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Holiday fun abounds in Gettysburg

BY MARY GRACE KELLER Times Staff Writer Nov 24, 2017



Submitted PhotoCHRISTMAS FUN - A little girl concentrates on decorating a Christmas cookie at a previous year's Steinwehr Avenue Victorian Christmas celebration.

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Darah J Gardner

Downtown Gettysburg will be a flurry of activity this holiday season with events running from now until the end of December.

Local nonprofits have more than a dozen Christmas-theme events planned from Nov. 24 to Dec. 28, according to Main Street Gettysburg CEO and President Deb Adamik.

She encourages people to get outside and explore what the community has to offer.

"It's just the thought of getting everyone together. That's what's special to me," Adamik said.

The festivities will start off with the tree lighting in Lincoln Square today at 5 p.m. Santa Claus will give the reindeer a break and arrive in a 1955 Corvette at 6 p.m., according to Adamik.

Prince of Peace Episcopal Church will offer a "Christmas Pops for Tots" concert Nov. 26 at 4 p.m. Attendees are encouraged to bring an unwrapped toy to donate to Toys for Tots.

Harrisburg Area Community College Gettysburg Campus will host the annual Gingerbread Celebration and Holiday Mart Dec. 1 from 1 to 7 p.m. and Dec. 2 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Children's activities and handmade gifts will be available.

Breakfast with Santa will be held at the Gettysburg Hotel from 7:30 to 11:30 a.m. Dec. 2. Tickets are \$5 and children age 3 and under are free. Proceeds benefit the United Way of Adams County.

The Christmas Greens and Gourmet Gifts Sale is set for the Gettysburg fire hall from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Dec. 2. Handcrafted Christmas greens and homemade treats will be available. Proceeds will be used to beautify Lincoln Square and to provide scholarships to local students.

Also that day, two authors of Victorian tomes will sign books at the Gettysburg branch of the Adams County Library System at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. The library will then have "The Polar Express" story time at 4 p.m. Children are encouraged to come dressed in their pajamas.

Baltimore Street businesses will be "steppin' in for the holidays" from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Dec. 2, decked out in Christmas decorations.

Victorian Christmas

Steinwehr Avenue businesses will present the third annual Victorian Christmas in their shops and along the streets throughout the day Dec. 2, according to a release from the Steinwehr Avenue Business Improvement District.

There will be many attractions and events, including live music, free carriage rides, re-enactors, special decorations, and a Victorian Santa and Mrs. Claus.

Several businesses along Steinwehr will host a Santa's workshop activity for children. Mr. and Mrs. Claus will stroll the avenue to visit with event-goers. There will be live music at O'Rourke's and free horse-drawn carriage rides. Christmas during the Civil War will be demonstrated through a living historian encampment at Unity Park, at the corner of Baltimore and Lefever streets.

Many businesses will offer specials and shoppers will have the opportunity to get a free gift and possibly win a free gift basket. Free gift-wrapping will also be available at the Gettysburg Heritage Center.

The festivities of Dec. 2 will conclude with the Gettysburg Christmas Parade at 7 p.m. in the downtown.

The following weekend, a holiday tuba carol fest is set for Dec. 8 in Lincoln Square at 7 p.m. Tuba players from around the world will play Christmas music.

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Totem Pole Playhouse, in association with the Gettysburg Community Theatre, will present "A Christmas Carol" at the Majestic Theater Dec. 8 to 17.

Mrs. Claus is coming for breakfast at the Refectory at United Lutheran Seminary Dec. 9 from 9 to 11 a.m. There will be singing, dancing with elves, storytelling, cookie decorating, and a surprise guest from the North Pole on video chat. Admission to the breakfast buffet and activities is \$15 per child, with discounts for multiple children, and \$8 for adults.

The G.A.R. Hall will offer a historic tour and shopping experiences Dec. 9 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The inns of the Gettysburg area will host a holiday house tour and tasting from 12 to 5 p.m. that same day.

In the evening, Waldo's & Co. will offer a "Decembetween" musical Christmas show at 8:30 p.m. There will be presents for everyone.

A holiday market will be open Dec. 15 from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the Adams County Art Council's Education Center, 125 S. Washington St., Gettysburg. Fine arts and crafts, photography, jewelry, cards, glass, centerpieces and more will be available. Chef Subarna Sijapati will offer wine tasting and food samples.

Later that day, Trinity United Church of Christ will celebrate Christmas with the Gettysburg Chorale Society from 8 to 9:30 p.m. A dessert reception will be held in the Fellowship Hall afterward.

"A Christmas Carol" will show for one night only Dec. 28 at Trinity United Church of Christ at 7 p.m. Admission is a monetary donation, which will benefit South Central Community Action Programs.

Adamik encourages everyone to "come out and be with the rest of the community."

For more information, visit www.mainstreetgettysburg.org/christmas-in-gettysburg.



Mary Grace Keller