

Perfect placement for your lifestyle



Billy Mallette
your rental/relocation specialist
bmallette@kluttspropertymanagement.com
C - 704-345-7007

\$675 — Elizabeth • 2100 E. 7th Street, Unit 3
2br, 1bt, 800 sq. ft. Condo

A breath of fresh air! Hardwood floors throughout. Central air and gas heat. Washer/Dryer connections. Situated in a tree-lined neighborhood. Close to Uptown, NoDa, cultural, shopping and dining venues.



50% off 1st month's rent, these two properties!

\$1,100 — Plaza-Midwood • 2628 Mason Circle
3br, 2.5bt, 1,500 sq. ft. Townhome

Executive rental! Fully furnished, newly built. Great room with see-through fireplace, hardwood floors. Convenient to Uptown, NoDa, restaurants and more.



Full service agency with the best agents in the city waiting to assist you with your "Family" styled living

**KLUTTS
PROPERTY
MANAGEMENT**

**www.klutts.info
704.409.7585**

Organizers face economic and financial

from page 1

feel that this could also be due to fear of being associated with such an event in our area."

Other Palmetto State Prides are also feeling a pinch, but are moving full-steam ahead. Ryan Wilson, president of the South Carolina Pride Movement (SCPM), says organizers there are excited about their plans — the entertainment-wish list includes out comedienne Wanda Sykes — but are being realistic when it comes to funding expectations.

"So far we have struggled to raise the funds that we have raised," he says. "We are nowhere near our goals."

SC Pride also expects some gaps in public and private funding.

"We may not be able to count on grants and major sponsorships so we will continue to cut costs where we can and come up with more creative ways to raise funds," he says.

Last year, the SC Pride festival and parade received a sizeable \$10,000 grant from the City of Columbia. Wilson says they've been notified that such public grants could be reduced by 25 percent or more, as governments are left dealing with decreased income and revenue streams, budget crunches and impending layoffs.

Wilson says the group has applied for a total of \$50,000 worth of grants for SC Pride and another \$15,000 for the Harriet Hancock Community Center.

SC Pride is hoping community members will shore up any possible losses. In celebration of their 20th anniversary, they're encouraging folks to renew their annual SCPM memberships for a special rate of \$20 per person. But the group knows they aren't the only ones feeling the squeeze.

"We know that our community is suffering and may not have the funds to travel as much

this summer," Wilson says, "that's why we remain committed to offering as many free events as possible."

Pride Charlotte organizers Denise Palm-Beck and Jonathan Hill also recognize the economic situation will have an impact on how community members choose to spend their money.

"We need to be cognizant of the economic situation," Palm-Beck says, noting that this year Pride Charlotte won't be expanding their festival grounds at Gateway Village.

Like SC Pride, Pride Charlotte is looking to give back to community members. They'll keep things low-cost on their end and keep events as cheap or as free as they can. As in years past, their annual festival on July 25 will continue to be free for participants.

"We also decided not to raise vendor fees, to help businesses and vendors with the crunch," Hill says.

Palm-Beck says she hasn't seen a significant change in donations and sponsorships from last year, but says the group is keeping their tabs on the situation. "We'd be silly if we weren't keeping that in mind," she says.

If there are gaps in funding, perhaps it comes from corporate sponsors giving less. Hill says the time is ripe for garnering more support from an increased number of corporate allies. "The [NCAA] basketball tournament had more sponsors this year than they ever have," he says.

Charlotte Black Gay Pride organizer Lyncioia Handy says his group's fundraising levels have been almost the same as last year, despite some challenges.

"Securing funds has always been a difficult part to making the weekend happen," he says. "Some of the problems we have encountered in the past we still encounter as we attempt to raise the funds. The economy being what it is really hasn't hampered

or thrown a monkey wrench in our plans."

see next page >



Upstate Pride will celebrate its first-ever march and parade on June 20 in Spartanburg.



OutWilmington welcomes RuPaul for their week-long series of events in June.

YOUR CAR + OUR EXPERTISE = EXCELLENCE

**B&R
AUTO SERVICE**

Under new family-friendly ownership



4400 South Boulevard . Unit C
Charlotte, NC 28209

704.523.2188

Hours:

Monday-Friday . 8 am - 6 pm

Saturday . 8 am - 1 pm

Full-Service Auto Repair Facility
all makes and models
serving Charlotte since 1930

10% Discount

10% Discount

10% Discount

for any of these services:

Tire Rotation • Wheel Balancing

Alignment - 2 & 4 Wheel

Windshield Wiper Blades

Fuel Injection Service • Coolant Flush



NORTH CAROLINA MOUNTAINS

Blowing Rock, Boone & Asheville

We also have properties available in a private, gated gay and lesbian community.

BLOWING ROCK AREA SALES & RENTALS

828-295-4272

Info@MarkLavin.com
www.MarkLavin.com

MLS