



REAL
QUICK

1

LIQUOR LICENSE VOTE. Dec. 1 and 2 are key dates in the liquor license saga. See below.

2

ARTS AND MUSIC. Check out new shows at four galleries, along with music from holiday tunes to bluegrass. See page 3.

3

TAX CREDITS. Is your business looking to save on taxes—and make a difference downtown? See page 2.

Cambridge
for the holidays



With one-of-a-kind gifts, friendly shopkeepers, amazing sales, and family-friendly events, Downtown Cambridge is a great place to do your holiday shopping, dining, and pampering. Upcoming events....

Friday Night Magic
starts Dec. 5

Do your holiday shopping after work or after dinner and discover amazing bargains downtown, thanks to shop owners who'll keep their doors open late on Friday nights starting Dec. 5. Some will stay open until 9 or 10 p.m.; others until midnight—with sales growing bigger as the night goes on! Merchants include A Few of My Favorite Things, Avé salonspa, Chesapeake Classics, Dragonfly Boutique, Joie de Vivre, Maris Elaine Gallery, and Pear Tree South. Details at cambridgemainstreet.com.

Christmas Parade
Dec. 6

Don't miss the 61st annual Cambridge Dorchester Christmas parades (one of Maryland's largest), starting 5 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 6. Route runs from High Street to Poplar and Race Streets. While you're at it, stop by the Christmas Train Garden at the old firehouse, 307 Gay Street. And Cambridge Grill will have live music (and hot cocoa).

Old-Fashioned Christmas 5 p.m. Dec. 13

Delight in an evening full of holiday cheer in downtown Cambridge, 5–9 p.m., Dec. 13. Perfect for all ages!

Santa's Workshop: Visit with Santa, 6–8 p.m. at the Dorchester Center for the Arts (321 High Street). Create holiday crafts, write a letter to Santa (bring your camera!).

Sights and sounds: Check out shop windows and cast your vote in the Holiday Decorating Contest. Listen for carolers throughout downtown. And enjoy live music at Cambridge Grill (421 Race Street).

Carriage rides: 5–9 p.m., with pick up and drop off at Simmons Center Market (600 Race Street), where you'll also find cocoa, live trees for sale, and more.

Great sales: Merchants will stay open until 9 p.m. with special sales and events. Details at cambridgemainstreet.com.

Arts and music: Find affordable, artist-created treasures in local galleries—see arts and music roundup on page 3.

Many downtown merchants are open extended hours for the holidays and offer gift certificates and gift registries.

Liquor Board to consider revised proposals Dec. 1

The Dorchester County Board of License Commissioners will consider two revised proposals to amend the liquor license law on Monday, Dec. 1. These proposals are different than one the board had considered—and recommended against—in late October. Since that rejection, there's been a swell of community support to amend the law, which bans issuing new liquor licenses within 300 feet of a church. By the way, thanks to all of you who wrote letters, made phone calls, signed the petition, and came to the Nov. 18 rally. Both revised proposals would change the 300-foot rule for bona fide restaurants, with some differences:

- One proposal would allow municipalities throughout the county to decide whether or not to implement the 300-foot restriction.
- The other proposal would change the size of a restaurant that would qualify for the exception from 75 to 50 seats. The restaurant

would still have to have more than 50 percent of its revenues from food.

The Liquor Board will vote on these proposals Dec. 1. Then the Dorchester County Council meets Dec. 2, at which point the commissioners are expected to consider the Liquor Board's recommendations. Check for the latest updates at www.cambridgemainstreet.com.



Liquor license rally Nov. 18. [PHOTO BY DAVE HARP]

EVENTS

Last chance to save with 2008 tax credits

If you own a business and you're looking for a smart way to help in efforts to revitalize downtown Cambridge, here's a possibility: Through the Community Investment Tax Credit program, you can support Cambridge Main Street's arts-related initiatives—and receive tax credits. If your business qualifies, you'll receive a state tax credit equal to half of the contribution, along with state and federal charitable deductions. (See below.)

"When you look at the numbers on how this works, it's just an incredibly cost-effective,

powerful way for businesses to contribute to their community," said Jim Duffy, executive director of Cambridge Main Street.

Cambridge Main Street will use tax credit monies for the 2009 year toward maintaining a part-time Arts and Entertainment coordinator whose mission is to spur arts-based commerce throughout downtown Cambridge.

Only a limited number of tax credits are being issued for 2008, and time is running out. Minimum donation is \$500. Call 443.477.3699 or e-mail art@cambridgemainstreet.com.

HOW TAX CREDITS CAN HELP YOU SAVE ON TAXES

Let's say your business, XYZ Company, decides to give \$10,000 to Cambridge Main Street.



