

### Opening Night for Dickens Victorian Village 17<sup>th</sup> Season

Cambridge, Ohio (October 11, 2022) Celebrations were always favorites of Charles Dickens so he would certainly enjoy all the festivities that have been arranged for the Opening Night of Dickens Victorian Village this year. This all takes place downtown Cambridge on November 5 with activities the entire family can enjoy.

Charles Dickens enjoyed performing as a magician for his children's birthday parties so would have felt right at home in downtown Cambridge for the magic on Opening Night. He performed his famous Plum Pudding Trick at a Christmas Eve party when "A Christmas Carol" had sold 6,000 copies just five days after publication.

Several events begin at 2:00 pm and continue until 6:00 pm. On N. 7<sup>th</sup> Street, children especially will enjoy Bethel's Backyard Circus where they can pet the goats, have their face painted, or watch some juggling to name a few of the events. There's also a chance to have Caricatures by Megz done for \$10 in black and white or \$15 in color.

At the Cambridge/Guernsey County Tourist Information Center, Valerie Hamill will share some of the holiday traditions of the time, including the history of Santa Claus, how the tree was decorated and what special gifts would be tucked under the boughs. She'll describe the delicious foods and treats families enjoyed and how mother would treat Johnny's toothache from too many sweets with herbal remedies.

In the afternoon from 2-4, Brook Singers from Meadowbrook High School directed by Todd Bates will be caroling downtown followed by the Cambridge Singers from 5-5:30 in front of Black Cat Vintage. Enjoy the music as you stroll the streets visiting local shops and viewing the Victorian scenes. Listen carefully and you might even hear the sound of bagpipes played by the Akron Bagpipe Band.

So many exciting things seem to be happening this evening! A performance will be given in front of the Cambridge Arts Center with scenes from Nutcracker at 2-4. Elizabeth Reeb will portray a Victorian lady and tell stories of that era at 3:00 at Good Boy Bakery, and Dee Carter will be giving performances representing The Living Word on the hour at 3, 4 and 5 at Homemade Happiness.

Food trucks will be downtown for that needed pick-me-up at the end of the day. These include Rocket Dawgs with special hot dogs in front of Country Bits, Shull's Kettle Corn on the steps of US Bank, Mandi's Fixin's will be near the Courthouse and Giddy Up and Joe Coffee between Good Boy Bakery and Home Made Happiness. Many of the downtown stores will be open extra hours that evening. Be sure to stop by the new Dickens Welcome Center at 708 Wheeling Avenue.

Gather at the Guernsey County Courthouse at 6:00 for a special opening ceremony. Enjoy Christmas music by the Chordial Chorus Barbershoppers. Several local officials and Queen Victoria will be on hand for the ribbon cutting that officially begins the holiday season.

Guernsey County Courthouse Holiday Light Show provides the grand finale to the evening as over 66,000 lights, an amazing twenty-foot Christmas tree, and 60 animated displays surround this 1818 building move synchronized to holiday music. An hour-long program features children's, contemporary and traditional favorites of the Christmas season.

After all this excitement, it is time for refreshments which this year are being sponsored by the Guernsey County Library at their Main Branch right behind the courthouse. While there visit with friends and listen to holiday songs by the Cambridge Singers.

Have a fun-filled evening on November 5 in downtown Cambridge. In the words of Charles Dickens, "There is nothing in the world so irresistibly contagious as laughter and good humour." Time for families to enjoy another season at Dickens Victorian Village!

For more information about this event and other Dickens events throughout the season, visit [DickensVictorianVillage.com](http://DickensVictorianVillage.com) or call (740) 421 4956.

