**City of Florence, Alabama**

**Founded March 12, 1818**

**Bicentennial Celebration Committee**

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**Schedule of Events**

**As of February 6, 2018**

**(Note that some themed events will be held during other**

**times of the year than the month in which they are listed.)**

**MARCH – Theme: Birthday Celebration**

* **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, dedication of historical marker
* **Monday, March 12 – TROWBRIDGE’S 5-CENT ICE CREAM CONES** for its 100th Anniversary
* **PARADE** – Date to be determined

**APRIL – Theme: Local Architecture**

* **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 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.
* **Saturday, April 28, 10:00 AM – WALKING TOUR OF FLORENCE CEMETERY.** Meet inside the cemetery on Tennessee Street.
* **Saturday, May 5, 10:00 AM—FORKS OF CYPRESS PLANTATION SITE & CEMETERY TOUR**
* **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, 2:00 PM— BOOK SIGNING, RANDY HENNING,** author of book on Aaron Green

**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 – Theme: Arts**

* **May 5 – FABRIC –** Event will highlight our history of fabric, quilting, and cotton
* **May 12 – WOOD** – Event will highlight our history of woodworking craftsmanship
* **May 19-20 – ARTS ALIVE FESTIVAL**
* **May 26: CLAY –** Event will highlight our history of clay as an art form

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**JUNE – Theme: Frontier Days**

* **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*
* **June 2** – **JOHN COFFEE CEMETERY** Dedication Ceremony (Coffee’s birthday)
* **June 2-3** – **FRONTIER DAYS** at Pope’s Tavern
* **June 23** – **KOREAN WAR VETERANS MEET & GREET** at Pope’s Tavern
* **November 3-4**  – **BATTLE OF FLORENCE** – Re-enactment of the first Battle of Florence with infantry, artillery, and cavalry units at McFarland Park
* **November 8-10 – WORLD WAR I DISPLAY** at Pope’s Tavern for 100th Anniversary of the end of the war
* **December 7 – “EVERY LIGHT A PRAYER FOR PEACE” PROGRAM** at Pope’s Tavern, with “Pearl Harbor” display

**JULY – Theme: Music**

* **July 4 – FOURTH OF JULY – Fireworks and Entertainment** – McFarland Park
* **July 20-29 – W. C. HANDY MUSIC FESTIVAL**

**AUGUST – Theme: Education**

* Overall Goal: To celebrate the fact that, since 1820 (just two years after its founding), Florence has been known for its commitment to the education of its citizens
* School activities throughout the year
* **Saturday, August 18** – **ROAD RALLY** – a community scavenger hunt to area historical sites
* **ARCHIVES IN COLLIER LIBRARY** at UNA open Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. throughout the month

**SEPTEMBER – Theme: Native American Heritage**

* Art exchange involving Native American tribes in Oklahoma
* **Sundays, September 9 and 23** – **NATIVE AMERICAN PRESENTATIONS** held at the Library
* **Sundays, September 16 and 30** – **NATIVE AMERICAN PRESENTATIONS** held at the Indian Mound Museum
* Educational resource package for teachers in the 4th and 10th grades for use in their classrooms
* Traveling Museum

**OCTOBER – Theme: Florence Homecoming**

* **Saturday, October 20 – REUNION AT THE RIVER -** a family event – McFarland Park
* **Saturday/Sunday, October 27-28 – ALABAMA RENAISSANCE FAIRE**

**NOVEMBER – Theme: Faith/Churches**

* **Sunday, November 18 – COMMUNITY CELEBRATION,** Shoals Theatre
* Area historic churches will hold anniversary celebrations throughout the year

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.