

In 1988 (just two years after opening Magnolia Grill), Ben was named one of the top Southern chefs by *Food & Wine* magazine, and in 1992 *Food & Wine* named him one of the ten best new chefs in America. The accolades continued, including 10 [James Beard Award](#) nominations (seven for Ben and three for Karen), culminating in 1999 with Karen earning "Best Pastry Chef" from *Bon Appétit* American Food & Entertaining Awards, in 2000 with Ben winning the James Beard Award for the "Best Chef in the Southeast," and in 2003 with Karen winning the James Beard Award for the nation's "Outstanding Pastry Chef."

Despite the magnitude of awards, press from around the world, and successful cookbooks, Magnolia Grill and the Barkers have stayed true to their roots as a casual, neighborhood eatery that just happens to serve some of the best food in the world. Along the way the Barkers have produced a number of protégés, including Scott Howell who opened [Nana's](#) in Durham in 1992, Sam Poley who opened [Restaurant Starlu](#) in Durham in 2004 and Walter Royal, now a chef down in Raleigh at the Angus Barn.

Magnolia Grill was the first of what are now 28 uniquely Durham restaurants and chefs. Celebrated status is given to those Durham restaurants that are not part of a chain, have been regionally or nationally reviewed, and are noted for their unique regional cuisine or custom menu designed by a Durham chef. Several of Durham restaurants that pre-date Magnolia Grill have subsequently earned celebrated status, including [Anotherthyme](#) (1982), [Bullock's Bar-B-Que](#) (1952), Dillard's Bar-B-Que (1956), [Fishmongers](#) (1983), and [Pizza Palace](#) (1965). George Bakatsias's [Parizade](#) opened in 1989, just a couple years after Magnolia Grill.

On March 7, 2007, Durham will recognize Durham's pioneering chefs at DCVB's Annual Tribute Luncheon at the American Tobacco Campus, Bay 7. Along with the Barkers, Mary Bacon ([Anotherthyme](#)), George Bakatsias ([G Loft](#), [George's Garage](#), [grasshopper](#), [Parizade](#), [Verde](#), and [Vin Rouge](#)), Tommy Bullock ([Bullock's Bar-B-Que](#)), Sara Foster ([Foster's Market](#)), and Scott Howell ([Nana's](#)) will be recognized for their contributions to Durham's unique since of place.

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September 19, 2006

Resource for Durham's Positives

Flyer and Web Page Celebrate Durham Achievements in 32 Categories

"300+ Great Things About Durham" is a convenient distillation of attributes that make Durham a great place to visit, live, and grow a business. It is accessible either as a flyer through the [Durham Convention & Visitors Bureau](#) or a [convenient link](#) that can be forwarded anywhere in the world or linked from any Durham-based website.

Often overshadowed by news about what's troubling, coupled with persistent over-reaching by other communities, is the fact that Durham has always been and continues to be a creative and entrepreneurial community where diverse and passionate people come together to shape a better world.

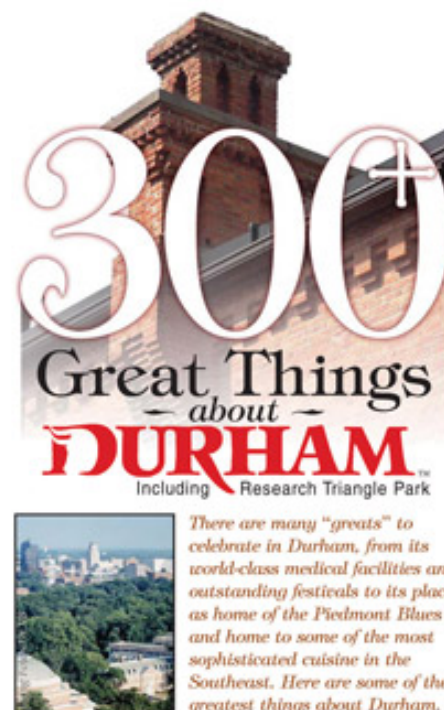
Topics on the flyer include leading [healthcare facilities](#) and signature [festivals](#) to [breakthrough discoveries and innovations](#), to its place as home of the [Piedmont Blues](#) and home to some of the most [sophisticated cuisine](#) in the Southeast. To celebrate these and many other great things, DCVB developed and distributes its "300+ Great Things About Durham."

