Dickens Gazette

Established in Garrison, ND | Volume 20 • 2013 | www.dickensfestival.com | 800.799.4242

Dickens Festival Village

Coupons Inside!

NOV. 29-Dec. 1
Dec. 6-7
Dec. 13-14

Street Vendors
Lighted Parade
Double Decker Bus Rides
Afternoon Entertainment

WWW.DICKENSFESTIVAL.COM

1.800.799.4242

GARRISON NORTH DAKOTA

Welcome to the "Bigger, Better, Best Yet" Festival!

Where can you enjoy a nostalgic ride in a horse-drawn carriage or hop aboard an authentic English doubledecker bus? You might even win cash while enjoying a free ride in a Cash Cab.

Where else but at the 2013 Dickens Village Festival in Garrison.

Festival dates, over three weekends, are Nov. 29-30 and Dec. 1; Dec. 6-7; Dec. 13-14. The festival is celebrating its 20th year and promises to be the "bigger, better, best yet."

During the festival, you'll experience a small town transformed into a treasure trove of entertainment, unique shopping and fun activities.

Enjoy street food vendors, a craft show, a house tour, an English tea, a lighted parade and more.

The fruitcake toss has become one of the festival highlights. Individuals can compete in various categories to win a share of prize money that will be awarded. The fruitcake toss will be Sunday, Dec. 1 at 4 p.m., just south of Fezziwig's

Special entertainment will be offered each afternoon and is just $5 per person. All shows will be at the Kota Theater at 2 p.m.

Each Friday and Saturday of the festival, guests are invited to the premier attraction – a live stage production of "A Christmas Carol." This year's production is a musical featuring the talent of fifty actors/singers.

Sakakawea Council of the Arts actors hit the stage each evening at 7:30 p.m. Tickets can be purchased at www.dickensfestival.com. or by calling 463-2345 or 1-800-799-4242. Those who prefer to purchase tickets in person can do so during regular business hours at the N.D. Firefighter's Museum on Garrison's Main Street.

Each day of the festival, Dickens guests can experience the grandeur of the Cabernet Inn. There, tour guides will share the fascinating history of the large, vintage building that's been restored to the style of yesteryear.

The festival includes several collections that can be viewed free of charge. The Quilt Show will be the first weekend. Others – the Trains, Tractors, Toys and Cars Show and the Historic Walking Tour, will be all three weekends. Fort Stevenson State Park's Guardhouse Museum will also be open each day of the festival. Admission is free.

You're bound to have an interesting day of hometown hospitality and unique events in Garrison. You'll be amazed that, for 20 years, the Dickens Village Festival has operated with a powerful source of power – the energy of dedicated volunteers.

We hope you enjoy your Dickens experience!

Paul Schlichting and Janis Sloka, III

DICKENS FESTIVAL EVENTS

Friday, Saturday, Sunday, Nov. 29-30 Dec. 1, 2013
Friday and Saturday, Dec. 6-Dec. 7 and Dec. 13-14, 2013

Beginning Nov. 11, Information Center is open 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. for play ticket sales.
Tickets also available online at www.dickensfestival.com.
Tickets available for live stage performance of Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol."
Advance tickets not required for other entertainment.
800.799.4242, 701.463.2345

Our Newest Events

Lantern Lift Off by the American Legion Post 49 after the parade Nov. 29 (weather permitting, it will be at the City Park.) Contact Karen Meier at 463-7344 to purchase your lantern or to learn more. Viewing is FREE

Quilt Show (first weekend only) 10-4 p.m., Friday and Saturday; 12 noon -4 p.m., Sunday. FREE admittance and a chance to register for a quilt to be given away. Quilt show is at The Meadows, an assisted living facility in northeast Garrison.

Historic Walking Tour interesting collections displayed at various locations. FREE and self-guided.

Fruitcake Toss Sunday, Dec. 1 at 4 p.m. on the street south of Fezziwig's. Prizes for the best toss. FREE with categories for participants of all ages to win cash prizes.

Trains, Tractors, Toys and Cars Show at North Shore Inn and Suites. FREE. Noon - 4 p.m., each day of the festival.

Cash Cab take the FREE taxi, answer the questions and you could win Garrison bucks!

Nanny's Nook Doll House admittance to this fascinating collection of dolls and doll-related collectibles is FREE. Next to the barber shop on Main Street.

Festival Attractions

Information Center at the City Auditorium (10 a.m.–7 p.m.) Open for tickets, itinerary (Exception: Noon–6 p.m. Sun., Dec. 1)

English Market at the City Auditorium (10 a.m.–7 p.m.) – (Exception: Noon-6 p.m. Sun., Dec. 1) Thirty plus crafters selling gifts and holiday treats.

Carriage Rides Every day (weather permitting) next to Fezziwig's. Free will offering.

Don't Be a Scrooge Contest Greet your neighbors, make new friends. Don't be a scrooge and you could win $10 a day in Garrison Bucks.

Double-decker Bus Rides (12:30, 3:30, 5 and 6:30 p.m.) The 12:30 and 3:30 p.m. trips (each an hour) go to Fort Stevenson Guardhouse to view historical and heritage displays. The 5 p.m. ride includes being part of the lighted parade on Main Street. The 6:30 p.m. is a 30-minute ride to view lighted homes; riders will be dropped at the theater for the sing-along prior to the play. ($2 for each passenger who requires a seat).

Historic/Heritage Side Trip (12:30–5 p.m.) Fort Stevenson Guardhouse, Fort Stevenson State Park, 3½ miles south of Garrison. View the displays, murals and learn about life during the days of the original fort.

House Tour - The Cabernet Inn (12 noon, 1 p.m. 2 p.m., 3 p.m. and 4 p.m. every day)

Hour Tour - Steve Holmes' Whaling Museum (12 noon, 1 p.m., 2 p.m. and 3 p.m. Tickets available at the door) A fascinating collection of antique whaling equipment and artifacts from the time of Charles Dickens. Also included are vintage lighting items from the same era.

English High Tea (1–4 p.m., every day except Sunday, Dec. 1 when there will be a special tea demonstration at 1:30 p.m.) First Congregational Church, 1 block east of Four Seasons Restaurant. Tickets ($5 adults, $2.50 for youth 10 and under) at the door. View the festival of trees. Craft sale, too.

Historic Walking Tour View antiques and collectibles at area businesses.

Trains, Tractors, Toys & Cars Show View antique and new toy tractors and cars and an antique train set at the North Shore Inn and Suites noon to 4 p.m. each day of the festival. No charge.

Street Food Vendors Main Street. (4 -6 p.m.)

Lighted Parade Main Street. (approximately 5:30 p.m.) Farmers Union Oil Co. and Farmers Union Elevator sponsoring hot cocoa during the parade. The parade goes past The Manor and BLC the first weekend.

Holiday Sing-along Kota Theater (7 p.m.) An old fashioned sing-along before each play for ticket holders. It's fun - thanks to our sponsors from Reservation Telephone Cooperative and North Dakota Long Distance.

Live Stage Performance (7:30 p.m.) Every Friday and Saturday evening, a live stage performance of Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol." This years play, a musical with a large cast, is the work of Sakakawea Area Council for the Arts. Tickets ($15, nonrefundable) go on sale beginning Nov. 11. (See information above). There is no play Sunday, Dec. 1. Play suitable for children 4 and older. Doors at the theater open at 6:30 p.m. for last minute ticket sales.

Special Events

Chili Feed 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Friday, Dec. 6 at Ye Olde Talk Shoppe (behind S & J Hardware), FREE, sponsored by RTC.

Touchstone Energy Day 2-4 p.m., Friday , Dec 6 at Fezziwig's. Coffee, cookies and music.

ND Firefighter's Museum Waffle & Sausage Brunch 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 1. Sausage and waffle fundraiser for the North Dakota Firefighter's Museum with all proceeds going toward this unique museum on Main Street Brunch will be served at the Garrison Fire Hall, one block west of Main Street.

Afternoon Entertainment

Entertainment 2 p.m. every day KOTA Theater – No reserved seats. Tickets $5 at the door. Pre-school aged children free. All performances about 45 minutes - 1 hour. Doors open at 1:30 p.m.

- **Friday, Nov. 29, 2 p.m.** - Travis Powell "Elvis"
- **Saturday, Nov. 30, 2 p.m.** - Grace Notes
- **Sunday, Dec. 1, 2 p.m.** - Mylo Hatzenbuhler & Bill Sorenson
- **Friday, Dec. 6, 2 p.m.** - Quintana Biffert
- **Saturday, Dec. 7, 2 p.m.** - On the Brink
- **Friday, Dec. 13, 2 p.m.** - Jessie Veeder
- **Saturday, Dec. 14, 2 p.m.** - First Lutheran Church Bell Ringers

Travis Powell "Elvis"

Grace Notes

Mylo Hatzenbuhler and Bill Sorenson

Quintana Biffert

Entertainment Takes Center Stage

The festival offers entertainment each day at 2 p.m. at the Kota Theater on Main Street.

There are no reserved seats. Tickets are $5 at the door and are available at the Information Center until 1:30. Tickets will be available at the door after 1:30. Pre-school aged children who don't require a seat are admitted free. All performances are approximately 45 minutes to one hour. The festival committee encourages people to arrive 15 minutes before performances.

