

The Downtown District Newsletter

www.wilmingtondowntown.com

volume three

issue 1

March/April 2008

EVENTS

4th Annual Rims on the River

1st Block of Market St. & N. Front St. | Saturday, April 19th from 11am-5pm

Rims on the River is a vintage car & hot rod show! Cars & motorcycles dating 1980 and older line the streets of the downtown area, with the Cape Fear River and the diverse collection of retail stores as their backdrop. The event has drawn a wide array of cars from the entire southeast region of NC, as well as other neighboring states.

Also featured at the event this year will be the Gravedigger Experience - a FREE, interactive monster truck simulator!

WHAT'S NEW

New Operations Manager Here at WDI!

Lee Anne Haggerty has joined the Wilmington Downtown, Inc. staff as Operations Manager! A graduate of UNCW's Cameron School of Business, Lee Anne brings a marketing background to the organization to help with downtown promotion while her experience chairing the 2007 Wing Fling, among other events, will benefit and improve the exciting, upcoming events WDI has planned for the 2008 year! You can contact her by email:



leeanne@wilmingtondowntown.com or at the office: 763-7349

STORY REQUESTS

If you or your business have an event going on downtown, know of a grand opening, or simply have some exciting news to share, please feel free to let us know so that we may possibly include it in our upcoming issues of the Wilmington Downtown, Inc. Newsletter! You may send your request to leeanne@wilmingtondowntown.com and you just might see your item featured in our next issue!

REMINDERS

Loan Program

Wilmington Downtown administers business loan programs that provide capital for rehabilitation of commercial buildings in Wilmington's Central Business District and operating capital for qualifying downtown businesses. Rehabilitation Loans & Operating Loans offered at 3/4 Prime. 910-763-7349

Properties Listing

If you need to update your available property list on our website, please contact John at 910-763-7349 or email the listing to john@wilmingtondowntown.com

DoubleWide Skate & Surf Shop Ribbon Cutting



On March 14th, Wilmington Downtown, Inc. held a ribbon cutting for downtown's newest retail addition, the DoubleWide Skate & Surf Shop located at 106 Water Street in Water Street Center. The store features name brand skate and surf clothing, shoes, sunglasses, and other accessories, as well as skateboards and associated products. Jimmy Ellington, the owner, makes this his newest endeavor as he already owns and operates the original DoubleWide location in Hampstead, NC along with its neighbor, The Skate Barn.

Jimmy and the DoubleWide Skate & Surf Shop are also creating a buzz with their involvement in the 2008 Azalea Festival. Jimmy has taken the reigns on putting a skate ramp in the parking lot on the corner of Market and Second Streets during the festival. This ramp will feature select pro & semi-pro skaters from around the country, along with locally sponsored skaters, throughout the weekend.

New Businesses Gear Up for Spring 2008!

Loose Lucy's, a new retail shop, has opened up at 20 S. Front Street. They offer a wide variety of items including tie dye, handbags, tapestries, incense, rope sandals, hemp accessories, Birkenstocks, and many more. They are open 7 days a week.

Arrenda's Unique Boutique is also open at 124 S. Front Street, next to City Market, with current fashions and wedding attire available.

The Pink Pig Cafe has opened up on 124 Princess Street. They serve breakfast and lunch. You can contact them at (910) 399-6096.

Modern Nomad is located at 21-A Market Street and is a modern general store offering home decor, candles, etc.

Tavern on Second next to the parking deck on Second St. has recently opened, offering a new option in downtown nightlife.

Lilly May's Pub has taken over where CK Gourmet was located on Dock Street. They will offer English ales, various wines, salads, sandwiches, assorted appetizers, and acoustic music on the patio.

Sawgrass Gifts & Great Designs is located at 248 N. Front Street, they can be contacted at (910) 343-1390.

The Union Cafe has replaced the old Roy's Riverboat Landing restaurant at the foot of Market Street. Their menu includes chicken, steak, seafood, sandwiches, burgers, and salads. They are located at 2 Market Street, you can contact them at (910) 763-7227.

The Balcony on Dock has opened in the old Roudaboush building. The venue is available to rent for events such as wedding receptions, parties, and others. Catering is also an available option. You can contact Ian Moseley with the Balcony for information on reserving the space for your next function.