First developed as a gesture during DCVB's 10-year anniversary in 1999, the publication has evolved to celebrate achievements and recognitions of Durham in 32 categories—ranging from [African-American heritage](#) and [mouth-watering cuisine](#) to [music labels](#) and [political pioneers](#).

The information (which is consistently updated) energizes positive word-of-mouth about Durham, informs the media about positives in the community, and combats negative misperceptions and unsubstantiated stereotypes.

As well as providing the flyer to the general public and visitors, DCVB regularly distributes it to real estate agents to provide to newcomers, community event planners to attendees, human resource managers to provide to their employees, and via other Durham messengers.

The vibrant, full-color piece is available at the [Official Visitor Information Center](#) at 101 East Morgan Street in Downtown Durham. For quick reference, "300+ Great Things About Durham" is also available as a web page online at http://www.durham-nc.com/about/300_things.php.



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September 19, 2006

Official Durham Calendar Grows to 7,800 Events

Searchable Calendar is One-Stop Source for Visitors, Residents, Media, Other Calendars

When, in 1990, Durham civic leaders asked DCVB to create and maintain a comprehensive calendar of events, little did anyone know that it would be accessible via the World Wide Web, let alone be recognized as a "best practice." What they did know is it makes much more sense for there to be an one-stop resource for planners, residents, visitors, new media, organizations, and other calendars.



With their vision, DCVB's follow through, and cooperation from thousands of event organizers, the Official Durham Event Calendar continues to evolve:

- [Weekly eCalendar](#) distributed to more than 3,000 civic, business, university, and neighborhood leaders
- Targeted portals like www.durhameventcalendar.com and www.durhamartscalendar.com
- Custom pulls for other organizations by subject or district, e.g. Downtown
- Linked and re-branded on other Durham-based websites
- Easy access tools so event organizers can submit events or update event information online
- Distribution monthly by DCVB to news media outlets
- Deployed by DCVB to populate other state and national calendars with Durham events

The calendar editor for one of the largest daily newspapers in North Carolina recently wrote of the community calendar, "I use it every single day to verify and pull events from. It almost always has the most correct and up-to-date information about Durham events."

Currently, DCVB and the advisory group implementing the Cultural Master Plan are collaborating to expand use of the calendar and the capacity of organizers to use a comprehensive resource rather than fragmenting into many individual calendars.

To subscribe for weekly eCalendar updates, [click here](#) and fill out the required information.

To submit events to the Official Durham Community Event Calendar, use this [simple online form](#).



RELATED ARTICLES:

[Redesigned eCalendar Delivers Weekly Snapshot](#) [February 9, 2006]
Easy Access to 2,000 Durham Events to Plan Outings or Clear Dates

[DurhamEventCalendar.com](#) [July 26, 2005]
New DCVB Web Portal to the Official Online Durham Community Event Calendar

[DCVB Launches Durhamartscalendar.com](#) [Mar. 24, 2005]
One of Several Initiatives to Implement Cultural Master Plan Recommendations

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September 19, 2006

DCVB Partners With Google to Power www.durham-nc.com Search

Quicker, More Accurate Search to Find Official Durham Information

The recently revamped www.durham-nc.com has added yet another enhancement to help users (visitors, newcomers, meeting planners, film producers, media and residents) find the most up-to-date information about Durham and its assets: a comprehensive site search powered by Internet leader Google.

The custom Google-powered site search adds yet another dimension of usability and functionality to Durham's award-winning official tourism and information site. Users can now search the more than 500 pages of the site, which has been rated as one of the most content-rich sites of its kind, to find the information they need about Durham quickly and accurately. For users who prefer to "click" rather than "search," www.durham-nc.com also has a new [site map](#) to aid navigation.



The implementation of the Google-powered site search comes just three weeks after DCVB completed an overhaul of www.durham-nc.com in collaboration with Durham-based CrossComm, Inc. and a month after [DCVB partnered](#) with mega online travel agency [Travelocity's World Choice Travel](#) to enhance its online travel booking engine.