Come and enjoy!

Friday, Nov. 29, 2 p.m. - Travis Powell "Elvis"

As a boy, Travis grew up listening to Elvis' "Aloha from Hawaii." Now he pays tribute to the man who inspired him to sing and entertain.

While growing up in North Carolina, he entered talent competitions in school and performed at church. There were three things he loved -- Elvis, church and sports.

Travis has toured the country and enjoyed a career in the country rock industry. His desire to sing Elvis' music has taken this talented entertainer in a new direction.

Travis' performances are filled with passion and emotion and a charismatic southern style – elements that bring back the magic of "Elvis" live and in concert. An award-winning Elvis impersonator, Travis focuses on the authenticity of his performance.

Saturday, Nov. 30, 2 p.m. - Grace Notes

Grace Notes began eight years ago when a group of women were singing together at church. Their talent was sought after and, before long, they were singing at area events.

Coming up with a name for the church group was easy.

"We sing about God's grace toward us," said member Pam Bibelheimer.

Before long the group purchased equipment and Pam's husband, Todd, became the sound man.

Though members have changed over the years, all remain from central North Dakota. Members are Jerissa Brockel, Laurie Lloyd, Anita Schindler, Kim Ebel, Ginny Brockel and Bibelheimer.

They bring spiritual and Christmas tunes to the Dickens Village Festival.

Sunday, Dec. 1, 2 p.m. -Mylo Hatzenbuhler and Bill Sorenson

What happens when you put together two old friends who have been performing together for years? It becomes a crazy team of comedy, song, stories and magic.

Mylo, a stage personality of Clyde Bauman, and Bill Sorenson performed for many years on the Comedy Tour at Medora each summer. But this is a special treat that is rarely seen outside of the Badlands.

Friday, Dec 6, 2 p.m. -Quintana Biffert

Quintana Biffert's first stage performance, at the age of 8, was at the Dodge Talent Show. She's been performing ever since.

She is a Platinum Award recipient with the Country Gospel Music Association (CGMA) in the categories of Teen Performer and Yodeler, receiv-

ing the regional awards three consecutive years. This past May, she was named by the CGMA Western Division as their 2013 "Female Vocalist of the Year."

A Nashville recording artist, she'll be recording her fourth album in the near future.

Biffert sang on Loretta Lynn's stage at her ranch, opened for the Bellamy Brothers, Gwen Sebastian, Carolyn Dawn Johnson and others. She is a native of Halliday.

Saturday, Dec. 7, 2 p.m. - On the Brink

On the Brink is a women's four part a cappella quartet. The singers perform a variety of musical numbers – spirituals, ballads, patriotic, comedic songs, soft rock and traditional barbershop tunes.

On the Brink aims to provide laughter and inspiration. The four (from left to right) are Jennifer Romsaas, tenor; Carol Kurtz, lead; Janine Vining, baritone; and Tracy Wolf, bass. They have been performing for seven years in the Bismarck-Mandan area.

Friday, Dec. 13, 2 p.m. - Jesse Veeder

Jessie Veeder has been a symbol of folk music in the badlands of Western North Dakota since she released her first original album at the age of 16. The album sparked the interest of music enthusiasts and took her from performing at fairs and festivals around her home state to managing a national college and coffeehouse tour with a Nashville booking agency. Her latest release, Nothing's Forever, is a 13-song anthem rooted in the acoustic guitars, dobro, steele, and bass work of local musicians and backed by the poignant harmonica and harmonies of her father. Veeder's single, "Boomtown"put her in the spotlight as a feature in various news programs and national and international documentaries. The song is homage to the people working and living in oil country.

Saturday, Dec. 14, 2 p.m. - First Lutheran Church Bell Ringers

The Celebration Ringers are a talented group of musicians from First Lutheran Church, Minot. Many members of this five octave English brass bell group have been ringing together for more than 15 years. They perform regularly for church services and have been featured guest performers at the Norsk Hostfest, the Brass Band of Minot, the MSU Concert Choir and previous Dickens Festivals

They are excited to return to Garrison as special entertainers for the 2013 festival. Their Christmas concert repertoire is a mixture of traditional and contemporary holiday carols.

FIRST WEEKEND
Friday, Nov. 29, 2 p.m. - Travis Powell "Elvis"
Saturday, Nov. 30, 2 p.m. - Grace Notes
Sunday, Dec. 1, 2 p.m. - Mylo Hatzenbuhler and Bill Sorenson

SECOND WEEKEND
Friday, Dec. 6, 2 p.m. - Quintana Biffert
Saturday, Dec. 7, 2 p.m. - On the Brink

FIRST WEEKEND
Friday, Dec. 13, 2 p.m. - Jesse Veeder
Saturday, Dec. 14, 2 p.m. - First Lutheran Church Bell Ringers

On the Brink

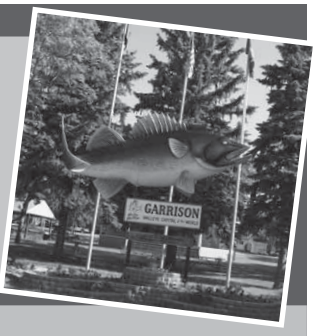
Jesse Veeder

First Lutheran Church Bell Ringers

get hooked on Garrison, ND

GARRISON
North Dakota

Located on the North Shore of Beautiful Lake Sakakawea



- **Year-Round Events & Festivals**
  Home of the ND Governor's Walleye Cup, Dickens Village Festival, CANDISC & Much More!
- **Year-Round Recreation Opportunities**
  Fishing, Hunting, Camping, Lake Recreation
- **Excellent Shopping, Dining & Lodging**
- **9-Hole Golf Course & Simulator**
- **Parks, Museums & Historical Attractions**
- **Fort Stevenson State Park & Marina**

Garrison CVB | ndfm@restel.com | 800-799-4242 | **www.garrisonnd.com**

Best selection of giftware in town!

Pick-A-Percent Sale
Friday, Nov. 29
Pick-A-Percent up to
40% Off
Giftware

Open
Sunday, Dec. 1

Take HOME Today!

Stop in and enjoy coffee & treats every day of the festival!

20% Off
Christmas Hallmark Ornaments
Fri. & Sat., Dec. 6 & 7

Check out our "Surprise Buys" the rest of the festival!

Chase Pharmacy
Main Street • Garrison, ND
463-2242

We Accept Garrison Christmas Cash

We're celebrating our 20th year

This year, our 20th annual festival, truly is a milestone. Our guests – and sometimes we – are often in awe that a small community can, year after year, put on the extravaganza we call the Dickens Village Festival.

Jude Iverson, one of two women who helped orchestrate the first event in 1994, offered a bit of history. Thinking back to the festival's origin, she said, "Those early days – I'm filled with a lot of nostalgia."

She credits the late Pat Koenig, a Garrison native, with coming up with the idea to "do something" to fill the town with Christmas spirit. It was the summer of '94 and the two – Koenig and Iverson – continued to brainstorm, deciding they'd like a Victorian Era theme that included a theatrical production of "A Christmas Carol."

The idea was enthusiastically endorsed by those who attended a town hall meeting at the Kota Theater. The Sakakawea Area Council for the Arts (SACA), a local arts group, embraced the idea. Directors were hired and a cast of more than 50 was assembled to bring the classic Christmas tale to life.

Just weeks before the first performance, Iverson said the play wasn't coming together; she and Koenig stepped in as directors. The first year included a handful of English Market vendors and a few street vendors. The lighted parade, though small, also debuted. The first year's stage production, along with the small-scale festival, were deemed a success and plans were made to offer a bigger, better event the following year.

Bigger, Better, Best Yet!

Each year, SACA has continued to be an important partner in the effort by providing a live production, one of the major attractions of the festival.

Look around. Do you hear the buzz of excitement. Do you hear the singing? Did you notice the decorations and the wonderful aromas from the vendor's food carts? Now, look a little further. Do you see the hundreds of volunteers who are here to make your stay special?

During the festival's early years, many speculated that it would never last. How long could a small community continue to get enough cast members for the play? How long would food vendors and urchins continue to stand on the streets in cold weather? How long could we get the hundreds of volunteers necessary to make the festival a success?

Because of the determination, commitment and enthusiasm of our residents, our small town volunteer work force has grown to the point where we can welcome you annually to Garrison, "The Christmas Capital of North Dakota."

It's taken 20 years for the 2013 Dickens Village Festival to become the wonderful event that it is. Over the years, committee members have brainstormed to make a good thing even better.

We feel we've come a long way, but we couldn't have done it without you. Those who attend the festival are just as important as the volunteers who make it happen.

We're happy that you are here. Thanks for being an important part of our milestone event.

Main Street Market

Located inside BHG

71 N. Main Street • Garrison

Friday, Nov. 29: 8 a.m. - 8 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 30: 9 a.m. - 8 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 1: 12-6 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 6: 8 a.m. - 8 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 7: 9 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 13: 8 a.m. - 8 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 14: 9 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Come check out this market filled with home-based businesses!

- **AVON**
- **Creative Memories**
- **Dakota Chappy**
- **Dancing Prairie Arts**
- **It Works**
- **Jafra Cosmetics**
- **Mary Kay**
- **ME Design & Photography**
- **Pampered Chef**
- **Scentsy**
- **Tastefully Simple**
- **Thirty-One Gifts**
- **Tupperware**

This ad sponsored by BHG, Inc.

