

# Home for the Holidays



**Hendricks County Holiday Guide**  
*Turn the page for all things holiday in Hendricks County!*



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# Brownsburg CHRISTMAS UNDER THE STARS *celebrating 20 years*

**DECEMBER 6, 4–8 PM**  
TOWN HALL GREEN (61 N. GREEN ST. IN BROWNSBURG)

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PARKS



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- Trees of Plainfield:** Explore the lights this holiday season at the Al & Jan Barker Sports Complex with free evening programming December 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>.
- Recreation Center Memberships:** Warm up indoors with fitness, aquatics, and family fun at the Richard A. Carlucci Recreation & Aquatic Center.

**FOR MORE INFO:**  
317.839.7665  
[Recents@townofplainfield.com](mailto:Recents@townofplainfield.com)

PLAINFIELD  
Parks & Recreation

WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP PARKS PRESENTS  
**THE POLAR EXPRESS  
EXPERIENCE**

**Saturday, Nov. 29  
3:00-6:30pm**

**SENSORY SANTA**

**December 6 9am-1pm**

**FOR THOSE WHO NEED  
A LITTLE MORE SPACE  
AND TIME!**

**BREAKFAST  
With Buddy the Elf**

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13, 10-12PM**

PEPPER PARK



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The Republican newspaper staff members - (from left to right) Kirsten Simon, Michelle Pritchett, Beth Polley, Peggy Stevens, Jerry Vornholt, Betty Bartley, Ginny Vornholt, Isabella Zarate, Phil Brickler and Renee Bowman.



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# The Republican

6 East Main Street - P.O. Box 149

Danville, IN 46122

[therepublicannewspaper.com](http://therepublicannewspaper.com) / 317-745-2777

**Publisher:** Jerry Vornholt [jerry@therepublicannewspaper.com](mailto:jerry@therepublicannewspaper.com)

**Editors:** Michelle Pritchett and Beth Polley

[micelle@therepublicannewspaper.com](mailto:micelle@therepublicannewspaper.com)

[beth@therepublicannewspaper.com](mailto:beth@therepublicannewspaper.com)

**Reporters:** Isabella Zarate

[isabella@therepublicannewspaper.com](mailto:isabella@therepublicannewspaper.com)

Renee Bowman

[reneee@therepublicannewspaper.com](mailto:reneee@therepublicannewspaper.com)

**Advertising:** Kirsten Simon [kirsten@therepublicannewspaper.com](mailto:kirsten@therepublicannewspaper.com)

**Advertising Design:** Hannah Wolfinbarger, Beth Polley

**Photography:** Local residents, organizations &

The Republican newspaper

**Jerry Vornholt, Publisher and Owner, The Republican newspaper**  
**Warmest Wishes this Holiday Season.**



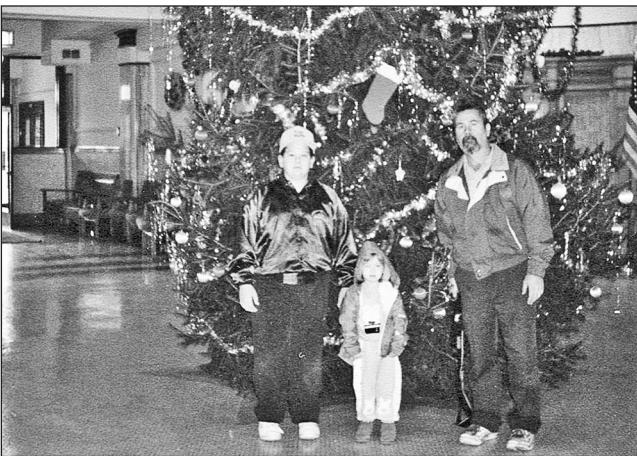
Hello all. Welcome to our first Hendricks County Holiday Guide. For those of you who know our staff, you can imagine their reaction when I mentioned adding a Holiday Guide to their regular daily job of publishing a weekly newspaper. They loved it!

