

# RoadTrip

Let's Go to the Open-Air Mall in Charlottesville

**WHERE:** Charlottesville.

**WHY:** Rock and stroll, drink to Dave Matthews, and ice, ice skate.

**HOW FAR:** A half-mile from start to finish, and about 115 miles from Washington.

There's nothing pedestrian about Charlottesville's Historic Downtown Mall, despite its ban on cars and favoritism toward feet. The stroll-friendly strip of Main Street offers visitors all of life's necessities: food, coffee, cocktails, culture, shopping, Kenny Rogers.

Charlottesville city planners showed foresight in 1976 when they placed bricks along an eight-block section in the heart of town, creating a European-style, open-air mall free of autos. Now, about 375,000 bricks cover a gently sloping path bordered by buildings from Main Street's commercial heyday in the early 1900s. The retailers deserve credit, too, as most of the 100-plus shops and 50-odd restaurants are independently run. (Amazingly, no Starbucks.)

The mall is busiest on weekends and evenings, especially Friday nights, when a mixed crowd of locals, out-of-towners and University of Virginia students kick back in the urban Eden of oak trees, flower boxes and fountains. Among the outdoor cafes, park benches and storefronts, shaggy sidewalk vendors sell art, jewelry and clothing, and buskers serenade passersby. (Remember, this is where Dave Matthews got his start, so listen carefully.)

The space might look familiar to Washingtonians: It was designed by Lawrence Halprin, creator of the peaceful Franklin D. Roosevelt Memorial. But that is not to say the mall is quiet. Strains of music often fill the air as bands let loose at the 4,000-seat Charlottesville Pavilion, which hosts national performers and the Fridays After Five free summer concert series.

Nor is the mall an oven during the peak of summer. "It's a nice place to cool off," says City Manager Gary O'Connell, referring to the Charlottesville Ice Park on the opposite end. "Though with all the trees, the mall's a nice, cool place, even in the hot August summer."

— Ben Chapman

**Road Trip maps are available** at [www.washingtonpost.com/roadtrip](http://www.washingtonpost.com/roadtrip), as are addresses and hours of operation. (Be sure to check before you go.) Have an idea for a trip? E-mail [roadtrip@washpost.com](mailto:roadtrip@washpost.com).

**WEDNESDAY IN STYLE** | Escapes visits Williamsport, Pa., home of the Little League World Series.

MAP BY JEROME COOKSON FOR THE WASHINGTON POST; PHOTOS BY BEN CHAPMAN FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