English Market Vendors

Located in the

Garrison City Auditorium

Open Fridays & Saturdays: 10 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Open Sunday, Dec. 1: Noon - 6:00 p.m.

Information Center

(located in auditorium lobby)

ALL THREE WEEKENDS

Angels & More
The Cratchit's Cafe
Ye Olde Woodworker Shoppe
Fort Stevenson Foundation
G & L Crafts
Hammersmith
Lucy's Designs
M & A Gemstones
Mittens By Gee Gee
Nona's Stitches
Piecemaker's Quilt Guild
The Card Shop
Val's Egg Art & Crafts
Victorian Whimsy
Under the Mango Tree Journals

Nov. 29, 30, Dec.1

A Special Place
Ten Talents
Wagner's Wagon
Woolens 'N Lace

Dec. 6, 7, 13, 14,

Angela's Pics & Pendants
E Z Quilting & More
Tatting

Dec. 13, 14

Ye Olde Bake Shoppe
Cutting & Engraving

This page sponsored by: BHG, Inc.

attend a tea party

Take a step back in time at the First Congregational Church's authentic English High Tea. With the click of bone china and the aroma of black tea, you'll be whisked away to ol' England.

Entering the church you'll see tombstones, just like you would at a typical church overseas. Look closely, though, to read the humorous epitaphs on the tombstones.

Inside the door you'll enjoy a unique Festival of Trees -- trees decorated in elegant and unusual fashion to inspire and entertain you.

As part of the tea, you'll hear a brief history of the church. In addition to fresh tea, you'll be treated to scones, tarts and open-faced sandwiches.

Aren't dressed for the occasion you say? Don't fret, the ladies will be lending out vintage hats and top hats to help put you in the mood.

With Victorian décor and the sounds of elegant music, you can also do a little shopping. Hand crafted items and baked goods will be for sale.

Purchase your tickets at the door -- $5 adults, $2.50 youth.

On Sunday, Dec. 1, there will be a special tea demonstration by Deb Sauer, a certified tea master. Sauer's presentation will be at 1:30 p.m.

Speaking of tea, the 20th annual Dickens Festival is introducing a special Dickens blend. The tea, Dickens Holiday Delight, will be available for purchase throughout the festival.

Learn about Tea

Afternoon tea has delighted many a lady and gentleman since the 1800s.

Join us to sip fresh tea and to learn about Victorian Era tea customs and traditions.

Deb Sauer, know to many as "the tea lady," is a certified tea sommelier. She will share the traditions of teatime during a special presentation that will be 1:30 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 1 at First Congregational Church.

Tea guests can enjoy two unique teas. Dickens Holiday Delight is a special blend created for 2013 – 20th annual – Dickens Village Festival. Cricket's Hearthside Tea, another special blend, was custom blended for Jude Iverson, owner of Cricket on the Hearth Bed & Breakfast.

The tea presentation is free of charge, courtesy of Cricket on the Hearth Bed & Breakfast.

enjoy the lights

vote for your favorite float

We anticipate that this year's parade will light up the night sky. The parade, each evening at dusk (approximately 5:30 p.m)., provides an opportunity for float creators to win prize money. Those who view the parade can help choose the People's Choice winner. Prizes for this year's best lighted floats will be $500 for first place; $300 for second place and $150 for third place. The float chosen by the public wins $200. So, cast your ballot (available from the host couple) and vote at designated locations. Help make your favorite float a winner.

Local businesses, churches and organizations provide floats for your viewing pleasure.

The parade is sponsored by Farmers Union Oil Company (Cenex) and Farmers Union Elevator (CHS) of Garrison. Representatives from the two businesses will be roving Main Street, offering free hot chocolate during the parade. We hope it whets your appetite for the tasty treats that are available from the street vendors.

Grab a hot drink and enjoy the gala of lights. The parade will be announced and can be heard clearly in the middle block of Main Street, so gear up your ears and eyes. Most of all, enjoy the lighted parade!

The parade starts on Main Street by the City Park and travels down the street, past the English Market (City Auditorium).

(The first weekend, the parade will travel past the Benedictine Living Center and McLean Manor one evening -- date to be determined by weather).

Plans are to launch sky lanterns at the conclusion of the parade on Friday, Nov. 29, weather permitting. The launch will take place at Garrison City Park at the top of Main Street. The date is subject to change in case of inclement weather.

Welcome Dickens Visitors ...

Hope your visit is enjoyable ... stop in and see us while you're in town.

"Building a Better Garrison"

Garrison Lumber

Hwy 37 East • Garrison, ND
337-5500

Enjoy the Fruitcake Toss

Where were you when the fruitcake was tossed?

In its fourth year, the event is scheduled for Sunday, Dec. 1. The 2013 Fruitcake Toss will be located just south of Fezziwig's and will begin at 4 p.m. Since introduced in 2010, the fruitcake toss has become a popular addition to the festival. Enjoy the fun by watching the toss or, better yet, by participating. If named a winner, you could win some quick cash.

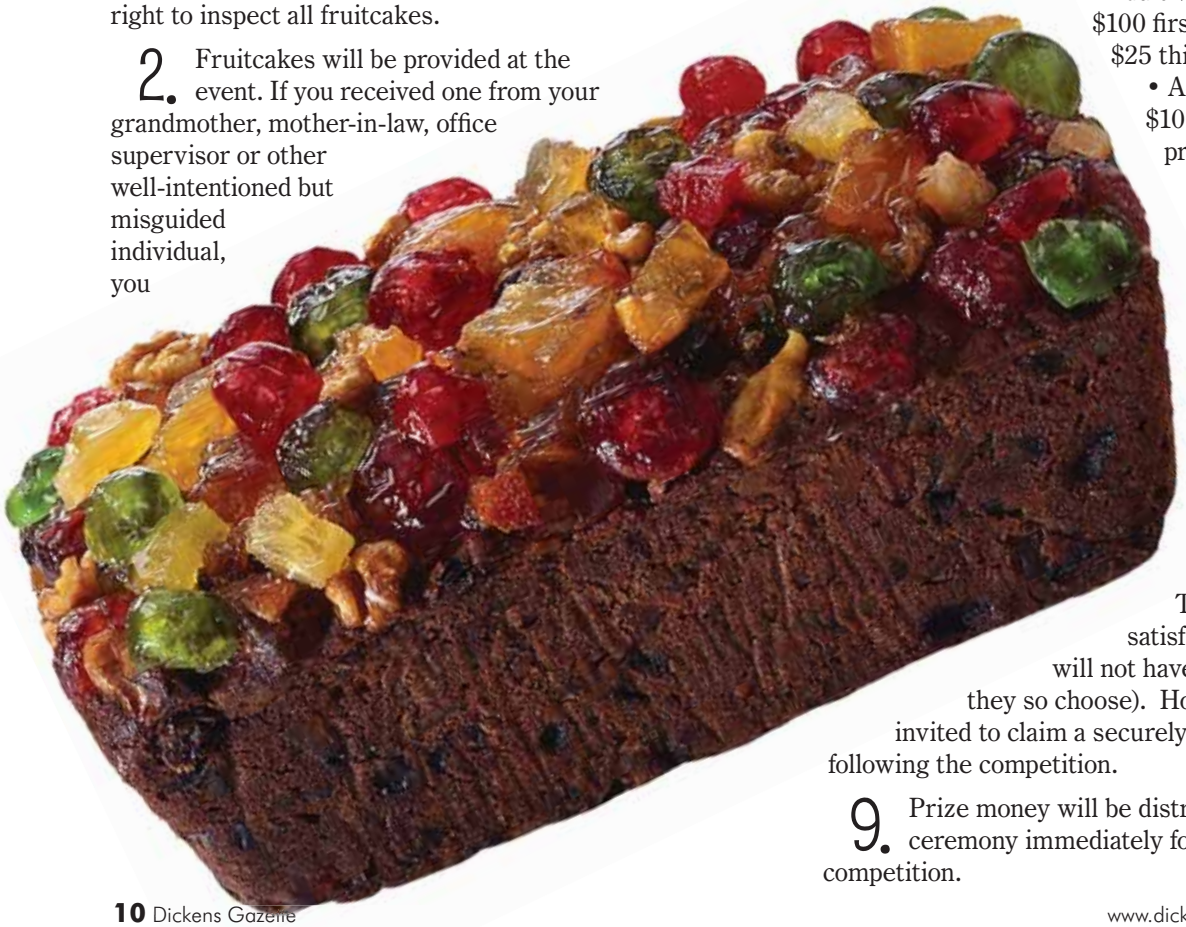
With a category for children up to 6 years old, even young Dickens visitors can compete. There will be a prize for the "wee one" who makes the longest toss. Other age categories are: Youth age 7-9; 10-12 and 13-18. There will also be competitions for men and women who are 19 years of age or older. Prize amounts are listed below – see #5.

There is limited space in each category, with a maximum of 20 competitors in each category, so register early at the city auditorium to ensure your spot. Registration (if spots are available) will continue at the site of the fruitcake toss after 3 p.m.

