

Sunday, Oct. 22, 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, a project supported by Cambridge Main Street, set to open Nov. 25, 2006, and run through Jan. 15, 2007, in downtown Cambridge.

Opportunities For Your Group

The Dickens Victorian Village display and related seasonal events have already drawn 14 tour bus bookings to our community. Wow!

Our community has much to be proud of, especially the amazing work of all the volunteers who have made this project a reality! And it continues to grow every day.

Check out www.dickensvictorianvillage.com for a complete overview, including the schedule of related events.

Your group – whether it is youth, community, church, sports team, workplace, school, Scouts, service or special interest club – can take part and contribute to this project in several ways!

Here's How

The Cambridge Rhythm & Arts Walk Nov. 3 will celebrate the Dickens theme. Strolling carolers and costumed characters will be needed that evening. Also, Dickens Victorian Village promotional materials need to be distributed to all participating merchants.

Numerous volunteers are needed Nov. 19 to move and place all the mannequins along Wheeling Avenue for the seasonal display. We also need help sweeping and picking up any trash on the sidewalks before setting the scenes in place.

The evening of Nov. 25th is the official kick-off and opening celebration for the Dickens Victorian Village. The annual holiday parade, produced by the Cambridge Area Chamber of Commerce, is themed "A Dickens Of A Holiday." We hope your group will consider an entry in the parade. Contact the Chamber at 740-439-6688 for details.

Prior to the parade that night, the Dickens Victorian Village committee will be facilitating events on the Courthouse lawn, including a candle lighting ceremony. Assistance will be needed to pass out candles. Groups may also stroll the streets caroling that evening prior to and after the parade.

Assistance is needed to pass out treats to children who visit Father Christmas downtown on Nov. 25, Dec. 2, and Dec. 9.

Group tours are scheduled to visit downtown Nov. 24 and 25, and Dec. 1, 2, 3, 5, 9, 10, and 12. On those days, we need groups of carolers strolling the streets; street peddlers selling refreshments or other items; and small groups to meet and greet the bus visitors when they arrive, passing out printed walking tours and welcoming them to Cambridge. Sound like fun?

The plaza at Advantage Bank downtown has been reserved for special activities on high visitor traffic days of Nov. 25, Dec. 2, and Dec. 9. We would like to invite groups to sell items like pine wreaths, baked goods, offer gift-wrapping, or any other themed idea your group can create. This can be your own fundraising opportunity! We also would like to have caroling groups and other street activities on those days. We are open to your ideas and suggestions!

We would also like a group to organize kids' games on the selected Saturdays above. The props for a chimney sweep toss have already been created. Other ideas include make and take crafts, stringing popcorn, making ornaments, decorating cookies or gingerbread men. Choose something for your group and enjoy meeting visitors to our downtown.

And finally, we would like to have a group organize a Gingerbread House Competition. A downtown display location has

already been secured.

With all these options, we hope you can find one that works for your group!

What Your Group Receives In Return

As a special “thank you” in return for your participation, the Dickens Victorian Village committee will provide themed hats for all volunteers.

We are recommending that all participating volunteers wear a basic costume, such as a simple black pant or skirt and white shirt, to carry out the theme of the event. We’ll top it off for you!

We’ll also post your group’s name on the Sponsorship page of our website, viewed by thousands of people every month. And we’ll even link it to your website.

And, if your group chooses to sell a theme-appropriate item on our special visitor days, you keep all your own proceeds.

Join Us!

For more information, to discuss ideas on how your group can become involved, or to become a sponsor, please contact Jonett Haberfield, committee co-chair, at 740-432-8789.

Thank you!

In addition to project sponsors listed in previous *Dickens Criers*, the Dickens Victorian Village committee would like to thank the following new sponsors:

Lamplighters Club: Red Carpet Health Care Center, Inc.; Detroit Diesel Remanufacturing East; The Kresge Group; Doug and Carolee Ogle / Scott-Ogle Realty; and Salt Fork Resort & Conference Center.

Carolers Club: Joan and William Lilienthal.

New sponsors will be posted in future *Dickens Criers*.

A complete list of sponsors is posted on our website. We invite you to join them and consider supporting this wonderful community project!