## MediaMix

A Quick Take on New Releases



	TITLE	BASIC STORY	SAMPLE GRAB	WHAT YOU'LL LOVE	WHAT YOU WON'T	GRADE
BOOK	<b>Know Your Power: A Message to America's Daughters</b> By Nancy Pelosi Doubleday \$23.95	The speaker of the House (the first woman to hold the position) reflects on her early career as a homemaker and mother of five and on her ensuing rise to political power. >>	 "Lindy taught me to think differently. I remember telling her that I thought I had too many opportunities, that perhaps I should give up one of my positions. . . . In her wonderful Southern accent, she said 'Darlin', no man would ever, ever have that thought.'" — On former congresswoman Lindy Boggs (D-La.)	Pelosi's idiosyncratic story is definitely worthy of the treatment, and she makes it seem as if the success was simply hers to claim: an important message for "America's daughters," to be sure.	By glossing over any pitfalls she might have encountered, Pelosi misses a valuable opportunity to give women practical insights into making their own forays into male-dominated fields. — Reviewed by Sara Cardace	<b>C</b>
BOOK	<b>What I Talk About When I Talk About Running</b> By Haruki Murakami Knopf \$21	This is a collection of meditations on running, writing and the training required for both by the prize-winning Japanese author.	"Exerting yourself to the fullest within your individual limits: that's the essence of running, and a metaphor for life — and for me, for writing as well." — Murakami's credo	The too-few sections in which Murakami ruminates on his inspirations, his writing process and the blocks he stumbles on are gems. >>	Despite the explicit title, fans of Murakami's fiction hoping to get the scoop on his personal life might be disappointed by the book's unvarying focus on marathons. — Alexis Burling	<b>B</b>
CD	<b>Echo</b> Alyssa Graham Sunnyside \$16.98	The honey-voiced light-jazz chanteuse covers Paul Simon and Sting (good Paul Simon and Sting, but still) on her sophomore release. She also sings a bunch of tunes by her high school sweetheart.	 "When love dies, sometimes the echo lives on / You're long gone, and I still hear that last song" — "Echo"	"Involved Again," a torch song Jack Reardon penned for Billie Holiday but left unreleased after her death, finally sees the light of day, and it smokes.	The disc feels calculated to increase vanilla soy chai latte sales by at least 20 percent. — Chris Klimek	<b>B-</b>
CD	<b>A Larum</b> Johnny Flynn Lost Highway \$9.98	The South Africa-born, Wales-bred balladeer debuts with an assured baker's dozen of broken-down Appalachian Irish literary-folk originals.	 "Sometimes I find it hard to be a man; it's easier just to play that same old game / Of trying to forget my bloody name" — "Eyeless in Holloway"	A melange of violin, accordion, mandolin and banjo dresses up these modest songs in their shabby Sunday best.	Flynn's prematurely aged voice makes him sound similar enough to Alexi Murdoch and other folkies new(ish) and old to keep you glancing down at your iPod. — C.K.	<b>B</b>
COMIC	<b>Superman and the Legion of Super-Heroes</b> By Geoff Johns and Gary Frank DC Comics \$24.99	Superman must journey to the 31st century, a time when xenophobic propaganda has forced his extraterrestrial allies, the Legion of Super-Heroes, into exile and threatens to trigger a galaxy-wide war. >>	 "I'm for everyone." — Kal-El succinctly refutes the revisionist history claiming that he was an Earth-born human	With Frank drawing an expressive and relatable Superman, Johns inverts the Man of Steel's inherent symbolism to indict the age-old use of religion or nationalism to endorse the worst in human behavior.	You can't really appreciate the degradation of the legion's far-future environs without knowing the retro-futuristic optimism that was the group's hallmark. — Evan Narcisse	<b>A-</b>
DVD	<b>Harold &amp; Kumar Escape From Guantanamo Bay</b> (Unrated Two-Disc Special Edition) New Line \$34.99	When our stoner heroes (Kal Penn and John Cho) attempt to light a "smokeless bong" in an airplane bathroom while en route to Amsterdam, they are mistaken for terrorists and thrown into Gitmo.	 "Uh, dude, I was able to perform an appendectomy at age 14. I think I can handle a couple of mushrooms." — Neil Patrick Harris gets his life and Doogie Hower's a little confused	The leads are so amiable that you won't mind when the jokes fall flat. Those with, er, shortened attention spans will enjoy a feature that allows you to program your favorite scenes together.	This sequel isn't quite as inspired as the original, and the overwhelming amount of scatological and homophobic humor is a buzz killer. — Greg Zinman	<b>B</b>
DVD	<b>Shine a Light</b> Rated PG-13 Paramount \$34.99	Martin Scorsese takes on the Rolling Stones, filming them backstage and onstage in New York City at two gigs celebrating Bill Clinton's birthday.	 "We cannot set Mick Jagger on fire." — Scorsese decides to keep the show's pyrotechnics strictly musical	Although the band members look as if they've been exhumed, they still sound great in stretches, especially when dusting off some excellent tunes from "Let It Bleed" and "Some Girls."	Christina Aguilera's endless melismatic musical abuse should have stayed far away from the "world's greatest rock-and-roll band." — G.Z.	<b>B+</b>
GAME	<b>Civilization Revolution</b> PlayStation 3, Xbox 360 Rated Everyone 10+ 2K Games \$59.99	Guide one of the world's great civilizations from Stone Age farmers to Space Age technocrats while using either war or diplomacy to keep other nations at bay. >>	 You can create a delicious mishmash of history: For instance, have Abraham Lincoln one-up Genghis Khan by building Giza's Great Pyramid in Boston, thereby enticing Bach to settle in America.	If you're not feeling warlike, you can win the game by besting other countries in science, culture or economics.	A quest for world domination can be addictive — and problematic when you find yourself bleary-eyed at 3 a.m. saying, "Okay, I'll play just one more century." — Christopher Healy	<b>A</b>

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