

# News Release (December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2007)

Spirit of Christmas is Alive in Milton! Come one, come all to Historic Downtown Milton, FL on **Dec 7th, 2007 from 5:30pm to 8:30pm for an Old Fashion Christmas** presented by the **Santa Rosa Arts and Culture Foundation, The Arts Agency for Santa Rosa County**, for its annual **Holiday Gallery Night – “Light Up Milton”!** In a spirit of cooperative effort, the Foundation is honored to welcome onboard the City of Milton, Veteran’s Memorial Park, SRC Chamber of Commerce, Historic Downtown Milton Neighborhood Watch, Main Street Milton, GFWC Milton Woman's Club, and many businesses as partners to magnify the experience for everyone’s enjoyment. This year’s Holiday Gallery Night promises to be festive and awe inspiring.

“I am so thrilled to see so many of the downtown organizations and businesses coming together to make this event possible. This will be Milton’s inaugural year to kick-off a coordinated effort to decorate the downtown historic district for the Christmas Holidays. This is an event I want to see everyone attend and see for themselves the strides being made to “bring back our downtown”, says **Mayor Guy Thompson**. The City of Milton is exemplifying the holiday spirit in historic downtown with lights, garland and other festive decorations to support the event and present itself for the ensuing holiday season. “With so many people working together to make this a night to enjoy and remember, the Santa Rosa Arts and Culture Foundation’s Holiday Gallery Night will set the standard for all future holiday seasons to come. This is an event you certainly won’t want to miss”, stated Ann Scott, an advocate for the arts and historic preservation of downtown Milton.

President of the Foundation, Jerry Cummings, suggests that you **start at the Dragonfly Gallery**, which will be hosting local school carolers, artists and their original holiday gift creations specifically made to fill those special needs for those unique gift-giving ideas. “**Follow the luminaries (over 10,000 candles in sand filled bags) along the self guided tour path throughout Historic Downtown Milton.** Theresa Messick of the Downtown Historic Milton’s Neighborhood Watch is presenting the “Light Up Milton” portion of Holiday Gallery Night by coordinating the numerous volunteers from the community including Main Street Milton and the SRC Historical Society. The Civil War re-enactors will be adding to the “Old Fashion Christmas” atmosphere by caroling in period costumes. We want everyone to experience a bit of nostalgia while strolling along candle lit streets for that old fashion Christmas feeling. Stroll along with friends and loved ones or ride in your choice of horse drawn Vis-à-vis or Cinderella carriage at a nominal \$5 or \$10 per person cost to enjoy the entire **programmed tour**. Programs will be available at the hosting businesses and of course at the Dragonfly Gallery”, said Jerry as he exuded good will with an early case of over abundant Christmas spirit.

Along the candle lit tour path, stop by and visit the businesses hosting many talented local artists and their beautiful creations in their mediums of their choice. This is your time to meet the artist behind the original works of art! Don’t miss a specially scheduled book signing at Polka-Dots with children’s book author, Leah Webb. Make sure you take the entire tour to experience performances by the Santa Rosa Pipes and Drums (bagpipes!), barbershop quartets, caroling Civil War re-enactors in period costumes, songs by Robin Cornelison at GiGi’s, specialty performances and many different caroler vignettes that have been scheduled throughout the downtown area for your enjoyment. The SR Historical Society will open the doors to its Museum of Local History for that extra touch of nostalgic information.

The Historic Downtown Milton will be lit in candle light along with the lamp poles wrapped in garland and festive lights! Be dazzled by the talent of Santa Rosa County and let us add to your wonderful Christmas experience with a bit of old fashion Christmas! Be sure to visit the special exhibit room set aside for “A Dragonfly Holiday”! The Dragonfly Gallery is a mission of the Santa Rosa Arts and Culture Foundation created to vitalize, promote and enrich the arts and culture in Santa Rosa County.

## **The following businesses are on the hosting venue:**

Dragonfly Gallery, Museum of Local History, GFWC Milton Woman's Club, Morgan Investments, Mainstreet Café/Old Post Office, Santa Rosa Jewelers, Panther Computers, Fitzgerald & Brooks Law Offices, Republican Headquarters, Blackwater Joe, Imogene Theater, Jennifer Byrom Law Office, Associated Court Reporters, Three Rivers RC&D Council, Rep. Greg Evers Office, Liberty Café, Polka Dots, GiGi’s Cottage & Garden and Camelot Junction. There will be 25-30 artists participating at these venues. Contact Gallery Director Jan Dempsey at 623-3711, the Dragonfly Gallery at 981-1100, Tues- Sat, 10am-4pm or on the websites, [www.santarosaarts.org](http://www.santarosaarts.org) or [www.sracf.org](http://www.sracf.org).

Respectfully Submitted by,  
Margie Baldwin  
Public Relations / Publicity Chairman  
Santa Rosa Arts & Culture Foundation  
[www.sracf.org](http://www.sracf.org)  
[margie\\_baldwin@bellsouth.net](mailto:margie_baldwin@bellsouth.net)  
850-983-9601