



# The Downtowner

The Newsletter of Friends of Historic Downtown Louisville

December 2007

Volume 3, Issue 10



## Bustlin' on Broad



The Broad Street Business Partners (BSBP) are infusing exciting new Christmas spirit into downtown this year with their *Bustlin' on Broad* program. Faced with the challenges of the ongoing streetscaping project, the organization and its intrepid members have redoubled their efforts to boost the allure of downtown shopping during the holiday season.

"Our leaders – especially Margaret Newberry and Randi Beckwith – just refused to get down about it," says member Maiben Beard. "They rallied us all in the face of difficulty, and the result is more festivities and a more coordinated effort among merchants to draw shoppers downtown."



Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce president Lil Easterlin praises the effort. "I have had faith in the Broad Street Business Partners from day one. This is certainly the greatest challenge the organization has faced to date, and there's no doubt they have risen to the occasion

beautifully."

Working together, the BSBP has arranged an unprecedented lineup of shopping activities and cultural events to light up Christmas, with special Thursday shopping downtown nights – a program that BSBP initiated in earnest last Christmas. "We've worked really hard in our meetings to assemble exciting special events for Thursdays. It's an amazing expansion from what we did last year," says Ms. Beard.

Events include appearances by youth choirs from Pinecrest Mennonite Church, First Baptist Church, and Louisville United Methodist Church. (See the full schedule on page 2.) Friends lauds BSBP's excellent work and hopes to see each and every one of you downtown this Christmas.

### Streetscaper Ed Summey Shares His Thoughts

## The Public Face of Public Works

The business of project management, no matter what the field, is as much art as science, with a good measure of inconvenience thrown into the mix. But with streetscaping, unlike many government contracting projects which are hidden from public view, the contractor's work is on display to the public every single day. The citizens of Louisville have already come face to face with the everyday challenges of the ongoing streetscaping project, but few have had an opportunity to get to know the mastermind behind it all.

Ed Summey is the project manager orchestrating this intricate project under the aegis of his employer EarthScapes, Inc. of Phenix City, Alabama, a company that specializes in commercial utilities and general construction projects throughout

Georgia, Alabama, and Florida.

Born and raised in Nashville, Tennessee, Mr. Summey began his career working construction projects at the age of 12. He graduated from Tennessee Technical University with a degree in civil engineering and industrial technology, and then served in the U.S. Army as an infantry officer, where he learned to manage time, equipment and people. After his stint in the Army, which was, he observes, "a great foundation for project management," he earned a masters degree in management. He began his career in private practice as owner and operator of a small construction company.

Mr. Summey's role in the Louisville streetscaping adventure is "to manage all aspects of the project, starting with the initial review of all plans and specifications, then interfacing with the

project architects and engineers from the pre-construction conference through project completion, working closely with the job superintendent to make sure that the job is completed not only on time and under budget, but also in accordance with the high standards of our company in a safe work environment."

Asked what he considers the most difficult aspect of his job, Mr.

#### Inside this Issue

<i>Image of the Month</i>	2
<i>Schedule of Downtown Holiday Events</i>	2
<i>Fire House Gallery News</i>	3
<i>Vince Dooley is Coming to Downtown</i>	5

# The Downtowner's Image of the Month



Our Market House Decked Out for the Holidays

## Schedule of Downtown Louisville Christmas Events 2007

Throughout the 2007 Christmas season, participating downtown merchants will be open till 9pm on Thursday nights. Additional events are listed below.

- ♪ Thursday, November 29 – Jefferson County High School Warrior Band
- ♪ Saturday, December 1 – The Lamb Family at the Bistro, 7pm
- ♪ Thursday, December 6 – Pinecrest Mennonite Youth Choir, 7pm
- ♪ Friday, December 7 – Holiday Party at The Fire House Gallery, 7-9pm
- ♪ Friday, December 7 – Pete Love at the Bistro, 7pm
- ♪ Saturday, December 8 – Louisville Christmas Parade, noon
- ♪ Saturday, December 8 – Ronnie Mullis at the Bistro, 7pm
- ♪ Thursday, December 13 – Vince Dooley Book Signing at Pansy's, 3-6pm
- ♪ Thursday, December 13 – First Baptist Church Children's Choir, 6:30pm
- ♪ Friday, December 14 – Dave Fowler at the Bistro, 7pm
- ♪ Saturday, December 15 – Brandon McGinnis at the Bistro, 7pm
- ♪ Thursday, December 20 – Louisville United Methodist Children's Choir
- ♪ Saturday, December 22 – Brian Sharp at the Bistro, 7pm



