

## RIVERARTS

# The best times to visit the River Arts District

BY GLENN GARSON

I love to drop by the District when Damien Cavicchi opens the door to Clingman Ave. Coffee And Catering at seven in the morning. I like to grab a newspaper and sit outside with a cup of great gourmet coffee and strike up a conversation with one of the local artists such as Laurie McCarriar who recently relocated here from Virginia after she first saw the District during a Studio Stroll in 2005.

Another good time to catch the River Arts district is around 11am before all the cars start to fill the parking lot of the 12Bones Smokehouse, and the line of customers starts to wind it's way out the door onto the sidewalk outside.

The best time for shopping during the week is Friday afternoon. The River Arts District Business Association ([www.river-](http://www.river-artsdistrictbiz.com)



Life is brewing strong in the River Arts District

[artsdistrictbiz.com](http://artsdistrictbiz.com)), as a group, has agreed to be open on Friday afternoons from 1-4pm as well as their regular hours. So if you want to see the most shops open that is definitely the time to visit.

All week long there is some great art on display. There are several establish-

ments open all week long for art collectors to visit. Eileen & Marty Black have their doors open at Potter's Mark (Cotton Mill Bldg) Monday through Saturday, as does Christin Zelenka at Bella Vista Art Gallery, located next to Clingman Café. Ian and Jo Lydia Craven open the doors of their hand-built porcelain studio during the latter half of the week.

The big new thing this year in the District is "First Friday at Five," which has been drawing art lovers to the District each month at 5pm on the first Friday of the month. This is when you can sip some wine, chat with the local artists and see some great art.