



**2023 Azalea Festival
Queen's Coronation
Wednesday, April 12, 2023
Brigade Boys & Girls Club**

Agenda and Script

1:15 pm Please be in your reserved seating. A Coronation Committee member will escort you there.

1:30 pm PRE SHOW

****PROCESSIONAL ****

Azalea will be playing

Emcee Jeff Phillips Introduces himself and Patt Noday and welcomes everyone to the Azalea Festival Queen's Coronation

Emcee will welcome and introduce the Navy Sailors for the presentation of the flag.

Our Color Guard Sailors are assigned to the USS Constitution. The USS Constitution, also known as Old Ironsides, is the world's oldest warship still afloat. She was launched in 1797, one of six original frigates authorized for construction.

Emcee will welcome and introduce Emma Katherine Warren who will perform our National Anthem.

Emma Katherine Warren

Is a sophomore at John T Hoggard High School. She joined the choir at Roland Grise Middle School in the sixth grade and sings with the Girl's Choir at John T Hoggard High School. She takes voice lessons with Sarah Kittle and was invited to sing with the First Presbyterian Church Choir, where she has performed as a soloist for various services. She has also sung at several sporting events including The World's Championship Horse Show at Louisville, Ky and UNCW basketball and baseball games.

Emcee asks everyone to please rise for the presentation of Colors by Navy Sailors and the National Anthem performed by Emma Katherine Warren.

PERFORMANCES

At Brigade Boys & Girls Club (BGC), our mission is to inspire and, through character development, enable all children, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens. We accomplish this mission by implementing research-based programming in five core areas: character and leadership development; education and career development; sports, fitness, and recreation; health and life skills; and the arts.

Performance – Brigade Boys and Girls Club

Performance – Brigade Boys and Girls Club

Youth Center

Dancing to: Move to the Beat

Choreographer: Ms. Nya Brunson

Duration: 2.5 minutes

Houston Moore Center

Poem: Bloom Like a Flower



Duration: 2.5 minutes

Art Contest Winners

Emcee to announce winners of the Children's Youth Art Contest; Sponsored in part by River Landing, Code Ninjas, and Farm Bureau.

The winners will stand and wave from their seats.

Elementary School (K – 2) Division

- 1st Place Tallulah Kopp Heidi Pfirman, 1st grade, Bradley Creek Elementary, "I Love Nature"
- 2nd Place Carmen Politis, Kemmie Bayliss, 2nd grade, Bellamy Elementary, "Airlie Camellias and Me"
- 3rd Place Kygo Roach Peggy Cleary, 1st grade, Castle Hayne Elementary, "Venus Fly Trap"

Elementary School (3rd – 5th) Division

- 1st Place Nina Brodbeck, 5th grade Brandi Neighbors, Van Story Hills Elementary (Fayetteville, NC), "Peaceful Water"
- 2nd Place Brinley Schilawski Suzanne Sload, 5th grade, Masonboro Elementary, "Enjoying the Fireworks"
- 3rd Place Nyla Dickey Christie Augst, 5th grade, Wilmington Christian Academy, "Flowers in the Hair are Beautiful"

2023 Youth Art Contest, Middle School Division

- 1st Place Luke Cherry Ashley Berdeau, 8th grade, Surf City Middle School, "On the Water"
- 2nd Place Ava Robinson Christie Augst, 7th grade, Wilmington Christian Academy, "Curious Charlie"
- 3rd Place Max Hammer, 8th grade Wilmington Academy of Arts and Sciences, "Sunfish Sailing"

High School Division

- 1st Place Sydney Cortina Lisa Rojek, 11th grade, Cape Fear Academy, "Bygone Belle"
- 2nd Place Jay Lancaster Shane Miller, 10th grade, North Brunswick High School, "Flowery Walk in the Spring"
- 3rd Place Emma Dixon, 11th grade, Hoggard High School

Performance – Brigade Boys and Girls Club

Segment 2

Community

Dancing to: Knuck if you Buck

Choreographer: Ms. Shawnette Moulton

Duration: 2.5 minutes

Teen Center

Singing a Song: Club member Zahyane

Duration: 2.5 minutes

Emcee Introduces New Festival Program, INTERNATIONAL BLOOMS



Celebrating the diversity here in the Port City, this year the Azalea Festival will be highlighting different aspects of Mexican culture!

The North Carolina Azalea Festival is excited to officially announce a new Festival program, International Blooms.

The Azalea Festival's mission is to be nationally recognized as a showcase for our community's rich array of artwork, gardens, history, and culture through recreational, educational and family-oriented events. The Festival encourages volunteerism and civic participation as it contributes to the region's economy and promotes the unique qualities of Wilmington's river-to-the-sea community.

While the Azalea Festival will continue to showcase the many diverse cultures of our area at every Azalea Festival, through the new International Blooms program, the Festival will now also specifically highlight one country each year.

This chosen country will be highlighted at various Festival events. Today we are celebrating Mexico by having some of the BB&GC boys and girls volunteer with our QC committee. They have been helping to greet our guests and passing out colorful pom poms to their BB&GC friends. The North Carolina Azalea Festival would like to officially announce **Mexico** as its honored country for the inaugural International Blooms program.

Emcee entertains with banter if needed to fill time.

*****LIVE SHOW*** 2pm****



Emcee Thanks Sponsors

- Economic Impact of Festival \$50 million annually
- Thanks Encore/Major Sponsors:
 - End of Days Distillery
 - Stella Artois/Wicked Weed
 - Dollar General/DGX
 - Duke Energy
 - Hotel Ballast
 - New Hanover Printing
 - Truist
 - Coastal Kia
 - The DFS agency
 - City of Wilmington

Emcee welcomes Cape Fear Garden Club's Ambassadors

Azalea Ambassadors represent the Cape Fear Garden Club during the Azalea Garden Tour and many other events related to the North Carolina Azalea Festival. They are high school juniors and seniors in New Hanover County with an interest in community involvement. Azalea Ambassadors work with the Garden Club to help stimulate an interest in gardening, conservation, and community beautification. This year there are 32 young ladies and gentlemen serving as Azalea Ambassadors.

Emcee welcomes and introduces Mayor Bill Saffo and other county and city dignitaries in attendance. (They will stand and wave as they are introduced.)

- Mayor Bill Saffo
- Chair Bill Rivenbark
- Vice-Chair LeAnn Pierce
- Commissioner Jonathan Barfield, Jr.
- Commissioner Rob Zapple

Emcee Introduces Board (who wave in acknowledgement)

It is my privilege to introduce you to the 2023 North Carolina Azalea Festival Board. These are just a FEW of the hard-working volunteers who make sure that magic of our Festival happens each year:

- Secretary Amy Dean
- Treasurer Michael Franklin
- Vice President Beck Smith
- President-Elect Andrew Nettleman
- President Denise Szaloky

And our Executive Director of the North Carolina Azalea Festival, Alison Baringer.

AFYC Board Members: [AFYC will stand and wave from their seats]

- Jenilee Stewart
- Helen Bennington
- Macy Killian



-Whitson Weinberg

MC introduces 2023 North Carolina Azalea Princess Avery Braithwaite -who then introduces her Court. Court will stand and wave from their seats.

BIO for Azalea Princess...

Avery Braithwaite, a junior from John T. Hoggard High School, was crowned the 2023 North Carolina Azalea Festival Princess during the 75th Annual North Carolina Azalea Festival Scholarship Pageant. Avery is the daughter of Drs. Adam and Heather Braithwaite. She and her court were selected from among 17 contestants representing 9 area high schools.

At Hoggard, Avery is Vice-President of the Junior Class, Executive Officer of the Youth Climate Action Coalition and Recruitment Coordinator for the Azalea Festival Youth Committee. She is also a member of the National Honor Society, Give Global, Mock Trial, and Youth and Government. Outside of school, she enjoys singing in the Girls' Choir of Wilmington, playing the piano, and spending time with her family. In the future, she wants to do something in the legal field, with a focus in public policy and politics.

