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Lutheran Health Network

DOWNTOWN Fort Wayne

SPONSORED BY:

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STADIUM
HOLIDAY PROMENADE
AT THE PITCH
NOV. 27 – JAN. 02
Experience Fort Wayne's
Newest Holiday Tradition!
Featuring 3D light displays, synthetic ice skating, a kids interactive dance floor, photo ops, and Santa visits.
Tickets
$14
RUOFFSTADIUM.COM

Welcome

HOLIDAY fest

The holiday season is here, and Downtown Fort Wayne is ready to celebrate! Join us for the 2026 HolidayFest, featuring the Night of Lights, presented by Lutheran Health Network and Downtown Fort Wayne, as we bring our community together for beloved traditions, festive experiences, and lasting memories.

The festivities begin Wednesday, November 25, as thousands gather for the beloved Night of Lights. From the iconic Santa and His Reindeer to the Merry Christmas Wreath and countless sparkling displays, Downtown comes alive with holiday spirit.

The celebrations continue all season long! Explore the Festival of Gingerbread and Festival of Trees, experience more than two million dazzling lights at Parkview Field Holiday Lights, and discover beautifully decorated storefronts throughout Downtown.

This year's Holiday Window Decorating Contest celebrates the Twelve Days of Christmas, featuring a festive scavenger hunt and a chance to win a $100 Downtown Fort Wayne Community Gift Card.

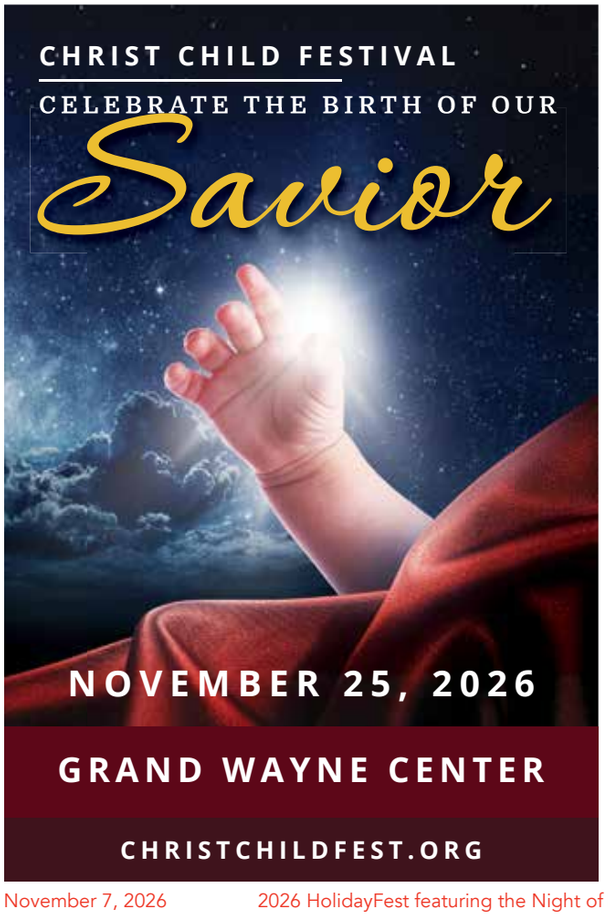
Holly Shopping kicks off Saturday, November 28, on Small Business Saturday, and continues throughout the holiday season! Discover unique gifts, support local businesses, and explore Downtown's one-of-a-kind shops and restaurants. On November 28, enjoy complimentary trolley rides and surprise visits from holiday characters!

Whether continuing a lifelong tradition or experiencing the festivities for the first time, HolidayFest brings our community together to celebrate the season and everything that makes Downtown Fort Wayne special.

Explore this HolidayFest tabloid for event details and visit DowntownFortWayne.com/Holiday for the complete schedule of festivities.

Happy Holidays from Downtown Fort Wayne – Where Local Lives!

DOWNTOWN Fort Wayne





A Little Light on the Subject

By Steve Penhollow

Fort Wayne's Night of Lights features so many lightings that we could say they can be seen from outer space if someone would just go up there for the express purpose of seeing whether they can be seen from outer space.

Until then, the claim remains unverified, although I would like to go on record as saying that I am willing to go into space, as long as I don't have to pay my own way.

Night of Lights, of course, is the evening when Downtown Fort Wayne gives people a preview of Christmas events (aka HolidayFest) and throws in so much nighttime spectacle that all the moths within a 20-mile radius assemble beforehand in a state of delirious expectation.

Night of Lights always happens the evening before Thanksgiving. This year, that would be November 25.

It all starts with the lighting of the History Center turret. I have always felt, without ever being quite sure what a turret is, that the world would be a pleasanter place if more turrets were illuminated and fewer people were allowed to protest turret illumination, if indeed anyone has ever protested turret illumination.

I don't believe I have ever owned a turret, but if someone gave me one, I would pass it along to the History Center because I am not entirely sure I could be trusted with a turret.

Now I have googled turret and I am somewhat chastened to learn that it actually refers to a small tower. A small tower! I must admit that this is not quite what I had in mind, although I would be hard put to say precisely what I did have in mind.

It was not as though I had ever publicly denied that a turret was a small tower. I had merely conducted my life in a manner that suggested I might have been prepared to deny it, had the subject come up.

Be that as it may, the History Center's executive director, Todd Pelfrey, said the museum upgraded its existing multicolored LED turret lights and controls last year. Additional improvements this year will allow more elaborate lighting effects and colors that can be programmed individually.

Pelfrey has already experimented with the system's expanded capabilities, creating a light show inspired by a climactic sequence (a sequence about a sequence) in the 1977 science fiction film "Close Encounters of the Third Kind."

He said the show repeats with a two- or three-minute pause between presentations.

Among the many things I didn't know about turrets is that they can communicate with extraterrestrials.

If the aliens arrive during Night of Lights saying "Take me to your leader," direct them to Pelfrey.

Of course, there is the Festival of Gingerbread, now in its 41st year. Last year's 40th anniversary was celebrated with an optional ruby-colored category, ruby being the traditional 40th anniversary jewel. This year, in honor of America's 250th birthday, participants will have the option of entering a red, white and blue category.

"You know, I probably shouldn't describe the 'ruby theme' and the 'America 250 theme' as an option," Pelfrey said. "Just call it a theme. I think I used the word option twice, so take out the first one."

Just blame any use of the word "option" above on me. They are my "options," not his "options."

Pelfrey said he expects 12,000 people to visit the History Center this holiday season. The temporary exhibit focuses on area high schools, a subject likely to appeal to longtime residents, many of whom attended one of the schools explored.

The History Center is preparing its largest interpretive renovation since moving into its current building in 1980, Pelfrey said. All first-floor permanent galleries will be redesigned, meaning visitors have less than a year to pay respects to longtime displays. The museum hopes to complete the project before the start of the next school year.

Next up on the Night of Lights is the Fort Wayne Parks & Recreation Community Center Santa's Workshop Lighting.

