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ELIZABETH CITY AREA CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU

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Elizabeth City Area Convention & Visitors Bureau Posts New Online Holiday Gift Guide *New feature showcases gift items and foods unique to Elizabeth City*

(Elizabeth City, N.C., Nov. 23, 2009) – Targeting visitors who are searching for an old-fashioned holiday shopping experience with unusual finds, the Elizabeth City Area Convention & Visitors Bureau (ECACVB) has posted a new online Holiday Gift Guide at www.DiscoverElizabethCity.com.

Showcasing a variety of Elizabeth City shops and one-of-a-kind gift ideas, the Web feature presents everything from original artwork, jewelry and handmade soaps to specialty wines and foods made in the Elizabeth City area.

“We have such a wonderful array of shops, art galleries, and specialty stores, offering items you won’t find anywhere else,” said ECACVB Director Charlotte Underwood. “We are highlighting handcrafted, delightful gifts that are unique to our ‘Harbor of Hospitality.’®”

The listings feature a photograph of the item, detailed description, price and shop location—and an invitation to shop and stay in Elizabeth City.

“We want people to make a weekend of it,” said Underwood. “Combined with our winter events and workshops, excellent restaurants and cozy accommodations, there’s a lot to enjoy for the holidays.”

On Saturday, Dec. 5, visitors may take in four seasonal events in one day, beginning with the **Elizabeth City First in Flight Festival**. From 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Elizabeth City Regional Airport, the festival will feature free airplane rides for children, remote control air shows and special hangar and aircraft tours. A

highlight of the day will be two “Candy Drops” piloted by retired Air Force Col. Gail Halvorsen, who made headlines when he dropped chocolates to the West Berlin children during the famous Berlin Airlift of 1948-49.

Also on Dec. 5, **First United Methodist Church** is hosting a tour of seven beautifully decorated Elizabeth City homes and the church; the Downtown Waterfront Market presents its “**Last Minute Market Bazaar**” from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the green at Mariners’ Wharf; and visitors may take part in a **Harbor Holiday Celebration** with Elizabeth City’s grand illumination, Christmas Parade and Lighted Boat Parade on the Pasquotank River beginning at 5:30 p.m.

Later in the month, the **Elizabeth City State University Planetarium** will conduct holiday-themed laser light and planetarium shows (Dec. 9, 11, 12), the **Museum of the Albemarle** will host holiday workshops for adults and children (Dec. 12, 18) and Arts of the Albemarle will present “**New Year’s Eve Follies at the Center**” (Dec. 31) with live entertainment, gourmet delights and dancing.

For a complete schedule of events and to view the Holiday Gift Guide, visit www.DiscoverElizabethCity.com. Visitors may also view accommodations offerings and reserve rooms online.

Elizabeth City

Elizabeth City is located in northeastern North Carolina on the Pasquotank River, halfway between Norfolk, Va., and the Outer Banks. Known as the “Harbor of Hospitality,”® the city has six National Register Historic Districts and is home to the Museum of the Albemarle; Arts of the Albemarle’s new arts facility, The Center; 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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