

# The Downtown District Newsletter

www.wilmingtondowntown.com

volume three

issue 2

July 2008

## EVENTS

### The First Annual Water Down Arts Festival

| Chandler's Wharf - 225 S Water St |  
Saturday, July 5th from 10a-6p

Hosted in the historic Chandler's Wharf building, this festival will feature 30 artists from all over the country with art, crafts, sculpture, jewelry, wine, food and more.

For more information, visit [www.creationsbyjustine.com](http://www.creationsbyjustine.com)

### Summer Wine & Beer Walk

| Downtown |  
Saturday, July 19th from 1-6pm

The DBA is hosting a traveling wine & beer tasting at some of downtown's favorite restaurants, bars, & wine/beer shops.

Tickets are \$15 each or 2 for \$25 if purchased in advance. This event sold out in advance last time, so we recommend purchasing tickets soon!

Advance tickets are available at:

Bottega Art & Wine:  
208 N. Front St.

Wilmington Wine Shoppe:  
110-A S. Front St.

Visit [www.dbawilmington.com](http://www.dbawilmington.com) for more info!

### 1st Annual Making Magic for Kid's Making It

| Level 5 @ CityStage - 24 Front St |  
Saturday, July 19th at 6:30pm

Making Magic is a benefit for the Kids Making It woodworking program. Drinks, appetizers and the close-up magic of roving magicians will be provided, as well as the opportunity to bid on an array of silent and live auction items ranging from pens hand-crafted by the KMI kids to a Cancun getaway! The evening will conclude with a stage show in the historic theater. Visit [www.kidsmakingit.org](http://www.kidsmakingit.org) for more info!

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:john@wilmingtondowntown.com)



## Downtown Sundown Upcoming Shows!

Music will begin at 6pm in Riverfront Park in front of the Courthouse! Admission is free and food, beer, and wine will be available for purchase in the event area. IDs will be checked, so don't forget to bring yours!

No pets or coolers are allowed! Be sure to come out and enjoy a Cape Fear evening and support your downtown! We look forward to seeing you there!

Scheduled dates are as follows:

July 11th: Tuesday's Gone  
(Lynryd Skynyrd Tribute)

July 18th: Zoso (Led Zeppelin Tribute)

July 25th: Vertigo (U2 Tribute)

August 1st: Groovetown  
(Favorites from the 40's thru today)

August 8th: The 80-Z-Enuff  
(Covers from the 80's)

August 15th: Fair Warning  
(Van Halen Tribute)

Check the Concert Series website [www.wilmingtondowntownsundown.com](http://www.wilmingtondowntownsundown.com) for updates and additional info!!

## New President of Wilmington Downtown, Inc. Announced!



Gene Merritt of GMC Real Estate has been named as the Board President of Wilmington Downtown for the 2008-2009 Year. Merritt has been actively involved with the organization and is one of the founders from when the organization was created 31 years ago. Gene has even served as executive director when the organization was still known as the Downtown Area Revitalization Effort (DARE).

As a resident of Wilmington, Gene brings a passion and dedication to downtown second to none. We here at Wilmington Downtown are looking forward to a very exciting year ahead with our new President and Board of Directors!

## Celebrate the 4th of July Downtown!

The City of Wilmington will host a July 4 "Star Spangled Weekend" of history-making events. The weekend will begin on Thursday, July 3 at 5 p.m. with the rededication of the newly renovated and restored Hannah Block Historic USO building. Wilmington will also officially be proclaimed as "America's World War II City" at this ceremony, a distinction claimed by no other U.S. city. All events will take place at the Hannah Block Historic USO Building, located downtown on the corner of Orange and Second streets.

### The events are as follows:

- \* Thursday, July 3 at 5 p.m.: Official rededication ceremony with Mayor Bill Saffo
- \* Friday, July 4 from 6 - 9 p.m.: "Dancin' at the USO" featuring the Wilmington Big Band, followed by the fireworks display on the Cape Fear River at 9 p.m.; free admission
- \* Sunday, July 6 from 1 - 5 p.m.: USO Open House featuring WWII exhibits and a book signing from 1 - 2 p.m.; free admission
- \* Sunday, July 6 at 3 p.m.: "Yes We Can" tribute to African-American service during WWII and "Star Spangled Girls" revue; \$10.00 admission

Tickets for the show on Sunday, July 6 are available in advance at the USO Building. Call (910) 254-0907 for more information. Seating is limited, so get your tickets now!