Continued on page 6

41st Annual
Festival of Gingerbread

November 27th - December 20th

The Festival of Gingerbread is celebrating America 250 with unique red, white and blue 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





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

HISTORY CENTER
ALLEN COUNTY - FORT WAYNE HISTORICAL SOCIETY





BRIGHTENING

THE HOLIDAYS

IN DOWNTOWN FORT WAYNE

NOVEMBER 25 | FESTIVITIES BEGIN AT 5:45 PM | PNC PARKING LOT

PNC BANK

Continued from page 4

The workshop is always full of fun activities for kiddos and their parents, including the North Pole Stop-n-Shop, where children can buy inexpensive Christmas gifts for family members.

This year's lighting schedule was not yet available at press time, but last year's festivities followed this timetable: The History Center Turret Lighting at 6 pm, the Community Center Santa's Workshop Lighting at 6:10 pm, the lighting of the PNC Bank Santa and His Reindeer sign at 6:20 pm, the Ash Brokerage Holiday Illumination at 6:40 pm, the Elevatus Architecture Christmas Tree Display and Indiana Michigan Power Merry Christmas Wreath at 7 pm, the Downtown Fort Wayne Drone Show at 7:20 pm and the Downtown Churches and ACPL Finale Ringing of the Bells at 8:00 pm.

Keep checking the Downtown Fort Wayne home page (downtownfortwayne.com) for this year's specifics.

The drone show had to be canceled last year because of high winds. You recall last year's high winds, don't you? I remember seeing a cow fly by. Not really, but you know what I mean.

The drone show will definitely happen this year, barring any drone-threatening meteorological madness. You can find an article about it elsewhere in this guide.

At the Embassy Theatre, you will find the opening of the Festival of Trees. The Festival of Trees is a splendid opportunity to admire what the well-dressed tree is wearing this year.

Embassy marketing manager Karisa Harris said the theater is bringing back Midnight Madness, introduced in 2025. With low house lights and hipper music (not to mention a bedtime-flouting schedule), it offers a more adult atmosphere for admiring the trees.

"We launched this event only two days in advance as a pop-up style event," she said. "We are excited to bring it back for this year."

It happens from 11:30 pm on Saturday, November 28 until 2 am Sunday, November 29.

The Foellinger-Freimann Botanical Conservatory is especially inviting to families during the holiday season, with plenty of places to take a holiday photograph in which everyone seems happy at the same time. This often requires several attempts.

The holiday exhibit this year is Silver Bells, according to the conservatory's general manager Nate Cardelli.

He said it will feature "shimmering silver displays, glistening ornaments, twinkling lights and abundant poinsettias, evergreens and seasonal blooms."

"It should offer a beautiful contrast between the sparkle of the decorations and the living garden," Cardelli said.

Over at Parkview Field, there will be a considerable expansion of the Holiday Lights event. There will be more than 2 million lights, a figure I see no reason to personally substantiate. The light count is roughly double the inaugural 2024 display; last year's had 1.5 million.

There will also be train rides, s'mores and visits with someone named Johnny Claus. Could this be Johnny TinCap dressed as Santa Claus? Or perhaps it is Santa Claus dressed as Johnny TinCap. It might even be Santa Claus dressed as Johnny TinCap dressed as Santa Claus.

I will approach this mystery with an open mind. It is now open at both ends, with the wind whistling through.



BLUE Jacket FANTASY OF Lights

LARGEST IN THE COUNTRY FOR THE PRICE!

DRIVEN BY

PREFERRED Automotive Group

Pines of Partners 1st Sponsored by

Partners 1st Federal Credit Union

OPEN EVERY NIGHT THROUGH NEW YEAR'S EVE

$20 PER CAR

$40 PER VAN | $80 PER BUS OR TROLLEY

CHRISTMAS VILLAGE

SPONSORED BY PROFED CREDIT UNION | CARTER Lumber

NOV 27 - DEC 31, 2026
CLOSED DEC 24 & DEC 25 (VILLAGE ONLY)

YLNI HOLIDAY MARKET AT THE CHRISTMAS VILLAGE

FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS | NOV 27 - DEC 19
SUNDAY - WEDNESDAY | DEC 20 - 23
5:30 - 9:00 PM

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 13 & 14 - Winter Wonder Dash Walk/Run

Operated 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 15 - Just Bicycle Night *Partners: Fort Wayne Trails, Three Rivers Velo Sport, and Fort Wayne BMX Race Track*

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

Nov 16 - Opening Night Switch Flip

Sponsored by Fort Wayne Metals

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 23, 30 & Dec 7, 14- Mission Mondays

Free admission to people in shelters and nursing homes who might not otherwise have the opportunity to experience the beauty of this holiday tradition.

Nov 27 - 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 18- Decorate Your Car Night

Sponsored by Preferred Automotive Group

Be a part of this holiday car meet and parade! Prizes for Best of Show & People's Choice Award.

Dec 31 - FINAL Night | Community Thanks You Night

Sponsored by Mr. Gary Probst

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

BRIGHT LIGHTS. BRIGHTER FUTURES.

Behind every light is a team of dedicated people. Behind every display are countless hours of hard work. And behind every ticket sold is an opportunity for someone in our community to build a better future.

www.bluejacketinc.org/events/Lights



22nd ANNUAL

JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT OF NORTHERN INDIANA WILL BE HIGHLIGHTED AS THIS YEAR'S CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION

Junior Achievement Youth from Across Northern 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

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

The Journal Gazette to Print, "Color the Christmas Tree" Entry Form in Its November 14th Edition

Fort Wayne Komets, Lake City Bank, Bruce Dye, 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 20, 2026

Fort Wayne's gateway to the holiday season, "Christmas on Broadway," returns Friday, November 20, 2026, beginning at 5:00 p.m. Now in its 22nd year, this beloved community-wide celebration will once again welcome families from throughout Northeast Indiana to begin the holiday season together. Junior Achievement of Northern Indiana will serve as this year's featured charitable organization, with children from Junior Achievement participating in both the parade and the lighting of the tree. The tree lighting and brilliant fireworks display will take place in the heart of the '07 Neighborhood on the Broadway Plaza, in front of the Shine & Hardin building.

"This year, 'Christmas on Broadway' is proud to highlight Junior Achievement of Northern Indiana and the important role it plays in preparing young people for their futures. Junior Achievement provides young people with meaningful educational experiences that help them develop the skills, knowledge and confidence they need to succeed in school, work and life," said event coordinators Steve Shine and Tom Hardin of Shine & Hardin, LLP, who originated the iconic local holiday celebration 22 years ago.

Karen Cooper, Chief Program & Operations Officer of Junior Achievement of Northern Indiana, expressed her appreciation for Junior Achievement as being selected as the Charitable Organization spotlighted as part of this year's Christmas on Broadway. "The future of our community and country rests with today's youth and Junior Achievement is instrumental in building the core principles that help guide our youth towards success. It is fitting that Junior Achievement is such an integral part of a celebration that is focused on families and children in our community, which is the centerpiece of 'Christmas on Broadway'," said Cooper.

The nationally acclaimed Concordia Lutheran High School Marching Band, under the direction of Band Leader Jennifer Porath, will begin the evening's festivities by leading the parade down Broadway while performing music of the holiday season. Following the band will be a 1942 antique firetruck housed at the Fort Wayne Firefighters Museum, aboard which will be children from Junior Achievement. Also participating in the parade will be proud members of surrounding neighborhood associations. The parade will reach an exciting crescendo with the arrival of 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 manning the reigns.

