



# HOLIDAY *fest*

NOVEMBER 26 -  
DECEMBER 31

FEATURING THE



NIGHT OF  
LIGHTS  
NOVEMBER 26



Photo: Rachel Von Stroup

[HOLIDAYFESTDOWNTOWN.COM](http://HOLIDAYFESTDOWNTOWN.COM)

**PRESENTED BY:**

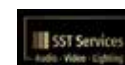


**DOWNTOWN**  
*Fort Wayne*

**SPONSORED BY:**



VisitFortWayne







*Northeast Indiana's Favorite Holiday Shopping Tradition!!*



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HOLIDAY MARKET



100+ VENDORS, THOUGHTFULLY  
CURATED,  
IN AN ELEVATED SHOPPING  
EXPERIENCE.

**FRI. 11.21 | 5PM-9PM**

**SAT. 11.22. | 10AM-4PM**

**KRUSE PLAZA IN AUBURN**



**\$1 OFF YOUR TICKET AT [WWW.LECHICHOLIDAYMARKET.COM](http://WWW.LECHICHOLIDAYMARKET.COM)  
WHEN YOU USE THE CODE HOLIDAY**





*Welcome* to the 2025 HolidayFest featuring the Night of Lights, presented by Lutheran Health Network and Downtown Fort Wayne.

The most wonderful time of the year has arrived in Downtown Fort Wayne. HolidayFest featuring the Night of Lights is when our community gathers to illuminate the heart of our city with the beloved Santa and His Reindeer, the Merry Christmas Wreath, and countless other sparkling displays that fill the streets with cheer and wonder.

This season, experience a full day of family-friendly festivities and timeless traditions. Sip a cup of hot cocoa as the sounds of carolers drift through the crisp evening air, or wander through our beautifully decorated streets, where every storefront glows with holiday spirit. Don't forget to vote for your favorite festive window display as part of the Holiday Window Decorating Contest, a celebration of creativity and community.

The holiday joy continues with the return of the Parkview Field Holiday Lights, a spectacular walk-through experience featuring over one million lights and displays synchronized to your favorite holiday music.

New this year, don't miss Fort Wayne's first-ever drone show, the Downtown Fort Wayne Drone Show, presented in partnership with Sky Elements. Look to the sky as hundreds of drones light up the night in a dazzling aerial display, adding a new layer of magic to this cherished community celebration.

Celebrate the creative spirit of the season at the Festival of Gingerbread and the Festival of Trees, where imagination and tradition come to life in every detail.

The festivities keep going all season long with Holly Shopping, kicking off on Small Business Saturday, November 29, presented by ProFed Credit Union and Downtown Fort Wayne. With lights shining bright, music filling the air, and laughter echoing through the streets, Downtown Fort Wayne is the perfect place to celebrate the season with family and friends.

Check out the Night of Lights feature in this HolidayFest Tabloid for details and go to [HolidayFestDowntown.com](http://HolidayFestDowntown.com) for the full schedule of events.

**DOWNTOWN**  
*Fort Wayne*



Friday Nov. 14:  
5pm-9pm  
Saturday Nov. 15:  
10am - 4pm  
Enjoy shopping at the 100 hand-selected vendor booths.

**Shop Local**

*fortwaynevillagemarketplace.com*

Fort Wayne Village Marketplace  
A FESTIVE SHOPPING EXPERIENCE

All in one location -  
PSM Fieldhouse | 3946 Ice Way, FW

Sponsored by **MAJ C951** **glo**



# Jolly Holidays



Photo: Visit Fort Wayne

**By Steve Penhollow**

During the holiday season, downtown Fort Wayne is always full of holiday cheer.

No fewer than 450 tons of holiday cheer are trucked in from arctic holiday cheer mines for the festivities, I believe. Just teasing.

We have all the holiday cheer we need in Fort Wayne, thank you very much, without having to procure any from elsewhere.

Night of Lights on November 26 kicks off HolidayFest, more than four weeks of holiday happenings downtown, and it is a chance for longtime residents to recapture parts of their childhoods and for new residents and non-residents to recapture the sense that their childhoods weren't as good as the childhoods of people who grew up in Fort Wayne. So, they have to make up for lost time.

And they do. They always do.

Night of Lights features a succession of light display debuts

plus previews of events, exhibits, extravaganzas and other spectacles in the downtown area.

Some things stay reassuringly the same and some things change in a thrilling manner.

There will be several new wrinkles this year at the History Center.

Executive director Todd Maxwell Pelfrey said that the History Center will be celebrating its 40th anniversary.

A 40th anniversary triggers a ruby jubilee within some monarchies...and in some history centers, apparently.

So, there will be a special category this year in the Festival of Gingerbread for ruby-hued houses. There will also be a temporary exhibit on the Three Rivers Festival and new LED lights in the turret.

"They should be a generation improved from the original LED lights that we installed in 2010," he said. "They should look even more spectacular than those that we've shared for the

past 15 years, and we will be the first to flip the switch on the 26th."

Another must-see event for many revelers of the Christmas persuasion is the Embassy Theatre's Festival of Trees.

Where the Festival of Trees is concerned, Fort Wayne residents are divided into two groups: Residents who wouldn't be able to live with themselves if they didn't visit the Festival of Trees at least once annually and residents who wouldn't be able to live with themselves if they didn't visit the Festival of Trees at least once annually DURING NIGHT OF LIGHTS.

There are no other kinds of residents.

I asked Carly Myers, chief marketing officer for the Embassy, to reveal top-secret details about the event that no one could possibly know unless they visited the Embassy website where the information is laid out in a clear and pleasing manner.

For one thing, the hours on November 26

have been expanded.

Usually, it is open from 6 pm to 9 pm. But this year, it is open from 3 pm to 9 pm.

This gives people a chance to visit the trees before the lightings start. After the lightings start, all is bedlam. Polite, orderly, cordial and delightful bedlam, yes. But bedlam all the same.

There will be a Sensory Friendly Sunday this year (Nov. 30), featuring sensory friendly hours for the Festival of Trees and a sensory friendly Breakfast with Santa.

"We will have a new ornament this year for purchase as well," Myers wrote in an email. "Last year, we did a limited-edition Blade ornament. This year, it will highlight our Grande Page pipe organ."

She means the Embassy's blade sign, not Blade, the vampire. I had to use Google search to determine whether someone, somewhere offers a Blade the Vampire Christmas ornament. Someone, somewhere

does, of course. Someone, somewhere offers almost anything. But (addressing the most obvious question in readers' minds) does someone, somewhere offer an ornament depicting Blade, the vampire, dressed as Hermey, the elf? Someone, somewhere does not. Yet.

Parkview Field's new Holiday Lights event will already have been open nearly two weeks by the time Night of Lights rolls around.

This event made a bigger splash last year than anyone predicted. Anyone but Mike Nutter, president of the Fort Wayne TinCaps, that is.

Here's what Nutter said about this year's event.

"Tons of new stuff! We're going from 1,000,000 lights to 1,500,000 lights! We'll be up by ½ million! But we're keeping prices the exact same. There will be all new music and all new displays across the entire playing field."

*Continued on page 15*

## 40th Annual Festival of Gingerbread

**November 28th - December 21st**

The Festival of Gingerbread is celebrating its Ruby Anniversary with unique ruby themed décor and gingerbread creations.

Monday - Thursday: 9 AM - 5 PM;

Friday & Saturday: 9 AM - 8 PM;

Sunday: 12 PM - 5 PM

Admission:

\$ 7.00 Adults

\$5 Youth & Seniors

2 and under Free

Special Programming each weekend

**HISTORY CENTER**



302 East Berry Street  
Downtown Fort Wayne  
(260) 426-2882  
fwhistorycenter.org



PARKVIEW *Field*

# HOLIDAY LIGHTS



A WALK-THRU EVENT



OVER 1.5 MILLION LIGHTS



[TINCAPS.COM/LIGHTS](https://tincaps.com/lights)

- TICKETS
- DATES & TIMES
- PROMOTIONS

**TICKETS START AT JUST \$10**

HOLIDAY PARTY & GROUP RATES AVAILABLE!







## A Good Run!

By Steve Penhollow

There are many races and runs in the region year round, but there is something special about the Galloping Gobbler. The Galloping Gobbler, which is roughly 25 years old, was founded by lawyer, former city councilman and former state rep Mitch Harper because there weren't any Thanksgiving Day races within easy reach a quarter of a century ago. Harper said he was inspired by an Ohio race that went through a cemetery (The Galloping Gobbler goes through Lindenwood). There are probably people who find that feature a little daunting, but

Harper said Lindenwood is part of the Rural Cemetery Movement, which promoted the idea that cemeteries should be pleasant places in which to spend time. "These were designed to be places where people would gather under trees," he said. "They would take the carriage out, would have a picnic. They're designed for the living, as opposed to the churchyard cemeteries."

Another unusual feature of the Galloping Gobbler is the main prize: Bread. Harper said he was in a bakery the first year of the race and he happened upon some visually striking loaves of bread. "You

could have set them as a centerpiece at your Thanksgiving table," he said. "It was one of those you'd use in a Good Housekeeping shot. Or, you know, Gourmet Magazine. Unbelievably beautiful." He decided to give these loaves as prizes and the tradition took on a life of its own. "This became a big trophy," he said. "There are bragging rights involved." COVID-19 and the difficulty of finding a provider meant that the bread tradition went away for a few years, but it will return this Thanksgiving.

