

Holiday welcome bags for visitors distributed at Murray Convention and Visitors Bureau

Friends and family pull into the driveway. Hugs are exchanged and bags are taken in. The holiday festivities begin. The part left out of this scenario? The preparation.

The weeks leading up to the celebration are vital to having less stress during the actual holiday.

Businesses in Murray spent the past weekend serving the community by providing unique gifts ideas at affordable prices during the Murray Holiday Open House.

Ribbon Chix, located downtown in Murray, has been working extra hours to make sure each individual piece of merchandise fits their customer's order. "We have our own designs and have been busy designing and making these. We have been busy little elves," Krista Hatchett, co-owner of Ribbon Chix, said.

Murray homes are busy preparing for family and friends to visit, such as Bonnie Jones. Though the family all come at different times, she always has a Christmas Eve open house for her family, friends and fellow church members. She also hosts Christmas morning where she has a handmade stocking for each person in the family.

Jones' favorite part of the season is just having them all here together, she said.

She and her husband have spent years traveling and collecting key chains in their 61 years of marriage. "My Christmas tree is decorated with key chains from different trips we have taken," she said. "We have around 250 now, and add more each year."

Murray Main Street has been preparing all year for the many different holiday events happening downtown Murray that residents and guests of Murray will both enjoy.

"Many hours of labor have gone into making our downtown a wonderful place to visit and experience the spirit of Christmas," Deana Wright, Murray Main Street director said.

"Our downtown businesses are filled with great items to complete your shopping list and their windows are decorated to add to the festive atmosphere of downtown," she said.

On Dec. 3, Dickens' Alley will take place, a free event where Christmas stories are read, cookies are decorated and the community Christmas Tree is lit for the first time of the season. Murray Main Street has been involved in planning these events and decorations for the downtown area for nine years.

The Murray Convention and Visitors Bureau decided to add a little variety to guest's time in Murray. The Murray CVB has put together bags for holiday visitors with a visitor guide, dining guide, holiday guide, postcard, Murray Chamber of Commerce coupons and a small gift from CFSB.

"During the holiday season Murray has so many new and returning visitors, we wanted to welcome them to share in all the community Murray festivities," Erin Carrico, Murray CVB director said.

"We strive to make each visitor feel at home when they come to Murray, and this is one way we are able to do this through-out the holiday season," she said.

The bags will be distributed to each hotel in town, but can also be picked up from the Murray CVB at 201 South 4th Street between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. weekdays through Dec. 22. Each person is limited to four welcome bags.

With the holiday season fast approaching there is much preparation taking place for exciting sales, events and celebrations to occur in the coming month. For more information about Murray's events, shopping locations or hotels visit www.tourmurray.com or become a fan of "Murray, KY" on Facebook for the most current information.