You sign up for the Community Investment Tax Credit program through Cambridge Main Street.



You receive \$5,000 in tax credits on state taxes. AND you write off the \$10,000 as a charitable contribution on state and federal taxes.



BOTTOM LINE: For XYZ Company, the \$10,000 contribution has a net cost of \$2,700. And you've helped downtown.

Harriet Tubman Organization wins state award

Congratulations to the Harriet Tubman Organization, which recently won a state award. The Maryland Office of Tourism Development's "Partnership Award for Volunteer Recognition" recognizes the organization's dedication to the spirit of Harriet Ross

Tubman, the most famous of conductors on the Underground Railroad. Donald Pinder, president of the Harriet Tubman Organization, accepted the award. The HTO's Harriet Tubman Museum, 424 Race Street, is open to the public. For more information, call 410.228.0401.

Ceanie's Apparel now open.

Ceanie's Apparel, at the corner of Washington and Race Streets, offers a range of affordable, quality clothing for women of all ages and sizes (up to 5X). There are outfits for work and play, for casual, and for church. Plus a selection of shoes and handbags and more. Owner and Cambridge native Michelan Gibbs has been working on making this dream come true for two years. Open 10 a.m.–6 p.m. Monday–Thursday; 10 a.m.–7 p.m. Friday–Saturday. 416 Washington Street, 443.521.9397 or 410.228.1150.



2nd SAT.

DEC. 13, 5–9 p.m. Second Saturday: Old-Fashioned Christmas

Santa and his workshop, carriage rides, holiday music. Great holiday shopping—stores will stay open late. Plus lots of art and music—see page 3.

Harvey Davis joins Cambridge Main Street Board

Harvey Davis has been elected to the Cambridge Main Street Board of Directors. Mr. Davis spent more than 35 years with the State of Maryland, last serving as statewide director of field operations for the Division of Rehabilitation Services, where he worked with business leaders and organizations. After retiring in 2005, he worked briefly with ISG International in Cambridge and served as director of the Dorchester County Chamber of

Commerce. Looking forward to being part of the Main Street board, Mr. Davis said he is impressed with the organization's "strong leadership, outstanding accomplishments, and noble mission." He is positive about downtown's future, hoping that it will "blossom and thrive and become a hub of excitement for retail shoppers and patrons of restaurants and services as was seen 30 to 40 years ago."

THROUGH DEC. 31 Main Street Gallery: Wrap It Up: Comfort and Joy

A mix of regional painting, sculpture, mosaic, and more. Reception 5–8 p.m., Dec. 13. 413 Muir Street.

STARTING DEC. 5 Friday Night Magic Downtown

Some downtown merchants will stay open late (some until midnight!) on Friday nights starting Dec. 5 with special sales and events. Details at www.cambridgemainstreet.com.

DEC. 6, 5 p.m. Christmas Parade

One of Maryland's largest Christmas parades right in downtown Cambridge.

DEC. 11, 8 a.m.–12 p.m. Dorchester County Economic Development Summit

Last chance to register for this summit all about workforce issues and education in our county. Vital for business managers and owners. Register at www.dorchestereconomic.com by Dec. 4.

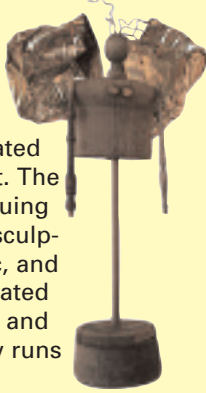
ARTS & MUSIC

IN DECEMBER

Main Street Gallery:

Just in time for the holidays, check out **Wrap It Up: Comfort and Joy at Main Street Gallery**, operated by Cambridge Main Street. The show showcases an intriguing mix of regional painting, sculpture, photography, mosaic, and mixed media—plus art-related books, notecards, jewelry, and other gift items. The show runs Nov. 28 through Dec. 31.

Reception 5–8 p.m., Second Saturday, Dec. 13. 413 Muir Street



ANGEL BY DOTTIE HEIMERT

ARTS



Dorchester Center for the Arts: The **Wednesday Morning Artists Small Works Show** features smaller pieces that make perfect holiday gifts. Part of the proceeds benefit the DCA. Also in the galleries, stained glass and woodwork pieces by David

Lee. Reception 6–8 p.m., Second Saturday, Dec. 13 with live music and refreshments. 410.228.7782. 321 High Street

Joie de Vivre's Easel Street Gallery:

Respected Eastern Shore photographer **John Robinson** will be the featured artist in December. Meet him during a reception 5–7:30 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 13. 410 Race Street



JOHN ROBINSON

Maris Elaine Gallery:

