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Press Release

December 4, 2008

LIRR

IMMEDIATE

Experience the Magic of Dickens in December

MTA LIRR Port Jeff Village Ticket Package Gets You There

Take the MTA Long Island Rail Road to a Londonesque town of the 1840's as the 13th Annual Charles Dickens Festival commences in the heart of downtown Port Jefferson at the First Presbyterian Church on Main and South Street. The fun begins on Friday, December 5th and continues through Sunday, December 7th. Relax, ride and save money too, with the LIRR's Port Jeff Package Ticket.

For a twist, this year the Dickens Festival is putting parts of the world on stage with winter songs sung in English, Hebrew, Spanish, Swedish and German. If you have great expectations, they will be met by a capella performances by holiday choirs, harmony groups, children's choruses and local musicians.

Area restaurants will continue the tradition of offering Victorian-themed dinners throughout the weekend. Christ Church Episcopal on Barnum Avenue will open its doors for the annual St. Nicholas Inn, which offers an assortment of soups and breads served in humble Dickens style. Crafts and gifts from around the world will also be showcased. Proceeds from gift sales will go to artists in Africa and Asia.

On Saturday December 6th at 1:00 PM, a hilarious version of "A Christmas Carol" will be recited in a record-breaking 15 minutes. Arrive promptly at the First Baptist Church.

While in Port Jefferson, don't miss East Main Street when it is transformed into Dickens Alley on Saturday, December 6th and Sunday, December 7th. Hear the happy clatter of hooves and wagon wheels with a horse and carriage ride, do some holiday shopping (with free gift wrapping), or watch costumed ragamuffins roam the streets, singing and playing among many other costumed figures you'll recognize from Dickens literature.

Attending the Charles Dickens Festival via the LIRR will be the best of times, not the worst of times you will have this holiday season. The event is sponsored by the Greater Port Jefferson Arts Council. For complete details about the Charles Dickens Festival, visit www.gpjac.org/dickens.08

The LIRR's Special Port Jeff Package Ticket to the festival is \$20 for adults and \$5.50 for children ages 5 to 11.

The package includes discounted round-trip rail tickets to/from Port Jefferson Station, two Lindy's Taxi stubs and an "LIRR Port Jeff Customer Coupon"; this coupon has no value but may be accepted by merchants for special offers. Pick up a participating merchant flyer at the station.

Getting There

Take any off-peak Port Jefferson Branch train to Port Jefferson Station. Pick up a walking map at the station or while in town. Lindy's Taxi will be at the station - present stub to driver for each trip. Please call one half hour in advance for return trip to station or for large groups: 631-473-0707

To explore more of Port Jefferson, visit www.portjeffchamber.com or call 631-473-1414.