We decided that we wanted every household in Hendricks County to receive this guide, over 77,000. For that to happen, we needed local businesses and communities to advertise with us, and that they did. Please take a minute to note the names of the businesses and non-profits from every advertisement in these pages.

Now, it's time to dive into the Holiday Guide. Since it's going to every house in the county, we can all tear up reading about family traditions. We could end up shopping next to each other at the Copper Top in Clayton. And how funny would it be if someone overheard a handful of you talking about the Italian Honey Balls recipe while in line at Kroger? From Amo to Avon, from White Lick Creek to Big Walnut Creek, we are Hendricks County.

***Happy Holidays, Merry Christmas, Happy Chanuka and whatever else has meaning for you. Enjoy our 2025 Hendricks County Holiday Guide.***

## The Little Tree That Grew



Members of the Harnishfeger family with their tree purchased twenty years prior at the old Kmart in Brownsburg for \$2.00. It grew up to become a perfectly shaped, beautiful tree that would adorn the Court House in the mid-nineties.

## The Last Real Christmas Tree in the Court House



Maria Dinsmore of Danville next to the family's Blue Spruce that was donated as the Court House Christmas tree in 1998. This was the last real tree used in the rotunda before switching to artificial.

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## Court House Christmas Trees

By: Betty Bartley

A Christmas tree in the Court House is a tradition in Hendricks County.

In the previous Hendricks County Court House (1861-1912), a community Christmas tree was placed in the court room, which was the largest room in the building. Townsfolk brought hundreds of presents to be placed on the tree - dolls for the girls, sleds and skates for the boys, and more useful gifts for their elders.

In the present Court House, the Christmas tree has always had a place of honor in the rotunda. Each year the American Legion would invite Santa to come and distribute toys and candy to hundreds of children.

For many years, a local landowner would supply a real tree for the Court House and many residents can still recall the men and what they said as they wrestled the conifer through the doors and set it up. (Taking the tree down was an easier affair to disassemble by using a saw.)

The switch was eventually made to an artificial tree, which was taller, wider and equipped with lighting already installed.

With the upper floor railings lined with garland, and the tree lights reflected on the mosaic tile floor, it makes a beautiful picture, as seen above.

While the artificial tree has its special beauty, the real trees used in the past also had stories to go with them. We are happy to be able to share two of those stories with our readers this year.



## Challenges of Tree Delivery



Due to the size of tree needed to fill the rotunda, it took a half dozen people to pull the conifer through the double doors. Today a scissor lift is used to set up the artificial tree. A much cleaner chore but not nearly as fun to watch.

## A Beauty on the Outside

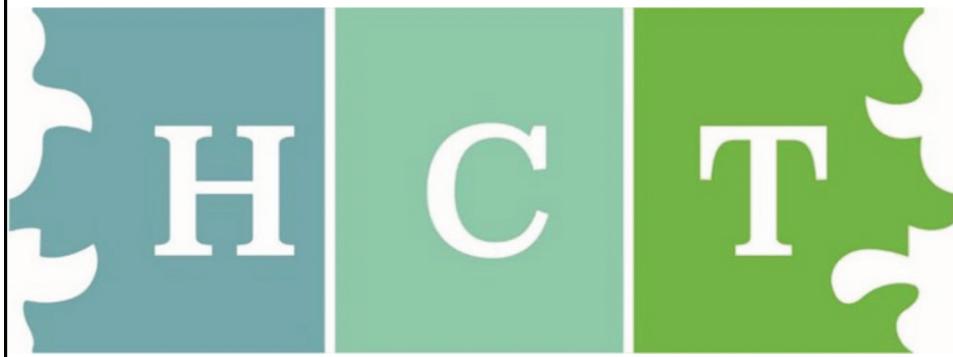


The community tree on the Court House lawn is currently located on the southeast side. People gather for its lighting at the holiday celebration the day after Thanksgiving. Prior to that, it could be found on the northeast side lawn. Originally, the Boy Scouts planted a community tree in the spot where the fountain now resides.

