



Press Release

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For immediate release

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Twilight Festival to Close Ninth Street *New Locations Proposed for Concert Series and Carriage Rides*

Columbia -The District is submitting a proposal to the City Council to close a section of Ninth Street from Broadway to Cherry for the 2007 Twilight Festivals. The William Woods Stage will be moved from Courthouse Square to Ninth Street. The Council will hear the street closure request at its May 21 meeting.

"After 16 years, we decided it was time make some big changes for year 17," said Director Carrie Gartner. "We think that some dancing in the streets is a great way to bring a new feel to the festival."

"We are excited to be involved in this great event in *The District* for another year," Jenae Kirkwood, director of business recruitment for William Woods University, said. "Closing Ninth Street from Broadway to Cherry will allow for a larger stage and, as a result, bigger musical acts to enhance this already wonderful family event. It is a great development for us as a sponsor of the Twilight Festival."

William Woods University established a campus in Columbia in 1993 and has maintained an active and visible role in the Columbia community as a result. The Twilight Festival is one way for William Woods to show its commitment to the people of Columbia.

The House of Brokers Carriage Rides are also moving from Courthouse Square. They will be at two locations: Flat Branch Park and Tenth and Broadway. Each location will provide riders with a different tour of the festival. Rides fill up fast so it's recommended that people sign up beginning at 5:45.

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Organizers are also working closely with the Blue Note to bring some top-notch local and regional talent to the William Woods Stage. To date they've scheduled:

- Johnny A., a guitarist who mixes rock, country and blues so well that Gibson offers a custom model guitar named after him.
- Los Straitjackets starring Big Sandy, a rock 'n roll combo playing guitar-fueled, 60's surf rock while wearing lucha libre (Mexican wrestling) masks.
- The Missouri Symphony, Missouri's only professional symphony orchestra kicking off their Hot Summer Nights Music Festival.
- Marching Mizzou, featuring Truman the Tiger and the Golden Girls leading the city's largest pep rally.

The Twilight Festival is held in *The District* every Thursday in June and September from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. Sidewalk bands will perform from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. while the Concert Series will run from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Retail shops will also be open from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

The Concert Series is made possible with help from William Woods University and the City of Columbia Convention and Visitors Bureau. William Woods has sponsored the Concert Series since 2001. William Woods University is now an invaluable partner of the Twilight Festival.

The Twilight Festival is organized by the Central Columbia Association, a voluntary merchants' association dedicated to promoting shopping, dining and entertainment in *The District*. The Columbia Special Business District, its sister organization, is dedicated to beautification, business recruitment, economic development, historic preservation and other issues.

For more information:

- www.twilightfestival.com - New Website!
- www.wmwoods.edu. - 1 (800) 995-3199 or by e-mail at cgas@williamwoods.edu
- www.johnnya.com
- www.straitjackets.com