Please welcome your 2023 North Carolina Azalea Festival Princess, Miss Avery Braithwaite!

Princess Avery Braithwaite Speaks
Princess introduces her Court and thanks Camille's of Wilmington, our Official Stylist of Royalty

Court:

Avery's Court includes:

- 1st Runner-Up from New Hanover High School, Emory Radford
- 2nd Runner-Up, from John T. Hoggard High School, Johana Acosta-Castillo
- 3rd Runner-Up, also from John T. Hoggard High School, Gracie Rogers
- 4th Runner-Up, from E. A. Laney High School, Madison Joy

Emcee welcomes and introduces our invited guests. They will stand and wave from their seats.

Now, let's meet some of our Invited Guests here today!

Adm. Daryl Caudle - U.S. Navy

Admiral Daryl Caudle, a native of Winston-Salem, North Carolina and a 1985 graduate of North Carolina State University, is the current Commander of United States Fleet Forces Command, based in Norfolk, Virginia. He concurrently serves as: Commander, Naval Forces Northern Command; Commander, Naval Forces Strategic Command; and Commander, Task Force Atlantic.

He mans, trains, equips, certifies, and employs over 125 ships and submarines, 1000 aircraft, and 125,000 Sailors and government employees, executing an annual budget of 14 billion dollars, and is responsible for providing combat-ready forces forward to Numbered Fleets and Combatant Commanders around the globe in support of US national interests.

During past assignments, he was the commander, Submarine Forces; commander, Submarine Force Atlantic; commander, Task Force (CTF) 114, CTF 88, CTF 46; and commander, Allied Submarine Command.



Harold Davis - U.S. Army Korean War Veteran

Harold Davis was born in Roxboro, North Carolina and drafted into the U. S. Army in 1952 and was part of the 224th Regiment, which he saw heavy combat for 10 months during the Korean War. He served twice as the State Vice Commander for the American Legion and was the North Carolina Legionnaire of the year (1985). Additionally, Harold designed the New Hanover County War Memorial in Longleaf Park, commissioned an artist to paint portraits of three New Hanover County Medal of Honor Recipients, helped establish New Hanover County Veterans Service Officers and Chaired the New Hanover County Veterans Council. For his continued service to the veteran community across the County, State, and Nation, he was chosen to attend the Korean War Memorial Dedication in Washington DC, has received the Governor of North Carolina Award for volunteer service, the Order of the Long Leaf Pine, the National Americanism Award and Commissioned as a Kentucky Colonel for his work to locate and identify POW/MIA remains through DNA testing and return them to families on a national level.

Frances Weller - News Anchor

Frances Weller is a proud Wilmington native, award-winning journalist, and community advocate. She recently celebrated 40 years at WECT.

Despite winning countless professional awards as well as the Order of the Long Leaf Pine, North Carolina's highest civilian award, Fran's greatest joy is her community involvement. Through her two passion projects, Fran's Fans and Weller's Wheels, she has kept the elderly cool each summer by gathering fan donations and she has made countless Christmases brighter for local children through her bike collection drive.

She's also the public relations chair for the Willie Stargell Celebrity Invitational, an annual event that raises money for local people living with kidney disease. Her twin sister, Margaret, was married to former Pittsburgh Pirates slugger and Hall of Fame member Willie Stargell who died from kidney failure in 2001.

Margaret Weller Stargell - Willie Stargell Foundation

Margaret Weller-Stargell, a native of Wilmington, North Carolina, is a graduate of North Carolina State University. She has been employed at Coastal Horizons Center, Inc. since 1985, where she began her work in counseling. In 1995, she became the Executive Director of the organization, and serves today as the corporation's President and CEO. Coastal Horizons Center, Inc., nationally accredited through CARF, is Southeastern North Carolina's largest private, non-profit human services organization providing behavioral health and primary health care services.

Mrs. Weller-Stargell was a 2018 StarNews Media Lifetime Achievement Award recipient. In 2019 she was awarded the Order of the Long Leaf Pine by the State of North Carolina. In July of 2020 she was appointed by Governor Roy Cooper to the Andrea Harris Social, Economic, Environmental and Health Equity Task Force, on which she currently serves. Governor Cooper also appointed Mrs. Stargell to the North Carolina Council for Health Care Coverage in November of 2020. She was appointed to serve as a member of the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services' (DHHS) Waiver Advisory Committee (DWAC) and more recently served as Chair of this statewide board. She is a member of the Cape Fear Community College Foundation Board and Mrs. Stargell also currently serves as Vice President of Trillium Health Resource's Provider Network Council.

Margaret Weller-Stargell is the President of the Willie Stargell Foundation, a private non-profit organization that raises money to assist those living with kidney disease. Mrs. Weller-Stargell is the widow of the late National Baseball Hall of Fame Member, Willie Stargell. Since its inception, the Willie Stargell Foundation has raised funds to fight kidney disease and improve patient care in honor of her late husband, who spent his 21-year career in Pittsburgh, with the Pittsburgh Pirates! The Willie Stargell Foundation's mission is to honor the legacy of Willie Stargell by giving hope through research, patient care and treatment for those living with kidney disease.



Karolyn Martin - Miss North Carolina 2023

As a military child, Karolyn Martin has lived all across the country, but North Carolina has always been home. In fact, out of the 12 schools she attended in her travels, 3 of them were located in the Old North State.

Karolyn's social impact initiative, #SelfKare: Eat to Success, aims to teach the community to eat in a way that fuels our minds and bodies to success while taking the focus off of weight and appearance.

Karolyn earned the job of Miss North Carolina 2022 on June 25, 2022. Since 2019, she has spoken to over 2,000 students about the importance of positive wellness, hosted two nationally attended wellness summits, and published her cookbook *The Self Kare Kitchen: Dorm Meals for the Healthy College Student*. Karolyn has earned \$27,500 of scholarship through the Miss America Organization allowing her to pay off her student loans in full at the age of 22!

Karolyn Martin is a Magna Cum Laude graduate of Appalachian State University's Honors College in Boone, NC. In the future, she plans to pursue her J.D. and work as a lawyer in business, patents, and intellectual property helping women pursue their entrepreneurial goals.

Ana Brown - 2023 Official Artist

Ana Brown, a native of Wilmington, NC, was given her gift of painting from her grandmother while growing up at Wrightsville Beach. Whether painting murals, oil and acrylic on canvas, or mixed media, Ana finds creating art to be a blessing through all things life unfolds.

When not raising awareness for colorectal cancer with The Blue-Ribbon Run founded for her sister, helping children with special healthcare needs at Welcome Home Angel, or designing with her parents at Sutton's Rugs, Ana finds joy in creating original works of art inspired by the beautiful coast of Wrightsville Beach and all it has to offer.

Remembering her time as an Azalea Belle in high school at John T. Hoggard, Ana is grateful and extremely honored to have been chosen as the 2023 Azalea Festival Artist.

Ana can often be found at the beach with her amazing husband Mike, her family, and her talented dog Bleu finding oyster shells by the seashore for SeaJules and TwoOysters.

Emcee Welcomes the Queen's Court and their Cadet Escorts. Each court member will introduce themselves and their cadet escort. Once they have introduced themselves and their escort, the Queens court and their Cadet Escorts will return to their spots, but remain standing for the Azalea Queen's introduction and crowning, 4 pairs standing just behind each side of the table holding the crown..

2023 QUEEN'S COURT/KEYDET PAIRINGS

~Rachel Townsend, Miss Fayetteville

Keydet Joseph Egbo (Williamsburg, Virginia)

~Hannah Welborn-Lewis, Miss Sandhills

Keydet Jack Mion (Glenville, New York)

~Jordan Garrick, Miss Piedmont



Keydet Thomas Champion (Gainesville, Virginia)

~Kate White, Miss Thomasville

Keydet Sam McCrary (Norfolk, Virginia)

~Tori Gross, Miss Randolph County

Keydet Peyton Simpson (Virginia Beach, Virginia)

~Elizabeth O'Brien, Miss Central Carolina

Keydet Thomas Marlow (Fort Worth, Texas)

~Taylor Loyd, Miss Statesville

Keydet Garrett Petruskie (Colonial Beach, Virginia)

~Anna-Claire Musick, Miss Metrolina

Keydet Nick Cabell (Montpelier, Virginia)

***** A Coronation Committee member will escort Mayor Saffo and other city and county dignitaries to a holding spot to go onstage for the crowning. *****

Emcee introduces Queen Azalea 76 Carli Batson

Now it's my utmost pleasure to introduce our 76th Queen Azalea, Carli Batson!

