**City of Florence, Alabama**

**Founded March 12, 1818**

**Bicentennial Celebration Committee**

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**Schedule of Events**

**Go to** [**www.florence200.**](http://www.florence200.)**org for Event Details**

**THEMES**

**March – Birthday Celebration**

**April – Local Architecture**

**May – Arts**

**June – Frontier Days**

**July – Music**

**August – Education**

**September – Native American Heritage**

**October – Florence Homecoming**

**November – Faith/Houses of Worship**

**FEBRUARY**

* **February 15-17** – **SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR EXHIBIT** at Pope’s Tavern marking the 120th anniversary of that War and the sinking of the *USS Maine*

**MARCH**

* **Friday, March 2, 5:00-8:00 PM** – **FIRST FRIDAYS** – Bicentennial Kick-off in Downtown Florence
* **Monday, March 12, 3:30 PM** – **CITY’S BIRTHDAY PARTY** in Wilson Park: The party will include the Mayor reading the proclamation, the time capsule dedication, recognition of former Mayors, performances of music/choirs, birthday cake, and dedication of historical marker. Rain relocation- Florence-Lauderdale Public Library
* **Monday, March 12 – TROWBRIDGE’S 5-CENT ICE CREAM CONES** for its 100th Anniversary

**APRIL**

* **Friday, April 6, 5:00-8:00 PM** – **FIRST FRIDAYS** –Downtown Florence
* **Saturday, April 7, 10:00 AM** – **WALKING TOUR OF WILSON PARK** and surrounding buildings including the Federal Court Room. **Saturday, April 14, 10:00 AM** – **WALKING TOUR OF UPPER NORTH COURT STREET AND SEMINARY STREET.**
* **Saturday, April 21 10:00 AM** – **WALKING TOUR OF WALNUT STREET**
* **Friday, April 27, 11:30 AM** – **BICENTENNIAL TREE DEDICATION** – **Deibert Park** – Florence Beautification Board
* **Saturday, April 28, 10:00 AM – WALKING TOUR OF FLORENCE CEMETERY.**
* **Sundays in April** – **ROSENBAUM HOUSE TOURS—**
* **Sunday, April 8, 2:00 PM—KEN BURNS DOCUMENTARY FILM ON FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT**
* **Sunday, April 15, 1:30 PM—ROSENBAUM FAMILY TALKS**
* **Sunday, April 22, 1:00 – 4:00 PM—Rosenbaum House – Free Tours**

**The Kennedy-Douglass Center for the Arts Portrait Gallery will feature 17 paintings of our founding fathers and historic leaders throughout the month of April. Open Monday-Friday, 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM.**

**MAY**

* **Friday, May 4, 5:00-8:00 PM** – **FIRST FRIDAYS** –Downtown Florence
* **Saturday, May 5, 10:00 AM—FORKS OF CYPRESS PLANTATION SITE & CEMETERY TOUR**
* **Saturday, May 5, 3:00-5:00 PM – FABRIC WORKSHOP–** Event will highlight our history of fabric, quilting, and cotton, at Alabama Chanin
* **Saturday, May 12, 1:00-3:00 PM – WOOD WORKSHOP** – Event will highlight our history of woodworking craftsmanship, conducted by John Moody, Highland Baptist Church Life Center
* **Saturday, May 12, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM** –**TEA TOWEL** **WORKSHOP** – conducted by Stacy Hamner at Reclaimed Spirit
* **Tuesday, May 15, 10:30 AM-1:30 PM – FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**, open archives and church tour
* **Friday & Saturday, May 18-19 – SHOALS STORYTELLING FESTIVAL,** Shoals Theater
* **Saturday & Sunday, May 19-20 – ARTS ALIVE FESTIVAL**
* **Saturday, May 26, 1:00-4:00 PM – CLAY WORKSHOP –** Event will highlight our history of clay as an art form, conducted by Aaron Benson at UNA
* **Monday, May 28, 11:00 AM – Memorial Day Ceremony** – Veterans Memorial, Veterans Park

