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ELIZABETH CITY AREA CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU

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“Harbor of Hospitality” Puts the Sparkle on Hometown Holidays with Elizabeth City Events, Parades and More!

(Elizabeth City, N.C., Nov. 23, 2009) – If you’re longing for the warmth of an old-fashioned, hometown holiday, put Elizabeth City, N.C. on your wish list. Now through Dec. 31, city sites and attractions are offering a stocking full of family-friendly events, parades, workshops—and one-of-a-kind shopping. Before you take the road less traveled to Elizabeth City, check out the visitor center’s new holiday gift guide at www.DiscoverElizabeth.com. Make a weekend of it! The “Harbor of Hospitality”® is sure to please with these seasonal offerings:

Nov. 27 – Dec. 31, Arts of the Albemarle’s Gift-A-Rama

This year, consider a one-of-a-kind gift of art made by regional artists and craftsmen. From original paintings, pottery and glass to jewelry and textile arts, the Arts of the Albemarle Gallery offers a pallet of gift-giving options during its annual Gift-A-Rama, Nov. 27 through Dec. 31. To kick off the event, a Christmas Open House is planned Nov. 27 from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m., during which you may enjoy hors d’oeuvres, wine and punch while you shop. Don’t miss their selection of “little canvases” painted by local artists! Call (252) 338-6455 or visit www.artsofthealbemarle.com.

Dec. 9, 11, 12 – Free Holiday Planetarium Shows

Enjoy laser light shows and planetarium presentations that focus on the Christmas Star, the sky in winter and other seasonal features at the Elizabeth City State University Planetarium. The free presentations are scheduled at various times, and reservations are required. For a schedule, call (252) 335-3759 or visit

<http://www.ecsu.edu/academics/mathscietecchnology/planetarium/>

Dec. 5 – 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. For a schedule, visit

www.ecfirstinflight.com

Dec. 5 – First United Methodist Women’s Tour of Homes

Tour seven lovely Elizabeth City homes and the First United Methodist Church, all beautifully decorated for the holidays. Tickets for this self-guided tour are \$15 and available at First United Methodist Church, Hoffer Gallery, Muddy’s Coffee House, Carolina House and Page After Page Bookstore. For information, call (252) 335-1771.

Dec. 5 – “Last Minute Market Bazaar”

The Downtown Waterfront Market presents its “Last Minute Market Bazaar,” from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the green at Mariners’ Wharf. Kick off the holiday season by shopping with local produce vendors, food purveyors and more. A great opportunity to purchase holiday wreaths and trees and unique gifts! Visit www.DowntownWaterfrontMarket.com

Dec. 5 – Harbor Holiday Celebration!

“Twas the Night Before Christmas” is the theme of the Elizabeth City Christmas Parade that will precede an evening of festivities along the scenic Downtown Waterfront. The parade begins at 5:30 p.m., followed by the Grand Illumination, Lighted Boat Parade on the Pasquotank River, holiday music, free hot beverages and a visit from Santa! The Harbor Holiday Celebration is presented by The Elizabeth City Jaycees, Elizabeth City Downtown Inc, Pasquotank River Yacht Club and the River City Fraternal Order of Police. For information, call the Elizabeth City Area Convention & Visitors Bureau at 1-866-324-8948 or visit www.DiscoverElizabethCity.com

Dec. 12 – Deck Those Halls Designer Workshop

Adults can design and make their own holiday decorations during the “Deck Those Halls” Designer Workshop, Dec. 12 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Museum of the Albemarle. The cost (includes lunch) is \$35 for MOA members and \$40 for non-members. Register early (spaces are limited). Call (252) 335-1453 or visit www.museumofthealbemarle.com

Dec. 18 – Jingle Bells Workshop

Kids, from Kindergarten through third grade, will learn the history of gingerbread and decorate their own gingerbread house during the “Jingle Bells Workshop,” Dec. 18 from 3 to 5 p.m. at the Museum of the Albemarle. The cost is \$17 for MOA members and \$20 for non-members. Register early (spaces are limited). Call (252) 335-1453 or visit www.museumofthealbemarle.com

Dec. 31 – New Year’s Eve Follies at The Center

Ring in 2010 with a festive evening from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. at The Center at Arts of the Albemarle. On the Maguire Theatre stage, enjoy music by pianist Chris Palestrant, comedy by Jest-a-Minute and dance to the music

of the Uphill Band. The night features a gourmet buffet and cash bar. Tickets are \$35 per person or \$300 for a reserved table for eight. Call (252) 338-6455 or visit www.artsofthealbemarle.com.

After checking out all the cool places to have fun and shop, check into one of Elizabeth City's inns, B&Bs or hotels. At www.DiscoverElizabethCity.com, visitors may view all 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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