

Congress Hall opens annual holiday Winter Wonderland

CAPE MAY — Congress Hall turns into the North Pole of South Jersey this season as its grand lawn is transformed into a magical winter wonderland: think gorgeous Christmas trees, Santa's workshop, a carousel, a train, a shopping village, giant candy canes, elves walking around and more.

Guests and visitors can explore unique gifts from more than 20 vendors in the enchanted shopping village, sip a cup of hot cocoa or special holiday cocktail, climb aboard the Congress Hall Express for a train ride around Cape May's North Pole, hop on the hotel's beautiful Victorian carousel, read a book with Mrs. Claus and even plan a breakfast or brunch date with the jolly fellow himself, Santa.

Congress Hall is the oldest seaside hotel in the United States and is celebrating its 200th anniversary this year. The historic hotel will be wrapping up its special bicentennial year with its annual Winter Wonderland festivities as well its interactive, sing-along historic dinners Dec. 27-29, which tell the story of Cape May and this grand old "Big House by the Sea." Even the hotel's owner, Curtis Bashaw, performs in these dinners, which take guests back in time to 1816 and lead them through Congress Hall's storied history.

Congress Hall will hold its annual Tree Lighting Concert and Ceremony on Friday, Dec. 2. Watch as the largest Christmas tree in Cape May lights up the night on Congress Hall's great lawn. The Congress Hall Choir provides the sounds of the season in a holiday



Congress Hall's Winter Wonderland includes Vendor Village Shops, Santa's Workshop, train and carousel rides, breakfast with Santa and other events.

concert in the ballroom.

Vendor Village Shops, Santa's Workshop, train and carousel rides are open from 5 to 9 p.m. Thursdays and Fridays, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturdays and 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sundays.

The Winter Wonderland Concert Series will take place at 2 p.m. Saturdays through Dec. 17.

Breakfast with Santa takes place from 9 a.m. to noon Saturdays in the ball-

room. Brunch with Santa is scheduled for 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sundays, Dec. 4-18, in Congress Hall's ballroom.

The play "This Wonderful Life" runs through Dec. 29. Cape May Stage comes to the Harrison Room at Congress Hall in this one-man performance of Frank Capra's Christmas story. Jeremy Konopka stars as all the characters from Belford Falls in this heart-warming holiday classic.



MAC photo/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

Cape May's Christmas Candlelight House Tours include decorated homes, carolling, strolling musicians and other holiday treats.

MAC hosts Cape May Christmas Candlelight House Tour Dec. 3

CAPE MAY — Share a special holiday tradition with friends and family on a festive walking tour of Cape May's historic district and surrounding areas during Christmas Candlelight House Tours, sponsored by the Mid-Atlantic Center for the Arts & Humanities.

Every year since 1974, a large selection of Victorian inns, homes, churches and hotels open their doors and welcome visitors to share the warmth and hospitality of the season during these popular, self-guided walking tours.

Enjoy Christmas carols by candlelight, strolling musicians along the historic streets of Cape May and beautiful holiday decorations. Walk from site to site, stopping at hospitality centers for warm beverages and holiday treats during your travels. Free heated shuttles make limited stops along some routes.

The first of three Christmas Candlelight House Tours of the season is scheduled for 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 3. Featured properties include: The Abbey at Columbia and Gurney streets; Angel of the Sea at 5 Trenton Ave; Beau-

claire's Bed & Breakfast Inn at 23 Ocean St.; The Bedford Inn at 805 Stockton Ave.; The Breakers at 24 Ocean St.; The Colonial House Museum at 653 1/2 Washington St.; The Dormer House at 800 Columbia Ave.; Franklin's Key at 313 Franklin St.; The George Ogden House at 737 Washington St.; The Harrison at 613 Columbia Ave.; The Henry Sawyer Inn at 722 Columbia Ave.; The Mainstay Inn at 635 Columbia Ave.; The Mason Cottage at 623-625 Columbia Ave.; Our Lady Star of the Sea Church at 525 Washington Street Mall; and The White Dove Cottage at 619 Hughes St. Two conveniently located hospitality centers, the Carriage House at the Emlen Physick Estate, 1048 Washington St., and Episcopal Church of the Advent at 612 Franklin St., will be open from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m., allowing visitors to enjoy warm beverages and traditional holiday treats.

