
NEWS SERVICE

DURHAM

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DURHAM CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

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Googlebits...Updates on the Journey to 1 Gigabit Internet

The effort to bring Google to Durham continues in earnest and it seems that folks around here really want to add some fiber to their diets.

On Thursday, more than 700 people were in attendance for the event at the Durham Bulls Athletic Park to help spell out "Google" on the field. The crowd was captured by an aerial photographer and many local media were in attendance.

"The event was hugely successful as a very public demonstration of Durham's desire for Google to bring their fiber optic network here," said Durham Mayor William V. "Bill" Bell. "The crowd was just a small indication of how committed Durham is to this project."

And, from the mouths of babes, a short video is being created with the generous support of the [AICPA](#), capturing what citizens — mostly children — think about Google bringing high speed fiber optic network to Durham. It will be posted soon on www.hifiberdurham.com.



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SunTrust Broadway Series and ADF Announce Season Information

Two mainstays of Durham's art and entertainment scene have announced their upcoming seasons. [DPAC – The Durham Performing Arts Center's](#) third [SunTrust Broadway Series](#) offers seven great shows representing a total of 26 Tony Awards. [American Dance Festival](#) will celebrate 77 years of modern dance by exploring "What is Dance Theater?" from June 10 to July 24.

At DPAC, the 10-time Tony Award-winning *Billy Elliot* opens the season on November 2, and runs through November 14. It is followed by *The New Mel Brooks Musical Young Frankenstein* December 7-12. The New Year starts off with a bang with the most demanded show of the decade, Disney's *The Lion King* showing January 4-30, 2011.



The season rounds out with *In the Heights* February 22-27, *Blue Man Group* March 15-20, *Shrek the Musical* April 5-10, and ending with *Hair* May 10-15.

The 2010 American Dance Festival will perform at DPAC – The Durham Performing Arts Center and Duke University's Reynolds Industries Theater, and will feature eight world premieres, including new works by:

- Mark Dendy, performed by Dendy Dancetheater
- Pilobolus in collaboration with comics artist Art Spiegelman
- Pilobolus in collaboration with children's rock star Dan Zanes
- Martha Clarke in collaboration with Alfred Uhry
- Shen Wei, featuring the choreographer himself, in celebration of the 10th anniversary of his company's founding at the 2000 ADF
- Rosie Herrera
- Tatiana Baganova, performed by ADF dancers
- Paul Taylor in celebration of his 80th birthday

The festival will also include the U.S. debut of Brenda Angiel's *8cho*, performed by Brenda Angiel Aerial Dance Company, two reconstructions, Jerome Robbins' *West Side Story Suite*, performed by ADF dancers, Merce Cunningham's *Inlets 2*, performed by ADF dancers, and five Dance Festival Company debuts: Monica Bill Barnes Company, Kate Weare Company, RUBBERBANDance Group, Inbal Pinto Avshalom Pollak Dance Company, and Rosie Herrera.


For detailed information about the 2010 American Dance Festival, ADF community programs, performing companies/choreographers, and to purchase tickets, visit www.americandancefestival.org.

Tickets for DPAC's Third Spectacular Season productions are currently available only as part of the SunTrust Broadway Series season ticket holder subscription package. Prices for

the seven-show package range from \$105.50 to \$489 plus the opportunity to opt out of one show of your choice should you be unable to attend all seven incredible performances.

Current SunTrust Broadway Series Season Ticket Holders have until April 30th to renew. To order or get more information, call 919-680-2787 or visit their website at www.DPACnc.com.



NASHER MUSEUM OF ART AT DUKE UNIVERSITY		THURS, MARCH 25
EXHIBITION OPENING "Displacement: The Three Gorges Dam and Contemporary Chinese Art"		7 PM Opening Event and Curator Talk

Gateway to Durham

Appearance and image are important to a community's sense of pride, property and land values, stream and watershed preservation, crime reduction, and tax base. From a visitor standpoint, appearance is of utmost importance. Not all visitors get to see [American Tobacco](#), [Golden Belt](#), [DPAC](#), or [Research Triangle Park](#). But all will get a sense for how important appearance is to Durham while navigating its highways, driving through its neighborhoods, or walking in areas that may or may not be pedestrian-friendly.

Of particular concern by many community groups, including DCVB, Durham Appearance Advocacy Group, Durham Appearance Commission, Keep Durham Beautiful, and the Greater Durham Chamber of Commerce, is the appearance of the various gateways into Durham.