BIO
Carli holds a bachelor's degree in Communication and Theatre Arts from Appalachian State University where she also served as Co-Captain of their Dance Team. Carli attributes her debt-free education to the scholarship opportunities provided by the Azalea Festival Scholarship Pageant, Miss North Carolina and Miss America organizations where she had held the titles of Miss Wilmington, Miss Greater Sampson County, Miss Cleveland, and ultimately, Miss North Carolina 2021. As Miss NC, she competed at the 100th Anniversary Miss America Competition where she advocated for the needs of performing arts communities with her social impact initiative, Carolina Cares. With Carolina Cares, and her Blue Bucket Brigade, she raised over \$30,000 for community arts programs across North Carolina & beyond! She is currently living in Wilmington, where she is on staff at American Leadership Academy- Coastal, onstage at Thalian Hall, and loving her new fur-baby, Gus. She is thrilled to be back celebrating the 76th Azalea Festival which is near and dear to her heart. As a third generation Wilmingtonian, she has served on the Azalea Festival Youth Committee, Princess Court, Queen's Court, was an Invited Guest as Miss NC, and now Azalea Queen. From a little girl watching the parade street side, to participating in an array of NCAF events, Carli is embracing this full circle moment as your Queen Azalea and is honored to represent the Festival's history & future!
Emcee will chat with the Queen.



Emcee thanks our crown sponsor CPI Security, for protecting the crown all year

Emcee welcomes President Szaloky, Azalea Festival Princess Avery, Mayor Saffo, and Adm. Daryl Caudle to crown the new Queen Azalea..

*****Emcee asks everyone to stand for the crowning!*****

Emcee announces the crowning of the Queen as the President, Princess Mayor, and Adm. crown her. The Azalea Princess hands her the bouquet of flowers.

Everyone exits the stage with the exception of the Azalea Queen.

The New Azalea Queen addresses the audience.

PROCESSIONAL

Signing Meet and Greet

Emcee thanks everyone for attending.



**2023 Azalea Festival
Past President's Party
Live Oak Estates
Wednesday, April 12, 2023**

Agenda:

6:15 PM

Official Party arrives

Remarks:

6:40PM

President Szaloky recognizes Officers and thanks sponsors

At this time, I'd like to introduce the 2023 Azalea Festival Board of Directors: PE Andrew Nettleman, Vice President Beck Smith, Treasurer Michael Franklin, Secretary Amy Dean and I'm Denise Szaloky, your 76th & 2023 Azalea Festival President.

The over 1,000 volunteers are the heart of the Festival and its sponsors are the backbone. It's my pleasure to recognize and thank the

2023 Azalea Festival Encore & Major Sponsors:

Coastal Kia

DFS Agency

Dollar General, DGX

Duke Energy

End of Days Distillery

Hotel Ballast

New Hanover Printing

Stella

Truist

Wicked Weed

and the City of Wilmington.

President Szaloky introduces invited guests, recognizes Queen's Court and Keydets. Introduces Queen Azalea

Karolyn Martin, Miss North Carolina 2023

Harold Davis, US Army Korean War Veteran

Frances Weller

Margaret Weller-Stargell

Ana Brown, Festival Artist

Queen Azalea, Carli Batson

Queen speaks briefly

President Szaloky presents print to Peggy Baddour

President Szaloky speaks to past presidents and offers closing remarks



Past President Russ speaks and presents President Szaloky with gift

Past Presidents gather for photo with President Szaloky
(Sunset is approximately 7:41 pm)

8:00 PM Assemble and depart for Hotel Ballast



**2023 Azalea Festival
Official Party School Visit
Wilmington Christian Academy
Thursday, April 13, 2023, 9:30 am**

****Preliminary program as of 3/24/23****

Welcome & Invocation

Barren Nobles

Administrator & WCA Alumnus, Class of 1979

Dr. Jay Knolls

Pastor, Grace Baptist Church and President, WCA

Presentation of the U.S. and N.C. Flag

New Hanover County Sheriff's Office Honor Guard

Pledge of Allegiance

New Hanover County Sheriff, Ed McMahon

Accompanied by his grandchildren, all students at WCA: Braylee, Camdyn, Tenley, Sadie, McKenzie, Kylan and Cooper

National Anthem

****Audience Participation****

Musical Performance

"Stand with The Brave"

****(TIME 1:50)**

Camdyn Gibson, 5th grade

Music arranged by: Mark Patterson

**Introduction of 2023 NC Azalea Festival
President, Denise Szaloky**

Nora Rutland, 8th grade

**Remarks by the 2023 NC Azalea Festival
President**

Denise Szaloky

**Introduction of 2023 NC Azalea,
Festival Artist, Ana Brown**

Nyla Dickey, 5th grade

3rd Place – Elementary Division - 2023 Azalea Festival Youth Art Contest

Ava Robinson, 7th grade

2nd Place – Middle School Division – 2023 Azalea Festival Youth Art Contest

Presentation of Gift to WCA Administrators

*Administrator, Barren Nobles, Elementary Principal, Dr. Cathy Dotson,
Middle School Principal, Jeremy Errett & High School Principal, Craig Tucker*

Denise Szaloky

**Introduction of 2023 NC Azalea Festival
Officers**

Denise Szaloky

Musical Performance

"Rain"

****(TIME ???)**

Jameson Fountain, 12th grade

Original piece written & composed by Jameson

Musical Performance

"The Heavens Are Telling"

****(TIME 2:31)**

WCA Middle School Chorus

Music by: Franz Joseph Haydn - Adapted by: Hal H. Hopson

**Introduction of Invited Guests
Queen Azalea**

Denise Szaloky



Remarks by Queen Azalea 2023

Carli Batson

Presentation to Queen Azalea 2023

**Barren Nobles &
Sydney Lewis, 12th grade**

Musical Performance

"Firefly"

******(TIME 3:30)

WCA Elementary Large Ensemble

Music by: Mark Burrows

**Presentation to 2023 NC Azalea
Festival President**

Dr. Cathy Dotson, Elementary Principal &
WCA's "Dream Team" of Volunteer Moms

Musical Performance

"Will You Teach Me?"

******(TIME 3:39)

WCA Middle School Girls Ensemble

Music by: Victor C. Johnson

Closing Remarks & Benediction

**Barren Nobles &
Nate Philippou, 11th grade**

****Invited guests are asked to come to the Kids Campus Atrium immediately following the program to
enjoy a light reception and art display while Queen Azalea and her special guests enjoy the
"WCA on Display" Parade****



**2023 Azalea Festival
Celebrity Reception
Cape Fear Country Club
Thursday, April 13, 2023**

Agenda and Script

11:15 AM Arrive at Celebrity Reception: Lunch and Mingle (Please eat lunch upon arrival so that when the attendees filter in, you can mingle)

12:30 PM Presentation

President Introduces Herself; Welcomes All

President Thanks Sponsors

- Economic Impact of Festival \$50 million annually
- Thanks Encore/Major Sponsors:
 - City of Wilmington
 - Coastal Kia
 - Dollar General/DGX
 - The DFS Agency
 - Duke Energy
 - End of Days
 - Hotel Ballast
 - New Hanover Printing
 - Stella/Wicked Weed
 - Truist

I'd also like to also thank some sponsor friends who have made this event so special for us:

Wells Fargo, our Celebrity Reception Welcome Sponsor, and the Law Office of Jason Vaughn, a Table Sponsor.