The parade route will begin at Broadway and Creighton and conclude at the Broadway Plaza, where the magnificent 40-foot Colorado spruce will be illuminated at 6:00 p.m. against a backdrop of fireworks and Christmas music.

Upon arriving at the Plaza, Santa Claus and his helpers will greet the children in attendance and hand out Santa hats and candy canes. Santa will also be joined by one of his reindeer, giving children the opportunity to pet his four-legged helper and, for many, experience meeting a live reindeer for the very first time.

Children will also be treated to rides on the exciting miniature train aptly named the Polar Express, located in the east side parking lot adjacent to the Shine & Hardin building. The Polar Express features an engine and three passenger cars, Christmas decorations and holiday music.

Food and beverage trucks will again be on-site to make the holiday revelers' visit to Broadway Plaza even more enjoyable. A variety of food and beverages will be available throughout the evening. Food truck service will include Coterie Pizza, well known throughout the surrounding area for preparing pizza in its master-crafted Italian stone oven, Smoking J's, whose offerings include egg rolls, smoked meats and mac and cheese, and Travelin' Tom's Coffee Truck, featuring a variety of items including hot specialties such as latte, cappuccino, mocha, hot chocolate and more

"We are extremely proud to once again have the support of so many prominent businesses and individuals who help make this annual holiday tradition possible. Their continued commitment to 'Christmas on Broadway' allows thousands of people from across our community to experience the spectacular sight of a 40-foot Colorado Blue Spruce adorned with more than 40,000 colored lights being illuminated simultaneously with a stunning fireworks display," said Shine and Hardin.

Sponsors for this year's celebration include the Fort Wayne Komets (David Franke), Lake City Bank (Eric Ottinger and Cammy Treadway), Bruce Dye, IU Health (Brian Bauer), Heller Homes (Mark and Shelley Heller), Prairie Farms Dairy (Rob Ruppert), Deister Machine Company (Mark Deister), Kelley Automotive (Tom Kelley), Keith Byers, CME Construction (Ryan Hellinger), Mudrack Tree Service (Dan Mudrack), Kissinger Electric (Jon Kissinger), and Graycraft Signs Fort Wayne (Mark Gray). The media sponsors are 21Alive and Federated Media (WOWO).

Christmas On Broadway

This year the Komets will be represented at the celebration by their popular mascot, Icy, who will join families and children at the Broadway Plaza.

The family holiday tradition, held each year on the Friday before Thanksgiving, will once again be telecast live on 21Alive beginning at 4:00 p.m., when the station's entire two-hour, 30-minute news block will originate live from the Broadway Plaza. The expanded coverage will allow viewers throughout Northeast Indiana who are unable to attend in person to share the excitement as Fort Wayne officially begins its holiday season.

21Alive will again 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. The annual WOWO Penny Pitch, one of the community's longest-running holiday charitable traditions, will kick off at 3:00 p.m. on November 20, with Casey Hendrickson broadcasting live from the Broadway Plaza. Motorists traveling Broadway will have the opportunity to contribute to the WOWO Penny Pitch as they pass the Plaza by dropping donations into buckets held by members of the WOWO staff.

Vice President and General Manager of 21Alive, Chris Fedele, said, "21Alive takes great pride in providing our viewers with extensive coverage of 'Christmas on Broadway,' which has become known as the gateway event to start the holiday season. 21Alive places great importance on family entertainment and, of course, 'Christmas on Broadway' is one of Fort Wayne's most family-centric celebrations. We are proud to bring the festivities into the living rooms of our viewers."

Ben Saurer, Vice President and General Manager of the Federated Media Radio Stations, stated that this year's "Christmas on Broadway" will help kick off the 79th annual WOWO Penny Pitch, that being one of the longest and continuous charities in Fort Wayne. "Part of our 100-plus-year heritage of WOWO serving the tri-state area has been WOWO's involvement in premier community-wide events, such as 'Christmas on Broadway.' We value our partnership with the organizers of 'Christmas on Broadway' in being able to provide extensive media coverage of this holiday tradition.

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 provide a variety of lighting displays each evening when the tree is lit. The electrical engineering for the tree and its vibrant multi-colored displays has been designed by Mark Mongold of Kissinger Electric of Columbia City.

The excitement will begin even before the night of the celebration when Mudrack Tree Service transports the spectacular Colorado Blue Spruce to the Broadway Plaza on Monday, November 16. Mudrack Tree Service will place the tree upon the large tree stand constructed by CME Construction.

