

Making plans for the weekend? Make them in Aiken, and we've made it easy for you! We've compiled a list of community events for you so that you can come for the weekend and have something – sometimes MULTIPLE things - to do each day you're here. There is truly something for everyone!

We hope that you enjoy our beautiful city. Once you've attended your event, please come to Downtown Aiken to shop and dine. For more information on Downtown Aiken, please visit www.downtownaiken.com.

M'Aiken Plans for Thursday, December 15 – Sunday, December 18

1. **[Christmas at Aiken County Historical Museum](#)**

Now – December 24

An Over the Top Christmas of trees, trees and more trees decorated for the season. Open Tues-Fri 10a-5p; Sat-Sun - 2p-5p. Call 803-642-2015 for more info. 433 Newberry Street / Aiken, SC 29801

2. **[Christmas in Hopelands](#)**

Now – December 26

The 20th annual Christmas in Hopelands will be held at Hopelands Gardens on 15-23 and 26 from 6pm to 9:30 pm. The gardens will be illuminated with over 100,000 lights during this event. This walk-through exhibit features over 1.5 miles of lighted pathways and holiday displays. In addition to the light exhibit, many special events will take place each evening. For more information, call 642-7631.

3. **["Best Christmas Pageant Ever" at Aiken Community Playhouse](#)**

December 16 - 17

By: Barbara Robinson; Directed by: John Lewis

December 6 & 17 at 8pm; December 17 at 3pm

Everyone agreed that the six Herdman kids were the worst kids in the world. They lied, they stole, they hit little kids, they talked dirty, and even the girls smoked cigars. Sunday School was a safe haven for the other children because the Herdmans never went there. But when the Herdmans show up one Sunday looking for chocolate cake, they hear about the

Christmas pageant and decide they want to take part. To the dismay of everyone involved, the Herdmans land the main parts in the play. Although everyone expects a disaster, the Herdmans bring a fresh interpretation to the Christmas story, a story they had never heard before.

www.aikencommunityplayhouse.com or (803) 648-1438

4. **Aiken Civic Ballet presents The Nutcracker**

December 16 & 17 at 7pm at December 18 at 2pm

USCA Etherredge Center

Cost: \$20 for adults; \$15 for students and seniors

5. **Aiken Women's Club presents "A Dickens of a Christmas Victorian Dinner"**

December 17 at 6:30pm

Admission includes a complimentary glass of champagne or non-alcoholic wassail and a cash wine and champagne bar. The feast will be prepared by Chef Jim Canepa. Charles and Mrs. Dickens--Steve and Zee Homoki--will give readings from Dickens' "A Christmas Carol." Black tie is optional but a coat and tie are required. Aiken County Historical Museum

Tickets: \$50/person – Eula Leaber (803) 644-1224

6. **Christmas in the Quarters at Redcliffe Plantation**

December 17 from 1pm - 4pm

This event explores the holidays at Redcliffe Plantation from the perspective of the enslaved women, men and children who were owned by the Hammond family. Participants will be guided through the slave quarters and hear stories about 19th century Christmas rituals. Five categories are presented that highlight important aspects of the holiday season for Hammond's slaves. The cost is \$10 per adult and \$8.50 for seniors and children ages 6 through 16. Children under 5 admitted free. For more information, call (803) 827-1473.

7. **Aiken Historic Tour**

December 17 at 10:00am (Last tour of the year)

Experience Aiken's grace, charm and elegance during this 2 hour guided tour aboard our "climate controlled" trolley. On the tour, you'll see and hear about...

- Historic Homes and Churches
- Equestrian Sites
- The Civil War's Battle of Aiken

- The Live Oak Canopy on South Boundary
- A guided walk through Hopelands Gardens, the Thoroughbred Racing Hall of Fame & Museum (weather permitting).
- And much more...

NOTES:

- * Please arrive at least 15 minutes early.
- * During the summer months the trolley is not in use due to the limited cooling available on the trolley.
- * Trolley is not guaranteed at any time.
- * Advance tickets are sold through the Weeks Center at 1700 Whiskey Rd. Call 803-642-7631. Reservations are highly recommended as tours are often sold out.
- * Departure is the site of the Aiken Visitors Center and Train Museum. Arrive early to view the museum prior to departure. Museum opens at 9:00 am.

GROUP TOURS: If you are interested in a tour Monday through Friday for a group, please contact 803-293-7846 for special rates and availability (availability is VERY limited, please call as far in advance as possible).

PRIVATE TOURS: If you are interested in a private tour for up to 3 or 4 people, please contact our head Tour Guide, Ms. Judith Burgess at 803-649-6608 for availability and pricing.

