



▶ ARTS & CULTURE IN DOWNTOWN NEWBERRY .....1



▶ DOWNTOWN NEWBERRY EVENTS IN THE THIRD QUARTER AND CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHT .....2



▶ ANNUAL EVENTS- SAVE THESE DATES! .....2

# Downtown *in the city*

DOWNTOWN UPDATES  
FROM THE CITY OF NEWBERRY  
QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

## A Haven for the Arts:

## *Downtown's Welcoming Embrace of Arts & Culture*



The arts have been alive in downtown Newberry for decades, most notably following the renovation and re-opening of the Newberry Opera House in the mid-1990s. The project spurred a new renaissance of business and culture in the district as new restaurants, shops, and a

downtown hotel opened to host visitors. Since then the crown jewel of downtown has steadily welcomed season after season of shows that have attracted visitors from around the world and bolstered a tourism industry for the historical district.

Downtown has ebbed and flowed with the trends of the economy and shopper's profiles, and today finds itself in the midst of another cultural re-model as the districts' focus shifts to an arts-forward environment. Since the mid-2010s downtown has seen an uptick in the arts scene with the opening of the Newberry Arts Center, a visual arts education center, gallery space, and artisan shop. As "NAC" worked to reach their goal of creating new arts experiences locally, the center's popular pottery program led to the creation of the first state-wide conference for clay artists, the South Carolina Clay Conference. The conference drew in artists from across the state who had never heard of this small midlands-to-piedmont town. Many locals found themselves questioning "why" would an artist conference take place here?

But the culture of Newberry as a haven for artists had already begun long ago and now is more fruitful than ever. Today the South Carolina Clay Conference hosts one of the largest pottery sales in the state and has attracted the attention and partnership of the National Endowment for the Arts and University of South Carolina's McKissick Museum. Similarly,

the Newberry Opera House, who underwent re-branding efforts in the late 2010s to emphasize their place as a performing arts center, has attracted national attention. They have notably partnered with the Smithsonian, NASA astronauts, syndicated television stars, and others to bring a plethora of new experiences to the arts scene of Newberry. Along with national recognition, both the Arts Center and the Opera House have continued to partner with the community. The Arts Center has held children's workshops with the Newberry Community Players, hosted art shows with the Newberry County School District, and has loaned exhibits to the Newberry Museum. The Opera House has continued to host the Newberry Ballet Guild's annual winter performance, Newberry College Music Department recitals, and many other shows featuring the home-grown cultural arts of Newberry.

It is no wonder with the growing recognition of the Newberry Arts Center and Newberry Opera House, and their continued efforts to support local theater, dance, and music organizations, that artists and art enthusiasts from across the nation are starting to find a home in downtown. Art galleries and artisan shops are popping up across downtown and within retailers (think The Gallery, Pieces of Time, Carolina Soap Works, and of course The Carpenter Gallery, Fine Art). Newberry has notably attracted artists from the western and northern parts of the United States to plant roots as residents of the community.

So why wouldn't an artist conference be hosted in such a haven? Arts and culture have been a large part of the community, expressed through local amateur, college, and professional acts, and will only continue to grow with support bolstered by the downtown district's welcoming embrace.

# NEWBERRY DOWNTOWN EVENTS THIRD QUARTER



## ARTS & CULTURE DOWNTOWN:

**NEWBERRY OPERA HOUSE  
EVENTS: 35 + SHOWS THIS  
QUARTER!** Keep track:  
[newberryoperahouse.com](http://newberryoperahouse.com)

**NEWBERRY BALLET GUILD  
ANNUAL PRODUCTION:  
THE RED SHOES**  
February 7<sup>th</sup>-8pm & 8<sup>th</sup>-2pm/8pm  
@ the Newberry Opera House

**NEWBERRY COMMUNITY  
PLAYERS WINTER SHOW:  
THE FEMALE ODD COUPLE**  
February 14, 15, 21, & 22  
all at 7pm  
[newberrycommunityplayers.com](http://newberrycommunityplayers.com)

**NEWBERRY COLLEGE  
DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC:  
HONORS SHOWCASE PROGRAM**  
February 20<sup>th</sup>-8pm *FREE*  
@ the Newberry Opera House

**NEWBERRY ARTS CENTER & SC  
CLAY CON PLAY PRESENTATION:  
FIREFLIES: DAVE THE POTTER**  
February 27 @ 7pm *FREE*  
@ the Newberry Opera House

## CITY OF NEWBERRY EVENTS: HEALTHY CHILI COOK-OFF

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 11AM-1:30PM**

People's choice competition and fundraiser for the Souper Bowl of Caring featuring aerobics, blood drive, and more.

