

Steinwehr businesses decked out for the holiday season

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By Tom Fontana

For the Gettysburg Times

From uniformed re-enactors and live music to carriage rides and a Civil War-era Santa, holiday activities aplenty were offered Saturday along Steinwehr Avenue in Gettysburg.

The Steinwehr Avenue Business Improvement District sponsored its second annual "A Victorian Christmas" celebration in conjunction with Main Street Gettysburg.

Despite brisk weather, numerous visitors stopped in at businesses along the avenue, which offered discounts on merchandise and admission, Santa's workshop activities for children, contests, refreshments, and much more.

Participants could gather stamps in an event brochure at businesses in order to pick up a gift and enter a prize drawing.

Music was in the air throughout the day as the Pennsylvania 46th Regiment Band serenaded passers-by with Victorian era Christmas music. The 20-piece band, gathered on the outdoor veranda of O'Rorkes Family Eatery & Spirits, filled the avenue with sounds of the season.

For much of the day, passengers in horse-drawn carriage rides viewed decorations and waved to Dickensian-clad performers from "A Christmas Carol," now being presented on stage by Totem Pole Playhouse at the Majestic Theater.

Children excitedly greeted and shared breakfast with Victorian Santa and Mrs. Claus.

Some of the businesses along the avenue hosted holiday craft projects for children, from creating ornaments and greeting cards to decorating edible goodies.

On the porch of Cross Cannon Collective, popular local performer Paul Moschette sang popular holiday songs.

The steps of the Lincoln Train Museum featured lively brassy tunes by The Brass Quintet of the Antebellum Marine Band.

After the event, participants posted comments on the "A Victorian Christmas on Steinwehr Avenue" Facebook page.



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Tom Fontana/Gettysburg Times
 VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS ON STEINWEHR - The Brass Quintet of the Antebellum Marine Band offered authentic 19th century Christmas tunes for the pleasure of visitors to the Steinwehr Avenue Business Improvement District's second annual "A Victorian Christmas" celebration, which was sponsored in conjunction with Main Street Gettysburg.

"Great event! All the activities were fun and carriage rides perfect," read one comment.

"Kids had a fantastic time, it will be a yearly tradition for us!" another Facebook comment read.

The Gettysburg Heritage Center was headquarters for the event.