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News Release: Rocky Mount Invites Everyone To Play At Our House.

The Imperial Centre for Arts & Sciences is now into its' second year and is getting better. This 150,000-square-foot downtown facility is in the renovated buildings of the Imperial Tobacco Factory. Along with the Children's Museum & Science Center, the complex also contains six art galleries in The Arts Center, the 305 seat Theater and an educational building.

The Cummins digital planetarium has daily laser light shows. The CMSA science galleries are exhibiting EXTREME DEEP: Mission to the Abyss, an educational experience of life under the ocean. Animal habitats with Mae the alligator, Lizzie, a 15-foot Burmese python and a living marsh touch tank are also included in a small admission charge.

The Art Center is showing the 50<sup>th</sup> Annual National Juried Art Exhibition showcasing works from across the nation in a fine arts and crafts exhibition through June 27th. Additional exhibitions through June include Randy Shull furniture; Juan Logan - Notes & Observations; Alexis Joyner - Spirit Flight; Clyde Jones – Critter and Anna Hammond – Figures of Fantasy.

The Theatre at the Imperial Centre will be performing the ground-breaking drama “A Raisin in the Sun” on selected nights May 4 through May13. Call 252-972-1163 for times and tickets. The Imperial Centre for Arts & Sciences is located at 270 Gay Street, Rocky Mount. Small admission for the Children's Museum and planetarium. The Art Center is free.

During the first full weekend of May 11 and 12, people come out for the Blooming Festival when Nashville, the county seat, celebrates the coming of Spring with a family weekend of great food, handmade local crafts, live music and children's rides and activities. Sponsored by the Nashville Chamber of Commerce 252-459-4050.

On June 7th, The Greencards return to Nash Arts. Steeped in bluegrass tradition and recognized as The Best New Emerging Talent at the Americana Music Awards, they have played at the Grand Ole Opry. If you enjoy old Bluegrass with a modern twist you'll want to see The Greencards. Call Nash Arts at 252-459-4734 for more information.

To round out the events, the Pro bowlers return to Rocky Mount May 4-6<sup>st</sup> for the PBA Southern Region Pro-Am Tournament. A family atmosphere bowling weekend, you can bowl with the pros on Friday and be a fan on Saturday and Sunday cheering on your favorite Regional Pro during top notch competition.

The Dunn Center at North Carolina Wesleyan College presents the young trio of “Time for Three” performing May 3<sup>rd</sup> combining two violins and a double bass with a unique mix of bluegrass, Hungarian gypsy, jazz, country fiddling, classical and improvisatory music. Virtuoso pianist, Teresa Walters performs May 19<sup>th</sup> at the Dunn Center, NC Wesleyan College. The box office can be reached at 252-985-5197.

For kids of all ages Sunset Park with the antique carousel and miniature train is open weekends through May and begins a full schedule in June. The new Nash Area Farmers Market offers locally grown fruits and vegetables, homemade jams & pickles and fresh flowers on Saturday mornings.

Almost every weekend through November Rocky Mount continues to be filled with the competition of baseball and softball as players from all over the Southeast compete for trophies and bragging rights at the newly opened Rocky Mount Sports Complex. Schedules on-line and at 252 972 1151. Come watch the best compete at our house.

Early July offers two of the areas largest Independence Day celebrations. Rocky Mount celebrates July 3<sup>rd</sup> with live music, food and of course a fireworks finale. On July 4<sup>th</sup> Castalia has a day of great events including a parade, craft and food vendors, classic cars and finishes the day with spectacular fireworks.

It’s easy to see that Nash County is the place to be in May and June. Visit and enjoy the events as well as good old “Southern Hospitality.” For more information visit [www.rockymounttravel.com](http://www.rockymounttravel.com) or call the Nash County Visitors Bureau at 1-800-849-6825.