

Seneca gearing up for New Year's Eve bash

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SENECA — The city of Seneca is gearing up for a New Year's Eve celebration some officials say is unlike anything the city has ever seen.

Seneca will hold a new event Friday night to usher in 2011 that will feature fine food, shopping opportunities, live music and other festivities, all in the heart of the city's downtown area.

It all starts with New Year's Eve at The Lunney House Museum, a three-hour social event at the historic Lunney House. Recently purchased and renovated by the city of Seneca, The Lunney has become a location for historic preservation as well as an upscale venue for special events.

"New Year's Eve will start with a social hour from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m., with light hors d'œuvres and French wine," said Dr. John Martin, director of

the house museum.

"The clock will sound and people will move into the tents in the back and be seated for lobster bisque and the 'Lunney Salad.'"

A gourmet buffet table featuring prime rib will feed the more than 100 expected guests for the event, with New York cheesecake to be served for dessert.

Despite the cold winter weather, the frigid temperatures aren't expected to be a problem.

"All the tents outside are interconnected with side curtains. They will have heat and light and be very cozy," Martin said.

The jazz ensemble Soul Fetch will perform during The Lunney event.

"People who wish to go to Ram Cat Alley after our affair can use the complimentary CAT Bus that will go from the museum to Ram Cat until 1 a.m.," Martin said.

The Lunney event

will end at 10 p.m., just in time for "First Night 2011," which will block off Ram Cat Alley and feature extended business hours for many of the area stores. Seneca native Ella Mae Bowen will perform live on the Ram Cat Alley stage, to be followed by young country artist McKayla Reece. Party band The Crunch will then provide live entertainment.

The event will culminate as Mayor Dan Alexander, city council members and revelers count down to the new year with the help of Dick Clark's traditional TV broadcast, which will be shown on a large screen.

Stuart Pohl, owner of Spot on The Alley, said his business will serve a breakfast buffet at 12:30 a.m. for late partiers.

"The city of Seneca has never had anything like this," Martin said.

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