Perhaps the most unusual and profound feature of the race is



Photo: Visit Fort Wayne

how the runners see it. Runners view it much more as a gathering of old friends and a cherished family tradition than a standard competition. Harper recalls a year that some runners were stopped by a train. When he apologized to one of them, this runner did not react the way he thought he would. "He looked at me and kind of had a

grin on his face after I apologized," Harper said. "And he said, 'There's no need to do that... You don't understand your own race.... This isn't a race like other races. This is more like a reunion.' And that was a pretty powerful thing, because it was true, and it's something I'd intended, but I hadn't articulated that."

### Fort Wayne's Thanksgiving Day Family Tradition

# GALLOPING GOBBLER



2025  
4  
MILER

## GALLOPING GOBBLER 4-MILER

**LOCATION:**  
Hutzell Athletic Center  
on the Campus of University of Saint Francis

**START TIME:** 8:30am

**REGISTER ONLINE AT:**  
VeepRaces.com

**OR SCAN THIS QR CODE**



# BLUE Jacket FANTASY OF

# Lights

**LARGEST NONPROFIT  
DRIVE THRU HOLIDAY  
LIGHT EVENT!**

DRIVEN BY 

**OPEN EVERY NIGHT  
THROUGH NEW YEAR'S EVE**

**\$20 PER CAR**

**\$40 PER VAN | \$80 PER BUS OR TROLLEY**

**VISIT THE  
CHRISTMAS VILLAGE  
NOV 28 - DEC 31, 2025**

CLOSED CHRISTMAS EVE & CHRISTMAS DAY (Dec. 24-25)

Pines of Partners 1st Sponsored by

**Partners 1st**  
FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

## Calendar of SPECIAL NIGHTS

### NOVEMBER

**Nov 11 - Veteran's Night - FREE** *Sponsored by UAW Local 2209 & Greater Allen County CAP Council*

Open ONLY to veterans who get in for FREE with valid ID.

**Nov 14 & 15 - Winter Wonder Dash Walk/Run**

*Sponsored by Fort4Fitness*

Fort4Fitness participants have special access to walk or run through the lights before the Blue Jacket drive-through event opens to the public!

**Nov 16 - Just Bicycle Night** *Partners: 3Rivers Velo Sport, FW Outfitters Bike Depot, FW Trails, and Old Fort Bicycle*

Enjoy the magical light displays from a unique perspective - your bicycle!

**Nov 18 - Opening Night Switch Flip**

A Blue Jacket Client and their family is awarded the great honor of turning on the lights for the season on opening night each year.

**Nov 28 - Christmas Village Opens**

*Sponsored by ProFed & Carter Lumber*

Offers guests the chance to take photos, shop for treasures, and enjoy FREE hot chocolate. Located at Franke Park Pavilion One.

### DECEMBER

**Dec 17- Decorate Your Car Night** *Sponsored by Preferred Auto Group*

It's the final night to visit before Santa heads back to the North Pole!

**Dec 31 - FINAL Night | Pay What You Want Night**

On the final night of the season, all cars can choose the amount they'd like to pay for admission.



**PURCHASE YOUR TICKETS IN ADVANCE,  
CHECK WAIT TIMES & MORE  
ON THE FANTASY OF LIGHTS APP!**

Download in the App Store and Google Play Store  

*Merry Christmas* – from Blue Jacket, Inc. Board of Directors, Staff and Volunteers

**Now Twice as Bright with Fort Wayne LightFest,  
a partnership with the Fort Wayne Zoo.**





# 21<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL

**WORLD BASEBALL ACADEMY (WBA) WILL BE HIGHLIGHTED  
AS THIS YEAR'S CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION**

**WBA Youth from Around Northeast Indiana  
to Light the Spectacular Colorado Blue Spruce**

**Nationally Acclaimed Concordia Lutheran High School Marching Band  
to Lead the Christmas Parade Down Broadway**

**Santa and Mrs. Claus to Arrive on a Spectacular Sleigh and Reindeer Float  
Accompanied by a Vintage Firetruck from Fort Wayne Firefighters Museum**

**All New, Exciting Polar Express Train to Offer Children Rides**

**21Alive to Telecast Expanded Live Coverage from Broadway Plaza**

**WOWO to Raise Funds for Penny Pitch/Casey Hendrickson to Broadcast Live**

***Fort Wayne Komets, Lake City Bank, Brigadoon Fitness, IU Health,  
Heller Homes, Prairie Farms Dairy, Deister Machine Company,  
Kelley Automotive, Keith Byers, CME Construction, Mudrack Tree Service,  
Kissinger Electric, Graycraft Signs Fort Wayne, and  
Downtown Fort Wayne to kick-off Fort Wayne's holiday season on***

***Friday, November 21, 2025***

Fort Wayne's gateway to the holiday season, "Christmas On Broadway," will take place this year on Friday, November 21, 2025, beginning at 5:00 p.m. This will be the 21<sup>st</sup> year that this beloved community-wide celebration has delighted families from across Northeast Indiana. World Baseball Academy (WBA) will be the featured charitable organization, with youth from the WBA participating in both the parade and tree lighting. The tree lighting and brilliant fireworks display is in the heart of the '07 Neighborhood on the Broadway Plaza, in front of the Shine & Hardin building.

"This year, 'Christmas On Broadway' will highlight World Baseball Academy whose mission is to develop leaders who positively impact our world. World Baseball Academy provides an array of at-risk youth mentoring programs that focus on instilling core values into the lives of young people. These core values include being eager to learn, valuing others, recognizing what needs to be done, focusing on the tasks at hand, a commitment to do the right things and adapting and overcoming problems with a positive attitude," said event coordinators, Steve Shine and Tom Hardin of Shine & Hardin, LLP, who originated the holiday celebration 21 years ago.

Caleb Kimmel, CEO of the WBA expressed his gratitude that the mission of the WBA would be spotlighted as part of the annual holiday festivities. "Being featured in an event that attracts families from all over Northeast Indiana helps focus the public's attention on the mission of WBA, which is to develop our next generation of young leaders who have a desire to give back to our community," said Kimmel.

The nationally acclaimed Concordia Lutheran High School Marching Band, under the direction of Band Leader Jennifer Porath, will start the festivities by leading the parade down Broadway, marching to and playing music of the holiday season. The band will be followed by a 1942 antique firetruck that is housed at the Fort Wayne Firefighters Museum, aboard which will be youth from the WBA. Also included in the parade will be proud members of surrounding neighborhood associations including the Broad River Neighborhood Association and the newly rejuvenated Michigan Avenue Neighborhood Association. The parade down Broadway will reach an exciting crescendo with a 10-foot tall, 22-foot long sleigh and reindeer float (uniquely constructed by Mark Gray, owner of Graycraft Signs Fort Wayne), with Santa Claus himself sitting in the "commander's seat." The parade route will begin at Broadway and Creighton and end at the Broadway Plaza, where the magnificent 40-foot Colorado spruce will be lit at 6:00 p.m., to a background of fireworks and Christmas songs.

Upon arrival at the Plaza, Santa Claus and his helpers will be handing out Santa hats, candy canes and mini flashlights and keychains from Deister Machine Company to be given to all of the children in attendance. Santa will also be joined by one of his reindeers, presenting an opportunity for the children to pet his four-legged helper, many of whom will experience greeting a live reindeer for the first time.

Children will also be treated to rides on the all new, exciting miniature train aptly named the Polar Express, which will be located in the east side

parking lot adjacent to the Shine & Hardin building. The Polar Express consists of an engine and three passenger cars, a uniformed engineer and conductor and will be decorated for Christmas and playing Christmas music. Also featured will be a train depot where the children can gather before boarding the Polar Express.

Food and beverage trucks will be on-site to make the holiday revelers' visit to the Broadway Plaza even more fun and enticing. A variety of food and beverages will be available to satisfy the tastes of all holiday revelers. The food truck service will be provided by Coterie Pizza, well known in the surrounding area for the preparation of pizza in their master crafted Italian stone oven. The beverage truck will be provided by Travelin' Tom's Coffee Truck, featuring a variety of items including hot specialties such as latte, cappuccino, mocha, hot chocolate and more.

"We are so proud that every sponsor who participated in last year's event has again rejoined us for this year's 21<sup>st</sup> annual celebration. It is an honor to have so many prominent businesses and individuals to support this holiday tradition. Without their support we would not be able to provide the spectacular sight of a 40-foot Colorado Blue Spruce adorned with over 40,000 colored lights being illuminated simultaneously with a stunning fireworks display," said Shine and Hardin. The sponsors this year include the Fort Wayne Komets (David Franke), Lake City Bank (Eric Ottinger and Cammy Treadway), Brigadoon Fitness (Bruce Dye), IU Health (Brian Bauer), Heller Homes (Mark Heller), Prairie Farms Dairy (Chuck McQuaig and Rob Ruppert), Deister Machine



# Christmas On Broadway

Company (Mark Deister), Kelley Automotive (Tom Kelley), Keith Byers, CME Construction (Ryan Hellinger), Mudrack Tree Service (Dan Mudrack), Kissinger Electric (Jon Kissinger), Asher Agency (Kara Kelley), Gregory Insurance (Mac Gregory), Downtown Fort Wayne (Preston Wallace), and Graycraft Signs Fort Wayne (Mark Gray). Our media sponsors include 21Alive and Federated Media (WOWO).

