

## **“Downtown Unwrapped-2011” Opens with Festive Open Houses, Music and Goodies**

**(Paris, TN)** The Downtown Paris Association (DPA) hosts Christmas Open Houses in Historic Downtown Paris Friday, Saturday and Sunday, November 4, 5 and 6. “This is the first event of Downtown Unwrapped - 2011, a festive slate of activities that runs from early November until the last package is wrapped on Christmas Eve,” said DPA President Kathy Ray.

“We traditionally begin the holiday season with three days of beautiful open houses that combine the wonderful sights, sounds, foods and aromas of the holiday season,” said Ray, who emphasized that open house specials and delicious refreshments abound in more than a dozen stores.

“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 Ray.

The festivities begin Friday morning with First Presbyterian Church’s French Bazaar where delicious food and craft items can be purchased from 8:00 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. The Inman School Band will perform holiday tunes before and after the ceremony. They will also have a bake sale and hot chocolate beginning at 5:00 p.m. Downtown visitors can enjoy wagon rides throughout the evening. The group Vocal Motion will also perform at various stores from 6:00 until 8:00 p.m.

On Saturday, Candlelight Open House festivities run from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. Downtown’s many shops will be open throughout the day. There will be free Wagon rides from 6:00 -8:00 p.m.

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 performing in various shops.

The open house weekend schedule is as follows:

### **Friday, November 4th**

- First Presbyterian Church French Bazaar, 8:00 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 beginning at 5:00 p.m. on the Courthouse Lawn
- Vocal Motion entertaining in various shops.

**Saturday, November 5<sup>th</sup>**

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

**Sunday afternoon, November 6<sup>th</sup>**

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

A host of other holiday activities are coming up as part of Downtown Unwrapped 2011, according to Ray. 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. Visit [www.VisitDowntownParis.com](http://www.VisitDowntownParis.com).

*The Downtown Paris Association promotes prosperous business activity and community involvement while encouraging preservation of the downtown area.*