The background features a large, faint, circular seal of the Town of Forest City, North Carolina. The seal contains a central illustration of a forest scene with a river and a bridge. The text "TOWN OF FOREST CITY" is arched across the top, and "NORTH CAROLINA" is arched across the bottom. Two small crosses are positioned on the left and right sides of the seal.

**SCENES AROUND
FOREST CITY**

BUILD YOUR BUSINESS IN FOREST CITY

- HISTORIC DOWNTOWN
- SOUTHERN CHARM
- MODERN INNOVATION
- ENTREPRENEURIAL SPIRIT
- MAJOR CORPORATIONS
- ISOTHERMAL BELT REGION



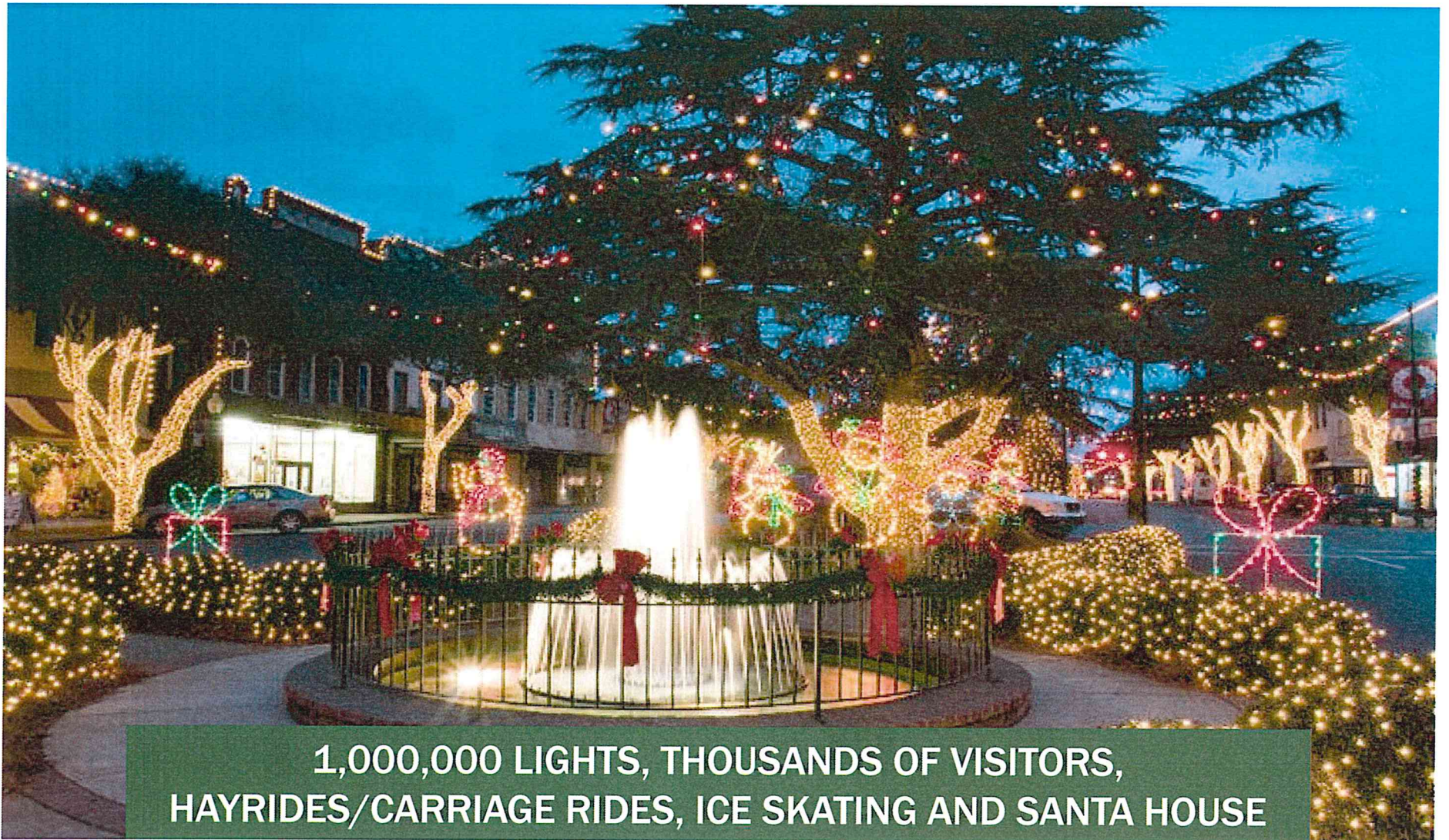
FOREST CITY DOWNTOWN PLAN 2010 - 2027



TOWN OF FOREST CITY DRIVING TIME

Destination	Driving Time
Tryon Equestrian Center	15 Minutes
Lake Lure	31 Minutes
Chimney Rock	39 Minutes
Hendersonville	44 Minutes
Asheville	1 Hour 3 Minutes
Hickory	1 Hour 8 Minutes
Gastonia	49 Minutes
Charlotte	1 Hour 11 Minutes
Spartanburg, SC	48 Minutes
Greenville, SC	1 Hour 10 Minutes
Atlanta, GA	3 hour 17 Minutes

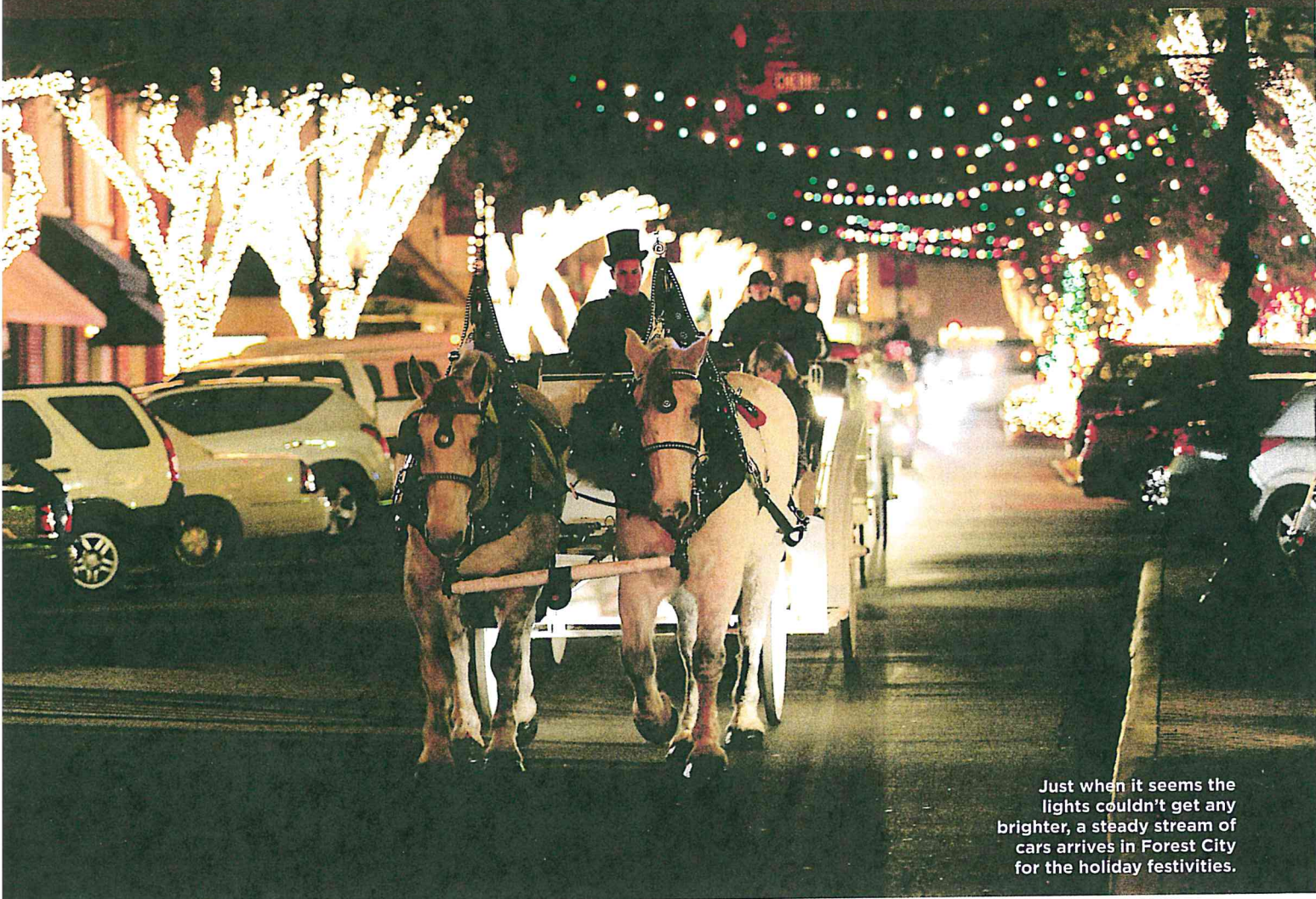
CHRISTMAS IN FOREST CITY AS FEATURED IN "OUR STATE MAGAZINE"



