

chatham

living magazine

Diana Mendoza
and Emy Rodas
of the Jordan-
Matthews Leos

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leos in siler
oh my!

walk through
pittsboro's
street fair

thousands
are coming
to chatham

5 burgers you
really can't miss

snapshots of
life in chatham



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JORDAN MATTHEWS
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Bacon Cheeseburger, Onion Jam, BBQ Sauce

► The Fearington Granary

When you read "Bacon Cheeseburger, Onion Jam, BBQ Sauce," it sounds like a lot of competing flavors that might not blend so well on a bun. But what The Fearington Granary has created is a tasty, cohesive classic where every element plays beautifully together.

There's attention to detail. The beef is ground in house, a blend of chuck, short rib and brisket. Both headliner condiments — an almost-fruity onion jam and smoky, sweet barbecue sauce — are made in house as well. In fact, Chef Colin Bedford says the burger's secret is balancing acidity in the onion jam with spice in the barbecue sauce and smokiness of the bacon. (By the way, chef, why complicate the dish by even adding bacon? His reply: "Everyone loves bacon.")

The Bacon Cheeseburger is served on a challah bun with cheddar, since that pairs well with the smoky flavors, though Gruyère and blue cheese are available. Many ingredients are grown in Fearington's own gardens or sourced from local farms.

There's nothing unusual about a bacon cheeseburger; most burger spots have one. But this version shows how well it can be done.



2000 Fearington Village Center, Fearington Village, 919.542.2121, fearington.com

SNAPSHOTS

life in chatham

afternoon at the museum

Ever since visiting the Chatham Historical Museum on a fourth-grade field trip last year, Andrey Urena wanted to bring his family and share the experience.

Today was the day.

While wandering through Pittsboro's First Sunday, a monthly street fair downtown, Andrey spotted the Historic Chatham County Courthouse, where the local history museum occupies the ground floor, and pulled his family inside.

For a good half hour, Andrey acts as tour guide, leading his mother, father and two younger brothers around the main room. He begins with a timeline tracing Chatham's journey from an isolated English colony in 1712 to its potential transformation with approval of the Chatham Park real estate development just a few years ago.

As they move past the timeline and toward a wall titled, "Voices of Chatham," Andrey's two younger brothers become mesmerized listening to stories about historic figures in four telephone handsets.

Several other groups are wandering through as well, and one of the museum volunteers is just a few steps away giving his own private tour to an older couple. They're especially intrigued by a collection of old farm tools and how modern agriculture developed — until they spot Bob the Pig, which draws them like a magnet.

The volunteer explains how the "pig doorstop," as it's described, survived the devastating 2010 courthouse fire, tumbling two floors during the blaze before being discovered in the debris. As a note points out, Bob the Pig "lost its nose, but not its life."

Another family is lingering at an

exhibit on schools and one gentleman is fascinated by a World War I uniform, complete with gas mask.

It seems as if everyone has a favorite. Like his brothers, Andrey's is the phones, because he can hear about real people's lives in their own words. "Early African Americans" plays recollections and poetry of former slaves, with one especially disturbing story about a slave owner who whipped his slaves every Sunday morning before heading off to church.

"Life back then, I knew it was hard with all the slaves and all of the work — you had to do everything by hand," Andrey says. "But then, when I listened to their stories, there was a moment when I knew how hard it was."

It may not be large in size. But based on one afternoon at the museum, it could be huge in impact.

Patty Walters offers insight for visitors at the Chatham Historical Museum.



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