The family holiday tradition, which is held each year on the Friday before Thanksgiving, will be telecast live on 21Alive beginning at 4:00 p.m., when their entire two hour 30-minute news block will telecast live from the Broadway Plaza. Vice President and General Manager of 21Alive, Chris Fedele, said, "The holiday tradition continues with the wonderful coincidence of this being the 21<sup>st</sup> year of 'Christmas On Broadway' to be held on the 21<sup>st</sup> day of November and to be telecast on 21Alive. We are delighted to telecast this family tradition and provide exciting coverage of the event for those who cannot otherwise attend. Family entertainment is what 21Alive is all about and there is nothing more family oriented than beginning the holidays with 'Christmas on Broadway'."

21Alive will be joined as a media sponsor by the City's top-rated cluster of radio stations owned by Federated Media, including WOWO, 97.3 WMEE, 1380 The Fan, 98.9 The Bear, and K-105. Ben Saurer, General Manager of the Federated stations, stated that, "Again this year 'Christmas On Broadway' will kick off the 78<sup>th</sup> Annual WOWO Penny Pitch (itself one of the longest and continuous holiday charities in the community) at 3:00 p.m. on November 21<sup>st</sup> with Casey Hendrickson broadcasting live from the Broadway Plaza. Motorist using Broadway will have the opportunity as they drive by the Broadway Plaza to contribute to the WOWO Penny Pitch by dropping their donation into donation buckets held by the members of the WOWO staff. 2025 is WOWO's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary year and we are so pleased to continue to be a part of Fort Wayne traditions, not the least of which is 'Christmas on Broadway'."

The computer center located within the Shine & Hardin building which, during the Spring, Summer and Fall controls the multiple colorized patterns of the Broadway Plaza fountain, will again allow for a variety of lighting display each

evening when the tree is lit. The electrical engineering undertaken for the tree and the multi-colored vibrant displays have been designed by Mark Mongold of Kissinger Electric of Columbia City.

The excitement begins this year when Mudrack Tree Service will transport the tree to the Broadway Plaza on November 17<sup>th</sup>. On that day, Mudrack Tree Service will place the tree into its secure position upon a large tree stand, constructed by CME Construction.

When the tree arrives on Monday, November 17<sup>th</sup>, its arrival will be telecast live on 21Alive beginning at 5:00 a.m. during 21Alive's Morning News, as well as radio coverage on WOWO, 92.3 FM/1190 AM. Then, throughout the week of November 17<sup>th</sup>, crews from A Yard Apart will prepare the tree for its lighting, by placing 40,000 lights on the tree, as well as readying the Broadway Plaza for the anticipated thousands of spectators. The entire event site will be overseen and managed through the efforts of the Associated Builders and Contractors Indiana Kentucky Chapter under the supervision of Felisha Anderson, Director of Council Management.

The Broadway Plaza is located at the mid-point of the Broadway Corridor. To the north of the

Broadway Plaza is Fort Wayne's largest redevelopment project in the City's history, that being the nationally acclaimed Electric Works. To the south of the Broadway Plaza is Quimby Village, which is home to the Clyde, Fort Wayne's most unique music venue. The Broadway Corridor is bordered by nine neighborhoods, those being Broad River, Creighton-Home, Historic South Wayne, Historic Oakdale, Fairfield, Illsley Place, Williams-Woodland, West Rudisill Neighborhood Association, and the Michigan Avenue Neighborhood Association.

On Saturday, November 15<sup>th</sup>, in The Journal Gazette, a full-page outline of the Christmas tree will be available for children of all ages to color or their own rendering of the Christmas tree on Broadway. The three top entries will win Visa Gift Cards from Lake City Bank, and prizes from Federated Media and 21Alive. All entries must be received on or before Monday, December 15, 2025, and mailed to WPTA-TV, 3401 Butler Road, Fort Wayne, Indiana 46808. Winners will be announced on Wednesday morning, December 24, 2025, on 21Alive's Morning News, WOWO 92.3 FM/1190 AM, and Christmas Time with Steve Shine to be telecast on the 21Alive stations and, this year celebrates its 40<sup>th</sup> year of sharing holiday cheer featuring local celebrities and guests.





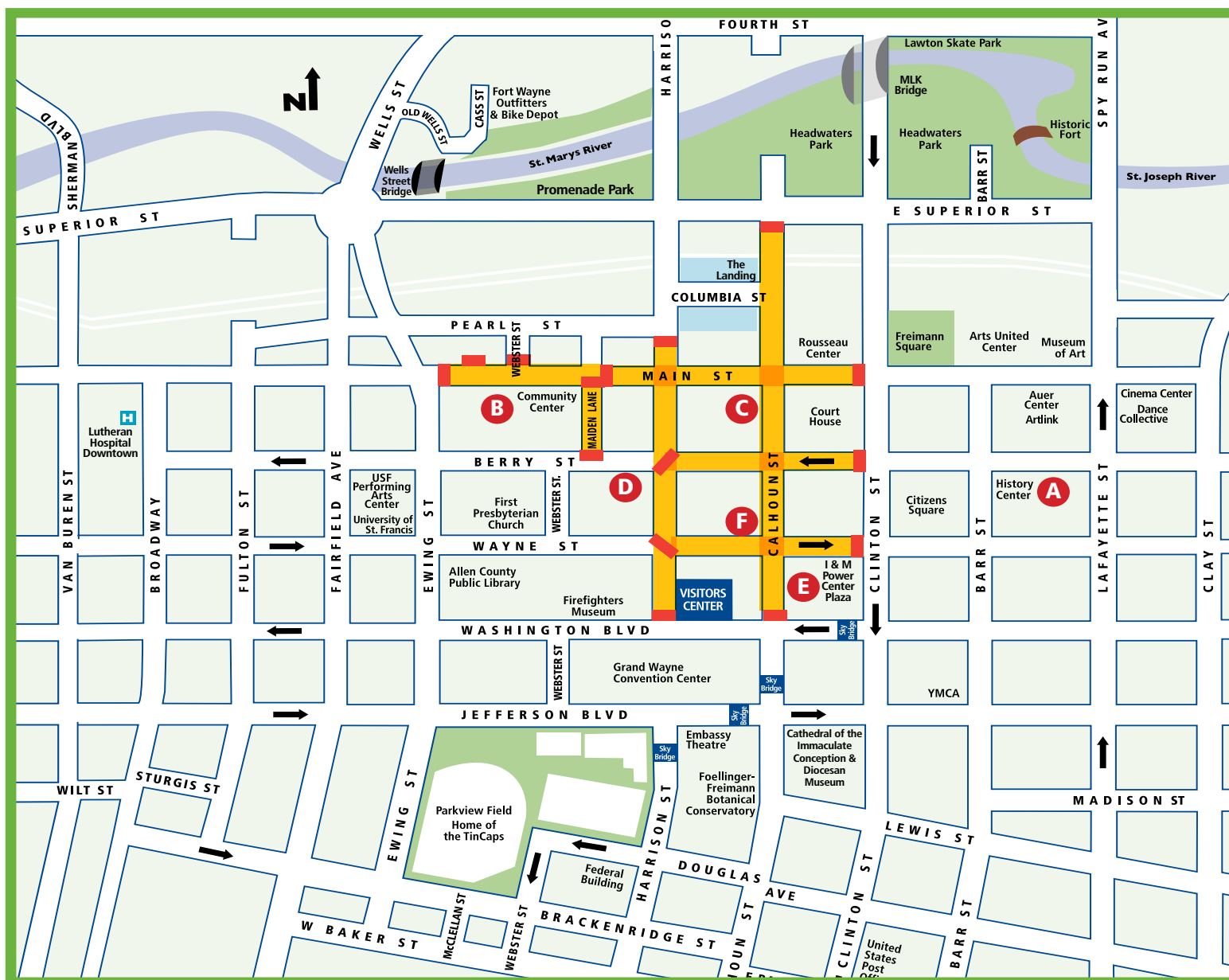


# **BRIGHTENING THE HOLIDAYS IN DOWNTOWN FORT WAYNE**

**NOVEMBER 26 | FESTIVITIES BEGIN AT 5:45 PM | PNC PARKING LOT**







## LIGHTING LOCATIONS

- A** History Center
- B** Fort Wayne Parks & Recreation Community Center
- C** PNC Bank
- D** Ash Brokerage
- E** Indiana Michigan Power Center
- F** Downtown Fort Wayne Drone Show with Sky Elements

 Street closures from 5:30-8:00 pm







# NIGHT OF LIGHTS

## NOVEMBER 26

### Embassy Theatre Holiday 'Windows

#### EMBASSY THEATRE

125 W Jefferson Blvd

Free

Enjoy the holiday splendor with traditionally animated and decorated windows along Harrison Street and at the corner of Jefferson Street at the Embassy Theatre. The vintage montages on Harrison harken back to an earlier era showing characters that continue to delight viewers at every age. Some window items are from an original Wolf & Dessauer display.

(260) 424-5665

[fwembassytheatre.org/festival-of-trees](http://fwembassytheatre.org/festival-of-trees)

### Artful Creations Preview Night

#### THE HISTORY CENTER

302 E Berry St

3:00pm – 9:00pm

\$4 per person

Visitors can get a sneak peek at the artful creations of local gingerbread artisans from 3-9pm. At 6pm that evening, the History Center's turret lights will be lit with special holiday colors. Admission is only \$4 per person.

