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Weekend activities brings a stroll and cycling to Uptown Lexington

Lexington, NC. It's not unusual to see a few bicycles around uptown Lexington. But during the weekend of July 8-9, that number will increase dramatically thanks in part to the annual cycling event that occurs in uptown Lexington.

“This is the fourth year, the board of the Piedmont Triad Omnium has selected the streets of uptown Lexington for the criterium portion of the race,” said Jo Ellen Edwards, Executive Director of ULI. “Our merchants thought it having a stroll the previous evening with a cycling theme would encourage people to come back uptown on Saturday to watch some great bike racing while also shopping and dining in uptown.” The criterium portion of the Omnium pits racers against each other on a rectangular course that spans from West Center Street to State Street to East Fourth Avenue to South Main. Races begin at 2 pm on Saturday and the final race concludes around 8:30 pm. Great vantage spots for race watching are the Start/Finish line on South Main at 1st Avenue, on the lawn of the old Post Office at Main and 3rd Avenue, and on parking lots along State Street. For more information about the Criterium or Omnium visit www.thepiedmonttriadomnium.com.

To get people thinking about coming back uptown for the criterium portion of the Piedmont Triad Omnium on Saturday, Uptown Lexington, Inc. and participating uptown merchants will host a “Cycling Stroll” from 6-8 pm on Friday evening.

Like the previous strolls, activities will include music, a classic car cruise-in, and sidewalk chalk art in addition to great shopping and dining – all within the uptown district.

During this stroll, there will be **cycling activities for kids** on West Second Avenue. Sgt. Shannon Sharpe and fellow officers from the Lexington Police Department along with Lynn Staley and ULI volunteers will teach kids bike safety and test their skills during a bike rodeo from 6-7 pm. From 7-8 pm, children ages 4-15 can compete in street sprints for prizes that include gift certificates from uptown merchants. “We wanted kids to have the experience of racing on an uptown street similar to what the riders will be doing on Saturday,” said Edwards. “Plus, all who participate will receive

their choice of a *Pigs in the City* coloring book or poster.” Riders are encouraged to bring their own bikes and helmets; however, a limited number of bikes and helmets will be available for use. For families who wish to also shop, dine or enjoy the other stroll activities, bikes can be checked with a volunteer on West Second Avenue. Children will compete in age groups for the sprints: 4-6 years will race at 7:15 pm, 7-10 years at 7:30 and 11-15 years at 7:45 pm.

Performing from 6-8 pm in the Conrad & Hinkle Square will be the **Kickin’ Kountry Band**.

Comprised of Joey Alexander, John Nickels, Lawrence Prevette and Tracy Ramsey the band plays a mix of modern and classic country, along with a little beach and some old time rock-n-roll. “There is something for everyone”, said Alexander.

Kickin’ Kountry originated as the house band at Rocky Acres Music Barn in Lexington in mid-2008 and still performs there every Monday night and on other special occasions providing a great variety of country dance music.

Band members come from a variety of musical backgrounds and all members are talented singers with each one being accomplished musicians on a variety of instruments.

Approximately 40 **classic cars** lined the square quadrants at the Jazzy June stroll on June 17th. “We’re hoping for great weather to bring out even more cars at this stroll,” said Edwards. “This stroll activity seems to be a favorite for all age groups. Our oldest registered car at the last stroll was a 1940 Chevrolet truck owned by Bill Leonard.”

To be eligible for a prize, car owners should register with volunteers in the Monument quadrant of the square starting at 5:30. Cars should be in place by 6:15.

“**Miss Charlotte**, a miniature pot belly pig and Uptown Lexington’s mascot, made her first public appearance at the June stroll and was a treat for young and old alike,” said Edwards. Miss Charlotte’s owners, Mark and Heather Beeson with Beeson Kennels and Upper DC Cattle Company, will bring Miss Charlotte back to greet her friends. “She is now just over 3 months old. We can’t wait to see how much she has grown in 3 weeks,” said Edwards. Stop by to see Miss Charlotte in the Monument Square.

Also in the Monument Square will be a children’s **sidewalk chalk art area** sponsored by Arts United for Davidson County. At the last stroll budding artists of all ages colored pig outlines while other drew their own. The colorful pigs filled the sidewalk causing many to stop and look or watch as the designs took shape.

Many businesses and restaurants will expand their usual Friday evening hours for the Stroll and Cruise In. Uptown Lexington Participating Merchant Partners include: All About Education, Army Navy Store, Black Chicken Coffee, Café 35, Catherine's Curtains, Conrad & Hinkle, Gallery Hall, High Rock Outfitters, Lanier Hardware, Magnolia Antiques and Gifts, Main Street Pizza & Deli, Memories on Main, Merle Norman Cosmetics, Natural Home Lite, Pandora's Books, Posh Paws, Primrose Salon, Red Door Antiques, Sheets' Dance Academy, The Candy Factory, The Backyard Retreat, The Olde Homestead, and Village Grill.

There will be two other ULI sponsored strolls: Summer Stroll on July 22nd featuring Greg and the BBQ Band and the Back to School Stroll on August 5th will feature the Sound of Light Band.

For more information about the Stroll and Cruise In call Uptown Lexington, Inc. at 336-249-0383, or find us on Facebook or visit us at www.uptownlexington.com.
