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A Message from The Editor



It's that time of year we all look forward to. My favorite parts of the season are decorations, music and holiday food—especially cookies. Some of the pastry recipes handed down through my family will always be my favorites and I hope to continue the tradition.

Another thing I love is putting a Santa hat on my dog and taking our annual Christmas picture. Although she doesn't like it much, it's fun and the result is worth it. After enlisting the help of others to distract her, a lot of patience and numerous attempts, we end up with an unforgettable picture. Comparing each photo to prior years is a trip down memory lane.

While assembling articles for this Holiday issue, it was really fun to learn about some of our close-to-home destinations and activities. We found numerous possibilities for unique gifts for everyone on your list.

Gathering with friends and family is always expected over the holidays, but discovering new places and making new memories is always exciting.

Everyone here at the Compass Ohio family wishes you and your family a safe and happy holiday season.

Douglas M. Kish, M.A.
Editor

Our Mission at Compass Media is striving to be a leader in Fitness, Health, and Recreation information that educates and inspires readers through print, web, mobile, social media events, and events in Ohio and beyond.

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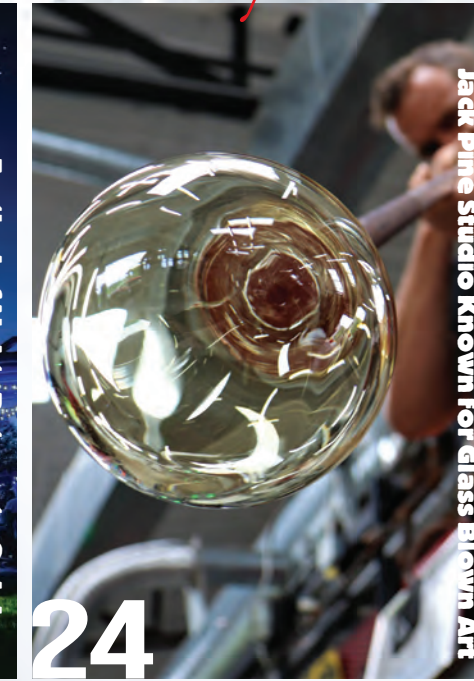
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Festival of Lights Returns to Oglebay for Another Exciting Season

By Candy S. Collins, BS

For 37 years, Oglebay's Festival of Lights has become an annual tradition for many families. Each year thousands flock to Oglebay for their Festival of Lights event. Parents and grandparents alike bring their families from near and far to share in their heartwarming memories filled with nostalgia. As you drive through the stunning historic grounds of Oglebay Park in West Virginia you will be in awe of the millions of twinkling lights.

"We have over 90 displays that span across six miles of roadway. We are preparing now for the 2022-23 season. It looks to be a really magical experience," stated Bob Peckenpaugh, President & CEO of Wheeling Park Commission.

When you enter Oglebay's "The Hilltop," your lifetime of memories begins as you are greeted by a 70-foot Welcome Tree featuring thousands of lights that combine color, music, light, and animation. It rises seven stories into the stunning night sky allowing for an amazing photo opportunity. Once you have finished admiring the Welcome Tree, roll down the windows and allow all your senses to take in every moment of over 90 larger-than-life light displays.

The six-mile drive includes an array of sparkling tunnel lights as the music fills the park and filters into your vehicle. Watch as displays come to life through sound, motion, and lights that shine from bright to faint and so much more. Children will be wide-eyed and cheering as they see Cinderella in her carriage, dinosaurs roaring, and clowns juggling, to name a few. The fun is not just for the kids, but for everyone who is young at heart!

"Oglebay's Festival of Lights is a holiday tradition that I look forward to every year," said Christy Bennett, a visitor to the event. "My dad had a heart attack almost nine years ago and the lights bring joy and smiles to my family's faces. We have been attending the festival since 2015 and my favorite part is seeing which new light displays are on the map every year. I look forward to enjoying time with my family and bringing in the Christmas season with music, lights, and fun."

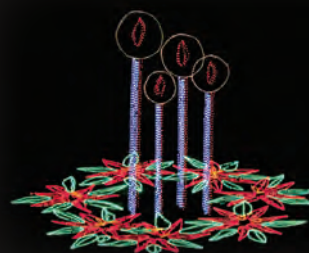
There is much anticipation for this year's additions and redesign as Schenk Lake will have all new theming, including an illuminated globe trees wrapped to resemble candy canes, size Nativity home outside House and The Good Zoo Holiday Light Experience, express Forest, On the lake, size Nativity home outside House and The Good Zoo Holiday Light Experience, express Forest, On the drive into Wilson Lodge, you will encounter a meteor shower of lights-sure to bring brightness to one's facial expression. And the holiday dinner show returns this year in Glessner Auditorium with a new production from the West Virginia Public Theatre.

Jolly Old St. Nick kicks this year's festival off on November 10 by flipping the light switch illuminating the park: Oglebay's Festival of Lights will run from dusk to dawn every day from November 10, 2022, to January 8, 2023.

Be sure to stop at the Mansion Museum during the day to tour what was once the home of Cleveland industrialist, Earl W. Oglebay in the 1900s and enjoy each room decorated lavishly for the holidays. In the evening watch the mansion come to life through choreographed holiday hits and animated lights.

Oglebay's Festival of Lights is more than just a drive-through of animated lights and music. It is about families and friends coming together to share in the joy of the holiday season, creating memories, starting traditions, keeping traditions, and sharing laughter.

Your experience doesn't have to stop at just a drive through the glowing grounds. There are special holiday lodging packages to ensure your visit is full. Packages may include breakfast, entertainment, refreshments, gingerbread house decorating, elf hunts, and breakfast with Santa. There is a package sure to fit your needs.



To ensure the Festival of Lights shines brightly for years to come, a \$30 donation per vehicle is suggested. Every \$30 donation will receive a new Oglebay rewards book with more than \$500 in money-saving coupons and a pass valid through January 8, 2023.

For more information on the Festival of Lights and lodging visit www.oglebay.com.

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FIND UNIQUE GIFTS AT The Frog Shop

By Kathy Ray

Have you started your Christmas shopping? Cannot think of what to buy for those on your list? Take a deep breath and hop over to The Frog Shop. This unique gift shop is obscurely located at 437 Applegrove St NW in North Canton, Ohio. Started in the spring of 2020 as an online-only store featuring frog-themed gifts, it soon jumped to brick and mortar.

Among all the frogs you will also find the occasional product featuring turtles, Koi, Border Collies, and water lilies, to name a few. Whether your shopping list includes men, women, or children, you will find something for everyone. The Frog Shop offers clothing, home goods, food items, outdoor décor, jewelry, books, cards, seasonal items and children's books, toys, and clothing in its newly expanded store at 437 Applegrove St NW in North Canton, Ohio.

A large number of our goods are made in Ohio. Local artisans provide wood working, sewing, crocheting and even coffee roasting to The Frog Shop. If it is not made in Ohio, the store strives to find merchandise made in the USA. The remaining products available focus on unique and/or handmade from other countries, such as our felt ornaments from the UK and our handmade rattles supporting Fair Trade.

The Frog Shop celebrated their one year anniversary on October 2, 2022. Besides more than doubling its floor space, the store will now be open four days a week. You

can now shop on Tuesday and Thursday from 10 am to 5 pm, Wednesday 2 pm to 7 pm, and Saturday 10 am to 4 pm. Some Saturdays we attend area events. The best way to stay informed is to follow us on Facebook @thefrogshopofficialpage.

Our pad is always open online at www.thefrogshop.net You can choose free local delivery, curbside pickup, or shipping is available throughout the US.

The Frog Shop realizes everyone is hopping in various directions throughout the week. Just like frogs come in assorted options, so do your shopping needs. That is why we also offer shopping-by-appointment by calling 330-833-FROG to schedule a time that is convenient for you. Make it a private girl's shopping spree or bring the kids for a fun experience.

We hope you will hop by some time and allow us to make your gift searching, whether it is for Christmas or just because, a fun, relaxed time. Give gifts year-round that no one will ever "froget."



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SARTA Adopts "Tap and Go"

ELECTRONIC PAYMENT SYSTEM

By Leo Jennings

The Stark Area Regional Transit Authority (SARTA), long a national leader in the development and deployment of innovative transportation technology, recently rolled out a new paperless "tap and go" electronic payment system that will make traveling to the thousands of destinations the system serves easier and more convenient than ever before.

Free "SCORE Cards" are at the heart of the exciting new way to purchase passes and tickets for SARTA's fixed routes, ProLine on-demand ADA service, the Success Express, and student discount program. SCORE Cards were made available to the public in July. "Touch Down Cards," a non-reloadable, limited use card will be added to the paperless lineup in the near future. Both may be obtained at the system's transit centers or ordered online at sartaonline.com/tapcard.

According to SARTA CEO Kirt Conrad, the new cards, which utilize radio frequency identification (RFID) technology, will significantly improve and enhance the passenger experience and enable the system to go completely paperless beginning January 1, 2023.

"Our plastic SCORE Cards are reloadable and will score lots of points with frequent riders," Conrad said. "Once a customer creates an account online or at one of our transit centers and loads or reloads their card with fares or stored cash value it literally becomes their ticket to ride SARTA."

"Passengers won't have to purchase and keep track of paper passes, tickets, or transfers, fumble for them in their pocket, wallet, or purse when they board our vehicles, or hand them to their driver," Conrad continued. "With a SCORE Card they can tap our new fare RFID fare boxes, say 'hi' to their driver, take their seat, sit back, relax, and enjoy their trip. The new system really makes riding easier than ever."

"While the SCORE Card is the perfect choice for people who ride a lot, we created the Touchdown Card to ensure that occasional passengers and visitors to the area can experience all the advantages of the tap and go system," said Conrad. "For example, people who visit Canton for the Pro Football Hall of Fame ceremonies will be able to purchase a Touchdown Card and use SARTA to travel to and from the Hall during their stay. Like the SCORE Card it's a real winner."

Conrad also noted that the new electronic payment system will reduce the environmental impact associated with the making, printing, and disposing of paper tickets and passes. "We're proud of the fact that SCORE, like our award winning zero-emission hydrogen fuel cell bus program, will advance SARTA's commitment to sustainability."