The website overhaul, which concluded in late August, extended far beyond the apparent visual changes by moving the site closer to a content management system to make it much easier to revitalize and freshen the site in the future, while laying the groundwork for it to work better on handheld mobile devices like smartphones and PDAs.

A Harris Interactive study shows that 77% of the U.S. adult population now has access to the Internet, up from 38% in 1998. While the number of Americans using the Internet has plateaued in recent years, the number using the web for travel purchases continues to grow from 65% in 2004 to a projected 79% by 2007. Studies also show that 82% of travelers who plan their trips online also purchase their trips online.

In the past 12 months, www.durham-nc.com drew more than 1.3 million visitor sessions and more than 420,000 unique visitors, an increase of 29% and 27%, respectively, over the previous period. Visitors from 100 countries access the site each month.

RELATED ARTICLES:

[Durham's Official Tourism & Information Site Overhauled](#) [Aug 21, 2006]

Award-Winning www.durham-nc.com Gets New Look, Moves Closer To Content Management System

[DCVB Partners With Red-Hatted Gnome](#) [Aug. 2, 2006]

www.durham-nc.com's Online Booking & Packaging To Be Powered By Travelocity's World Choice Travel

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Save the Date: DCVB Annual Tribute Luncheon

DCVB's Annual Tribute Luncheon will be held **Wednesday, March 7, 2007**, at Bay 7 of the historic American Tobacco Campus. This year's luncheon will honor the acclaimed chefs who have made culinary arts a signature part of Durham's Unique Sense of Place:

- Ben & Karen Barker – Magnolia Grill
- Mary Bacon - [Anotherthyme](#)
- George Bakatsias - [G Loft](#), [George's Garage](#), [grasshopper](#), [Parizade](#), [Verde](#), and [Vin Rouge](#)
- Tommy Bullock - [Bullock's Bar-B-Que](#)
- Sara Foster - [Foster's Market](#)
- Scott Howell - [Nana's](#)

More than 400 people are expected to attend the annual event, which in the past has honored Dr. John Hope Franklin, Dr. LeRoy Walker, Coach K, Julius Chambers, former City Councilman Chuck Grubb, and Mary Duke Biddle Trent Semans.

Each year DCVB's Tribute Luncheon honors an living individual or individuals who demonstrate:

- Long-time commitment to Durham as a "place";
- Promotion of Durham on the national stage;
- Significant contributions to Durham's "unique sense of place"; and/or
- Courage to keep Durham distinct, even with the context of the region or state.

Please mark your calendars for this important event. To claim a space in advance, please email dcvbluncheon@durham-cvb.com.

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Knowbulls

Recent Changes, Promotions, and Awards

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[Events & Happenings](#)

[Promotions, Staff & Board Changes](#)

[New Businesses & New Developments](#)

[Changes & Renovations to Durham Businesses & Organizations](#)

To submit a Durham news tip or announcement, email jason@durham-cvb.com.

Awards & Recognitions

- [Erwin Chemerinsky](#), Professor of Law and Political Science at Duke, has been selected as [Duke's 2006 University Scholar/Teacher of the Year](#).
- [The Durham Arts Council](#) has received a \$50,000 grant from [Capitol Broadcasting](#).
- Durham-based [The Freelon Group](#) architects has received the 2006 Supplier of the Year Award from the [Carolinas Minority Supplier Development Council](#).
- [Duke](#) animal linguistics researcher [Erich Jarvis](#) has been one of the nation's "Brilliant 10" scientists and researchers by [Popular Science](#) magazine.
- [Hispanic Business](#) magazine ranked [Duke's Fuqua School of Business](#) 8th in its 2006 list of the top MBA programs for Hispanics.
- As part of First Lady **Laura Bush's** [The National Anthem Project](#), Durham's [Northern High](#) chorus has been selected to represent North Carolina in the singing of "The Star-Spangled Banner" at the former site of the World Trade Center in New York City on Saturday, Oct. 21.
- Accreditation for [NCCU Department of Criminal Justice](#) has been renewed for another ten years until the year 2016 by the [North Carolina Criminal Justice Education and Training Standards Commission](#).
- [Duke Law School Dean Katharine Bartlett](#) has been selected to receive [Equal Justice Works' Dean John R. Kramer Award](#) for Bartlett's dedication to nurturing a spirit of public service at Duke Law School.

