

tar heel towns

In 1928, the first county-wide public library in the state opened; soon thereafter, with the help of the Rosenwald Foundation, it became the first in North Carolina to offer library services to all residents, regardless of race.

Like many towns of its size and former industries, Lexington today hopes for economic development and tourism to help build its future. But with its carefully maintained downtown storefronts, the continuing popularity of barbecue, and evolving plans for the revival of underused facilities, Lexingtonians have a positive attitude.

“There are exciting times ahead,” says Robin Bivens, a native of the area who grew up in the nearby company town of Erlanger and who heads the Lexington Tourism Authority. “I look to the area around the Childress Vineyards to grow more and for the shops there to fill up. Folks are looking at the Depot District, too, especially if a rail stop can be established there. Some buildings there may go, but others will be adapted to new uses, providing another center of attraction for residents and visitors alike.”

Meanwhile, Lexington remains a pretty,

comfortable, and affordable place to live and work, with High Rock Lake, Winston-Salem, Greensboro, and other communities not far away. With an eye firmly on the future, it seems likely that the town named for a patriotic turning point will find its way around this set of challenges, too. 🏡

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if you're going

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For links to the websites of the Lexington Tourism Authority, go to www.ourstate.com, and click on “This Month’s Issue.”

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