In addition to the SCORE and Touch Down cards, riders will still be able to use the free EZfare mobile app and exact change to purchase tickets and passes.



SARTAonline.com/tapcard

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 Nov. 25 Home for the Holidays, Orrville, featuring Ice Carvings and Food Trucks
 Dec. 2 Churches Walking Tour, Downtown Wooster
 Dec. 2-4 Dalton Holidays Festival, "Coolest Parade" on Saturday
 Dec. 3-4 Smithville Historical Society Christmas in the Village. The Village is transformed into early Victorian Christmas glamour.



<https://www.wccvb.com/>

Window Wonderland



Visit MainStreetWooster.org for details

November 18th, 2022

3:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Downtown Wooster, Ohio

The true kick off to the Holiday Season is back again! Window Wonderland is the most magical event of the year, and it's sure to bring smiles to the faces of everyone. Stores compete for Best Window Display prizes. Revelry abounds around the lighting of the giant Christmas tree. Best of all, Santa arrives off of the roof in a fire truck to hear each child's wish list! Free attractions include horse and carriage rides, live reindeer, holiday treats, activities, and so much more.



Holiday Window Wonderland

By Candy S. Collins, BS

Historic Downtown Wooster, Ohio, brings the small-town magic of the holidays through Window Wonderland. It is an event that will bring out your holiday spirit the second you step out onto the beautiful streets. Storefronts and businesses decorate their windows with holiday cheer as they compete for the Best Window Display. Santa arrives off the roof in a fire truck, bringing a magical moment as the children all cheer and jump with excitement in anticipation of telling Santa their wish list.

As you make your way throughout the Historic Downtown, you can enjoy free attractions including horse and carriage rides, live reindeer, holiday treats, activities and so much more. Be sure to stop at the shops to find that perfect and unique gift for the special person on your holiday list.

"Window Wonderland is an iconic event that my husband and I look forward to each year," said Kerri Manley-Still, Main Street Wooster Project Coordinator. "It does not matter how old one is, the spirit of Christmas is alive in the hearts of those in Historic Downtown Wooster - it is sure to bring a smile to anyone. If you have not experienced this event, it is a must!"

Be sure to mark your calendar as the holiday Window Wonderland season will kick off on November 18 from 3-9 pm. For more information on dates and times, visit www.mainstreetwooster.org.



Wayne County Holiday Happenings

Orrville, Ohio, kicks off their holiday season with "Home for the Holidays" on November 26 from 5 - 8 pm. Enjoy holiday sights and sounds with friends and neighbors walking through this beautiful small town that features ice carvings and food trucks. Bring the little ones out to see Santa as well.

The Dalton Holidays Festival is December 3-4 with the theme of Gingerbread Kisses and Christmas Wishes. Enjoy food, family activities, crowning the Royalty, and the "Coolest Parade in Ohio." For more information, visit facebook.com/daltonfestival/.

Take a step back into time through one of Ohio's small villages, Smithville, as it transforms into early Victorian

Christmas glamor December 3-4. Bring the whole family for a time to visit St. Nicholas, drink hot chocolate, eat cookies, admire the tree lighting, listen to the music fill the village and more. For more information on times and events, visit www.sohchs.org.

"This is such a great time to visit Wayne County," said Martha Starkey, Executive Director of the Wayne County Convention and Visitors Bureau. "There are many opportunities to have a 'memory maker' family experience during the holidays."

For more information on holiday events, places to dine and stay in and around Wayne County, visit www.wccvb.com.

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Family Traditions...

If you're like many families, it's a family traditional to load up the kids and hit the road each holiday season to look at Holiday Decorations and Christmas Lights. If this sounds familiar, well we have got the road trip for you this year! Check out the new Sandusky County, "Rock and Awe" Holiday Light show, located at the Sandusky County Courthouse in Fremont, Ohio. The show will run nightly from Friday, November 25th, to New Year's Day, 6:00 pm to 11:00 pm. This show is a collaborative project between the Sandusky County Visitors Bureau, The Sandusky County Chamber of Commerce, the Sandusky County Commissioners and our premier sponsor, Croghan Colonial Bank. This is a fully immersive light show that will synchronize lights and props to your favorite holiday songs. Music will be played on speakers outside the building as well as broadcast on a shortwave band radio station that cars can tune to as they park to watch the show from their vehicles. "The best way to describe the show is a 'Trans-Siberian Orchestra' concert on our County Courthouse", says Peggy Courtney of the Sandusky County Visitors Bureau. "We wanted a FREE holiday activity to bring families together in a festive environment where new traditions and memories can be made!"

While visiting Fremont, there are so many other things to do for the holidays, including the Drive-Thru Winter Wonderland at the Sandusky County Fairgrounds, located at 901 Rawson Avenue. Their drive-thru lights are December 8-22, 2022 from 6:00 to 8:00 pm. Fremont is also home to our 19th President, Rutherford B. Hayes and his twenty-five acre estate known as Spiegel Grove. There are multiple events taking place this year including the "Lights of Spiegel Grove", the "Hayes Home Holidays" tours of his historic mansion, Sleigh Rides through Spiegel Grove and more.

There are also wonderful restaurants, boutique shops, pubs and sports bars and of course, a beautifully decorated downtown district. For more about events taking place in the area, visit: SANDUSKYCOUNTY.ORG/calendar.

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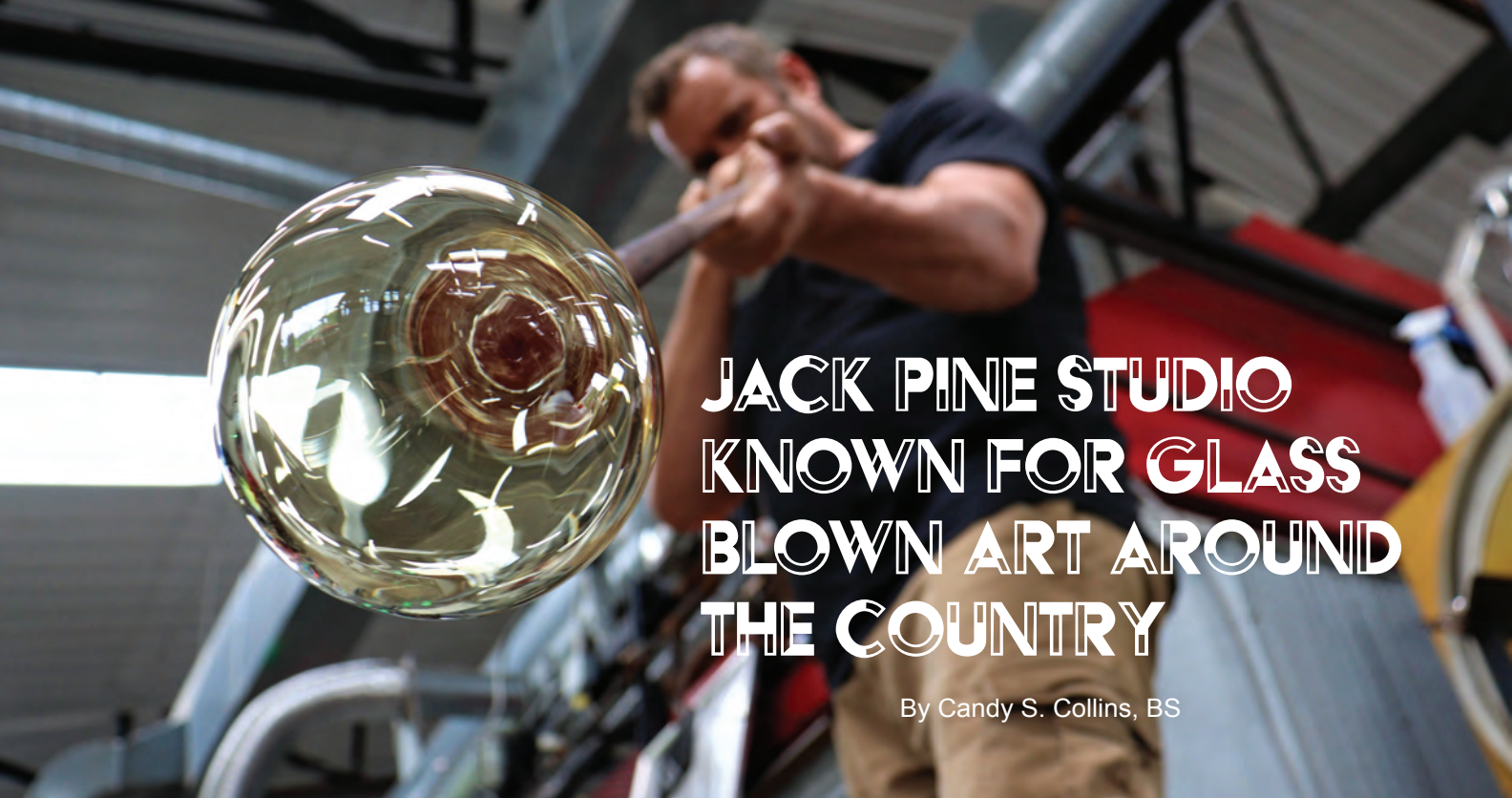
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JACK PINE STUDIO KNOWN FOR GLASS BLOWN ART AROUND THE COUNTRY

By Candy S. Collins, BS

Artist Jack Pine is a renowned glass blower known for his glass pumpkins and other exquisite pieces of finely crafted art over the past three decades. With the holidays around the corner, this glass art makes for a perfect one-of-kind holiday gift for your loved one.

Pine is inherently drawn to nature and has always been inspired by organic form. His work is motivated by his surroundings to influence the use of highly saturated colors and precious metals incorporated with molten glass. He was also inspired by both of his parents as they were artists themselves. His mother was a skilled painter and sculptor, and his father pursued his own inventions.

"I grew up on a small Southern Ohio farm just outside Circleville. Living here had a profound influence on my artwork. I absolutely love all the beautiful colors, textures, and shapes

found in nature around me," stated Pine, Owner/Artist of Jack Pine Studios. "Circleville has the largest pumpkin festival in the country, so it was almost destiny for me as a glass artist to make glass pumpkins. I've been striving to make the best glass pumpkins for over 30 years."