## **NEWBERRY IRISH FLING**

**FRIDAY, MARCH 13**

[NEWBERRYIRISHFLING.COM](http://NEWBERRYIRISHFLING.COM)

All night Irish Food and Drink Specials. Early evening family friendly kids' corner and scavenger hunt. Live music!

## **MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. WEEKEND OF CELEBRATIONS**

**JANUARY 18-20**

**A COMMUNITY CREATED EVENT!**

**SATURDAY- MLK Parade @ 2pm**

**SUNDAY- MLK Luncheon 2pm 1pm @ Community Hall**

**MONDAY- MLK Day March & Program**

9:30am- March from Bethlehem Baptist

10:00am- Program, Miller Chapel AME

Questions? Travis Reeder 803-597-9217

## **CONFERENCE TO HIGHLIGHT: SOUTH CAROLINA**



## **C O N F E R E N C E**

**"In seed time  
learn, in harvest  
teach, in winter  
enjoy."**

-WILLIAM BLAKE

## **NEWBERRY ARTS CENTER & SOUTH CAROLINA CLAY CON: POTTERY SALE**

One of the Largest Annual Pottery Sale in the State,  
at the Newberry Arts Center  
Friday, February 28 10am-8pm  
Saturday, February 29 10am-6pm

## **NEWBERRY DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION:**

**#NEWberry FIRST FRIDAYS  
FIRST FRIDAY MONTHLY**

Newberry Empowering Women events featuring women owned businesses.

[newberrydowntown.com](http://newberrydowntown.com)

## **FOR YOUR BUSINESS: FASTTRAC**

10 Week Mini Business School  
January 23-March 26

DETAILS & REGISTRATION:  
[newberrydowntown.com](http://newberrydowntown.com)

## **WHAT DOWNTOWN BUSINESSES NEED TO KNOW:**

ESTIMATED NUMBER: 80  
**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27-**  
EARLY CHECK-IN @ 4PM  
DINNER ON THEIR OWN  
*FREE* OPEN TO THE PUBLIC POTTERY  
PRESENTATION AT THE OPERA  
HOUSE @ 7PM  
**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28-** FIRST FULL  
CONFERENCE DAY, MEALS PROVIDED  
**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23-** LUNCH  
ON THEIR OWN, OPPORTUNITY TO  
SHOP, DINNER OPTIONAL  
**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 24-** FINAL DAY,  
MEALS PROVIDED, CHECKOUT  
2:30PM

**FRIDAY-SATURDAY:  
POTTERY SALE  
200+ VISITORS TO DOWNTOWN!**

**TO FOLLOW THE MANY EVENTS HAPPENING AROUND THE CITY OF NEWBERRY VISIT OUR  
COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDAR AT [WWW.CITYOFNEWBERRY.COM/EVENTS](http://WWW.CITYOFNEWBERRY.COM/EVENTS)**

# SAVE THE DATES!

**A FULL YEAR OF CITY OF NEWBERRY HOSTED EVENTS COMING TO YOUR DOORSTEP IN 2020**

**HEALTHY CHILI COOK-OFF: FEBRUARY 1**

**NEWBERRY IRISH FLING: MARCH 13**

[www.newberryirishfling.com](http://www.newberryirishfling.com)

**NEWBERRY PORK IN THE PARK: APRIL 17-18**

[www.newberryporkinthepark.com](http://www.newberryporkinthepark.com)

**TASTE OF NEWBERRY: MAY 15**

[www.tasteofnewberry.com](http://www.tasteofnewberry.com)

**OPEN STREETS NEWBERRY: JUNE 6**

**TBD: SUMMER MOONLIGHT MOVIE NIGHTS**

**NEWBERRY OKTOBERFEST: OCTOBER 3**

[www.newberryoktoberfest.com](http://www.newberryoktoberfest.com)

**MAIN STREET LIGHTS: NOVEMBER 20**

**NORTH POLE NIGHTS: DECEMBER 4, 11, 18**

[www.newberrychristmas.com](http://www.newberrychristmas.com)

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