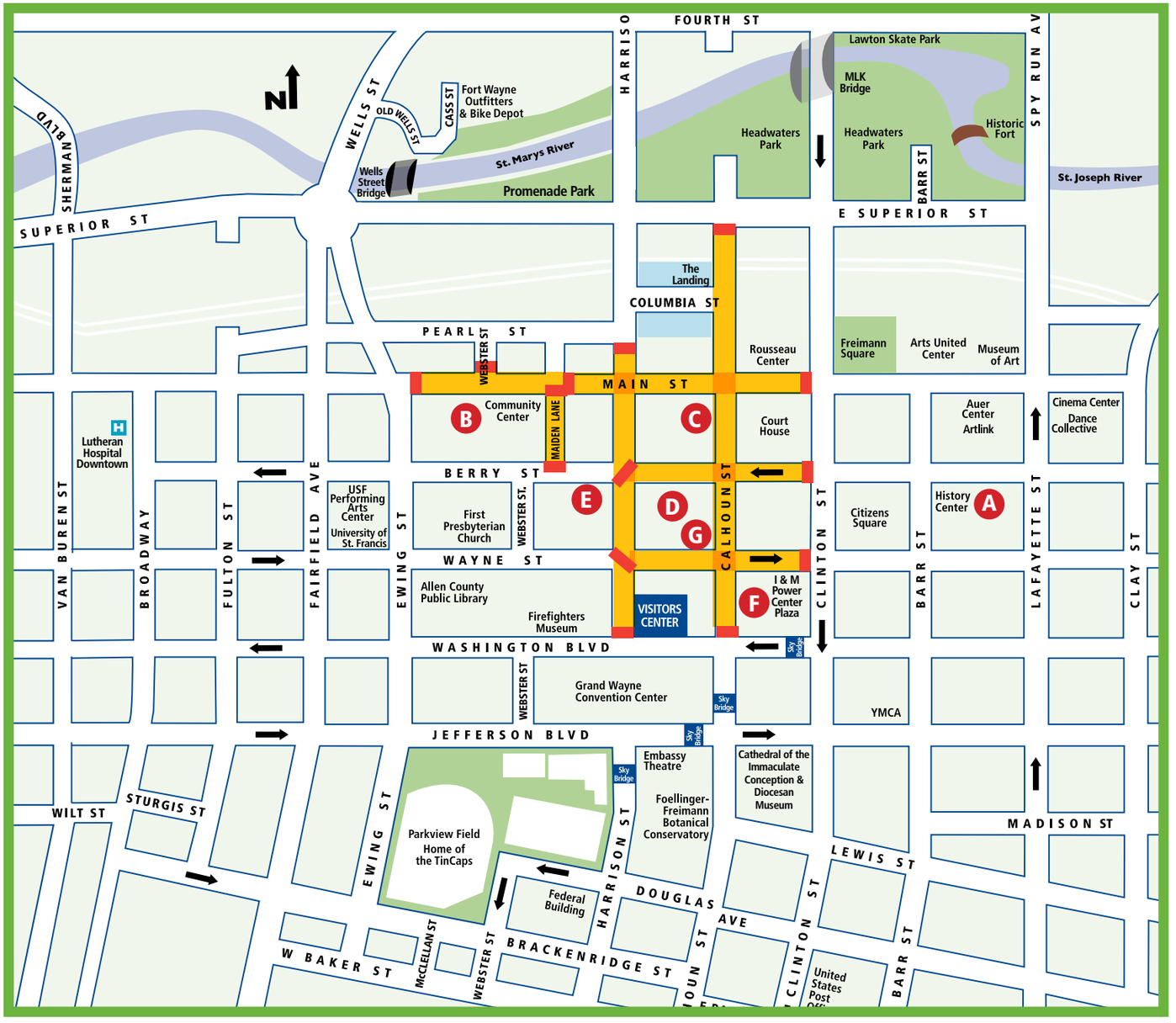
The tree's arrival on Monday, November 16, will be covered live on 21Alive beginning at 5:00 a.m. during 21Alive's Morning News, along with radio coverage on WOWO, 92.3 FM/1190 AM. Throughout the week, crews from A Yard Apart will prepare the tree for its lighting by placing more than 40,000 lights on its branches while also readying Broadway Plaza for the thousands of spectators anticipated to attend. The entire event site will again 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 Electric Works, Fort Wayne's largest redevelopment project in the City's history. To the south is Quimby Village, home to the Clyde, one of Fort Wayne's most unique music venues. The Broadway Corridor is bordered by nine neighborhoods: 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 14, the Journal Gazette will feature a full-page outline of the Christmas tree, providing children of all ages with the opportunity to create and color 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 Wednesday, December 16, 2026, and mailed to WPTA-TV, 3401 Butler Road, Fort Wayne, Indiana 46808. Winners will be announced on Thursday morning, December 24, 2026, Christmas Eve, on 21Alive's Morning News, WOWO 92.3 FM/1190 AM, and "Christmas Time with Steve Shine," to be telecast on 21Alive. This year marks the 41st annual airing of "Christmas Time with Steve Shine," continuing more than four decades of sharing holiday cheer with local celebrities and guests.




WELCOME TO
WILD LIGHTS
FORT WAYNE ZOO
WILD Lights
Presented by meijer
~Select nights~
5:30-9:00 p.m.
November 13 to January 3
See What's New...
Twinkling train tunnel
Interactive light wands
Over one million lights
Get your tickets today
fwzoo.com



LIGHTING LOCATIONS

- A History Center
- B Fort Wayne Parks & Recreation Community Center
- C PNC Bank
- D Flow Sculpture/77 Steps Alleyway
- E Ash Brokerage
- F Elevatus Architecture and Indiana Michigan Power Center Plaza
- G Downtown Fort Wayne Drone Show with Sky Elements at Indiana Michigan Power Center Plaza

HOLIDAY fest FEATURING THE NIGHT OF LIGHTS

Street closures from 5:00–8:30 PM



Lighting Schedule

(see description for specific detail):

6:00pm - A - History Center (Barr St)
6:10pm - B - Fort Wayne Parks & Recreation Community Center (Main St)
6:20pm - C - PNC Bank (Main St)
6:35pm - D - Flow Sculpture/77 Steps Alleyway (Berry St)
6:45pm - E - Ash Brokerage (Harrison St)
7:05pm - F - Elevatus Architecture and Indiana Michigan Power Center Plaza (Wayne St)
7:25pm - G - Downtown Fort Wayne Drone Show with Sky Elements at Indiana Michigan Power Center Plaza (Wayne St)

Embassy Theatre Holiday Windows

Embassy Theatre
125 W Jefferson Blvd
Free
Discover the holiday magic of the Embassy Theatre through festive window displays starting at the corner of Harrison and Jefferson St. The nostalgic Harrison Street displays reflect an earlier era, featuring charming characters and scenes, some brought to life through animation, that continue to delight viewers of every age.
(260) 424-6287
fwembassytheatre.org/events/festival-of-trees

Artful Creations Preview Night

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

42nd Annual Festival of Trees

Embassy Theatre
125 W Jefferson Blvd
3:00pm – 9:00pm
Adults: $12; Youth (1-12 yrs): $5; Infants: Free; Seniors (65+ yrs): $8
Celebrate the 42nd annual Festival of Trees! The lobbies of the Embassy Theatre and former Indiana Hotel transform into a wonderland of uniquely decorated trees of various sizes, shapes and themes. Admission includes visits with Santa in Santa Land, festive stage entertainment featuring youth choirs, dance performances, Grande Page, and more. Enjoy animated holiday window displays along Harrison Street.
(260) 424-6287
fwembassytheatre.org/events/festival-of-trees

Santa at the Train Station

Baker Street Train Station Association
Baker Street Train Station
221 W Baker St
4:00pm – 8:00pm
Free
We host Santa and Mrs. Claus at the Baker Street Station. We have crafts, snacks, and hot chocolate for the kids. They can meet Santa, get a candy cane, and do a craft. We also have a live reindeer and a conductor running a small-scale steam engine. The whole concourse is decorated for Christmas!
(260) 422-7994

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 at 6:10pm.
(260) 427-6460
cityoffortwayne.in.gov/534/Community-Center

$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 this year's $ 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 seasonal four-week display, enjoy your visit 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

Cookies and Hot Chocolate

Allen County Public Library
900 Library Plz
5:00pm – 8:00pm
Free
Celebrate the holiday with the library and enjoy a cookie and a cup of hot cocoa. While supplies last.
(260) 421-1200

Wild Winter Wonderland

Wild Roots NBL Montessori
111 W Wayne St
5:00pm – 10:00pm
Free to enter; Hot drinks $5, Wonder Boxes $5
Wild Roots invites you to a Winter Wonderland! Stop by our brand-new downtown school during Night of Lights for a warm, magical experience! Visitors can enjoy hot cider and hot cocoa, explore our newly opened learning environment, and interact with hands-on "wonder boxes." Decor will transform our space into an enchanted winter wonderland, and all proceeds from drink sales directly support the Wild Roots Tuition Assistance Fund to help bridge the gap for our Wild Roots families.
(317) 965-5114
wildrootsnbl.com

Santa and His Reindeer Celebration at PNC

PNC Bank
PNC Tower Parking Lot, corner of Calhoun St and Main St
5:30pm – 7:30pm
Free
This is the "Can't Miss Moment" in Fort Wayne each year. Join the Holiday Carol Sing-along; Visit Santa and Mrs. Claus; Sip free hot cocoa from the Salvation Army Canteen;

and Count down to the Christmas Season when PNC President, Corinna Ladd, flips the switch on Fort Wayne's iconic Santa & His Reindeer display!
(260) 461-6219