Pine received a scholarship to study glass at Columbus College of Art & Design allowing him the opportunity to follow his passion for art. After finishing college, he headed west and worked in the famous glass houses of Seattle, Washington. He then moved to the stunning mountains of Colorado and opened his own glass studio. Here is where the famous blown glass pumpkin was created. He also began traveling around the country, doing shows. Art enthusiasts can find his work in stores like museum gift shops across the country.

After 15 years, he returned to his hometown and built a new glass studio in the beautiful heart of Hockings Hills, Ohio. Jack Pine Studio opened in December, 2017 and is about a mile from the Rock House, one of Ohio's famous destinations. The studio also features artwork from talented artists from across the country. You could stumble across metal wall art and table art, glass blown pieces using different techniques leaving each piece to stand on its own merit and art pieces that bring both nature and humanity together as one. The studio offers a variety of stylistic art pieces allowing visitors to purchase a beautiful addition to their home.

When you step into Jack Pine Studio, you are mesmerized by the array of art full of colors, shapes, and sizes. Glass hummingbird feeders, hearts, pumpkins, ornaments, and vases are just a few of the items one will find in the glass gallery. Each piece is unique in style.

During studio hours, you can watch the magic as glassblowers work to transform molten glass into delicate new pieces of art. Artists are available to answer any questions you may have about the process.

Gather your family and friends and schedule a Glass Blowing Workshop at the studio to create your own unique piece of artwork. In each workshop, you will select bits of colored glass and then partner with a glass artist to create a work of art. You will dip a blowpipe with hot glass into your color and shape the glass with advanced tools. Depending on your class, you will blow out a pumpkin or create a colorful paperweight. Your piece of art will be ready for pick-up within two days, or you may have it shipped. Each workshop lasts around 90 minutes and can accommodate up to six people. Private Sessions are also available.

The process involves creating layers of glass using raw materials with synthesized metals and shapes the glass while molten using critical glass-blowing tools. Pine utilizes the famous "Tiffany style" techniques, which create a mother of pearl, iridized, and lustrous appearance with silver and gold permeated throughout the work.

While in a molten state, the glass flows in a liquid form requiring Pine's undivided attention and focus. When cooled, the glass becomes an immovable yet fragile material that is admired all over the world.

"I use intense and primitive methods to create one-of-a-kind glass pieces that are mesmerizing to see during the dance of glass blowing," stated Pine. "After the piece has cooled, it displays craftsmanship and captures light with iridescence and demanding beauty."

For more information on classes, artists, ordering, and studio times, visit www.jackpinestudio.com. Be sure to follow the studio on Facebook for up-to-date happenings at www.facebook.com/jackpinestudio/.



Holiday Happenings in Fairfield County

By Tia Dauterman

Create memories and enjoy a delightful holiday season in Fairfield County. Only 30 minutes south of Columbus, Fairfield County offers visitors an opportunity to see what small town Christmas really means and engage in festivities designed to bring joy to you, your friends, and your family. With so many fun celebrations, you'll surely discover the magic of the season.

Whether you're shopping locally for the perfect gift, checking out decorated homes on the Holiday Spirit Trail, attending merry events, or discovering snowy covered bridges, there's lots of reasons to visit Fairfield County during the holiday season. You can even create your own experiences with curated, themed trails that are available year round.

This holiday season, grab your friends and family to visit any number of our local farms, like Saum Family Farms or Timberpeg Tree Farm, to pick out the perfect tree for you and your home. This is a key activity to kick off the season in Fairfield County.

Once you've selected your tree and Christmas begins to feel like it's right around the corner, you'll want to continue the festive fun by picking up a few things on your gift list. Start your shopping or find stocking-stuffers at the local stores in Downtown Lancaster, Olde Pickerington Village, and across Fairfield County. These shops provide a unique opportunity to find one-of-a-kind gifts that your friends and family will cherish.

Fairfield County's HandMade & HomeGrown and Boutique, Unique, & Antique Shopping Trails are good places to start when searching for holiday gift-giving inspo. The HandMade & HomeGrown Trail features all the shops where you can find locally-sourced, handcrafted items. Similarly, the Boutique, Unique, & Antique Shopping Trail highlights a variety of locally-owned boutique stores, antiques, and more.

But with so much to choose from, the Tinsel & Traditions Trail really shines this season. This themed trail highlights tree farms, shopping, and seasonal events in one place, making it easy for you to plan accordingly and make special memories. And what better way to make memories during the yuletide than with family-friendly events that allow you to celebrate together?



Some holiday happenings include community tree lightings, like the Pickerington Holiday Gathering, WinterFest in Downtown Lancaster, and more. These events include activities that are fun for all ages, like crafts, carols, and carriage rides. Each community celebrates the season in unique ways and invites you to join the fun.

If you need to take a break and warm up from the frosty air, try attending one of our Christmas productions. Theatre groups around Fairfield County offer chances to attend plays and musicals that tell stories of the holiday season. Throughout December, don't miss live performances of *It's a Wonderful Life* (December 1-3) by The Lancaster Playhouse, Ohio University Lancaster Theatre, and The Garret Players or *A Christmas Carol* (December 9-11) by Rise Up Arts Alliance.

For other artistic ways to celebrate the holidays, check out the Crossroads Ministry Center and the Decorative Arts Center of Ohio in Lancaster. At Crossroads, you will find Fontanini figures and scenes on display from 6 to 9 pm every Sunday, Wednesday, and Friday in December. These hand-painted figures are completed by several artists who specialize in different aspects (like hair, clothing, and facial expressions); the figures can take years to finish and the craftsmanship of each piece is truly outstanding. While visiting the exhibit, you will experience the sights, sounds, and smells of each scene. It is a unique and free experience.

The Decorative Arts Center of Ohio also offers a free way to enjoy the holidays. From

November 5 to December 31, relive your childhood with two new exhibits: *A Very Brady Holiday* and *A Storybook Christmas*. Explore the 1970s at the *A Very Brady Holiday* exhibit as the museum reproduces *The Brady Bunch* family's iconic Christmas trees; there will also be displays of toys and gifts from the series and time period. Costumes from *The Brady Bunch* movies will also be on display and serve as the pinnacle of the Brady-inspired exhibit.

A Storybook Christmas features children's books from 1850-2000 and Christmas trees decorated to reflect the themes and characters of each story. A collection of pop-up books from the 1950s will surely be the highlight of this nostalgic exhibit.

There are countless ways to celebrate the holidays in Fairfield County. No matter what you choose to do, you can create memories that you'll cherish for years to come. Take a photo on one of our 15 snow-covered bridges, finish your holiday shopping at a local boutique, treat yourself to a cup of hot chocolate at a stop on the Fairfield County Java Trail, and find special events on the Tinsel & Traditions Trail.

Then, commemorate your visit with a glassblowing class at the Ohio Glass Museum, creating an ornament that will ascend during the New Year's Eve street party, Glass Town Countdown. With so many holiday events and traditions, why not join our small town celebration?

For more information, call 740-654-5929, go to VisitFairfieldCounty.org, or download the free Visit Fairfield County app for iOS and Android.

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Holiday Concert

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Your Favorite Storybook Characters Come to Life

By Candy S. Collins, BS

Enjoy the magic of Christmas as your favorite storybook characters come to life. Charlie Brown and Frosty the Snowman are just a couple of the delightful personalities on hand to celebrate the season through window decorations, lights, and outdoor displays. The Storybook Christmas theme takes place in over 100 businesses throughout Zanesville, New Concord, and Dresden, Ohio.

"We invite you to experience all Muskingum County has to offer during the magical holiday season," stated Kelly Ashby, Visit Zanesville's Director. This magical event kicks off on November 30 at 6:30 pm in downtown Zanesville with the Storybook Christmas Parade. After the parade, wander down the enchanting streets displaying their holiday splendor.



Stop in a local shop to select a perfect and unique Christmas gift from pottery, baskets, art, and specialty boutiques. Visit the White Pillars Christmas House decked out in all the holiday musts from Santa Clauses to ornaments and garlands. Muskingum County has something for everyone on your holiday list.



Be sure to stop and admire the 28-foot patriotic Christmas tree resembling a flag. The bottom half is lit with twinkling red and white lights, while the top half is sparkling blue with white stars. Zanesville also has Ohio's one and only 28-foot LED ornament tree. Both of these magnificent trees make the perfect opportunity to snap a picture with your loved ones to remember the magic.

Little ones will enjoy stopping by the Santa House to see Santa and tell him all their wishes. They can even write a letter and drop it off at a Santa Mailbox at select locations around Muskingum County. You can assure your little ones that Muskingum County has an express link to the North Pole and their wishes will reach Santa in time.

Meet other Christmas Storybook characters like the Grinch, Elf, and Frosty. There are plenty of "selfie" moments to capture and enjoy the memories for years to come. Stop by and enter the teddy bear coloring contest, scavenger hunt, church tours, and much more.

As you stroll through the streets, enjoy the carolers, and horse-drawn carriage rides, and be sure to go through Zane's Landing Park to view a holiday display of lights. Complete your evening with the courthouse music and light display.



"Storybook Christmas in downtown Zanesville brings the excitement of the season alive. With many storefronts decorated, the courthouse holiday decorations, and a musical light show to the Zane Landing's drive-through light display, we enjoyed it all. We ended the night with a horse-drawn carriage ride and a visit to Santa at his house at Secrest Auditorium. This is a must-do for our family every holiday season," said Jennifer Martin, community member.

The Storybook Christmas event began in 2014 after deciding to add a musical light show to the courthouse. It has grown by leaps and bounds since its inception, filled with carriage rides, a parade, a Santa House, a 5k run/1 Mile Walk and so much more. After you soak in all the magic Zanesville and Muskingum County has to offer this holiday season, be sure to curl up at home with your favorite Christmas Storybook and maybe some hot chocolate and a candy cane.

