

2009 Florence and the Shoals Calendar of Events

First Friday of every month– (March – December) - “First Fridays” – This exciting monthly event is a gathering of artists of all kinds: musicians, painters, sculptors, photographers, hand-crafted jewelry creators, and more. Local and regional artists will be selling their works along the sidewalks, live music can be heard throughout the streets, and downtown merchants will stay open late.

- Location: Court Street, Downtown Florence (Alternate bad weather location: Upper decks of Florence Parking Deck on the corner of Tennessee St and Pine St)
 - Hours: 5-8 p.m.
 - Admission: Free
 - Contact: 1-877-290-8880; www.firstfridaysflorence.com
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First Saturday of every month– (April – December) - “Rogersville First Saturdays”

– Live music and merchants line the streets of downtown Rogersville

- Location: Downtown Rogersville
 - Hours: 5-8 p.m.
 - Admission: Free
 - Contact: Rogersville Chamber of Commerce – 256-247-9449;
www.VisitFlorenceAL.com
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January 5-10, 2009 – Sam Phillips Music Celebration – This week-long event honoring the “Father of Rock ‘n’ Roll” Florence native Sam Phillips includes a live radio program from Shoals Theatre, the official “Sam Jam” featuring the Levees and Paul Thorn at PJ’s, a special edition of Muscle Shoals to Music Row Live at The Fizz Lounge, and the finale performance at the Marriott Shoals Hotel & Spa Conference Center.

Details are as follows:

Monday January 5, 2009

Location: Alabama Music Hall of Fame

6:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.

Sam Phillips Birthday Party, Alabama Music Hall of Fame Free, Open to the Public..Acoustic Music, Birthday Cake,Free Admission to the Museum, Cash Bar

Tuesday, January 6, 2009

Location: Florence Public Library

11:00 A.M. - 12:00 Noon Music with The Lovelace Family

12:00 Noon - 1:00 P.M. Conversations on Sam.Guests include Billy Swan,Travis Wammack, David Johnson, others TBA

Wednesday January 7, 2009

Location: Marriott Shoals Hotel and Conference Center

4:00 P.M. Gibson Guitar Dedication, Sam Phillips Suite, Invitation Only

Special Guest...Scotty Moore

5:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M. Public Open House, Sam Phillips Suite

7:00 P.M. - Until Guitar Jam Session, Swampers Lounge

Thursday, January 8th, 2009

8:00 P.M. - 10:00 P.M.

Muscle Shoals to Music Row LIVE, with live radio and webcast, at the Fizz in the Holiday Inn,

Sheffield.

Thursday January 8, 2009 will feature a very special presentation of .Muscle Shoals to Music Row Live.. This show is in it.s 5th year of production originating live from The Shoals on Thursday nights (8pm-10pm cst) and has built a worldwide audience connecting singers, songwriters, artists and musicians from the two music meccas.The Shoals and Nashville. Currently being seen and heard on KIX 96, kix96country.com, KIX 106, ms2mr.com, nashvillemuse.com and americansongwriter.com the show generates an average of 5,000 viewers per week in addition to the radio audience.

Friday, January 9th, 2009

8:00 P.M. - "The Official Sam Jam"

Featuring - Paul Thorn and Band and The Levees

Location: PJ's

Friday January 9, 2009 The Shoals will come alive as PJ.s hosts .The Official Sam Jam.. The show starts at 8pm with Louisiana Blues Rockers. The Levees. Featured Artist for the evening will be Paul Thorn and his band. Paul has built an enormous following as an independent artist and embodies the same independent spirit as the man being honored. The event promises to .Rock the Shoals!.

Saturday, January 10th, 2009

"Sam Phillips Music Celebration"

6:00 P.M. - 7:15 P.M. - Acoustic music rooms

7:30 P.M. - 8:15 P.M. - Sonny Burgess

8:30 P.M. - 9:15 P.M. - Jason D. Williams

9:30 P.M. - Till - Delbert McClinton

Featuring - Jason D. Williams - Sonny Burgess - Delbert McClinton

Location - The Marriott Shoals Resort & Conference Center in Florence.

Saturday January 10, 2009 will be the finale of the Sam Phillips Music Celebration. Doors at the Marriott Shoals Conference center will open at 6pm with acoustic performances throughout the building. The main show (starting at 7:30) will feature one of the original Sun Records artists and member of the Rock-a-Billy Hall of Fame..Sonny Burgess and his band, the Legendary Pacers. Following Sonny and back by popular demand will be the amazing piano man..Jason D. Williams. Headlining this year.s celebration will be Grammy Award winning artist.Delbert McClinton.

