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**takeOUTside: Laurene’s Cafeteria returns to west Charlotte with Southern cuisine**

Covid-19 and the need for social distancing have forced some restaurants to close, but here in Historic West End, one restaurant owner has used these trying times to... well, try again.

[Laurene’s Cafeteria](#) opened its doors on Aug. 1, about seven years after an earlier effort failed. The restaurant is located at 1821 Bishop Madison Lane — about 3.2 miles from Hornets Nest Park, an ideal spot to enjoy takeout.

The cafeteria is named after Laurene W. Perkins, the owner’s grandmother. It boasts of serving “authentic Southern cuisine” with a New Orleans-style flair. [Read more.](#)

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**Wi-Fi access for remote learning:** About 16,000 CMS students lack a good online connection, and school officials are struggling to get hotspots to them, [WFAE](#) reports. In the meantime, CMS has installed Wi-Fi access points on the outside of five schools: Hidden Valley Elementary, Renaissance West STEAM Academy, Marie G. Davis, University Park Creative Arts School, and Starmount Academy.

CMS will also send school buses with Wi-Fi hubs to Bloomfield Acres in west Charlotte and to Central Avenue, where the Latin American Coalition is offering its parking lot.

[Darrel Williams' task: Build the Excelsior Club's future, nod to past](#)

Black Charlotte built the Excelsior Club, and it'll have a major role in its revitalization. Bringing the Excelsior back with a new purpose, in addition to a planned boutique hotel, is Charlotte architect Darrel Williams, founder of Neighboring Concepts. (The Charlotte Post)

[Charlotte's Declining Tree Canopy Hides Years Of Loss In Historically Black Neighborhoods](#)

Washington Heights' loss of trees has been happening for decades. On a recent day at 4:30 p.m., it was hot, because most of the trees Alexis Johnson walked past were barely taller than she was. Many were planted in the last 15 years. Mature trees were harder to find, more often in backyards. (WFAE)

[Poppin' Sweets & Rita's Italian Ice will soon satisfy snackers in Historic West End](#)

Melanie and Justin Powell are bringing gourmet popcorn and assorted confections to the West End in November with their Poppin' Sweets eatery and a Rita's Italian Ice. (Historic West End)

[Two apartment properties near University area under new ownership](#)

Addison Park Apartments and The Hamptons Apartments in West Sugar Creek area have new owners. (Charlotte Business Journal)

[Makayla Binter, a champion of West Charlotte community creativity](#)

Davidson College alumna Makayla Binter, a 2020 Emerging City Champion, will lead a mentorship program at West Charlotte High that provides students with a space to voice their opinions, and the tools to show what they experience on a daily basis. (The Charlotte Post)

## EVENTS

*Due to North Carolina's stay-at-home order, many in-person events have been postponed or canceled. If you have virtual events to share, please submit them to our [events calendar](#).*

### TUESDAY, 11 a.m.

[West End's Mobile Farmer's Market](#): The Bulb, in partnership with Johnson C. Smith University, brings a mobile farmer's market to the Historic West End every Tuesday from 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Visit the purple tent at 501 South Bruns Ave. to shop for veggies and fruits. This market accepts EBT.

### THURSDAY, 10:30 a.m.

[LIVE from Africa](#): Experience a South African safari in Shamwari, a private game reserve, with remarkable wildlife, a beautiful landscape, and more -- right on your screen. Free.

### THURSDAY, 7 p.m.

[Home Studies, Part III](#): The final installment of Helen Pickett's Home Studies trilogy features artists from Charlotte Ballet, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, and Dance Theatre of Harlem in a bold and imaginative performance film, which emerged as a response to challenges faced during a global pandemic.

### SUNDAY, 6 p.m.

[Labor Day bash](#): DJ Worldwide Young will turn it up at the official Labor Day Weekend Cookout and Goo Da Host Birthday Bash at Graham Street Station.

### SEPT. 11, 7 p.m.

[Jazz at the Bechtler: Blue Trane](#): The Ziad Jazz Quartet will captivate viewers with the sounds of John Coltrane's *Blue Train* -- the 40-plus-minute masterwork that has become known as one of the greatest jazz records of all time.

Got an event you'd like to post? [Click here to get started](#).

## We're listening

Who's doing good work along the West End corridor? [Drop us a line](#). We love to spotlight people who are making a difference.

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