Sweet Holiday Memories

Grand Wayne Convention Center
120 W Jefferson Blvd
6:00pm – 8:00pm
Free
Create Sweet Holiday Memories at Night of Lights at the Grand Wayne Convention Center! Enjoy festive performances by the Fort Wayne Children's Orchestra and Faith in Motion, visit Santa and his friends, and explore family-friendly activities with the Allen County Public Library, Aunt Millie's, and many more community partners. Bring your loved ones for an unforgettable celebration filled with music, laughter, holiday cheer, and magical moments for all ages. Join us and make sweet memories your family will treasure for years to come!
(260) 426-4100
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!
(260) 421-1220

Parkview Field Holiday Lights

Parkview Field
1301 Ewing St
6:00pm–9:00pm; some nights the venue opens early at 5:30pm
$10-14 per person
Parkview Field Holiday Lights – A Walk-Thru Event – presented by Rohrman Automotive, Paul Davis, and Lear Corporation will be at the ballpark for 48 nights from November 12 - January 2! Holiday Lights is a walk-through experience of the ballpark featuring more than 2 million lights and displays, plus a train ride, choreographed to holiday music!
(260) 482-6400
tincaps.com/lights

Cocoa and Carols in the Courthouse

Allen County Courthouse Preservation Trust
Allen County Courthouse
715 S Calhoun St
6:30pm – 7:30pm
Free; donations accepted
The Courthouse Preservation Trust welcomes the Fort Wayne Children's Choir for "Cocoa and Carols in the Courthouse." Guests will be delighted with the sounds of the season while standing in the awe-inspiring rotunda beneath the beautifully restored stained-glass dome. Hot chocolate will be provided by The Salvation Army to the first 300 guests. Christmas cards are available for purchase. Cameras and cell phones are permitted during this event. Doors open at 6:15pm to allow guests time to enter through the security check.
(260) 449-4246
allencountycourthouse.org
fwcchoir.org

R&B Me Please

YM3 Music Group
Paper Mill at The Landing
118 W Columbia St, Ste 301
8:00pm – 12:00am
$20 per person
R&B Me Please is a night dedicated to the music that makes you feel something real. From timeless classics to today's hits, we're setting the vibe for a smooth, sexy, sing-your-heart-out kind of evening. Come dressed to impress in the night's theme, grab a drink, catch a vibe, and get ready for great music and even better energy.
(404) 446-5660



1940
year the original Santa and His Reindeer display was created for Wolf & Dessauer's Downtown department store window

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

NIGHT OF LIGHTS

$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

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

155 FEET
length of the fixture

5 1/2 TONS
weight of the fixture

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	501 E. Berry - Foellinger North Lot	Free	Free	Free	Special Events TBD	24 hour
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.

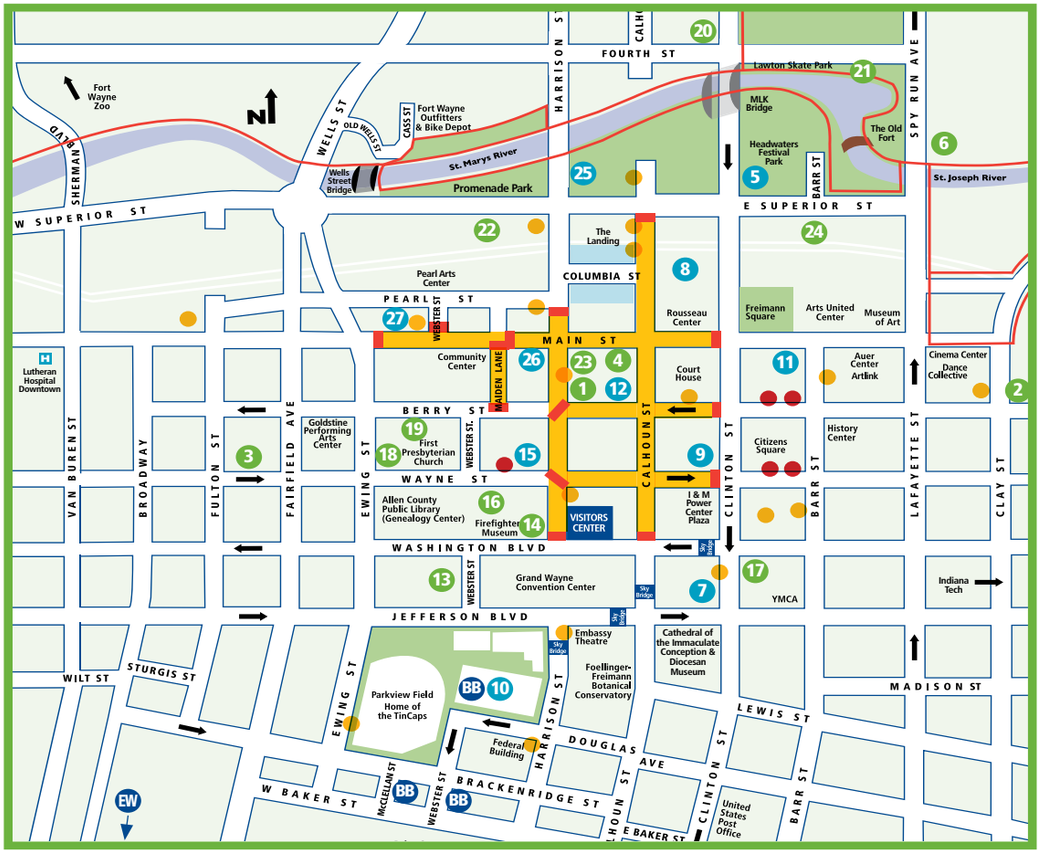
NOV 25 5:00PM

Downtown Public Parking

= Parking Lot = Parking Garage

= EV Parking = ADA Street Parking

= Rivergreenway Trails



*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.

Something Festive in the Air

By Steve Penhollow

Last year, Fort Wayne's Night of Lights was supposed to get its first drone show.

Then came a wind of a sort that had once obliged Santa Claus to put an unproven reindeer with a rather severe case of craniofacial incandescence in charge of navigation.

Tyler Jack of Sky Elements said wind gusts in Fort Wayne reached 40 to 50 mph.

"Drones can only handle gusts of up to 25 mph," he said.

So, the drone show was postponed until this year's Night of Lights on November 25.

Jack said Sky Elements produces 50 to 60 percent of all drone shows in the United States.

"We are the largest drone show provider," he said. "We do all sorts of shows from small town celebrations, cities, professional sporting events and concerts. You name it, we've done it. And we're having a lot of fun."

Sky Elements has staged drone shows for a Las Vegas promotion for the final season of "Stranger Things," a Twenty One Pilots concert at Ohio Stadium in Columbus and for the Formula 1 Monaco Grand Prix. It recently did a 10,000-drone test to see if such a thing could be done. It could.

The Night of Lights show will feature 100 drones. A 100-drone show needs roughly 100 square meters of launch space (less than half a tennis court) but its aerial formations can stretch nearly 400 feet across and reach 400 feet high, Jack said.

