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NEWS SERVICE

**DURHAM**

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DURHAM CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

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July 2, 2010

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## Event Round Up for July

Durham is full of diversity - diverse people, diverse ideas, diverse food, and diverse events. Just check out this partial list of events for the coming month; there's sure to be something for everyone.

Don't miss the 2010 [Festival for the Eno](#) July 3, 4, and 5, which will deliver non-stop performances by more than 100 performers on four stages, hands-on exhibits, demonstrations, and workshops celebrating regional nature, culture and history, and a juried crafts show of 100 of the Southeast's most talented artists. Tickets can be purchased online in advance of the festival for \$13 or at the festival for \$15 per day. A 3-day pass is available for \$30.

Also stop in to see professional athletes, collegiate players, and local high school all-stars under one roof and on one court at the [Greater NC Pro-Am](#), running from July 1 through August 8 at the McLendon-McDougald Gymnasium on the campus of North Carolina Central University. In its third year, the Great NC Pro-Am takes the game of basketball to a whole new level with rare opportunities to watch and seek autographs from Carolina, Duke, and N.C. State players as well as professional NBA players such as John Wall and Kevin Durant. Admission is free.



There are also many more opportunities to see the [American Dance Festival](#) shows through July 24. Still on tap for July performances: Pilobolus, Paul Taylor Dance Company, Martha Clarke, Rosie Herrera and more. For a full schedule and to purchase tickets go to [ADF at DPAC](#) or [ADF at Duke](#).

Other July events include:

[Bull Moon Ride](#) – July 10, at 8pm. Ride through Downtown Durham, past Duke Chapel at twilight and on the American Tobacco Trail while supporting Habitat of Durham. Interested participants can register online or the day of the race.

[National Night Out Kickoff](#) – July 24, from 10am-12pm. Come out for activities for kids, police motorcycles, K-9 unites, entertainment and refreshments.

Interested in a weekly reminder of all the great things happening in Durham? [Sign up](#) for a weekly calendar snapshot email. Or get an [RSS feed](#) of events delivered automatically, leaving no reason to miss out on all the fun.



## Eno River Then and Now

The Eno River began pretty simply—probably in the late 1600s—as nothing more than run-off from tobacco and corn fields in Orange County. Now the second largest river in North Carolina, it runs some 40 miles through Orange County and Durham County before merging with the Little and Flat Rivers and flowing into Falls Lake.



Three hundred years later (1966), the [Eno River Association](#) was founded as a non-profit 501 (c) (3) conservation organization with a mission to conserve and protect the Eno River basin.

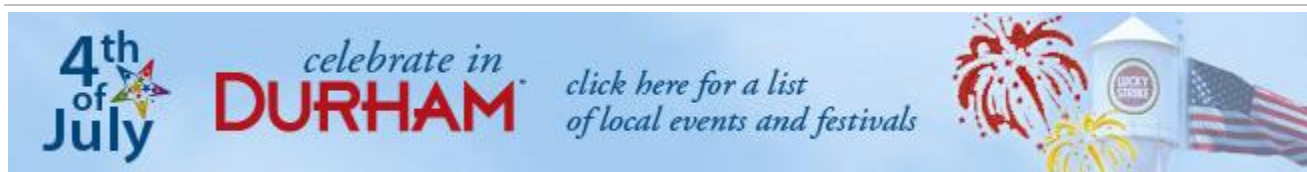
On the site where Durham's old West Point Mill stood since 1778, the story goes that one of the mill buildings along the river collapsed from old age and neglect in 1973. The Association was able to take the remains of an old mill in Virginia and reconstruct the mill on that site and establish a park in time to host 100,000 people at the Festival of North Carolina Folklife in 1976, one of many U.S. Bicentennial celebrations.

A version of that Festival began in 1980 as [Festival for the Eno](#), a fundraiser that has allowed the association to purchase and protect nearly 6,000 acres of land along the river. In addition to the Eno River State Park, which straddles Orange and Durham counties, there is a city park along the river named West Point on the Eno, which is the actual site of Festival.

As the 31st festival gets underway tomorrow, DNS is happy to provide some "then" and "now" blurbs for readers to learn about this lush treasure.

	THEN		NOW
1752	Michael Synott was granted 100 acres of land on both sides of the River including his mills.	1972	The state of North Carolina granted a request to establish a state park at the Eno river.

1942	Mill shut down after 160 years of continuous operation due to a flood	1995	A flood almost shut down the Festival, but was saved with hundreds of volunteer hours spent moving stages and crafters.
1865	General Sherman stationed a cavalry unit at West Point prior to the surrender at Bennett Place.	1980	Margaret Nygard, founder of the Eno River Association stationed 100 volunteers at various posts for the first Eno River Festival which drew 12,000.
1866	The wedding of Rebecca and Robert Russell took place exhibiting early hospitality on the site with the entire county invited to the ceremony and wedding feast, with music and dancing.	1998	The festival (longest running and largest ticketed Independence Day Festival in North Carolina) draws more than 40,000 people for music, dancing and feasting.
1887	Durham tapped the Eno for its first water system and built a pumping station.	1980	Internationally-known performers Shirley Caesar, Doc Watson, and the Red Clay Ramblers are tapped to headline the first Festival.



## North Carolina Central University Throws Birthday Bash

[North Carolina Central University](#) officials are inviting the public to a 100th birthday bash on campus on July 8.

The celebration will include dedications of a newly installed Centennial Garden on Fayetteville Street, the Centennial Chapel, (the relocated and repurposed Holy Cross Church) and a historic plaque commemorating the former site of Hillside High School. It is the final celebration of NCCU's centennial.



The birthday celebration will be held from 3pm to 6pm on and around the Brant Street plaza. After the dedications, the party will start with birthday cake and music.

Free parking will be available at NCCU lots on Lawson Street and Nelson Street and with shuttle service from St. Titus and St. Joseph's church lots.

The Centennial Garden, currently under construction, will be a swirling pattern of walkways and perennial plantings, with a mix of shrubs and hardwood and flowering trees. It will feature a fountain, and is situated on Fayetteville Street between the Shepard House and the former Holy Cross Church.

At first named the National Religious Training School and Chautauqua for the Colored

Race, NCCU opened its doors to students on July 5, 1910, when Durham was a small tobacco town, and opportunities for higher education for African-Americans were slight. In less than two decades, the institution had become the first African-American liberal arts college in the nation to receive taxpayer support.

The event is free and open to the public. For more information, contact the NCCU Office of Public Relations at (919) 530-6295.



[Durham News Service](#) is a service of the Durham Convention & Visitors Bureau, an internationally accredited local tourism development authority and the official destination marketing organization for Durham, North Carolina, including Research Triangle Park.

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101 East Morgan Street, Durham, NC 27701 USA  
(919) 687-0288 | (800) 446-8604  
TDD (919) 688-8680 | FAX (919) 683-9555



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