

Ready, set, time to kick off the holidays ...

The Columbia Press

Now that Thanksgiving has passed, no one can deny the holidays are in full swing. Even those who hate seeing Christmas decorations at Costco in October should find themselves fully in the mood.

And there are plenty of holidays treats to bring cheer: Santa visits, holiday movies, tree lightings, Christmas bazaars and more.

Here are some of the most notable in the first full week after Thanksgiving:

VISITS WITH SANTA

Visits with Santa, sponsored by the Liberty Theatre and the Astoria Downtown Historic District Association, will be from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. every Saturday between Thanksgiving and Christmas.

The event is free inside the lobby of the Liberty Theatre, 1203 Commercial St., Astoria. Parents should bring a camera to capture the moment.

SANKTA LUCIA

The annual Sankta Lucia Festival of Lights is at 7 p.m. Friday, Nov. 29, in the auditorium and commons at Astoria High School, 1001 W. Marine Drive.

It includes special music, food and dancing.

The Polka Dots will play



Left: The Polka Dots play accordion music at the Sankta Lucia Festival of Lights. **Above:** A scene from "Scrooged in Astoria." **Right:** Isabella Clement, Joe Justice and Logan Mossman in "The Nutcracker."



music for dancing around the Christmas tree. Admission is \$1 per person or \$5 per family.

ELF, THE MOVIE

"Elf, the Movie" will be shown at 2:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 30, at the Liberty Theatre, 1203 Commercial St., Astoria.

The movie stars Will Ferrell, James Caan, Bob Newhart, Ed Asner, Mary Steenburgen, and Zooey Deschanel.

The free event is perfect for families with children who plan to visit with Santa earlier in the day or attend the downtown association's holiday tree lighting in front of the theater after the movie.

LIGHT UP DOWNTOWN

Astoria's annual Downtown Lighting and Holiday Kickoff is at 4:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov.

30 in front of the Liberty Theatre, at the corner of Commercial and 12th streets.

There will be caroling led by the Q Choir, a Shop Plaid Raffle, guest appearances and more.

MESSIAH SING-ALONG

A "Messiah" sing-along/play-along sponsored by North Coast Chorale is set for 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 1, at the Performing Arts Center, 588 16th St., Astoria.

Participants are asked to bring a donation of food or money, which will be donated to Clatsop Community Action's Regional Food Bank.

Attendees can participate in several ways. They can simply listen to the choruses and arias sung by the chorale and soloists, they can sing along (with musical scores available in the lobby) or they can bring an instrument and play along with the accompanist.

GLOBAL DAY OF GIVING

Giving Tuesday, a global day of giving, will be celebrated with a holiday party from 5 to 7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 3, in the Liberty Theatre's McTavish Room.

The party includes holiday goodies, festive cocktails and music from Astoria High School's Jazz Band. Doors open at 4:45 p.m. No tickets are necessary.

SCROOGED

"Scrooged in Astoria,"

Christmas baskets

The Warrenton Firefighters Association is taking applications from needy families for Christmas food baskets. Register before 5 p.m. Friday, Dec. 6 at the fire station, 225 S. Main Ave.

loosely based on the traditional holiday story, "A Christmas Carol," will be performed at 7 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and 2 p.m. Sundays, Dec. 6 through Dec. 22.

The musical melodrama is a production of Astor Street Opry Company and held at the playhouse, 129 W. Bond St., Astoria.

The play was written by Judith Niland, with music by Phil Morrill and directed by Stephanie Osborn.

Tickets are \$30 for front-row seats, \$15 for all others and \$10 for children 10 and younger. All Friday performances are \$10 for general seating. Tickets are available at asocplay.com.

The ticket booth opens an hour before performances; doors open a half hour before.

WINTER BAZAAR

Astoria Parks & Recreation will have a winter bazaar and craft fair from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 7, at the Astoria Recreation Center, 1555 W. Marine Drive.

Food drive donations are

welcome. Vendor booths are available for \$20 to \$30. For more information, contact Desiree at 503-298-2470.

FESTIVAL OF TREES

The annual Festival of Trees, a fundraiser for Providence hospital's Innovation Fund, is Saturday, Dec. 7, at Seaside Civic and Convention Center, 415 First Ave.

There will be free public admission for tree viewing from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. with festivities for children.

The dinner and auction begins at 5:30 p.m. Tickets are \$150 per guest or \$1,500 for a table of 10. Tickets can be purchased online at providencefoundations.org/seasidegala.

THE NUTCRACKER

Little Ballet Theatre's 45th annual production of "The Nutcracker" will be performed Dec. 7 and 8 on stage at the Astoria High School Auditorium, 1001 W. Marine Drive.

Performances are at 2 and 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 7, and 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 8.

Tickets are \$21 for adults and \$16 for seniors and those younger than 12. A \$5 discount is available to active military members with ID and their families for the Saturday matinee (available only at the box office an hour before the performance).

Tickets are available at libertyastoria.showare.com. For more information, call 503-861-1971.

Do your kids a favor.

Make your funeral, cremation or cemetery plans in advance. We can help.



Ocean View
Funeral & Cremation Services

Serving the area since 2008

1213 Franklin Ave., Astoria
503 338-7200

www.OceanViewAstoria.com



Brian Dutton, Owner