

NEWS SERVICE

DURHAM

Where great things happen



DURHAM CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

20 Years of Visitor-Related Economic & Cultural Development

May 21, 2009

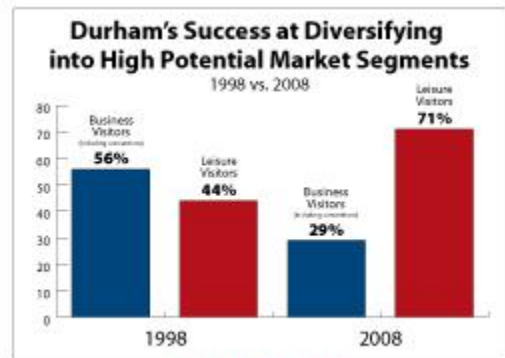
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Durham Visitation Crests 6 Million

During the turbulent 2008 calendar year, visitation to Durham by non-residents for purposes other than work or school went over the 6 million mark for the first time.

But the spike in fuel prices and the economic downturn definitely had an effect, shifting the balance to 82% daytrip and 18% overnight (inclusive of commercial lodging). To put this into perspective, that means Durham reaped an additional 280,000 day visitors and had a loss of 20,000 overnight visitors.



[click to enlarge](#)

[Click here for seven take-aways from the 2008 Visitation Analysis by DK Shifflet.](#)

From Harleys to Paddleboats



Visitors and residents alike have rental options when it comes to experiencing Durham's outdoor activities.

Whether it's biking or rollerblading the [American Tobacco Trail](#) or taking a Harley through North Durham's winding scenic by-ways, paddle boating on [Lake Michie](#) or pond boating at [Catch the Wind](#), equipment is available to rent.

[Click here](#) to view bicycle rental, boat rental, motorcycle rental, and rollerblade rental locations.

DURHAM COMMUNITY EVENT CALENDAR *Where great things happen*

GOLDEN LEAF * ADF * GREEN SUMMIT * INC TURNS 25

Four key events kick off an eventful June.

- **The 7th Annual Golden Leaf Awards** for Community appearance will be held in cozy Rigsbee Hall, Downtown on Rigsbee between Morgan and Chapel Hill Street. It is May 28th, Reception 6:30 p.m., Presentation 7 p.m. The Awards are co-sponsored by [Keep Durham Beautiful](#) and the [Durham Appearance Commission](#).
- **The 32nd Annual, 6 week, more than 40 performance, American Dance Festival** kicks off with a special ADF Block Party, Sunday, May 31st, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Peabody Place, Downtown Durham. Admission is free and open to the public. Sponsored by [Morgan Imports](#), [Parker & Otis](#), [Pop's Restaurant](#), and [ADF's Modern Scene](#). For advance purchase of Festival tickets, [click here](#).
- **The Summit on the New Green Economy** is June 2nd and 3rd at the Durham Convention Center. Usually in New York City, hometown [SJF](#) is bringing the event to Durham, a center for innovation. For information and reservations [click here](#).
- **The 25th anniversary of the founding of The InterNeighborhood Council of Durham** kicks off on June 18th, 7p.m. to 9 p.m. at Rigsbee Hall, Downtown Durham with its Durham Neighborhood Heroes event.



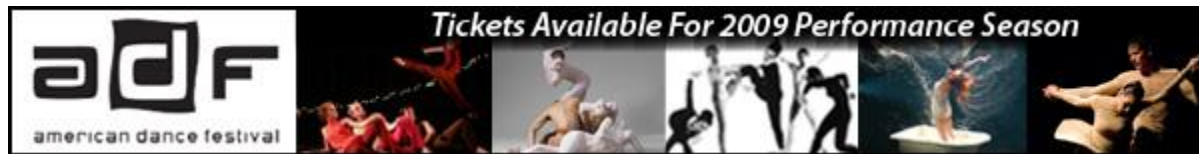
For a searchable list of 149 other events taking place in June, log on to the [Durham Community Event Calendar](#).

Demographic Trends Now Favor Downtown

An article by Jonathan Weber and The Big Money, published Wednesday, May 20th by Washington Post, Newsweek, and MSNBC.com, details the demographic shift occurring across the nation in where people live.

[Click here to read Jonathan Weber's article.](#)

For a perspective on this trend in Durham, click on the image to the right by local photographer [Jessie Gladin-Kramer](#) for her [photo essay](#) on a national blog.



Proposal Would Convert Existing Tax to an Admissions Tax

A 21st Century Tax Rate Reduction and Modernization Plan proposed by the North Carolina Senate Finance Committee will convert the gross receipts tax, on admissions, to a consumer sales tax, along with lowering some taxes and expanding the reach of the sales tax overall to be more equitable.

The 1% on movies (motion picture exhibitions) and 3% on live entertainment (athletic events, performance, exhibits, etc.) is a gross receipts tax. That means it is a tax on the receipts of the businesses involved and eventually built into the ticket price rather than assessed as a sales tax when the ticket is purchased.



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