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Memorial Day Stroll and Cruise In Marks Beginning of Summer Activities in Uptown

Lexington, NC. Uptown Lexington, Inc. (ULI) and the participating uptown merchants invite you to come uptown on Friday, May 27th from 6-8 pm to kick-off the summer season with them at the first Stroll of the year.

“The 2011 Strolls mark the 10th year ULI and the uptown merchants have coordinated this event,” said Michael Holshouser, President of the ULI Board of Directors. “The ULI Promotions Committee has selected some new musical groups and planned activities to include a little something for everybody.”

Memorial Day Stroll activities include music, a classic car cruise-in, a rap contest, patriotic music and presentation of the colors, pigs, sidewalk chalk art plus great shopping and dining – all within the uptown district. “ULI and our merchants invite you to come *“Meet Us On Main Street”* said Holshouser.

Headlining the evening’s activities will be **“Greg and the BBQ (Beach & Blues Quintet) Band”** who will be performing from 6-8 pm in the Conrad & Hinkle Square. Playing a mix of popular songs including beach, classic rock, blues, and a touch of country, everyone is sure to hear a favorite sometime during the evening. This group also includes several familiar faces...Terry Battle on vocals, David Rupard on bass and vocals, Dru Davis on keyboard and vocals, Earl Snipes on guitar and vocals, Shane Rudisill on drums and vocals, and Greg Williamson on saxophone, keyboard and vocals. (Photo is attached.)

“Because Friday night is the start to Memorial Day weekend, we are encouraging those attending to show their patriotism by **wearing red, white and blue**. We will also conclude the music in the square with something a little different”: said Jo Ellen Edwards, ULI’s Executive Director. Students from the Lexington Senior High Chorus will perform the National Anthem while members of the ROTC present the colors. What is the meaning behind the celebration of Memorial Day? Jerry Hedrick, Commander of the American Legion Post 8, will be on hand to answer questions. Everyone is encouraged to **meet in the square at 8 pm**.

On West Second Avenue, young and old alike are invited to come and rap with DJ Chilly. “This is the first time we have hosted a **Rap Contest** as part of a Stroll,” said Edwards. “Uptown Lexington is everybody’s downtown and we hope this contest brings a new group uptown to experience our shops and restaurants. Chilly says you can bring your own beats or he will have some to pick from. He also asked that contestants sign in between 5:15 and 5:45 and has limited it to individuals or a group of 2 people.” A panel of judges will select the two best contestants who will win gift certificates from a variety of uptown merchants.

A warm summer evening and **classic cars** just seem to go together. Classic cars will line the four quadrants of the squares starting at 6 pm. Last year, owners from Davidson and surrounding counties brought vehicles that included everything from muscle cars from the 60’s to hot road roadsters to a restored ambulance. “Enthusiasm and interest grew with each stroll last summer. So we can’t wait to see the cars this year,” said Edwards. Car owners should register in the green ULI tent in the square starting at 5:30. Cars should be in place by 6:15. A prize will be awarded to the oldest car registered.

Also in the square will be a children’s **sidewalk chalk art area** sponsored by Arts United for Davidson County and coordinated by Melinda Hedrick. “Of course we’ll have pigs as a theme, but we’re looking for all sorts of designs to decorate our sidewalks,” said Hedrick.

Officially unveiled at the Memorial Day Stroll will be the 2011 “**Hoofin Map**” which will once again help visitors and residents alike locate the whimsically decorated pigs both within the uptown district and those that are located in and around Lexington. “Since 2003 for ULI, summertime has meant a celebration of our barbecue heritage and *Pigs in the City*” said Edwards. “With over 32 pigs on the sidewalks or inside businesses in uptown Lexington and 29 around Lexington, there are lots of pigs to see.”

‘Hoofin Maps’ can be picked up at Uptown Lexington’s office (4 East First Avenue), at select merchants in the uptown district, and at the ULI tent on the square during the Memorial Day Stroll and Cruise In tomorrow night.

Many businesses and restaurants will expend 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, Lanier Hardware, 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 Olde Homestead, and Village Grill.

Additional Stroll dates and themes are: Jazzy June Stroll on June 17th, Cycling Stroll on July 8th and the Back to School Stroll on August 5th.

For more information about the Memorial Day Stroll and Cruise In or *Pigs in the City*, call Uptown Lexington, Inc. at 336-249-0383.
