Concerts, tours, ballet highlight season

If you haven’t yet caught the holiday spirit, perhaps you need a jump-start from all the county has to offer. Tour some vintage homes dressed in their holiday finery; hear a first-class orchestra strike up traditional melodies; or attend a classic ballet that captures the magic of the season.

There are also other special events that celebrate the seven days of Hanukkah, and a night in Millville designed to entertain and gently point you to the benefits of small-town shopping.

Here’s a rundown of the holiday-themed events taking place the first half of December:

Bridgeton Holiday House Tour
When: Saturday, Dec. 1
What time: Two tours, 1-5 p.m. and 3-7 p.m.
Admission: $20 per person
Features: The tour covers 25 historic homes, churches, shops and public buildings located along a half-mile stretch of East and West Commerce Street. All sites are on the National Register of Historic Places.

A free horse-drawn trolley ride will be available on the west side of town, and there will be free parking throughout the tour area.

Clockwise, from top left: One of the rooms in the home of Don and Pam Burton, whose 1775 house is part of the “Christmas in Greenwich” tour Dec. 9; five alumni dancers in the Vineland Regional Dance Company’s “Nutcracker Ballet” set for Dec. 15 and 16; and the Bay-Atlantic Symphony prepares for its annual Holiday Concert Dec. 8 and 9.

Victorian caroling will be performed by the Original Off Broad Street Players.
Contact: Bridgeton Main Street at 856-453-8130 or (cell) 973-864-4001 (Carola Hartley, (Continued on page 2)
Arts and history combine in holiday events

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Executive Director)

Christmas in Greenwich House Tour
When: Sunday, Dec. 9
What time: Noon to 5 p.m.
Admission: $10 ($5 for children 12 and under) Tickets at the Gibbon House, 960 Ye Greate St., Greenwich
Features: Tours will be conducted through the town’s historic homes and the Christmas Artisans’ Market at the Morris Goodwin School, where the PTO will provide lunch and goodies. Gingerbread houses will be on display at the Old Stone Schoolhouse, and the Gibbon House will be decked in all its Christmas finery with fireplace cooking.

The Vineland Regional Dance Company’s 35th Annual Nutcracker Ballet
When: Dec. 15 and 16
Where: Guaracini Performing Arts Center, Cumberland County College, Vineland
What time: Saturday, Dec. 15: 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. (two shows), Sunday, Dec. 16: 2 p.m.
Admission: Front orchestra, front mezzanine: $35
Back orchestra, back mezzanine: $25
Seniors, students, groups of 10 or more: $20 (for back orchestra and back mezzanine only)
Features: Tchaikovsky’s classic ballet has become a favorite among Christmas presentations throughout the world. It is based on E.T.A. Hoffmann’s story “The Nutcracker and the Mouse King” and contains some of the composer’s most famous pieces. Five VRDC alumni, Kelly Bocchetti Millar, Jenna Dannenberger, Brandi Haserick Gaiter, Elizabeth Tkaczynski and Melissa Carabese, will participate.
Tickets: Web site, vrdc.org, or call 856-691-6059. Also available at the door.

Holiday Concert, Bay Atlantic Symphony
When: Saturday, Dec. 8, 8 p.m.; Dec. 9, 2 p.m.
Admission: $25 at the door, or call the Guaracini box office at 856-692-8499 or Stockton PAC at 609-652-9000; no charge for subscribers.
Features: Johann Pachelbel’s Canon, Ottorino Respighi’s Trittico Botticelliano, Josef and Johann Strauss, Jr.’s Pizzicato Polka, Russell Steinberg’s Lights On!—A Chanukah Medley; as well as Johann Sebastian Bach’s Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring and Orchestral Suite No. 3.

Millville’s 12th Annual Soul of the Season
When: Saturday, Dec. 8
What time: 6 to 9 p.m.
Where: High Street, Millville (Downtown area)
Features: Horse and carriage rides every 15 minutes. Tickets go on sale at 5:30 p.m. at High & Sassafras and at the Village on High. Adults, $5; children 17 and under free. At the Glasstown Plaza, Off Broad Street Players will present a holiday performance, and the Vineland Regional Dance Company will present “Nutcracker Ballet” vignettes. Also, strolling Victorian carolers, free trolley, Santa’s Workshop at the Village on High and a 9 p.m. performance at the Levoy Theatre of the Allan Harris Band, “Nat King Cole Christmas.” Tickets $24.50-$19.50; visit levoy.net.

Hanukkah Celebrations, Jewish Federation of Cumberland, Gloucester & Salem Counties:
Annual Meeting with Hanukkah Dessert Reception—Sunday, Dec. 9, 3 p.m., Beth Israel Congregation, 1015 E. Park Ave., Vineland. The Trudy Gordon Jewish Communal Service Award will be presented to Harry Furman, Esq. No charge.
Lights and Latkes—Monday, Dec. 10, 6 p.m., Sons of Jacob Congregation, 321 W. Grape St., Vineland. No charge. RSVP by Wednesday, Dec. 5.
Menorah Lighting and Snacks—Tuesday, Dec. 11, 6 p.m., Historic Garten Road Shul, 612 Garten Rd., near Deerfield Township. No charge. RSVP by Wednesday, Dec. 5.
Hanukkah and Kaballah—Wednesday, Dec. 12, 1 p.m., Beth Israel Congregation, 1015 E. Park Ave., Vineland. ACT (Adult Culture & Trips) Luncheon, featuring Rabbi Yisroel Rapoport of Sons of Jacob Congregation. $8 per person. RSVP by Wednesday, Dec. 5.
Wheaton Hanukkah Celebration—Sunday, Dec. 16, 2 p.m., Wheaton Arts and Cultural Center, 1501 Glasstown Rd., Millville. No charge. RSVP by Wednesday, Dec. 5. For reservations or more information: 856-696-4445