

North Carolina News Notes

by Lainey Millen . Q-Notes staff

GO a real smash

WILMINGTON — The grand opening on June 11 of the new location at 317 Castle St. for the OutWilmington Community Center was a rousing success. Over 300 people showed up to enjoy music, food and down



home fun. One of the focal points of the center is its artist exhibition area. Each month a central artist will adorn the rustic brick walls of the turn of the century building located in the revital-

ized area at Third and Castle, with his or her works, while a featured musician, arranged by Costello's Piano Bar, will play for the enjoyment of the crowd. A local restaurant will have some light refreshments to feature its delicacies and beverages will be on hand for a donation.

Included at the new center is a PRIDE store which showcases assorted items for sale to support the community. Hours are Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 1:30-4 p.m., Monday from 5-8 p.m., Saturday from 12-4 p.m., Sunday from 6-8 p.m. and Friday from 6-8 p.m.

For more information, visit www.outwilmington.com.

Cuisine vendors sought

CHARLOTTE — Do you own or work for a restaurant, cafe, caterer or other food service establishment? PRIDE Charlotte needs vendors to sell food and drinks on Aug. 26 at the festival at Gateway Village. The festival retains exclusivity on bottled water and beer sales, but everything else is fair game. All types of cuisine are welcome.

This is a great marketing opportunity for businesses and a chance to support Charlotte's LGBT community. For more details and to download vendor applications, visit www.PrideCharlotte.com.

Room is also available for other (non-food) vendors, both for-profit businesses and non-profit organizations.

Study seeks participants

STATEWIDE — Researchers associated with the psychology department at Michigan State University are currently pursuing research on sexual orientation harassment in the workplace.

They are seeking individuals to participate in an online survey. Individuals of all sexual orientations are invited to participate, although it is expected that such experiences will be more likely to occur among LGBT individuals.

The survey is completely anonymous. Responses are treated as confidential and all materials have been approved by MSU's human subjects review board. The survey should take approximately 30-40 minutes to complete. All participants are entered into a drawing for a \$100 cash prize.

To participate, use access number 56244

and visit psychology.msu.edu/RyanResearch/Encrypt/AccessID.asp.

For more information, send correspondence to Tamara A. Bruce, Industrial/Organizational Psychology, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI 48824-1117.

YMCA welcomes partners

CHARLOTTE — PrideSisters, after a vigilant campaign, has helped to secure partner or household memberships at the Uptown YMCA located at 301 S. College St. in the One Wachovia Center, Suite 200.

For more information on securing a membership, call 704-716-6400.

Photographer seeks subjects

STATEWIDE — Titus Heagins is seeking same-sex couples for portraiture sittings that will counter typical societal stereotypes of gay and lesbian families.

As an artist, Heagins intent is to create images that tend to normalize notions of "fantasies as well as stereotypes" about same-sex relations.

The portraits seek to explore those new notions visually. Additionally, couples are asked to write three paragraphs about their relationships.

Each family that participates will receive a fine art portrait.

Portfolios of his work are in the collections of Smithsonian Anacostia Museum of African American Art, Washington, D.C.; North Carolina Museum of Art, Raleigh, N.C.; North Carolina Central University Museum of Art, Durham, N.C.; Casa de Africa House Museum of Cuba, Havana Cuba; and LeHigh University Zoeller Museum, Bethlehem, Penn.

He received his Masters of Fine Art from the University of Michigan and his Bachelors degree in political science from Duke University.

For more information, call Heagins at 919-949-2561, email artotype@aol.com or visit www.titusheagins.com.

Enforcers needed

CHARLOTTE — If you want to make a real difference at the 2006 PRIDE Charlotte event on Aug. 26, then consider becoming an "Enforcer of the Peace."

As a way to help combat issues experienced by the presence of right-wing Christian groups at previous Pride celebrations, Enforcers will be on hand to act as buffers. The idea behind the initiative is to deflect the messages from hateful groups away from vulnerable groups, and if necessary, bring Pride attendees to the "Booth of Truth," where they will get positive messages about themselves and where individuals with special training are prepared to counteract the protestors' anti-gay rhetoric. They will also be able to contact security to have any protestor removed if they are on the grounds and getting out of hand.

Want to volunteer? Can you work for two to three hours on Aug. 26 at Gateway Village? Volunteers will get some training on dealing peacefully with hate groups and a free T-shirt.

If you can help out, contact Rev. Robert

see next page >

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