## News From

# THE FIRE HOUSE GALLERY

*Dreamlike Transcendence –*

## New Work by Painter J.W.M. Whiting

**The Girls in My Neighborhood –  
Recent Work by J.W.M. Whiting**

**November 28 – January 27**

**Opening Reception and Holiday  
Party, Friday, December 7, 7-9pm**

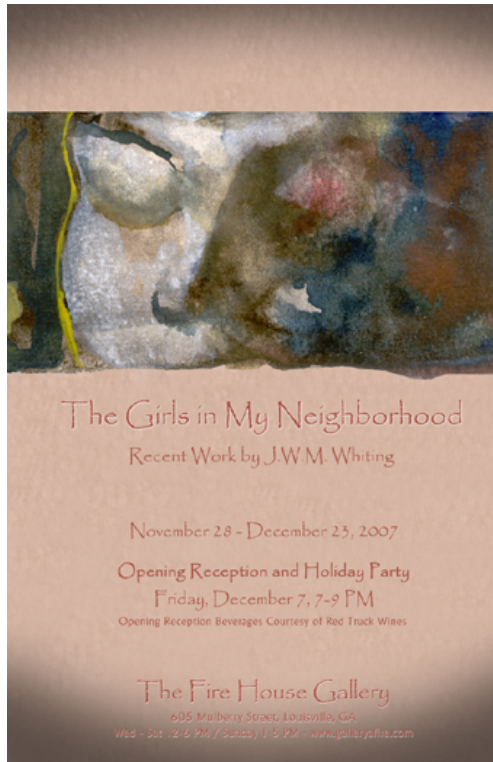
“This is the life,” says painter and professor Dr. Janice Williams Whiting of the first of two recent artist’s residencies she spent in Newfoundland, Canada in the last two years. “My husband went with me. I had someone to cook for me. There were no children. It was great!”

A twenty-six year veteran of arts and humanities teaching at Augusta State University, Ms. Whiting says she “never had a desire to do a landscape or a seascape in my entire life until I went there.”

“Right outside my window,” at the base of a lighthouse, she found “at once the most realistic and non-representational image I’d ever seen.” It was nothing but sea and sky (and less than that on her second visit when “every time I looked out the window it was solid white” thanks to nearly endless banks of fog).

“The sky was fabulous,” she says, and the landscape was “so desolate, it was a wonderful place to paint.” Some of these seascapes are in Ms. Whiting’s December through January exhibition at The Fire House Gallery. The show’s title, though, derives from Ms. Whiting’s long-time love of art history.

“The Girls in My Neighborhood” was one of Ms. Whiting’s paintings years ago, but it suggests more broadly a theme she’s revisited time and again, initially without fully recognizing the inclination of her work. Ms. Whiting is interested in portrayals of women in art, particularly when these transcend the particular character or context.



*The Girls in My Neighborhood*

Recent Work by J.W.M. Whiting

November 28 – December 23, 2007

Opening Reception and Holiday Party

Friday, December 7, 7-9 PM

Opening Reception Beverages Courtesy of Red Truck Wines

The Fire House Gallery

635 Mulberry Street, Louisville, GA

Wed - Sat 12-6 PM / Sunday 1-5 PM - [www.galleryfire.com](http://www.galleryfire.com)

“There’s something about communing with the past that seems to be a way of revisiting it; and it’s the women I’m particularly interested in,” she says. Depicting figures from angels on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel, to the Queen of Sheba, to iconic images of Marilyn Monroe, Ms. Whiting suggests she’s drawn to mystery.

“If you look at paintings of the Annunciation,” she says, “the image of Mary can vary so tremendously it’s almost as if you can trace her like the Kübler-Ross cycles of grief – of someone coming to terms with the fact that she’s dying: sometimes she looks absolutely terrified, sometimes almost comical (‘no, there’s another Mary down the street – this is not the right one’), and other times she has this look of great sadness, or resignation.”

The same goes for Warhol’s Marilyn

Monroe, another image Ms. Whiting adopted. The appeal of this one “doesn’t have anything to do with her glamour; it has to do with the fact that she has the most incredibly sad eyes – as if there’s just something so painful behind that mask. It’s not the glitz; it’s bigger than that aspect of it.”