## WDI Awards Monteith Construction

At the Historic Wilmington Foundation Awards held on May 29th at the County Courthouse, John Hinnant, Executive Director of Wilmington Downtown, presented Bryan Thomas of Monteith Construction an award for Leadership in Restoration Development for work done at 32 N. Front Street. The project is unique because of the utilization of The Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System, which encourages and accelerates global adoption of sustainable green building and development practices. Much of the materials used in the restoration were either items from the original building or other recycled products. Also, the building features a shower room to help promote employees to walk or bike to work.



Wilmington Downtown was pleased to be able to recognize Monteith Construction, not only for the restoration of an aging building on Front Street, but also for the added efforts to lead the way for environmentally friendly projects in downtown!

## Downtown Sundown Concert Series Updates!

Downtown Sundown has been off to a great start! We have completed 6 shows so far, with only one rainout! Our expectations have been well exceeded in terms of crowd turnout, so thank you to everyone who has come and supported the series thus far! We had nearly 3,000 people in attendance for the Frontiers, a Journey cover band, and are looking forward to continuing to set the bar higher and higher!



Be sure to check the Downtown Sundown website for upcoming shows, links to hear snippets of each band, and also photo and video galleries from past shows!

Just a reminder that we will not have a show on July 4th so that everyone can enjoy the fireworks put on by the City of Wilmington from the Battleship!

## Year End in Review for WDI

June 30th marked the end of the Fiscal Year for Wilmington Downtown! Not only have we welcomed a new Board President and Board of Directors, but we also made some good headway in the past year, much of which was highlighted during our Annual Meeting and presentation to the Board of Directors at the Coastline Convention Center.

We exceeded our fundraising goals, made 2 major loans to downtown businesses, played an important role in the convention center groundbreaking, welcomed several new businesses to downtown, and reached a full staff! With all the successes of last year we are expecting even better things to come for the 2008-2009 year ahead!

## Launch Date Nearing on New WDI Website!

The new Wilmington Downtown website will be launched in the first weeks of August! Plans so far include a dynamic mapping feature, as well as a comprehensive listing of all businesses downtown, including retail, restaurants, and professional & government services. The website will still offer an available properties listing as it does now. We're very excited about the new site and are confident it will serve as a very useful tool to benefit downtown!

## Kids Making It Beautify Bailey Theater Park

Kids Making It will be building wooden bench planters to be placed in Bailey Theater Park. The park, located on Front Street next to Kingoff's and in front of the Market Street parking deck, is under a lease with the City of Wilmington for 3 years. These planters will be built so that they are moveable if need be. These planters will serve to enhance the appearance of the park and also make it more useful to downtown visitors and employees! A special thanks to Kids Making It! for their hard work and also to Special Wood for donating the wood for the project!



## Experience What's New in Downtown!

Two new businesses have opened up shop in downtown! Be sure to stop by, check out their store, and welcome them to downtown!

> The Wilmington Wine Shoppe has opened a sister location, The Wilmington Art & Event Gallery, an event/meeting/studio space, in the J.W. Brooks Building at 18 S. Water Street #4.

> Evolve Image Studio has also opened in 18 S. Water Street. This studio will feature a merging of the works of Jeff Poole Photography & Baca Photography. Their hours will be 11am-6pm, Tuesday - Friday. For an appointment or more information call 910-297-6526 or email: [raybaca@bacaphotography.com](mailto:raybaca@bacaphotography.com)

## Ribbon Cutting Ceremony To Be Held!

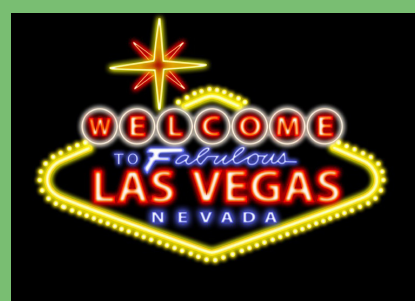
Come out to Momentum Surf & Skate Shop on **Thursday, July 10th** for a ribbon cutting at 4:30pm to welcome the store to downtown!

The ribbon cutting will be held at the Momentum shop, located at 5 Front Street.

Momentum Surf & Skate Shop features a wide variety of surf & skate apparel, sunglasses, and shoes, as well as his own line of custom designed boards.

## B&W Ball Update!

As we mentioned last issue, we have changed up the Black & White Ball to be a completely new event this year! Our goal is to have FUN so we decided to make the event a Vegas Themed party!



There will be authentic gambling tables as well as a silent & live auction and we will be giving away a trip to Vegas! Keep your calendars open for Friday, October 24th & look forward to more updates as the planning process continues!