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Christmas in St. Michaels Introduces 30th Anniversary Collectors Ornament

St. Michaels, MD—Christmas in St. Michaels is celebrating its 30th charity fund-raising event this December. To commemorate this anniversary, its newly introduced Collectors Ornament features an image of the elegant horses and carriage that for many symbolize the much-loved Talbot Street Parade. The carriage, known as the Omnibus, pulled by a pair of Friesian horses and driven by its owner, accompanied by his wife and guests, all dressed in vintage attire, has appeared in the parade since 2004.

“The Talbot Street Parade is a highlight of the Christmas in St. Michaels weekend,” said Barbara Rose, 2016 event chair. “I think it is appropriate that an image from the parade appears on our 30th anniversary ornament. With its combination of marching bands, home-made floats and children and adults in holiday costumes representing local organizations, the parade embodies the small-town qualities that make Christmas in St. Michaels so magical.”

The ornament was designed by local artist Joanne Buritsch and is the thirteenth in the Collectors Ornament series. It is gold-plated brass with fine enameled detailing, packaged in a gift box, and can be purchased for \$20 in St. Michaels at Broken Rudder Sportswear, Candleberry Galleries, Charisma, Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum Store, Chesapeake Bay Outfitters, Chesapeake Trading Company, Pemberton Pharmacy & Gifts, Reeser’s Pharmacy, St. Michaels Harbour Inn Marina and Spa, The Christmas Shop, and Shore United (formerly Talbot) Bank. The ornament, as well as ornaments from all previous years, is also available online at christmasinstmichaels.org.

The Friesian horses featured in the ornament came originally from Friesland, in the Netherlands, during the 16th century. Ancestors of modern Friesians were used in medieval times to carry knights into battle. Friesians carry themselves with elegance and are most known for their brisk, high-stepping trot. Graceful and nimble in spite of their size, they are also gentle and smart. The Omnibus is the largest in a collection of 14 carriages, the oldest of which dates back to 1860. One of the carriages was custom built for King George IV of England and another for Mr. Singer of the Singer sewing machine company. The original drawings for these carriages are housed in the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Members of the volunteer committee who developed this year’s ornament are Lisa Rey and Val Kenn Gray, co-chairs; Joanne Buritsch; Gloria Gibson; Judy Krhounek; Joan Mack; Julie McCahill; and Jan Underwood.

All proceeds from the sale of the ornament go directly to support the designated beneficiaries of Christmas in St. Michaels. Since its inception in 1987, Christmas in St. Michaels has provided more than \$1 million to non-profit organizations that provide services to the Bay Hundred community.

Christmas in St. Michaels will take place this year on December 9, 10 and 11. It will include a Yuletide Party and 30th Anniversary Celebration, Talbot Street Parade and Tour of Homes. Events of special interest to children include Breakfast with Santa, Santa's Wonderland and the Gingerbread House Display. Other offerings include the Marketplace for hand-crafted gifts and gourmet foods, special musical events and wonderful shops decorated for Christmas. Visit christmasinstmichaels.org for more information.



Photo caption:

The Christmas in St. Michaels 30th anniversary Collectors Ornament features elegant Friesian horses and the Omnibus carriage and its occupants in vintage clothing, which symbolize the popular Talbot Street Parade, a highlight of the annual Christmas in St. Michaels celebration. Photo by Proctor Photography.