The ideal distance for watching such a spectacle is farther back than many people suspect, he said.

"They think that the drone show should be really close or right near the audience," Jack said. "But ideally we like about 300 feet or more of distance from where the audience is going to be to where that show is performing. Because you don't want to be looking straight up and breaking your neck. You actually want a decent line of sight where you can look out. I always equate it to sitting in front of a movie theater. It's better to be in the middle or the back section. That way you don't have to strain your neck the entire time."

The time and location of this year's Night of Lights drone show have yet to be confirmed. Last year's canceled show was scheduled for about 7:20 p.m., following the lighting of the Indiana Michigan Power Center wreath, with aerial displays centered near Calhoun and Berry streets.

Check back with downtownfortwayne.com for updated information.

Planning for each show begins with a conversation about the event, its budget and the images organizers want to see overhead, Jack said. An animation team translates those ideas into a storyboard, then mockups and finally a video preview of the performance.

Clients help shape everything from the opening image to the colors and closing animation. Each show typically includes 10 to 15 custom animations, he said.

The nature of those animations in the Night of Lights show is a closely guarded secret. I suspect that even the drones don't know what they are making.

Jack said no additional Fort Wayne shows are currently planned, but positive feedback often leads to return engagements…and bigger shows.

"We've done shows, like Fourth of July shows, where we started out with 100 drones, and now we're with that company or that same city three or four years later, and they're up to 400 drones because they continuously get positive feedback."

For more information about the show, call 260.420.3266.







ACTIVITIES GUIDE

Parkview Field Holiday Lights

Parkview Field
1301 Ewing St
November 12 – January 2 (Closed November 16-18 and December 25), nightly 6:00pm–9:00pm; some nights the venue opens early at 5:30pm
$10-14 per person, depending on the day
Parkview Field Holiday Lights – A Walk-Thru Event – presented by Rohrman Automotive, Paul Davis, and Lear Corporation will be at the ballpark for 48 nights from November 12 - January 2! Holiday Lights is a walk-through experience of the ballpark featuring more than 2 million lights and displays, plus a train ride, choreographed to holiday music!
(260) 482-6400
tincaps.com/lights



Embassy Theatre Holiday Windows

Embassy Theatre
125 W Jefferson Blvd
November 25 – December 31
Free
Discover the holiday magic of the Embassy Theatre through festive window displays starting at the corner of Harrison and Jefferson St. The nostalgic Harrison Street displays reflect an earlier era, featuring charming characters and scenes, some brought to life through animation, that continue to delight viewers of every age.
(260) 424-6287
fwembassytheatre.org/events/festival-of-trees

Galloping Gobbler 4 Miler Veep Races

Hutzell Athletic Center, USF Campus
1001 Leesburg Rd
November 26, 8:30am
$25 per person
The Galloping Gobbler has become Fort Wayne's new Thanksgiving family tradition. Folks visiting from across the country have made room for the turkey and trimmings by running the four-mile Galloping Gobbler course. The four-mile course starts at the Hutzell Athletic Center on the University of Saint Francis campus, then takes you through Fort Wayne's historic Lindenwood Cemetery before finishing back on 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

42nd Annual Festival of Trees

Embassy Theatre
125 W Jefferson Blvd
Adults: $12; Youth (1-12 yrs): $5; Infants: Free; Seniors (65+ yrs): $8
November 26 (Thanksgiving), 3:00pm–7:00pm; November 27–30, 11:00am–8:00pm; December 1–2, 9:00am–1:00pm.
Celebrate the 42nd annual Festival of Trees! The lobbies of the Embassy Theatre and former Indiana Hotel transform into a wonderland of uniquely decorated trees of various sizes, shapes and themes. Admission includes visits with Santa in Santa Land, festive stage entertainment featuring youth choirs, dance performances, Grande Page, and more. Enjoy animated holiday window displays along Harrison Street.
(260) 424-6287
fwembassytheatre.org/events/festival-of-trees

Elf Movie: Thanksgiving at the Festival of Trees

Embassy Theatre
125 W Jefferson Blvd
November 26, 4:00pm
Adults: $12; Youth (1-12 yrs): $5; Infants: Free
Make Festival of Trees part of your Thanksgiving Day tradition! Enjoy the magic of the Festival of Trees, then settle in for a special holiday screening of the beloved Christmas classic Elf, beginning at 4:00pm. Starring Will Ferrell, it's the perfect way to add a little Christmas spirit to your Thanksgiving celebration!
(260) 424-6287
fwembassytheatre.org/events/festival-of-trees

Breakfast with Santa

Embassy Theatre
125 W Jefferson Blvd
November 27-28: 8:30am – approximately 10:30am
$35 per person
Breakfast with Santa kicks off this holiday season with a special morning for the whole family! Guests will have the opportunity to walk through the Festival of Trees before enjoying a hot and delicious breakfast buffet the whole family will love. The morning also includes visits with Santa, festive Christmas carols, holiday activities for kids, and a special performance by Fort

Wayne Youtheatre. Seating is limited, so reserve your tickets early!
(260) 424-6287
fwembassytheatre.org/events/festival-of-trees

$1 Night Light Display

Foellinger-Freimann Botanical Conservatory
1100 S Calhoun St
November 27, every Thursday and Friday, December 3–18, 5:00pm – 8:00pm
$1 per person
Experience the magic of the gardens aglow during the $1 Night Light Display! Enjoy multiple visits with family and friends. Friday, November 27, Special Performance 5:30-7:30pm. Those 2 Guys in Suits & Ties, Thursday, December 3, Special Performance 5:30-7:30pm. String Jams Musicians, Friday, December 4, Special Performance 5:30-7:00pm. Woodside Middle School Advanced Choir, Thursday, December 10, Special Performance 5:30-7:30pm. The Snow Fort Singers, Friday, December 11, Special Performance 5:30-7:30pm. PFW Holiday Carolers, Thursday, December 17 and Friday, December 18.
(260) 427-6440
botanicalconservatory.org

Festival of Gingerbread

The History Center
302 E Berry St
November 27 – December 20
$7.00 Adults, $5.00 Youth & Seniors, 2 and Under Free
The History Center's 41st Annual Festival of Gingerbread officially kicks off on November 27, celebrating America 250 with unique 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





ACTIVITIES GUIDE

Pipe Cleaner Wreaths

The History Center
302 E Berry St
November 28, 12:00pm – 5:00pm
$1 plus Regular Festival Admission
Use pipe cleaners and other craft supplies to make your own wreath.
(260) 426-2882
fwhistorycenter.org

Sensory-Friendly Hours at Festival of Trees

Embassy Theatre
125 W Jefferson Blvd
November 29, 9:00am – 11:00am
Experience the magic of Festival of Trees in a more relaxed environment during Sensory-Friendly Hours Sunday, November 29 from 9-11 AM. Guests can explore the beautifully decorated trees with reduced noise and stimulation, creating a welcoming experience for individuals with sensory sensitivities and their families. Enjoy the holiday magic at your own pace! (260) 424-6287
fwembassytheatre.org/events/festival-of-trees

Legend of the Gingerbread Man Ornament

The History Center
302 E Berry St
November 29, 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

