



The Downtown District Newsletter

www.wilmingtondowntown.com
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Celebrate the Season with the 6th Annual Holiday Parade!



Join local community groups, schools, bands and businesses as they celebrate this festive holiday event! The Wilmington Holiday Parade will be held on Sunday December 7, 2008 and is hosted by the City of Wilmington, WECT News 6, Cumulus Broadcasting and Encore Magazine. The parade will begin at N. Front and Walnut at 5:10 pm with live coverage beginning at 5:30 pm on Time Warner Cable Channel 939, ATMC Channel 939, Charter Cable Channel 136 and Over the Air on Channel 6.2.

The entry deadline for participants is Friday November 21, 2008. For more information visit us online at www.wilmingtonrecreation.com or contact Tammy Skinner at (910) 341-4602.

New Website in Full Swing!

The Revitalized Wilmington Downtown Inc. Website has launched and has been steadily increasing the number of hits received daily! Please take some time to visit the site at: www.wilmingtondowntown.com

Attention Downtown Business Owners:

If you have a business in downtown Wilmington, please see that it is listed on our website in the appropriate categories. If for some reason your business is not there, please email leeanne@wilmingtondowntown.com and we will gladly add it to the site for you. Please include the business name, your name, phone number, and 50 words or less describing what your business does.



Ruth's Chris Opens for Lunch Through the Holidays!

Ruth's Chris is now taking reservations for Holiday lunches! From December 10-24, just for the Holiday Season, diners are invited to enjoy Ruth's Chris famous steaks and specialties for lunch.

The Wilmington Ruth's Chris Steak House will step outside of its regular evening hours to feature a special lunch menu from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Offering business associates, friends and families a wonderful alternative to celebrate the holidays in style, the lunch menu will feature a full appetizer selection, Ruth's Chris trademark sizzling steaks, entrée salads and seafood selections and



desserts, along with premium sandwiches and Kobe burgers starting at \$12.95.

The Ruth's Chris Steak House in Wilmington has been open since June 2008, winning kudos from patrons and dining critics. The restaurant is located at the Hilton Wilmington Riverside at 301 North Water Street, 910-343-1818. Reservations are recommended.

35th Annual Wilmington by Candlelight Tour

The Lower Cape Fear Historical Society will host its 35th Annual Wilmington by Candlelight tour this weekend. The event is a self-guided walking tour and will feature 14 homes and churches.

Many of the homes are actually private residences that you would not otherwise be able to view. Also, the homes on the tour will be decorated for the season to get everyone in the holiday spirit!

Two tours are available either on Saturday, December 6, from 4:00 - 8:00 PM or Sunday, December 7, from 2:00 - 6:00 PM. Tickets are \$25 in advance and \$30 on the day of the tour.



New Hotel Announced for Downtown!

CN Hotels has announced plans to construct a 7 story 125-room Courtyard by Marriott hotel at the corner of Second and Grace Streets in downtown Wilmington, NC. This investment will have a tremendous economic impact on the business environment downtown. Not only will the hotel guests have an instant impact on our shops and restaurant, but the regional business community will have another trusted name brand to rely on for their visiting clients. The Marriott will be another great lodging option for tourists and visitors to our area.



Gearing Up for the 2009 Table Host Luncheon!

Planning is underway for our upcoming Table Host luncheon brought to you by WDI & Carolina First Bank! The date & location have been set, and we are currently working to finalize a speaker for the event.

What: Table Host Luncheon
When: Tues. March 10th
Where: CFCC Schwartz Ctr. (w/ convenient, adjacent parking available)

Look for newsletter and email updates for more information!

SPONSORSHIP INFO:

Sponsorship opportunities for the 2009 Table Host are now available. This event is very well attended, with last year's event seating nearly 600 of the most important and influential members of our community.

For more information on becoming a sponsor, please email us for a sponsorship packet:
leeanne@wilmingtondowntown.com
john@wilmingtondowntown.com
 or you can call the office:
 (910) 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!

EVENTS

6th Annual Holiday Parade
 | Downtown Wilmington - Start at Front & Walnut Streets |
 Sunday, Dec 7th, Begins at 5pm
 Please see story to the left for more information!

Wilmington Big Band Performs 'A Memorable Christmas Show'
 | Fat Tony's Italian Pub |
 Saturday, Dec 6th at 7pm
 This 17-piece band will perform to benefit Toys for Tots. There is a small \$8 cover charge which can be reduced in half by donating a new toy (please do not wrap the toy).

Special Weekend for Kids at Burchetta Glass Blowing Studio
 | 201 Red Cross Street |
 Saturday, Dec 6th from 10am-2pm
 Sunday, Dec 7th from 10am-2pm
 Design your own Drinking Glass and watch the molten glass being shaped and blown by our Glass blowers on staff. Fun for the whole family! Admission is \$35.00 per person, group discounts are available. Groups are encouraged to make reservations in advance.

Fourth Friday Gallery Nights
 | Downtown Wilmington |
 Friday, Dec 26th, begins at 6pm
 Unwind from the holiday season with a Fourth Friday Gallery Night! Showcasing art and art-related events, Fourth Fridays also include opening receptions, artist discussions, live music, wine tastings, food sampling, & other traditional & non-traditional art-based activities.

2008 Participants:
 Acme Art Studios, Bottega Gallery & Art Bar, Facade Design Studio, Golden Gallery, Montage Gallery at WHQR, New Elements Gallery, Peacocks Fine Art Atelier, Port Cit Pottery, and Three Hounds Gallery.

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