**JUNE**

* **Friday, June 1, 5:00-8:00 PM** – **FIRST FRIDAYS** –Downtown Florence
* **Saturday, June 2, 10:00 AM** – **JOHN COFFEE CEMETERY** Dedication Ceremony (Coffee’s birthday), next to Wal-Mart, Cloverdale Rd
* **Saturday, June 2, 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM/Sunday, June 3, 1:00-4:00 PM** – **FRONTIER DAYS** at Pope’s Tavern
* **Sunday, June 3, 3:00 p.m. – SHOALS COMMUNITY BAND BICENTENNIAL CONCERT** – First Presbyterian Church, free
* **Tuesday, June 12, , 10:30 AM-1:30 PM – FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**, open archives and church tour
* **Saturday, June 23, 10:00 to Noon** – **KOREAN WAR VETERANS MEET & GREET** at Pope’s Tavern

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**The Kennedy-Douglass Center for the Arts will show the HOUSE & HOME EXHIBIT on loan from the National Building Museum in Washington, DC, featuring the housing evolution of the United States. The exhibit will run from MONDAY, JUNE 18, THROUGH AUGUST 9. The KD Center is open Monday-Friday, 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM.**

**JULY**

* **Wednesday, July 4 – FOURTH OF JULY – Fireworks and Entertainment** – McFarland Park
* **Friday, July 6, 5:00-8:00 PM** – **FIRST FRIDAYS** –Downtown Florence
* **July 20-29 – W. C. HANDY MUSIC FESTIVAL,** [**http://www.wchandymusicfestival.org/festival.htm**](http://www.wchandymusicfestival.org/festival.htm)
* **Sunday, July 22, 6:30-8:30 PM -** **OPENING BICENTENNIAL CEREMONIES ‘N HARMONY WITH NATURE LITTER-FREE EVENT** – held on the W. C. Handy Home & Museum Front Lawn, West College Street (Rain Location: Mt. Moriah PB Christian Life Center, West Irvine Avenue)
* **Thursday, July 26, 6:30-8:30 PM** – **BICENTENNIAL BEALE STREET BLUES ‘N HARMONY WITH NATURE LITTER-FREE EVENT** – held at Lewis Field, Florence (Rain Location: Burrell-Slater Gymnasium)
* **Friday, July 27, 5:00-10:00 PM –** **RIVERSIDE BICENTENNIAL JAZZ ‘N HARMONY WITH NATURE LITTER-FREE EVENT** – held at McFarland Park (Rain Location: Florence-Lauderdale Coliseum)

**AUGUST**

* School activities throughout the year
* **ARCHIVES IN UNA COLLIER LIBRARY,** open Monday-Friday, August 27-31, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
* **FLORENCE CITY SCHOOLS MEMORABILIA ROOM, Burrell-Slater School**, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, August 7-9 and 14-16, from 10:00 a.m.to 3:00 p.m.
* **Friday, August 3, 5:00-8:00 PM** – **FIRST FRIDAYS** –Downtown Florence
* **Sunday, August 12, 2:00 PM – “History of Education in Florence” Presentation** by Billy Warren**,** Florence-Lauderdale Public Library
* **Tuesday, August 14, 10:30 AM-1:30 PM – First Presbyterian Church,** open archives and church tour
* **Thursday, August 16, 12 Noon – Historical Personalities of First United Methodist Church,** by Billy Warren, $15 each, RSVP Church Office
* **Sunday, August 26, 2:00-4:00 PM – First United Methodist Church, “Artists in Residence”** with church tour
* **Sunday, August 26, 3:00-5:00 PM – Bethel Cumberland Presbyterian Church,** history & music