**KWLK**  
 ATTORNEYS

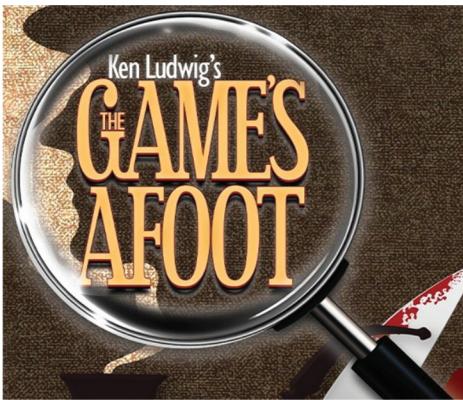
We wish you and yours a  
*joyous & peaceful*  
 holiday season.





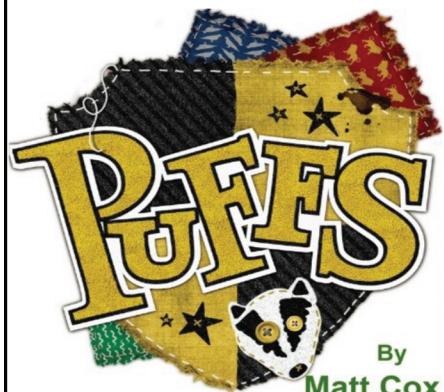
Dec 4, 5, 6, 7

Two shows on the 6th  
At Hendricks Live!

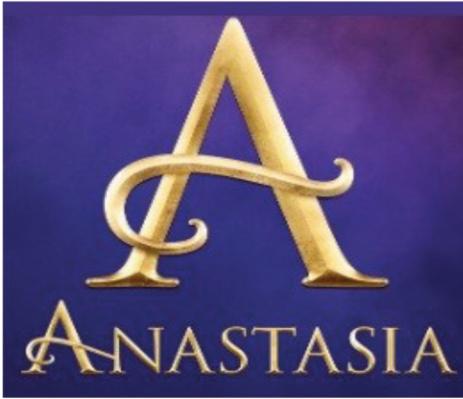


June 4, 5, 6, 7, 11, 12, 13, 14

At Longstreet Playhouse



Feb. 27, 28; Mar 1, 6, 7, 8  
At Hendricks Live!



July 31, Aug 1, 2, 7, 8, 9

At Hendricks Live!



May 1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10  
At Hendricks Live!

Purchase tickets online at  
[Www.hendrickscivic.com](http://Www.hendrickscivic.com)  
Or by Scanning on the QR  
Code below:



Hendricks Civic Theatre would like to thank our patrons and generous benefactors. Without their contributions as businesses and individuals, Hendricks Civic Theatre would not be able to showcase the amazing talents of our residents and provide quality entertainment at a reasonable price. Please consider making a donation to keep this quality entertainment in the amazing new facility going.

Donations can be made at: [Ludus - Hendricks Civic Theatre](#)

By mailing a check to Hendricks Civic Theatre

PO box 244 Danville IN 46122 attn: HCT Treasurer

Or by scanning the barcode



**Buy One Ticket  
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Purchase 1 ticket to a specific show,  
get 1 ticket for 1/2 price

Black Friday Sale is in effect from Nov 27- 30

**Sale ends at 11:59 PM November 30**

**Buy One Ticket to 4 shows at  
Hendricks Live! Get One ticket  
for each show 1/2 Off**

Purchase 1 ticket for all 4 shows,  
get 1 ticket for all 4 shows for 1/2 price

Black Friday Sale is in effect from Nov 27- 30

**Sale ends at 11:59 PM November 30**

Our family gets together at Thanksgiving. It used to be at Gatlinburg, TN when Dad was alive. Now our home in Danville, IN. We go to Beef and Boards for the Christmas Show right after Thanksgiving to start the holiday spirit. It's been a tradition for 10 years. They do a great job of entertaining and a buffet of food. Good time to laugh and relax.

As the holiday season approaches, we wanted to take a moment and share the heartwarming tradition that our family has cherished for the past 50 years, ever since Mom started making cookies for the local volunteer fire department's annual Christmas party.

