

Christmas activities planned this holiday season in Cherryville



CHRISTMAS IN CHERRYVILLE - Above, a group of youngsters wave to the crowd during the 2002 Christmas parade in downtown Cherryville. Cherryville will present its annual holiday procession down Main St. on Saturday, December 13 at 10:30 a.m. with the popular 'Christmas on Main St.' event set for Thursday, December 11 from 5-9 p.m. Both holiday events are sponsored by the Cherryville Chamber of Commerce.

By **TODD HAGANS**
Editor of The Eagle

Looking for holiday activities to put you in the Christmas spirit? Then look no further than downtown Cherryville.

The town's premiere holiday events - 'Christmas on Main St.' and the annual Christmas parade - take the spotlight next week with 'Christmas on Main St.' set for Thursday, December 11 from 5-9 p.m. and the parade marching through downtown Cherryville on Saturday, December 13 beginning at 10:30 a.m. The Cherryville Chamber of Commerce sponsors both events.

Activities for 'Christmas on Main St.' get underway with a full slate of entertainment at the mini-park gazebo. The Cherryville High School band performs at 5 p.m. followed by violinists George and Courtney Beam at 5:30 p.m.

New to the event this year is the Miss Merry Christmas pageant set for 6 p.m. at the gazebo. Girls newborn to age 19 are eligible to compete in one of 10 age categories. Winners will be announced in each category and invited to ride on the Santa Claus float in the Cherryville Christmas parade. All participants will receive a tiara.

Applications for the pageant are available at the Cherryville Chamber of Commerce, Classy Kids Consignment and The Eagle or by calling Delores Cox at (704) 827-7277. Deadline to enter is Friday, December 5, 2003. The pageant is co-sponsored by the Miss Gastonia Scholarship Association, Inc. and proceeds benefit the Miss Gastonia scholarship fund.

Cherryville country musician Preston Long performs at the gazebo at 7 p.m. with 'Walk By Faith' presenting entertainment at 7:30 p.m. 'Radicals for Christ' performs at 8 p.m. with the First Presbyterian Church choir presenting special music at 8:30 p.m.

Popular bluegrass musician Darin Aldridge will perform in front of Mabry Supplies beginning at 7 p.m. while the Cherryville High School chorus directed by Linda Barger entertains from 6-7 p.m. at the C. Grier Beam Truck Museum with a variety of Christmas carols.

Carriage rides will travel up and down Main St. and Elm St. from 6-9 p.m. while rides on the 'Little Blue Choo' will be offered down Main St. from 6-9 p.m. Photos with Santa will be

available from 6-9 p.m. at the chamber office and the Cherryville Rotary Club will offer free hot chocolate. Food vendors will be available at the mini-park.

Downtown merchants including Bill's Wholesale, McGinnis Furniture, Flowers and More, Victoria-Cole Gifts and The Great Outdoors will be open extra hours during 'Christmas on Main St.' with special sales and discounts. The C. Grier Beam Truck Museum, the Cherryville Historical Museum and Cherryville Train Depot will be open for holiday visitors. The Eagle will hold its annual open house from 6-8 p.m.

Other chamber members supporting the 'Christmas on Main St.' celebration and observing regular business hours are Cherryville Florist, Houser Drug, Medical Center Pharmacy, Rick's Automotive, Main Street Amoco, Upchurch Garden Center, Exhilaration Station, McDonald's, Delview Mart, Herbert Performance Parts, Ferguson Ace Hardware, Modern Printing, Papa's Pizza to Go, Roma Italian Restaurant, Crawley's Auto Parts and Randy's Body Shop.

The Christmas on Main St. event is designed to encourage Cherryville residents to shop at home while spreading holiday cheer among neighbors.

The annual Christmas parade steps off at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, December 13 with the 2003 American Legion Post 100 championship baseball team and Ronald 'Scoop' Kiser, long-time sports editor of The Eagle, leading the way

as grand marshals. Post 100 won the Area Four, North Carolina and Southeastern Regionals championships and finished runner-up in the national finals of the Little World Series held in August in Bartlesville, Oklahoma. The 2003 team is the third Cherryville legion unit to reach the national competition. The 1953 team finished fourth at Miami and the 1998 team finished second at Las Vegas.

The parade will feature beauty queens, marching groups, bands, floats, antique cars and trucks, the Shriners, clowns, the 'Little Blue Choo' and Santa Claus. The parade begins at the corner of Main St. and Depot St., goes down Main St. and turning right on Mulberry St. and then right on First St., ending at First Baptist Church.

For more information about the parade and 'Christmas on Main St.,'

call the chamber office at (704) 435-3451.

In other holiday happenings, the Cherryville High School band will hold its winter concert on Monday, December 8 at 7 p.m. at Starnes Auditorium. The Cherryville High School chorus will present a holiday concert on Sunday, December 14 at 6 p.m. at First United Methodist Church.

For more information about the band and chorus concerts, call the high school at (704) 435-4506.



Christmas "Just Off" Main Street

Visit the decorated
C. Grier Beam Truck Museum

Thursday, December 11th 6-9pm.

Diecast model trucks by First Gear, Winross and Conji. Available.

Don't Miss Cherryville High School Chorus in their gowns and tuxedos singing a collage of Christmas Carols.

Director: Linda Barger

The **Pepperoni Express** PIZZA CO.™
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celebrates
Christmas on Main St.

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Pizza By The Slice

\$1.00

Between 6 & 9 Thurs. night, Dec. 11

210 E. Main St., Cherryville, NC
704-435-8000

Mon. - Thurs. 10am - 9pm/ Fri. & Sat. 10am - 10pm



Peace and Harmony

Christmas is a time to bless others as God blessed us with his greatest gift when he sent his only begotten son, who was born to show us God's timeless and enduring love. May you and your loved ones discover the true peace that this gift brings. Merry Christmas!

From the entire staff here at Carpenter's. Happy Holidays!

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Opening for Christmas on Main Street

TROPICAL TANNING welcomes you to stop-in December 11th 6-9 p.m. to take advantage of our Skin Care Gift Bags:

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from \$2.50

LARGE GIFT BAGS
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Gift Certificates Available
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