

News

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The buzz

Barbara Rich

Gallery Director - FRANK

109 E. Franklin St.

The street's newest art gallery opened in April and is a collective of 81 artists who sell and showcase their work. The gallery features new shows every three weeks and is hosting the North Carolina Clay Invitational this month. Thursday night salons have also become a regular feature, where artists and community groups host free discussions about art.

"Art has this bad rep of being elite and we're looking to kind of bust that bubble and have art be accessible and approachable," Rich said. "If things are bad try to make things that make (people) feel better rather than things that don't last."

Ryan Hill

Manager - Clothing Warehouse

109 E. Franklin Street, Suite 101

One of the newer clothing stores on East Franklin, Clothing Warehouse is among a few retail stores open until 10 p.m. most nights. Known in Chapel Hill for its cowboy boots, the store has a collection of 1,400 dresses and 1,300 vintage shirts from the 40's through the 80's.

Hill says the shop may begin hosting local bands in its showcase window to bring more people downtown.

"I really think Franklin Street needs something," Hill said. "We're (the) latest store open [so] it gives people something to do...We're very real here. It's all about communicating with people and finding what they want...everything in here is the originals of Urban Outfitters."

Ted Kairys

Kairys Properties

The Courtyard

431 W. Franklin St.

"Urban" and "funky" are the words Kairys uses to describe the new apartments he is planning above The Courtyard on West Franklin Street. Apartments are planned to open next August, but Kairys says the synergy between the residential and retail tenants of the property will bring a fresh face to the west side.

"When I think of the mix of retailers that will be here and the life of people living here I think that will help bridge the east and west side of town," Kairys said. "When you set us loose in a place like this, it's awesome...it goes from a ghost town and the stigma that was attached

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Tim Ross

Resident - Greenbridge Condominiums

400 W. Rosemary St.

As one of the first residents of Greenbridge, 36-year-old Tim Ross has enjoyed melding work, home, and night life. The computer programmer downsized from a three bedroom house in Carrboro to the one-bedroom condominium in the complex near Franklin Street's west side. He moved in July and now bikes to work at UNC.

"It's kind of blurring the distinction of my personal home space and where I frequent," he said. "I think Franklin Street is really vibrant and Carrboro is really vibrant and that's one thing that attracted me to live here."

Compiled by staff writer Katelyn Ferral