Music on Main Street



GEORGE GARDNER / Staff

City Councilwoman Jil Littlejohn, while announcing this year's concert schedule, says warm weather will help kick off Downtown Alive and Main Street Jazz.

Free concerts return to downtown this week

St. Pat's theme to kick off series

YOU CAN GO

Piedmont Natural Gas Downtown Alive goes on Thursdays from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. on the Hyatt Regency Plaza deck. Admission is free. Call 467-5741

BB&T Main Street Fridays goes on Fridays from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. on the Hyatt Regency Plaza deck. Admission is free. Call 467-5741.

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Downtown Greenville emerges from the wintry gloom this week as its two signature outdoor music series kick off their seasons.

Piedmont Natural Gas Downtown Alive makes its 2011 debut Thursday with a St. Patrick's Day party, while BB&T Main Street Fridays gets underway the following night, city officials announced Tuesday.

This season's Piedmont Natural Gas Downtown Alive will run for 24 weeks, from March 17 to Aug. 25, with 22 new performers, said Greenville City Councilwoman Jil Littlejohn.

"Typically, the start of the downtown events means that warm weather is on the rise, and it looks like we're going to have warm weather" for Thursday's kickoff, Littlejohn said.

Indie-rock band Green Vegas will perform at this week's Piedmont Natural Gas Downtown Alive, which will run from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m., an hour longer than usual, on the Hyatt Regency Plaza deck. The season opener also will also feature games, green beer and St. Patrick's Day decorations.

Friday, BB&T Main Street Fridays cranks up with funk/jazz band the Craig Sorrells Project, which will perform from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m., also on the deck of the Hyatt Regency Plaza.

BB&T Main Street Fridays goes on through Sept. 30, and it features 25 new bands performing blues, beach, jazz and rock, Littlejohn said.

There will also be a Kids Zone, which will offer interactive crafts, face-painting and inflatables for children.

New this year

New this year at Downtown Alive will be interactive games, including Birdie Ball, an inflatable golf game, Ladder Golf and other interactive games, Littlejohn said.

Piedmont Natural Gas Downtown Alive is a fund-raiser for Metropolitan Arts Council, which received $30,000 last year from the event, said Alan Ethridge, executive director of the arts council.

Also new to Downtown Alive will be a program called The Arts Do Downtown Alive, which will feature visual artists showcasing their work and arts organizations promoting ticket sales and season subscriptions for performing-arts programs, Ethridge said.