(260) 426-2882

[fwhistorycenter.org](http://fwhistorycenter.org)

### 41st Annual Festival of Trees

#### EMBASSY THEATRE

125 W Jefferson Blvd

3:00pm – 9:00pm

Adults: \$12; Youth (1-12 yrs): \$5; Infants: Free

The annual traditions at the festival continue in 2025. The lobbies of the Embassy Theatre and former Indiana Hotel will transform into a wonderland of decorated trees of diverse sizes, shapes, and a broad array of themes. Admission includes visits with Santa (unless he's taking a quick break!) and entertainment on stage including the Grande Page pipe organ as well as youth choirs, dance performances and more. Follow the Embassy on Facebook/Instagram, visit the festival web page or call the box office for details.

(260) 424-5665

[fwembassytheatre.org/festival-of-trees](http://fwembassytheatre.org/festival-of-trees)

### Santa's Workshop

#### FORT WAYNE PARKS & RECREATION COMMUNITY CENTER

233 W Main St

4:30pm – 7:30pm

Free

Start your downtown celebration at the Community Center with free holiday activities for the kids. There will be crafts, milk and cookies, and holiday shopping. Come meet "Buddy" the Elf and get your photo taken! Donate a new or gently used bear and enter a drawing to win a giant bear. Kids can shop for inexpensive holiday gifts for \$5 or less at the North Pole Stop-n-Shop. (We do accept cash or card for gifts) Don't miss the light display on the Community Center roof. The Lighting Ceremony is at 6:10 p.m.

(260) 427-6460

[cityoffortwayne.in.gov/624/Special-Events](http://cityoffortwayne.in.gov/624/Special-Events)

### \$1 Night Light Display

#### FOELLINGER-FREIMANN BOTANICAL CONSERVATORY

1100 S Calhoun St

5:00pm – 8:00pm

\$1 per person

Experience the magic of the gardens aglow during the \$1-Night Light Display! The eve before Thanksgiving, kick off the holiday season with a stroll through the Botanical Conservatory, where indoor gardens glisten and glow with festive greenery, vibrant poinsettias and illuminated photo ops. During this special four-week display, enjoy multiple visits with family and friends, treat yourself at Café Flora and find unique gifts in the Conservatory Shop. Garden admission is just \$1.

(260) 427-6440

[botanicalconservatory.org](http://botanicalconservatory.org)

### Cookies and Hot Chocolate

#### ALLEN COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY 900 LIBRARY PLZ

5:00pm – 8:00pm

Free

# Lighting Schedule

(see description for specific detail):

6:00pm – History Center Turret Lighting (Barr Street) – Lighting Location A

6:10pm – Fort Wayne Parks & Recreation Community Center Santa's Workshop Lighting (Main Street) – Location B

6:20pm – PNC Bank Santa and His Reindeer Lighting (Main and Calhoun Streets) – Location C

6:40pm – Ash Brokerage Holiday Illumination Lighting (Harrison and Berry Streets) – Location D

7:00pm – Elevatus Architecture Christmas Tree Display Lighting and Indiana Michigan Power Merry Christmas Wreath Lighting (Calhoun and Wayne Streets) – Location E

7:20pm - Downtown Fort Wayne Drone Show with Sky Elements (Calhoun and Wayne Streets) – Location F

8:00pm - Downtown Churches and ACPL Finale Ringing of the Bells

Celebrate the holiday with the library and enjoy a cookie and a cup of hot cocoa. While supplies last.

(260) 421-1200

### Hot Wassail and Cookies

#### GOOD SHEPHERD BOOKS & GIFTS

915 S Clinton St

5:00pm – 8:00pm

Free

Free hot wassail & cookies! 20% off your entire purchase! Great gifts for the holidays. Ornaments, nativities, children's gifts, jewelry, Willow Tree, Fontanini, apparel, and much more! Park free in our garage until 8pm. Garage closes at 8pm.

(260) 399-1442

### Indoor Hot Cocoa Warming Station and Immersive Photo Stations

#### THE LOCAL ARCHIVE

118 W Columbia St, Suite 201

5:00pm – 9:00pm

Free

We're transforming our studio into an immersive photo booth playground! Explore a variety of themed stations perfect for snapping your favorite picture. Warm Up With Hot cocoa. Entry: Free; Hot Cocoa (disposable cup): \$10; Souvenir Mug (separately): \$10; Hot Cocoa + Souvenir Mug: \$15. Bring your friends, your camera, and your holiday spirit, and we'll bring the cozy vibes (and the cocoa)!

(260) 207-4355

[thelocalarchive.com/events](http://thelocalarchive.com/events)

### A Bird's Eye View of Night of Lights

#### THE BRADLEY

Birdie's Rooftop Bar

204 W Main St

5:00pm – 11:00pm

\$10 per person

Take Flight into Holiday Magic! Join us high above the twinkling streets at Birdie's Rooftop Bar for a truly enchanting celebration: A Bird's Eye View of Night of Lights.

Perched on our cozy perch in the sky, you'll sip sparkling handcrafted cocktails, nibble on festive holiday treats, and watch as Santa Claus himself lights up the night below—his sleigh glowing with joy and cheer for all of Fort Wayne to see. And the magic doesn't end when the lights do—stick around! Birdie's will stay open late, keeping the holiday cheer aloft all evening long.  
(260) 428-4218  
[bradleyhotel.com/dining/birdies](http://bradleyhotel.com/dining/birdies)

**Traditional & Contemporary Carols at HBA Fort Wayne**  
**HOME BUILDERS ASSOCIATION OF FORT WAYNE**  
305 W Main St  
5:30pm – 6:15pm  
Free  
Join us at the Home Builders Association and enjoy traditional and contemporary holiday music selections performed by members of the Homestead Show Choirs.  
(260) 420-2020  
[hbafortwayne.com/events](http://hbafortwayne.com/events)

**Santa and His Reindeer at the PNC Bank Tower**  
**PNC BANK**  
PNC Tower Parking Lot, corner of Calhoun St and Main St  
5:30pm – 6:20pm  
Free

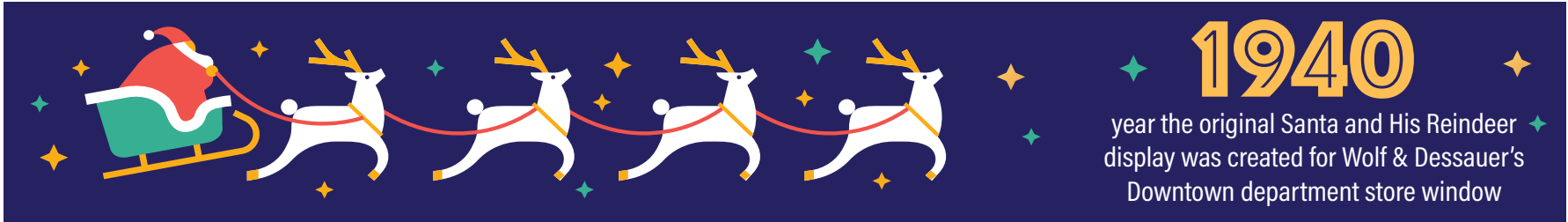
Visit Santa and enjoy carols starting at 5:30pm. PNC Regional President Corinna Ladd and other community leaders will countdown the lighting of Fort Wayne's biggest holiday lights display, Santa and His Reindeer.

**Letters to Santa**  
**GRAND WAYNE CONVENTION CENTER**  
120 W Jefferson Blvd  
6:00pm – 8:00pm  
Free  
Please join us at the Grand Wayne Convention Center as we kick off the holiday season and drop a letter to Santa. Additionally, we welcome Faith in Motion, The Fort Wayne Philharmonic's combined Junior Strings Ensemble and Youth Symphony Orchestra, The Allen County Library, and many other friends as we kick off this Holiday season with cookies, crafts, activities, and Christmas Classics.  
(260) 602-0585  
[grandwayne.com](http://grandwayne.com)

**Make and Take Crafts with the ACPL**  
**ALLEN COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY**  
Grand Wayne Convention Center  
120 W Jefferson Blvd  
6:00pm – 8:00pm  
Free  
Visit our Make and Take craft table at the Grand Wayne Center while you are enjoying Night of Lights! The Children's

Services department from the main branch of the Allen County Public Library will be at the Grand Wayne Convention Center for some merry craft-making. Come make crafts that twinkle, crafts that spin, crafts that make the snowmen grin!  
(260) 421-1220

**Youth Orchestras Performance**  
**Fort Wayne Philharmonic**  
**GRAND WAYNE CONVENTION CENTER**  
120 W Jefferson Blvd  
6:30pm  
Free  
Join the Fort Wayne Philharmonic Youth Orchestras at the GrandWayneCenter as these talented young instrumentalists bring you some holiday cheer! The Fort Wayne Philharmonic Youth Orchestras program provides student musicians with an authentic, professional orchestra experience. From classics to pops, enjoy the accomplishments of these young musicians.  
(260) 740-3975  
[fwphil.org/event/25-26-youth-orchestra-night-of-lights](http://fwphil.org/event/25-26-youth-orchestra-night-of-lights)



**3**  
number of days it takes for the teams from Shambaugh & Sons and Doc's Crane & Rigging to mount Santa and His Reindeer on the wall of the PNC Tower

**24,717**  
number of LED lightbulbs in the Santa and His Reindeer fixture brightening Downtown during the holiday

**NIGHT OF LIGHTS**  
**155 FEET**  
length of the fixture  
**5 1/2 TONS**  
weight of the fixture

**\$17,930**  
amount raised for local charities through the auctioning of the opportunity to ride the cherry picker and turn on the fixture on the night before Thanksgiving

**50,000+**  
estimated crowd size counting down for the Santa and His Reindeer lighting at the largest Night of Lights crowd!