Here are the rules:

1. Fruit cakes will be provided by the Dickens Festival Committee and must not be tampered with or altered from original form. Fruitcakes must be visible to inspectors, no duct tape, foil, etc. The "Pitching Patrol" reserves the right to inspect all fruitcakes.

2. Fruitcakes will be provided at the event. If you received one from your grandmother, mother-in-law, office supervisor or other well-intentioned but misguided individual, you have our sympathy, but you may not toss that one.



3. Fruitcakes will be launched by physical manual muscle power only. No launching devices, accelerating gizmos, rockets or other motorized assistance are allowed. The Pitching Patrol will not question who or what the participant is envisioning as they are making their toss.

4. Competition will be judged by total distance fruitcake travels. Anything dropping off, pulling apart, bouncing down, rolling, or landing before the entire body of fruitcake has stopped will not count. Distance will be measured according to final resting place of the entire fruitcake.

5. Competition Divisions: (maximum 20 registrants in each division)

- Wee Ones (up to 6 years old) $25 to best "tosser"
- Youngsters Toss (age 7 to 9) $75 first prize; $50 second prize; $25 third prize
- Pre-teens (ages 10-12) $75 first prize; $50 second prize; $25 third prize
- Teens (13 to 18 years old) $75 first prize; $50 second prize; $25 third prize
- Adult Women Toss (19 and over) $100 first prize; $50 second prize; $25 third prize
- Adult Men Toss (19 and over) $100 first prize; $50 second prize; $25 third prize

6. No scratches

7. All youngsters who participate will have a special story to share on "How I spent my Thanksgiving vacation."

8. All adult competitors may lay claim to the coveted title "Tremendously Talented Tosser" (and the satisfaction of knowing they will not have to eat their fruitcake -- if they so choose). However, all participants are invited to claim a securely wrapped, tossed fruitcake following the competition.

9. Prize money will be distributed in the award ceremony immediately following the last division competition.

'a christmas carol'

FIFTY VOICES TELL THE STORY

Fifty voices singing in harmony. Solos. Stage hands. Make-up artists. Lighting and sound technicians … the list goes on.

"It's going to be a biggie," said Lisa Haugen, director of the theatrical/musical production for the 2013 Dickens Village Festival. She, along with Peggy Huettl, assistant director, has poured countless hours into the effort. They, the cast of 50 and dozens of others, are committed to offering first class entertainment for 2013 Dickens guests.

Each year, one of the highlights of the festival is the Sakakawea Area Council for the Arts (SACA) stage presentation of Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol."

This year's production is a musical and a relatively new version of the classic tale. It's been described as "very true to Dickens." The audience will not only experience a fresh version of "A Christmas Carol," they'll see the story come alive on an uniquely designed stage.

This year's stage production – book and lyrics – is the creation of playwright Keith Ferguson with music by Bruce Greer.

We think everyone will enjoy this version of "A Christmas Carol" while remembering that Charles Dickens wanted all of us to think about the great joys that come to us during the Christmas season.

Play tickets are available online at www.dickensfestival.com. They can also be purchased by calling 701-463-2345 or 800-799-4242. Those who prefer to purchase tickets in person can do so at the N.D. Firefighter's Museum/Garrison CVB office on Garrison's Main Street.

DICKENS THE BEGINNING

The Dickens Village Festival has come a long way, baby.

The event kicked off in 1994 with a lighting ceremony in the city park after a community-wide Thanksgiving church service. Lights in the park were financed with money from memorials.

The first play, performed by a Sakakawea Area Council for the Arts crew, was a musical with 56 people.

The streets came alive with a few street vendors. The first vendors were the Potato Man and the Garrison Fire Department hawking pickled fish.

House tours were of the Robin's Nest Bed & Breakfast and the Norlan Nelson home.

The first Dickens ornament was ordered.

The First Congregational Church hosted a Victorian dinner and tea, which since has developed into the now-famous Victorian teas.

The lit-up jingle bell lights on Main Street were later replaced with wrought iron brackets on Main Street light poles. In preparation for each annual festival, the poles are decorated with garland and bows.

Today, we estimate that we have at least 1,000 people attend each day and sometimes as many as 3,000. A survey by the University of Mary in 2009 showed that the festival generates an average of $175,000 each day.

Yeah, we've come a long way, baby.

English Market Vendors
What's in "Store" for You?

Jump back in time at the Dickens Village Festival at the English Market. The English Market offers festive booths adorned with lace frames and staffed with Victorian garbed workers who will be glad to help you find the perfect gift for that special person – or for yourself.

Throughout the market you will find crafts, jewelry, holiday décor, ornaments, books, baked goods, quilts, wooden toys and more. Where else can you purchase hand painted Emu eggs?

There are gifts to buy, food to eat and decorating ideas to consider.

While visiting the English Market, don't forget to stop at Cratchit's Cafe to purchase tummy-tempting food. Cratchit's Café is operated by Camp of the Cross Ministries.

The Garrison City Auditorium, the site of the English Market, is home to the official Dickens Village Festival Information Center. Helpful volunteers will provide all the information you need to map out your doings at the festival.

Take a Spin in the 'Cash Cab'

Enjoy a ride in the city taxi – for free – and you could win some cash.

The Garrison Taxi will be used to transport passengers – at no charge – from the City Auditorium to the house tour, or to the Trains, Tractors, Toys and Cars Show at North Shore Inn and Suites.

If you're one of the lucky passengers, you might be asked to answer a question about the Dickens Village Festival or Charles Dickens. You could win up to $20 by answering correctly.

Check at the Information Center at the City Auditorium for details. The taxi van will be parked near the City Auditorium.

The local taxi service is the result of a joint venture of the Garrison Chamber of Commerce Community Development Committee and Garrison Area Improvement Association. The taxi is available within the city limits on a reservation basis. Rides should be booked one day in advance.

Celebrating Mr. Dickens!

Charles Dickens was an English novelist who wrote the classic tale "A Christmas Carol." The literary work, likely his best known, tells a remarkable story, one that emphasizes the joy of the Christmas season and the spirit of generosity.

During the 2012 edition of the Dickens Village Festival, a special celebration marked the 200th anniversary of Charles Dickens' birth.

In honor of the occasion, a special birthday party was held. Special guest was Bill Butcher of Bismarck. Butcher is a descendent of Charles Dickens.

To honor the life of Dickens and his literary contributions, 200 cupcakes were served to the public

Let us not forget the man wrote "A Christmas Carol," the inspiration for the Dickens Village Festival. It's become one of Garrison's premier events.

Garrison State Bank & Trust
would like to welcome everyone to the
Dickens Village Festival

ATM's located at:
Garrison Krause's Market
Garrison Superpumper
Garrison State Bank & Trust

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Collectibles and Historic Walking Tour

There are several displays of collectibles or other items of interest to view during the Dickens Festival. Stops on the self-guided "walking tour" include:

• BHG, Inc/McLean County Independent – Department 56 Dickens Village.

• BHG, Inc./McLean County Independent – Collection of annual ornaments from previous Dickens Festival years. Also on display are scrapbooks that provide a visual reminder of "festivals past."

• BNC National Bank – Christmas carolers (hand-carved from blocks of Styrofoam), displayed by Cheryl Odden.

• Garrison Public Library – Old time Christmas Village, courtesy of Voni Slind; Plates of all 50 states, permanent library collection, donated by Allegra Haugen; hand carved wood items, collections of Gary Trueblood.

• Garrison State Bank & Trust – A fascinating collection of rocks and items crafted from them. The collection is the work of Wayne Stroup.

• Nanny's Nook Doll House (next door to Barber Shop on Main Street). Interesting collection of dolls and doll-related collectibles.

• North Dakota Firefighter's Museum – Vintage fire trucks and other firefighting artifacts. The museum is home to the North Dakota Firefighter's Hall of Fame. Just south of the museum is the Fallen Firefighter's Memorial, a tribute to North Dakota firefighters who lost their lives in the line of duty. The memorial was dedicated in 2012.

• North Dakota Fishing Hall of Fame – North Country Marine & Motorsports (just south of Garrison, across Hwy. 37). While the fishing hall of fame isn't new – it's been transformed to an attractive display in its new home. It's a tribute to the sport of fishing and those who enjoy the sport.

• S & J Hardware – Antique hardware items from the collection of Gail Larson.

• The Live Well – Jim Beam bottles, collection of Craig and Marlene Smith.

• North Shore Inn & Suites conference room – Trains, Tractors, Toys and Cars Show. The name says it all! Come and take a look at the large display of collectibles.

Free Hot Cocoa during the parade
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Garrison Farmers Union Elevator

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Saturday, Dec. 14 - Acoustic Harmony
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Tom & Jerry's
Nov. 29–Jan. 1

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463-2199

Checkout Demonstrations Each day of the Festival
12:30 - Long arm
2:00 - Woolfelt Ornaments
3:00 - Pillowcase

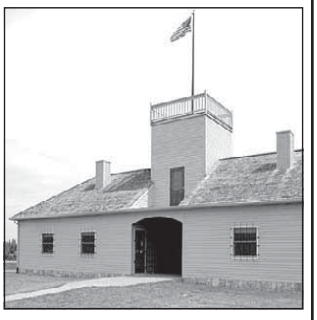
- **Quilting Fabrics/Notions**
- **Long Arm Services**
- **Stop in & Check out winter classes**

Your hunt for quilting fun begins at the Moose!