**1,000,000 LIGHTS, THOUSANDS OF VISITORS,
HAYRIDES/CARRIAGE RIDES, ICE SKATING AND SANTA HOUSE**

OUT & ABOUT

DECEMBER 2013



Just when it seems the lights couldn't get any brighter, a steady stream of cars arrives in Forest City for the holiday festivities.

Forest City Lights

Spend December captivated by a joyous, native glow.

BY JOHN TRUMP | PHOTOGRAPH BY DARRYL SMITH

IT STARTS WITH THE LIGHTS, a million or so. They are always here, wrapped around tree trunks, climbing up utility poles, and hanging on storefronts. Most of the year the bulbs are dark — in fact, you probably wouldn't even notice them. But at Christmastime, they fill several city blocks with holiday brilliance, showcasing a downtown where horse-drawn carriages and wagons tote visitors past shops and restaurants.

Officially, the town sports a half-million lights, but that can't be right, town utility workers say. Has to be closer to a million.

Amid the glow, you'll find the true spirit of this small town in the businesses, the nonprofits, and the community volunteers. Like Forest City native Earl Crowder.

Even in the off-season, he's hard to miss with his white beard and tendency toward wearing his favorite color, red. He's particularly recognizable in the eyes of the town's children, who often call him at home and corner him at the grocery store. "What kind of cookies do you like?" they ask. "Why aren't you in the North Pole? What about those elves?"

Crowder, a transit driver for Rutherford County, has been Forest City's Santa for more than 30 years. Inside a 14-foot-by-14-foot white house, he sits in a giant chair, surrounded by elementary school students from the Thomas Jefferson Classical Academy. A long, winding line of people waits to step inside. Children stand on tiptoes, all the while scanning the crowd, trying to guess how long it will be before they can sit on Santa's lap.

And the lights are here, too. Like in the rest of Forest City, wreaths and hundreds of white lights adorn the house's windows. They frame the quintessential Christmas moments taking place in this town, where the familiar face of your neighbor gives off a joy-inspired glow. 🌟

John Trump is a freelance writer and content editor — as well as a former resident of Forest City, where he was editor of The Daily Courier.

Forest City Christmas

Lights: November 27-January 2

Carriage rides:

December 7, 14, 21; 6 p.m.-9 p.m.

Santa's house:

Dec. 6-7, 13-14, 20-21; 4 p.m.-9 p.m.

(828) 247-4430 or forestcityevents.com.



A NORTH CAROLINA GLOW

This month, bask in the cheer of our state's holiday light displays — from the car, the caboose, or the garden path.