As our family expanded, Mom began including a box of cookies and candies as a Christmas Eve gift for each of her children's families. Soon Mom had to enlist her 3 daughters and daughter-in-law to help make the dozens of cookies needed. Now, with our children having families of their own, this tradition has blossomed into a full-day event. We all throw on our festive Christmas aprons and spend the day baking cookies, making fudge, and engaging in Christmas crafts.

It's a wonderful day filled with laughter, reminiscing of Christmases past, and the warmth of family togetherness. A few days before Christmas, we gather at Mom's house to box up the cookies and candies, with each family's own special decorated cookie boxes. We create extra boxes to give out to Mom's mailman and her trash pickup crew. We also create an extra box or two to enjoy throughout the year, like at our February sibling vacation in Florida with Mom (where we will celebrate Mom's 92nd birthday next year) and then at Easter.

We are looking forward to another memorable cookie baking celebration soon! Merry Christmas! From the "Christmas Cookie Crew"

Thanksgiving morning - hunting with my kids - then going in and fixing dinner with family!

## TRADITIONS

My dad loved taking photos, so each year at the end of our gathering he would arrange us, put his camera on a timer and run into the picture for an annual family portrait.

The year after he passed away I inherited that duty. To get everyone into the shot we stood fairly close and I set the timer and ran into the photo. But I bumped into the one in front of me, and like dominoes everyone began falling. And the camera clicked capturing that moment of chaos. After that we began shooting a serious portrait and a funny one on purpose.

My dad would always tell us not to buy him a gift, and I never understood that.

Several years ago after the meal was consumed, the presents opened and kids playing with their gifts, I saw Mom sitting on her favorite chair, reading a card. She was leaning back with her legs draped over the chair handle and her glasses tipped down. She had this glow of perfect contentment, surrounded by her family. I believe that's when I understood what Dad meant. There's no gift that could match being in the company of family and friends.

On Christmas Eve, the youngest kid always got a DVD as a present, and we watched it that night. The rest of the presents came on Christmas morning.

We celebrate "Hobbit Day" on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving. Family and friends are invited to stop in throughout the day and enjoy authentic hobbit day fare from 7:30 a.m. "First Breakfast" to 11:00 a.m. "Elevenses" to 9:00 p.m. "Supper." My son and I plan the menu in advance and prepare all the meals while The Lord of the Rings movies play for all to enjoy.

More than fifty years ago, while stationed in Qui Nhon, South Vietnam, Tony Suba was called down to the mailroom to receive an unexpected package.

Wrapped in brown paper and tied with a string is how Tony first saw the gift that would eventually become a tradition.

His then, soon-to-be-wife had mailed him a three-foot artificial Christmas tree equipped with styrofoam ornaments and draped in garland.

That year the tree took its place atop a wood box within a barrack of soldiers. It eventually donned lights and its branches draped over presents as the soldiers celebrated the holiday away from home.

After Christmas, Suba mailed the tree back home, for safe keeping where it would stay until it traveled overseas yet again a year later. Suba's parents sent the tree to Tony, this time in Tuy Hoa. And once again, after it had served its purpose it was shipped back to the States. Suba shared that over the years the tree became the family tree even though they had larger trees.

Suba now lives in Plainfield, and has for over 50 years. As for the little Vietnam tree, while it may be ragged and worn, it still does its job of spreading Christmas cheer. "My daughter Jennifer Stinson/Suba puts up the tree every year," Tony shared. "When I see the tree, it reminds me of a time being a long way from family and holiday activities," Suba explained. "It also means one thoughtful act became a cherished memory. I hope the little tree will continue to bring memories to the holidays long after I am gone."



## HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM BARLEY THYME KITCHEN+BREW

From now until December 24th purchase a \$50.00 gift card and receive a \$10 Bonus Card redeemable 1/2/26 thru 2/28/26.

1621 EAST MAIN ST. | DANVILLE, IN  
(LOCATED DIAGONALLY ACROSS FROM PIZZA HUT)



Black Friday brings with it deals, doorbusters, and savings but it also takes away from the local, grassroot businesses that could use holiday sales to stay afloat. Thus, Shop Small Saturday was born - a day dedicated to supporting local businesses.

