
Press Release

NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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HISTORIC SMITHVILLE MANSION TO HOST
FULL SLATE OF VICTORIAN HOLIDAY TOURS

Season Schedule Runs Through The Month of December

Historic Smithville Mansion is once again host to a full slate of Victorian Holiday Tours.

A mainstay of the County's Smithville Park in Eastampton, the Mansion will again be decorated in dazzling Victorian finery by the Friends of the Mansion at Smithville, the Riverton, Pinelands and Medford Lakes' Garden Club, the Riverton Porch Club, the Whitesbog Historic Trust, Village Quilters of Mount Holly, and other volunteers.

"The tours offers visitors a true step back in time," said Jim Denworth, President of The Friends organization. "Both newcomers and past visitors walk away with a deeper appreciation of the Mansion's historic past and the period décor."

The Mansion was home to entrepreneur Hezekiah B. Smith from 1865 to 1887, and was the centerpiece of the Industrial Village of Smithville, an international center for the production of woodworking machinery and the Star Bicycle.

Visitors arriving for the tours will be greeted by a live tree on the Mansion's porch, beautifully adorned by the Master Gardeners of Burlington County with ornaments and decorations made from natural garden material, including milkweed pods, clematis vines, gumballs, and other dried flowers and seed pods.

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PRESS RELEASE: Victorian Tours – 12/6/10 – Add One

Inside, they will find stunningly decorated rooms and Christmas trees reflecting this year's "Victorian Stars" theme focusing on notable celebrities of the Victorian era, including authors Mark Twain, Beatrice Potter, Charles Dickens, and Harriet Beecher Stowe.

Other notable figures who will be highlighted include Alice Paul, Julia Ward Howe, Clara Barton, Elizabeth White, Jenny Lind, Mary Cassatt, Amelia Bloom, Mary Van Meter Grice, and of course, Agnes and Hezekiah Smith.

Visitors will also have an opportunity to do a little holiday shopping in the boutique shop where handmade and gift items will be for sale. In addition, shoppers will be invited to browse the mansion's annex gallery where artwork focusing on Burlington County's parks will be available.

Painted by artists during the Arts in the Park festival at Smithville, the plein air pieces were selected by Juror Phillip Carroll from Perkins Center for the Arts and are being exhibited in the gallery during the month of December. The cost of the paintings will range from \$175 to \$500.

The popular Victorian Christmas Tours will be available throughout the month of December. The schedule includes:

Victorian Christmas Tours from Dec. 6 through 23 and Dec. 26 through 30 at 1, 2, and 3 p.m. The tours cost \$6 for adults and \$5 for seniors and students.

Victorian Christmas Candlelight Tours with light refreshments on Dec. 8, 11, 13, 17, 19, 22, 27 and 29 at 7:30 p.m. The cost is \$10 for adults and \$8 for students. **Reservations are required.** Call (856) 767-3159.

Victorian Christmas Tea and Tours on Dec.7, 13, 18, 20 and 29. Tea will be served at noon and the tours will begin at 1 p.m. The cost is \$25 per person. **Reservations are required.** Call (856) 767-3159.

Historic Smithville Park is located on Smithville Road in Eastampton, just three-quarters of a mile off Route 38. For additional information, go to www.smithvillemansion.org

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