Fort Stevenson Guardhouse Interpretive Center

Visit us FREE during the Dickens Village Festival

Open every day during the festival from 12 to 5 p.m.



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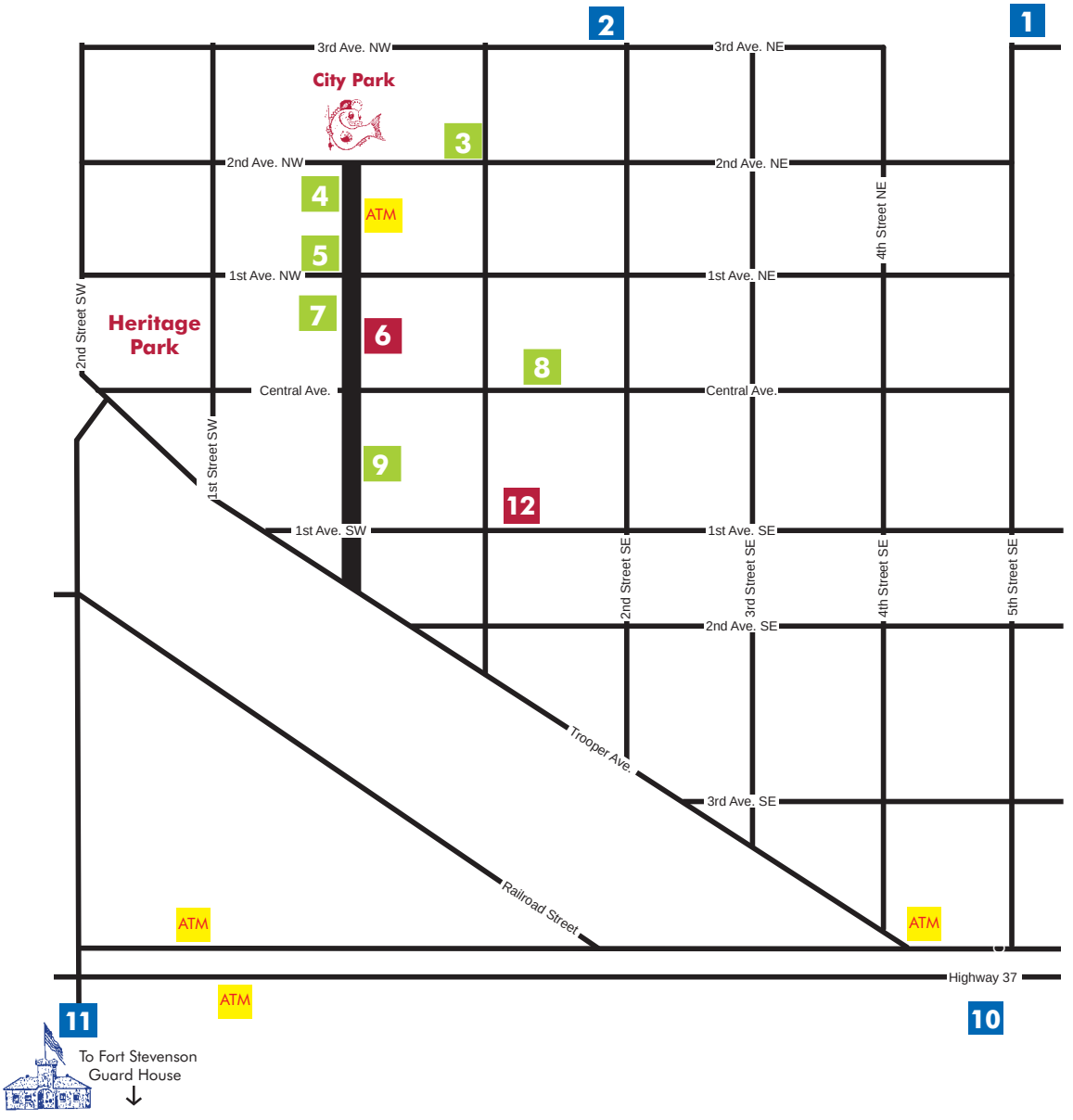
Hours:
Nov. 29 - Nov. 30 10 a.m.-7 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 1 12-6 p.m.
Dec. 6-7 10 a.m.-7 p.m.
Dec. 13-14 10 a.m.-7 p.m.

Map of Garrison



Legend

- Historical Tours
- Entertainment/ Attractions
- ATM
- Warming House/ Public Restrooms

1. Quilt Show at The Meadows

2. The Cabernet House Tour

3. United Church of Christ
- English Tea

4. Kota Theater
- Entertainment

5. Fezziwig's
- MEC Touchstone Energy Day
- Carriage Rides
- Fruitcake Toss (Nov. 30)

6. Firefighter's Museum
- Warming House
- Public Restrooms

7. BHG, Inc.
- Main Street Market

8. Reservation Telephone Cooperative
- Free Chili Feed (Dec. 6)

9. Auditorium
- Information Center
- Public Restrooms
- Catch a Ride on the Queen Elizabus
- English Market

10. North Shore Inn & Suites
- Trains, Toys & Collectibles

11. Ft. Stevenson Guard House
- Historical Tour

12. Northern Mini Mall
- Public Restrooms

ATM Available at: Garrison State Bank, Super-pumper, Cenex and Krause's Market

Christmas Quilts - and More

Show is "First Weekend" Event

While there are many ways to decorate, one is especially comforting. Not only do quilts add beauty to a home, they provide warmth against the chill of winter.

Over the past months – and years – members of the Piecemakers Quilt Guild have created numerous quilts and other quilted items such as wall hangings and table runners. The selection includes a variety of themes and designs – including holiday-theme items..

During the first weekend of the 2013 Dickens Village Festival, guild members and The Meadows are co-sponsoring an open house at The Meadows. Friday and Saturday, the public is invited to view the quilt showcase from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Hours on Sunday will be 12 noon-4 p.m.

Residents and staff of the Benedictine Living Center and The Meadows will serve as hosts and will provide refreshments. "Take home" treats can be purchased at a bake sale that is being held in conjunction with the quilt show. The bake sale is sponsored by the BLC and the Meadows.

While there is no admittance fee, free-will donations will be accepted. As an added bonus, each attendee can register for a quilt that the Piecemakers Quilt Guild will be giving to a lucky winner. Drawing will be at the conclusion of the show. (Registration for the quilt give-away is free. It is not a raffle).

The Meadows is located at 719 4th Ave, NE.

About the Gazette

The Dickens Gazette is your guide to the Festival. It's a top-to-bottom look at what to do while you're at the Festival. It's a souvenir. It's a program to share with family and friends when you get home. And it's a reason to return to Garrison during the upcoming year … we're open all year 'round.

Enjoy your time while you're here and come see us again.

The Gazette is the work of the staff of the McLean County Independent's editorial and advertising staff.

If you'd like to be included in next year's Gazette, contact the McLean County Independent at 463-2201 or 1(800)658-3485.

Stay for the Parade

Lighted Parade
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Main Street

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Was That Father Christmas?

Who's that guy in the long white beard? Father Christmas can be seen at various times throughout the Festival.

Several men who were just dying to play Father Christmas this year will take to the streets in his long, white beard and crimson velvet robe. But, just in case your children think he's the real deal, Father Christmas could accommodate you. One Father Christmas knelt to tie his shoe and children clamored onto his lap to share their Santa list.

The legend of Father Christmas began in England during an old English festival held in midwinter.

The attire at that time was green. Red-attired Father Christmas made his appearance some time in the 1870s. Saint Nicholas was called Sinter Klaas in Dutch and Santa Claus came from a distorted pronunciation of Sinter Klaas. Father Christmas is essentially an Anglo-Saxon notion.

Santa Claus is not a mythical or fictitious character. History of Father Christmas says the character is based on Saint Nicholas who was a saint in Myra in the fourth century. Saint Nicholas was shy and helping the poor without disclosing his identity was not an easy task. One day he climbed up the roof of a house and dropped down a purse full of money through the chimney, which landed in a girl's stocking. Probably the idea of Santa Claus giving gifts in stockings came from this.

Whether it's your list or just a "Merry Christmas," we hope you have a chance to greet Father Christmas.

Chili Feed

Friday, December 6

11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

RTC

At 'Ye Olde Talk Shoppe'

1/2 block off Main Street, north of the Garrison City Auditorium and behind S & J Hardware.

Chili, hot cider, coffee and cookies will be served. Prizes will be given away.

HUNGRY? we can HELP!

Main Street, from top to bottom on Festival nights, is packed with food vendors. Whether you're craving sausage on a stick, smoked turkey drumsticks, homemade soups, pickled walleye, warm rice pudding – or the infamous baked potato – you're more than covered. Besides the great flavors, check out the numerous authentically dressed street vendors who are up and down the heart of the city's business district. They display their wooden carts throughout the crowds of visitors who seek a special holiday taste treat.

Each year more and more vendors join the fun. It doesn't take much effort to imagine yourself in Merry Olde England.

Here is a list of the vendors who will be putting some food in your tummy and supporting the following local causes:

• Potato Man or Potato Woman, serves up a **healthy baked potato with all the trimmings** that melts in your mouth. Proceeds support the Legion Baseball program. The potatoes are found in front of S&J Hardware.

