**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 to 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 to 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. Meet in front of the KD Art Center
* **Saturday, April 7, 10:30 a.m. - BICENTENNIAL PARADE – Downtown Florence**
* **Saturday, April 14, 10:00 AM** – **WALKING TOUR OF UPPER NORTH COURT STREET AND SEMINARY STREET.** Meet in front of Roger’s Hall at UNA
* **Saturday, April 21 10:00 AM** – **WALKING TOUR OF WALNUT STREET.** Meet at the corner of Hermitage Drive and 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.** Meet inside the cemetery on Tennessee Street
* **Sundays in April** – **ROSENBAUM HOUSE TOURS—**All events begin at the Richards Center next to the Rosenbaum House Admissions and Gift Shop. Enter through double doors.
* **Sunday, April 8, 2:00 PM—KEN BURNS DOCUMENTARY FILM ON FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT**
* **Sunday, April 15, 1:30 PM—HISTORICAL MARKER DEDICATION followed by talks with the Rosenbaum Family**
* **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 to 8:00 PM** – **FIRST FRIDAYS** –Downtown Florence
* **Saturday, May 5, 10:00 AM—FORKS OF CYPRESS PLANTATION SITE & CEMETERY TOUR**
* **Saturday, May 5 – FABRIC –** Event will highlight our history of fabric, quilting, and cotton, conducted by Alabama Chanin
* **Saturday, May 12 – WOOD** – Event will highlight our history of woodworking craftsmanship, conducted by John Moody
* **Friday & Saturday, May 18-19 – STORYTELLING FESTIVAL,** Shoals Theater
* **Saturday & Sunday, May 19-20 – ARTS ALIVE FESTIVAL**
* **Saturday, May 26: CLAY –** Event will highlight our history of clay as an art form, conducted by Aaron Vincent
* **Monday, May 28, 11:00 a.m. – Memorial Day Ceremony** – Veterans Memorial, Veterans Park

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**JUNE**

* **Friday, June 1, 5:00 to 8:00 PM** – **FIRST FRIDAYS** –Downtown Florence
* **Saturday, June 2** – **JOHN COFFEE CEMETERY** Dedication Ceremony (Coffee’s birthday)
* **Saturday/Sunday, June 2-3** – **FRONTIER DAYS** at Pope’s Tavern
* **Saturday, June 23, 10:00 to Noon** – **KOREAN WAR VETERANS MEET & GREET** at Pope’s Tavern

**JULY**

* **Friday, July 6, 5:00 to 8:00 PM** – **FIRST FRIDAYS** –Downtown Florence
* **Wednesday, July 4 – FOURTH OF JULY – Fireworks and Entertainment** – McFarland Park
* **Tuesday, July 17, 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. – First Presbyterian Church,** open archives and church tour
* **July 20-29 – W. C. HANDY MUSIC FESTIVAL**

**AUGUST**

* School activities throughout the year
* **ARCHIVES IN COLLIER LIBRARY** at UNA open Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. throughout the month
* **Friday, August 3, 5:00 to 8:00 PM** – **FIRST FRIDAYS** –Downtown Florence
* **Sunday, August 12, 2:00 p.m. – PRESENTATION: History of Education in Florence, by Billy Warren,** Florence-Lauderdale Public Library
* **Tuesday, August 14, 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. – First Presbyterian Church,** open archives and church tour
* **Saturday, August 18** – **ROAD RALLY** – a community scavenger hunt to area historical sites
* **Sunday, August 26, 3:00-5:00 p.m. – Bethel Cumberland Presbyterian Church,** History & Music

**SEPTEMBER**

* Art exchange involving Native American tribes in Oklahoma
* 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 to 8:00 PM** – **FIRST FRIDAYS** –Downtown Florence
* **Sundays, September 9 and 23** – **NATIVE AMERICAN PRESENTATIONS** held at the Florence-Lauderdale Public Library
* **Tuesday, September 11, 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. – First Presbyterian Church,** open archives and church tour
* **Thursday, September 13, 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. – Tabernacle M.B. Church,** church tour and open house
* **Sundays, September 16 and 30** – **NATIVE AMERICAN PRESENTATIONS** held at the Indian Mound Museum

**OCTOBER**

* **Friday, October 5, 5:00 to 8:00 PM** – **FIRST FRIDAYS** –Downtown Florence
* **Tuesday, October 16, 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. – First Presbyterian Church,** open archives and church tour
* **Saturday, October 20 – St. Mark Missionary Baptist Church,** open house and reception
* **Saturday, October 20 – REUNION AT THE RIVER -** a family event – McFarland Park
* **Saturday/Sunday, October 27-28 – ALABAMA RENAISSANCE FAIRE**

**NOVEMBER**

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

* **Friday, November 2, 5:00 to 8:00 PM** – **FIRST FRIDAYS** –Downtown Florence
* **Friday, November 2, 4:00-7:00 p.m. – First Presbyterian Church,** open archives and church tour
* **Saturday/Sunday, November 3-4**  – **BATTLE OF FLORENCE** – Re-enactment of the first Battle of Florence with infantry, artillery, and cavalry units at McFarland Park
* **Sunday, November 4 – First Baptist Church,** open archives and church tour
* **November 8-10 – WORLD WAR I DISPLAY** at Pope’s Tavern for 100th Anniversary of the end of the war
* **Friday, November 9 – Temple B’nai Israel,** historical exhibit and open house
* **Saturday, November 10 – Trinity Episcopal, Open archives, church tour**
* **Sunday, November 11, 11:00 a.m. – Veterans Day Ceremony –** Veterans Memorial, Veterans Park
* **Saturday, November 17 – Greater St. Paul AME Church,** W. C. Handy Birthday & open house
* **Sunday, November 18 – Community Celebration,** Shoals Theatre

**DECEMBER**

* **Friday, December 7, 6:00 p.m. – “EVERY LIGHT A PRAYER FOR PEACE” PROGRAM** at Pope’s Tavern, with “Pearl Harbor” display

In addition to these events, the Florence-Lauderdale Public Library has developed an extensive online historical timeline exhibit 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: