



ELIZABETH CITY AREA CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU

400 South Water Street, Suite 101 • PO Box 573 • Elizabeth City, NC 27907
Toll-Free: 866-ECITY-4U (866-324-8948) • Phone: 252-335-5330
www.DiscoverElizabethCity.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:
Elizabeth Evans
Cahoon & Cross
Phone: (757) 420-6944
eevans@cahoonandcross.com

Immerse Yourself in the Arts at Harbor Arts Festival, Aug. 29-30 *Elizabeth City's "Harbor of Hospitality®" hosts!*

(Elizabeth City, N.C., Aug. 7, 2009) – More than 30 national artists, craftsmen and photographers will display and sell their work along Elizabeth City's lively Main Street when **Harbor Arts Festival** is presented **Aug. 29-30**.

Now in its third year, the juried outdoor show is staged by Arts of the Albemarle, a regional non-profit arts organization representing Pasquotank, Gates and Camden counties. Festival organizers say the weekend is a true celebration of the arts!

"The Elizabeth City area is a vibrant arts destination with a wealth of artists, photographers and artisans," said Festival Chairwoman Lisa Winslow. "We are proud to showcase our community to both our visiting artists and those who appreciate the arts."

Visitors may shop the outdoor festival both days, while seeing artists at work with demonstrations in painting, pottery on the wheel, decoy carving, glasswork, mosaics, basketry, gourd work and twig furniture. The Tidewater Blacksmith Guild will also demonstrate.

For hands-on fun, a children's activity tent will feature free arts and crafts projects for young people to make and take. Art lovers of all ages may pick up a piece of chalk and add a flourish or two to a public sidewalk art mural. The festival is open 10 a.m. – 7:30 p.m. on Saturday and 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. on Sunday.

In concert with Harbor Arts Festival, 20 area restaurants prepare and serve their finest delights during **Taste of the Albemarle, Aug. 29**. The restaurant sampling takes place from 6 – 8 p.m. on Main Street. Dancing under the stars follows from 8 – 11 p.m. with live music by The Dreams. Taste patrons must be 21 years old to attend, and tickets are \$20 per person and \$15 for active military. For tickets, call (252) 338-6455 or visit www.artsofthealbemarle.com.

This year's Harbor Arts Festival is a special one for Arts of the Albemarle. In March, the regional arts group relocated to the historic 1897 Lowry-Chesson building on Elizabeth City's Main Street. The newly-renovated building, referred to as The Center, features a spacious exhibition gallery, second-floor performing arts theatre and third-floor studio space for its School of the Arts students. Patrons can also purchase a one-of-a-kind painting, photograph or treasure in a permanent gallery that represents more than 200 regional artists and crafters.

**Make a Weekend of It and
Save 15 Percent on Accommodations!**

Art lovers can make a weekend of it when they come to Elizabeth City during Harbor Arts Festival, while taking advantage of special savings. Through Aug. 31, visitors may save 15 percent off accommodations when they book with selected inns and hotels. For details of the **“Take 15 and Save 15” getaway package**, visit www.DiscoverElizabethCity.com. Visitors may also enjoy:

- **“Destination Beach Street,” Aug. 14 –Sept. 8**

Original paintings by Cathy Martin and sea glass jewelry by Fran Peel are on display Aug. 14 through Sept. 8 in the Jaquelin Jenkins Gallery at The Center (www.artsofthealbemarle.com).

- **Elizabeth City Downtown Waterfront Market, Aug. 29**

Featuring the “Bounty of the County,” the market offers locally-grown and produced fruits, vegetables, organic foods, herbs, dairy products, baked goods, plants, flowers and handcrafted wares. The market is

open Saturdays from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. through Oct. 31 on the green at Mariners' Wharf Park (www.DowntownWaterfrontMarket.com).

Harbor Arts Festival is sponsored by DRS Technologies. Gateway Bank is the Arts of the Albemarle's "Champion for the Arts" sponsor. For information about the festival weekend or Arts of the Albemarle, visit www.artsofthealbemarle.com

About Elizabeth City

Known as the "Harbor of Hospitality®," Elizabeth City is located in northeastern North Carolina on the Pasquotank River, halfway between Norfolk, Va., and the Outer Banks. The city has six National Register Historic Districts and is home to the Museum of the Albemarle; The Center, headquarters for Arts of the Albemarle's new gallery, theatre and studio space; Elizabeth City State University Planetarium; and Port Discover Hands-on Science Center. Nature-based travelers are drawn to the area's proximity to the Dismal Swamp and the abundance of outdoor recreational offerings. For additional information, call Elizabeth City Area Convention & Visitors Bureau at 1-866-ECity-4U (1-866-324-8948) or (252) 335-5330.

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