

It's Chocolate Time in Olde Town

It's been said that a single chocolate chip provides sufficient food energy for an adult to walk 150 feet; 35 chocolate chips to go a mile. Come get energized and celebrate all things chocolate at the 10th annual Chocolate Affair in Historic Olde Town Arvada on Saturday, February 5, 2011 from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM.

This family fun event, presented by the Arvada Festivals Commission and Downtown Arvada Partnership, features the Taste of Chocolate; a Chocolate Treasure Hunt; the Chocolate Cookie Contest; face painting, balloon artistry, and story telling; romantic carriage rides; and heart-shaped expressions of love on light posts throughout Olde Town. Over 200 volunteer and staff hours will make this chocolate-inspired event a treat for guests

Help chase away the winter blues with the Taste of Chocolate, a sampling of good-for-you delights. Drop by the D Note Restaurant on Grandview and DiCicco's Banquet Room on Olde Wadsworth Blvd. between 11:00 AM and 2:00 PM for delicious samples of chocolate. Calorie-craving chocolate lovers can sample chocolate-based food and drink presented by several invited chocolatiers, bakers, and restaurants. Tickets will be available at the door; six sampling tickets for \$5.00. Proceeds benefit the Arvada Ralston House, a child advocacy and resource center for kids who have been abused. Last year the Taste of Chocolate raised over \$2,300 for the organization.

Join the adventures of the Chocolate Treasure Hunt and visit many Olde Town stores to search for Chocolate Clues. Teams and individuals can compete for prize drawings for large chocolate-enriched baskets of goodies. This *free family fun* activity will take place between 11:00 AM and 2:30 PM. and starts in Olde Town Square. Last year, this popular activity drew over 200 teams searching Olde Town businesses for clues.

Amateur bakers will show off yummy baking skills and enter favorite cookies in the Chocolate Cookie Contest. Contestants can drop off cookie samples between 11:00 AM and 1:00 PM at the DiCicco's Banquet Room. Submit one entry in either category of cookies: creatively decorated or chocolate chip cookies. Participants must submit five sample cookies on a disposable plate; neither cookies nor disposable plate will be returned. There is no cost to enter. The contest is open to all ages and a first, second, and third prize will be awarded in each category. Last year 35 contestants delighted judges from the community with their confections.

Kids entertainment includes balloon artistry by Doofus the Clown, face painting by Mrs. Frog and story telling at the library. Treat your loved ones to a Romantic Carriage ride through Olde Town and admire all the giant red hearts festooning the lamp posts.

For more information about the event call Downtown Arvada Partnership at 303-420-6100. Chocolate producers and retailers are invited to join the Taste as a vendor by calling 303-420-6100 or go to www.arvadahistoric.org or www.arvadafestivals.com.

