

# Victorian Christmas coming to Steinwehr

By Tom Fontana For The Gettysburg Times | Posted: Monday, December 7, 2015 3:04 am

Carriage rides and hot cider, candles and sleigh bells, bonnets and top hats, carolers and brass bands, jelly and jam, silver tinsel and pine cones....

Kind of makes one think of a traditional Christmas during the reign of Queen Victoria in the 19th century.

And that's exactly what it is - a "Victorian Christmas on Steinwehr Avenue" set for Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 12 and 13.

The Steinwehr Avenue Business Improvement District (BID), supported by Main Street Gettysburg, invites the community to a Christmas celebration from the past, including a daylong visit by Old St. Nicholas, Victorian style. At 10 a.m., meals can be purchased at McDonald's so families and friends can enjoy breakfast with Santa.

"This is a holiday event we planned for children of all ages," stated Todd Mickley, BID president. "It's for the community, and families will find plenty to do to celebrate the season in an old-fashioned way."

Saturday, Dec. 12 will be a day chockfull of activities for kids. Starting at 11 a.m., crafting a holiday decoration for free will be offered at the Gettysburg Heritage Center (Santa will join them from noon to 1:30 p.m.), and throughout the day everyone can hop on a free horse-drawn carriage ride, hear Christmas stories read at the Lincoln Train Museum, and write letters to Santa while watching a Christmas movie at Dairy Queen.

Several shops and eateries will offer discounts on selected items, and free beverages and goodies will be available at Gettysburg Ghost Tours, Gettysburg Militaria and Antiques, Quality Inn and Motor Lodge, and the American History Store. Free gift grab



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VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS - Cheryl Mickley hangs a wreath at Gettysburg Souvenirs and Gifts, a decoration provided by Steinwehr Avenue Business Improvement District to businesses on Steinwehr Avenue participating in "Victorian Christmas," a holiday event for the community set for Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 12 and 13. (Tom Fontana/Gettysburg Times)

bags can be found at Crossed Cannons Collective (while supplies last).

Free gifts will also be available to shoppers who visit Gettysburg Souvenirs and Gifts, 27 Steinwehr Ave.

"It's very exciting that this event is being put together," commented Cheryl Mickley, whose son Todd is co-owner of the store. "So much work has been done to improve the Steinwehr area, and this holiday celebration will bring lots of people in to enjoy it."

Brass bands and carolers will perform along the avenue amongst strollers dressed in Victorian fashions. Everyone is encouraged to sing along, as well as have their Victorian Christmas-themed vintage photographs taken at Victorian Photo Studio.

Early birds can get a free tour of the historic 1776 Dobbin House from 9 to 11 a.m. From 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Battlefield Brew Works will offer free samples at the National Soldier Factory and Camp Colt Museum.

Everyone who needs a little Christmas right this very minute will find plenty of fun things to do during the Steinwehr Avenue "Victorian Christmas" celebration.