

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONTACT: Alisha Burrow, City of Buda Tourism Department, (512) 312-0084

DOWNTOWN BUDA MERCHANTS' GROUP TO HOST FIRST THURSDAY

Join the Downtown Buda Merchants' Group as they take you back to the era of caravans, the majestic castles of sultans, and extravagant parties with their Arabian Nights in Buda theme on Thursday, June 3, from 5 – 9 p.m. The Merchants' are encouraging local residents and visitors to come stroll through the unique antique and specialty shops, while enjoying food from downtown restaurants.

Festivities include performances of the Desert Passion Middle Eastern Dance Company, who will bring the luxury of the Far East to downtown Buda and carve a kinetic path to the soul with music and dance from the Middle East. Their performance will include the "Fire of Antolia – Turkish Sword Dance," and will be performed from 6:00 – 6:30 p.m. in the Greenbelt-Gazebo area; 7:00 – 7:45 p.m. at Sue Ellen's Florist; 8:00 – 8:45 p.m. at Casa de Arte; 9:00 – 9:30 p.m. at Buda Drug Store; and 10:00 – 10:30 p.m. in the Greenbelt-Gazebo area. With Desert Passion will also be Sahirra's Souk (located on 203 Railroad St, Suite 3B), who will have a wide variety of costume pieces, jewelry, large silk veils in every color imaginable and lots of other fun stuff!

The Buda Public Library will also have their summer kick-off party in the Buda City Park Pavilion. Kids can enjoy crafts, the Balloon Twister, JiggleBug Express, and refreshments. Activities will be from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. and is free for all! Other participating downtown merchants include Genesis Hair Design, who will offer \$7.00 haircuts for adults and \$6.00 haircuts for children. Buda Grocery & Grill will be serving up an enticing menu with their "Dinner under the Stars." At \$8.99 per person, visitors can enjoy a Free Wine Tasting (featuring Driftwood Vineyard wine selections) with a grilled chicken and pasta dinner (includes salad, bread, dessert and tea) in the garden area of Sue Ellen's Florist. Don't forget to call Buda Grocery & Grill for reservations!

Indulge in local culture; mingle with neighbors, and experience, in one evening, the diversity of downtown Buda's historic and unique character. Participating downtown

merchants include Buda's Red Door; Casa de Arte; Cimarron Rose; Genesis Hair Design; Old Main Street Station and Sue Ellen's Florist; Memory Lane Antiques; Shops Above Memory Lane; Raby's Roots; Salon One 12; The Yellow Sweater; Windwalker Primitive Weapons; Buda Public Library; Farmers Insurance Group; Buda Grocery and Grill; Buda Soda Fountain; Garcia's Mexican Restaurant; Main Street Café; Nonna Gina's Italian Restaurant; and Palmar Mexican Restaurant.

The Buda Downtown Merchants' Group are downtown businesses dedicated to working cooperatively to increase business traffic in Buda's downtown area. For more information about First Thursday, please contact the City of Buda Tourism Department at (512) 312-0084 or visit www.discoverbuda.com.