

# BLOCK

A R O U N D T H E

Downtown Columbia — The Capital of Southern Hospitality

March/April 2007 Volume 6 Number 2

## Columbia Festival of the Arts

The Columbia Festival of the Arts is a celebration of the wonderful arts and culture that we have here in the Midlands area. The goal of the Columbia Festival of Arts is to remind both locals and visitors that Columbia is a destination for great art and culture. The festival will run from April 26 to May 6, and there will be performances and exhibits from just about every realm of the art world. Trustus and Workshop Theatre will have opening performances and The Town Theatre – the oldest continuously running community theatre in the country – will be performing the Broadway favorite *Cats*. The Columbia City Ballet and Columbia City Jazz, will have special performances, as well as the University dance company's performance of a beloved Martha Graham piece.

These performances are in addition to world-class exhibitions at the South Carolina State Museum, the Columbia Museum of Art, and a great family event at EdVenture Children's Museum. There will also be an exciting Cinco De Mayo Celebration hosted by Hispanic Connections in Finlay Park.

There are several other events as well, from Jazz in the award-winning Riverbanks Botanical Gardens to a Film Crawl along historic Main Street Columbia. Columbia's artists will be honored at the induction of the Columbia Arts Hall of Fame, a free concert of area musicians will be held mid-week, and a two-day tour of working artist studios in Richland and Lexington counties will familiarize people with artists who are already known around the country. Finally, as is only appropriate,



the festival will close with a free outdoor concert at Finlay Park. The South Carolina Philharmonic, as well as the Benedict Choir will perform and amaze the crowd in conjunction with a stunning fireworks finale. After this extravagant 11-day event comes to a close, Columbia locals and visitors will be sure to remember the amazing arts and culture the Midlands has to offer. ☺



## Simply Delish Opens On Main Street

Simply Delish offers a wonderful new selection of breakfast and lunch. Their menu includes a full breakfast, specialty sandwiches and soups, hamburgers, daily blue plate specials, and much more. You can also try one of their take-out dinner casseroles to go... Just call ahead 4 hours and pick it up on the way home! Add a family salad for a complete dinner! Best of all, everything is homemade! They offer a tasty selection of home-canned items for sale, such as pickled vegetables and delicious sauces as well. Simply Delish is located at 1621-A Main, and is open Monday through Friday from 7am to 3pm. Call for Delivery (in the downtown area) or Carry-out 254-4376. ☎



## Main Street Marketplace Coming in May and June

Are you ready to get out of the house or office and take a fresh breath of spring air and have a little fun? If so, then make plans to join us for the Spring & Summer 2007 *Main Street Marketplace* every Friday in May and June. The Friday open-air markets will be held from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. at Boyd Plaza, in front of the Columbia Museum of Art. City Center Partnership's outdoor market offers free admission and entertainment, fresh produce, prepared foods, flowers, fine art, and handmade crafts. For more information on attending or being a vendor at the 2007 *Main Street Marketplace*, please contact Nicole Grubbs at 803-779-4005 ext. 2042 or [nicole@cartertodd.com](mailto:nicole@cartertodd.com). ☎

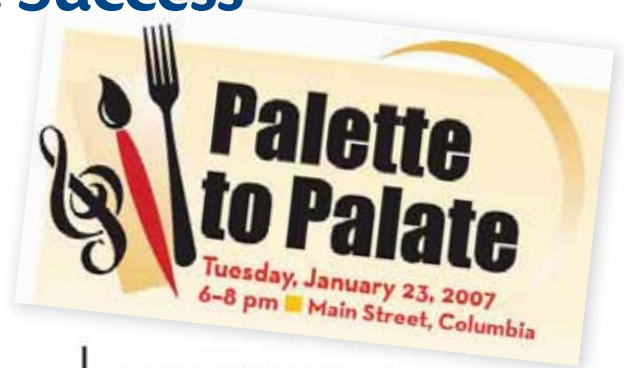


## Hong Kong Restaurant Open for Business!

A new Chinese restaurant has opened at 1211 Taylor Street. Hong Kong Restaurant offers traditional and authentic Chinese dishes, with a delicious lunch buffet every afternoon. It is open daily from 10:00 am to 10:00 pm, and the restaurant's quick service is convenient for both lunch and dinner. Stop by and try the great Chinese cuisine at Hong Kong Restaurant, or call 779-6689 to place a takeout order. ☎

# Palette to Palate = A Great Success

On Tuesday, January 23, the Cultural Council organized downtown's first Palette to Palate event. Participating downtown restaurants offered exclusive dinner specials and samples for tasting, accompanied by artists and their artwork. Attendees were able to enjoy an evening of food and the arts, while getting out and about on Main Street. Participating restaurants included Capitol Café, Hennessy's, Mac's on Man, Marriott Columbia, The Whig, and Villa Tronco. Restaurants reported anywhere from 20% to 50% increase in volume of people/sales with focus of revenues on drinks and beverages. Artists also fared well. The crowd had a wonderful time traveling down Main Street and enjoying the sights, sounds, and food of the evening. ☺



CULTURAL  
COUNCIL  
OF RICHLAND & LEXINGTON COUNTIES



Above: Artist Edie Biddle's impressionistic and abstract acrylics on display at Villa Tronco.



Above: Capitol Café serves a delicious sample of their shrimp and grits entree.



Right: A couple examines Judy Johnson's watercolor prints at Capitol Café.

## Oakley's Opens on Main

Oakley's Cobbler Shop is now open at 1629 Main Street, with a shoe shine and repair drop-off location in the Bank of America Plaza as well. In addition, you can drop off shoes at any of the 14 Tripp's Fine Cleaners locations. Oakley's fourth generation shoe repair center offers South Carolina's finest shoe repair and recrafting services. According to Oakley Dickson, he learned shoe repair from his grandmother in Orangeburg, and worked for two more years under his father, Milton, at Dickson's Old Cobbler Shoe Service in Irmo. With quality service and ultimate convenience, Oakley's Cobbler Shop is sure to please Main Street customers. ☺



## Best of Columbia Winners

Congratulations to the following businesses in the BID named "Best of Columbia 2007" by *Columbia Metropolitan Magazine*:

- Best cookie – Rising High
- Best business lunch – Hennessy's
- Best gymnastics gym – YMCA
- Best commercial real estate agency – Colliers Keenan
- Best art gallery – Columbia Museum of Art



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*City Center Partnership -  
Managing the Downtown Business Improvement District -  
Enhancing Property Value & The Quality Of Life For All*

## Upcoming Downtown Events

Check out the events calendar in our "Happenings" section  
on our web site at <http://www.citycentercolumbia.sc>.

From arts to entertainment to shopping to outdoor movies,  
you're sure to find something that interests you!

## Welcome to Downtown Columbia

**Hong Kong Restaurant**  
1211 Taylor Street

**Little Mendelson, P.C.**  
1201 Main Street, Suite 1930

**Simply Delish**  
1621-A Main Street

**Ratchford & May  
Attorneys at Law**  
2026 Assembly Street

**Kickstand Photography**  
1520 Main Street, Suite 1A

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