



May 7, 2009

Celebrate mom's special day in Birmingham

Looking to express your appreciation for your mom or the mom in your life this weekend? Head to Birmingham. To start, treat her to a special brunch at the Townsend Hotel, The Community House or Big Rock Chophouse.

After she's fueled up, head to the National City Art Birmingham festival to spoil her with the opportunity to choose a work of art as a gift. She can select from options including, jewelry, wearable fiber art, hand-blown glass and paintings.

After shopping for unique pieces of art from 180-plus juried artists from across the country, you can participate in art projects together or enjoy live entertainment. All ages art activities, including silk scarf and canvas tote bag painting and card-making, will be held at The Community House from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and from noon to 4 p.m. Sunday. Beginning at noon Saturday and Sunday, Birmingham Bloomfield Art Center artists will be in action with live sculpture, watercolor and mixed media art demonstrations.

The chamber acts as a community partner to help the Birmingham Bloomfield Art Center produce the festival. Proceeds from the event support the high-quality programming the Birmingham Bloomfield Art Center provides to people of all ages year round. The festival is free and is open to the public from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, May 9, and from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, May 10, in downtown Shain Park.

Of course, mom's big day wouldn't be complete without strolling through the very walkable downtown Birmingham. An array of unique boutiques, jewelry stores and specialty shops line the streets and are sure to catch your mother's eye. Or perhaps a gift certificate to a local spa, such as Margot's, Avalon or Radiance might strike her fancy.

Complete the day with a delectable dinner from one of the many fine restaurants that feature all price points, such as 220, Forte, Streetside Seafood, Peabody's, Fleming's Prime Steakhouse or Salvatore Scalopini. You can also treat her to a movie at one of Birmingham's two theaters downtown.

Last, but not least, if you are unable to celebrate with her but still want to let her know she's special, flowers are just the thing. Tiffany Florist, Perennial Enhancements, Blossoms or 1-800-Flowers Birmingham can all help brighten up the day for those you love.

However you choose to plan your day or celebrate the mom in your life, spending it in Birmingham is sure to win you big points. The key is to plan a day that is as special as she is. For more information about Art Birmingham, visit www.bbartcenter.org. Or check out the chamber's Web site, www.bbcc.com, for more information on the local businesses you can support this Mother's Day weekend.

Carrie Zarotney is president of the Birmingham Bloomfield Chamber.