Shop Small Saturday takes place the Saturday after Thanksgiving and gives locally owned businesses the opportunity to host promotions of their own. "Small businesses need your support," said Heather Foubert, owner of Indiana Farmhouse.

"All local businesses always need a boost during the holidays, and we always appreciate it too," she added.

## Danville

### 1. For Everyone

From handcrafted custom jewelry to a ball marker for the golfer in your life, you'll find something unique at Seize the Night. Don't miss their Advent Box, one of my favorite Christmas traditions!

### 2. For the Reader

Nothing beats getting lost in a good book. Pick up a special read or a gift card from The Authors Patch Bookstore, and take in the peaceful, cozy atmosphere.



(Provided by the Danville Chamber of Commerce.)

## Make a holiday MEMORY OF IT

Check out Hendricks County's One-of-a-Kind Finds Gift Guide for our top 20 list of can't-miss items and take the guesswork out of gift giving.



SCAN THE QR CODE TO LEARN MORE

# Holiday Gift Guide

## Brownsburg

Give sweetness this season by gifting a jar of fresh, local honey from The Hayloft.

For the Bulldog fans, stop by Ella Mae's for some Brownsburg Spirit Gear.

We are sure the old soul in your life would appreciate some vintage treasures from Roots to Wings Barn Market.

Foodies would love a gift card to Brie and Bartlett, giving them the perfect excuse to indulge charcuterie style.

Going Golden is just the place for customizable, handmade ornaments.



## Auon

The gift that keeps on giving - freshly roasted premium coffee on the regular with a coffee subscription from Cabin Coffee.

Seasonal fudge from The Fudge Kettle makes for a festive sweet treat.

Give the gift of color by creating a custom stocking at the Tie Dye Lab.

The chilly months make it a perfect time to cozy up with a new book. Half Priced Books has tons of reads to choose from.

For the Christmas lover in your life, stop by Little Green Apple Hallmark to pick up an ornament.



## Plainfield

Schakolad Chocolate Factory – covered Oreos

Gift Card to Tlahecos Mexican Cuisine

Bracelet From Earth Wear Rock Shop

Facial from The Skin Body and Wellness Clinic

Tickets to Hendricks Civic Theatre's A Seussified Christmas Carol at Hendricks Live!

(Provided by the Plainfield Chamber of Commerce.)

## More Local Options

Amo: Amo Pizza & General Store

Clayton: Copper Top Customs and Cox's Plant Farm

Coatesville: Do It Best Hardware

Jamestown: Garden Gate Flowers & Gifts

Lizton: Bear's Lawn Care & Garden Center



# Recipes from the Hendricks County Community

## Rava Laddu (Semolina Sweet Balls) — simple yet festive

1 cup semolina (rava/sooji)	3/4 cup sugar
1/4 cup ghee (clarified butter)	2 tbsp grated coconut (optional)
Handful of chopped cashews & raisins	1/2 tsp cardamom powder

Roast the semolina in a pan with a spoon of ghee until lightly golden & aromatic. In another pan, warm the remaining ghee & fry cashews & raisins. Mix roasted semolina, sugar, coconut, cardamom, & fried nuts. While warm, shape small laddus by hand. If the mixture is too dry, sprinkle a little warm milk.

The fragrance of ghee & cardamom fills our home - a reminder that Diwali is not only about lighting diyas, but also about sharing light, sweetness, & love with others. During this time of year, our Hindu community also participates in the SewaDiwali Food Drive to help combat hunger, a collective effort to alleviate food insecurity & extend the true spirit of Diwali beyond our homes to the broader community. From our family to yours, may this season bring light, joy, & togetherness to every home.

- JR Sandadi

## Cream Cheese Sausage Crescent Roll-ups

1 pkg Sage Sausage	2 pkgs Pillsbury Croissant Dough
1 Apple	1 pkg Cream Cheese

Fry sausage in a pan with chopped up apple until cooked all the way and apple is tender. Drain grease. Add cream cheese and mix it all together. Cut the Pillsbury Croissants in 1/2 and scoop sausage mixture into the croissants. Fold croissant around the sausage. Bake at 350 for 25 minutes or until golden brown. These are always a hit! So easy and yummy. Can be used as an appetizer or for breakfast.