	Location	1/2 Hour	1 Hour	Ea. Addl. Hr.	Daily Max	Hours
1	120 W. Berry St. - PNC Bank	\$1	\$2	\$1	\$8 / \$2 weekends / \$5 events	Mon. - Fri. 7:30 am - 6:30 pm
2	555 S. Harrison				\$5 for first 4 hours / \$10 daily max	24 hr. automated
3	520 W. Wayne St. - Trinity English Lutheran				\$4 / \$5 events	Drop Box
4	720 S. Calhoun St. - PNC Bank	\$1	\$3	\$2	\$12	24 hr.
5	Lofts at Headwaters Park Garage	\$1	\$2	\$1	\$8 / \$6 events	24 hr. automated, credit card only
6	Spy Run Avenue, across from Old Fort	Free	Free	Free	Special Events TBD	24 hr.
7	100 E. Washington Blvd. - Civic Garage	\$1	\$2	\$1	\$8 / \$6 events	24 hr. automated
8	515 S. Calhoun St. - Plaza Garage	\$1	\$2	\$1	\$7 / \$6 events	24 hr. automated
9	828 S. Clinton St. - Town Center		\$1	\$1	\$7	24 hr. automated
10	1210 Harrison St. - Harrison Square	\$1	\$2	\$1	\$8 / \$6 events	24 hr. automated
11	200 E. Main St. - First Source Garage	\$1	\$1.75	\$1	\$7 / \$6 events	24 hr. automated
12	110 W. Berry St. - PNC Building	\$1	\$2	\$.50	\$7	24 hr. automated
13	1014 Webster St. - Library (library visitors only)		\$1	\$1	\$7	24 hr. automated, credit card only
14	926 S. Harrison St. - Library		\$1	\$1	\$7	24 hr. automated, credit card only
15	220 W. Wayne St. - Skyline Garage	\$1	\$2	\$1	\$8 / \$6 events	24 hr. automated
16	219 W. Wayne St. - Library Surface Lot		\$1	\$1	\$7	24 hr. automated
17	210 E. Washington Blvd. - Masonic Temple	\$1	\$2	\$1	\$8 / \$6 events	Drop Box
18	346 W. Wayne St. - First Presbyterian Church	\$1	\$2	\$1	\$4 / \$2 nights & weekends / \$5 events	9 am - 3 pm, cash only
19	335 W. Berry St. - First Presbyterian Church	\$1	\$2	\$1	\$2 nights & weekends / \$5 events	9 am - 3 pm, cash only
20	4th St. & Clinton – North River Lot	Free	Free	Free	Special Events TBD	24 hr.
21	4th St. between Clinton & Spy Run	Free	Free	Free	Special Events TBD	24 hr.
22	301 W. Superior - Promenade Park				\$5 for first 4 hours, \$8 for 5-8 hours, free nights & weekends	Mon. - Fri. 7 am - 5 pm
23	123 W. Main St.	\$1	\$2	\$1	\$8 / \$2 nights & weekends / \$5 events	Mon. - Fri. 7 am - 5:30 pm, cash only
24	Freimann Square		\$1		Metered Parking	Open to public evenings & weekends
25	Riverfront at Promenade Park	\$1	\$2	\$1	\$8 / \$6 events	24 hr. automated, credit card only
26	STAR Financial	\$1	\$2	\$1	\$8 / \$6 events	24 hr. automated, credit card only
27	Pearl Arts - 350 Pearl St.	Free	Free	Free	Special Events TBD	
BB	Baseball Parking - \$6.00					
EW	Electric Works	Free	Free	After 2 hrs., \$1/hr.	\$12	24 hr. automated, credit card only



# NIGHT OF LIGHTS

## PARKING

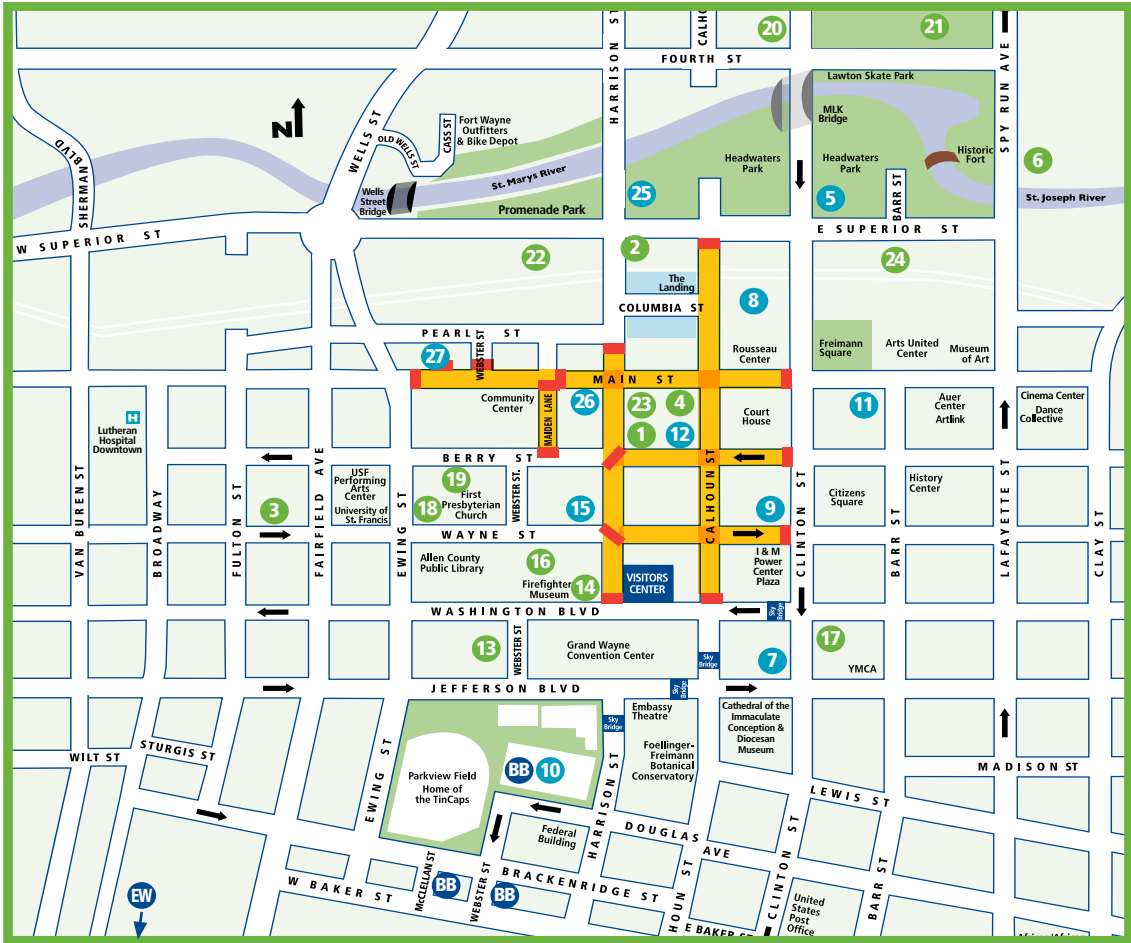
We anticipate parking spaces will fill quickly, please plan accordingly.

### NOV 26

### 5:30PM

#### Downtown Public Parking

= Parking Lot     = Parking Garage



\*Motorcycle parking not allowed in garages, Motorcycle parking available only at meters and surface lots.  
Correct at time of printing. Availability & Rates subject to change during special events. The majority of these lots are credit card only.



Continued from page 4

If I have heretofore given the impression that every great Christmas event in town is debuting during Night of Lights or even happening during Night of Lights, I apologize. This is not the case.

For example, there is the Fort Wayne Ballet's annual production of "The Nutcracker," which debuts December 5.

Karen Gibbons-Brown, executive and artistic director of ballet, said the redesign of Arts United Center has allowed for the resurrection of the Sugar Plum Parties.

The Sugar Plum Parties (which give kids a chance to interact with the dancers and take part in activities that might make it seem as if the E. T. A. Hoffmann's

story has come to life) were put on hold during the worst of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Patrons can add-on the Sugar Plum Party that follows any matinee performance for only \$5 per person," Gibbons-Brown said. "The Sugar Plum Parties are focused on enhancing the performance experience for young audience members and feature 'meet the dancers' and lots of sweet treats."

Speaking of children's stories come to life, the Foellinger-Freimann Botanical Conservatory's holiday show will center around the work of local children's book illustrator Talitha Shipman. Fern's Fairylight Express, which opens Nov. 22, will give families a chance

to follow an adventure featuring the trio of Fern, Bug, and Sprout.

Fern's Fairylight Express debuts four days before Night of Lights and is visitable during Night of Lights for those of you keeping score at home.

Let's throw caution to the winds and look at Christmas events that aren't even happening downtown!

