

TALKING TOURISM

Nov. 1, 2020

Each month this space will be devoted to a column written by Debbie Robinson, executive director of the Cambridge/Guernsey County Visitors & Convention Bureau (VCB). She 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.

15th Annual Dickens Victorian Village Begins

Life needs a little joy during this time in our lives and especially during the holiday season. As we celebrate the 15th annual Dickens Victorian Village November 1 through January 1 we are thankful for the countless volunteers who help make this event happen every year.

Each year volunteers place Victorian scenes under every lamppost for five blocks along Wheeling Avenue to create the setting for Dickens Victorian Village. Based on "A Christmas Carol" by Charles Dickens, the scenes either depict a part of the story or show life at that time in London.

These familiar scenes bring back pleasant memories and will help families make new ones. A new scene this season, "Trooping the Colour," features William and Kate, the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge. It represents an impressive display of regimental pageantry on the Queen's birthday. Until 1987, Queen Elizabeth rode side-saddle in the parade wearing the colours of the regiment being trooped. Now she rides in a carriage passing by over 1,000 men and officers, two hundred horses, and two hundred members of the band.

The Spirit of Christmas is alive in Cambridge, Ohio as that Victorian feeling permeates the air on every corner. Don't be surprised if you see Dickens' volunteers dressed in Victorian clothes walking the streets. Sometimes, if they stand or sit quietly, they are often mistaken for the Victorian characters.

While this all began about fifteen years ago, each year the characters must be refurbished so changes are constantly being made. (Think about it! The scenes are taken to the street the last Sunday in October and stay there until the first Sunday of January.) All during November and December, the Dickens Creative Team checks on the scenes daily to make sure no damage has been done from the weather and wind. When the season is over, the scenes are returned to storage.

While many events and attractions surrounding the 10-week celebration remain the same, there will also be a few changes to better protect visitors and volunteers during this time of COVID. The Dickens Welcome Center at 647 Wheeling Avenue will only be open on Friday and Saturday; however, our Tourist Information Center will greet Dickens Visitors Monday – Thursday and of course, we are open on Friday and Saturday as well.

Opening night for Dickens Victorian Village will be held on November 6 at 6 p.m. Queen Victoria will deliver a royal welcome along with local dignitaries, and a candlelight ceremony will end the opening night festivities.

Don't miss experiencing the Courthouse Holiday Light Show, which combines 60,000 holiday lights synchronized to the sounds of Christmas music. The light show is one of 30 distinctive light displays across the state that are a part of the Ohio Holiday Light Trail. Watch from your vehicle or perhaps you might like to sit on the benches on the courthouse lawn to watch the dynamic program which plays each evening from 5:30 to 9 p.m. (11 p.m. on holidays)

Excerpts taken from previous stories written by Bev Kerr.

Events to Discover

Nov. 6	Dickens Opening Ceremony, Guernsey County Courthouse
Nov. 6-7, 13-14, 20-21, 27-28	Horse Drawn Carriage Rides, West 8 th , Cambridge
Nov. 11	Veterans Day Parade, Downtown Cambridge
Nov. 14	Cemetery Tour, Old City Cemetery

Nov. 21	Cambridge Main Street Basket Auction, Elks Lodge
Nov. 21	Sweet Silhouettes, Dickens Welcome Center
Nov. 21	Queen's Tea, Cambridge Country Club
Nov. 27-28	Fall Craft & Home Show, Deerassic Park Education Center
Nov. 27-28	Annual Holiday Craft Show, Salt Fork Lodge & Conference Center
Nov. 28	Annual Holiday Parade, Downtown Cambridge

For more information about Dickens Victorian Village and events, visit www.DickensVictorianVillage.com or call 740-421-4956.

To learn more about the VCB, area events, and activities, visit the Cambridge/Guernsey County VCB office at 627 Wheeling Avenue, Suite 200 in downtown Cambridge, call 740-432-2022, email info@VisitGuernseyCounty.com, or visit VisitGuernseyCounty.com.

###