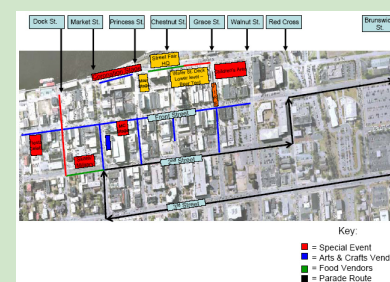
The Black Cat Shop located at 11 Market Street offers magical, mystical, pirate, and local souvenirs. They also sell tickets for their downtown Ghost Walks. You can contact them at 251-6663.

The 2008 NC Azalea Festival is April 9th - 13th!!

It's that time of year again! With spring comes the NC Azalea Festival, and this year's event brings many exciting changes! The street fair is undergoing a large expansion, moving the majority of vendors to Front Street. Some of the special events within the festival this year are a skate ramp, motorcycle jumping area, motorcycle show, a Multicultural Stage, the Fiesta Celebration, a Children's area, along with the usual parade and Queen's court.

The headlining acts this year are Sugarland with Little Big Town (tickets are already sold out) and Colbie Caillat & Michelle Branch.

If you would like to receive a full map of the new Azalea Festival layout including the parade route in order to see the expansion, please email your request to leeanne@wilmingtondowntown.com and we will be happy to get you one!



For more information visit the official Azalea Festival website at www.ncazaleafestival.org.

2008 Table Host Event A Big Success!

This year's event was held on February 21st at the Coastline Convention Center and featured Keynote Speaker NC Senator Richard Burr. Around 600 of Wilmington's most influential people attended this event, making it one of the largest to date! Our Title Sponsor this year was Carolina First Bank and our Platinum Sponsors were The View on Water Street & J.S. Clark Construction.

Wilmington Downtown, Inc. is a public/private partnership between New Hanover County and the City of Wilmington with the remainder of the organization's funding coming from private donations. It is our commitment to continue to promote downtown, implement incentive programs to ensure the redevelopment of under-utilized structures, recruit new businesses, and retain our existing businesses downtown. Without the continued support of members of the community, Wilmington Downtown, Inc. would not be able to accomplish the many established goals of the organization.



A special thanks to our sponsors, table hosts, and everyone who attended the event - because of supporters like you we were able to raise just over **\$100,000**. Your contributions are greatly appreciated and we look forward to seeing you at future events.

New Website in the Works for Wilmington Downtown!

Wilmington Downtown, Inc. is currently undergoing the process of updating our website and should be ready to have it launched by the end of summer! The exciting additions to our page will enhance the usability of the valuable information that WDI provides to the area. Right now, we are working on updating our current data and adding even more information so that everything will be set and ready come design and implementation time! Check back for updates and look for the new site towards the end of summer!



Downtown Sundown Concert Series is Back!

It's almost that time again! Summer is approaching fast and with that comes our 3rd Annual Downtown Sundown Concert Series in Riverfront Park!

This year's series has been extended, thanks to a partnership with the Downtown Business Alliance, and is planned to run through the summer starting on May 23rd, with the exception of Fourth of July (there will not be a concert on this date). The bands are booked and planning is in full swing! We look forward to seeing everyone out there again this year on Friday nights starting at 5:30pm. There's no better way to enjoy a Cape Fear summer evening than by the river with incredible sunsets, live music, good company, and lots of fun!

The first six scheduled dates are as follows:

May 23rd

Who's Bad
(Michael Jackson Tribute)

May 30th

Abbey Road
(Beatles Tribute)

June 6th

The Frontiers
(Journey Tribute)

June 13th

Steve Martinez & the Give Thanks Band
(Original Reggae)

June 20th

Will Hoge
(Original Rock/Indie)

June 27th

Girlz, Girlz, Girlz
(All Female 80's Hair Band Tribute)

Check the Concert Series website www.wilmingtondowntownsundown.com for updates and additional dates!!

SAVE THE DATE!!!

2008 Wilmington Downtown, Inc.
Black & White Ball

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24TH!!

It's the 5th Anniversary of the Black & White Ball and this year we're adding some exciting new twists!

More details to come in future issues so stay tuned and keep your calendar open for this great downtown event!

Fourth Fridays are Back!

"Fourth Friday's Are For the Arts" will begin again on May 23rd. Many new and veteran downtown arts venues are taking part in 2008. The event features an "art walk" where participants can visit the local galleries to experience all the downtown arts have to offer!

For more information, contact Matt Dols at mattdols@creativewilmington.com