CHRISTMAS BY THE SEA

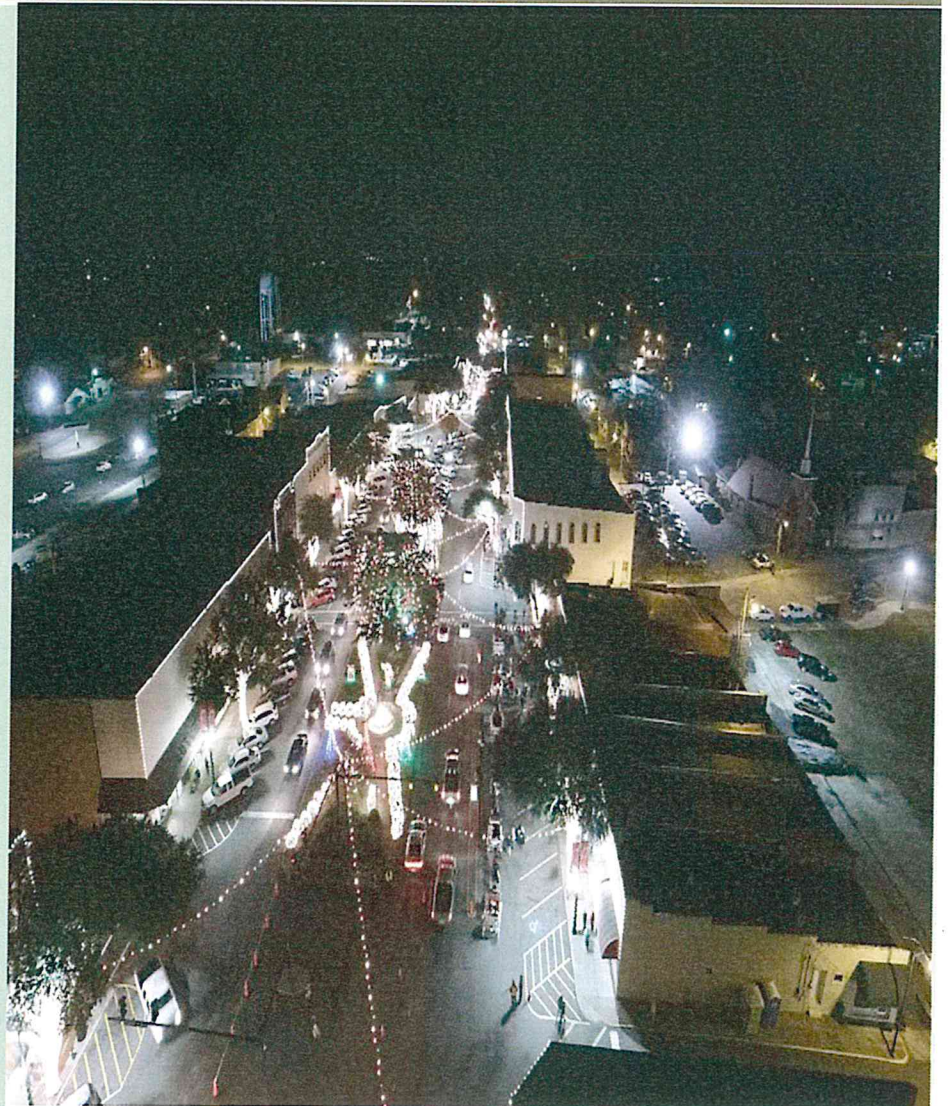
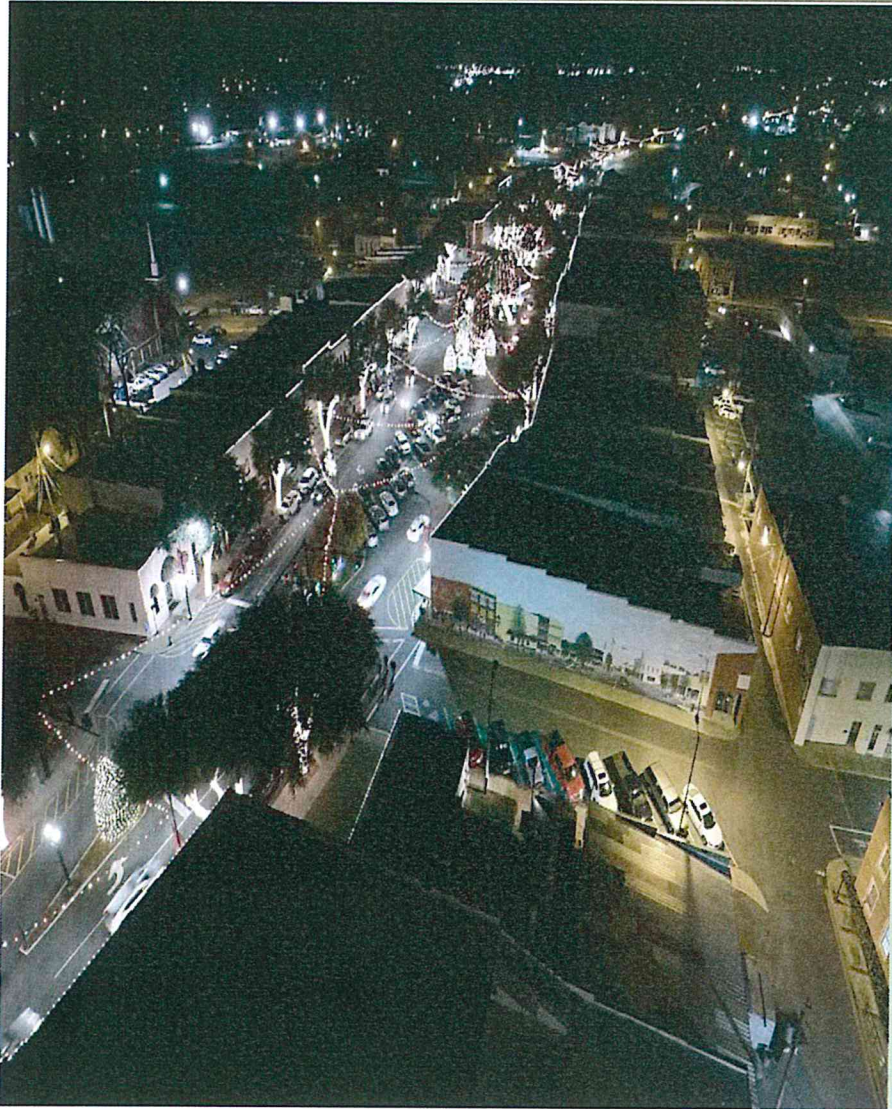
CAROLINA BEACH • Huddle around a fire pit on the boardwalk to admire the seaside lights. Listen to stories, buy gifts from holiday vendors, and stick around town on December 14 for a self-guided tour of Pleasure Island's holiday-decorated homes.

