

Ipswich —

### Who's participating

Participating merchants in the holiday festivities include: On Railroad Avenue – Winfrey's Fudge, Timeless Interiors, Marybeth's, Allied Conservation, Clipper Cottage, The Singing Flower, Dr. Lisa Murray; at Hamilton Crossing – French Lessons, Crosby's Market, Hayfield's; Downtown Wenham – Gallery Della-Piana, Viola Lovely; at 300 Main – Hamilton Athletic Club, Henderson's Home Accessories, Zazou's Gifts, Henderson's Café, Crow's Corner Gift Shoppe, Locksmyth's, Harborlight Community Partners; at Bay Road – Talbot's, Cranberry Fiber Arts, Blue Peacock, Six Bay Road Hair Salon, Community Package, Country Crossroads Realty, Jolie Tea, Black Cow Tap & Grill.

Event Sponsors – The Weathervane Tavern, BBQ Hunter, The Wenham Museum, 15 Walnut Local Bistro, Connolly's Pharmacy, Acupuncture Works of Hamilton, Hamilton-Wenham Veterinary Hospital, and Salem Five.

It is starting to look a lot like Christmas at Hamilton and Wenham's village shops.

Local merchants with stores on Railroad Avenue in Hamilton and 300 Main Street in Wenham have decorated in preparation for a holiday walk called "Christmas in the Village" that starts tonight, Dec. 8, from 5 to 8 p.m.

The event features a scavenger hunt where walkers visiting local stores are given a card that is validated by retailers. Individuals partaking in the merriment can use their validated cards to enter a raffle for three prize baskets of gifts donated by the local merchants with one valued at \$300 and two at \$200.

During tonight's festivities, vendors will provide food, beer and wine, as well as access to special sales, and complimentary gift-wrapping.

Musical entertainment for the evening includes caroling by the strolling Solstice Singers and Girl Scouts, Brian Rogers' band, Distant Sun, and Crossroads Country Realty will provide karaoke Christmas carols.

Santa and his elves will also be there to join in the fun.

Harborlight Community Partners, an affordable housing non-profit, will be giving away chocolate for every donated book it receives.

In its second year, the village holiday event, which goes through Sunday, Dec. 11, is being done collaboratively between the two communities and the Hamilton-Wenham Merchants Association with assistance from Hamilton's Planning Coordinator Marcie Ricker.

“The town of Hamilton has upped its dedication to support the local merchants. It appropriated \$2,500 at fall Town Meeting to purchase snowflake banners to decorate the village area that were just put up by the DPW,” said Ricker.

“We are inviting residents to discover their downtown. Hamilton and the merchants are focusing their effort on creating a balance between business interest and community spirit,” she said. “The Christmas in the Village event is not just about shopping, it is about running into friends downtown.”

There has been a new influx of energy where the long-time and new merchants are working together to create a livelier downtown.

“We are trying to promote the village atmosphere and what the shops have to offer,” said Don Robinson, chairman of the merchants association and owner of Henderson’s home accessories shop. He has been in the same location since 1985 and has seen retail space in Wenham grow by 50 percent. “The Christmas in the Village weekend event is a community effort to educate people that there is more to do in Hamilton and Wenham than just drive through the towns,” he said.

The merchant group of 40 people is a cross section of vendors from Winfrey’s Fudge to the new Singing Flower, which has just arrived on Railroad Avenue.

Allied Conservation, a new vendor in Hamilton, produced all the graphic art including the scavenger hunt card and flyer for the holiday walking event. It also just developed a local business map that shows where all the retail locations are in Hamilton and Wenham.

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Read more: [Hamilton-Wenham ‘Christmas in the Village’ holiday walk steps off - Hamilton, MA - Hamilton-Wenham Chronicle](#)

<http://www.wickedlocal.com/hamilton/features/x1722156175/Hamilton-Wenham-Christmas-in-the-Village-holiday-walk-steps-off#ixzz1gKiFG9ln>