

CITY OF DANVILLE, VIRGINIA  
*Office of Economic Development*

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For Immediate Release

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Wayne Dobson, Owner  
Sally Popu, Owner  
434.792.1860

**Tuesday, August 30, 2011**

***~Danvillian Gallery Opens in the River District~***

DANVILLE – On Friday, September 9, 2011 from 5pm -9pm, the Danvillian Gallery will officially open the doors to its new home located at 210 North Union Street in the heart of the River District. This opening reception and ribbon cutting event is open to the public, free of charge and will feature the Dobson Collection, a permanent collection of over 200 pieces of contemporary art from artists mostly located in New York City.

Wayne Dobson, owner, lived in Brooklyn, NY for 15 years and was very active in the art scene. He held the office of president of the oldest non-profit arts organization in Brooklyn – the Brooklyn Waterfront Artist Coalition. By trade, Dobson is a decorative painter, wallpaper hanger and paint restorer of historic farmhouses and homes, and is currently restoring the paint at Prestwood Plantation in Clarksville, VA.

While working in Clarksville, Wayne found Danville on a Sunday drive and ventured into the River District. “I fell in love with downtown and decided to purchase the former Beanies Army and Navy Store and began my lifelong dream of owning an art gallery,” commented Dobson. “I can see a thriving community of artists settling here in the future due to the low cost of living and the attractive business climate. I have committed to downtown Danville and it is time for me to share the beauty of art and what it can bring to a person’s soul.”

Working with the City of Danville’s Office of Economic Development Department, the project qualified for a local incentive grant. “I am thrilled that Wayne’s investment in Danville brings with it a love of and a commitment to the arts,” commented Anne Moore-Sparks, Project Manager for the Office of Economic Development. “Wayne is a trailblazer and will be a leader in Danville’s burgeoning art scene.”

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The Danvillian Gallery will be open Wednesday – Saturday from 1pm – 6pm or by appointment at 434.792.1860 or [info@danvillianguard.com](mailto:info@danvillianguard.com). The first floor gallery will feature monthly showings of local, regional and international visual artists while the second floor will feature art classes in the near future.

Recent River District announcements include: Jake’s on Main, 316 Cibo, Adam’s Shoe Shop, Ferrell Historic Lofts, Amburn and Co. Salon & Spa on Main, Dan River Art Works, Averett University, the Danville Regional Foundation and The Meredith Gravely School of Dance.