• Spot a fireman? Garrison area firemen offer **homemade meatballs and pickled walleye**. Proceeds will help purchase new equipment for the fire department. You'll find the treats near the N.D. Firefighter's Museum.

• The McLean Family Resource Center will sell **sausage on a stick** next to Chase Pharmacy. The proceeds will support the center's effort to offer a hand up to those in need.

• Garrison Hospital employees offer a tasty treat – **smoked turkey drumsticks.** Sales help in the purchase of special hospital equipment. The steaming hot drumsticks are available in front of BHG Inc./McLean County Independent.

• Benedictine Living Center will sell **clam chowder and knoephla soup** near S&J Hardware. The proceeds will help finance special projects at the nursing care facility.

• Peace Lutheran Church will be serving **tummy-warming chicken dumpling soup** in front of the Merry Moose. Soup sales support various church activities.

• Gifts from the Heart and dance team members will sell **cookies and popcorn balls**. The goodies, available by BHG, Inc./Viking Screen Prints, will help provide Christmas gift boxes for area families that are less fortunate. Proceeds will also support dance team activities.

• Flickertail Farmers 4-H Club (Nov. 29-30 and Dec. 1) will serve up **puffed caramel corn** in front of Chase Pharmacy. Your purchase helps support the 4-H club's activities.

• St. Paul Lutheran Church will sell **fleischkuechle** in front of the N.D. Fallen Firefighter's Memorial (next to the N.D. Firefighter's Museum). Proceeds will support church activities.

• Church of God youth will be selling **cheesecake on a stick** – a delicious treat to satisfy your sweet tooth. Proceeds will be used for youth group activities. The cheesecake stand is in front of This, That 'N More.

• Church of God will be selling warm **rice pudding** in front of the Dickens building/Camp of the Cross office. The sweet treat was formerly served at the English Market.

• Sky Fest over Fort Stevenson is offering **homemade cake pops.** Proceeds from the sweets will help finance an annual kite festival that takes place during the Memorial Day weekend. The treats will be available in front of Garrison Dental Clinic.

WHAT HAPPENED THE YEAR THE QUEEN WAS BORN?

(The Queen Elizabus that is. And she was manufactured in London, not born.)

• Joanne Woodward receives the first star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.
• End of 10th Winter Olympic Games in Squaw Valley, California
• Elvis Presley is discharged from the United States Army.
• Arthur Leonard Schawlow & Charles Townes receive the first patent for a laser.
• The United States launches the first weather satellite.
• The U.S. Food and Drug Administration approves sale of the birth control pill.
• Alfred Hitchcock's Psycho opens in New York.
• Due to the post-Independence Day admission of Hawaii as the 50th U.S. state on August 21, 1959, the 50-star flag of the United States debuts in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania almost ten and a half months later.
• In Chicago, Illinois, the first televised debate takes place between presidential candidates Richard M. Nixon and John F. Kennedy.
• While campaigning for President of the United States, John F. Kennedy announces his idea of the Peace Corps.
• Penguin Books is found not guilty of obscenity in the Lady Chatterley's Lover case.

COME IN OUT OF THE COLD

Do you need a place to sit down or a cozy place to warm your toes? Consider joining us at the N.D. Firefighter's Museum on the east side of Main Street. As always, admittance is free of charge.

N.D. Firefighter's Museum

The N.D. Firefighter's Museum has become a popular area attraction, right up there with Wally the Walleye.

During the Dickens Village Festival, the museum is open to the public from 12 noon – 6:30 p.m. Dickens guests are invited to come in from the cold and to tour the museum. Public restrooms are located on the ground floor.

The N.D. Firefighter's Museum is dedicated to preserving and presenting the storied histories, rich traditions and heritage of firefighting, firefighters and the fire service within the state of North Dakota. The museum, a work in progress, includes records, artifacts and memorabilia from fire departments and firefighters across the state. Future plans, designed to make the museum a destination for people of all ages, includes expansion of the museum as well as interactive programs and displays.

It has taken many hours of volunteer labor to move the project forward from a vacant building to the establishment of the museum and its Hall of Fame. The museum includes a gift shop.

The N.D. Fallen Firefighter's Memorial, just south of the museum, was dedicated in the fall of 2012. While in Garrison, you are invited to view the memorial that recognizes N.D. firefighters who lost their lives in the line of duty.

American Legion building

The Hugh P. Minehan American Legion Post 49 offers use of its building at City Park as a warming house. The building will be open at various times throughout the festival.

STREET URCHINS – TRUE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT

While the street urchins aren't selling anything, they provide a dual service. Not only do they entertain with song, they collect "pence" – cash donations that are used to help provide Christmas food baskets and gifts to area families and individuals who are less fortunate.

Your donation will help bring a Merry Christmas to others!

Fruitcake Toss

Sunday, Dec. 1

On the Street South of Fezziwig's
4:00 p.m.

Register early at the Information Center at Auditorium or at 3 p.m at the booth, south of Fezziwig's.

Categories: Wee One (up to 6) • Youth (7-12) • Teens (13-18)
Women (19 & over) • Men (19 & over)

Cash prizes for each category!

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PLU#1024

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Various Homemade Goodies Available

All 3 Weekends

during the Dickens Village Festival

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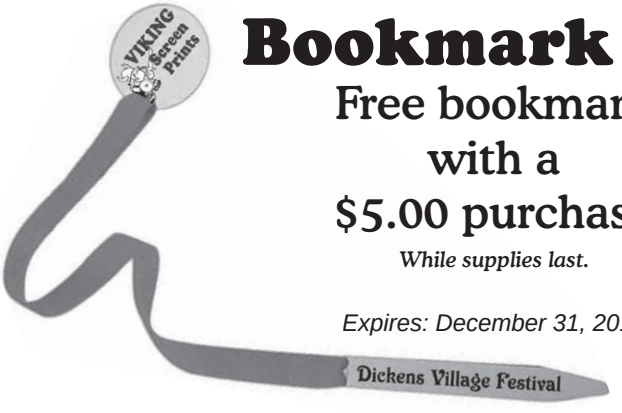
While supplies last.

Expires: December 31, 2013



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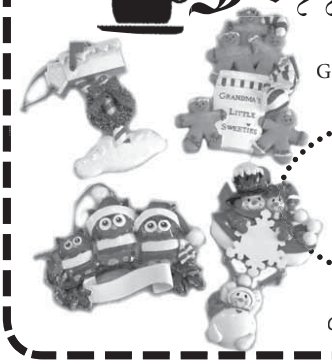

101 N. Main St.
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Coupon expires: Dec.31, 2013

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* Antiques
* Scrapbooking Supplies

Check Times for In-Store Entertainment

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Good through December 31, 2013
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Must present coupon.

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BHG, Inc.
91 N. Main Street • Garrison • 463-2201

Must present coupon.
Expires: December 31, 2013

a "pence" for the poor?

It's time to open up your coin purse and your heart.

Don't be alarmed by those little beggars on the street. They all have homes to go to at night. Grade school-age children, accompanied by an adult, will be begging and singing their way into your hearts around town from 4 to 6 p.m.

The children are begging for "pence" – any donation you can spare. All donations go to Gifts from the Heart. Over the past few years, the urchins raised more than $500 annually to support programs such as Christmas food baskets for families and individuals who are less fortunate. The Sakakawea Area Council for the Arts Children's Committee sponsors the beggars.

Festival ornament is excellent souvenir

The Dickens Village Festival is celebrating its 20th year. In honor of the occasion, this year's ornament – the final in a series that began with the first festival in 1994 – depicts the Dickens Village Festival logo.

The ornament, crafted of fine porcelain, is limited to an edition of 100. The hand-numbered ornaments can be purchased at Fezziwig's.

Sale Sale Sale Sale
Used Book Sale
Fridays & Saturdays
10 a.m.-6 p.m.
All 3 Dickens weekends
No Sunday
at the
Garrison
Public Library
Sponsored by
Friends of the Library
Sale Sale Sale Sale Sale Sale Sale Sale Sale Sale Sale Sale Sale Sale

Welcome to the
Dickens Village Festival
Open
Monday–Sunday
at 6 a.m.
Four Seasons Restaurant
Ice Cream Parlor
Garrison, N.D.
Main St. Garrison, ND
463-2044

Quilt raffle
offered at English Market

As you enter the English Market, you'll be greeted by members the Piecemakers Quilt Guild at their raffle ticket booth. While there you can view the queen size quilt that will be the grand prize. (The winner will be drawn at the conclusion of the festival, so be sure to purchase tickets). Also on display are items that will be given away during daily drawings.

The Piecemakers Quilt Guild was organized in 2001 after a group of women participated in a class at the local library. It's a not-for-profit society of artisans committed to promoting and preserving the art of quilting. The guild is open to all who wish to perpetuate the art and are willing to support and advance quilting in the area.

The Dickens Quilt Raffle allows the group to participate in different events and causes: Its Comforts for Kids project provides quilts for children who are transported by the Garrison-Max Ambulance Service. The guild also donates quilted items to those who are victims of disasters such as fires. In the wake of massive flooding in 2011, the Piecemakers provided quilted items to Minot flood victims.

