

Victorian Christmas on Steinwehr Avenue

By Tom Fontana For the Gettysburg Times | Posted: Monday, December 14, 2015 12:02 am

This past weekend, the only thing the businesses on Steinwehr Avenue didn't do was provide snow. Otherwise, visitors to the street found just about everything else to bring Victorian Christmas to town.

Victorian Christmas on Steinwehr started with a visit to McDonald's for breakfast with Santa and Mrs. Claus, fully clad in Civil War-era fashion, from the tip of Santa's boots to the bright red kepi atop his head.

A line quickly formed in front of the Gettysburg Heritage Center for what proved to be one of the most popular features of the day - free rides on a horse-drawn carriage.

Even children busy making wooden ornaments or coloring elves and snowmen at Santa's Workshop put down their crayons and paint brushes to rush to get a seat behind the clippity-clop of steady hoofs along the pavement.

Heading north, passengers saw many shops offering special discounts, plus sidewalk stations providing free refreshments. Turning into the Dobbin House Tavern parking lot, the wagon circled around the North-South Music Ambassadors Brass Band playing Victorian carols on period instruments.

"The weather has really cooperated," commented Main Street Gettysburg Executive Director Deb Adamik. "It's so nice out, we were able to have the kids' crafts on the center's porch, which helped get the interest of just people passing by."

Families could also visit the Lincoln Train Museum, where the movie "The Polar Express" was being shown all day, with a reading of the book in the afternoon.

The Steinwehr Avenue Business Development District (BID), supported by Main Street Gettysburg, started planning for this event in July, hoping to draw attention to improvements to the street and sidewalks completed during the summer.

"We wanted people in the community who usually don't get to Steinwehr to come take a look," stated BID president Todd Mickley. "And we wanted to give something back in the spirit of the holiday season."



Victorian Christmas on Steinwehr Avenue

VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS - The North-South Music Ambassadors Brass Band played traditional Christmas carols on period instruments in front of Dobbin House Tavern during Victorian Christmas on Steinwehr Avenue on Saturday. (Tom Fontana/Gettysburg Times)

Children in particular were clearly having a good time going from one activity to the next.

"I want my picture with Santa!" Aviana Patterson, 8, of Hanover, shouted excitedly as she ran to hug Jolly Old St. Nick.

"Me too, me too," happily insisted her cousin Autumn Lenhart, 2, Gettysburg.

With the first successful Victorian Christmas under its belt, BID plans to give next year's event even more jingle jangle.