

Sunday, Dec. 3, 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 that runs through Jan. 15, 2007, in downtown Cambridge.

The Impact

Thousands of people lined the sidewalks of Wheeling Avenue to watch the Cambridge Area Chamber of Commerce's annual Holiday Parade Nov. 25 and to celebrate the official opening of the Dickens Victorian Village display.

Watching the parade and seeing the Dickens display for the first time were both folks who were local and visiting from out of town.

This is what some of them had to say about the Dickens Victorian Village project:

"It's wonderful to see a city like Cambridge take Christmas back to what it should be," said Burdella Thomas of San Diego, Cal., who was inspired by the opening of the Dickens display to come back to visit with her family during the Thanksgiving holiday.

"I've never seen so many people downtown Thanksgiving Day, tons and tons, taking pictures," said Stacy Barnhouse of Cambridge. "They were taking pictures of their families with the displays."

"They look really cool," said her 10-year-old daughter Emily.

"I think it's beautiful, very outstanding," said Diana Arnold of Zanesville. "I just can't hardly believe that people created this."

She and her family came to the Cambridge Holiday Parade after hearing about the Dickens Victorian Village display.

"We also hope to take in some of the other events this weekend," she said. "We're quite impressed."

"The streets were filled with people this past weekend, just like it used to be back in the 1960's and 70's," said Anna Marie Pavlov, manager of Penny Court Antiques.

The Holiday Parade was preceded by opening ceremonies on the courthouse lawn that included songs by the Friendship VII Sweet Adelines, the reading of an inspirational story, and a candle lighting ceremony.

"It has such a calming effect on me," said Edna Miller of Antrim about the new downtown display and atmosphere. "It's nice and peaceful from a long ago age."

"It's not about the commercial displays," noted Ms. Burdello, referring to the typical holiday atmosphere this time of year. "The traditions of Christmas is what it's all about."

"It just doesn't get better than Cambridge," she said.

More Events

Dickens theme related events continue to take place throughout the month.

Please see www.dickensvictorianvillage.com/schedule.html for a full listing, or contact the Cambridge/Guernsey County Visitors & Convention Bureau, 627 Wheeling Ave., Cambridge, 740-432-2022.

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: In Honor of the Students and Staff of South Elementary School; In Memory of Tom Rutledge Who Fed the Beggars in the 1930s; P. L. Cartner.

Carolers Club: Rotary Club of Zanesville; Margaret Henry.

A complete list of sponsors is posted on our website, www.dickensvictorianvillage.com. We invite you to join them and consider supporting this wonderful community project! All levels of donations are gratefully accepted and acknowledged.