President Thanks Patrons, Sponsors in attendance

- This Festival is b/c of all of YOU!
- In 2023 we have:
 - Major/Encore Sponsors
 - Benefactors/Glen Dale Event Sponsors
 - Donors/Gable Event Sponsors
 - Evergreen Event Sponsors
 - HUNDREDS of community partners and Festival friends
 - 39 Diamond Patrons
 - Over 180 Patron Supporters
- THANK YOU for your tremendous showing of support!
- As part of the Festival's NEW International Blooms Program, where the Festival highlights a different country each year, I also want to give special thanks to The Cape Fear Latinos and the representatives that greeted us today. Cape Fear Latinos cultivate the advancement of the Latino community in and around New Hanover County by providing social service and provide support in



several areas of need for our community. Thank you to nCino for providing support for this important new program!

- Szaloky to introduce Andrew Nettleman

• President-Elect Nettleman, President of the 77th NCAF: Pin Pals

- Andrew to encourage Pin Pal Program, Presented by Wilmington Grill
- Don't forget to register your pin online; to win one of 3 grand prize drawings worth over \$1,000! Drawing held on FB Live the Wednesday after the Festival; need not be present to win.

Nettleman Introduces MC

Our emcee, for today, is Mr. Jeff Phillips. Jeff has been a longtime volunteer with North Carolina Azalea Festival, the North Carolina Azalea Festival Princess Scholarship pageant, as well as the Miss America and the Miss North Carolina Scholarship Organizations.

Jeff is a 32-year member of Opera House Theatre Company's Corp Acting and a 3-time Star News Wilmington Theater award winner.

Jeff serves as Senior Director of Centralized Solutions for PPD, a part of Thermo Fisher Scientific. PPD is the world's leading clinical pharmaceutical research organization. With over 130,000 professionals worldwide, PPD and Thermo Fisher Scientific are committed to delivering life-changing therapies to improve health.

Please welcome, Jeff Phillips.

MC Welcomes All

- MC speaks a little more about themselves, what he loves about the Azalea Festival.

MC Introduces Board (who wave in acknowledgement)

It is my privilege to introduce you to the 2023 North Carolina Azalea Festival Board. These are just a FEW of the hard-working volunteers who make sure that magic of our Festival happens each year:

- Secretary Amy Dean
- Treasurer Michael Franklin
- Vice President Beck Smith
- President-Elect Andrew Nettleman

And our Executive Director of the North Carolina Azalea Festival, Alison Baringer.

MC introduces 2023 North Carolina Azalea Princess Avery Braithwaite -who then introduces her Court

....and now to introduce you to your 2023 North Carolina Azalea Festival Princess.

This year, this honor was awarded to a wonderful junior from John T. Hoggard High School. Avery is the daughter of Drs. Adam and Heather Braithwaite.



At Hoggard, Avery is Vice-President of the Junior Class, Executive Officer of the Youth Climate Action Coalition and Recruitment Coordinator for the Azalea Festival Youth Committee. She is also a member of the National Honor Society, Give Global, Mock Trial, and Youth and Government. Outside of school, she enjoys singing in the Girls' Choir of Wilmington, playing the piano, and spending time with her family. In the future, she wants to do something in the legal field, with a focus in public policy and politics.

Please welcome your 2023 North Carolina Azalea Festival Princess, Miss Avery Braithwaite!

Princess Avery Speaks

Princess introduces her Court, recognizes AFYC, and thanks her sponsors

Court:

- 1st Runner-Up from New Hanover High School, Emory Radford,
- 2nd Runner-Up, from John T. Hoggard High School, Johana Acosta-Castillo, (not in attendance)
- 3rd Runner-Up, also from John T. Hoggard High School, Gracie Rogers, and
- 4th Runner-Up, from E. A. Laney High School, Madison Joy

AFYC Board Members:

Jenilee Stewart
Helen Bennington
Macy Killian
Whitson Weinberg

Sponsors:

Camille's of Wilmington

MC Interviews Invited Guests

Now, let's meet some of our Invited Guests here today! (MC calls up each guest individually and interviews them (about 2 minutes each). Suggested talking points below. (We'd love some banter and laughter!)

Ana Brown, the Official Festival Artist

She is a native of Wilmington and was given her gift of painting from her grandmother while growing up at Wrightsville Beach. Whether painting murals, oil and acrylic on canvas, or mixed media, Ana finds creating art to be a blessing through all things life unfolds. Ana was an Azalea Belle in high school at John T. Hoggard.

- Tell us where you get your painting inspirations from.

Trot Nixon, MLB Baseball Player

He is beloved in Boston because in 2004 he helped break the "Curse of the Bambino," leading the Red Sox to their first World Series Championship in nearly a century. But his athletics career began, blossomed and returned to his beach-bound roots of Wilmington, North Carolina. He was Inducted into the Wilmington Sports Hall of Fame in 2012 and then inducted into the North Carolina Sports Hall of Fame in 2020.

- We're all dying to know what playing in the MBL is like...tell us your biggest win or an interesting story!

Frances Weller, WECT Anchor

A proud Wilmington native, award-winning journalist, and community advocate, she recently



celebrated 40 years at WECT! Despite winning countless professional awards as well as the Order of the Long Leaf Pine, North Carolina's highest civilian award, Fran's greatest joy is her community involvement. Through her two passion projects, Fran's Fans and Weller's Wheels.

- You have attended a few Azalea Festivals in your life...tell us what your favorite Festival memory is and why!

Margaret Weller-Stargell, Willie Stargell Foundation

Also, a native of Wilmington she is the President of the Willie Stargell Foundation, a private non-profit organization that raises money to assist those living with kidney disease. Since its inception, the Willie Stargell Foundation has raised funds to fight kidney disease and improve patient care in honor of her late husband, who spent his 21-year career in Pittsburgh, with the Pittsburgh Pirates! The Willie Stargell Foundation's mission is to honor the legacy of Willie Stargell by giving hope through research, patient care and treatment for those living with kidney disease.

- Margaret – you work with so many non-profits in town; tell us why you feel it's so important to give back in this way to our communities.

Harold Davis, U.S. Army Korean War Veteran

From Roxboro, North Carolina and drafted into the U. S. Army in 1952 he was part of the 224th Regiment, which he saw heavy combat for 10 months during the Korean War. He served twice as the State Vice Commander for the American Legion and was the North Carolina Legionnaire of the year (1985). Additionally, he designed the New Hanover County War Memorial in Longleaf Park, commissioned an artist to paint portraits of three New Hanover County Medal of Honor Recipients, helped establish New Hanover County Veterans Service Officers and Chaired the New Hanover County Veterans Council. For his continued service to the veteran community across the County, State, and Nation, he was chosen to attend the Korean War Memorial Dedication in Washington DC, has received the Governor of North Carolina Award for volunteer service, the Order of the Long Leaf Pine, the National Americanism Award and Commissioned as a Kentucky Colonel for his work to locate and identify POW/MIA remains through DNA testing and return them to families on a national level.

- Tell us how you got started in using DNA to help identify POW/MIA remains, and why that is so important to families.

Adm. Daryl Caudle, U.S. Navy

A native of Winston-Salem, Adm. Daryl Caudle is the current Commander of United States Fleet Forces Command, based in Norfolk, Virginia. He concurrently serves as: Commander, Naval Forces Northern Command; Commander, Naval Forces Strategic Command; and Commander, Task Force Atlantic. He mans, trains, equips, certifies, and employs over 125 ships and submarines, 1000 aircraft, and 125,000 Sailors and government employees. In past assignments, he was the commander, Submarine Forces; commander, Submarine Force Atlantic; commander, Task Force (CTF) 114, CTF 88, CTF 46; and commander, Allied Submarine Command.

- What's it like to lead over 125,000 sailors?!

