

A SECOND FRONT PAGE

Politics of the past

Presidents come to life in 5th annual 'Revealed' tour

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DOVER — A few days after voting in municipal elections crowds flocked to the McConnell Center to take part in some more politics.

Only this time there was no voting involved — only sitting back and getting history lessons on past political visits to the city.

Dover Main Street's "Revealed" event, Presidents & Politicians: Historic Visits to Dover kicked off its second weekend of politically inspired performances on Friday night. The 90-minute tours featuring 15 scenes will continue tonight from 6 to 9 p.m. and wrap up Sunday afternoon from 2 to 5 p.m.

After experiencing a successful weekend last week, officials have even higher hopes for this weekend.

"I expect we will see more people this weekend," said Cathy Beaudoin, library director and one of the event's producers. "Now that this year's elections are over, I'm hoping people will want to see past elections."

Although, Beaudoin didn't know how big the crowd was for Friday's tours, she said there seemed to be more children than at past events.

"It's great to see the kids learning, but having fun while learning," she said.

Also having fun were the actors playing the political characters. Patrick McElhiney of Dover Main Street, who played President Franklin Pierce, said playing the former president from New Hampshire has not only been educational but also helped him improve his speech-giving skills.

"I can tell the way I say something affects how the crowd acts, with a higher tone I get a better response," he said.

During his scene, McElhiney educated the crowd about how difficult it was to be a Democratic president in the



John Huff/Staff photographer

PATRICK MCELHINEY, left, portrays President Frankin Pearce with George Poulin playing the role of friend James Mason during Dover Main Street's fifth annual "Revealed" event, Presidents & Politicians, on Friday.

1850s. He is ranked fourth on the list of worst presidents and the man who succeeded him, James Buchanan, ranked just ahead of him. George Poulin, a member of the Portsmouth Historical Society, played George Mason and said playing these political characters gives one a unique sense of energy. "It's very energetic to have a lot of people in one room reacting to what I'm saying, he said.

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