Food Drive Admission Night

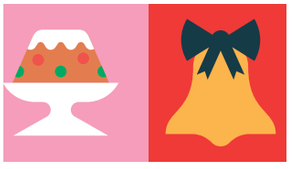
The History Center
302 E Berry St
December 1, 5:00pm – 9:00pm
Bring a nonperishable food item as your admission
Food Drive Benefiting the Community Harvest Food Bank. Bring a nonperishable food item as your admission and enjoy an evening at the Festival of Gingerbread.
(260) 426-2882
fwhistorycenter.org

Santa Claus at the History Center

The History Center
302 E Berry St
December 5, 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 5, 12 & 19, 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 shimmering beauty of the "Silver Bells" seasonal exhibit. Please note: Santa takes a cookie break from 2:00-2:30 p.m. Regular admission rates apply.
(260) 427-6440
botanicalconservatory.org



Holiday Gift Giving Saturdays

Third World Shoppe (Nonprofit)
Historic Hattersley House
611 W Wayne St
December 5, 12, 19, 12:00pm – 6:00pm
No charge, donations accepted
Give A Gift that Gives Twice. Unique Handcrafted Jewelry, Carvings, Toys, Accessories & gourmet coffee, Teas, Chocolates, and more. Provide earned income for local & worldwide families. Create Custom Gift Boxes Shipped Anywhere. Taste Samples & Learn the Story Behind the Gifts. Nonprofit Volunteer-Led Since 1972.
(260) 422 6821
thethirdworldshoppe.com

Christmas at the Old Fort - A Timeline Event

Historic Fort Wayne, Inc.
The Old Fort
1201 Spy Run Ave
December 6, 10:00am – 5:00pm
Free; donations are gratefully appreciated
Take a step back into history and experience Christmases of the past. Talk with soldiers and civilians to learn how they celebrated the holidays during war times. Observe the daily activities of life during the winter months on the frontier. Visit with the artisans as they present hand-crafted gift ideas. Find tasty treats at the Bake Sale and check out the Old Fort merchandise for



the history buffs on your list. Welcome the holidays with fun and festivities at the Old Fort! Always check facebook.com/HistoricFortWayne for any updates or schedule changes.
(260) 437-2836
oldfortwayne.org

Holiday Storytelling at the History Center

The History Center
302 E Berry St
December 6, 12:00pm – 5:00pm
Regular Festival Admission
Enjoy stories of the season with holiday storytelling at the Festival.
(260) 426-2882
fwhistorycenter.org

Popsicle Stick Snowflakes

The History Center
302 E Berry Street
December 12, 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

Seasonal Suncatcher Baubles

The History Center
302 E Berry Street
December 13, 12:00pm – 5:00pm
$1 plus Regular Festival Admission
Decorate seasonal suncatchers to display on a window or tree.
(260) 426-2882
fwhistorycenter.org

A Grande Christmas

Embassy Theatre
125 W Jefferson Blvd
December 18, 7:00pm
$15 per person
Celebrate the season with an evening of Christmas music featuring organist Cletus on the magnificent Grande Page pipe organ at the historic Embassy Theatre. Enjoy beloved holiday favorites, a visit from Santa, and a festive sing-along featuring the final songs of the evening. Gather with family and friends


Photo: Visit Fort Wayne



for a joyful night of Christmas music and tradition!
(260) 424-6287
fwembassytheatre.org/events/all-upcoming-shows

Science of Sugary Structures

The History Center
302 E Berry St
December 19, 12:00pm – 5pm
$3 plus Regular Festival Admission
Explore the fun side of sugary gingerbread creations.
(260) 426-2882
fwhistorycenter.org

Cookie Decorating Party

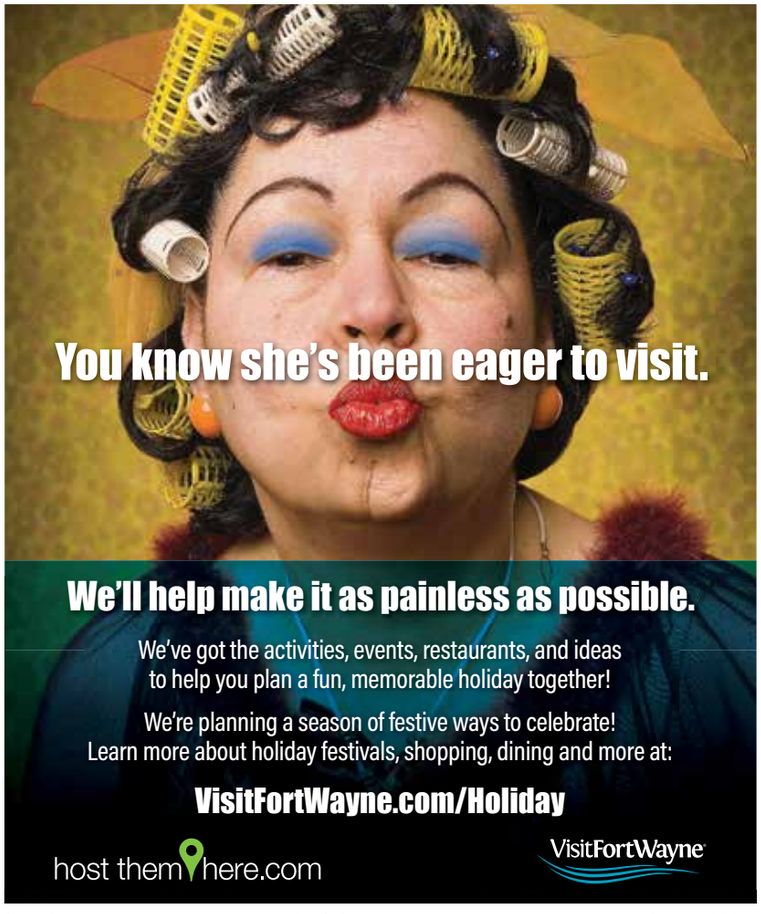
The History Center
302 E Berry Street
December 20, 12:00pm – 5:00pm
$3 plus Regular Festival Admission
Decorate your own gingerbread cookie.
(260) 426-2882
fwhistorycenter.org

Holiday Monday Lunch

Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation Community Center
233 W Main St
December 21, 12:00pm
$7 per person
Kick off your week with festive cheer at our upcoming Monday holiday-themed lunch, specially designed for adults ages 50 and better at the Community Center! This joyful gathering is a wonderful opportunity to share a delicious meal, catch up with friends, and celebrate the season in great company. The cost is just $7 per person. Please note that advance registration and payment are required by 4 PM on December 16 in order to secure your spot. We look forward to celebrating with you!
(260) 427-4640
fortwayneparks.org





