

In 2008, the Grand Lake Retail Advisory Group did a comparable survey with similar questions about what was lacking in the retail and restaurant scene. Many of those wishes were realized over the next eight years. Many were not and some of the latter remain current - while others have simply disappeared. A homeopathic pharmacy is the most dramatic example of the latter. It received 150 votes in 2008. None in 2016. On the other hand, if you combine meat and poultry with seafood (as was the case in the 2008 survey), a butcher shop still tops the current "wish list".

What retail voids have been at least partially filled since 2008?

- Shoes - Sole Space
- Children's Clothes - Silver Moon's new location
- Wine - Ordinaire and Alchemy, for spirits
- Art Gallery - Panorama + First Thursdays
- Bakery - La Parisienne, Merritt, Grand Fare
- Thrift Shop - Urban Furniture and Boutique
- Pet Shops - Petco, Grand Lake All About Pets
- Vintage and Consignment Clothing - Knimble, Dr. J's Closet
- Men's and Women's Clothing - Collage Clothing Lounge, Posh, Oak Common, Alyce Preston's new location.

When it comes to restaurants, our cup runneth over. We're not going to attempt to list all the restaurants that have opened since 2008, but keep in mind that was the year that Camino opened - setting a very high bar for all that followed, including:

- Michel
- Shakewell
- Lin Jia Asian Kitchen
- Lanesplitter Pizza
- Cana
- Cafe Romanat
- Modigliani
- Neecha Thai
- Ikaros
- Boot and Shoe
- Grand Fare Market
- Penrose
- Shogun Sushi and Grill
- The Star Pizza
- The Grand Tavern

2008 Retail Wish List

Product	# Responses	
Meat, poultry, seafood	361	53%
Shoes: men's, women's, children's	274	40%
Art and craft supplies	249	37%
Specialty grocery	229	34%
Wine shop	206	30%
Art gallery	194	28%
Office supplies	181	27%
Bakery	179	26%
Clothing: Women's	175	26%
Clothing: Vintage and/or consignment	170	25%
Furniture and home accessories	163	24%
Pet Supplies	161	24%
Homeopathic pharmacy	150	22%
Clothing: Men's	148	22%
Fabric and sewing supplies	145	21%
Thrift shop	122	18%
Clothing: Children's	120	18%
Antiques and collectibles	118	17%
Sporting Goods	118	17%
Other	98	14%
Toys	70	10%
Total responses	681	
Total skips	29	

2008 Restaurant Wish List

Which of the following cuisines would you like to see added to the existing restaurant mix?

Cuisine	# Responses	
Vegetarian	289	46%
Middle Eastern	282	45%
Latin	249	40%
Soul food/barbecue	221	35%
Caribbean	208	33%
American	181	29%
African	179	28%
Asian	176	28%
Other	112	18%
Total responses	629	

Is there an appetite for more or at least different restaurants? Judging by the responses to Questions 2 and 8, the answer is a resounding "YES!".