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Hello and welcome to your weekly Westside World news digest. Each Friday, Westside BID brings you the top stories from in and around Broad Street, Brindleyplace, Five Ways, Centenary Square, Broadway Plaza and surrounding areas...



### Westside's tasty treats in spotlight as city restaurant festival returns

Several of Westside's leading restaurants are taking part in a Birmingham-wide festival aimed at showcasing all that is good about the city's dining scene.

The Birmingham Restaurant Festival, which is only in its second year, launches today and continues until 27 August. The event has attracted 37 eateries from across the whole of Birmingham, with almost a third of them situated on Westside.

[Read more](#)



A tribute to Tony Bennett

### Golden Mile pays tribute to a legend

He might have famously left his heart in San Francisco, but legendary crooner Tony Bennett has also left a special seat behind in Birmingham's Symphony Hall, as Graham Young remembers.

Tony, who died last Friday just 13 days short of what would have been his 97th birthday, last played the Broad Street venue at the heart of Westside on 3 July 2017 as part of his 90th birthday-year celebrations.

[Read more](#)



### Calendar exhibition launch a sell-out

More than 60 guests have booked to attend the launch of an exhibition displaying the 12 winning pictures in Westside BID's 2023 calendar competition.

The final preparation, framing and hanging of pictures is now almost complete for the event at The Flapper pub from 5pm to 7pm on Monday 7 August.

[Read more](#)



### Music icons on show at city venue

Some of the biggest names in rock music will be making a collective appearance on Westside – thanks to the special talents of Kirk Andrews.

Velvet Music Rooms on Broad Street is to host the 'Kirk Andrews – Music Icons' exhibition of portraits of music stars, past and present, over the next three months, featuring 50 portraits drawn by the talented artist in charcoal and Indian ink.

[Read more](#)



Chickenbone John performing on the sales floor of Lee Longlands

### VIDEO: Top tunes on the shopfloor

Midland guitar maestro Chickenbone John got an unexpected call earlier this month – a gig on the sales floor of Lee Longlands, Broad Street's legendary furniture store.

The performance, caught on video here, was part of the 39th Birmingham Jazz & Blues Festival, and happened because the listed act in the programme was indisposed at short notice.

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