Lighting ceremony, November 23. Boardwalk entertainment, November 24; December 1, 8, and 15. Island of Lights Holiday Home Tour, December 14, 4 p.m.-9 p.m. Home Tour admission \$10. All other events free. Downtown. (910) 470-2024 or islandoflights.org.

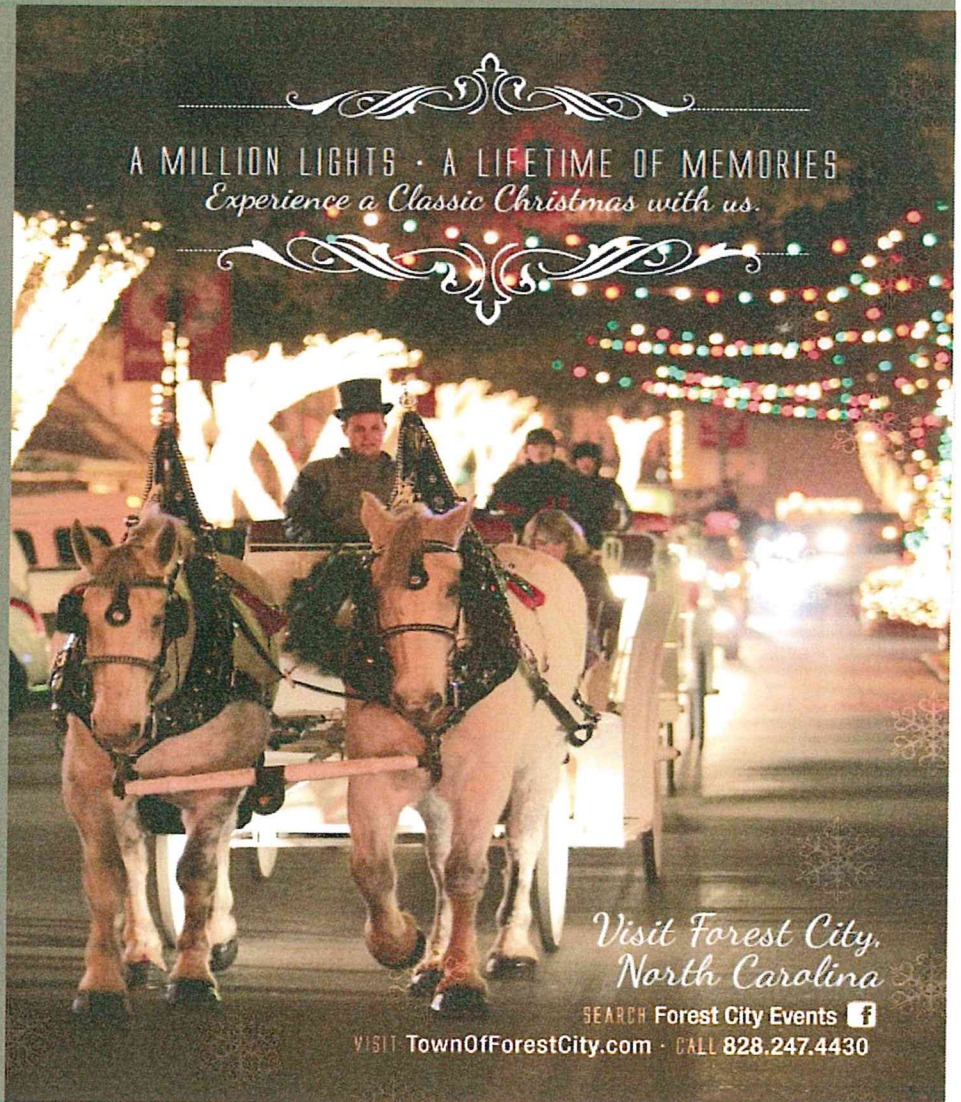
PHOTOGRAPH BY ©ISTOCKPHOTO.COM/PINK_COTTON_CANDY



CHRISTMAS IN FOREST CITY AERIAL VIEW




CHRISTMAS IN FOREST CITY SCENES AROUND TOWN



A MILLION LIGHTS · A LIFETIME OF MEMORIES
Experience a Classic Christmas with us.

*Visit Forest City,
North Carolina*

SEARCH Forest City Events 

VISIT TownOfForestCity.com · CALL 828.247.4430

MCNAIR FIELD

JUST BLOCKS AWAY FROM FLORENCE MILL



MCNAIR FIELD AERIAL VIEW



2014 SAC BASEBALL TOURNAMENT AT MCNAIR FIELD



IMPACT OF FOREST CITY HEAT (AAU) ON THE VISITORS TO THE TOWN OF FOREST CITY

The Forest City Heat (AAU - Amateur Athletic Union) puts on approximately 12 tournaments each year. These tournaments range from regular travel ball tournaments to state and national tournaments and use four to six basketball gyms each weekend. Two of the basketball gyms are located in downtown Forest City and the other four basketball gyms are located within 10 minutes of downtown. On an average, each team that attends will have at least 15 players/coaches and each team will have an average fan base of 20 people. This means each team brings in at least 35 people per team. The Heat will host eight large tournaments and four smaller tournaments each year.

Each large tournament supports around 40 teams.

40 teams x 35 people per team = 1,400 people per tournament.

8 tournaments x 1,400 people per tournament = 11,200 people coming to Forest City

Each smaller tournament supports around 18 teams.

18 teams x 35 people per team = 630 people per tournament.

4 tournaments x 630 people per tournament = 2520 people coming to Forest City

In 2015 the Heat will be hosting two additional tournaments which will bring in 60+ teams to Forest City.

60 teams x 35 people per team = 2,100 people per tournament.

2 tournaments x 2,100 people per tournament = 4200 people coming to Forest City



Forest City Heat

This organization brings in approximately 19,000 people every year looking for somewhere to stay overnight, somewhere to eat and something to do in their spare time.

DOWNTOWN FOREST CITY ANNUAL CAR SHOW



Early Registration

Friday, August 19th 2pm-8pm (Cost \$25)
108 E. Main St. (across from the fountain)

KICK OFF FRIDAY NIGHT

Sponsored by iAuto Collision Center

Friday, August 19th 6pm-9pm (free)
Parking lot behind Smith Drugs
Music / DJ / Dancing / Meet & Greet

CAR SHOW SATURDAY

Saturday, August 20th 9am-8pm
Registration from 9am-4pm (Cost \$25)
Entertainment / Bands
Jack Roper & The Weathermen Band
Dirty Grass Soul & Nigh Moves

www.facebook.com/hotnightscoolrides



ICONIC SMITH'S DRUGS AS FEATURED IN "OUR STATE MAGAZINE"



Our State

NORTH CAROLINA

Smith's Drugs of Forest City in Rutherford County

By David Bailey

Don't miss the Pimento Cheese Sandwich at Smith's Drugs of Forest City.



