

Sunday, Oct. 8, 2006

THE DICKENS CRIER

Hear ye, hear ye, welcome to *The Dickens Crier!*

This space will be devoted to weekly announcements regarding the Dickens Victorian Village project, set to open Nov. 25, 2006, and run through Jan. 15, 2007, in downtown Cambridge.

What Exactly Is The Dickens Victorian Village?

Downtown Cambridge will be transformed into an old England village through the placement of 40 life-like public art vignettes depicting classic social scenes of the Victorian era.

The display, made of 105 life-sized mannequins, will appear like a Charles Dickens novel frozen in time. Each vignette will be placed at a historic lamppost on Wheeling Avenue between 6th and 11th streets, and will be mounted and lit for viewing at any time.

As you probably already know (if you don't, come downtown to check it out!) our Wheeling Avenue is the historic National Road / Route 40, and features well-preserved architecture from the mid and late 1800s.

Imagine the experience as you stroll along the historic architecture and eclectic downtown shops and come face to face with "people" from another era doing what they do – selling apples, shopping, caroling, lighting the streetlamps, resting on the benches, and putting out fires with a bucket brigade. Oh, and did we mention Bob Cratchit, Tiny Tim, and Father Christmas will be there?

Incredible? Yes! This national attraction will happen right here in our own downtown!

You Are Our Ambassadors!

As this event continues to grow, the Dickens Victorian Village marketing committee, through support of the Cambridge/Guernsey County Visitors & Convention Bureau, is well underway with its national marketing campaign. Word is spreading in national magazines, regional newspapers, our beautifully designed website, and many additional outlets.

But we also need help from the local community. You are our ambassadors!

You can help us by simply helping to spread the word! This event will help put Cambridge, Ohio, on the national map, and we should all be proud of that!

Tell your out-of-town friends and family members about it. Invite them to experience it with you. Send the website address to your email friends. Continue to read future "Dickens Crier" columns that will be full of information you need to know so that you'll be ready to answer questions when people ask, "What is this all about?"

Is There More?

Yes! In addition to the incredible vignette display that will transform downtown, there are numerous Dickens-themed events taking place at various Cambridge locations throughout the season. They include performances, entertainment, activities, train rides, and more.

Area businesses will also offer specialty food menus and commemorative merchandise.

The display's opening celebration takes place Nov. 25, the evening of the annual holiday parade.

A detailed list of events (and we are continually adding more) can be found at www.dickensvictorianvillage.com/schedule.html.

We will write about the full schedule of events in a future column.

Until then, we thank you for being ambassadors for the Dickens Victorian Village, and Cambridge, Ohio!