Events & Happenings

- [Durham](#) will participate in the [Annual N.C. Big Sweep](#) for litter-free waters on [Saturday, October 7 from 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.](#)
- Durham's **Walltown Community** will have its annual **Community Day festival** on Saturday, Sept. 23 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at **Walltown Park** on Club Boulevard.
- [NCCU Art Museum](#) will present [Achameyeh Debela: A Digital Journey](#) through October 27, 2006, with a lecture presentation by the artist on Wednesday, September 27, at 7 p.m.
- **STUDIO**, a new art store owned by **Pete Wyman** that sells works by regional painters, printmakers, and photographers, will hold its grand opening on Friday, September 29, from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. at 624 Ninth Street.

Promotions, Staff & Board Changes

- [Philip Carter](#) has been named Executive Director of the scientific research society [Sigma Xi](#), located in Durham-based RTP.
- Durham-based [Sterling Healthcare](#) has appointed **Linda Ellis** as Senior Vice President of Western Operations and it has promoted **Timothy Molyneaux** to Senior Vice President of Eastern Operations.

- [The N.C. Biotechnology Center](#) has hired [Susan Corbett](#) as its new Director of Library and Information Services and [Steven Casey](#) as its new Business Development Director.
- [Raven Manocchio](#), Principal and Business Director for Durham-based [Stop Studios](#), has been named to the board of directors of [ACTUS](#).
- [Libby Barnes](#), President and CEO of the [Greater Durham Chamber of Commerce](#), has been elected Vice Chair of the [American Chamber of Commerce Executives](#).
- [James Siedow](#), Duke's Vice Provost for Research, has been named to the [Department of Commerce's Deemed Export Advisory Committee](#).
- [Lynn B. Barclay](#) has been named President and CEO of [The American Social Health Association](#).
- [Kimberly Licata](#) has been appointed Senior Vice President and General Counsel for Durham-based [Sterling Healthcare](#).
- [Bart J. Dunn](#) has been hired as Vice President of Business Development and Raymond W. Hines as Vice President and Associate General Counsel at Durham-based biopharmaceutical company [Inspire Pharmaceuticals](#).
- [Quintiles Consulting](#) has hired [Steven M. Niedelman](#) as Executive Vice President.
- [Alphonso Alonzo](#) has joined [The Freelon Group](#) as a Project Architect.
- [Ed Sullivan](#) joined [Star Digital Printing](#) in Durham as Vice President of Sales and Marketing.
- Durham-based [Icagen Inc](#) has appointed [Adeoye Olukotun](#), Chief Medical Officer of [VIA Pharmaceuticals](#), to its board of directors.
- [Richard DeWitt Smith](#) has been elected President of [NCCU's National Alumni Association](#).
- [Jermaine McDaniel](#) and [Melvin Shaw](#) have joined [Coldwell Banker Howard Perry and Walston's](#) Durham real estate division in the firm's South Square office.
- [Matthew Laurance](#) has joined the [Washington Duke Inn & Golf Club](#) as the Director of Community Relations.

New Businesses & New Developments

- [Nantucket Grill and Bar](#) will open its second Durham location at 5826 Fayetteville Road in the **Sutton Station** complex in September.
- [Bull City Bakery](#) is now open at 3316 Guess Road.
- [Rue Cler Restaurant & Bakery Café](#) will open on October 6 at the corner of Chapel Hill Street and Rigsbee Avenue in Downtown Durham.
- A new eatery called [Gatsby's](#) will open soon at the former Bread & Kabob location at 1012 West Main Street.
- Long-time Durham restaurant [Pan Pan Diner](#) (formally on Hillandale Road) will reopen at [Northgate](#) in October.
- [BakeHouse Bistro](#) will open in October at [Renaissance Center at Southpoint](#) on Fayetteville Road across from [The Streets at Southpoint](#).
- [C&H Cafeteria](#) is now open at [The Shops at Northgate](#).
- [Piazza Italia](#), an Italian restaurant, market and pasta/gelato factory, is scheduled to open October 11 in [Brightleaf Square](#).
- [The Stanford L. Warren Library](#) at 1201 Fayetteville Street has reopened after a two-year, \$1.2 million renovation and expansion.

