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Looking In On 'Lollipop'

Lights illuminate the Chamber Park Community Center, which used to be an old church, for the annual Lollipop Lane event. Hundreds of children meet Mr. and Mrs. Claus at Lollipop Lane each year. **See story on page 7A.** (Heather Holm/The Journal)

Historical Society's Lollipop Lane Enchants

By **HEATHER HOLM**

Journal & Topics Reporter

Hop on down to Lollipop Lane in Wheeling starting this weekend to meet with Santa and friends.

The Wheeling Historical Society presents its 37th annual Lollipop Lane from Saturday, Dec. 6 until Sunday, Dec. 14 in the Chamber Park Community Center, 251 N. Wolf Rd.

Hours are from 2 to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday and 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Children are invited to meet with Mr. and Mrs. Claus and take a free picture with Santa. Children also receive reindeer food, a coloring book and a lollipop. Everyone receives



Patti Steilen, Wheeling Historical Society curator, shows off the hard work volunteers put in to setup Lollipop Lane. (Journal photo)

a raffle ticket for a chance to win one of four gifts.

Historical society volunteers will sell homemade cookies and a historical society calendar during the event.

"Around 1,500 people walk through the door each year, which adds up to about 750 kids," said Elaine Simpson,

village clerk and chairperson for Lollipop Lane. Simpson is also a Wheeling Historical Society director.

Decorations inside the community center, which used to be a church, include a penguin display, Christmas trees, old toys and more.

"It is an old-fashioned

setup," Simpson said. "It looks like you are in a Winter Wonderland. When the trees are lit and everything, it looks very special."

Volunteers from the historical society and Wheeling Park District spent time this week hanging decorations. They also help bring in children

during the event and get them situated. Mr. and Mrs. Claus are also volunteers with the Wheeling Historical Society.

"It is all volunteer help," Simpson added.

The event is sponsored by the historical society, park district and other local businesses.