The main event schedule for Storybook Christmas is A Storybook Christmas Parade on November 30 at 6:30 pm; A Storybook Christmas 5K Run/1-Mile Walk on December 3 at 5 pm in downtown Zanesville; Carriage Rides throughout downtown Zanesville on December 9 and December 16 from 5-9 pm (reservations required); A Seussified Christmas Carol on December 10 at the Secrest Auditorium; Santa Train Rides on December 10 from 11 am to 4 pm at Perry Scenic Train; National Wreaths Across America on December 17 at Greenwood Cemetery; Courthouse Light Display from November 30 through January; Holiday Trail of Lights from November 30 to January 1 at Zane Landing Park; and The Nutcracker & Handbell Festival, dates TBA (check the website for updates).

When visiting Muskingum County, leave room for a visit to Chandlersville for the Bethlehem Walk in your holiday sightseeing. Walk the live outdoor recreation of Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem. Experience firsthand the Shepherds, Roman Soldiers, and tax collectors through the

town and to the stable where a tiny manager lay for Jesus to be born. Allow yourself an hour to walk the journey, which is handicap/stroller accessible. This free experience starts at the Chandlersville United Methodist Church.

New Concord and Dresden towns have their own special parade to kick off the holiday season and is a must-see to shop, dine and enjoy the magic of the holiday.

For more information and to get a copy of this year's 2022 Storybook Christmas Booklet listing all the participating locations, dates, and times go to visitzanesville.com or call the Zanesville-Muskingum County Convention and Visitors Bureau at 740-455-8282.



Take Your Time. Enjoy the Holidays!

By Vicki VanNatta

Hot and humid! The temperature was 92 degrees but it felt like 100. Thoughts of snow dancing in the wind, Christmas decorations all around, and the twinkling lights of the holidays seemed far removed from the hot, sultry day when these words were written. The final days of summer made us turn the air conditioning colder as the heat and humidity rose, and suddenly the thought of a cold, snowy, holiday season was something to be eagerly anticipated.

For many, each year brings a new set of circumstances. Life changes that make us wonder what the holidays will hold for us. There might be people missing from your holiday traditions or you might be experiencing new faces – the result of a summer wedding or a baby that arrived in 2022, or your son or daughter's new friend. Whatever the reason or situation, time changes how we celebrate the holidays and 2022 will be no exception.

As you plan your holiday celebrations and consider ways to enjoy time together, making memories and sharing experiences, here are some suggestions for memorable moments.

Consider making the trip even more exciting by adding an overnight stay at the newly renovated Carlisle Inn Sugarcreek. Enjoy the hot tub, all-season pool, and exercise room, two large areas to relax by the fire, play games, and do a jigsaw puzzle. And did you know they offer massage services in your guest room?

If it is cold and snowy, you can park your car on the Dutch Valley campus and it won't need to move while you have dinner, shop, see a show (or two), swim, work out, have a massage, spend the night, enjoy specialty drinks and pastries from the bakery and soak in the beauty of the delightful holiday decorations on the Dutch Valley campus.

Since COVID first took us by surprise, it seems every year is different than the last. This might be the year to get away from your daily routine and spend a few hours, or a few days, making memories and creating new traditions.

For more information about the restaurants, shops, inns, and theater mentioned in this article, go to www.dhgroup.com or call 330-893-2926.

Drive to Amish Country and start off with a delicious dinner at Dutch Valley Restaurant, Der Dutchman Restaurant, or Berlin Farmstead Restaurant where they happily accommodate groups up to 15 without a reservation, and without telling you that you will have to split up and sit at separate tables. The restaurants are dedicated to providing an experience that celebrates the traditional foods, simple comforts, and rural charm of the Midwestern Amish and Mennonite communities. That includes time around the table in a family-friendly setting, serving food your entire group will enjoy, and no dishes for you to wash.

If you enjoy holiday shopping, Carlisle Gifts in Walnut Creek is not to be missed and Dutch Valley Gifts and Dutch Valley Market are just steps away from the Dutch Valley Restaurant in Sugarcreek. You'll find unique items for gifts or for you and your home.

To top off the evening there is a fantastic line-up of entertainment at Ohio Star Theater on the Dutch Valley campus in Sugarcreek. *Our Christmas Dinner, The Musical* plays November 10 to December 31 and on nights when the musical is not playing, there will be special shows and concerts taking the stage.

- The Isaac's Christmas Concert**
-- Thursday, November 17
- Jimmy Fortune's Christmas Show**
-- Thursday, December 1
- The Nutcracker** presented by Holmes Center for the Arts
-- Friday-Sunday, December 2-4
- Dailey & Vincent Concert**
-- Friday, December 9
- It's a Wonderful Life** Radio Program
-- Saturday, December 10
- Point of Grace in Concert**
-- Friday, December 16
- A Trans-Siberian Orchestra Tribute**
-- Saturday, December 17

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Athens Uptown for the Holidays

By Dani Esperanza

If you are looking to shop in a place that offers a magical holiday atmosphere, unique local stores selling one-of-a-kind gifts, and an eclectic mix of crowd-pleasing restaurants and breweries, then Athens, Ohio, is your perfect destination this holiday season. Nestled in the Appalachian foothills and gracefully situated on the shores of the Hocking River, Athens is well-known for its scenic beauty and artsy vibes, and both are on full display during the Athens Uptown for the Holidays events, running all through December.

Feel like you are on the set of a holiday movie during the Tree Lighting Ceremony on Thursday, December 1 from 6-8 pm, as your stroll around the quaint Uptown area, noticing the lights that adorn Court Street twinkling on the brick-lined streets and listening to a live musical performance. Watch Santa ride into town on a horse-drawn carriage to help count down the lighting of the Athens Community Tree, and then take a selfie with the Big Man himself at Santa's Workshop.

Hop on a free horse-drawn carriage ride and get a tour of historic Uptown Athens, which dates back to the early 1800s. Once back on Court Street, catch a holiday movie being screened at the Athena Cinema or check out all the

special (and free) holiday activities put on by local businesses, including cookie and ornament decorating, story time, face painting, and more.

Many of these special holiday events last all December long, with Santa's Workshop, horse-drawn carriage rides, musical performances, holiday movie screenings, and more taking place

Thursdays and Saturdays throughout the month. The Athens Community Tree will also be on display all month long and will feature quirky ornaments created by Passion Works, a collaborative community arts studio famous for producing Passion Flowers – the official flower of Athens – and other original and distinctive pieces that make charming gifts.

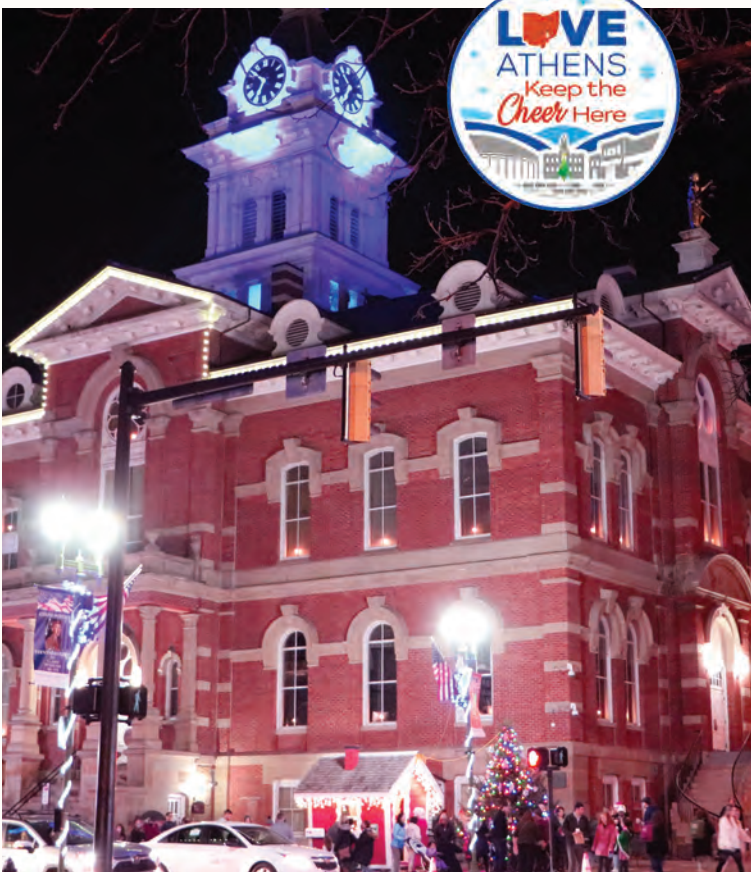
Unique gifts and experiences abound in Athens. In the few blocks that comprise the Uptown area, you can find everything from novel takes on hand-made goods like



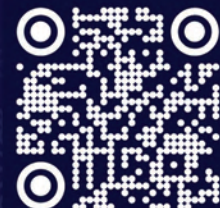
jewelry and pottery to Ohio-centric apparel and gear to Ohio University branded products to vintage items, rare instruments, and much more.

If you visit on a Saturday, venture a few minutes away from Uptown to the Athens Farmers Market, rated as one of the best markets in Ohio and host to booths featuring a wide variety of high-quality, locally-produced foods and hand-crafted items by local artists. And no visit to Athens is complete without a stop at one of its many award-winning breweries, restaurants, or coffee shops, all of which brim with holiday cheer this time of year.

For a full schedule of holiday events, call the Athens Area Chamber of Commerce at 740-593-9353 or visit AthensChamber.com/Holidays.



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Lights, Music

& Nutcrackers

By Judith Bratten

Looking for a holiday destination with family-centered displays, activities, and events? Look no further than Steubenville in eastern Ohio which has become a mecca for Christmas lovers.

It began eight years ago with the creation of the Steubenville Nutcracker Village. Starting with just 35 life-sized original nutcrackers depicting characters from literature, art, music, and entertainment, the collection has grown to 200 on display 24/7 throughout the historic business district on 4th Street in downtown Steubenville from November 22, 2022 through January 7, 2023.

All the nutcrackers are designed and produced locally by the creative elves at Nelson's of Steubenville. From the characters of the *Wizard of Oz* to the members of the Rat Pack and a huge variety of figures from history and the professions, the nutcrackers provide excellent opportunities for making family memories and taking selfies. See www.steubenvillanutcrackervillage.com.