Shelly Green, President & CEO of the Durham Convention & Visitors Bureau, noted that "gateways are the front door entrances to Durham for visitors and residents. They provide a first impression and should reflect our community's character through attractive design and appearance."

One of these gateways is receiving quite a boost as the City completes the installation of a new pedestrian bridge over the Durham Freeway. The \$2.2 million Downtown Gateway Bridge stretches 192 feet over the highway and weighs 57.5 tons. It's a steel arch, anchored with red-brick pillars that glow blue at night.



Click here to [continue reading](#).



Event Roundup for April

Durham is full of diversity - diverse people, diverse ideas, diverse food, and diverse events. Just check out this partial list of events for the coming month; there's sure to be something for everyone:

[Gospel Fest NC 2010](#) – Saturday, March 27, at the [Hayti Heritage Center](#). A grand event in the Gospel industry which brings together both local and national recording artists to one stage for an evening of worship and praise. Performances by B-U, Eternity, Lemoi, Dezrick Dixon, Todd Curry & Focus, Monica Lisa Stevenson, and more. For tickets and more information, [click here](#).

[TeenFest 2K10](#) – Saturday, March 27, at [The Carolina Theatre](#) in Downtown Durham. TeenFest is a free, annual public health education event focused on substance abuse prevention and violence reduction. Beginning at 11am with teen and parent workshops, the talent showcase begins at 2pm and features youth ages 14-19 performing original works with an anti-violence, anti-substance, or pro-abstinence theme.

[The Whispers and Stephanie Mills Concert](#) – Friday, April 2, at [DPAC – Durham Performing Arts Center](#). Brought to Durham by Graham/Webb Productions, this concert brings together one of R&B music's "most legendary groups" and one of the "most distinctive voices in contemporary music."



The Whispers have been in the industry 40 years, and have two platinum albums, 12 top 20 singles and 40 charted hits since 1970.

Stephanie Mills is a Grammy award-winning R&B singer who has also appeared in shows like the four-time Tony Award-winning "The Wiz" and "Your Arms are Too Short to Box with God" over her 30-year career.

[Durham Bulls vs. Tampa Bay Rays](#) – Saturday, April 3 at the [Durham Bulls Athletic Park](#). Enjoy a spring training showdown as the 2009 Triple-A Baseball National Champion Durham Bulls take on the 2008 American League Champion Tampa Bay Rays. The gates will open at 1pm and fans will be able to get autographs, watch the Tampa Bay Rays take batting practice, hang out by the dugouts, or try for home run balls in the outfield seats.

Click here to [continue reading](#).





To Go Orders...in a Snap

Scenario 1: T-minus-one hour until lunchtime, and those cubicle walls are beginning to close in because there are only a few brief minutes to both enjoy the sweet smell of the springtime in Durham and grab lunch.

Scenario 2: It's lunchtime and the phone is ringing off the hook with orders that cannot be taken because there aren't enough hands to do so.

Now there is a solution for both patrons and restaurateurs that is growing rapidly in Durham - it's called online ordering, and some of these service providers even deliver the food.



With seven restaurants currently online "and plenty more in the queue" according to local representative [Billy Maupin](#), [Snapfinger](#) is a website that makes online ordering an option for all restaurants, local and national alike. The barrier to entry for this system is very low and, for operators, the result is more orders with less interaction. Orders placed on Snapfinger's website are sent to restaurants via email or internet printer (like fax, only much faster) or through a full point-of-sale system integration. Restaurants choose the method that works best for them.

Several restaurants in Durham have independent online ordering options run either locally or by their national offices. [Cinelli's](#), a local Italian restaurant, offers the service, as do large multi-unit operators like [Jimmy John's](#) and [Carrabba's](#). Click here for a [complete list of restaurants in Durham with online ordering](#).

Two other online ordering services also exist in Durham. [Durhamtakeout.com](#) is a brand new service in southwest Durham that is ramping up operations, delivering food from 16 restaurants with more being added soon. There is a \$10 minimum for orders with a \$5.99 delivery fee. A similar service, [www.waiter.com](#), is also present in Durham and delivers as well. There is a \$50 minimum order, two hour delivery window, and \$4.95 delivery fee with a 15% gratuity for the driver automatically added to each order.

Durham has over 550 restaurants, 37 of which are [nationally celebrated](#). The next time you need a meal, think about shaving a few minutes off your wait by ordering online ahead of time.





[Durham News Service](#) is a service of the Durham Convention & Visitors Bureau, an internationally accredited local tourism development authority and the official destination marketing organization for Durham, North Carolina, including Research Triangle Park.

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