



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ELIZABETH CITY AREA CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU

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### **Splash Into Elizabeth City with Cool Summer Events**

*-- "Harbor of Hospitality" Beckons with Juneteenth Celebration, Downtown Waterfront Market and More --*

(Elizabeth City, N.C., May 5, 2009) – When President Abraham Lincoln signed the “Emancipation Proclamation” Jan. 1, 1863, slaves in Texas did not receive the news until nearly two and-a-half years later, on June 19, 1865. The following year, the first observance of “Juneteenth” took place, and this celebration of freedom has since been embraced by communities throughout the United States.

Elizabeth City is no exception, and the River City Community Development Corporation (RCCDC) will host its 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Juneteenth Celebration Saturday, June 20 from 12:00 pm to 9:00 pm at Waterfront Park. A featured part of the celebration is the reading of the “Emancipation Proclamation,” followed by speeches, songs and fellowship – along with delicious ethnic foods, craft sales, and children’s activities.

“Juneteenth is all about freedom,” said RCCDC President Lenora Jarvis-Mackey. “Not just from slavery in America, but freedom to learn one’s roots and to join in one’s community, making it richer and stronger.”

For information, go to [www.rivercitycdc.org](http://www.rivercitycdc.org) or call (252) 331-2925.

In addition to its Juneteenth event, Elizabeth City has a number of great ways to celebrate summer:

- **Downtown Waterfront Market, Saturdays through October**  
 Saturday is market day in Elizabeth City! Featuring the “Bounty of the County,” the market features home-grown fruits, vegetables, herbs, dairy products, baked goods, plants and flowers, handcrafted wares and organic foods. Bringing together local farmers from northeastern North Carolina, the market is open Saturdays from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. on the green at Mariners’ Wharf Park. Go to [www.DowntownWaterfrontMarket.com](http://www.DowntownWaterfrontMarket.com) for the weekly market schedule.
- **Elizabeth City 300 National Truck and Tractor Pull, June 5-7**  
 Imagine pulling a 6,200-pound tractor or a 7,000-pound stock car! Contestants do just that – and more – at this annual truck and tractor pull that draws hundreds of spectators to Morgan’s Corner. The gates open at 5:00 pm and the pulls start at 7:00 pm! For information call (252) 264-3640. Other national events are slated for Aug. 15 and Sept. 19.
- **4<sup>th</sup> Annual Carolina Cup International Regatta, June 6-7**  
 Powerboat excitement comes to the Elizabeth City waterfront with two days of music, food, family fun and speed on the Pasquotank River! June 6, races run from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm, and June 7 from 12:00 pm to 5:00 pm. Concessions and children’s play area available. For race info, go to [www.carolinacupregatta.com](http://www.carolinacupregatta.com). Admission for spectators is free.
- **Bluegrass Festival at North River Campground, June 12-13**  
 Enjoy two days of great bluegrass music featuring performances by Empty Pockets, Tulls Creek Bluegrass, Strings Attached and more. The music starts Friday evening from 6-10 p.m. and Saturday from 11:00 am – 9:00 pm. Call (252) 336-4414 or visit [www.northrivercampground.com](http://www.northrivercampground.com)
- **“Splash” Exhibition at Arts of the Albemarle, June 12-July 11**  
 Nationally known, Raleigh-based Bob Rankin joins Margie Sawyer for Arts of the Albemarle’s “Splash” in the Jaquelin Jenkins Gallery. Their exhibit opens June 12 with an artists’ reception from 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm. June 13, Rankin will hold a workshop, “Invigorate Your Art,” designed for artists of all levels who have had

experience in any painting medium. The “Splash” exhibit runs through July 11. Call (252) 338-6455 or visit [www.artsofthealbemarle.com](http://www.artsofthealbemarle.com).

- **Fourth of July Fireworks and Celebration, July 4**

Elizabeth City sparkles with music by the Army TRADOC Band (Fort Monroe; Hampton, Va.), children’s activities, concessions and a gigantic July Fourth fireworks display. From 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm. Admission is free. Call the Elizabeth City Area Convention & Visitors Bureau ([www.DiscoverElizabethCity.com](http://www.DiscoverElizabethCity.com)) at 1-866-324-8948.

**New: Reserve Your Room Online!**

Visitors can now reserve their accommodations online at [www.DiscoverElizabethCity.com](http://www.DiscoverElizabethCity.com), where they can also download travel information and suggested itineraries.

Elizabeth City is located in northeastern North Carolina on the Pasquotank River, halfway between Norfolk, Va., and the Outer Banks. Elizabeth City has six National Register Historic Districts and is home to the Museum of the Albemarle, Arts of the Albemarle, 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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