Additional attractions have developed alongside the Nutcracker Village including a Holiday Market and Christmas at the Fort. Set up under a canopy of lights and music in Fort Steuben Park, the Market offers gifts, décor, and foods of the season. Choirs and singers gather around the 32' Christmas Tree while St. Nicholas strolls among the visitors. New this year will be a "forest of animated trees" in Fort Steuben Park.

The 18th century Fort Steuben is open for tours at a nominal fee. Inside the Visitor Center, a model train village is on display and the Fort Gift Shop is stocked with holiday items as well as books, toys, and souvenirs. Check oldfortsteuben.com for more information.

The downtown streets are decorated with 25 live Christmas trees with a tree decorating competition for local non-profits that viewers can vote for. Students from the local schools have decorated store fronts to enhance the holiday spirit.

The Public Library of Steubenville & Jefferson County offers a Nutcracker Storywalk among the trees and nutcrackers on 4th Street, so visitors can search for pages and enjoy a seasonal classic while they walk. The Children's Corner on 4th & Market Streets will be open on weekends with free crafts, games, performances, and photos with Father Christmas.

No holiday event is complete without a parade and the Steubenville Sights and Sounds of Christmas Parade will process down 4th Street at noon on December 3 with bands, dancers, and floats to celebrate the season.



After a lapse of two years, the original musical production *Wooden Heart Follies* is returning this season. Created by veteran community theater actors, directors, and playwrights John and Von Holmes, the play brings to life nine nutcrackers, using the music of Tchaikovsky's *Nutcracker Suite* with comic lyrics added.

The story begins once upon a time in a magical land called Steubenville, where the mad scientist nutcracker falls in love with his human designer and turns the Nutcracker Village upside down. Audiences will discover whether nutcrackers really do like sugar plums, and whether or not wooden hearts can fall in love. The production will run December 1-4; tickets can be found at www.woodenheartfollies.com.

For information on these as well as lodging and dining options in Steubenville, contact the Steubenville Visitor Center by phone (740.283.1787), email (info@visitsteubenville.com), or stopping by 120 S. 3rd Street in Steubenville, Ohio.

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SHORES&ISLANDS^{OHIO}

By Christopher Lewis

When the weather outside is frightful, many folks plan an indoor waterpark getaway to take advantage of toasty 80+ degree indoor temperatures, regardless of weather conditions. But how do you choose the right waterpark resort for your vacation? Allow us to introduce you to the indoor waterpark resorts of Shores & Islands Ohio.



GREAT WOLF LODGE - 4600 Milan Rd. (US 250), Sandusky, OH 44870

Family Fun: 33,000 sq. ft. indoor waterpark features a lazy river, four-story fort, giant tipping bucket, and more. Day passes are now available for outside guests in limited quantities, an amenity not formerly available through Great Wolf Lodge resorts. Other activities offered include the Cub Club arts and crafts, character appearances, story time, and the Great Clock Tower show as well as a prize-winning arcade.

Food Features: Snack bar located within the water park; take-out pizza, sandwiches, and salads; sweet shop featuring coffee, ice cream, pastries, and homemade fudge; on-site Dunkin' Donuts open morning and afternoon; full-service Gitchigoomie Grill offers breakfast, lunch, and dinner along with a full-service bar.

Overnighting: Get great deals on overnight stays, including a great Early Saver deal when you book at least 60 days in advance. Don't miss a variety of standard, themed, and premium suites.

Unique attributes: Sweet suites – This all-suite hotel features fabulous themed suites, including the “Wolf Den,” “Kid Cabin,” “Royal Bear,” and loft fireplace suites. MagiQuest – Play this fun, interactive game and turn Great Wolf Lodge into your own personal playground. Purchase a magic wand and set off on a quest throughout the resort, where you'll unlock a world of adventure. Great for family play!



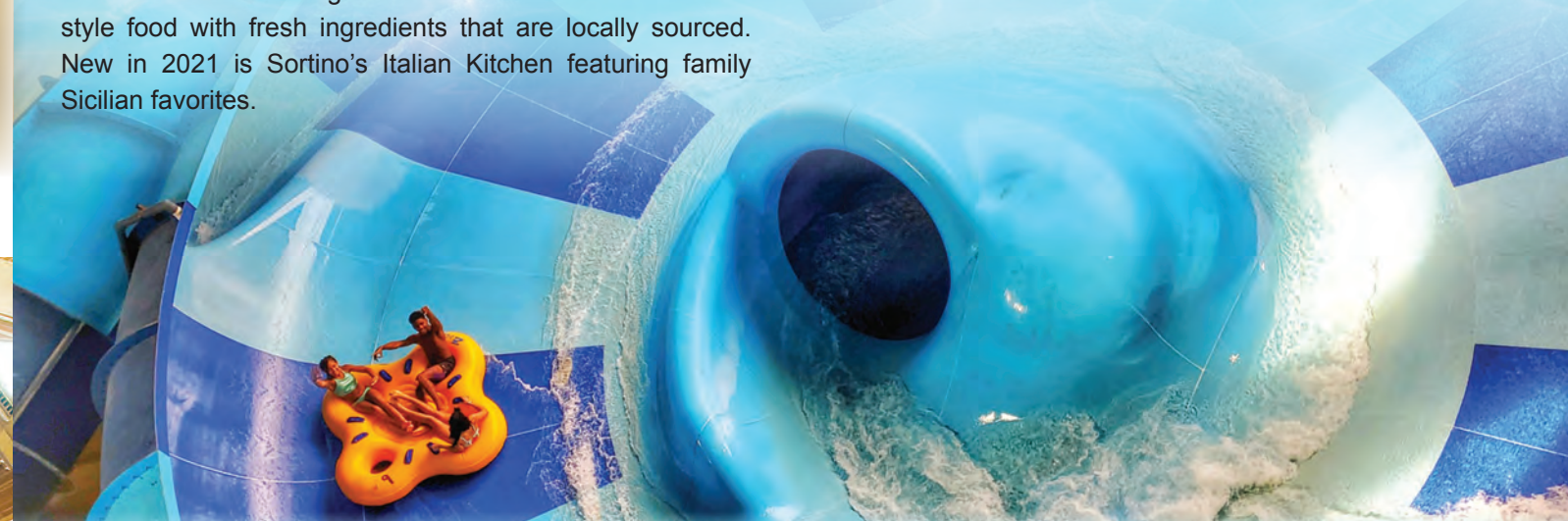
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Family Fun: 173,000 sq. ft. indoor waterpark features a number of thrilling slides, a water coaster, lazy river, wave pool, special kids' areas, and more! The resort also features an outdoor waterpark in-season, with a five-slide tower! Other fun includes the Safari Outdoor Adventures Park which offers zip-lining, ropes course, rock-climbing wall, and the Safari Adventures Animal Park. Kids' activities are offered daily, including crafts and character appearances, plus a huge family arcade with indoor glow golf, laser tag, virtual reality, and more.

Food Features: There is truly something for every taste with a variety of onsite dining choices; everything from a quick-service pizza pub, deli, buffet restaurant, full-service dining options, room-service, sweet shop, and several lounges. Many guests enjoy B-Lux Grill & Bar, home of handcrafted burgers and shakes. This restaurant captures the latest craves through its robust influence of American-style food with fresh ingredients that are locally sourced. New in 2021 is Sortino's Italian Kitchen featuring family Sicilian favorites.

Overnighting: So many overnight specials and packages are offered here, including multi-night discounts and fun stay enhancements. Need a break from your virtual classroom? Check out the Schoolaway Getaway, which features a safe place for learning filled with fantastic breaks.

Unique attributes: Authentic African décor/artwork – Don't miss the décor all throughout! The Nelson family has a passion for Africa, beginning with the family's first trip to the continent in the mid-90s, the family continues to regularly visit for inspiration and to purchase authentic items for their resorts, including hand-carved seating and tables, tribal masks and sculptures, hand-woven textiles and more. Storm Chaser – The Storm Chaser Slideboarding Adventure integrates gaming, skill, speed, and competitive sports into an experience that will define the waterparks of the future. Storm Chaser features an interactive multi-level game built within a waterslide.



CASTAWAY BAY BY CEDAR POINT RESORTS - 2001 Cleveland Rd. (US 6), Sandusky, OH 44870

Family Fun: 38,000 sq. ft. indoor waterpark features large wave-action pool, indoor/outdoor hot tub, water coaster, kids' areas, and more. Waterpark day passes are available for non-hotel guests. Win prizes at the state-of-the-art arcade and participate in daily family-fun activities at Camp Castaway, detailed in the Island Times newsletter available at the front desk. Be sure to check operating days and hours throughout the winter, as the park operates mostly on weekends, with increased hours during peak times.

Food Features: Snack bar located within the waterpark; quick-service

deli; breakfast buffet restaurant; attached Quaker Steak & Lube full-service restaurant; room service is also available, including pizza.

Overnighting: Castaway Bay recently underwent renovations to their guest rooms. A number of overnight packages are offered, which include accommodations, food, and activities combined at a savings. Cedar Point Gold and Platinum pass holders can receive discounts on select room types as well.

Unique Attributes: Affiliation with Cedar Point – Cedar Point amusement park ticket packages are available

during the operating season, and as a Cedar Point hotel guest you have access to discount tickets and admission to the park one hour prior to opening to the general public.

With so many great waterparks and accommodations, it may be hard to choose! One thing is for sure, you'll definitely have a swim-tastic time in Shores & Islands Ohio. The area's waterpark resorts definitely make the ideal getaway for your family this winter! For more information visit www.SHORESANDISLANDS.com.

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Candlelight Concert Captures Holiday Magic

By Trish Mann

A symphony of voices rises from within the towering arches of the magnificent St. Bernard's Church in Akron, Ohio, as Summit Choral Society (SCS) performs a triumphant celebration of the holiday season to an audience filled with delight.

The 33rd annual Candlelight Christmas Concert Series returns to entertain and inspire its audience, featuring four different choirs with voices of all ages, soloists, and a chamber orchestra. Handel's Messiah and the beautiful Karl Jenkins' "Benedictus" will thrill audiences along with traditional favorites such as "O Come, All Ye Faithful" and "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing". SCS's Metropolitan Chorus, under the direction of Featured Conductor Dr. Britt Cooper, and the national award-winning Performance Choir, under the direction of SCS's Principal Conductor Heather Cooper, sing all three shows.