8. **DuPont Planetarium Shows**

December 17 at 6pm, 7pm & 8pm

'Tis the Season is a spectacular show about the season that holds some of the warmest and brightest celebrations of the year. It is also the coldest and darkest of seasons. Tracing the development of many of the world's endearing holiday customs, and how they involve lighting up the winter season, we portray everything from the burning Yule log and sparkling Christmas tree lights to the lighting of the Menorah and luminarias. *'Tis the Season* also recounts the historical religious and cultural customs practiced during the time of winter solstice including Christian, Jewish, Celtic, Nordic, Roman, Egyptian and Hopi. The show also takes a look at some of our more light-hearted seasonal traditions: gift-giving, kissing under the mistletoe, songs about lords a-leaping and ladies dancing, the custom of decking the halls with greenery and candles, and Santa Claus. Naturally, there is some astronomy in *'Tis the Season*. We catch a few Northern winter constellations. We illustrate why we even have seasons by demonstrating the Sun's path across the sky throughout the year, and the Earth's tilt and orbit around the Sun. And, of course, we explore the

possible astronomical explanations for a "Star over Bethlehem" including comets, meteors, novae, supernovae, and planetary conjunctions. This show, produced by Lochness Productions, is narrated by Noah Adams, host of National Public Radio's "All Things Considered".

Tickets are \$4.50 for adults, \$3.50 for Seniors, \$2.50 for 4K-12 and \$1.00 for USCA Students, Faculty and Staff with proper ID.

DuPont Planetarium, Ruth Patrick Science Education Center, 471 University Pkwy, Aiken.

For more information 803-641-3654 or

<http://rpsec.usca.edu/planetarium/>

9. **[For a full list of Holiday Events](#)**

Please visit: <http://www.aikenstandard.com/Holiday/1130-December-Events-Calendar>

10. **[Registration for Beginner's Adult Crochet Classes at Harrison-Caver Park](#)**

Open now – December 30

Classes: Tuesday & Thursday at 10:00 am beginning January 10th - 26th
4181 Augusta Road / Clearwater, SC 29822

Learn how to crochet like a pro in this 6 class series taught by Barbara Sue Brodie NeedleWorks' very own Patti Pittman! The fee is \$45 per person. Classes will be taught at Harrison-Caver Park on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 10:00 am beginning January 10 and ending January 26. You can register at the park December 5th-30th. Space is limited so register today! For more information: (803) 593-4698

11. **[Weekend Entertainment](#)**

December 15 - 18

➤ *The Polo Tavern*

Thursday - "Thank You Thursday" \$3 House liquor for customer

appreciation! Live acoustic music by Kenny George from 9:30pm-1:20am!

Friday - Live entertainment with Bamboo from 9:30pm-1:30am! \$3 Flavored Vodkas!

Saturday - Live entertainment with Shameless Dave from 9:30pm-1:30am!

\$3 House Rum!

➤ *One Hundred Laurens*

Thursday - DJ Jerry Feels Good from 9:30pm-1:30am

Friday - Feel Good Friday with DJ Jerry Feels Good from 9:30pm-1:30am.

\$3 Flavored Vodkas

Saturday - Now, Dance Baby! with DJ Kenny Ray & greatwhitefunk from 9:30pm-1:30am! \$3 House Rum & \$2 Jello shots!

➤ *Stables Restaurant at Rose Hill*

Thursday: Live dance music with Preston, Weston & Sandra at 8:00pm

➤ *The Willcox*

Thursday: 4 Cats in the Doghouse from 7:00pm – 9:00pm

Sunday: Mike Frost Jazz Band from 6:00pm – 9:00pm.

➤ *Harry's Local Bar*

Friday: Karaoke every Friday night from 9:00pm – 1:00am

➤ *The Griffin*

Thursday: College Night: \$10 Party Bands

Friday: \$7 domestic pitchers Two-for-\$5 Jager; Live DJ

Saturday: Open at Noon Happy Hour all day until 8pm All college football games on with sound.

Monday-Friday: Happy Hour 4pm – 8pm \$2 domestics, \$3 imports, \$3 wells
Now featuring blackened tilapia, grilled chicken and 12oz_ New York Strip Steak

NOW SERVING LUNCH! Lunch can be delivered to downtown Aiken locations.

➤ *Hilton Garden Inn*

Thursday: Trivia Night begins at 7:00pm

Friday: Fiesta Friday

12. ***Aiken Center for the Arts December Exhibitions***

Aiken Center for the Arts (ACA) announces new exhibitions in November with Amanda Carder, Annie Nielsen, and the “T” is the Season Invitational” exhibition by ACA members. The exhibition will be held through December 29 in the Main Galleries. For more information, call the Center at (803) 641-9094 or visit www.aikencenterforthearts.org online.

13. ***December Artists Guild Exhibits***

Aiken artist Ron Rappoport will present a solo exhibit in the Aiken Artist Guild Gallery at the Aiken Center for the Arts during the month of December.

A special December art exhibit will be presented at the Hitchcock Health Center. The exhibit will feature all the Aiken Artist Guild members who have exhibited as artist of the month during 2011. The artist will include: Gwen Power, Sharon Taylor Padgett, Melanie Miller, Ann LeMay, Ray Kent, Ruth Larkin, Ron Buttler, Dale Chew, Nanette Langer and Marcia Bergtholdt. The Center is located at, 690 Medical Park Drive in Aiken. Hours are: Mon-Fri, 5 am-9 pm, Sat. 8 am - 3 pm and Sunday, 1-6 pm. The exhibit is free and open to the public.

14. *December Exhibition at Aiken Thoroughbred Racing Hall of Fame*

December 1 – 31

Rochelle (Cissie) Levy Show of Mixed Media

Levy's artwork will be available for purchase with a portion of the sales proceeds donated to the Hall of Fame.

For more information: Lisa Hall (803) 642-7650 or

halloffame@cityofaikensc.gov