Miss North Carolina 2023, Karolyn Martin

She has lived all across the country, but North Carolina has always been home. Her social impact initiative, #SelfKare: Eat to Success, teaches to eat in a way that fuels our minds and bodies to success while taking the focus off of weight and appearance. Since 2019, she has spoken to over 2,000 students about the importance of positive wellness, hosted two nationally attended wellness summits, and published her cookbook The Self Kare Kitchen: Dorm Meals for the Healthy College Student. She earned the job of Miss North Carolina 2022 on June 25, 2022.

- What is your "go-to" healthy dorm room (or, quick and no hassle) meal and why?

MC introduces Queen Carli Batson



Now it's my utmost pleasure to introduce Queen Azalea, Carli Batson!

Carli holds a bachelor's degree in Communication and Theatre Arts from Appalachian State University where she also served as Co-Captain of their Dance Team. Carli attributes her debt-free education to the scholarship opportunities provided by the Azalea Festival Scholarship Pageant, Miss North Carolina and Miss America organizations where she had held the titles of Miss Wilmington, Miss Greater Sampson County, Miss Cleveland, and ultimately, Miss North Carolina 2021.

As Miss NC, she competed at the 100th Anniversary Miss America Competition where she advocated for the needs of performing arts communities with her social impact initiative, Carolina Cares. With Carolina Cares, and her Blue Bucket Brigade, she raised over \$30,000 for community arts programs across North Carolina & beyond! She is currently living in Wilmington, where she is on staff at American Leadership Academy- Coastal, onstage at Thalian Hall, and loving her new fur-baby, Gus.

As a third generation Wilmingtonian, she has served on the Azalea Festival Youth Committee, Princess Court, Queen's Court, was an Invited Guest as Miss NC, and now Azalea Queen.

- Carli, having lived in Wilmington and participating in an array of NCAF events, tell us about your favorite!
- As Miss NC, tell us a memorable story from your time serving.
- Now, tell us what it is like being Queen Azalea!

MC Introduces Queen's Court and their Keydet Escorts

--Queens introduce themselves and their Keydet escort

- Rachel Townsend and Keydet Joseph Egbo
- Hannah Welborn-Lewis and Keydet Jack Mion
- Jordan Garrick and Keydet Thomas Champion
- Kate White and Keydet Sam McCrary
- Tori Gross and Keydet Peyton Simpson
- Elizabeth O'Brian and Keydet Thomas Marlow
- Taylor Loyd and Keydet Garrett Petruskie
- Anna-Claire Musick and Keydet Nick Cabell

MC Invites President Szaloky and 2023 Festival Artist Ana Brown to front to Present a Print to Cape Fear Country Club

President Thanks Cape Fear Country Club

President Closes Event & Thanks all for Coming



2023 Azalea Festival Hospital Visit

Novant Health at Betty H. Cameron Women's and Children's Hospital Thursday - April 13, 2023

Agenda:

- 1:30 PM Official Party arrives at Hospital
- 1:35 PM Welcome Remarks by Shelbourn Stevens, President Novant Health New Hanover Regional Medical Center and the Coastal region
- Introduction of Azalea Festival President Denise Szaloky by Shelbourn Stevens, President Szaloky introduces Officers
Andrew Nettleman, President-Elect
Beck Smith, Vice President
Michael Franklin, Treasurer
Amy Dean, Secretary
- President Szaloky introduces invited guests and welcomes Ana Brown, 2023 Festival Artist to the podium
 President Szaloky and Ana presents print to Shelbourn Stevens.
- President Szaloky recognizes the Queen's court and introduces the 2023 Azalea Festival Queen, Carli Batson.
- Queen speaks briefly.
- 1:45 PM Tour begins.
- 2:00 PM Official Party assembles and departs.

Official Party:

Denise Szaloky	President
Andrew Nettleman	President-Elect
Beck Smith	Vice President
Michael Franklin	Treasurer
Amy Dean	Secretary
Carli Batson	Queen Azalea 2023
Ana Brown	Festival Artist
Harold Davis	Invited Guest
Karolyn Martin	Miss North Carolina
Frances Weller	Invited Guest
Margaret Weller-Stargell	Invited Guest
Rachel Townsend and Keydet Joseph Egbo	Miss Fayetteville
Hannah Welborn-Lewis and Keydet Jack Mion	Miss Sandhills
Jordan Garrick and Keydet Thomas Champion	Miss Piedmont

Kate White and Keydet Sam McCrary	Miss Thomasville
Tori Gross and Keydet Peyton Simpson	Miss Randolph County
Elizabeth O'Brian and Keydet Thomas Marlow	Miss Central Carolina
Taylor Loyd and Keydet Garrett Petruskie	Miss Stateville
Anna-Claire Musick and Keydet Nick Cabell	Miss Metrolina
Avery Braithwaite	Princess
Emory Radford	Court
Gracie Rogers	Court
Madison Joy	Court
Jenilee Steward	Youth Committee
Helen Bennington	Youth Committee
Macy Killian	Youth Committee
Whitson Weinberg	Youth Committee



**2023 Azalea Festival
USS San Jacinto Official Tour
Azalea Festival Official Party Visit
Thursday, April 13, 2023
2:20pm – 3:45pm**

Agenda:

2:25 PM	Azalea Festival Official Party arrives at USS San Jacinto
2:30 PM	Azalea Festival Official Party boards the ship and is greeted at the quarterdeck by Ships Triad (CO, XO, CMC)
2:32 PM	Transit to the Fantail, CO welcomes group to USS San Jacinto, gives remarks on relationship between Navy and Wilmington
2:35 PM	CO passes to Azalea Festival President, Denise Szaloky for short remarks
2:38 PM	Azalea Festival President presents print to CO (Capt. Christopher Marvin) on behalf of Festival
2:40 PM	Captain gives thanks, conclusion, and tour guides begin tour
3:40 PM	Official Party departs.

CFGC Ribbon Cutting Live Broadcast Script
(By Karen Smith)
Home of Lillian Smith 615 Forest Hills Drive

- 8:30 am** **Sound Waves** arrives
- 9:00 am** Entourage arrives, **Karen Smith, Gayle Ward and Mary Kathryn Turner** will Greet and escort guests to their seats.
Azalea Ambassadors in position, Anne Stohl and her quartet begins to play.
- 9:28am** **Victoria Huggins** (emcee)
Prepares audience for live broadcast for 70th Annual Cape Fear Garden Club Garden Tour
- 9:30am** **WWAY Intro**
- 9:31am** **Victoria** live
Welcome to the 70th Cape Fear Garden Club Garden Tour Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at the home of Mrs. Lillian Smith.
- Victoria Thanks **Anne Stohl** and her quartet, introduces CFGC President **Meredith Lewis**.
- 9:33am** **Meredith Lewis**
Welcome speech and recognizes Ambassadors (Meredith remains on stage)
- 9:35am** **Victoria**
Introduces **Goldie Stetten**, Tour Chair Co-chairs **Laurel Maultsby** and **Hillary McNeir**
- 9:35am** **Goldie Stetten**
Recognizes garden owners, Introduces Mrs. **Lillian Smith**
Goldie and Lillian stay on the stage. Goldie left stage, Lillian right stage

9:40am

Victoria

Victoria introduces **Mayor Bill Saffo**
LeAnn Pierce Vice-chair, County Commissioner
Jonathan Barfield Jr., County Commissioner
Rob Zapple County Commissioner

City officials recognized ????

9:42am

Victoria

Introduces the 76th President of the Azalea Festival: **Denise Szaloky**

9:43am

Denise

Denise makes brief remarks and introduces officers, Denise is only Speaker, Denise presents official print to Goldie Stetten and Lillian Smith. (Goldie stays on porch, Lillian can go to her seat
Festival officers will be recognized from their seats.

9:45am

Victoria

Victoria introduces Azalea Festival Youth Committee : Jenilee Stewart
Helen Bennington, Macy Killian, Whitson Weinberg
(Will already be seated as they are introduced.)

9:47am

Victoria introduces celebrity guests:

Ana Brown - Festival Artist
Harold Davis – US Army Korean War Veteran
Karolyn Martin - Miss North Carolina
Frances Weller & Margaret Weller Stargell

9:51am

Victoria

Introduces our 2023 Azalea Princess

Miss Avery Braithwaite

Avery introduces her court:

Court is already seated

Emory Radford, Gracie Rogers, and Madison Joy.