The Advanced Choir, under the direction of Emily Garlco, has a featured performance on December 16 and 17 at 7 pm, and Bel Canto, under the direction of Jessica Bell and the youngest of the children's choirs, will sing on December 18 at 4 pm. Each choral ensemble sings its own repertoire, making each night a unique experience for the audience. The concerts conclude with a combined performance where singers of all ages hold candles while singing, providing a breathtaking aesthetic. The symphony of voices, instrumental accompaniment,

candles and gorgeous venue at St. Bernard's Catholic Church truly capture the magic of the holiday season.

"I remember the Metropolitan Chorus standing along the side aisles of St. Bernard's singing 'O Come, Emmanuel.' The acoustic effect provided by their voices, the historic church design, and the ambiance of the handheld candles were a beautiful treat for my eyes and ears. Wonderfully done," said Gary and Frances Jervis, long-time patrons.

SCS is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization, emphasizing music education and a love for the choral arts. Beginning at birth and continuing through adulthood, SCS instructs its participants in many facets of music. The Candlelight Christmas Concert series may be the year's highlight, but SCS works all year to produce and perform high-quality events for the Akron community and beyond.

Summit Choral Society is a jewel in the Akron landscape, enriching the community through an appreciation for the arts with music. Funding comes from grants, foundations, corporate donors, patrons, and everyday people who share a passion for making the world a little brighter, one voice at a time.

Tickets for the event can be purchased in-house or online. For more information about Summit Choral Society or the Christmas Candlelight Concert series, please visit www.summitchoralsociety.org.



Experience Small Town Christmas in Vinton County

By Trish Mann

As we count down the days till Christmas, it is easy to get caught up in all the rush. Holiday ads tell us what to put under the tree. Work parties and social obligations start filling up the calendar, and there is baking to do, cards to mail, and decorations to put up. Whew, it's exhausting just thinking about it all. But it doesn't have to be that way.

Sometimes the best times are the ones with little schedule, a wandering spirit, and the company of friends or family. One tradition my family enjoys this time of year is when we spend quality time with each other, away from our hectic lives. We get in the car and head out to find an unbeaten path where life is a bit slower. The adventure leads us to discover mom-and-pop shops, local diners, and friendly small towns lit up in their holiday splendor. We get to experience a slower, more old fashion Christmas season.

Vinton County is everything an old-fashioned Christmas is all about. In the beautiful Hocking Hills region of Ohio, Vinton County offers scenic vistas in every direction. But it's more than the views that keep visitors returning to this charming area, especially at the most wonderful time of the year.

The season officially gets underway on Saturday, November 26, as Hammond Hardware & Lumber in Hamden kicks things off with a hometown Christmas. From horse and buggy rides and hot cocoa to picking out a live Christmas tree, there is something for everyone. It is also an excellent opportunity to shop for those hard-to-please friends and family. Local crafters are on site with various items, along with Hammond's gift shop that offers handmade gifts and unique items. A visit to the hardware is a step back in time as you return to the days of general stores and personal service. No visit would be complete without a stop by the candy department for those sweet treats from your childhood. Santa Nick Rose makes a special appearance on December 8, from 4-7, to welcome the children and pose for photos to take home.



The village of McArthur welcomes the season by hosting its annual Christmas in Downtown event on December 3. Businesses, churches, and community organizations come together to rejoice in the season. Music, food, shopping, and a parade, are some highlights of a day filled with fun and celebration. Stores throughout McArthur embrace the season with holiday decor and special incentives. Stop by The Mill House Flower and Gifts for holiday floral arrangements, seasonal decorations, and handmade gifts. Stop by Spring Street Sports to try their premium Smoke-N-Beans coffee while browsing Vinton County-themed apparel and BBQ supplies.

It wouldn't be Christmas without a visit to The Enchanted Christmas Shop in rural Vinton County! This shop has everything to decorate for Christmas. The owner, Karen Bledsoe, takes great pride in her items and works hard in the off-season shopping out of state to ensure she has unique items you won't find elsewhere in Ohio. The Enchanted Christmas Shop even boasts an entire room dedicated to snowmen.

After all the Christmas fun, it is time to sit and relax, and where better than just a few minutes south of Hocking Hills State Park. Le Petit Chevalier Vineyards and Farm Winery is the perfect place to unwind after a day of adventures. Enjoy a mulled wine or the

glühwein, a warmed German spiced wine. Both are seasonal favorites, perfect for enjoying the chilly winter weather and the festive atmosphere. The winery is home to an estate vineyard, and they do all bottling on-premise. They offer wine varieties dating back to the 1700s and more recent selections. Le Petit Chevalier also offers an Airbnb rental with both sunset and sunrise views.

The rolling hills and small towns offer much more than one day affords. The area is home to many charming cabins and Airbnbs nestled in the foothills and forests that provide the perfect respite during the frantic Christmas season. But it isn't just for the holidays. Cabins, houses, even treehouses offer many amenities, including cozy fireplaces, hot tubs, scenic views and more throughout the year.

December 25 may be in ribbons, bows, and the most beautiful paper, but all that doesn't last. A favorite Christmas story, The Grinch, by Dr. Seuss, reminds us that while we plan elaborate feasts, adorn our trees with prized trinkets, and dress in our finest attire, this isn't really what Christmas is all about. This special time of the year is about love, friendship, making memories, and the gift of ourselves we give one another. This Christmas, spend some precious time with the ones you love. Merry Christmas!

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*McCook House Civil War Museum
 Brings Holiday Traditions*

By Candy S. Collins, BS



A small-town community brings Christmas magic through the McCook House Civil War Museum in Carrollton, Ohio. Experience the 1830s holiday season with soft lights, wassail punch, and Christmas cookies.



Each year, the holiday kicks off by watching the unveiling of Christmas trees decorated by local clubs and groups within the community. This year it will take place on Friday, November 25 from 1-8 pm.

Continue the fun on Saturday with an open house at the McCook House followed by a Christmas Concert featuring soloists Kathleen Horn and Bradley Miley.

The fun and magic continue throughout the weekend with an evening parade where Santa and Mrs. Clause arrive by firetruck. There is also a downtown reveal of skillfully decorated holiday windows and a candlelight tour of downtown Carrollton.

Grab a small passport booklet from the Carrollton Chamber's office before you start your local holiday shopping and be sure they stamp your passport before leaving. Once your passport is complete drop it back off at the chamber to be entered into a drawing for a prize.

For more information on this small-town rich in history and tradition, visit www.carrollcountyohio.com.



Celebrate the Season at **Kings Island** WinterFest

By Trish Mann



The sweet aroma of hot cocoa awakens your senses. Familiar holiday carols fill the air, and the glow of twinkling lights brightens the night sky for as far as the eye can see. And who's that I see? Could it be? Santa! Wow, it must be time for WinterFest at Kings Island!

Kings Island has been thrilling park-goers for 50 summers. But once the holidays roll around and Santa gets his sleigh ready, it's time to transform into a winter wonderland for all ages. WinterFest is ready to welcome everyone to celebrate the most wonderful time of the year with all the excitement and wonder of Kings Island.

Immediately upon entering the park, you know you are somewhere special. Bring your family and friends because you won't want them to miss out. If you are lucky, there may even be a snowflake or two. A winter wonderland of epic proportions stretches out before you. Millions of

lights sparkle and dazzle your senses as you look down International Street and behold the magic of the season. The iconic Eiffel Tower is ablaze in holiday splendor as it stands over the Royal Fountain, which old man winter has turned into a spectacular ice skating rink. Whether you lace up some skates or enjoy being a spectator, it is a must-stop in your evening activities. Check out the 40-foot Christmas tree all lit up for the festivities.

The magic of the holidays lives in every nook and cranny as you meander through all the amazing winter wonderlands, each sure to delight everyone in your group. You will discover costume characters, a parade, along with a dozen outstanding shows throughout the park. Each performance is sure to get your feet tapping and put a smile on your face.



Wafting through the air, you get a hint of chocolate or maybe peppermint? Probably both! After all, who can resist the smell of hot cocoa, candy canes, and funnel cakes? But that's not all. There are many tempting treats, including cookies and cinnamon pull-apart bread at Clause Confectionary, or the adults may want to visit Jack Frost's Liquid Libations. The grown-ups can keep the winter chill away with some spiked cider and other spirited drinks. Whatever your appetite, the park concessions and restaurants are open for your indulgence.

Make sure and stop by Mrs. Claus's kitchen to decorate your own cookie or visit Sally's Christmas Craft to make a handmade delight to take home. You may even see Santa and his reindeer. The big guy loves to visit with the kids and take pictures with them. Another favorite stop is the train. All decked out in its holiday splendor, the locomotive and its crew will take you on a 10-minute train ride as you enjoy the sights and sounds of the season.

For you thrill seekers who have no fear. Almost 20 of the park's regular rides are also open for your pleasure, including the award-winning Mystic Timbers and Kings Mill Antique Autos. There is no better way to see the park in all its grandeur.

Looking for something special to give as a gift? They will have it here. The park has a vast array of specialty shops, handmade treats, holiday decor, and local artisan crafts available for purchase. There will surely be something special for even the hardest to shop for on your list.

"Of all the experiences I've enjoyed and events I've attended at the park over the years, WinterFest is hands down one of the coolest. As soon as you hop out of your car in the parking lot, you're immediately surrounded by holiday music, lights, and more seasonal fun," says Scott Hutchinson of the Warren County Convention & Visitors Bureau.



Embrace the magic of the season and bring your family and friends to visit what USA Today readers voted as one of the country's top Theme Park Holiday Events. Kings Island WinterFest will be the pinnacle of your holiday celebration for years to come, and memories are just waiting to be made.

"WinterFest is an awesome way to check out Kings Island in an entirely different light and jumpstart your holiday spirit going into the Christmas season," continued Hutchinson.

Located just outside of Cincinnati, this special event is open on select nights in November and December. Please visit www.visitkingsisland.com/events/winterfest for more details.





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Vermilion Welcomes the Season in Style

By Trish Mann

The Christmas season is a time of joy and goodwill, and there is no better place to find the holiday spirit than downtown Vermilion. Join in on the festivities and welcome the season with time-honored traditions focusing on community and family.

