

Charlestown preparing to make this “A Christmas to Remember”

Written by Janna Ross

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The transformation is ongoing. The lights started to reappear, street lights will soon be covered in garland and Christmas flags, lights and decorations now fill the Charlestown square and now the most noticeable part of Greenway Park is the 52 foot white Christmas tree. Yes, it is that time of the year again, Charlestown is turning into the Christmas City.

This year Charlestown wants to make this “A Christmas to Remember” and officials with the city have been working diligently to ensure a perfect Christmas season. Many are already anxiously awaiting the favorites of Carriage Rides, Light Shows and Santa Claus. This year’s show will feature even more Christmas joy as there will be an all new light show, a Christmas Parade, Christmas Carols and Pony Rides.

The kick-off to making Christmas memories will be the 12th annual Light Up Charlestown. The Light Up program will begin at 6 p.m. on Friday, November 23, in Greenway Park. Many performances will get everyone in the Christmas spirit before the much anticipated Light Up at 7 p.m. The Jonathan Jennings and Pleasant Ridge Elementary Schools’ Choirs will perform along with the Charlestown High School Ensemble Band. The Hallelujah Choir will also perform, as well as Charlestown’s own Jenna Daniel.

Light Up will feature special visitors all the way from the North Pole. Santa and Mrs. Claus will arrive on a fire truck with the help of the Charlestown Volunteer Fire Department. After Santa and Mrs. Claus help Light Up Charlestown the two will be in the little house on the square to visit with local children from til 10 p.m.

The Charlestown High School Boys Varsity Basketball Coach, Sean Smith, and his players will also volunteer their time during Light Up Charlestown.

After the festive lights brighten Greenway Park and the annual animation show on the Charlestown Square, the ever popular Carriage Rides can finish the perfect Light Up Night for family memories. Carriage Rides will be available on Light Up from 5:20 to 6 p.m. And 7:20 to 10 p.m. Carriage Rides are \$4. Children two and under are free. Carriage rides are given on a first come, first serve basis.

Carriage Rides

After Light Up, Carriage Rides will be available every Thursday, Friday and Saturday from November 24 through December 22 from 6 to 10 p.m. Reservations should be made 48 hours prior to the night you are requesting. Reservations may be made by visiting the city’s website at www.cityofcharlestown.com. Carriage Rides will be \$4 and children two and under will be free.

Reservations for the Carriage Rides will begin November 19.

Pony Rides

New this year, will be Pony Rides. The rides will be every Thursday, Friday and Saturday from November 24 through December 22 from 6 to 10 p.m. Pony Rides will be \$5. Reservations are not needed for the Pony Rides.

Concession Stand

The Charlestown Parks Department Concession Stand will be open every Thursday, Friday and Saturday night from 6 to 10 p.m. to offer a special treat including hot chocolate and sweet treats to add to your Christmas memories.

Animation Display on the Charlestown Square

This year is the fifth year for the animation display on the Charlestown Square. The show will run nightly from 6 to 10 p.m. This year Josh Campbell and Mark Obermiller have worked to

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make new shows to the delight of the young and young at heart. There will be two different 30 minute shows. The music and animation will be different this year but Obermiller and Campbell are not giving away all of their secrets.

The popular snowman skit with the feuding snowmen having a snowball fight will use local talent. This year the voices of the snowmen will be Charlestown’s own Gannon McDonald and Anna Gregory.

Santa Claus

at the Little House

on the Square

Santa Claus will make a guest appearance in Charlestown every Thursday, Friday and Saturday night from November 24 through December 22. Santa will be ready to visit with little ones from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Little House on the Charlestown Square.

Hallelujah Choir

The Hallelujah Choir will be preparing for their return to Light Up Charlestown with rehearsal on Tuesday, November 20 at 6:30 p.m. If you love to sing, like to sing or just sing in your car, you are welcome to be a part of the choir. Rehearsal will be held at the Arts & Enrichment Center located at 999 Water Street in Charlestown. Teresa Smith will be leading the choir.

Christmas Parade

The City of Charlestown will add another reason to visit the Christmas City. This year they will host their inaugural Christmas Parade. The parade will be held at 6 p.m. on Saturday, December 8. The parade will begin at the old Jay C parking lot and travel down Market Street to Pike Street.

“We want your business, organization or group to be a part of this event,” stated Rhonda Davidson, Director of the Charlestown Parks Department. “We want floats, cars, trucks, tractors, combines, lights and music. This will be a whimsical parade of lights and music. This will be a great family night with the parade and you can even end the night with a carriage ride in the park.”

Davidson added, “You don’t want to miss the parade and the chance to be a part of history. The whimsical lights and holiday music will definitely help make this ‘A Christmas to Remember’.”

The deadline to register for the parade will be Friday, November 30.

Magical Christmas Carols

Also, new this year will be the Charlestown Beautification Committee (CBC) bringing Magical Christmas Carols to your neighborhood throughout the Christmas season. The Charlestown Beautification Committee will be bringing their float to neighborhoods with Christmas Carolers belting out your favorite holiday songs. The CBC is asking people to come out and enjoy the caroling in the neighborhoods and a cup of hot chocolate.

The Magical Christmas Carols will kick off the holiday season during the Christmas Parade on December 8. A schedule of the Magical Christmas Carols will be posted in The Leader and on the city’s website (www.cityofcharlestown.com).

More Information

For more information on any of the Christmas activities in the City of Charlestown, or if you have an idea you would like to share please contact Rhonda Davidson at Rhondad@cityofcharlestown.com or call her at 812-256-3422, ext. 328.

You may also visit the city’s website at www.cityofcharlestown.com for more information or join their Facebook page at City of Charlestown.

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“You don’t want to miss out on this Christmas season in Charlestown. You will want to be able to say ‘I Saw the Lights in Charlestown.’ It is going to be a great Christmas season in Charlestown, it’s going to be ‘A Christmas to Remember’,” Davidson concluded.