9:53am

Victoria

Introduces Azalea Queens Court:

Hannah Welborn-Lewis, Miss Sandhills

Keydet Jack Mion **Glenville, N.Y.**

Rachel Garrick, Miss Piedmont

Keydet Thomas Champion, **Gainesville, Virginia**

Tori Gross, Miss Randolph County

Keydet Peyton Simpson, **Virginia Beach, Virginia**

Rachel Townsend, Miss Fayetteville

Keydet Joseph Egbo, **Williamsburg, Virginia**

Kate White, Miss Thomasville

Keydet Sam McCrary, **Norfolk, Virginia**

Taylor Loyd, Miss Statesville

Keydet Garrett Petruskie , **Colonial Beach, Virginia**

Elizabeth O'Brien, Miss Central Carolina

Keydet Thomas Marlow, **Fort Worth, Texas**

Anna-Claire Musick, Miss Metrolina

Keydet Nick Cabell, **Montpelier, Virginia**

9:57am

Victoria

It is with great pleasure that I introduce Carli Batson as our Queen Azalea for 2023. Carli graduated from Appalachian State Univ. with a degree in communication and Theatre Arts.

Carli Batson is thrilled to be back celebrating the 76th Azalea Festival. As a third generation Wilmingtonian, she served on The Azalea Festival Youth Committee, Princess Court, Queens Court, invited guest as Miss N.C. and now the 2023 Azalea Festival Queen

(Queen has brief remarks)

She will be assisted by **Azalea Ambassadors Lilly Moeller and Emma Snider with the ribbon**

Ambassador Jack Malloy will hand the queen the scissors

Ambassador Sanders Lewis will present the bouquet

9:59

Victoria

Thank you for joining us today and we hope you enjoy your weekend in our beautiful gardens. The garden club has prepared beautiful Cookies and bottled water for the guests of this year's Ribbon Cutting.

Please follow our Queen Carli Batson, Tour chair Goldie Stetten, and Garden club president Meredith Lewis as they escort the queen to the cookie tent.



2023 Azalea Festival
Bluewater Waterfront Grill – After Garden Get Down Visit
Friday, April 14, 2023

Agenda:

- 2:45 PM ***Bluewater will have table for eight and a few appetizers on the table/ordered.
The Azalea Festival Queen arrives via Limo and greeted by Bluewater Team Member(s) – Queen Carli Batson, Queen’s mother, Matthew TenHuisen, Board member Amy Dean enter through lobby.
- 2:48 Amy Dean leads Azalea Queen through Bluewater to outdoor band location for announcement.
- 2:50 Amy Dean thanks the crowd for attending, mentions sponsorship and introduces 2023 Azalea Queen.
- 2:53 Queen speaks briefly.
- 2:55 Azalea Queen to mingle with guests, photo opportunities.
- 3:00 Group lead to table for food and drinks.
- 3:15 Assemble to depart/Queen to Hotel Ballast.



**2023 Azalea Festival Queen's Dance Party
Wilmington City Council Chambers Ballroom
Friday, April 14, 2023**

Agenda and Script

6:30 PM
(MC Welcome)

"Good evening, and welcome to Wilmington City Council Chambers for the Queen's Dance Party! My name is Victoria Huggins: I am your MC for the night, and I could not be more excited to be here with you today! Some of my closest Festival friends are here to share the floor with me and we cannot wait to dance the night away with you!"

Before I begin introducing our special guests, I'd like to tell y'all a little bit about myself and my experience as your previous Azalea Festival Queen.

(Victoria TO AD LIB HERE).

Now, I'd like to introduce you to a very special member of our Azalea Festival family, our 76th North Carolina Azalea Festival Queen Azalea, Carli Batson!

6:32 PM
(Queen Welcome)

CARLI TO SAY HELLO, AND SHARE HER FESTIVAL EXPERIENCES

6:34 PM
(MC Speaking)

QUEENS TO STAND AND WAVE AS THEY ARE INTRODUCED

Our next guest is Miss Fayetteville, Rachel Townsend! Rachel is from Stedman, North Carolina. She is a Magna Cum Laude graduate of Methodist University. Currently, she is a student at UNC-Pembroke, pursuing a Master's degree in Public Administration. Rachel founded Faithful Over Few: Fostering Hope Through Financial Literacy which she created after paying off her \$20,000 student loan balance in 12 months!

Next, I'd like to introduce Miss Sandhills, Hannah Welborn-Lewis. Hannah is from Archdale, NC. She is a Summa Cum Laude graduate of Western Carolina University. She also has a Master of Arts in Communication Studies from UNC-Greensboro. Currently, Hannah is a Public Education and Social Media Specialist for the City of Greensboro Water Resources; and an Events and Volunteer Coordinator for Haw River Assembly. She is the creator of Sustainable Shareable Solutions.

Now I'd like to introduce, Miss Piedmont, Jordan Garrick. Jordan is from Charlotte, NC. She is a Dean's List graduate of UNC-Chapel Hill Hussman School of Journalism and Media Advertising and Public Relations. Jordan is a member of the UNC-Chapel Hill Order of the Golden Fleece Honor Society. She created Thriving with AI which works to make our world a better and safer place with artificial intelligence. Jordan is currently an Artificial Intelligence Marketing Specialist at Deloitte.



Next up is Miss Thomasville, Kate White. Kate is from New London, NC. She is currently a Dean's List student at UNC-Wilmington, majoring in theatre performance. She was Miss Stanly County in 2022. Her Social Impact is Find Your Spark which creates unique arts opportunities while promoting the importance of following your passions.

Now I'd like to introduce Miss Randolph County, Tori Kaitlyn Gross. Tori is from Trinity, NC. She is a Christian role model and a graduate of Randolph Community College, with an Associate's Degree in Interior Design. Her Social Impact is Give Life, Give Blood. Tori has raised over \$80,000 for Victory Junction, a camp for children with illnesses or disabilities.

Next is Miss Central Carolina Elizabeth O'Brien. Elizabeth is from Sanford, NC. She is a Magna Cum Laude graduate of High Point University, with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Elementary Education and a Master in Education in Elementary Education from UNC Wilmington. Her Social Impact is Military Missions in Action, with which she has logged over 1500 volunteer hours.

Now let's meet Miss Statesville, Taylor Loyd. Taylor is from Mooresville, NC. She is currently a Senior at UNC-Chapel Hill, double majoring in Classical Voice Performance and Psychology. Taylor is the winner of the UNC Symphony Orchestra Concerto Competition. She is the founder of Healing Hearts through the Arts - Supporting Arts Advocacy and promotion as a tool for mental health and well-being.

Now I'd like to introduce Miss Metrolina Anna-Claire Musick. Anna is from Macclesfield, NC. She is a Dean's List graduate of UNC-Chapel Hill. Anna graduated with a BA in Communication Theory. She is currently at Appalachian State University pursuing a MA in Clinical Mental Health Counseling. Her Social Impact Incentive is Live Well: Exploring head-to-toe wellness and the power of choice.

6:43 PM
(MC Speaking)

PRINCESS AND COURT TO STAND AND WAVE AS THEY ARE INTRODUCED

I'd like to introduce the 2023 North Carolina Azalea Festival Princess, Avery Braithwaite, a junior from John T. Hoggard High School.

Her court members include Emory Radford from New Hanover High School, Johana Acosta-Castillo from John T. Hoggard High School, Gracie Rogers also from John T. Hoggard High School, and Madison Joy from E. A. Laney High School.

Now, let's welcome Miss North Carolina, Karolyn Martin to say hello!

