

Celebrations and sales arrive Friday

Santa due in Bar Harbor, Southwest Harbor

By Earl Brechlin

BAR HARBOR — The holiday season gets into full swing this weekend with Santa Claus slated to make official stops in both Southwest Harbor and downtown Bar Harbor.

Santa is scheduled to arrive by reindeer truck at the Bar Harbor Village Green at 5 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 4, to light the town tree and say hello to the children.

The "Polar Express" will take Santa to the MDI YMCA where children can have their pictures taken with the jolly old elf, ride the

"Polar Express," enjoy cookies and hot cocoa and do crafts. There will be plenty to do for children of all ages from 5 to 7 p.m.

Madness sale

Friday evening also is the time for the 9th annual Midnight Madness Sale. Village retailers will offer "huge" price reductions starting at 8 p.m. More discounts are reserved for shoppers in evening wear.

Hosted by the Bar Harbor Chamber of Commerce, the deals continue until midnight. The MDI High School Band will be wrapping gifts at the chamber's information center on the corner of

Cottage and Main Street. The doors open at 8 p.m. All funds raised will help send the band to England in 2011.

For more information on participating stores check advertisements in this week's paper. Bar Harbor's Village Holidays and Midnight Madness Sale are sponsored by The First.

Open house

Also in Bar Harbor Friday evening, the Maine Sea Coast Mission will hold its annual Holiday Open House to benefit the Mission's Christmas Program,

from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at 127 West Street. Call 288-5097 with questions. The event, which is open to the public, includes hot mulled cider and wine, savory hors d'oeuvres, and live music by Jessie Holladay. There will be door prizes. Donations collected at this event will help provide gifts for the island and coastal children.



Live theater

The venerable Criterion Theatre on Cottage Street, an Art Deco wonder right out of a classic see **HOLIDAY** page 12

HOLIDAYS/1: Season is in full swing

Christmas film, will be the setting for the Acadia Community Theater's presentation of "It's a Wonderful Life" at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$8 for adults, \$4 for children and senior citizens, \$2 extra to sit upstairs.

Santa in Southwest

Santa is due to arrive in Southwest Harbor at 5:30 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 4. He will light the town Christmas tree donated by Jeff Dutra of Islandscaping in Southwest Harbor. After the lighting festivities, a bonfire

will be lighted in the post office parking lot.

At the post office, music will be provided by the Pemetic/Tremont Brass Ensemble and there will be chili and s'mores provided by Island Communities in Service.

Hayrides for children and adults will operate from the parking lot.

From 6:15 to 7:30 p.m., Mary Ellen Martel will be taking photos of children with Santa upstairs in the Harbor House Community Service

Center on Main Street. There also will be arts and crafts and face-painting. Refreshments will be served by the Southwest Harbor Congregational Church.

The annual community holiday celebration is presented by Harbor House and local businesses. For more information call 244-3713, extension 102.

Fairs, crafts

Bar Harbor Congregational Church's Annual Christmas Fair and

Luncheon is set for Friday, Dec. 4, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The event features crafts, homemade baked goods, and an attic treasures table. The Fair Trade table will include items from all over the world including coffee, and numerous handicrafts. The luncheon begins at 11 a.m. and features savory soups and chowders, scrumptious crab rolls and sandwiches, and homemade pies. The church is located at 29 Mount Desert Street.

The 33rd Annual Island Arts Association Christmas Craft Fair kicks off Friday, Dec. 4, at the Atlantic Oceanside, 119 Eden Street Bar Harbor, and runs from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Friday, and from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 5. Shoppers will have their choice of Maine handicrafts, a raffle, and food tables.

Gifts, silent auctions, food, magic and more will all be part of this year's Light a Candle' Holiday Festival at the Bar Harbor Municipal Building on Saturday, Dec. 5, and Sunday, Dec. 6. See story on page 1 of section 2.

For other events see this week's calendar on page 2 of section 2.

Upcoming celebrations

Santa and Mrs. Claus arrive in Northeast Harbor on Friday, Dec. 11. From 5 to 7 p.m., Main Street in

Northeast Harbor will feature a bonfire and an opportunity to cheer for Santa and Mrs. Claus as they arrive at Carter's Real Estate. Keep an eye out for a list of participating stores that will offer storewide discounts for a small donation to various local charities.

At 7 p.m., the Acadia Community Theater will present a performance of "It's A Wonderful Life" at The Neighborhood House."

Otter Creek

The Otter Creek Aid Society is presenting a Victorian Christmas celebration on Thursday, Dec. 10, from 6 to 8 p.m. at The Hall on Otter

Creek Drive (Route 3).

The evening will feature eggnog, cider, and an array of sweet and savory finger foods. There will be a fish-for-prizes game for children, and an ornament-decorating table.

For those who want to don Victorian costumes, a dress-up table will be available. At 7:30 p.m., participants will gather around the tree for carols. Everyone is welcome. There is no admission fee, and donations to The Hall are always appreciated. Call Rosalie at 288 0386 or Karen at 288 4133 and 288 4602, for more information or to volunteer.

news@mdislander.com

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2009