

# Holiday Events in Edenton this weekend...



Visitors to Edenton's Candlelight Tour will find some warm smiles and a lot of Christmas cheer waiting for them on stops to the Cupola House Wassail Bowl (shown here), the Iredell House Groaning Board, the Barker House Holiday Repast, and the Chowan Arts Council's Confection Perfection. (Chowan Herald file photo by Rebecca Bunch)

In addition to the excitement of the annual Edenton Christmas Candlelight Tour, visitors and local residents alike are invited to come and be a part of several companion events on Friday and Saturday, Dec. 11-12, from 1-5 p.m. Admission to these events is free and everyone is welcome.

They include:

- Barker House Holiday Repast: Begin your tour with a cup of Penelope Barker's homemade eggnog and a brief Holiday Repast at the 18th century Barker House. Enjoy the Christmas tree and become filled with the Christmas Spirit in anticipation of your visit to the beautifully decorated homes on the tour. (Sponsored by Edenton Historical Commission)
- Cupola House Wassail Bowl:

18th century style Christmas decorations, music and refreshments. Visitors can enjoy a hearty cup of Wassail, a traditional holiday beverage. (Sponsored by the Cupola House Association)

Iredell House Groaning Board: 18th century style Christmas decorations, music and a holiday groaning board. Tables are so heavily laden with food you can almost hear the

boards "groan," hence the name for this popular event. (Sponsored by the James Iredell Association and the NC Department of Cultural Resources)

Chowan Arts Council's Confection Perfection: Dec. 11-12 from 4-9 p.m. Enjoy the holiday decor, treats, sweets, and chocolate delights. (Sponsored by Chowan Arts Council)

## Tour

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"It's been fun so far. We're looking forward to it," Elliott said as she began the decoration process last Friday. Visitors to the Elliotts' home at 301 S. Oakum St. will be able to view a colorful collection of Christmas nutcrackers located in the den. The Elliotts have lived in their turn-of-the-century home for the past couple of years, and Mary said she was asked to take part in the annual event several months ago.

"I'll do the main part of the decorating Wednesday and Thursday," Elliott said after assembling her assortment of nutcrackers, which range from a few inches tall to more than a foot in height, in the home's cozy den.

Elliott said she also hopes that visitors will be curious about the home's celestial motifs in the panels abutting the porch posts. In each panel, a sun, moon, star and comet provide peculiar ornamentation that escapes the watchful eyes of most visitors, said Elliott.

And she is expecting that all of her hard work will pay off this weekend.

"Of everyone I've talked to who has opened their home for the tour in the past, not one

said they regretted doing it," Elliott said.

At the home of Ms. Patsy A. Taylor, visitors will take in a newly-remodeled former school house located at 205 S. Oakum St. Taylor returned from Greensboro to the family-owned home in December 1996 and has embraced the idea of opening the 147-year-old dwelling to visitors during the tour.

"I thought, hey, if I'm coming back, I'd like to help promote it," said Taylor, adding that some local residents may not be aware of the home's history. "I don't think a lot of people realize it existed as a school."

The original three-room school house was completed in 1851. The rear portion of the home, now a kitchen and dining room, was added in 1900. In recent months, Taylor has had the house remodeled - from fresh coats of paint to room additions - for the tour. Like a number of the historic places in Edenton to be open on the candlelight tour, the home contains 12-foot ceilings and original window panes.

On East King Street, Pat Greene is also looking forward to having her home open to visitors this weekend. Pat and her husband Wilson moved into the three-story, Queen Anne

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