- Location: varies
 - Hours: vary
 - Admission: prices vary depending on event
 - Contact: Big River Broadcasting, 256-764-8121
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January 12, 2009 – “Florez” in Concert – Sponsored by the University Program Council at UNA

- Location: University Performance Center Atrium on the campus of UNA – Pine St., Florence
 - Hours: 7 p.m.
 - Admission: free
 - Contact: University Events – 256-765-4248
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January 16, 2009 – Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Program – The University of North Alabama will host a 45-minute program, followed by an organized march commemorating Martin Luther King, Jr. and the public is encouraged to participate.

- Location: University Performance Center Atrium on the campus of UNA – Pine St., Florence
- Hours: Noon
- Admission: free

· Contact: University Events – 256-765-4658

January 17, 2009 – Miss UNA Pageant – Pageant determining who will be crowned the 2009 Miss UNA

- Location: Norton Auditorium on the campus of UNA – Pine St., Florence
 - Hours: 7-9:30 p.m.
 - Admission: \$10
 - Contact: UNA Office of Student Engagement – 256-765-4248
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January 20, 2009 - Dublin Philharmonic Orchestra in Concert - The Dublin Philharmonic Orchestra brings together the finest of Irish and European orchestral musicians, with Irish and International soloists, conductors and composers celebrating our shared musical heritage, pursuing performance excellence in the tradition of classical and contemporary symphonic music.

- Location: Norton Auditorium, UNA Campus – Pine St., Florence
 - Hours: 7:30 p.m.
 - Admission: Adults \$15-30
 - Contact: www.Shoalsonstage.org
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February 3, 2009 – Aquila Theatre production of *The Comedy of Errors* – The internationally acclaimed Aquila Theatre Company will return to the University of North Alabama

- Location: Norton Auditorium, UNA Campus – Pine St., Florence
 - Hours: 7 p.m.
 - Admission: Adults \$15; Students \$5
 - Contact: University Events – 256-765-4658
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February 5-8, 2009 – Shoals Community Theatre presents the Zodiac Musical Production *I'll Never Be Hungry*

- Location: Shoals Theatre
 - Hours: Wed.-Sat. 8 p.m.; Sun. 2:30 p.m.
 - Admission: Adults \$10; Students \$9
 - Contact: Zodiac Theatre – 256-764-1700; www.zodiactheatre.com
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February 5-6, 2009 – University Program Council Presents Step Sing – This musical “show choir” style event serves as a competition between various university organizations and benefits the United Way.

- Location: Norton Auditorium, UNA Campus – Pine St., Florence
 - Hours: 7 p.m.
 - Admission: Adults \$10; Students \$5
 - Contact: University Events – 256-765-4658
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March 5-8, 2009 – George Lindsey/UNA Film Festival – Nominated by Southeast Tourism Society as one of the Top 20 Events in the Southeast for the month of March, the George Lindsey UNA Film Festival is an exciting event consisting of film screening, panels, discussions and celebrations throughout the Shoals area.

- Location: University of North Alabama, Florence
 - Hours: vary
 - Admission: free (most events)
 - Contact: www.lindseyfilmfest.com
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March 12-15, 2009 – Shoals Community Theatre presents the Gingerbread Players

Production "HOLES" – Adapted from the novel. Stanley is just a regular kid until he is found responsible for a crime he didn't commit. We learn about a curse that has been in his family for several generations and his bad luck lands him in a very strange correctional camp in the Texas desert. The warden has all the inmates digging holes in a dry lake bed. The story weaves interesting tall tales from local history and Stanley's family and in the process Stanley finds a good friend, a hidden treasure and learns to like himself.

- Location: Shoals Theatre
 - Hours: Wed.-Sat. 8 p.m.; Sun. 2:30 p.m.
 - Admission: Adults \$10; Students \$9
 - Contact: Zodiac Theatre – 256-764-1700; www.zodiactheatre.com
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April 16-19, 2009 – Shoals Community Theatre presents the Zodiac Production "Love, Sex, and the IRS" – First produced by Zodiac in 1982, this clever comedy tells the story of Jon and Leslie, out-of-work musicians who room together in New York to save money. Jon has been filing tax returns listing the pair as a married couple. However, the day of reckoning comes when Mr. Spinner, an IRS investigator, shows up and Leslie masquerades as a housewife with the aid of John's fiancé, Kate. An evening of sure fire laughs. Directed by Sandy Freeman.

- Location: Shoals Theatre
 - Hours: Wed.-Sat. 8 p.m.; Sun. 2:30 p.m.
 - Admission: Adults \$10; Students \$9
 - Contact: Zodiac Theatre – 256-764-1700; www.zodiactheatre.com
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April 17, 2009 - Alabama Symphony in Concert - For more than 70 years, the Alabama Symphony Orchestra has served Alabama, providing quality performances of varying styles of music and presenting some of the finest guest performers of the day. The 54 musicians of the ASO represent some of the nation's finest and have brought to life some of the world's most treasured musical masterpieces as well as introduced listeners to exciting new works and composers.

