



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

Outdoor Events Shine in Elizabeth City, N.C. *Art, Wine and Good Times Beckon in the “Harbor of Hospitality®”*

(Elizabeth City, N.C., April 11 2011) – There’s nothing like a sunny weekend and the open road to bring out your inner traveler. As wanderlust calls this spring, set your sights on Elizabeth City for a North Carolina travel getaway that’s sure to please. Wayfarers will discover the “Harbor of Hospitality®” has just the tonic—a laid-back vibe, must-see attractions and an outdoor event series in full swing!

FIRST FRIDAY ART WALK

April 1, May 6, June 3

Presented by The Center at Arts of the Albemarle, First Friday Art Walk events offer something for everyone! The fun starts at 5:30 p.m. with a featured artist’s exhibition at The Center, followed by receptions at neighboring galleries, retail shops, restaurants and more. Parents may register children, ages 4 and up, for a special science-themed “Kids Night In” program at Port Discover for \$5, while parents enjoy strolling and exploring the art of downtown Elizabeth City. artsaoa.com/firstfridayartwalk (252) 338-6455.

WEEKSVILLE VINEYARDS’ WINE DOWN IN THE COUNTRY NIGHTS

April 1, May 6, June 3, July 1

Enjoy the sunset, while sampling wines from around the world, the first Friday of each month at Weeksville Vineyards & Cellars. Tasting tickets are \$10 per person and include light hors d’oeuvres. WeeksvilleVineyards.com or (252) 330-2622.

HARBOR ARTS FESTIVAL

April 16

Fine arts and crafts for sale by national artists on the Elizabeth City waterfront. In concert with Harbor Arts Festival, local restaurants prepare and serve their finest delights during Taste of the Albemarle. Call (252) 338-6455. artsaoa.com

NORTH CAROLINA ART POTTERY EXHIBIT

May 14 (opening day) – April 2012

North Carolina's rich art pottery tradition will have a turn in the spotlight when the Museum of the Albemarle hosts *Formed, Fired and Finished*, beginning May 14, 2011 in Elizabeth City. The exhibition will feature a collection of more than 90 pottery pieces on loan from Dr. Everett James and Dr. Nancy Farmer, of Chapel Hill. Showcasing unusual works by talented potters, it will be the first and largest showing of North Carolina pottery in Eastern North Carolina. The exhibition will be up for a year, and admission is free. museumofthealbemarle.com or (252) 335-1453.

DOWNTOWN WATERFRONT MARKET

May 7 (opening day) – October

Experience the bounty of the county as local farmers present their harvest of fruits, vegetables, herbs, dairy products, baked goods, plants and flowers. Also featured will be homemade pet foods, handcrafted wares, jewelry, arts and crafts and more! Come join local farmers and merchants from northeastern North Carolina, open Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the green at Mariners' Wharf Park. DowntownWaterfrontMarket.com or (252) 338-0169.

NORTH CAROLINA POTATO FESTIVAL

May 21

Saddle up your horses cowboys—it's time to head to the 'tater patch"! This year's North Carolina Potato Festival, May 21, will transform Elizabeth City into a rootin' tootin' Wild West town. Festival organizers have adopted a western theme for this year's event, recognized by the N.C. Main Street Program with a 2010 award of merit for "best downtown event." Shop and dine among nearly 60 food, arts and crafts vendors lining

the Main Street thoroughfare, and enjoy live music on the festival's main stage. ncpotatofestival.com or (252) 338-4104.

MARINERS' WHARF FILM FESTIVAL

June 7, 14, 21, 28 and July 5, 12, 19, 26.

With the Pasquotank River as backdrop, enjoy classic American films on a large outdoor screen. The Mariners' Wharf Film Festival presents films Tuesday nights, at 8:30 p.m. through July. Bring a blanket or low beach chair and enjoy a free flick! marinerswharffilmfestival.com or (252) 338-6389.

BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL AT NORTH RIVER CAMPGROUND

June 4

Listen live! Hear traditional and gospel bluegrass artists, the Coastland Bluegrass Band, perform from 11 a.m.–2 p.m. and an additional performance at 3 p.m. northrivercampground.com or (252) 336-4414.

INTERNATIONAL CUP REGATTA

June 4 – 5

Powerboat excitement comes to the Elizabeth City waterfront, June 4-5, when the International Cup Regatta features two days of music, food, family fun and speed on the Pasquotank River! See vintage boats from the '40s to the '80s join today's inboard hydroplanes, jersey speed skiffs and junior class boats. Concessions and exhibits. Free admission. carolinacupregatta.com or (252) 339-0795.

Elizabeth City

Elizabeth City is located in Northeastern North Carolina on the Intracoastal Waterway, halfway between Virginia Beach 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, The Center at Arts of the Albemarle, Elizabeth City State University Planetarium, Port Discover Hands-on Science Center and the nation's largest U.S. Coast Guard base. Nature-based travelers are drawn to the area's proximity to 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 or visit www.DiscoverElizabethCity.com. For up-to-date info on area happenings and events, visit www.ElizabethCityHASit.com

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