**SEPTEMBER**

* Educational resource package for teachers in the 4th and 10th grades for use in their classrooms
* Traveling Native American Museum
* **Friday, September 7, 5:00-8:00 PM** – **FIRST FRIDAYS** –Downtown Florence
* **Sunday, September 9, 8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. – First United Methodist Church** **196th Birthday** , “Building the Vision” Play by Brynda Musgrove
* **Sunday, September 9, 2:00 PM** – **NATIVE AMERICAN PRESENTATION “Creek Indian Removal, the Tennessee River, and the Shoals,”** by Dr. Chris Haveman, Asst. Prof., Un. of West Alabama, held at the Florence-Lauderdale Public Library
* **Tuesday, September 11, 10:30 AM-1:30 PM – First Presbyterian Church,** open archives and church tour
* **Wednesday, September 12, 10:30 AM-1:30 PM – First United Methodist Church,** open archives and church tour
* **Thursday, September 13, 11:00 AM-1:00 PM – Tabernacle M.B. Church,** church tour
* **Friday, September 14**, **11:00 AM** – **CANAL SYSTEM/WILSON DAM HISTORICAL MARKERS UNVEILING**, McFarland Park
* **Sunday, September 16, 2:00 PM** – **NATIVE AMERICAN PRESENTATION “Cherokee Occupation of North Alabama Pre-Removal”** by Shannon Keith, Pres., Trail of Tears Assoc., AL Chapter**,** held at the Florence Indian Mound Museum
* **Sunday, September 23, 2:00 PM** – **NATIVE AMERICAN PRESENTATION “Oakville Indian Mounds: Teaching Prehistory through Archelogy and Hands-On Activities”** by Anna Mullican, Cultural Resource Specialist, Lawrence County Schools’ Indian Education Program,held at the Florence-Lauderdale Public Library
* **Sunday, September 23, (Time TBD) – St. James M. B. Church**, church anniversary event with music
* **Wednesday, September 26, 10:30 AM-1:30 PM – First United Methodist Church,** open archives and church tour
* **Sunday, September 30, 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM – NATIVE AMERICAN MONTH CELEBRATION**, Indian Mound Museum
* **Sunday, September 30, 2:00 PM** – **NATIVE AMERICAN PRESENTATION “The Archaeology of the Tennessee River Valley”** by Matthew Gage, Director, Office of Archeological Research, Un. of Alabama**,** held at the Florence Indian Mound Museum

**OCTOBER**

* **Friday, October 5, 5:00-8:00 PM** – **FIRST FRIDAYS** –Downtown Florence
* **Saturday, October 20, 12:00 PM-3:00 PM – St. Mark Missionary Baptist Church,** open house, reception, and music
* **Saturday, October 20, 2:00-8:00 PM – REUNION AT THE RIVER -** a family event – McFarland Park
* **Saturday/Sunday, October 27-28 – ALABAMA RENAISSANCE FAIRE** – Wilson Park

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**NOVEMBER**

Area historic houses of worship will hold anniversary celebrations throughout the year

* **Friday, November 2, 5:00- 8:00 PM** – **FIRST FRIDAYS** –Downtown Florence
* **Friday, November 2, 4:00-6:00 PM – First Presbyterian Church,** open archives and church tour
* **Sunday, November 4, 2:00-4:00 PM – First Baptist Church,** open archives and church tour
* **Wednesday, November 7, 5:30 PM – St. Joseph Catholic Church**, Evening prayer and supper
* **Thursday-Saturday, November 8-10 – WORLD WAR I DISPLAY** at Pope’s Tavern for 100th Anniversary of the end of the War
* **Friday, November 9, 3:00-6:00 PM – Temple B’nai Israel,** historical exhibit and open house
* **Friday, November 9, 7:00 PM – Temple B’nai Israel,** Temple service and reception
* **Saturday, November 10, 10:00 AM-2:00 PM – Trinity Episcopal,** open archives and church tour
* **Sunday, November 11, 2:00 PM –** “**The Beginning of the Churches of Christ in Florence and Lauderdale County**” Presentation by Frank Richey**,** Old Mars Hill Church of Christ Building
* **Sunday, November 11, 11:00 AM (TENTATIVE DATE) – Veterans Day Ceremony –** Veterans Memorial, Veterans Park
* **Saturday, November 17 – Greater St. Paul AME Church,** W. C. Handy Birthday & open house
* **Sunday, November 18, 2:30-4:00 PM – Community Thanksgiving Service,** Shoals Theatre

**DECEMBER**

* **Friday, December 7, 5:00- 8:00 PM** – **FIRST FRIDAYS** –Downtown Florence
* **Friday, December 7, 6:00 PM – “EVERY LIGHT A PRAYER FOR PEACE” PROGRAM** at Pope’s Tavern, with “Pearl Harbor” display
* **Friday, December 14 (TENTATIVE DATE & TIME) 7:00 PM - BICENTENNIAL PARADE – Downtown Florence**

**In addition to these events, the Florence-Lauderdale Public Library has developed an extensive online historical timeline exhibit (**[**www.florencehistory.org**](http://www.florencehistory.org)**) detailing events that shaped and molded our community. It includes the above topics as well as a music timeline and an industry/agriculture/farming timeline for Lauderdale County. These timelines will be available throughout the year and for future generations. Visit:** [**https://www.flpl.org/**](https://www.flpl.org/)