6:45 PM

KAROLYN TO SAY HELLO/INTRODUCE HERSELF, AND SHARE HER FESTIVAL EXPERIENCES



6:47 PM
(MC Speaking)

Let's give a big thank you to all of our invited guests, and also to yourselves for joining us here tonight! If you wish to see live music and dance performances from our Azalea Festival royalty, please join us at the DGX Street Fair tomorrow at 12:50 pm, at the Novant Health Performing Arts Stage in the Ligon Flynn Lot at 2nd and Market Streets. Come early at 12:15 to see the stage opening with performances by Mariachi Viva Mexico, NC; as part of our new International Blooms program. This is a FREE event!

Now, please enjoy the wonderful meal provided by Emma's Delights NC and then after our dinner, meet me on the dance floor!!!



2023 Azalea Festival Parade Opening Agenda and Script Saturday - April 15, 2023

In Front of Reviewing Stand

President Szaloky and Board on Street.

9:15 AM

WWAY Anchors:

“Good morning and welcome to the 76th North Carolina Azalea Festival Parade, Presented by Dollar General! We have a spectacular Parade kicking off in just a few minutes at 9:30 am; but before this begins, we have a great pre-show for you right here in front of the Grand Reviewing Stand! This Pre-Show is brought to you in part by Wilmington International Airport, our sponsor of the Pre-Parade Entertainment, and GriffinEstep Benefit Group, our Reviewing Stand Sponsor!

To get things started, please welcome Mariachi Viva Mexico, NC! Mariachi Viva Mexico is performing as part of the Azalea Festival’s new International Blooms program.

The Azalea Festival’s mission is to be nationally recognized as a showcase for our community’s rich array of artwork, gardens, history, and culture through recreational, educational and family-oriented events. The Festival encourages volunteerism and civic participation as it contributes to the region’s economy and promotes the unique qualities of Wilmington’s river-to-the-sea community.

While the Azalea Festival will continue to showcase the many diverse cultures of our area at every Azalea Festival, through the new International Blooms program, the Festival will now also specifically highlight one country each year. This chosen country will be highlighted at various Festival events through special musical and dance performances, invited guests and groups representing the country, food and art displays, and more. In efforts to ensure each country is represented authentically, the Azalea Festival will work with ambassadors and citizens who have that country’s heritage.

The inaugural International Blooms country is Mexico, so without further delay, let’s give it up for Mariachi Viva Mexico, NC!!”

9:20 AM

Mariachi Viva Mexico, NC performs.

9:24 AM

WWAY Anchors: (immediately after end of Mariachi Viva Mexico performance).

“Wasn’t that amazing!?! Mariachi Viva Mexico will be performing at 12:15 today at the Novant Health Performing Arts Stage today at the Ligon Flynn Lot, corner of Market and 2nd Streets, should you want to see more! A special thank you to nCino for helping support International Blooms in its inaugural year. And again, thank you to Dolllar General, Wilmington International Airport and GriffinEstep Benefit Group for supporting our Parade entertainment this year.”



WWAY Anchors:

“And now to honor America, please welcome Opera House Theatre Company to perform the National Anthem. Opera House is celebrating it’s 38th year bringing quality theatre to Eastern North Carolina. Catch their next show, the epic musical “Ragtime” opening right at Thalian Hall in June. Let’s welcome Opera House Theatre Company directed by Ray Kennedy.”

9:25:30 AM *Opera House Theatre sings National Anthem*

President Szaloky ride via golf cart to Market Street for Ribbon Cutting immediately after National Anthem.

9:27:20 AM *Navy Flyover*

WWAY Anchors:

“What a beautiful rendition of our national anthem; thank you Opera House Theatre Company! Supporting the flyover this morning is Helicopter Mine Countermeasures Squadron (HM) 15. Helicopter Mine Countermeasures Squadron 15 is a United States Navy helicopter squadron established in 1987 and based at Naval Station Norfolk. Nicknamed the “Blackhawks” and flying the MH-53E Sea Dragon, it is staffed by both active duty and reserve personnel.

The United States Navy Parachute Team “The Leap Frogs” is the official parachute demonstration team of the United States Navy. Part of the United States Naval Special Warfare Command. The Leap Frogs Navy Parachute Team is made up of active-duty Navy SEALs, Special Warfare Combatant-craft Crewmen (SWCC) and support personnel.”

At 3rd/Market:

9:28 AM President Szaloky takes the ribbon cutting scissors from Parade volunteer. President Szaloky stands in front of Ribbon Cutting banner. To stand with GLOW’s 1st graduating class.

President Szaloky:

“We’d like to welcome you today to one of our community’s largest and oldest annual Parade. We would like to thank all of the community organizations who take part in this event, as well as all of our attendees here this morning to celebrate with us. Now, on behalf of over 1,000 Azalea Festival volunteers, let’s get this Parade started!”

President Szaloky cuts the ribbon!

President Szaloky walks or rides in cart back to Reviewing Stand.

9:30 AM Parade Step Off



**2023 Azalea Festival
Queen's Performances & Meet & Greet
Novant Health Performing Arts Stage
Saturday, April 15, 2023**

Agenda and Script

1:00 PM

(Princess Welcome) *"Good afternoon, and welcome to the Novant Health Performing Arts Stage at the North Carolina Azalea Festival Street Fair! My name is Avery Braithwaite: I am your 2023 Azalea Festival Princess, and I could not be more excited to be here with you today! Some of my closest Festival friends are here to share the stage with me, and to showcase their talents! After their performances this afternoon, we all will be available for a Meet and Greet, right here at the Novant Health Performing Arts Stage!"*

Before we begin, I'd like to tell y'all a little bit about myself and my experience as your Azalea Festival Princess (AVERY TO AD LIB HERE).

Now, I'd like to introduce you to a very special member of our Azalea Festival family, our 76th North Carolina Azalea Festival Queen Azalea, Carli Batson!

1:05 PM

(Queen Welcome) Cari TO SAY HELLO, AND SHARE HER FESTIVAL EXPERIENCES

1:10 PM

(Princess Speaking) *"Thank you, Carli; we are honored to have you as our Queen!"*

Our next guest is Miss Sandhills, Hannah Welborn! Hannah is from Archdale, NC. She is a Summa cum laude graduate of Western Carolina University and Master of Arts in Communication Studies from UNCG. She is currently a Public Education and Social Media Specialist for the City of Greensboro Water Resources and Events and Volunteer Coordinator for Haw River Assembly. Creator of Sustainable Shareable Solutions....without further ado lets welcome Hannah to the stage! Hannah will be dancing to "Bad by Michael Jackson"

1:11 PM

Hannah PERFORMS-----

1:14 PM

PRINCESS THANKS Hannah, COMMENTS ON PERFORMANCE

Next, I'd like to introduce Miss Thomasville, Kate White, from New London, NC. She is currently a Dean's List student at UNCW, majoring in theatre performance. She was Miss Stanly County in 2022. Social Impact-Find Your Spark – Creating unique arts opportunities while promoting the importance of following your passions. Here is Kate singing, "Valerie".

1:15 PM

Kate PERFORMS-----

1:18 PM

PRINCESS THANKS Kate, COMMENTS ON PERFORMANCE

Now I'd like to introduce, Miss Randolph County, Kaitlyn Gross from Trinity, NC. She is a Christian role model and graduate of Randolph Community College, with an Associate's Degree in Interior Design. Her Social Impact –



Give Life, Give Blood. Raised over \$80,000 for Victory Junction, a camp for children with illnesses or disabilities. Here is Kaitlyn with her contemporary dance, "Come Thou Fount by Hillary Scott".

1:19 PM Kaitlyn PERFORMS-----

1:22 PM *PRINCESS THANKS Kaitlyn, COMMENTS ON PERFORMANCE*

Next up, Miss Fayetteville, Rachel Townsend from Stedman, NC. She is a Magna cum laude graduate of Methodist University. Currently, she is a student at UNC-Pembroke, pursuing a Master's degree in Public Administration. She founded Faithful Over Few: Fostering Hope Through Financial Literacy which she created after paying off a \$20,000 student loan balance in 12 months!...please welcome Rachel to the stage! This is "Dancing in the Street".