100 foods you *must* eat in 100 counties

Written by David Bailey



When Karen Marshall is having a ruinous day, and it's looking like things aren't going to get any better, she sits down at the fountain counter of Smith's Drugs, as people have been doing for 60 years, and orders herself a pimento cheese sandwich.

With haute cuisine sandwiches like chicken Parmesan and grilled ham-and-cheese club in the offering, why get plain-Jane pimento cheese? "It's warm and gooey and familiar and just good," says Marshall, the Lifelong Learning coordinator at Isothermal Community College in Spindale. The sandwich — made from good ol' yellow American cheese, pimentos, and mayonnaise — is best grilled, she says, whatever your choice of bread. Any good chef knows that butter and cheese are more accessible to your taste buds when warm, forming a creamy combo with the mayonnaise that showcases the sweet and tangy pimentos.

"It's comfort food," Marshall says. "There's so much upheaval in the world. People need something that's a constant, and the pimento cheese sandwich at Smith's Drug is that."

Smith's Drugs

139 East Main Street, Forest City, N.C. 28043

phone: (828) 245-4591

web: smithsdrugsfc.com

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SOUTHERN SANDWICH *Travel Guide*



BLT

Merritt's, Chapel Hill
1009 S. Columbia St.
(919) 942-4897 • merrittsstoreandgrill.com
You'll stand in line for a while, but the bacon and local bread are out of this world, making the wait more than worth it.



FRIED BOLOGNA

Brooks Sandwich House, Charlotte
2710 N. Brevard St.
(704) 375-7808 • eatbrookschili.com
Brooks's fried bologna sandwich is topped with homemade chili, providing an extra bit of flavor.



ICE CREAM

Nye's Cream, Wilmington
Retail locations throughout the state
(910) 859-7059 • nyescreamsandwiches.com
Both the cookies and ice cream are made from scratch, making this the freshest ice cream sandwich around.



FLUFFERNUTTER

Right from your own pantry
Go ahead and lick the marshmallow creme off your fingers — no one is watching.



GROUND-STEAK

The Dairy Center, Mount Airy
407 W. Lebanon St. • (336) 786-2349
You've got a great selection of Mount Airy restaurants where you can try the ground-steak sandwich. For less than \$3, The Dairy Center's option is a fantastic cheap eat.



SHRIMP BURGER

Big Oak Drive-In, Atlantic Beach
1167 Salter Path Rd.
(252) 247-2588 • bigoakdrivein.com
Walk up to the window and order this sandwich that satisfies after a morning spent beachside.



PIMENTO CHEESE

Smith's Drugs, Forest City
139 E. Main St.
(828) 245-4591 • smithsdrugsfc.com
With its sweet and tangy combination of American cheese, pimientos, and mayonnaise, this sandwich's simplicity is what makes it great.



GRILLED CHEESE

American Meltdown, Durham
Food truck location varies
americanmeltdown.org
This isn't your kid's grilled cheese. American Meltdown features ingredients such as figs and arugula pesto.



BARBECUE

Oh, you know the place.
We're not looking to start feuds. But we will say this: Any barbecue from North Carolina is better than whatever Texas is serving.



PORK CHOP

Snappy Lunch, Mount Airy
125 N. Main St.
(336) 786-4931 • thesnappylunch.com
With its coleslaw, mustard, and chili, this pork chop sandwich is so good, it's celebrity-endorsed.



BREAKFAST

Flo's Kitchen, Wilson
1015 Goldsboro St. South • (252) 237-9146
The biscuits are made from scratch, the cheese is bubbly and plentiful, and we can't think of a better way to start the day.



FRIED GREEN TOMATO

Lindley Park Filling Station, Greensboro
2201 Walker Ave. • (336) 274-2144
Fried green tomatoes get all gussied up with a little herb mayonnaise and cheddar cheese at Lindley Park Filling Station.



COLLARD

Snak Shak, Fairmont
306 Eldorado Rd. • (910) 628-1200
You can't get the collard sandwich at too many restaurants in North Carolina, but it's so good at Snak Shak, it gets its own sign outside, too.