- Location: Norton Auditorium
 - Hours:
 - Admission: admission charged
 - Contact: www.shoalsonstage.org
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April 18, 2009 – Global Culture Night at UNA

- Location: University of North Alabama GUC Building
 - Hours: TBA
 - Admission: TBA
 - Contact: 800-TALK-UNA
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May 6-27, 2009 – Wednesdays Only – Music in the Park - Live music by area musicians can be heard throughout scenic Wilson Park on Wednesdays in May. Bring a lawn chair or a blanket and enjoy excellent music in the fresh air and sunshine. Pack a picnic lunch or grab a hotdog from area vendors, as you sit back and let the music soothe your soul.

- Location: Wilson Park
 - Hours: 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
 - Admission: free
 - Contact: 256-764-8121
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March 14-17, 2009 – BASS Elite Championship – The best of bass fishing will convene for their chance to catch the big one on Pickwick Lake

- Location: launch and weigh-in at McFarland Park
 - Hours: weigh-ins each afternoon
 - Admission: free
 - Contact: www.visitflorenceal.com
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May 21-24, 2009 – Shoals Community Theatre presents the Zodiac Production

“Clue, The Musical” – The internationally popular game is now a fun filled musical which brings the world’s best known suspects to life and invites the audience to help solve the mystery: who killed Mr. Boddy, in what room with what weapon. The audience helps decide the solution from clues given throughout the fun filled evening. Three audience members choose from cards representing the potential murderers, weapons, and rooms with over 216 possible solutions! Fun for the whole family! Directed by Juli Martin.

- Location: Shoals Theatre
 - Hours: Wed.-Sat. 8 p.m.; Sun. 2:30 p.m.
 - Admission: Adults \$10; Students \$9
 - Contact: Zodiac Theatre – 256-764-1700; www.zodiactheatre.com
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June 6-7, 2009 – Frontier Day Celebration – *Step back in time and watch artisans in costume spinning wool, carving wood, working a forge, making brooms, creating corn shuck dolls, and playing dulcimers..*

- Location: Pope’s Tavern Museum, Downtown Florence
 - Hours: Sat. 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Sun. 1-4 p.m.
 - Admission: free
 - Contact: Pope’s Tavern 256-760-6439
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June 6-27, 2009 – Saturdays Only - Walking Tours of Historic Florence - Each week a different walking tour is conducted in a historic area of Florence and led by a local historian.

- Location: varies
 - Hours: 10 a.m.
 - Admission: free
 - Contact: Florence/Lauderdale Tourism 256-740-4141; www.VisitFlorenceAL.com
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July 4, 2009 - Shoals Spirit of Freedom Celebration - Celebrate Independence Day in the Shoals! Live, nationally-known musicians perform all day, food vendors are onsite, and activities for the entire family will all be at the park throughout the day. The Independence Day Celebration culminates with one of the largest fireworks shows in the Southeast.

- Location: McFarland Park
 - Hours: 10 a.m. – 10 p.m.
 - Admission: free
 - Contact: Florence/Lauderdale Tourism 256-740-4141; www.VisitFlorenceAL.com
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July 17-18, 2009 - Rogersville Bluegrass Festival - Throughout this weekend, live bluegrass music can be heard throughout the town and activities will take place at the park to entertain the entire family.

- Location: Heritage Park – downtown Rogersville
- Hours: Friday 3-10 p.m.; Sat. 9 a.m.-10 p.m.

- Admission: free
 - Contact: Rogersville Chamber of Commerce – 256-247-9449;
www.VisitFlorenceAL.com
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July 17-26, 2009 - W.C. Handy Music Festival - *A weeklong tribute to the “Father of the Blues”, W.C. Handy. Great Jazz and Blues music can be heard throughout the Shoals at restaurants, theatres, malls, parks and other locations. The week will include over 100 events perfect for the jazz and blues enthusiast as well as great family entertainment.*

- Location: Varies
 - Hours: Varies
 - Admission: Varies
 - Contact: 256-766-9719, General 256-740-4141, www.wchandymfest.com
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August 8, 2009 – Annual Sweetwater Reunion – Anyone associated with the Sweetwater community is invited to attend this day of fun, fellowship and food. ·

Location: Florence/Lauderdale Coliseum 702 E. Veterans Drive

- Hours: 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
 - Admission: Free, everyone is asked to bring a dessert.
 - Contact: 256-764-0945 General Info 256-740-4141, 1-888-FLO-TOUR **No Vendors**
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August 21-22, 2009 - Killen Founders Day - Celebrate the 51st anniversary of the town of Killen with a parade, a 5k run, artisans and food vendors, live musical entertainment, activities for kids, a working colonial village, Native American demonstrations, and a display of classic vehicles. Fireworks show takes place on Saturday night to conclude the event.