Friday, December 2, beginning at 5 pm, Light Up Vermilion welcomes the holidays in timeless fashion as downtown transforms for Christmas. Delightful window displays harken back to a bygone era as string lights, evergreens, and holiday decorations brighten the night. If you are feeling a little chilly, grab a cone of roasted chestnuts and hot chocolate to warm you up.

No holiday celebration is complete without a Christmas tree. Santa will arrive at 6 pm to help kick off the tree lighting festivities. Yes, the big guy in red will be here, straight from the North Pole, for all the fun. The magnificent tree in the center of downtown will be ablaze in dazzling lights, and atop the tree will be a new star to honor the Yuletide season.

There is fun for the whole family. A window display scavenger hunt with prizes will entertain the kids, and the rest of the family will enjoy shopping and dining at the array of exciting establishments in Vermilion. Don't forget to bring those letters to Santa. Main Street Vermilion has a special Santa Mailbox with a direct line to the North Pole. On Christmas Eve, they take the letters to the post office for special delivery to Santa Claus before he embarks on his annual trip worldwide.

"There's still a lot of magic in Christmas, and you'll feel it in this small-town celebration," said Marilou Suszko.

The year is coming to a close, and it is easy to let the holidays fly by. Don't let that happen. Set aside time to celebrate the season with family and friends at Light Up Vermilion and enjoy all the beauty and warmth of Christmas with the inviting town of Vermilion.

Main Street Vermilion hosts activities and events throughout the year, celebrating this beautiful lakeside community, and is a 501 (C) 3 nonprofit. They are dedicated to revitalization, historic preservation, economic development, tourism, and beautification of the downtown area.

Please visit www.mainstreetvermilion.org/LUV for updated information on this event and others.



Holidays are Happiest in Vermilion



Our shops and restaurants are filled year-round with good cheer, unique finds, and friendly people. We add lights and festive decorations for the holidays to make your visit to our *Small Town on a Great Lake* extra memorable.

Join us for **Light Up Vermilion, Friday, December 2, 5-9PM** and experience a special night of extended shopping hours, Santa Claus, Community Christmas Tree lighting, family-friendly activities, and more! For info on this Main Street Vermilion event, visit our website at MainStreetVermilion.org/luv

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MainStreetVermilion.org has information on visiting year round, events, shopping, dining & more.

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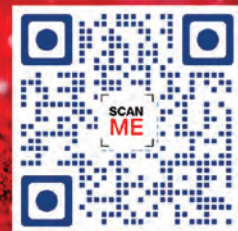
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Saturday November 26th

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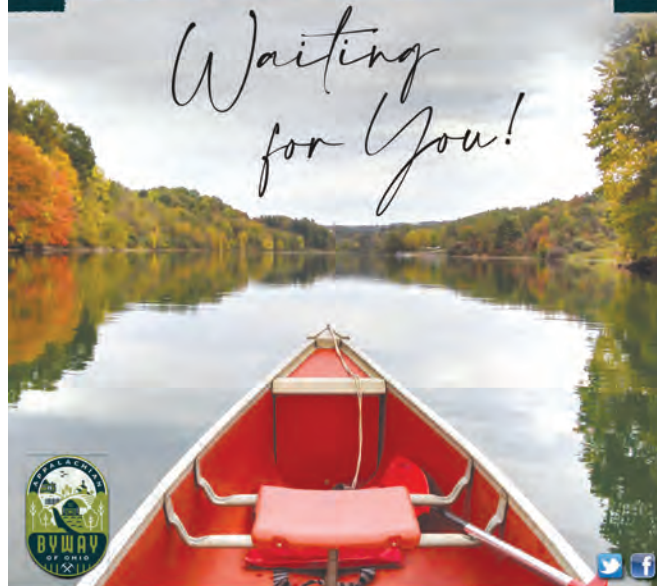
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- The Wilds
- Valley View Trade Days
- Ball-Caldwell House
- Big Muskie Bucket
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- Historic Jail Museum & Info Center
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Explore one of the greatest hidden corridors of Southeastern Ohio. Rich in recreational outdoor activities and historical attractions. Come experience all that Noble County has to offer. Enter and travel the county through two I-77 passages: Belle Valley Exit 28 and Caldwell Exit 25, which offer easy access to a world of scenic back roads and friendly people.



A Village Christmas to Remember

By Gwynn Stewart, MS



Photo courtesy of Melissa J. Polk

Inspired by the Hallmark Christmas movies that are often set in quaint small downtowns decked from rooftop to street level with garlands and evergreens galore, the Village Christmas to Remember in Caldwell, Ohio, is a sight to behold. Led by the spirited young first-ever female Mayor, Misty Wells, the award-winning downtown festivities are a must-see this holiday season. “We want everyone to experience the beauty and spirit of a small-town Christmas,” said Mayor Wells. “We are conveniently located just off Interstate 77 exit 25 and offer a variety of events and celebrations.”

Wells spearheads a crew of Christmas elves who ready the downtown for residents and guests to enjoy annually. From handmade light ornaments and hot chocolate to the iconic little red truck, and hometown Christmas parade with tree lighting ceremony, guests will find themselves in the holiday spirit. Activities include horse drawn carriage rides, a reindeer petting zoo, and more. For up-to-date details and schedules, visit www.caldwellohio.org.

The Ohio History Connection, Ohio’s nominating authority to the National Register of Historic Places

program, approved The Caldwell Downtown Square as an historic district. The original town plat is still evident through the street grid arranged around a central public square with the Noble County courthouse serving as the focal point and 61 late-nineteenth to mid-twentieth century historic resources that contribute to the significance and integrity of the district where there is free parking.

Also on the Registry is the unique Noble County Jail & Sheriff’s Office Museum. This experience will take you back to when nearly 60% of Ohio’s counties had a combined jail and sheriff’s office/residence. Be sure to get your Noble County historic site trading cards when you stop.



Photo courtesy of Gwynn Stewart

Photo courtesy of Ohio State University Extension – Noble County



Lori’s Family Restaurant

Caldwell is also located along one of the state’s scenic byways, the Appalachian Byway of Ohio. This multi-county byway follows State Route 78 from The Ohio River Scenic Byway (SR7) to Nelsonville, Ohio, with a leg-up to the famed Columbus Zoo-operated The Wilds. The 9,000-plus-acre park provides kids with an immersive safari experience.

It is just about 23 miles north of Marietta or 80 miles south from Canton and 100 miles from Akron, making Caldwell a great weekend road trip. Local eatery options include family restaurants like Lori’s and Patty’s Place or Wing’s Etc., and local pizzerias such as Wally’s or Creno’s.

Lots of homespun shopping spots are also available you won’t want to miss from antiques to boutiques. Learn more about where to stay and what to do and see or access the online 2022 Visitors Guide at www.visitnoblecountyohio.com.

Under the nighttime skies, family ice skating is available by donation. Whether you’re new or a seasoned skater,



Photo courtesy of Jeff Minosky

you’ll feel like a kid again on skates. Ten great tips for beginner skaters that we found online are: dress for the outdoor setting, make sure your skates are the right fit, secure your skates, and follow the rink rules. In addition, don’t look down or lean backwards, bend your knees for balance and don’t be afraid to fall. Most importantly, relax and have fun! Visit the Village of Caldwell Ice Skating Rink on Facebook at [@skatinginthevillage](https://www.facebook.com/skatinginthevillage).

That’s just what Caldwell Mayor Misty Wells wants families and individuals to do at the Village Christmas to Remember, have fun. Join us in 2022 for wreath making or holiday painting classes, photo opportunities, sharing lists with Santa, the Community parade and other special events in conjunction with the Noble County Historical Society at the Noble Jail Museum and iconic Ball-Caldwell Homestead, which is also on the Historic Register.

Learn more on Facebook [@ourhallmarkchristmas](https://www.facebook.com/ourhallmarkchristmas) or <https://www.facebook.com/ourhallmarkchristmas>.

Visit Historic Roscoe Village at Christmas

By Mindy Brems

Longing for a more relaxing version of the holidays this year? Look no further than Historic Roscoe Village, located in Coshocton, Ohio.

Roscoe Village is a canal-era neighborhood filled with charming historic buildings, many of which were built in the 1830s. These buildings offer a glimpse into the past, but are now home to modern shops, restaurants and pubs. Imagine strolling the historic street with a bit of snow in the air, evergreens and lit trees along the walks, candles in the windows, a welcoming light to all who come.

The village's small businesses are filled with special gifts, many made locally. Restaurants include Texas-style barbeque, American-fare steaks and burgers, gourmet hotdogs and made-to-order subs and salads. There's even a shop filled with candy! There's no hustle and bustle in Historic Roscoe Village, just a charming village waiting for you to explore.

If history piques your interest, be sure to add the Living History Tour to your visit. Tours are self-guided and allow guests to visit exhibits on their own, at their own pace, no tour guide necessary. Guests will find video kiosks in each living history building and costumed interpreters in some. The tour begins at the Roscoe Village Visitor Center and includes a short film about what life was like on the canals in the early 1800's. Exhibits include The Schoolhouse, Doctor's House and Mrs. Johnson's Kitchen, Doctor Johnson's Office, The Print Shop and The Broom Squire. The Blacksmith Shop and Antique Toy exhibits are open most weekends.

The first two Saturdays in December are Candlelighting Days. "The first Christmas Candlelighting Ceremony took place in 1968," said Roscoe Village Director Casey Brown, "and has been a yearly tradition ever since." Families can enjoy a day of shopping and special activities that may include carolers, roasted chestnuts, visits with Santa, and crafts followed by the Christmas Candlelighting Ceremony, which begins at 6 pm in the center of the village. Gather at the base of the village's giant Christmas tree with friends old and new to remember times past, hear stories, and see the 30-foot tree be lighted.

The passing of the candlelight from one person to another is magical. As the light brightens the darkness, so does the sound of Silent Night, which is sung throughout the crowd. "The ceremony marks the beginning of the holidays for many families," says Brown. Following the ceremony, guests are invited to share hot apple cider and cookies prepared by the village's shop owners.

