



**CHEROKEE TRIANGLE
ASSOCIATION
NEWSLETTER**

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INC.

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Happenings in the Highlands

By Nick Morris

Cherokee Triangle residents will soon have options to offer guests visiting from out of town; two new boutique hotels are in the works for the Highlands.

The first is a project by Weyland Ventures, who recently purchased three historic properties at 900–912

Baxter Avenue. Plans include a sixty-nine-room hotel, a restaurant, outdoor patio space, and an adjacent parking lot. The project will bring substantial improvement to this block South of Broadway. The expected completion date is summer of 2021. Weyland Ventures has a very good track record with historic preservation projects in the Louisville area. Some notable properties include the Louisville Slugger Museum, The Henry Clay, Whiskey Row Lofts, and the Glassworks District.

Another hotel located at 1125 Bardstown Road (the former Wash-O-Rama Laundromat) appears to finally have come of age. The owner of the property filed an

application with Louisville Metro Department of Planning and Design Services. The proposed development includes up to forty hotel rooms, a bar/restaurant, and parking for about thirty cars.



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The Highlands has long been recognized as Restaurant Row – with about 100 eateries located along the corridor. Some of the latest dining additions help maintain that designation.

Agave & Rye has recently opened in the space formerly occupied by **Ward 426**. The new owners made a substantial investment in this historic building at the corner of Baxter and Lexington Road. These restauranteurs operate a total of four restaurants—with just one in the Louisville. In addition to their claim of Epic Tacos, Agave & Rye features some unique artwork by muralist Poem Santiago. The exterior mural offers a tribute to the honeybee – due to a family connection of raising bees.

Faces Bar & Bistro, will be opening in early April. It has taken over the space operated by **Stout Burgers and Beer** that had a multi-year run at 1604 Bardstown Road. The chef at Faces had operated **Hull & High Water** and **Gospel Bird** in New Albany for four years, before he decided to bring his health-conscious menu to the Highlands.

And finally, a longtime favorite on Frankfort Avenue, **El Mundo**, will bring its Mexican fare to the space formerly occupied by **Flavour**. **Asiatique** had operated for many years at this 1767 Bardstown Road address. El Mundo has been in operation for over twenty years, and this location will be their second in the Louisville area.



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CTA's New Social Media Manager

By Cherokee Triangle Association

The Cherokee Triangle Association is happy to announce that we've hired Kiera Murphy as our Social Media Manager. Kiera is an interior designer and small business owner who lives on Willow Avenue. She was born and raised in Louisville, moved to The Highlands shortly after graduating from college, and finally settled into her Cherokee Triangle home about seven years ago.

In addition to her passion for photography and architecture, she has extensive experience in creating and maintaining social media accounts across all platforms for her past employers. She can't wait to use her knowledge and skills to promote the CTA and share all the wonderful aspects our neighborhood has to offer.

Vice President (and HR specialist) Bob Picken supervised the hiring process. He received about twenty applications and phone-screened every interested person. President Leslie Millar, Treasurer Wes Cobb, and Trustee (digital-media guru) Waller Austin interviewed the four finalists. The interviewers were impressed with Kiera's enthusiasm, creativity, and drive.

Kiera will attend upcoming CTA and other local events and will share her beautiful photos and relevant information, as well as some other fun ideas she has in the works, via our social media accounts. If you see her out around the neighborhood or at Triangle events, please stop to say hello!



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Cherokee Triangle: Louisville's Streetcar Suburb

By Leslie Millar

Samuel Thomas's excellent book *Cherokee Triangle: A History of the Heart of the Highlands* portrays the genesis of the Cherokee Triangle as a streetcar suburb. On June 13th, 1889, "The Central Passenger Company's Green Street electric railway had made its inaugural run from Fourth and Green streets to Baxter and Highland avenues in 28 minutes" (47). Before that time, mule cars came up Broadway and turned around in front of Cave Hill Cemetery. A large trolley barn was constructed at the corner of Baxter and Highland, near this terminus of the Country Car.

In 1891, after the main entrance to Eastern Park (now Cherokee Park) was established, "the Board of Park Commissioners focused on getting the Louisville Railway Company to extend its line along Baxter Avenue and Bardstown Road to that point" (Thomas 30).

Neighborhood residents protested the proposed route of the electric trolley line down Cherokee Road. Mrs. Hilliard recalled: "The ladies of Cherokee Road said we will not have that thing going under our windows and on our street. They took their knitting and took their books and they went out for days. They took their chairs and sat in the middle of the street [. . .]. And finally, the street railway company realized the ladies meant what they said. The trolley line was resurveyed and that is why the thing went down Bardstown Road" (Thomas 30).

By 1895, "the streetcar line was extended up Longest Avenue to Everett Avenue" (Thomas, 31).

According to the fascinating survey *Louisville's Street Railways and How They Shaped the City's Growth* (co-authored by Martin Biemer, James Calvert, and George Yater), after 1893, "There were several long-time developments along the Bardstown Turnpike from Broadway out beyond Longest that hadn't been tremendously active. As in the south and west, the new electric line brought a real estate boom to the neighborhood" (56).

In the 1890s after the streetcar lines extended beyond the city limits, officials began to annex large suburban areas where new homes were being constructed. The small cities of Clifton, Crescent Hill, Enterprise (Cherokee Triangle), and South Louisville, along with the areas around Cherokee and Shawnee Park were incorporated—and increased Louisville's size by about 50 percent.

During the teens and 1920s, automobiles and jitneys challenged the supremacy of the streetcars. Around 1936, electric trolley coaches (trackless trolleys with rubberized tires) and feeder bus lines were established.

In 1943, the last streetcar tracks and overhead lines were removed from Bardstown Road, and the Cherokee loop was abandoned.



Around 1889, Green Street electric streetcar in the barn at Highland and Baxter Avenues.

George H. Yater Papers, University of Louisville Archives & Special Collections.

Reprinted from Samuel Thomas, *Cherokee Triangle: A History of the Heart of the Highlands*



Cherokee Triangle Association Officers and Trustees (2019—2020)

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|-------------------------------------|--|
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The CTA holds meetings the 3rd Monday of the month (except July and December)
at 7:00 pm at the Highlands-Shelby Park Library branch in the Mid City Mall.
All are welcome to attend.