Guild members decorated a room at Camp of the Cross Ministries' Retreat Center and contribute to the camp's annual quilt auction. Monetary gifts from the Piecemakers support the Sakakawea Area Council for the Arts (SACA), the Garrison after-prom party and Gifts from the Heart.

Guild members support youth by providing quilting ribbons for 4-H members who show their work at the McLean County Fair. In addition they assist a local Cub Scout troop with sewing projects to help members earn merit badges.

The Guild also offers classes at the annual fall Douglas Day and throughout the year.

The guild meets once a month at the SACA Lodge, Garrison. For more information, contact Melinda Betz at 463-2477.

SACA
presents
Charles Dickens'
"A CHRISTMAS CAROL'
A New Musical
Book & Lyrics by Keith Ferguson
Music by Bruce Greer
Fri. & Sat, Nov. 29 & 30,
Dec. 6 & 7, Dec. 13 & 14
at 7:30 p.m.
at the KOTA Theater
Garrison, ND
In conjunction with
the Dickens Village Festival
For advanced tickets: Call 1-800-799-4242 or 463-2345
$14 each
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Royal Treatment Enhances Queen ElizaBus

The Queen Elizabus has made her way into the hearts of the community and its guests.

While we once called her a "majestic old beast," the Garrison community now sees her as a beauty. The transformation required hundreds of hours of volunteer labor and a huge fundraising drive.

The refurbished Queen Elizabus was on the streets in 2009 with new paint, replaced window stripping, signage, reupholstered seats and new carpeting.

In 2010 the flooring was completed; the PA system and heat have also been improved. Better heating was added to the driver's cab.

The next step was to get a shelter built for her. The Dickens Festival Committee purchased a small building on Main Street that serves as office space for Camp of the Cross Ministries. When the queen isn't is use, it can be viewed inside its "home." A 20x40 building with 16 foot sidewalls – and a plexiglass panel for easy year-round viewing -- was constructed behind the building in 2011.

The efforts to improve the bus were all part of a major fundraising effort that involved the individual "sale" of seats, corporate donations and the generosity of the Garrison Sales and Use Tax Committee. (Notice the list of the donors on a plaque inside the bus.)

Once we were ready to start the makeover, there were more obstacles. The only commercial painting bid was for $19,000 from a Bismarck company, so volunteers undertook the project during the summer and fall of 2009. Upholstery and carpeting were done by Brenda's Decor.

Volunteers Dick and Melissa Messerly, Ryan Nelson and Raymond Halverson devoted numerous evenings and weekends to the bus project. Brenda Mai, owner of Brenda's Decor, enlisted the help of brothers Floyd and Richard Kolobakken when she was working on reinstalling wall board in the 11th hour before the 2009 festival.

The once dowdy queen that arrived in May 2005, had become worthy of her name, Queen Elizabus. It's a name she had been given before arriving in Garrison.

The cherry red double-decker 1961 English bus first appeared at the Garrison Chamber of Commerce's annual kick-off to summer in 2005. Since then the Queen can be spotted at many local events, weddings, area community celebrations and open houses. True to its origin, the bus sports a Union Jack flag on each side, which is the only original signage that has not been replaced. The driver of the bus also sits on the right side, again something that's very British.

The double-decker came to Garrison as part of a brainstorming session by former Fort Stevenson State Park Manager Dick Messerly and local business owner Mike Gackle. After

- Ride the Bus 12:30, 3:30, 5 and 6:30 p.m.
- The 12:30 and 3:30 p.m. trips (approximately an hour) go to Fort Stevenson's Guardhouse Interpretive Center. There, passengers can view historical and heritage displays. The 5 p.m. ride includes being part of the lighted parade on Main Street. The 6:30 p.m. ride is a 30-minute tour to view lighted homes. As a convenience to those who will be attending the play, riders of the 6:30 tour will be dropped off in front of the Kota Theater so they can take part in the singalong that precedes the play.
- Rides aboard the "Queen" are $2 for each passenger who requires a seat
- Tickets are available at the Information Center at the City Auditorium.

exploring on the Internet, they learned such a vehicle did exist. They searched for one that was both affordable and could be transported to Garrison. The closest bus was in Sergeant Bluff, Iowa.

After hearing about the idea, the Dickens Village Festival Committee decided to purchase the bus, sight unseen. The next step was to pick up the Queen.

The trip from Iowa to Garrison could have been an actual scenario from a big screen comedy.

Local resident John Kallberg was enlisted, along with Messerly, to retrieve the Queen. Kallberg had the proper license to drive the bus, however, he had never driven a vehicle where the driver is situated on the right side.

"The trip was definitely interesting," said Kallberg. He said it took a little while before he got the hang of it. Messerly followed in another vehicle. Unexpectedly, Kallberg found he had unwelcome passengers – a mess of bees that had built two hives in the bus. One of these hives was directly above Kallberg's head in the driver's compartment. The bees were not happy to be disturbed and entered the driver's compartment through the ventilation system. The scenario didn't put our heroic driver in a good mood, either. After stopping the bus, the two men shooed the bees out.

The trip was a great eye popper. During the journey to Garrison, people took notice and waved as the Queen drove by. During stops, Messerly and Kallberg fielded questions posed by those who were curious about the unusual vehicle.

Since its arrival, people have been enchanted with the bus and the committee has had many requests to use the bus. Besides using her in the festival, she's been used for other events, for weddings and various celebrations.

Tickets to ride aboard the Queen may be purchased at the Information Center in the City Auditorium.

a few facts about the Queen

1. Top speed 40 miles per hour.

2. She's a 1961 Bristol Lodekka (FLF model) built in England through a contract with the English government and was first run as part of an English double-decker bus fleet. FLF stands for Flat bottom floor, Long body and Front entrance. Only 1,867 FLF models were built between 1959 and 1968. It is unknown how many are still operational.

3. 6 cylinder Bristol diesel engine.

4. 13' 6 inches high, 30 feet long and 8 feet wide.

5. 70 passenger capacity.

6. 24 volt electrical system.

7. 4-speed manual transmission (constant mesh).

8. Steering wheel is on the right side of the bus with no power steering and gear shift is on the left side of the driver.

9.Originally painted green in England because it was a non-London bus; only the double-deckers in London were printed the typical red.

10. Brought to the U.S. in 1980 by a Denver, Colo. company. It was then sold to a company in George and then a company in Iowa and finally to the Dickens Village Festival for $5,000 in 2005.

11. In England, smoking and pets were only allowed on the top deck. Almost all travel was done on the double-deckers in England, including traveling to school and work, grocery shopping, vacation travel. Cost was two English cents to ride the bus to school. Buses were noisy, smelly and cold in winter and hot in the summer.

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Travel Back in Time
to area historic sites

If you enjoy history, then you'll want to hop on the Queen Elizabus for a ride to Fort Stevenson State Park to visit the Guardhouse Interpretive Center.

The interpretive center is a replica of the guardhouse that was originally used to house prisoners and the soldiers who guarded them at the frontier military fort.

The Guardhouse Interpretive Center was built in 2002 and features paintings by the late Harold Yellowbird, a local artist. One of his paintings depicts two riverboat steamers navigating the wide Missouri River. You can dream of piloting your own steamboat as you turn an old wooden pilot wheel mounted directly in front of Yellowbird's masterpiece. A large mural, depicting the fort, helps visitors envision life at the fort during the 1870s.

Other displays take you back to the time of General deTrobriand, the fort's first commander. Many new displays have been added, featuring Native American artifacts found in the area of the original Fort Stevenson. Plus, you'll find displays of firearms similar to those used during the frontier military period.

Two exact replica cannons stand guard outside the Guardhouse. The originals had been used to protect the fort. An original cannon ball and projectiles are also on display.

The Guardhouse Interpretive Center is open each day of the festival from 12:30 to 5 p.m.

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STUDY: DICKEN'S GENERATES $175,000 A DAY

By JILL DENNING GACKLE

Naysayers: hold on to your woolie socks.

The seven days of the Dickens Village Festival have a far greater impact on the economic vitality of Garrison than even the committee promoters realized.

The Dickens committee conducted a study through the University of Mary in 2009 to determine how much the festival generates. The study found that the festival generates an average of more than $175,000 a day or $1.2 million annually, based on 2,000 festival goers a day. A University of Mary survey also showed that business increased an average of 232 percent during the festival days.

University of Mary student and former Garrison resident Cody Friesz conducted the survey under the direction of business professor, Karel Sovak, at the request of the Dickens committee.

"I didn't expect to tell you that Dickens averages an estimated $1.2 million in revenue," Friesz said. "I assumed there would be a great impact. I didn't expect this much."

Three businesses opened up their 2009 financials to Friesz for him to glean the impact. The three businesses surveyed experienced a 33 – 342 percent increase in sales during the festival compared to Fridays and Saturdays before and after the festival.

The three businesses, identified only as Business A, B and C, had non-festival average sales on the two days jump from an average of $2,426 to $5,840. Business B and Business C incurred the greatest increase – from $946 average sales to $4,184 and $1,704 to $7,170 respectively. Businesses opened up their records for a period of Oct. 16 – Jan. 23 for the survey.

"On average, the Main Street businesses can expect, approximately, a 232 percent increase in sales during the festival," Friesz reported. "I calculated that several times because I didn't believe it."

Committee members were stunned. Norm Thorson, former vice chairman of the Dickens committee, summed it up: "It's amazing."