The Fort Wayne Philharmonic's Holiday Pops series will see the return of beloved former associate conductor Sameer Patel, according to marketing director Brooke Sheriden.

Patel, who is currently music director and conductor for the La Jolla Symphony, was the first to bring the variety show approach to

Holiday Pops, she said.

The big change with Christmas at the Castle, featuring a Christmas-decorated Brookside mansion on the campus of the University of Saint Francis, has to do with how tickets may be procured, according to communications director Reggie Hayes.

They are now available in advance AND at the door.

"The ability to buy tickets at the door for Christmas at the Castle at Brookside (aka Bass Mansion) is a change that people have been requesting," he said. "We had required tickets in advance the last few years."

Hayes said there will also be a new photo opportunity at the event this year.



Finally, we have the Blue Jacket Fantasy of Lights.

Blue Jacket is teaming up this year with the Fort Wayne Zoo. The Zoo is presenting a new holiday offering called Wild Lights and the two organizations will combine their Franke Park happenings into a new event called Fort Wayne Light Fest, according to Todd Eviston, the Zoo's marketing and communications director.

It is so huge that it can't be summarized here.

Visit [fwlightfest.org](http://fwlightfest.org) for more information.



# THE NUTCRACKER

December 5-14, 2025  
Arts United Center




Presented by



[fortwayneballet.org](http://fortwayneballet.org)

CHRIST CHILD FESTIVAL  
CELEBRATE THE BIRTH OF OUR

# Savior



NOVEMBER 26, 2025

DOWNTOWN LIBRARY  
PARKVIEW FIELD

[CHRISTCHILDFEST.ORG](http://CHRISTCHILDFEST.ORG)





# ACTIVITIES GUIDE

## EMBASSY THEATRE HOLIDAY WINDOWS

Embassy Theatre  
125 W Jefferson Blvd  
**November 27 –  
December 31**  
Free  
Enjoy the holiday splendor with traditionally animated and decorated windows along Harrison Street and at the corner of Jefferson Street at the Embassy Theatre. The vintage montages on Harrison harken back to an earlier era showing characters that continue to delight viewers at every age. Some window items are from an original Wolf & Dessauer display.  
(260) 424-5665  
fwembassytheatre.org/festival-of-trees

## GALLOPING GOBBLER 4 MILER VEEP RACES

Hutzell Athletic Center, USF Campus  
1001 Leesburg Rd  
**November 27, 8:30am**  
\$25 per person  
The Galloping Gobbler has become Fort Wayne's new family tradition for Thanksgiving. Folks visiting from across the country have made room for the turkey and trimmings by running the four-mile

Galloping Gobbler course. The four miler will start at the Hutzell Athletic Center on the campus of the University of Saint Francis and then take you through Fort Wayne's historic Lindenwood Cemetery before finishing back at campus. It is time to celebrate together. Runners have enjoyed music, posing with a live turkey, chip timing, and the camaraderie of over 2100 runners, friends and family.  
(260) 435-9524  
veepraces.com

## 41ST ANNUAL FESTIVAL OF TREES

Embassy Theatre  
125 W Jefferson Blvd  
**Nov. 27, 3:00 – 7:00pm.;  
November 28 –  
December 1, 11:00am – 8:00pm;  
December 2 – 3,  
9:00am – 1pm**  
Adults: \$12; Youth (1-12 yrs): \$5; Infants: Free  
The annual traditions at the festival continue in 2025. The lobbies of the Embassy Theatre and former Indiana Hotel will transform into a wonderland of decorated trees of diverse sizes, shapes, and a broad array of themes. Admission includes visits with Santa (unless he's taking a quick break!) and entertainment

on stage including the Grande Page pipe organ as well as youth choirs, dance performances and more. Follow the Embassy on Facebook/Instagram, visit the festival web page or call the box office for details.  
(260) 424-5665  
fwembassytheatre.org/festival-of-trees

## ELF MOVIE SCREENING AT THE EMBASSY THEATRE

Embassy Theatre  
125 W Jefferson Blvd  
**November 27, 4:00pm**  
Adults: \$12; Youth (1-12 yrs): \$5; Infants: Free  
As one feature of the Embassy's Festival of Trees, the theater will include a Thanksgiving Day holiday film screening of Elf. Plot: Raised as an oversized elf, Buddy travels from the North Pole to New York City to meet his biological father, Walter Hobbs, who doesn't know he exists and is in desperate need of some Christmas spirit. Starring Will Ferrell, James Caan, Bob Newhart, Edward Asner, Mary Steenburgen and Zooey Deschanel (running time: 1 hr. 37 min.).  
(260) 424-5665  
fwembassytheatre.org/festival-of-trees

## BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

**EMBASSY THEATRE**  
125 W Jefferson Blvd  
**November 28-29: 8:30am – approximately 10:30am**  
\$35 per person  
Celebrate the season at this annual holiday event, starting with a Breakfast guests only tour of the Festival of Trees at 8:30 a.m., followed by Breakfast with Santa around 9 a.m. A hot and delicious breakfast buffet from Mad Anthony/Shigs In Pit will be served, sure to delight the whole family. Guests will also enjoy an abridged and charming performance of A Christmas Story presented by Fort Wayne Youtheatre. Seating is very limited; this beloved event sells out every year!  
(260) 424-5665  
fwembassytheatre.org/festival-of-trees

## \$1 NIGHT LIGHT DISPLAY

Foellinger-Freimann Botanical Conservatory  
1100 S Calhoun St  
**5:00-8:00pm**  
**Wednesday, November 26**  
**Closed Thanksgiving Day**  
**Thursdays & Fridays, Nov 28-Dec 19**  
Experience the magic of the gardens aglow during the \$1-Night Light

Display! The eve before Thanksgiving, kick off the holiday season with a stroll through the Botanical Conservatory, where indoor gardens glisten and glow with festive greenery, vibrant poinsettias and illuminated photo ops. During this special four-week display, enjoy multiple visits with family and friends, treat yourself at Cafe Flora and find unique gifts in the Conservatory Shop. Garden admission is just \$1.

**Wednesday, November 26**

During Downtown Fort Wayne's Night of Lights

**Friday, November 28**  
**Special Performance**  
**5:30-7:30pm**

Those 2 Guys in Suits & Ties

**Thursday, December 4**  
**Friday, December 5**  
**Special Performance**  
**5:30-7:30pm**

The Snow Fort Singers  
**Thursday, December 11**  
**Friday, December 12**  
**Special Performance**  
**5:30-7:30pm**

PFW Holiday Carolers  
**Thursday, December 18**  
**Friday, December 19**  
(260) 427-6440  
botanicalconservatory.org



# ACTIVITIES GUIDE

## FESTIVAL OF GINGERBREAD

The History Center

302 E Berry St

**November 28 – December 21**

\$7.00 Adults, \$5.00 Youth & Seniors, 2 and Under Free  
The History Center's 40th Annual Festival of Gingerbread officially kicks off on November 28, celebrating its Ruby Anniversary with unique ruby themed décor and gingerbread creations. Special programming occurs each weekend. Since its inception, the Festival of Gingerbread has become one of our community's premier holiday traditions. Each season, over one hundred gingerbread creations adorn the History Center's beautifully restored Shields Room. (260) 426-2882  
fwhistorycenter.org

## PIPE CLEANER TREES

The History Center

302 E Berry St

**November 29, 12:00pm – 5:00pm**

\$1 plus Regular Festival Admission  
Use pipe cleaners and other craft supplies to make your own tree farm. (260) 426-2882  
fwhistorycenter.org

## CITILINK FREE FARE SATURDAYS

Citilink

121 W Baker St

**November 29, December 6, December 13, and December 20**

Free Fare Saturdays: Free; Holiday Shuttle: Regular fare Citilink will have Free Fare Saturdays and a holiday shuttle this holiday season! Your bus rides on those Saturdays are completely free while you enjoy the best of Fort Wayne during the holidays. Need to do a little holiday shopping? Our holiday shuttle has you covered! It is a non-stop shuttle to take you to Northcrest Shopping Center and Glenbrook Mall from our Central Station. No stops, just shops! Not sure how to ride? We've got you covered with free virtual or in-person travel training. We're more than a bus; we're here for you! (260) 432-4546  
fwcitilink.com

## ARTLINK WINTER MARKETS

Artlink Contemporary Gallery

300 E Main St

**November 29, December 6 & December 13 from 10:00am – 4:00pm.**

Free  
Shop small and handmade this holiday season from

local vendors in Artlink's Winter Markets! Our Winter Markets are held on Saturdays, Nov 29th, Dec 6th & Dec 13th from 10AM - 4PM inside the gallery. Grab a free hot cocoa at our front desk to enjoy while you shop from 10+ vendors in the market, and another 40+ local artisans in our Curated Shop & Cup Sale! (260) 424-7195  
artlinkfw.org/holidays-at-artlink

## HOLIDAYS AT ARTLINK

Artlink Contemporary Gallery

300 E Main St

**We're open November 29 - Dec 14, with Winter Markets each Saturday 10am - 4pm.** The Curated Shop & Cup Exhibition are also open our business hours of Thurs 10am - 8pm, Fri & Sat 10am - 6pm, Sun 12 - 5pm. Free  
Shop handmade and local this holiday season at Artlink! On Saturdays Nov 29, Dec 6 and Dec 13 we will hold our Artlink Winter Market in the gallery, featuring 10+ local handmade vendors each week. For even more handmade holiday gift

options, you can shop from 20+ local artist vendors in our Curated Shop and 30+ ceramic artists in our Cup Exhibition & Sale, both open during our regular business hours November 29 - December 14! (260) 424-7195  
artlinkfw.org/holidays-at-artlink

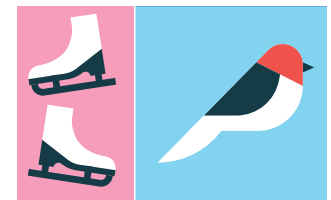
## THE DECK'S CHRISTMAS MARKET

The Deck

305 E Superior St

**November 29, 12:00pm – 8:00pm; December 6, 12:00pm – 8:00pm; December 13, 12:00pm – 8:00pm; December 20, 12:00pm – 8:00pm**

Free  
Get in the Christmas spirit and join us at The Deck for our outdoor Christmas Market! Get some Christmas shopping done while visiting local vendors, grab a hot chocolate or a specialty deck Christmas drink, some chili, and enjoy the live music and bonfires! There will be free activities and vendors that will vary each market date! Santa will also be making appearances!



