



OCTOBER 7, 2008

PARADE NEWS AND NOTES

Plans for the Parade Marching On!

The Carolinas' Thanksgiving Day Parade presented by Belk takes place on Thursday, November 27, in uptown Charlotte.

The parade will step off at 10am on 9th & North Tryon Street, continue down Tryon to 3rd Street and then turn left to end near Marshall Park. It lasts approximately 2 hours.

Parade organizers moved the start time of the parade to 10am from its usual 1pm start to give parade-goers and participants more time to celebrate the Thanksgiving Day holiday with friends and family.

As it has since 1947, the Parade, with its marching bands, colorful floats, fun special units and exciting step bands and drill teams will give spectators a very special kick-off to

the holiday season.

Featured in the parade will be the Carrousel Queen and her Court, as well as Carrousel reps from area high schools. These senior girls from 58 area high schools are competing in the Belk Carrousel Scholarship Fund program. The Queen and her Court are the recipients of the scholarships that recognize academic excellence.

Leading off the parade will be this year's honor band from East Burke High School.

The Carolina Clowns, who have participated in the parade for over 50 years, will delight kids of all ages. TV's Raggs will have his own float, and the Panthers' Sir Purr, the Charlotte Knights' Homer the Dragon and Lowe's Motor Speedway's Lug Nut will ap-

pear in the parade.

This year's Grand Marshal is motorsports hall of famer Humpy Wheeler.



"This is one of the South's grand events and I am honored and privileged to be part of it," says Wheeler. "As a young boy in Belmont we looked forward to the parade as one of the highlights of the year and a grand reminder that Christmas was just around the corner. Great events like this add wonderful dimension to the Charlotte area and bring visitors from all over. My entire family is anticipating this with grand delight."

Carrousel Wedding Contest Deadline this week!



- Entry forms for the Carrousel Wedding Contest are due this Thursday, October 9.
- Eligible couples can win great prizes and will ride on the Carrousel Wedding float in the Thanksgiving Day Parade.
- Contest info and entry forms are available on the parade website: www.carolinasthanksgivingparade.org

Coming Uptown for the Parade

Many area residents come uptown to share in the excitement of the Carolinas' Thanksgiving Day Parade first-hand. We now have a couple of mass transit options to make the trip uptown convenient and easy.

We suggest that you ride CATS buses or the LYNX Blue Line to the Parade. Round-trip fare is \$3 for adults. Discounted fares for students, seniors and the disabled are available. Children under 5 ride free.

Buses arrive uptown one block from the Parade route and the LYNX Blue line has a station at 3rd Street providing access to the main route of the Parade. To learn more about routes, times and costs visit

www.ridetransit.org or call 704-336-RIDE(7433) to speak with a CATS customer service representative.

Support Second Harvest at the Parade

Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina is the charitable

partner of the Carolinas' Thanksgiving Day Parade.

Help end hunger by bringing a donation of canned or non-perishable food to the parade and dropping it off at one of the Second Harvest donation stations along the parade route.

For more information on how you can help Second Harvest, visit:

www.secondharvestcharlotte.org



Second Harvest
FOOD BANK
of Metrolina



Together We CAN End Hunger

Where to Stay

Uptown Charlotte is home to many fine hotels that are just steps away from our parade route. Here's a list:

Aloft Charlotte Uptown @The EpiCentre

210 E. Trade Street
Charlotte, NC 28202
Phone: 704-333-1999
Fax: 704-333-0699
*Scheduled to open
November 6, 2008*

Charlotte Marriott City Center*

100 W Trade Street
Charlotte, NC 28202
Phone: 704-333-9000
Fax: 704-347-1784

Courtyard Charlotte City Center

237 S. Tryon Street
Charlotte, NC 28202
Phone: 704-926-5800
Fax: 704-926-5801

Crowne Plaza Charlotte Hotel

201 S McDowell Street
Charlotte, NC 28204
Phone: 704-372-7550
Toll Free: 800-762.1995
Fax: 704-333-6737

Days Inn Central

601 N Tryon Street
Charlotte, NC 28202
Phone: 704-333-4733
Fax: 704-372-9925

Doubletree Hotel Gateway Village*

895 W Trade Street
Charlotte, NC 28202
Phone: 704-347-0070
Fax: 704-347-0267

Dunhill Hotel, The*

237 N Tryon Street
Charlotte, NC 28202
Phone: 704-332-4141
Fax: 704-376-4117

Hampton Inn Charlotte Uptown

530 E. 2nd St.
Charlotte, NC 28202
Phone: 704-373-0917
Fax: 704-377-5496

Hilton Charlotte Center City

222 East 3rd Street
Charlotte, NC 28202
Phone: 704-377-1500
Toll Free: 1-800-HILTONS
Fax: 704-331-4319

Hilton Garden Inn Charlotte Uptown

508 E. 2nd St.
Charlotte, NC 28202
Phone: 704-347-5972
Toll Free: 1-800-445-8667
Fax: 704-377-1519

Holiday Inn Center City

230 N. College Street
Charlotte, NC 28202
Phone: 704-335-5400
Toll Free: 1-877-894-6812
Fax: 704-376-4921

Omni Charlotte Hotel*

132 East Trade Street
Charlotte, NC 28202-2131
Phone: 704-377-0400
Toll Free: 1-800-843-6664
Fax: 704-347-4835

Residence Inn by Marriott/Charlotte Uptown Stadium

404 South Mint Street
Charlotte, NC 28202
Phone: 704-340-4000
Fax: 704-358-1211

The Blake Hotel

555 S.McDowell Street
Charlotte, NC 28204
Phone: 704-372-4100
Toll Free: 1-888-66-HOTEL
Fax: 704-348-4646

Westin Charlotte*

601 South College Street
Charlotte, NC 28202
Phone: 704-375-2600
Fax: 704-335-2110

Some hotels offer discounts for parade-goers. Contact the individual hotels for rates & packages.

*Thanksgiving Dinner will be offered at these hotels' restaurants. Call for details.

To learn more about these hotels and other accommodations in the Charlotte area, visit the Visit Charlotte website: www.charlottesgotalot.com

"Charlotte's skyline is ever-changing, but finding comfort in Charlotte's accommodations gets easier by the day. Whether looking for the luxuries of a full-service hotel or resort, the dependable comfort of a favorite hotel chain, or the quaint charm of a bed & breakfast or historic inn, you can find it in Charlotte."

www.charlottesgotalot.com