Changes & Renovations to Durham Businesses & Organizations

- [Medical Supply Superstore](#) is relocating to the former CVS location at the corner of Guess Road and Carver Street in October.
- [The Durham County Main Library](#) is now open Sundays from 2 – 6 p.m.
- [Hamilton Hill Jewelry](#) is scheduled to open in its new 2,300-square-foot location in [Brightleaf Square](#) on Monday, September 25.
- [Fayetteville Street Lab School](#) at 2905 Fayetteville Street will receive a \$6.2 million renovation and expansion this spring.

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Feedback

Letters, Emails, Comments to DCVB from Residents, Civic and Business Leaders, and Visitors

"I wanted to thank you sincerely for your efforts to help us gather really high quality gifts for conference prizes."
—**Deborah Craig-Ray**, Assistant County Manager, [Durham County](#)

"I think your email calendar is really looking great! Thanks for helping to promote arts and culture in Durham."
—**Sherry L. DeVries**, Executive Director, [Durham Arts Council](#)

"Congrats on the great site that you have."
—**Bernie Prazenica**, President and General Manager, [WTVD Channel 11](#)

"I wanted to let you know that I think the new website looks fantastic! Very easy to use and organized."
—**Nilam Davé**, Community Nutritionist & Winner's Circle Contact, [Durham County Health Department](#)

"I have just taken a look at your new CVB site and it is quite wonderful. You all have had input I'm sure, and it is a lot of effort. Congratulations!"
— **Jean P. Mills**, Director of Marketing Services, [Convention Planit](#)

"Just a quick message to say "job well done!" I just looked at the new website and it looks great."
—**Julie Brakenbury**, Sales Manager, [Washington Duke Inn & Golf Club](#)

"[DCVB's] award-winning site is great! I love the enhancements."
—**Wanda S. Page**, Assistant City Manager, [City of Durham](#)

"I appreciate the attention by [DCVB}...Please know that your support is invaluable to us here at Hayti"
—**V. Dianne Pledger**, President & CEO, [St. Joseph's Historic Foundation, Inc](#)

"Thank you for the directions you gave me (very easy to follow). They worked perfectly and painlessly! "
—**E. W. Barnes**, Durham visitor from Greensboro

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September 19, 2006

Factoid

US E-Mail Users as a Percent of Internet Users and Total US Population*, 2003-2010

	E-Mail users % of Internet users	E-Mail users % of total population
2003	88.1%	52.0%
2004	88.5%	53.6%
2005	89.1%	55.1%
2006	89.7%	56.4%
2007	90.4%	57.8%
2008	91.1%	59.0%
2009	91.8%	60.1%
2010	92.2%	61.0%

*Note: eMarketer defines an e-mail user as a person aged 3+ who sends an e-mail at least once per month; *Internet users and total population aged 3+*

Source: eMarketer, July 2006

075274

www.eMarketer.com

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September 19, 2006

Durham Community Event Calendar

Searchable Durham Community Event Calendar and 3-Week Snapshots of Upcoming Durham Events

Click the following links for lists of things to see and do in Durham from September 19 – October 6, 2006:

- [Performing Arts](#)
- [Museums and Exhibits](#)
- [Nightlife](#)
- [Sports](#)
- [Lifestyle/Literary Events/Hobby](#)
- [Lectures/Seminars/Workshops](#)
- [Community Events](#)

Or, [click here](#) to search the entire Durham Community Event Calendar.

To receive the [Durham Community Event eCalendar](#) each week in email, simply [click here](#) and fill out the required information.

EVENT ORGANIZERS:

- [Submit an Event:](#)
Add or edit your event's information.
- [Sell Tickets Online:](#)
Allow your attendees the convenience of purchasing tickets online.

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