Take another sculptor’s work, she offers by way of example. Joseph Cornell used very distinctive boxes and collages that were “somewhat surreal, small and intimate – they inevitably looked like there was a narrative there if you could just figure out what it was.” Without missing a beat, Ms. Whiting adds, “I’m fairly certain there’s not one, and there’s something wonderful about that dreamlike quality.”

Ms. Whiting works in oil, gouache, and acrylics (a particular and wonderfully inexpensive version of which she uses to “mimic somewhat what gouaches and pastels do”). Of this body of collected work, Ms. Whiting concludes, “I hope the images take someone somewhere else, wherever that might be.”

### Gallery Holiday Hiatus

It pains us to do it, but every now and then we feel it’s only fair to give Gallery intern Maiben Beard a little time off to visit her family in Alabama. To that end, the Gallery will be closed December 24 through January 2, and will reopen Thursday, January 3. Janice Whiting’s fine paintings will be displayed in the Gallery through January. See the January issue of *The Downtowner* for details of our next one-of-a-kind exhibit!



Streetscaping Moves Forward – New Contours Appear amidst the Debris of Demolition

## “A Sense of Humor Is a Vital Ingredient of Success!”

*Continued from front page*

Summey answers that he prefers not to look at his job in that way. To Mr. Summey “problems are merely solutions in work clothing.” As Mr. Summey sees it, he has been “blessed with a wealth of knowledge and experience” – that is, successes and failures – that make it easy for him “to turn problems into solutions.” Mr. Summey sees “a sense of humor as a vital ingredient of success” in project management. “All great cooks have one,” he says. “It goes a long way in dealing with the ups and downs of a project.”

Asked what part of his job is most enjoyable, Mr. Summey responds enthusiastically – “The people! All the people involved: the owners, the

taxpayers, the suppliers, the subcontractors, the workers – the relationships you have at different levels – these are the things that are the most special to me.” What makes the people so special? Mr. Summey focuses on the positive. “One day they are all going to look at this beautiful butterfly that has spread her wings over the downtown area and smile, and as they walk along Broad Street in the spring, memories of the ugly cocoon of inconvenience will fade away.”

What message would Mr. Summey give to the citizens of Louisville as they endure the hardships of the streetscaping transformation? “Be kind to caterpillars – your butterfly is on the way!”

Addressing the special challenges of

streetscaping projects, says Mr. Summey, “Streetscape projects are fairly unique in that the owners of the contract – the clients – are usually small municipalities with very limited or no experience in streetscaping. They know that they want their downtown area to look beautiful. They are focused on that goal, and the synergy that develops gets you through the changes and modifications that occur. These projects are really works in progress. Louisville is no exception.”

Again as always accentuating the positive, Mr. Summey says, “What has made this project most enjoyable for me is the positive and friendly attitude of all the participants, from the mayor and city manager to the architect, material suppliers, the downtown business

*Continued on back page.*

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## **Don't Look Now – VINCE DOOLEY IS COMING TO TOWN!**

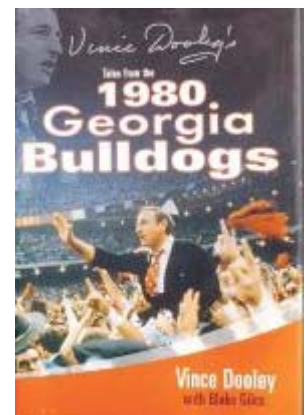


Forget Santa Claus – **VINCE DOOLEY IS COMING TO TOWN!**

Mr. Dooley requires no introduction for Louisvillians. The legendary coach of the Georgia Bulldogs compiled a stunning 201-77-10 record during his 25-year tenure that has earned him a unique place in the hearts of Georgia football fans. If you don't believe us, just ask John Murphy!

Now we are delighted to report that Mr. Dooley will make a special public appearance at Pansy's restaurant on Thursday, December 13, from 3 to 6pm, during which he will sign copies of his book, *Tales from the 1980 Georgia Bulldogs*. Don't miss this once-in-a-

lifetime opportunity to rub elbows with one of the most respected and beloved figures in Georgia sports history!



## **Says Summey, "Public Relations Is a Key Ingredient."**

*Continued from page 4*

owners, and all those wonderful folks who come by the Post Office every day to check their mail and offer advice and opinions on the project!"

Mr. Summey acknowledges that "public

relations is a key ingredient in streetscaping projects – situational awareness – something I learned in the military – is key. You must understand the situation with the downtown business owners and be as empathetic and as accommodating as possible and still get

the job done. Therein lies one of the more difficult challenges of my job – balancing accommodation and job progress."