1:23 PM Rachel PERFORMS-----

1:26 PM *PRINCESS THANKS Rachel, COMMENTS ON PERFORMANCE*

Now I'd like to introduce Miss Piedmont, Jordan Garrick from Charlotte, NC. She is a Dean's List graduate of UNC-Chapel Hill Hussman School of Journalism and Media Advertising and Public Relations. She is a member of UNC-CH Order of the Golden Fleece Honor Society, She created Thriving with AI- Making our world a better and safer place with artificial intelligence and is currently Artificial Intelligence Marketing Specialist at Deloitte. Please join me in welcoming Jordan to the stage, as she will be performing a monologue/poetry with "We Rise" by Amanda Gorman.

1:27 PM Jordan PERFORMS-----

1:30 PM *PRINCESS THANKS Jordan, COMMENTS ON PERFORMANCE*

Next up is Miss Metrolina, Anna-Claire Musick from Macclesfield, NC and a Dean's List graduate of UNC-CH, with BA in Communication Theory, Currently at Appalachian State University pursuing a MA in Clinical Mental Health Counseling. Her social Impact Incentive-Live Well: Exploring head-to-toe wellness and the power of choice.. Here is Anna-Claire dancing to 'Scatman' – Scatman John

1:31 PM Anna-Claire PERFORMS-----

1:34 PM *PRINCESS THANKS Anna-Claire, COMMENTS ON PERFORMANCE*

Now we have Miss Statesville, Taylor Loyd from Mooresville, NC. She is a Senior at UNC-CH, double majoring in Classical Voice Performance and Psychology. Winner of UNC Symphony Orchestra Concerto Competition, She is the founder of Healing Hearts through the Arts- Supporting Arts Advocacy and promotion as a tool for mental health and well-being. This is Taylor singing "That's Life."

1:35 PM Taylor PERFORMS-----



1:38 PM

PRINCESS THANKS Taylor, COMMENTS ON PERFORMANCE

Now I'd like to welcome Miss Central Carolina, Elizabeth O'Brien to the stage. She is from Sanford, NC. She is a Magna cum laude graduate of High Point University, with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Elementary Education and a M ED in Elementary Education from UNC Wilmington. Social Impact – Military Missions in Action, having logged over 1500 volunteer hours.

[Elizabeth steps to the stage and waves. NO PERFORMANCE]

Now, let's welcome Miss North Carolina, Karolyn Martin. As a military child, Karolyn has lived all across the country, but North Carolina has always been home. In fact, out of the 12 schools she attended in her travels, 3 of them were located in the Old North State. Karolyn's social impact initiative, #SelfKare: Eat to Success, aims to teach the community to eat in a way that fuels our minds and bodies to success while taking the focus off of weight and appearance. Karolyn earned the job of Miss North Carolina 2022 on June 25, 2022. Since 2019, she has spoken to over 2,000 students about the importance of positive wellness, hosted two nationally attended wellness summits, and published her cookbook The Self Kare Kitchen: Dorm Meals for the Healthy College Student. Karolyn has earned \$27,500 of scholarship through the Miss America Organization allowing her to pay off her student loans in full at the age of 22! Karolyn Martin is a Magna Cum Laude graduate of Appalachian State University's Honors College in Boone, NC. In the future, she plans to pursue her J.D. and work as a lawyer in business, patents, and intellectual property helping women pursue their entrepreneurial goals.

Here she is singing "Journey to the Past" from Anastasia

1:42 PM

Karolyn PERFORMS

1:44 PM

PRINCESS THANKS Karolyn

And one more time up on this stage, please welcome back Queen Azalea, Carli Batson and the Queen's Court.

Thank you to everyone who came out to the Street Fair and Queen's Performance. We appreciate the support and encourage you to stay for the Meet & Greet right after this!

ENCOURAGING WORD TO CHILDREN TO FOLLOW THEIR DREAMS

1:45 PM

MEET & GREET OFF STAGE



**2023 Azalea Festival
Boxing Tournament
The Wilmington Convention Center
Saturday, April 15, 2023**

Agenda

2:00 PM

Official Party arrives at The Wilmington Convention Center and takes reserved seats upon arrival

At conclusion of fight in progress, the Boxing EMCEE welcomes the North Carolina Azalea Festival President, Denise Szaloky, the 2023 North Carolina Azalea Festival Queen Azalea, Carli Batson, and the 2023 North Carolina Azalea Festival Guests

Ladies and gentlemen, it is our pleasure to welcome to today's Boxing Competition the 2023 North Carolina Azalea Festival Queen Azalea, Carli Batson along with the Azalea Festival President Denise Szaloky "Za low key" and the 2023 Azalea Festival Guests!

Official Party watches a Boxing Match

The Boxing EMCEE introduces Board, Queen, and Invited Guests and invites President Szaloky and Festival Artist to present print.

It's our pleasure to introduce The North Carolina Azalea Festival Board of Directors: Secretary, Amy Dean; Treasurer, Michael Franklin; Vice-President, Beck Smith; President-Elect, Andrew Nettleman and this year's North Carolina Azalea Festival President, Denise Szaloky "Za low key"

The Azalea Festival would like to give a big shout out to some of our Boxing sponsors this year: The National Guard and TD Bank! Let's please give our sponsors a round of applause.

Now, please join me in welcoming the 2023 Azalea Festival Invited Guests:

*Ana Brown, the 2023 Official Artist;
Harold Davis, U.S. Army Korean War Veteran;
WECT Anchor, Frances Weller;
From the Willie Stargell Foundation, Margaret Weller Stargell
Miss North Carolina 2023, Karolyn Martin*

And the 2023 North Carolina Azalea Festival Queen Azalea, Carli Batson!

At this time, please welcome Official Artist Ana Brown and, Festival President Denise Szaloky "Za low key" into the ring to present an Official Festival Print to the Boxing Competition team.



President Szaloky and Artist walk to microphone and *President Szaloky thanks Andre for putting on this event.*

President Szaloky and Ana presents Andre Thompson and the Boxing Club with an Art Print, then return to seat.

Official Party watches a Boxing Match

EMCEE invites President Szaloky and Queen Azalea, Carli Batson to the ring to declare a winner

At this time, please welcome back Festival President Denise Szaloky "Za low key" and Queen Azalea Carli Batson into the ring to declare the winner of this match!

President Szaloky and Queen Azalea, Carli Batson enters the ring to declare a winner, then return to seat.

2:45 PM

Assemble and Depart



2023 Azalea Festival Patron's Party Gala Saturday, April 15, 2023

On Stage

8:00 PM

Denise Szaloky to Thank Crowd and Introduce Sponsors

“Good evening! I’d like to thank each and every one of you for making our 76th North Carolina Azalea Festival so special and meaningful. Before we get this party fully started, I’d like to thank some special people.

Our Encore and Major Sponsors:

- Coastal Kia
- The DFS Agency
- Dollar General/DGX
- Duke Energy
- End of Days Distillery
- Hotel Ballast
- New Hanover Printing
- Stella/Wicked Weed
- Truist

Denise to introduce Patrons’ Party Gala Sponsors

And now to our Sponsors of the Patrons’ Party Gala. Please welcome to the stage Miranda Perales of Wilmington Eye, our Party Welcome Sponsor!”

Miranda Perales to speak

“Thank you, Miranda, for helping us throw such an amazing party tonight! Be sure to check out their photo booth to capture memories of your fun tonight!

Next I’d like to thank some very special sponsors, who are supporting the Festival’s newest program, International Blooms. Thank you to nCino for supporting this new program! (start applause). Thank you also to Reggie Shropshire with Business Growers, who is sponsoring the Million Dollar Margarita Room and Tequila Tasting in the main bar tonight. You can also find late night tacos in that room starting at 9 pm!

Please welcome to the stage Reggie Shropshire with Business Growers!”

Reggie Shropshire to speak and intro band

Reggie: “Hi, I’m Reggie Shropshire with Business Growers. *Reggie to speak.* Without further ado, let’s welcome to the stage, Black and Blue!”

Band takes stage.