

## TALKING TOURISM November 1, 2009

Each month this space will be devoted to a column written by Debbie Robinson, executive director of the Cambridge/Guernsey County Visitors & Convention Bureau, who will provide information about upcoming events, area attractions, bureau services and projects, and most importantly, communicate the tremendous impact that the travel and tourism industry has on this region.

### ***Tis' The Season***

Planning for the holiday season sure creeps up on us doesn't it? It's hard to believe that we are already ushering in another exciting season of the Dickens Victorian Village in Cambridge/Guernsey County. Our area truly comes alive with the spirit of Christmas through a wonderland of events designed with you, your friends and family in mind. Enjoy the festivities. Enjoy each other. Enjoy all that Cambridge/Guernsey County has to offer and start planning your weekends now!

### **A Dickens of a Holiday!**

The 4th Annual Dickens Victorian Village event takes place November 1, 2009 (starting today!) through January 17, 2010 throughout historic downtown Cambridge. Join in the fun of this special event as the city and county celebrates the season through historic displays, events, music, theatre, and much more. Visit [www.DickensVictorianVillage.com](http://www.DickensVictorianVillage.com) for a complete list of happenings and times.

**Are you wondering what's new this year?** We've added a very special weekend to end our event January 8-10, 2010. Our new **Sherlock Holmes Weekend** is a three-day mystery event that takes place throughout historic Cambridge. Participants set out to find clues to solve *Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Taylor Tontine*, written by local playwright, Anne Chlovechok, and featuring the Dickens Victorian Village display.

We've also created a wonderful girlfriend getaways package for our award-winning **Think Pink: Vacations with a Purpose** series. Next weekend, **November 7-8, Dickens Goes Pink!** Before the hectic holiday season begins...spend the weekend in Cambridge and enjoy all of your favorite things: holiday shopping, eating, and exploring at your leisure.

Hot on the heels of our ever-popular Chocolate Walk is the first annual **Tavern Tasting on November 14** from 6pm-11pm. Tickets are being sold at the following establishments: Shakers Nite Club, The Point Restaurant, Theo's Restaurant, and Courtside Bar & Grill. Turn in your tickets the night of the event at the Dickens Welcome Center for a wristband and a Santa Hat. Visit each participating establishment during the evening and receive a specialty beverage and light refreshments.

### **Additional "must see" events include:**

#### **Guernsey County Courthouse Light and Music Show**

The Guernsey County Courthouse will come alive with thousands of colorful and pulsating lights, synchronized to holiday music the same evening we celebrate our ever-popular Chocolate Walk, Thursday, November 12 beginning at 5pm and playing every 20 minutes until 9pm. New this year is a children's holiday music segment and more lights. Come see the only display of its kind in the state!

#### **Great Expectations Chocolate Walk**

Join us for the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Great Expectations Chocolate Walk Thursday, Nov. 12 from 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. Be one of 250 lucky ticket holders to participate in the Great Expectations Chocolate Walk! Exchange your ticket for a Dickens Victorian Village bag and a walking tour brochure that will direct you to downtown participating merchants, where you will receive one chocolate experience at each location -- perhaps it will be a serving of hot chocolate, or a brownie, or a chocolate cordial.

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Enjoy some on the walk, or place some in your souvenir bag to enjoy later. Tickets are \$15 each and are available at Country Bits & Pieces, 700 Wheeling Ave. Hurry, they are going fast!

### **Gingerbread House Contest and Display**

The holiday isn't complete without the smell of warm gingerbread and the sight of intricate gingerbread houses. The annual Gingerbread House Contest and Display will take place November 16 through December 31, 2009 in the Cambridge Classic Ford showroom located at 1023 Wheeling Ave. Local gingerbread artisans have created unique houses and dwellings of all types made entirely of edible materials for several different categories including youth, teen, adult, group, and a special People's Choice award. To get you into the spirit of the contest, new this year **is Mommy & Me Gingerbread Class** offered this afternoon from 2pm-4pm at Francis Family Restaurant. One adult and up to 2 children age 6 and older can learn how to build and decorate a gingerbread house or dress a gingerbread person to eat or take home.

### **Afternoon Tea at SweeTea Pie Tea Boutique**

Stop in to the SweeTea Pie Tea Boutique in Ye Olde Curiosity Shoppe and Dickens Welcome Center (643 Wheeling Ave., Cambridge, Ohio - next to Penny Court) to enhance your Dickens experience by indulging in one of Queen Victoria's grandest traditions. Full tea includes tea, scones, savories, sweets, and desserts. Costume dress pieces are available for your experience, or come dressed in your own! Teas are offered on the following dates: Nov. 28, Dec. 5, 12, 19, and 26 all from 4-7pm.

### **Peddler Weekends**

Don't miss the Peddler Weekends at Rotary Square scheduled for four weekends in November and December. These special weekends feature heritage artisans and peddlers dressed in period clothing selling their wares, including wooden toys, pine wreaths, chocolate, holiday crafts and more. Nonprofit groups will also be strolling Wheeling Avenue selling delicious treats in authentic looking peddler's carts to add to the lively Dickens atmosphere. Small and large group carriage rides through town will also be offered during the Peddler Weekends. Peddler Weekends take place from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on the following dates: Nov. 27 - 28, Dec. 4 - 5, 11-12 and 18-19.

### **Thanksgiving Weekend**

Bring your family and friends to downtown Cambridge Saturday, November 28 for a very special event. Beginning with the **National Museum of Cambridge Glass Open House** from noon -4pm, the **Steeple Walk** from 1pm-4pm, the **Candlelight Ceremony** at 5pm on the Guernsey County Courthouse Lawn, followed by the **Holiday Parade** "A Child's Dream Come True" at 6pm and concluding with the **Cambridge City Band Concert** at the Scottish Rite Auditorium at 8pm. Don't miss the Candlelight Ceremony when the publisher & editor of *Ohio Magazine* presents **Ohio's Best Hometown Award** to Cambridge and Guernsey County!

To learn more about the VCB, area events and activities, visit the Cambridge/Guernsey County Visitors & Convention Bureau office at 627 Wheeling Avenue, Suite 200 in downtown Cambridge, call 740-432-2022, email [info@visitguernseycounty.com](mailto:info@visitguernseycounty.com), or visit [www.VisitGuernseyCounty.com](http://www.VisitGuernseyCounty.com).