## SENSORY-FRIENDLY BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

Embassy Theatre

125 W Jefferson Blvd

**November 30, approximately 8:30am – 10:30am**

\$35 per person  
The Festival of Trees tour starts at 8:30 a.m., with fewer people/easy movement. At 9 a.m. a delicious breakfast buffet from Mad Anthony/Shigs In Pit will be served. Enjoy an abridged and charming performance of A Christmas Story presented by Fort Wayne Youtheatre. Coloring and fidget tools will be provided. A limited number of Embassy sensory-friendly kits are available. Guests are encouraged to bring their own sunglasses for light sensitivity and other needed supports. A calming zone will be available away from the dining area. Seating is extremely limited! (260) 424-5665  
fwembassytheatre.org/festival-of-trees







# ACTIVITIES GUIDE

## SENSORY-FRIENDLY FESTIVAL OF TREES

Embassy Theatre  
125 W Jefferson Blvd  
**November 30, 9:00am – 11:00am**  
Adults: \$12; Youth (1-12 yrs): \$5; Infants: Free  
Experience the Festival in a sensory-friendly setting! Lobbies of the Embassy Theatre and former Indiana Hotel will be filled with a diverse wonderland of beautifully decorated trees. During this special sensory-friendly time, guests will enjoy reduced lighting, easier movement and no stage programming. Extremely limited capacity ensures quieter surroundings for a more relaxed experience. A limited number of Embassy sensory kits can be borrowed. Visitors are encouraged to bring their own sunglasses for light sensitivity and other needed supports. Contact us via phone to reserve space.  
(260) 247-3701  
fwembassytheatre.org/  
festival-of-trees

## LEGEND OF THE GINGERBREAD MAN ORNAMENT

The History Center  
302 E Berry St  
**November 30, 12:00pm – 5:00pm**

\$1 plus Regular Festival Admission  
Make a gingerbread man ornament to take home and hang on the tree.  
(260) 426-2882  
fwhistorycenter.org

## FORT WAYNE CHILDREN'S CHOIR COMMUNITY SING- ALONG

Embassy Theatre  
125 W Jefferson Blvd  
**December 1, 6:30pm – 8:00pm (auditorium doors open at 6 pm)**  
Adult: \$12; Child (Ages 1-12): \$5; Infant: Free  
Sing along to holiday favorites with the Fort Wayne Children's Choir as they feature local talented youth on the Embassy stage. This delightful musical showcase is always a featured event during the weeklong holiday celebration. Admission includes access to the 41st annual Festival of Trees PRIOR to the performance.  
(260) 424-5665  
fwembassytheatre.org

## SENIOR DAY AT FESTIVAL OF TREES

Embassy Theatre  
125 W Jefferson Blvd  
**December 2, 9:00am – 1:00pm**  
Adults: \$12; Seniors: \$8 (December 2 ONLY); Youth: \$5; Infants: Free

The festival celebrates our seniors with love, extra seating and guidance through the festival. Guests will be able to enjoy a complimentary treat and coffee while supplies last. All ages are welcome as lobbies of the Embassy Theatre and former Indiana Hotel are transformed into a wonderland of Christmas trees and holiday ornamentation! Patrons can sit in the auditorium to enjoy festive stage programming and the Grande Page organ or sneak in a visit with Santa in Santa Land. Follow the Embassy on Facebook/Instagram or visit the festival website for details.  
(260) 424-5665  
fwembassytheatre.org/  
festival-of-trees

## FOOD DRIVE ADMISSION NIGHT

The History Center  
302 E Berry St  
**December 2, 5:00pm – 9:00pm**

Bring a nonperishable food item as your admission Food Drive Benefiting the Community Harvest Food Bank. Bring a nonperishable food item as your admission and enjoy an evening at the Festival of Gingerbread.  
(260) 426-2882  
fwhistorycenter.org

## INTRO TO 3D PRINTING – COOKIE CUTTERS

Allen County Public Library  
- Downtown Main Library  
900 Library Plaza  
**December 3, 6:30pm – 8:30pm**  
Free  
In this program at ACPL's Studio at Main, patrons will learn to use Tinkercad to design their own winter-themed cookie cutter and then will use Prusa Slicer software to prepare their project for 3D printing! Patrons will then 3D print their creation. Don't want to make a cutter for cookies? Use your creation for clay stampmaking instead! Limited to 10 participants. All supplies provided. Space is limited: register in advance at acpl.info to reserve your spot and receive reminders. Registration will guarantee your seat until the event begins.  
(260) 421-1245  
acpl.info

## SANTA CLAUS AT THE HISTORY CENTER

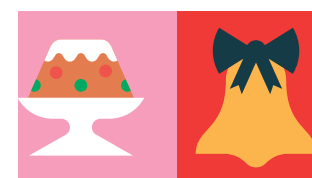
The History Center  
302 E Berry St  
**December 6, 12:00pm – 5:00pm**  
Regular Festival Admission  
Santa Claus will be visiting the History Center.  
(260) 426-2882  
fwhistorycenter.org

## SANTA SATURDAYS

Foellinger-Freimann  
Botanical Conservatory  
1100 S Calhoun St  
**December 6, 13 & 20 | 12:00pm – 4:00pm**  
Adults \$7, Youth (Ages 3-17) \$5, Infants (Ages 2 & under) Free  
Santa Saturdays are back at the Botanical Conservatory! Choose from three festive dates in December to meet jolly old St. Nick and capture a holiday photo surrounded by the sparkling wonder of the "Fern's Fairylight Express" showcase exhibit. Please note: Santa takes a cookie break from 2-2:30 pm Sponsored by PBS Fort Wayne and Majic 95.1.  
(260) 427-6440  
botanicalconservatory.org

## UGLY CHRISTMAS SWEATER LATE NIGHT

Ducky's  
249 Pearl St  
**December 6, 9:00pm – 12:00am**  
Free  
Break out your ugliest Christmas sweater & join us for a late-night dance party at Ducky's. Event 21+.  
(260) 205-8639





# ACTIVITIES GUIDE

## NEEDLE FELTED GNOME WORKSHOP

Artlink Contemporary Gallery  
300 E Main St  
**December 7, 1:00pm – 3:00pm**  
\$35 per person  
Learn the basics of needle felting with Jackie Daugherty while creating a cute little gnome! Using a few simple tools and some wool roving, we will needle felt a simple gnome design that can be used as an ornament or holiday decoration. All supplies to make two gnomes will be provided.

(260) 424-7195  
[artlinkfw.org/needle-felting-workshop](http://artlinkfw.org/needle-felting-workshop)

## HOLIDAY STORYTELLING AT THE HISTORY CENTER

The History Center  
302 E Berry St  
**December 7, 12:00pm – 5:00pm**  
Regular Festival Admission  
Enjoy stories of the season with holiday storytelling at the Festival.  
(260) 426-2882  
[fwhistorycenter.org](http://fwhistorycenter.org)

## HOLIDAY DINNER AND LIGHT TOUR

Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation Community Center  
233 W Main St  
**December 8, 5:30pm – 8:00pm**  
\$25 per person  
Celebrate the magic of the season with our annual Holiday Dinner and Light Tour! The evening begins at 5:30 pm with a delicious holiday dinner and festive entertainment at the Community Center. Enjoy the sounds of local artist

Ta’Korei, accompanied by Gary Amstutz on piano, as they fill the room with holiday cheer. After dinner, we’ll board comfortable motor coaches provided by Excursion Travel and embark on a pre-planned route through downtown Fort Wayne’s most dazzling Christmas light displays, including a stop at The Fantasy of Lights in Franke Park.  
(260) 427-6460  
[cityoffortwayne.in.gov/461/Parks-Recreation](http://cityoffortwayne.in.gov/461/Parks-Recreation)

## INTRO TO LASERCUTTING AND ENGRAVING – ACRYLIC EARRINGS

Allen County Public Library - Downtown Main Library  
900 Library Plaza  
**December 10 6:30pm – 8:30pm**  
Free  
At ACPL’s Studio at Main, this introductory program will teach you about the Glowforge Lasercutter and engraver. After learning machine operation and the software, we will dive into creating custom

**Holiday LIGHTS CHALLENGE**

**Take the Fort Wayne Holiday Lights Challenge!**

Scan this QR code to access the free pass to Fort Wayne’s most iconic holiday lights displays.