Friesz also surveyed 624 festival goers during the 2009 event. Of those, he found, 217 were attending the festival for the first time.

"The Dickens Festival is doing a wonderful job encouraging consumers to return again," he said. He encouraged the committee to continue its work to draw new clientele to the festival each year.

The survey showed that 80.7 percent of the festival goers traveled more than 30 miles to attend the festival.

"On one hand, you are attracting a large percentage of festival goers from outside the community. (It) may suggest that there is a poor community buy-in regarding this event," he said.

The survey asked festival goers if they spend less than $100, $100 - $200 or more than $200.

Based on that feedback and 1,000 festival goers a day, Friesz estimated the economic impact at $614,348. An estimate of 2,000 attendees brought the impact to $1,228,696 and 3,000 people would generate $1,843,044, Friesz said.

For several years, the committee has estimated attendance at 1,000 to 3,000 each day.

WHALING MUSEUM

Steve Holmes' family history includes something special -- ancestors who were involved in the whaling industry. His unique collection of whaling artifacts is an integral part of the decor in the Steve and Kathy Holmes home.

The extensive collection also includes vintage lighting. Many of the artifacts and collectibles date to the Dickens era -- a perfect tie-in to help the public appreciated the time that Charles Dickens lived and wrote classics -- including "A Christmas Carol " -- the inspiration for Garrison's annual Dickens Village Festival.

More than a tour, Holmes provides historical data relating to the whaling industry and the Victorian time period.

THE CABERNET TOTALLY UNIQUE

The 2013 Dickens tour home is more than a home, it's a local landmark with plenty of history.

The home was built in the early 1900s as a family home for a local banker. Converted to a convent, it was once home to another type of "family."

Current owners, Michelle Westman and Brenda Huesers, spent nearly two years restoring the large home to the era of its construction.

The Cabernet Inn, a guest house, features five bedrooms and original hardwood floors. In addition, two upper-level porches have a seldom-seen feature – beds that are suspended from the ceiling. They too, are original.

Tickets to tour The Cabernet Inn are available at the Information Center within the City Auditorium.

Meet the English Bobby

Don't worry – this English bobby won't be giving out tickets.

Terry Mehlhoff is a retired sheriff's deputy who enjoys meeting our guests as an English bobby. He dresses in a deep navy blue uniform, complete with an official black English bobby hat.

Mehlhoff, in his English bobby attire, has quickly become a popular attraction at the festival as he walks the streets with his traditional nightstick in hand.

Watch out – this bobby will be patrolling the streets of Merry Olde Garrison during the festival.

Don't Be a Scrooge

Meet Your Neighbor

We want to leave you with a lasting impression of the community and the festival. That's the reason we promote the idea of meeting newcomers with a friendly greeting.

Somewhere, among the crowds and around town, there will be area folks doling out $10 checks. These checks are called Garrison Bucks, local currency which can be used at any Garrison business any time of the year. Some checks will be handed out around town while others will be claimed during afternoon entertainment.

Don't be shy. Shake the hands of your fellow Dickens guests. Who knows, you might gain a new friend and some extra cash to spend.

Where are the Bathrooms?

Public restrooms are available at the N.D. Firefighter's Museum and the City Auditorium during all hours of the festival.

Dickens 'Packages' Available

With so many activities taking place during the Dickens Festival, visitors often need to plan their day's activities – what to see, what to do and how to time activities to maximize the day.

The decisions just got a whole lot easier. The Dickens Committee is offering packages that can be purchased online.

For just $45, Dickens guests can choose from three pre-planned agendas. While all offer the same activities, those who purchase packages can choose the schedule they prefer.

Packages are available for each Friday and Saturday of the festival (Nov. 29-30, Dec 6-7 and Dec. 13-14). Included are a ride aboard the Queen Elizabus, admission to the English High Tea, special afternoon entertainment at the Kota Theater. Also part of the package is admission to the live stage performance of "A Christmas Carol" – and a pre-performance sing-along. In addition, the package includes $10 in Garrison Bucks. The local currency will be accepted by all Garrison businesses and by street food vendors.

The special packages must be ordered a day in advance and are only available online at www.dickensfestival.com. or by calling 1-800-799-4242.

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WHO IS CHARLES DICKENS?

Charles Dickens, a famous English novelist was born Feb. 7, 1812. Though he's remembered as a masterful writer, young Charles Dickens endured numerous family hardships.

His father had a "poor head for finances" and in 1824 found himself imprisoned for debt. His wife and children, with the exception of Charles, joined him at the prison. Charles was put to work at Warren's Blacking Factory. By the time his father was released, 12-year-old Charles had been scarred psychologically by the experience.

For the next three years, Charles was enrolled as a day pupil at a school in London. At 15, he found employment as an office boy for an attorney and, at night he studied shorthand. Despite the positive changes in his life, the brief stint at the Blacking Factory haunted him throughout his life – as an adult, he spoke of it only to his wife and to his closest friend. Over time, the dark secret became a source of Dickens' creative energy.

Dickens became a well respected writer and penned numerous novels and other literary works. While he is widely recognized as the author of A Christmas Carol, his work includes other major titles – Bleak House, David Copperfield, Dombey and Son, Great Expectations, Hard Times, Little Dorrit, Oliver Twist and A Tale of Two Cities.

Dickens began writing his A Christmas Carol, his "little carol," in Oct. 1843. It was finished by the end of November. After feuding with his publishers, he financed publication of the book himself and it was published in time for Christmas.

The finished work included lavish binding, gilt edging and hand-colored illustrations. Despite the cost of publication, Dickens set the price at five shillings – a price nearly everyone could afford.

In the first few days, 6,000 copies were sold and its popularity continued to grow. The first and best of his Christmas Books, A Christmas Carol has become a Christmas tradition and is considered his best known book.

Charles Dickens died June 9, 1870 after suffering a stroke. He was buried in the Poets' Corner of Westminster Abbey. The inscription on his tomb reads: "He was a sympathizer to the poor, the suffering and the oppressed; and by his death, one of England's greatest writers is lost to the world."

The fact that none of his works have ever gone out of print attests to the popularity of his novels and short stories.

Main Street Market

Stop at Main Street Market, a showcase for products sold by local entrepreneurs who operate home-based businesses. The market is located in Viking Screen Prints.

From kitchen, to home, to wardrobe ideas – stop in to check it out.

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Daily Events

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Friday & Saturday, Nov. 29, 30 and Dec. 6, 7, Dec. 13, 14

Time	Event	Cost	Location
10 a.m. - 7 p.m.	English Market/Information Center opens	free	City Auditorium
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Quilt Show (first weekend only)	free	The Meadows
12:30 p.m.	Queen Elizabus trip to Ft. Stevenson Guardhouse	$2	tickets at City Auditorium
Noon - 4 p.m.	House Tours (tours on the hour)	$4	tickets at City Auditorium
Noon - 4 p.m.	Trains, Tractors, Toys, Car show	free	North Shore Inn
Noon – 4 p.m.	Nanny's Nook Doll House	free	next to Barber Shop, Main St.
1 - 4 p.m.	English Tea	$5 at door (under 12 $2.50)	UCC Church
2 p.m.	Afternoon Entertainment	$5 at Info Center or door	KOTA Theater
3:30 p.m.	Queen Elizabus trip to Ft. Stevenson Guardhouse	$2	tickets at City Auditorium
4 - 6 p.m.	Street Vendors	varies	Main Street
5 p.m.	Bus trip as part of Lighted Parade	$2	tickets at City Auditorium
5:30 p.m.	Lighted Parade	free	Main Street
6:30 p.m.	Queen Elizabus trip around town, unload at Play	$2	tickets at City Auditorium
7 p.m.	Singalong	free with play	KOTA Theater
7:30 p.m.	Play/Musical "A Christmas Carol"	$15/reserved seats	KOTA Theater
			purchase at Firefighter's Museum
all day	Historic/Collectible tour	free	Businesses

Sunday, Dec. 1

Time	Event	Cost	Location
Noon - 6 p.m.	English Market/Information Center opens	free	City Auditorium
12:30 p.m.	Queen Elizabus trip to Ft. Stevenson Guardhouse	$2	tickets at City Auditorium
Noon - 4 p.m.	House Tours (tours on the hour)	$4	tickets at City Auditorium
Noon - 4 p.m.	Trains, Tractors, Toys, Car show	free	North Shore Inn
Noon - 4 p.m.	Nanny's Nook Doll House	free	next to Barber Shop, Main St.
Noon - 4 p.m.	Quilt Show	free	The Meadows
1:30 p.m.	English Tea Demonstration	free	UCC Church
2 p.m.	Milo Hatzenbuhler & Bill Sorenson	$5 at Info Center or door	KOTA Theater
3:30 p.m.	Queen Elizabus trip to Ft. Stevenson Guardhouse	$2	tickets at City Auditorium
4 p.m.	Fruitcake Toss	free + win cash prizes	block next to Fezziwig's
4 - 6 p.m.	Street Vendors	varies	Main Street
5 p.m.	Bus trip as part of Lighted Parade	$2	tickets at City Auditorium
5:30 p.m.	Lighted Parade	free	Main Street

Watch for Cash Cab, Carriage Rides, Shake hands in the "Don't Be A Scrooge Contest"