

Burlington Carousel Festival celebrates quarter of a century

Kyra Gemberling
Design Editor

From towering inflatable slides to a clown making colorful balloon animals, the landscape of Burlington's City Park was vibrant for this year's 25th annual Burlington Carousel Festival.

"The City Park is our largest park and serves as the location of our yearly festival," said Mary Faucette, special events supervisor for the Burlington Recreation and Parks Department. "It allows the community to stay local for an event, and since most of our rides are free, it provides a fun outing that's affordable for families."

The festival celebrates the legacy of the 100-year-old Dentzel Menagerie Carousel, which features 46 hand-carved animals and greets guests as they enter the park. The carousel is especially significant because it builds memories for children who come to the festival every year with their families to ride the carousel, according to Faucette.

"The carousel is always a lot of fun for children as they come back and have

a new experience each time," Faucette said. "Eventually, they can come back as adults and bring their own children, so it's a timeless piece that creates memories all throughout their lives."

This year's festival featured an array of children's activities, food vendors, live music performances and more than 50 local artists selling their work, including artisan Randy Everett from Colfax. Everett started a full-time carving business when he lost his job in communications in 2001. He started selling his hand-carved signs and large chainsaw carvings at the festival eight years ago.

"There are a lot of good people here at the festival and a lot of regulars," Everett said. "A lot of the same people come here and watch me carve every year, and they always like to see me doing different stuff."

The festival also presented an opportunity for local organizations to promote their work.

Teen to Teen Theatre will be presenting "Alice in Wonderland Jr." Sept. 27-30, so the show's teen actors came to the festival dressed in costume to hand

out fliers advertising a preview of their performance. Madeline Wilvers, who plays the Queen of Hearts in the show and is also a student in Elon Academy, said she was excited to enjoy the festival while promoting her play.

"I've really liked walking around and seeing all of the different booths because you can do everything from getting hand-drawn horse pictures to getting your face painted," Wilvers said. "There are also other shows advertising here, so it's cool to see all the variety."

Festival attendees were pleased with the diverse variety of activities, according to Stephanie Meadows and Troy Horan, who recently moved to the Burlington area after Horan accepted a position at LabCorp.

"We're impressed by a lot of the art stuff that we specifically came out to enjoy," Meadows said. "We actually hadn't been to the carousel itself, so it was pretty interesting to come out and see the carousel, as well as experience how big of an impact the festival has on this community."

The positive effect on the commu-



MERISSA BLITZ | Staff Photographer

Local children's entertainer Clown Willie creates balloon animals for festival goers.

nity is what Faucette said she loves most about the festival, and she's glad to see all of the hard work of the Recreation and Parks Department come together year after year.

"It's a team effort across the department for planning and executing the event," Faucette said. "We love seeing the community participate and embrace everything about the festival."

Revamped SUB box office program reels in success

Rebecca Wickel
Features Editor

Outings to the movie theater don't always fit into the average college student's budget. But with its Movie Run program, Elon University's Student Union Board has been helping to offset the cost of a night at Carousel Cinemas in Alamance Crossing since 2005.

Previously, students could purchase \$5 tickets from 5-6 p.m. at the Moseley Center front desk once a month. But Friday, Sept. 14., SUB debuted a new model, allowing students to purchase discounted tickets all day in its office. Junior Brandon Lundie, SUB's special events co-chair, said he was impressed by student interest.

"We've had a huge turnout," Lundie said. "Usually it only goes on for an hour on Friday nights, but we've changed it to be all day to try and get more people, people who can't make it during that time frame."

According to SUB, offering tickets all day in the office gave more students the opportunity to come and more time to get the word out. They hoped a higher number of students would hear about the offer.

"Usually there would be a line of people who get there really early," Lundie said. "But once the mad rush stopped, that was it."

For some students, the monthly trip to the Moseley front desk is a ritual. Others had no idea SUB offered the discount.

"There have been quite a few people who came through that hadn't heard about it," said junior Rebecca Stanley, special events co-chair for SUB. "I just saw a junior who said 'Oh, I've never heard of it before,' but there are also people who come every month."

The time change this semester is not the only adjustment the Movie Run program has seen throughout the years. When the program started, it provided transportation to the theater for students, which is no longer offered.

"It started because the movie theater used to be right here in town, on Church Street right near the Sonic," Lundie said. "So what we would do is not only buy and sell the tickets, but we would run students to the movie. Then that place shut down, so we just kind of kept the tradition, kept the name, but stopped driving people."

This month, Stanley said students came in waves all day while passing through the Moseley Center.

"They finally started to hear about it, and they'll just say 'Oh yeah, let's grab that too,' while doing something else in Moseley," Lundie said.



MOLLY CAREY | Staff Photographer

SUB has a movie run every month, offering discounted movie tickets to Carousel Cinemas.

Movie Run is a great deal for both students and SUB, according to Janis Baughman, director of student activities. The university spends \$1,350 on the tickets and usually earns \$1,000 back. While the organization loses about \$350, SUB's overall budget does not suffer.

Students can now take the BioBus to Alamance Crossing to use their Movie Run tickets. With free transportation and discounted admission, an evening off campus costs as little as \$5.

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