

High Street rings in the holidays

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WAYNESBURG - Waynesburg Prosperous & Beautiful will host its annual Holiday Open House in historic downtown Waynesburg from 5 to 8 p.m. Friday.

Most stores on High Street will extend their hours to 7 p.m. or later, with holiday music, burn barrels and white lights providing an unusual and festive shopping experience. Horse-drawn carriage rides also will be available throughout the evening.

"It's been a lot of work, but I'm really looking forward to it, and I think the community will enjoy it as well," said Karen Calvert, event chairwoman for the Holiday Open House. "I've had a lot of positive response from people who are planning to come. I'm looking forward to a bigger crowd this year for sure."

A silent auction of items donated by downtown merchants is back by popular demand, with bidding already under way on more than \$1,000 in merchandise. Silent auction items are on display now at participating merchants, and bids can be entered at any time now through bid closing at 7 p.m. Friday. At that time, the bid sheets will be collected and high bidders announced from the courthouse steps. Proceeds from the silent auction will benefit programs of Waynesburg Prosperous & Beautiful.

Another unusual feature of this year's Holiday Open House will be a "flicks on bricks" presentation, with the classic movie "It's A Wonderful Life" being projected onto the brick exterior of the Peoples Bank building on High Street.

Cost for the carriage rides will be \$1 per person, with children ages 5 and under riding for free.

The 2009 Holiday Open House is sponsored in part by Dale Property Services Penn and several local area businesses.

For more information on the Holiday Open House, including a list of participating merchants and silent auction items, visit www.waynesburgpa.org or call Waynesburg Prosperous & Beautiful at 724-627-8119.

Waynesburg Prosperous & Beautiful is a nonprofit, Main Street program that operates in conjunction with the Pennsylvania Downtown Center. Funded by the state Department of Community and Economic Development, Waynesburg Prosperous & Beautiful represents a community endeavor to preserve and revitalize historic downtown Waynesburg and raise awareness of the educational, cultural and historical opportunities, as well as the convenience of shopping, associated with the town.

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