Check-in at all locations to “unwrap” a special Holiday Lights Challenge gift!

VisitFortWayne.com

Learn more at:  
**VisitFortWayne.com/Lights**

**You know she’s been eager to visit.**

**We’ll help make it as painless as possible.**

We’ve got the activities, events, restaurants, and ideas to help you plan a fun, memorable holiday together!

We’re planning a season of festive ways to celebrate! Learn more about holiday festivals, shopping, dining and more at:

**VisitFortWayne.com/Holiday**

host them here.com

VisitFortWayne





# ACTIVITIES GUIDE

winter-themed acrylic earrings! Limited to 10 participants. All supplies provided. Space is limited: Register in advance at [apcl.info](http://apcl.info) to reserve your spot and receive reminders. Registration will guarantee your seat until the event begins. (260) 421-1245 [apcl.info](http://apcl.info)

## POPSICLE STICK SNOWFLAKES

The History Center  
302 E Berry Street  
**December 13, 12:00pm – 5:00pm**  
\$1 plus Regular Festival Admission  
Make unique snowflakes out of popsicle sticks and other craft supplies to create a winter wonderland.  
(260) 426-2882  
[fwhistorycenter.org](http://fwhistorycenter.org)

## SEASONAL SUNCATCHER BAUBLES

The History Center  
302 E Berry Street  
**December 14, 12:00pm – 5:00pm**  
\$1 plus Regular Festival Admission  
Decorate seasonal suncatchers to display on a window or tree.  
(260) 426-2882  
[fwhistorycenter.org](http://fwhistorycenter.org)

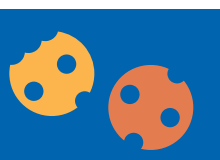


## SUZUKI STRINGS PERFORMANCE

Foellinger-Freimann  
Botanical Conservatory  
1100 S Calhoun St  
**December 14 | 2:00pm – 2:45pm**  
Adults \$7 | Youth (3-17) \$5 | Infants (2 & under) Free  
As you explore the latest showcase exhibit, pause to enjoy holiday favorites performed by the talented young musicians of Fort Wayne Suzuki. Playing violin and cello with skill and spirit, these students showcase the renowned Suzuki Method, often called the “mother tongue method,” where music is learned much like a language. Share in the festive cheer and include their heartwarming performance as part of your visit to the Botanical Conservatory.  
(260) 427-6440  
[botanicalconservatory.org](http://botanicalconservatory.org)

## HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

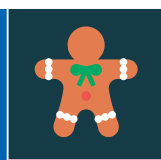
Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation Community Center  
233 W Main St  
**December 15, 12:00pm**  
\$7 per person



Bring a friend or two and join us for our traditional Monday Luncheons! Doors open at 11:30 a.m., and lunch will be served at 12:00 pm. Paid reservations are required by 4:00 pm on the previous Wednesday, and reservation fees are non-refundable. Each luncheon features a short presentation by the sponsor, making it a great way to enjoy a delicious meal, connect with others, and learn about community resources. Ages 50+. Sponsored by Hearing Aids Plus+ (260) 427-6460  
[cityoffortwayne.in.gov/461/Parks-Recreation](http://cityoffortwayne.in.gov/461/Parks-Recreation)

## SCIENCE OF SUGARY STRUCTURES

The History Center  
302 E Berry St  
**December 20, 12:00pm – 5pm**  
\$3 plus Regular Festival Admission  
Explore the fun side of sugary gingerbread creations.  
(260) 426-2882  
[fwhistorycenter.org](http://fwhistorycenter.org)



## COOKIE DECORATING PARTY

The History Center  
302 E Berry Street  
**December 21, 12:00pm – 5:00pm**  
\$3 plus Regular Festival Admission  
Decorate your own gingerbread cookie.  
(260) 426-2882  
[fwhistorycenter.org](http://fwhistorycenter.org)

## THIRD WORLD SHOPPE CHRISTMAS EVERYWHERE CELEBRATION

Third World Shoppe  
Historic Hattersley House (Nonprofit)  
611 W. Wayne St  
**December 22, 3:00pm – 8pm**  
No charge, donations accepted.  
Third World Shoppe offers handcrafted wood, jewelry, toys & gourmet coffees, teas and spices made or grown by low-income artisans and family farmers. We will share hands on crafts celebrating Christmas from several countries, share traditional holiday music and sample treats made from traditional produce. Special discounts will be offered to last minute shoppers.  
(260) 422 6821  
[thethirdworldshoppe.com](http://thethirdworldshoppe.com)

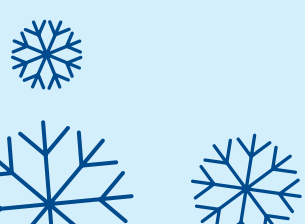
## THE BOARS HEAD AND YULE LOG FESTIVAL

Plymouth Congregational Church, United Church of Christ  
501 W Berry St  
**December 29 and Tuesday December 30**  
Free  
The 49th Annual Boars Head and Yule Festival will take place Monday, December 29th and Tuesday December 30th, with services at 5:30 pm and 8:00 pm each day. This festival is a community favorite and is enjoyed by people of all ages! Interested in tickets? Tickets are free! Our public Box Office Ticket day is Thursday December 11th from 4:00 to 6:00pm at the church, or you may call our Boars Head Ticket Hotline at 260-423-9424 ext. 328. If you'd like to become a Festival Patron and receive information each year, we'd love to add you to the Boars Head family! Oh Come, All Ye Faithful!  
260 423-9424 x328  
[plymouthfw.org/boars-head-yule-log-festival](http://plymouthfw.org/boars-head-yule-log-festival)





*Christmas*  
*at the*  
UNIVERSITY OF  
SAINT FRANCIS™



**Friday, Dec. 5 through Tuesday, Dec. 9**  
Christmas at the Castle

**Saturday, Dec. 6**  
Christmas at the Castle Photo Op

**Saturday, Dec. 6**  
Breakfast with St. Nicholas

**Sunday, Dec. 7**  
Lighting of the Lake and Living Nativity

**JOIN US AS  
WE CELEBRATE  
CHRIST'S BIRTH.**



More details: [go.sf.edu/christmas](https://go.sf.edu/christmas)



Gifts that Give Back

Shop Nativities, Festive Finds, and Stocking Stuffers at **Creative Women of the World**

CREATIVE WOMEN OF THE WORLD  
GLOBAL EMPOWERMENT THROUGH TRAINING & DESIGN

Buy One, Get One  
**50% OFF**  
Ornaments  
November 29th Only

Show this ad at checkout  
for 10% OFF your entire order!

**GoCWOW.com**  
125 W. Wayne St. Fort Wayne, IN 46802 | (260) 267-9048  
Hours: 11am-5pm, Monday-Saturday



**EXPERIENCE**  
*Merry* **MADISON**  
*Indiana*

**HOME TOUR TICKETS**



**2025 TOUR**  
43<sup>RD</sup> Nights before Christmas  
**Candlelight Tour of Homes**  
Tour of private homes & historic sites  
**BACK TO BACK WEEKENDS**  
Nov. 28<sup>TH</sup> & 29<sup>TH</sup> and Dec. 5<sup>TH</sup> & 6<sup>TH</sup>

**Great & Unique  
Holiday Shopping!**

**A Very Merry Madison  
Christmas Parade & Celebration**  
Saturday, December 6th @ 11AM

For more Merry Madison Events Follow us @VisitMadisonIndiana  -OR- Go to VisitMadison.org

Broadway Fountain Credit Don Cornett Photography







# FORT WAYNE Light Fest



BLUE Jacket  
FANTASY OF  
Lights

FORT WAYNE ZOO  
WILD  
Lights



Two amazing holiday experiences in one location!  
Visit [FWLightFest.org](http://FWLightFest.org) for early elf deals!



*Dear Santa*  
I want a gift with adventure  
A gift that lasts all year  
That my whole family will love!

A membership to the Fort Wayne Zoo  
is the gift that keeps on giving.  
Visit [fwzoo.com/membership/](http://fwzoo.com/membership/)



**FORT WAYNE  
ZOO**





NOVEMBER 26  
THRU DECEMBER 3

# FESTIVAL OF TREES

## EMBASSY THEATRE

A wonderland of trees, performances, Santa and holiday magic!

### HOURS:

November 26: 3-9 p.m. (*Expanded Hours!*)

Thanksgiving, November 27: 3-7 p.m.

· *Screening of Elf: 4 p.m.*

November 28 & 29: 11 a.m.-8 p.m.

· *Breakfast with Santa: 8:30 a.m.*

November 30: 11 a.m.-8 p.m.

· *Sensory-Friendly Breakfast with Santa: 8:30 a.m.*

· *Sensory-Friendly Festival Hours: 9-11 a.m.*

December 1: 11 a.m.-8 p.m.

December 2 & 3: 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

· *Tuesday is Senior Day! Open to all ages.*

### TICKETS:

\$12 adults

\$5 youth ages 1-12

(*infants are free*)

\$35 Breakfast with Santa

(*per person*)



Scan for event  
details and to  
buy tickets.

Title Sponsor:



Additional support provided by:  
Midwest America,  
Fort Wayne Metals,  
Sweetwater, Steel Dynamics

The festival is a fundraiser for the Embassy Theatre Foundation.  
Embassy Theatre Foundation Gaming License: 015875