1 Support local young artists (and find affordable holiday gifts) during Maris Elaine's juried **Student Art Show** now through December. Proceeds go to the Cambridge Boys & Girls Club. **2** Also, you can still catch the work of **Theresa Knight McFadden**, mixed media sculptor through December 8. 520 Race Street



YOUNG ARTISTS AND CSDHS TEACHER RYAN MACCREIDIE

447 Studios & Gallery:

Featuring the works of eight artists who have studios surrounding the gallery. Open extended hours for the holidays: Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m.–4 p.m.; Second

Saturday 10 a.m.–8 p.m. 447 Race Street

Never On Tuesday Books: Featuring works by a half-dozen local artists, including John Root Hopkins and Antonia Burns. 527 Poplar Street

MUSIC

CD Release Party with Anne Watts:

Celebrate with local musician Anne Watts of Boister during the Art After Dark event at the Dorchester Center for the Arts, 5–7 p.m., Dec. 5. 321 High Street



Acoustic Jam: Join musicians playing bluegrass, gospel, blues, roots, and more, 9:30 a.m.–noon, Dec. 6 (and every first Saturday) at the Cambridge Library Meeting Room. Listeners welcome. For info, call Leslie Grove at 410.228.7331. 303 Gay Street

Chorus of Dorchester: The Chorus of Dorchester will perform two free Christmas concerts at 7 p.m., Dec. 9 at Christ Church (601 Church Street) and 7 p.m., Dec. 18 at the Dorchester Center for the Arts (321 High Street).

Tidewater Chamber Singers: Enjoy a holiday concert with the Tidewater Chamber Singers (formerly Bach to the Future) 4 p.m., Sunday, December 21 at Christ Church. Tickets cost \$10 (children and students free). 601 Church Street

Music at Scoop: Thursdays feature open mic, classical guitar, and blues. Most Fridays feature Spare Time and the Hudson Trio with blues and jazz. Shows start 7:30 p.m. More at www.thescoopstation.com. 400 Muir Street

Live Music at Cambridge Grill... on Saturday, Dec. 6 (after the Christmas parade), and on the evening of Second Saturday, Dec. 13. 421 Race Street

Book Signing & Art: Never On Tuesday hosts Jocelyn Miller, author of Broken Chords, along with the book's artist, Charles Ross, who will display his work. 5–9 p.m., Second Saturday, Dec. 13. Earlier in the day, a group of local authors will be on hand. 527 Poplar Street

Gear up for endurance events in Cambridge

Here's something to keep you working out through the upcoming holiday season. Cambridge will be host to at least three major endurance events in 2009. The newest, for the first time in Cambridge, is the **Dorchester YMCA Crab Run Half Marathon**, set for Second Saturday, April 11, 2009. The 13.1-mile race raises funds for the YMCA and their efforts to build strong kids, strong families, and a strong community. To register, go to www.dorchesterymca.org. Then there's the **Eagleman 70.3 Triathlon**, a half-triathlon (1.2-mile swim, 56-mile bike, 13.1-mile run) set for June 14. Registration is already filled up, but you can still register for the Aqua Velo (swim and bike). And the **Chesapeake-Man Ultra Triathlon** (2.4-mile swim, 112-mile bike, 26.2-mile run) happens Sept. 26. Registration for ChesapeakeMan is still open. Details on the triathlons at www.tricolumbia.org.



Market analysis under way downtown

What are downtown Cambridge's strengths and weaknesses in the marketplace? What strategies would help bring more vibrant businesses and jobs into our community?

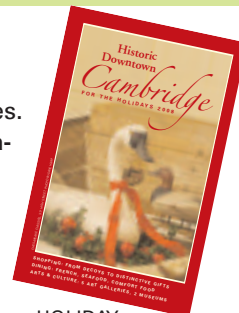
Those questions are addressed in a draft "market analysis" submitted last week by economic development consultant Chuck D'Aprix whose work is being conducted under a state grant awarded to the city and Cambridge Main Street.

Watch future editions of *Main Street News* to learn about the report's final conclusions, which are expected to include a proposed program to recruit, train, and support small-business entrepreneurs in downtown Cambridge.

NEWS BITS

- 1** *American Salon Magazine*, which some consider the bible of the industry, featured **Avé salonspa** (501 Poplar Street) in a Nov. 1 story describing the spa and its services.
- 2** Breeze Away is offering **transportation to the presidential inauguration** Jan. 20 at \$40 per person. Call for details: 410.221.8833.
- 3** You'll find great holiday shopping ideas, plus dining, arts, and culture in the **Downtown Cambridge Holiday Guide** (produced by Cambridge Main Street). Pick it up around town or download it at www.cambridge-mainstreet.com.

Happy Holidays from Cambridge Main Street!



HOLIDAY GUIDE