

BLOOM

AROUND THE K

Downtown Columbia — The Capital of Southern Hospitality

Jan/Feb 2007 Volume 6 Number 1

Automotive Design Genius Speaks in Columbia

The Renaissance Foundation hosted an appreciation breakfast at the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center and Visitors Bureau for the students who created the artwork for historic Bethel. This summer, the Renaissance Foundation unveiled works of art created by college students from colleges and universities throughout the Midlands including Benedict College, Columbia College, Claflin University and the University of South Carolina. The artwork was in the form of murals created to temporarily replace the stained glass windows at historic Bethel in downtown Columbia.

The speaker for the appreciation breakfast was Mr. Ralph Gilles, Vice President - Jeep/Truck and Component Design, Chrysler Group. Gilles is best known as the lead designer of the Chrysler 300C. Prior to being named VP of Jeep/Truck and Component Design, Chrysler Group in 2006, Gilles was Director of Truck Exterior/Interior Design Studio for Chrysler Group

in 2005. Additionally, Gilles served as the primary interior designer for the Dodge Viper GTS/R, Dodge ESX2 and Jeep® Jeepster concept vehicles, and the production versions of the 2003 Dodge Viper and 2002 Jeep Liberty. He also served as director of the Dodge Magnum, Chrysler 300C and Dodge Charger; and he was the director of the M80 Concept vehicle. Gilles' print highlights include being listed as one of "America's Most Powerful Players Under 40,"

Black Enterprise Magazine, Dec. 2005, where he was the only individual from the automotive industry recognized. Additionally, Gilles was ranked #13 in Motor Trend's list of Top 50 automotive industry players. ("The Power List," *Motor Trend Magazine*, Feb. 2005.)



Honorable E.W. Cromartie presents Mr. Ralph Gilles with a key to the city.



Murals were created to temporarily replace the stained glass windows at the historic Bethel in downtown Columbia.

City Center Partnership Relocates to 1201 Main Street

City Center Partnership is pleased to announce it has a new location on Main Street. The office is located in the Capital Center building at 1201 Main Street in Suite 150. The City Center Partnership is now only steps away from the Central South Carolina Alliance, Columbia Economic Development department, and the South Carolina Department of Commerce. "We're excited about this new opportunity to better serve our customers as well as work closely with other state and local economic development organizations."

Collexis Moves its U.S. Headquarters to Downtown Columbia

Collexis, Inc., which is led by Irmo native Bill Kirkland, has moved into the Capital Center building. Collexis' software searches and mines large amounts of data and information. The company's clients include such research heavyweights as the National Institutes of Health,

Merck, Lockheed Martin, and the World Health Organization. Collexis is set apart from standard search engines because of its ability to search and discover concepts, not just simple text. In a Collexis search, a researcher can paste paper or even a book into the window, execute the search

Collexis

and get an ordered list of only relevant material. Collexis knows the difference between Jaguar the car and jaguar the animal. Collexis' growing reputation is an asset to Columbia as it tries to build a knowledge-based economy. We're excited they've selected downtown as their home! ☺

Sherlock Holmes Returns to McCrory Building on Main Street After 2½ Years

Sherlock Holmes Pub is returning to Main Street during the first quarter of 2007. The pub was formerly located in the basement of the Palmetto Building on Main Street. Upon its return, the pub will occupy the basement in the McCrory Building at the corner of Main and Taylor Streets. Open for lunch and dinner, the pub will serve sandwiches, burgers, salads, lasagna, and will offer daily lunch specials. "We are very excited about coming back to Main Street," said Andrea Cooper, owner of the restaurant. ☺



The McCrory Building prior to being redeveloped.

New Social Club Locates to Main Street

The Argyle Social Club, also called the Columbia Athenaeum, an antebellum club and reading room for Columbia's businessmen and politicians, is making its home at 1537 Main Street. The Argyle Social Club, billed as an exclusive and sophisticated spot for Columbia's movers and shakers, will open its doors to members in the first quarter of 2007 at a cost of \$10,000 per equity share. Development partners Russell Cann and Daniel Rickenmann plan on a \$1.5 million rehabilitation project for the downtown landmark that sits between the Columbia City Ballet and the Columbia Museum of Art. The project along with the redevelopment of the McCrory Building, the grand opening of the Barringer Building, and many other residential and commercial redevelopment projects, are bringing Main Street back to life. ☺



Future home of The Argyle Social Club on 1537 Main Street.

Downtown Architects Receive Design Awards for 2006

Columbia architect Leland Suddeth brought together a team of four judges to meet at the Columbia Marriott last November to decide the best building designs in the Columbia area for 2006. The criteria to qualify included the building had to be local or designed by a local firm, regardless of site. The four judges were Robert Griffin of Asheville and Chris Schmitt of Charleston who are founders and principals in their respective architectural design practices. Charles Jeffcoat of Columbia, who is the campus architect for the University of South Carolina and John Temple Ligon of Columbia, who is a lecturer on architecture and urban design and the founder of the Wren Institute for Urban Research in Columbia were also among the judges. The dozens of entries were entered into categories and compared with their competitors in similar categories. There were nine honor awards and one merit mention. Overall, there was a Best of Show, the one favorite design regardless of category.



The new offices of Watson Tate Savory located at 1316 Washington Street.

Some of the winners included: The honor award for an urban structure sensitive to streetscape went to Stevens & Wilkinson of South Carolina Inc. for the Meridian Building. The honor award for interior architecture went to Quackenbush Architects and Planners for Midlands Technical College Airport Campus Café. The honor award for streetscape went to Watson Tate Savory for USC's Bull Street Parking Garage. The top honor award above all categories went to Watson Tate Savory for its Columbia headquarters



on Washington Street in the adapted Edgar Morris Law Office Building. Congratulations to all the downtown winners.☺

South Carolina's Fastest Growing Companies *Congratulations Downtown Businesses!*

Elliott Davis recently released its annual list of the state's 25 fastest-growing companies. Business Vitals, a downtown Columbia IT security and risk management company, was among the firms that made the cut. One company that is likely to show up on the 2007 list is BankMeridian, a downtown Columbia community bank that has been growing at a rapid pace. The bank, which opened in April, has grown to \$100 million in assets in a little more than six months. Passing the \$100 million threshold is clearly an indicator that BankMeridian is a growth company. The annual Elliott Davis list is based on self-reporting or nomination. Participation is open to public and private non-governmental entities representing any business or industry sector.☺



**CITY CENTER
PARTNERSHIP, INC.**

COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA

1201 Main Street, Suite 150
Columbia, SC 29201

803.233.0620

fax 803.233.0621

www.citycentercolumbia.sc

Around the Block
is created and produced by
CarterTodd & Associates, Inc.

If you would like to be added
to our mailing list, please email
info@citycentercolumbia.sc.

*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

Oakley's
1629 Main Street

Sherlock Holmes Pub
1556 Main Street

CCP Important Numbers:

Phone: 803.233.0620

Fax: 803.233.0621

Web Site: www.citycentercolumbia.sc
1201 Main Street, Suite 150
Columbia, SC 29201

Matt Kennell, *President and CEO*
matt@citycentercolumbia.sc

Karel Givens, *Director of
Support Services*
karel@citycentercolumbia.sc

Roger Davis, *Director of Operations*
roger@citycentercolumbia.sc
or 803.309.6967

Lorri-Ann Carter, *Director of
Marketing & Special Events*
la@cartertodd.com or 803.779.4005

Evening Supervisor 803.309.7758