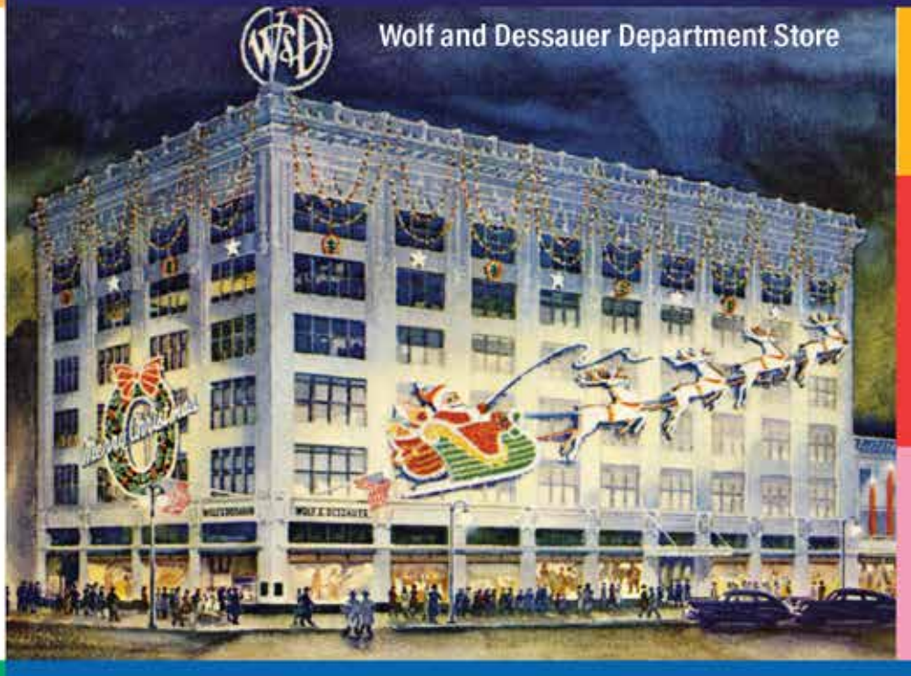


HOLIDAY WINDOW DECORATING CONTEST

12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

Explore Downtown Fort Wayne's festive storefronts in our new **12 Days of Christmas scavenger hunt!**

Find all 12 holiday window displays and share your photos using **#12Days2026** on Facebook and Instagram for a chance to win a **$100 Downtown Fort Wayne Community Gift Card**, in partnership with Yiftee!

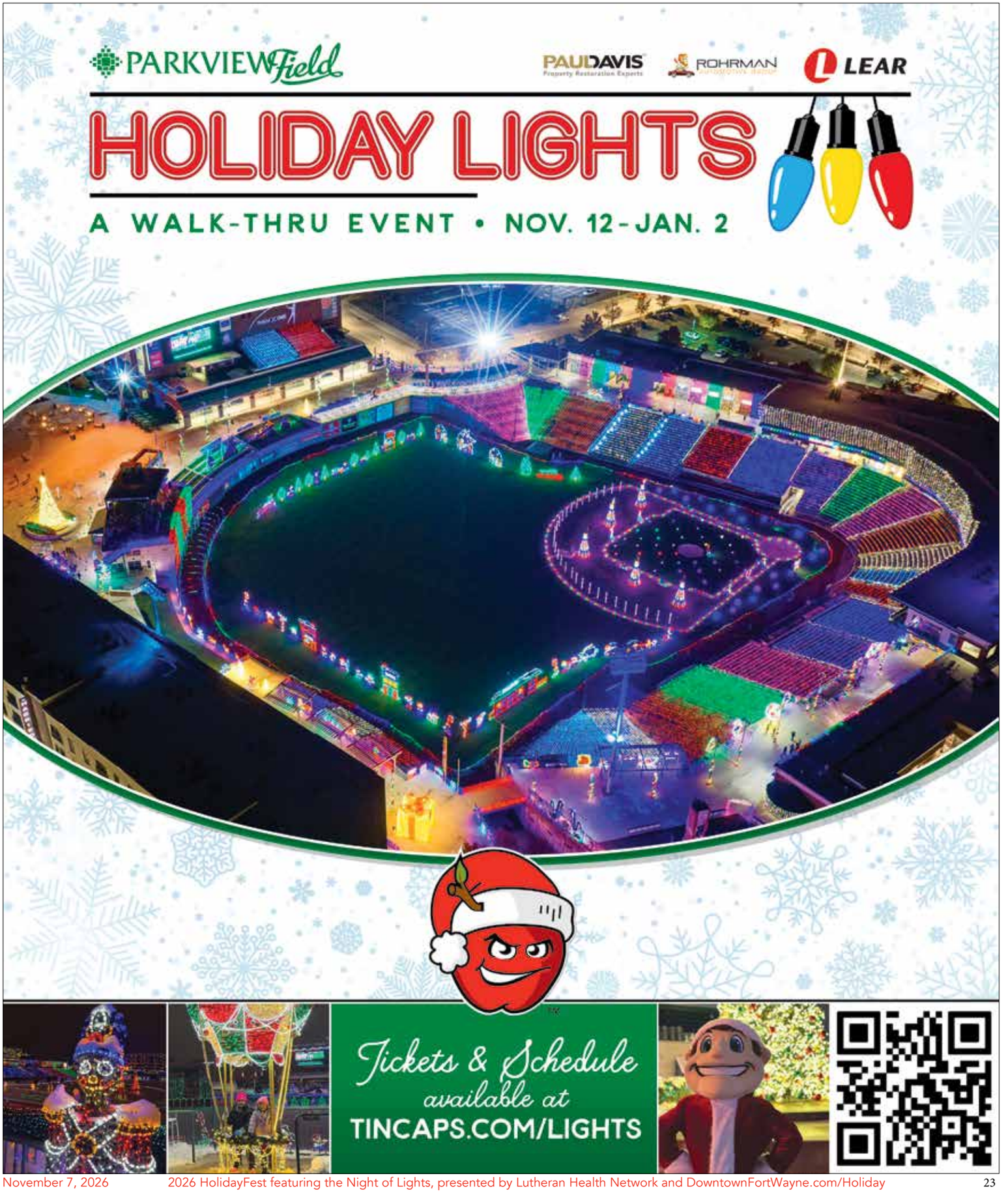


SEE A MAP OF LOCATIONS AND VOTE AT:

DOWNTOWNFORTWAYNE.COM/HOLIDAY

OR SCAN THE QR CODE


LIVE LARGE. SHOP SMALL. WHERE LOCAL LIVES.
HOLLY
Shopping
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 28
DowntownFortWayne.com/Holiday
PRESENTED BY:
DOWNTOWN
Fort Wayne
SPONSORED BY:
97.3WMEE
WANE 15
Centier BANK
OUTFRONT
xfinity
FORT WAYNE NEWSPAPERS
Scan this code for a list of shopping specials,
a digital map, and more surprises!
Visit DowntownFortWayne.com/Holiday and follow Downtown Fort Wayne on social media.


PARKVIEW Field
PAULDAVIS
ROHRMAN
LEAR
HOLIDAY LIGHTS
A WALK-THRU EVENT • NOV. 12 - JAN. 2
Tickets & Schedule
available at
TINCAPS.COM/LIGHTS


The Nutcracker
Opening weekend with the
Fort Wayne Philharmonic
December 4-13
Arts United Center
Featuring Fort Wayne Ballet's Professional Company
fortwayneballet.org
ArtsTix Box Office 260.422.4226
70
FWB
FORT WAYNE BALLET
Presented by
Aunt Millie's