

# CVB Celebrates National Tourism Week with Contest

The Greater Parkersburg Convention & Visitors Bureau and area businesses hosted a special **“Be a Tourist in Your Own Hometown”** promotion May 5-13 to bring greater awareness to the many attractions, events and points of interest available in the immediate area.

The CVB and 17 local businesses/attractions/events encouraged area residents to enter to win a gift basket valued at more than \$1,000 that was full of regional specialty products, attraction tickets and other gifts. The bureau randomly drew the winner, Angela Harkness, May 23.

The CVB also appeared before the Wood County Commission May 7 to provide an update on the tourism industry in the region.

“There are more than 1,000 jobs directly impacted by tourism – whether it is through area restaurants, shops, attractions, events or lodging properties. Locally, tourists spend more than \$105 million annually, and tax relief is \$222.82 per household in Wood County,” said Steve Nicely, CVB president.

The travel industry represents one of America’s largest employers with 7.7 million direct travel-generated jobs and \$189 billion in travel generated payroll. National Travel and Tourism Week was designated by Congress and established by presidential proclamation in 1983.



## 2012 Visitors Guide Honored with Hermes Award

The international Hermes Awards honored the Greater Parkersburg CVB with a gold place finish for the design/production of its 2012 Visitors Guide. Winners for the prestigious awards were selected from among 3,600 worldwide entries.

The cover of the 2012 guide featured the Julia-Ann Square Historic District walking tour. Area photographer Jim Osborn captured the imaginative image as well as many others featured in the guide. The piece was designed/produced by Stonewall Group of Marietta and printed by Chapman Printing of Parkersburg.

## Bureau Partners with Attractions to Host Inaugural “Reflections of the Past” Event Oct. 11-14

Wood County historical attractions have partnered with the CVB to introduce a new and unique event to the area in 2012. “Reflections of the Past,” scheduled Oct. 11-14, will include different venues and new and old events throughout the county.

Event organizers include representatives from local historic preservation organizations and the Greater Parkersburg Convention and Visitors Bureau.

“Our goal is to attract out-of-town visitors by offering lodging packages, restaurant specials and entertainment venues,” said Deborah Shaffer, a member of the event committee. “We also want to showcase and preserve our local history through walking and home tours, cultural events, interactive activities, the Mansion by Candlelight on Blennerhassett Island, an antique car show, living history tours of area cemeteries and much more.”

To learn more about the event and a schedule of activities, call the CVB office at 304-428-1130 or visit [www.greaterparkersburg.com](http://www.greaterparkersburg.com).