FRIED CHICKEN

Price's Chicken Coop, Charlotte
1614 Camden Rd. • (704) 333-9866
The chicken is marinated for one day before it's coated with flour and deep-fried, locking in all those savory juices.



FRIED CATFISH

Saltbox Seafood Joint, Durham
608 N. Mangum St.
(919) 908-8970 • saltboxseafoodjoint.com
The restaurant might be located in a shack, but its fish is as fresh as can be and wonderfully seasoned.



BANANA

At home
Seriously, where can one get a banana and mayonnaise sandwich around here? Better question: When can one eat such a delectable creation in peace without having taste buds judged? You naysayers can keep your peanut butter and honey.

June 7, 2016

Pharmacy Fizzes Offer Refreshment at the Counter

A handful of drugstores in North Carolina still offer this timeless service: a lunch counter with a sweet remedy for the heat of summer.

written by [OUR STATE STAFF](#)

Cold Comfort

*At **Smith's Drugs**, handmade frosty 'ades and frozen ice cream sodas are the perfect antidote to a sweltering summer day.*

Sweet and tart, the Pink Lady comes iced and iridescent, the color of a flamingo. The drink practically glows in its Styrofoam cup. Four cherries recline like bathers atop the mix. Is it proper, between sips, to lift a cherry, delicately, and pop it off the stem with your teeth? Of course it is.

Next in the drink line: orangeade, a golden nectar of orange juice and simple syrup, a hummingbird's drink. The Orange Freeze — Sprite, cherry juice, and orange sherbet topped with more cherries — is half-frozen sugar. For the Freeze, though, Angela Rybolt mixes in cherry juice, as opposed to the Pink Lady, which takes cherry syrup.



Angela Rybolt with a legendary cherry soda: The Pink Lady. PHOTOGRAPH BY ANNA ROUTH BARZIN

June 7, 2016

“See, now, this goes in this, and this in this,” Rybolt says, leaning over the counter at Smith’s Drugs, a pharmacy and soda fountain in downtown Forest City. Here, customers have sipped concoctions for 77 years, since J.M. Smith opened the drugstore in 1939.

When diners want theirs a certain way, Rybolt and Amber McCraw, who’s also working the counter today, make the drinks to order. Otherwise, Rybolt says, “I fix ’em the way I like ’em. That’s my motto.”

•••

Getting to Smith’s Drugs is part of the fun. Forest City’s a town of about 7,400, off U.S. Highway 74 roughly midway between Gastonia and Hendersonville. The downtown is a three-block strip of divided Business 74 that bypasses a bank, a hair salon, two jewelry stores, a pet store, and Smith’s.

It’s the kind of place where, as on a recent Saturday morning, you encounter a couple at a table downing platefuls of livermush, eggs, and biscuits. Walk in the front door, and you’ll see the pharmacy to your left, the eatery to your right, and more tables lining a long corridor toward the back. Smith’s gets so packed on weekends that the manager had to hire a hostess.

Behind the counter, Brandi Nanney informs me that I’ve missed out on the salted caramel ice cream, which was “fabulous,” she says. “Of course, it’s gone,” Rybolt chimes in. “But that’s why.” The Pink Lady is served in a 16-ounce cup. Too much, I tell Rybolt, who brings me a smaller portion. It’s perfect, especially in the summer, when cold sugar tastes like salvation.

— *Greg Lacour*

Smith’s Drugs

139 East Main Street, Forest City, NC 28043
(828) 245-4591 or smithsdrugsfc.com

ISOTHERMAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE



RUTHERFORD REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER



**NAMED ONE OF AMERICA'S TOP 20 COMMUNITY HOSPITALS
BY BECKER'S HOSPITAL REVIEW**

RUTHERFORD COUNTY AIRPORT MARCHMAN FIELD AERIAL VIEW



RUTHERFORD COUNTY AIRPORT MARCHMAN FIELD

- Less than 10 miles from Forest City
- Located on 250 acres
- Averages 92 aircraft operations per day
- 58 aircraft based on field
- Aircraft services include fueling on site, hangars and tie-downs.
- Asphalt surface in good condition
- Future plans include a 1,000 feet runway extension, installation of precision approach equipment, a parallel taxiway extension, and a build out of the current terminal area.