- Location: Killen Park – Killen, AL
 - Hours: Fri. 6-10 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m. 10 p.m.
 - Admission: free
 - Contact: 256-740-4141
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September 9, 2009 - Lexington Founders Day - Celebrate the founding of the town of Lexington with live music, arts and crafts and a car and truck show.

- Location: downtown Lexington
 - Hours: TBA
 - Admission: free
 - Contact: 256-740-4141; www.VisitFlorenceAL.com
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September 10-12, 2009 – Professional Anglers Association Corporate Cup – The best in bass fishing pair up with corporate partners for their chance to win \$100,000 for a weekend fishing on Pickwick Lake.

- Location: launch and weigh-in at McFarland Park
 - Hours: weigh-ins each afternoon
 - Admission: free
 - Contact: www.visitflorenceal.com
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October 2-3, 2009 – Oktoberfest - Each year the small town of St. Florian celebrates its rich German heritage with its Oktoberfest celebration—complete with music, artisans, children’s activities, an antique tractor and engine show, and of course German food!

- Location: St. Michael’s Church – St. Florian
- Hours: TBA

- Admission: free
 - Contact: 256-740-4141; www.VisitFlorenceAL.com
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October 24, 2009 - Rogersville Fall Festival - Each year the town of Rogersville welcomes the change of seasons with its Fall Festival. Food vendors, arts and crafts and multiple children's activities, and live music can all be found at the park during this exciting annual event.

- Location: Heritage Park – downtown Rogersville
 - Hours: 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.
 - Admission: free
 - Contact: Rogersville Chamber of Commerce – 256-247-9449; www.VisitFlorenceAL.com
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October 17, 2009 – Alabama Renaissance Feast - Wenchies and Queens alike will enjoy this authentic Renaissance Feast prepared by world-renowned chef. In true Renaissance style, entertainment will be provided throughout the meal. Participants are encouraged to wear their finest Renaissance attire!

- Location: Florence/Lauderdale Coliseum
 - Hours: 6-10 p.m.
 - Admission: admission charged; tickets must be purchased in advance
 - Contact: Florence/Lauderdale Tourism 256-740-4141; www.alarenfaire.org
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October 24-25, 2009 – Alabama Renaissance Faire - Voted one of the top 20 events in the Southeast during the month of October, the Alabama Renaissance is a premier event that transforms Wilson Park into Fountain-on-the-Green for an entire weekend. It is common to find pirates, fairies, trolls, maidens, kings, and everything in between roaming the park during this exciting event. Vendors, demonstrators, and performers will be situated throughout the park for the entire event. Everyone is welcome—especially those clothed in Renaissance attire!

- Location: Wilson Park
 - Hours: Sat. 10 a.m. -6 p.m.; Sun. 1-5 p.m.
 - Admission: free
 - Contact: Florence/Lauderdale Tourism 256-740-4141; www.alarenfaire.org
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October 24-31, 2009 - Haunted History Ghost Walk Tours of Florence - Local historian and author of several ghost publications will lead you on an enchanting walking tour of Historical Florence, sharing the area's many supernatural occurrences.

- Location: Tours begin and end at Wilson Park
 - Hours: 7:30-9 p.m.
 - Admission: \$10 Adult; \$8 Student
 - Contact: 256-757-7506; www.shoalsghostwalk.blogspot.com
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November 4-7, 2009 – FLW Stren Series Championship Bass Tournament – The FLW Stren Series tour ends here, at Pickwick Lake where the best Stren Series angler will be crowned.

- Location: launch and weigh-in at McFarland Park
 - Hours: weigh-ins each afternoon
 - Admission: free
 - Contact: www.visitflorenceal.com
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November 16, 2009 – W.C. Handy Birthday Celebration – Live music, cake and free tours of Handy’s Home and Museum commemorate the birthday of the “Father of the Blues” and Florence native William Christopher Handy.

- Location: W.C. Handy Museum – College St., Florence
 - Hours: 2 p.m.
 - Admission: free
 - Contact: 256-760-6434; www.visitflorenceal.com
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December 12, 2009 - NCAA Division II Football Championship Game - Voted one of the top 20 events in the Southeast during the month of December, this is more than just a bowl game, it is a championship! Watch the most talented athletes in Division II football, as a champion is crowned.

- Location: Braly Stadium – Royal Ave., Florence
 - Hours: TBA
 - Admission: \$20
 - Contact: 256-764-4661; www.d2championship.com
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