

September 16, 2010

## **Victorian Festival begins in downtown Northville**

For the 22nd year, downtown Northville will take a trip back in time, beginning with the traditional parade at 6:30 tomorrow, which marks the official opening of the annual Victorian Festival.

The parade will feature marchers in Victorian costumes, horse-drawn carriages and bands. Victorian dress is required for participation in the event and groups and individuals have been working diligently to create authentic costumes for weeks.

The parade will start in the library parking lot on West Cady and go down Wing to Main, then down Linden, Dunlap, Hutton and back to East Main Street. They will then travel down Center Street, onto Cady and return to the library parking lot.

The streets will be closed to traffic as townspeople, artists and business owners turn back the clock and transform themselves into a Victorian village. There will be old-fashioned games and food booths. Victorian teas, including tea leaf readings, and a fashion show will take place in Mill Race Village at 7 p.m. Saturday.

The American Association of University Women, Northville-Novi Branch will also sponsor the 15th annual Northville Home Tour which will take place from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. on Saturday.

The featured homes are widely different in architecture and interior design, span three centuries of construction and reflect how families have adapted to 21st century living, a spokesman noted.

Tickets for the tour are \$20 and on sale at Gardenviews of Northville, the Chamber of Commerce, Pear-aphernalia, Solid Grounds and Starring The Gallery.

All weekend, there will be children's rides and games and ongoing entertainment at several stages throughout downtown. The Parks and Recreation Department is sponsoring a cakewalk on Saturday and Sunday, there will be performances by Charlene Berry on the Dulcimer on Saturday only, a stiltwalker and a barbershop quartet both days.

At the intersection of Main and Center streets, a Victorian ballad singer will perform, an escape artist will show off his skill, a comedy juggler will appear and there will be a Punch and Judy puppet show on Saturday. Sunday, the puppet show and the Victorian ballad singer will perform again.

The Wallendas, one of the most famous names in circus entertainment, will perform at Ford Field at 1:30, 3:30 and 5:30 p.m. on Saturday and at 12:30 and 2:30 Sunday. The leader of the troupe, Rick Wallenda, has performed on three continents during his 40-year career and promises a spectacular show.

Festival hours are 5 until 10:30 p.m. Friday, noon until 10:30 p.m. Saturday and noon until 4 p.m. on Sunday.

*<http://www.journalgroup.com/Northville/11323>*