"Our Holiday Lantern Tour is truly special," says Brown, "and is also an annual tradition for many." Offered only two evenings each year, the tour takes place following the Candlelighting Ceremony. Dates for the Lantern Tour are

December 3 and 10, 2022. Costumed Interpreters lead guests through the village's Living History exhibits, sharing stories of the holiday traditions that were popular during the 1800's. "The tour always sells out," says Brown, "so it's important to make your reservations early at RoscoeVillage.com."

Other events round out the holiday season in Coshocton, making it easy for guests to stay for the weekend. Saturday, December 3 is a special shopping day throughout Coshocton, featuring the Shops of Roscoe Village and those in the Historic Downtown District. The Jingle Bell Shop Hop offers a limited number of tickets for a day of shopping, with free gifts at each participating shop. With over thirty locally owned shops in Historic Roscoe Village and Coshocton's Downtown Historic District, there

is something for everyone, even your furry friends!

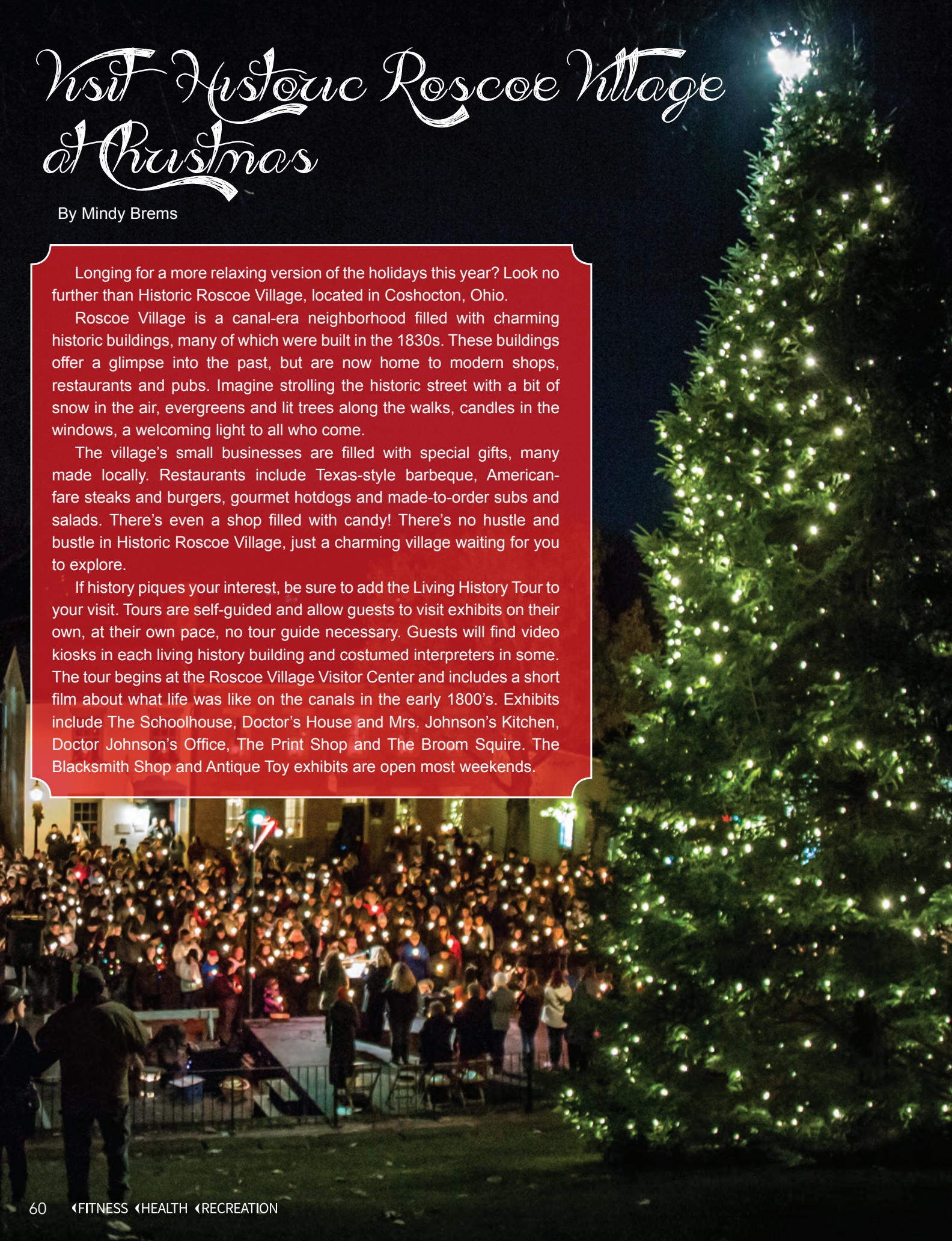
Coshocton shops are filled with locally made goods, antiques, and rustic finds. Many establishments are owned by multi-generational families, and many are housed in century-old buildings, with the original features restored and maintained to showcase each building's unique architecture. Refreshments and merriment are sure to be a big part of the day, and it's rumored that Santa will even make an appearance! Details at OurTownCoshocton.org.

The Live "drive-through" Nativity will be held December 9-10 at The Coshocton Christian Tabernacle. The ten-minute journey follows a luminary-lit drive and includes the birth and life of Christ. This annual tradition is more than a quarter century old. Find details at CoshoctonTab.org.

Sunday, December 4 is the Coshocton Community Choir's 52nd Annual Christmas Concert. Featuring the talents of more than 200 singers and musicians, this concert marks the beginning of the Advent season with classical and contemporary music celebrating the traditions of Christmas through stories and songs. Check CoshoctonCommunityChoir.org for more information.

On Saturday, December 10, a Christmas Crafters show will be held at the Lock Landing in Roscoe Village Visitors' Center. Area bakers, artists and crafters will be there throughout the day for leisurely browsing.

Other activities available in Coshocton County include area Cut-Your-Own Christmas Tree Farms and the Three Rivers Wine Trail. For details, lodging information and a complete list of shops and restaurants, see VisitCoshocton.com.





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Welcome the Holidays in Youngstown!

The holiday season is upon us, and the Youngstown area is celebrating with a multitude of special holiday events to put you in a festive mood.

The ever-popular **Memories of Christmas Past** exhibit at Arms Family Museum opens for its 14th season at the Arms Family Museum, 648 Wick Avenue in Youngstown, Ohio. Opening day is Saturday, November 19, 2022, and the exhibit will run through New Year's Eve. The beautiful 1905 Arts & Crafts-style residence of Olive and Wilford Arms will once again be transformed into a holiday wonderland as seven period rooms will feature festive vintage decorations and traditions that will have you reminiscing. The exhibit will also feature a gift shop experience of both new and vintage holiday merchandise.

Holiday hours for Memories of Christmas Past are Tuesday–Sunday,

Noon–4:00pm. Hours are extended for Twilight Thursdays until 7:00pm. Extra open hours will be on Monday, December 26th from Noon–4:00pm, and on its final day of the season, Saturday, December 31st from Noon–7:00pm. The museum will be closed on all other Mondays, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day.

Many holiday events are being held at DeYor Performing Arts Center, 260 West Federal Street in Downtown Youngstown. The State Ballet Theatre of Ukraine performs its production of Tchaikovsky's **Swan Lake** on Sunday, November 13, 2022 at 7:00pm. Enjoy the timeless score and unforgettable choreography of the most in-demand ballet in the world. **Black Violin's Give Thanks Tour** arrives on November 17, 2022 at 7:30pm. Classically trained string players Wil B. and Kev Marcus have been merging string arrangements with modern beats for 17 years. Ballet

Western Reserve presents **The Nutcracker** on December 3rd at 7:00pm and December 4th at 2:30pm, complete with The Sugar Plum Fairy, Clara and the Mouse King. On December 8, 2022, **Marie Osmond** joins The Youngstown Symphony Orchestra for a lushly orchestrated and heartwarming Christmas show.

Youngstown's original Christmas Spectacular, **Miracle on Easy Street**, returns to DeYor Performing Arts Center for three performances, December 16-17, 2022 at 7:30pm, and a matinee on December 18th at 2:30pm. No need to head to Radio City Music Hall—with over 100 singers and dancers, this musical revue is sure to help you catch the holiday spirit!

Our calendar is packed—Don't miss out! Visit www.youngstownlive.com/events for a complete listing, or call 800-447-8201 for more information.



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Greene County is a natural if you like to have fun. You have a wide selection of outdoor activities to choose from. Everything from the region's best hiking and biking trails, plus thousands of acres in protected park lands and reserves. Experience some great holiday fun when you visit Historic Clifton Mill and downtown Yellow Springs.

Historic Clifton Mill's – Legendary Christmas Light display will definitely get you in the holiday spirit. The display runs from November 27th through December 30th. Four million lights decorate the mill, gorge, water falls and the grounds.

The Village of Yellow Springs – Offers the shopper a unique and unexpected experience with over 50 specialty shops, boutiques, and galleries. Finding that one-of-a kind special gift for that special someone on your list is easy in Yellow Springs.

Mills Park Hotel – is newly constructed Victorian style hotel with 28 rooms located in the heart of Yellow Springs. The gorgeous historic design and luxurious feel gives you the best of over-night stays. The hotel is decorated with window wreaths and lights on the outside and a huge Victorian decorated Christmas tree in the lobby.

Come visit us and experience all of Greene County!

GREENE COUNTY, OHIO
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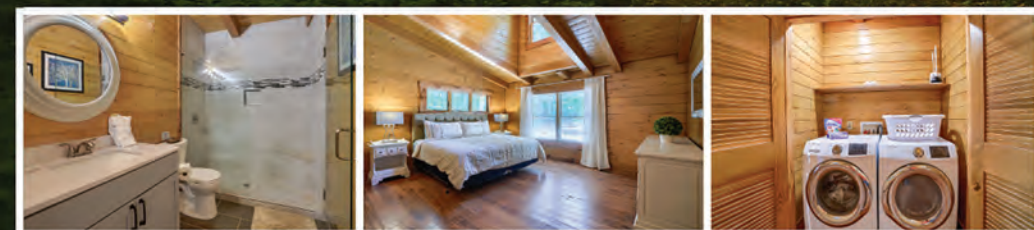


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