

Open Houses - First Gift of the Season from "Downtown Unwrapped-2010"

The Downtown Paris Association (DPA) hosts Holiday Open Houses in downtown Paris this Friday, Saturday and Sunday, November 5,6, and 7. "This is the first event of Downtown Unwrapped - 2010, a festive slate of activities that runs from early November until the last package is wrapped on Christmas Eve," said DPA President Mike Key.

"We traditionally begin the holiday season with three days of open houses that combine the wonderful sights, sounds, foods and aromas of the holiday season," said Key, who emphasized that open house specials abound in more than a dozen stores this weekend. "There also are activities at two of our nearby churches.

"There's no better place for holiday shopping than in downtown Paris. It's a lovely, leisurely place to browse, with personal service and helpful perks, including gift-wrapping and delivery. Downtown offers everything from flowers to furniture, home decor to delectable lunches, clothing to coffee and antiques to HD TVs. Downtown merchants also offer gift certificates for items ranging from manicures to diamond rings," said Key.

The festivities begin Friday morning with First Presbyterian Church's French Bazaar where delicious food and craft items can be purchased from 7:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. That evening, shoppers can browse through downtown's jolly stores from 6:00 until 8:00 p.m. The moving Love Lights a Tree ceremony takes place on the Court House lawn at 6:00 p.m. followed by the Inman School Band's holiday tunes and bake sale at 6:30 p.m. Downtown visitors can enjoy wagon rides throughout the evening.

On Saturday, Candlelight Open House festivities run from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. with musicians entertaining at selected stores. Downtown's many shops will be open throughout the day. On Sunday from 1:00 - 5:00 p.m., shoppers can continue to enjoy Christmas Open Houses at stores throughout Downtown Paris. They can take free wagon rides and hear the Henry County High School Madrigals and selected musicians performing in various shops. The open house weekend schedule is as follows:

Friday, November 5th

- First Presbyterian Church French Bazaar, 7:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. at the church.
- Candlelight Open Houses in downtown shops from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
- Love Lights a Tree – 6:00 p.m. on the Courthouse Lawn
- Free wagon rides throughout evening.
- Inman School Band – music and bake sale at 6:30 p.m. on the Courthouse Lawn

Saturday, November 6th

- Candlelight Open Houses in downtown shops from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
- Free wagon rides throughout evening.
- Musicians entertain at various shops.

Sunday afternoon, November 7th

- Afternoon Open House in downtown shops from 1:00 – 5:00 p.m.
- Madrigals – strolling from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. singing holiday favorites
- Musicians entertain at various shops
- Free wagon rides from 1:00 – 5:00 p.m.

A host of other holiday activities are coming up as part of Downtown Unwrapped 2010, according to Key. Many are sponsored or co-sponsored by the DPA; others are hosted by organizations that appreciate the lovely, Victorian backdrop of downtown Paris for their events. Most events are free.

Downtown Unwrapped 2010 includes:

- **10,000 Villages at First United Methodist Church**

November 12 – 14 – This three-day sale of handicrafts from third world countries offers fair income to artists of many nations. Shop November 12 from 4:00 – 8:00 pm; November 13 from 9:00 am – 5:00 pm and November 14 from noon until 5:00 pm.

- **Sketch Crawl around Court Square**

November 13 – Join beginners and pros for a “Sketch Crawl” on the Court Square from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Drawings will be photographed for possible use by the DPA or the media. Artists may choose whether to have their name associated with their work. A Dutch treat lunch is optional. In case of rain, the group will draw under awnings. Any media is fine: pencil, watercolor, pastel, charcoal, pen and ink, etc. The idea is to have fun and move around to a different side every half hour. Call Joe Snow at 731-707-4220

- **Athena Delphian Club Holiday Bake Sale**

November 19 – These baked goods are as beautifully decorated as they are tasty. The sale opens at 8:00 a.m. until sold out on the west side of the Court Square. Rain location is in front of the old J.C. Penny’s building across the street from Jack Jones Flowers.

- **North Pole Family Fun Day**

November 26, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Make crafts, hear stories, snack on goodies, ride a miniature train, pet live animals, enjoy live music and see Santa arrive on the big, red fire engine; visit with him and his elves. Call 731-642-9271 for information or log on www.VisitDowntownParis.com.

- **Christmas Bazaar at Lee Academy for the Arts**

November 26, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m - This show-stopping bazaar is just four blocks away (Lee Street) from North Pole Family Fun Day. A must for art lovers, it is sponsored by the Tennessee River Fine Arts League. It features the best in local art including painting, pottery, jewelry, fiber arts and more. View a sample of these artists’ work online at River of Art Gallery at MyParisMagazine.com.

- **Saturday Mini-Concert Series**

November 27 through December 18 - Guest musicians put a little live holiday music in your weekend at Leach's Music on E. Washington Street from 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. Call 731-642-9271 for information or log on www.VisitDowntownParis.com.

- **Trees on the Square**

November 30 – December 19 – The Paris-Henry County Heritage Center is the new home for this popular event that features rooms full of gorgeous trees of the season. The center is located at 614 North Poplar Street. Viewing hours are Tuesday through Friday, noon till 6:00 p.m.; Saturdays, 10:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. and Sundays from 1- 5:00 p.m. Call 642-1030 for information.

- **Visit with Santa, Rudolph and the Elves**

Santa's waiting to visit with the little ones in his cool gingerbread house on the square each Saturday from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. and Sundays from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. till Christmas. Call 731-642-9271 for information or log on www.VisitDowntownParis.com.

- **Advent Walk**

December 1, 6:30 p.m. – Hear the Christmas message in the beautifully decorated churches of downtown and process by candlelight through the historic downtown area. The walk begins at 6:30 p.m. at First Christian Church on South Poplar Street. A van is available. Call 642-2962 for information.

- **Community Christmas Concert**

December 5, 3:00 p.m. – Director Amy Martin leads local choirs and musicians in glorious Christmas music. This free performance includes Celebration Hand Bell Choir, Veazey's Vocals, community vocalists and instrumentalists. Sponsored by the Paris-Henry County Arts Council, the free concert is at First United Methodist Church. Call 731-642-3955 or log on www.phcarts.com for information.

- **Christmas Parade**

December 10, 6:00 p.m. – Join the Paris-Henry County Jaycees for a holly, jolly Christmas parade in festively decorated downtown Paris. Call 731-642-5925 or 731-431-4669 for information or log on www.WorldsBiggestFishFry.com.

- **Santa's Last Blast**

December 17, 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. – Don't miss one of the last opportunities to see Santa blast in on the big, red fire engine. Make crafts, hear stories and visit with Santa one more time before he heads north! Call 731-642-9271 for information or log on www.VisitDowntownParis.com.

- **Christmas Eve Services**

December 24 – A variety of Christmas Eve services are offered by Downtown churches from mid-afternoon through midnight to welcome the Christ child into the world. Come join one of these moving services.

For more information, contact DPA President Mike Key at (731) 642-9271 or log on www.VisitDowntownParis.com.

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