Christmas Candlelight House Tours also include admission to Cape May's authentically decorated Victorian house museum, the Emlen Physick Estate, and the exhibit "An Old-Fashioned

Christmas: Holiday Traditions through the Years" in the Carriage House Gallery located on the grounds of the Physick Estate. The exhibit's main attraction is a display featuring a Dept. 56 Dickens Village, model trains and vintage Christmas memorabilia, all beneath the boughs of a giant Christmas tree. While there, donations can be made to support the Jersey Cape Military Spouses Club and letters to Santa can be deposited for mailing to the North Pole.

The second Christmas Candlelight House Tour is Saturday, Dec. 10, and the final tour is Saturday, Dec. 17.

Admission to the Christmas Candlelight House Tour is \$30 for adults and \$20 for children (ages 3 to 12). The tour is limited; it is strongly recommended that tickets be purchased online by visiting capemaymac.org or reserved in advance by calling (609) 884-5404 or (800) 275-4278. Any remaining tickets on the day of the tour may be purchased at the Washington Street Mall Information Booth, Washington and Ocean Streets. Properties on the tour are subject to change.

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 **Allied R 11:10, 1:50, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00
 **2D Moana PG 10:50, 1:30, 4:20, 7:00
 **3D Moana PG 9:35

Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them PG-13 11:00, 2:10, 5:00, 7:50
 Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them PG-13 12:00, 3:30, 6:50, 9:40
 Doctor Strange PG-13 11:20, 2:00, 4:30, 7:10, 9:45
 Trolls PG 11:30, 1:40, 4:10, 6:40, 9:10
 **Bad Santa 2 R 11:50, 2:30, 5:10, (7:40, 9:55)
 **Office Christmas Party (Thurs Premiere) R (7:30, 9:55)

** No Passes • () Fri • Wed • () Thursday

Cape May Star & Wave
 CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE (ISSN 519-020)
 Volume 162 Number 48
 Published weekly by Sample Media, Inc.,
 801 Asbury Ave., #310, Ocean City, N.J. 08226

Published Weekly (52 times a year)
SUBSCRIPTION PRICE: By mail for \$39 a year, \$70 for two years, \$20 for six months.
 Periodical Postage at Cape May Court House, N.J. and additional mailing offices.
 POSTMASTER: Please send address changes to the Cape May Star and Wave,
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Lower Twp. Christmas events

VILLAS — Three holiday events are scheduled for December in Lower Township.

The Lower Township Chamber of Commerce Day of Hospitality is scheduled for 4 to 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 2. Prize drawings will

be conducted at individual business locations rather than culminating at the end of the evening at the Lower Township Recreation Center as in past years.

A tour of participating businesses can be started at the Recreation Center, where participants can find a map as well as finding many business representatives in one location. The first 200 adults will receive a complimentary tote bag to fill with goodies and useful information.

The Lower Township Rotary Club Christmas Parade is scheduled for

Saturday, Dec. 10, along Bayshore Road in North Cape May, marching from Breakwater Plaza to Rosehill Parkway. The parade has a new start time of 6 p.m.

Lower Township Recreation Department and the Cape May-Lewes Ferry present "A Merry Christmas" from noon to 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 18, at the ferry terminal in North Cape. The event includes carnival games, live music, arts and crafts, balloon art and a chance for children to meet Santa Claus and present their wish lists.

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Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

The Lower Township Rotary Club Christmas Parade is scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 10, along Bayshore Road in North Cape May.

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TIDES : December 2016

DATE	HIGH		LOW	
	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.
30	8:12	8:31	1:36	2:24
1	8:48	9:09	2:46	3:40
2	9:24	9:46	2:46	3:40
3	10:01	10:27	3:24	4:20
4	10:41	11:12	4:06	5:03
5	11:27		4:55	5:51
6	12:05	12:20	5:52	6:43
7	1:05	1:20	6:58	7:38

MOON PHASES
 First quarter, Dec. 7 • full moon, Dec. 14

SHOP SMALL, SPEND LOCAL,
 EAT LOCAL, ENJOY LOCAL.
 Support the local businesses that support the community.