- Beth Polley

## Italian Honey Balls (Christmas & New Year)

### Pignolata in Sicilian / Struffoli in Italian

3 eggs	1 tbs. creamed butter
1/2 tbs. sugar	1/2 tbs. vanilla extract
2 cups sifted flour	1/2 tsp. baking powder
8 oz honey	Confettini (candy sprinkles)
Oil for frying, slotted spoon or wire basket	



In a large bowl, beat eggs well & then mix in butter, sugar, and vanilla. In a small bowl combine flour & baking powder. Slowly mix the ingredients of the small bowl into the large bowl with the egg mixture in it. Knead until smooth on a large lightly floured surface. Cover & let rest for 30 minutes.

Take medium size amounts of the dough at a time on a board and roll under the palm of your hand into a rope shape with the ropes being about the thickness of a finger. Take each rope and cut into 1/2 inch pieces. Toss pieces in a little flour.

Meanwhile, set up a deep fryer or suitable frying pan with corn oil. Gradually/gently add a handful of the cut pieces into hot oil. Do not crowd. Turn with a slotted spoon occasionally & cook until medium golden brown on all sides being careful not to overbrown. It's best to cut your dough ropes in amounts that can be easily done at a time in your fryer.

Place pignolata on a plate with absorbent paper to help absorb excess oil. When all pignolata are done, get a heavy aluminum pan and add the honey. Heat over a low flame. Add the balls to the honey & mix constantly with wooden spoon until the balls hold honey and are well coated (3-3 1/2 minutes). Don't cook too long or the honey will caramelize. When done, transfer to a doiled plate forming the honey balls into mounds on the plates. While they are still hot, sprinkle generously with the candy sprinkles. Serve cool.

- Robin Paul Malloy

**Haft Mewa** (means "Seven Fruits" in Dari/Persia), a traditional Afghan (and Persian) New Year's (Nowruz) sweet fruit drink or compote.

How it's made:

Dried fruits and nuts are soaked in water overnight (or longer) so they release flavor and soften. Raisins

Senjed (dried oleaster/jujube)

Dried apricots

Almonds

Walnuts

Pistachios

Hazelnuts or cashews (depending on family tradition)



Served in a bowl with its sweet syrupy water.

Traditionally enjoyed on Nowruz (March 21st), but also prepared during other celebrations. It represents unity & harmony, as all the fruits and nuts come together in one dish. It's similar in spirit to a fruit salad or compote, but unique to Afghan culture.

- Najia Sherzad Hoshmand, Afghan American Community

Tip for baking pumpkin pie is to make the filling ahead of time and refrigerate overnight. Then pour into pie shell the next day or so...the spices really bloom!

- Deborah L. Rushton

## Belloni Pizelles

2 C flour	Flavoring:
1 C Sugar	1 tbs. vanilla extract
3/4 C unsalted butter, melted	4 tsp. orange extract
4 eggs	3 tbs. lemon zest
2 tsp. baking powder	1 tsp. lemon extract
Powdered sugar to garnish	

Plug in pizelle press & allow to heat up. Mix all ingredients (stand mixer or bowl). Drop 4 tablespoons of batter toward middle of each mold (about standard ice cream scoop worth). Slowly close press & hold firmly closed.

Allow pizelles to cook 30 seconds & check. They are done when they begin to lightly brown. Remove from press using a fork & set on rack to cool. Once cooled dust with powdered sugar. Cooking times vary depending on age of press. Don't worry if over/under fill. Mistakes should be eaten or trimmed.

- Mark Belloni

Christmas Eve is always with Mom and Dad. Chinese takeout. Gifts. Laughs. Family. Eleven people in a house made for four.

Mom always makes homemade party mix and my customers at Kigers Signs loved it.

## Swedish Nut Cake

2 cups white sugar
2 cups flour
2 eggs
1/2 cup chopped walnuts
2 teaspoon baking soda
2 teaspoon vanilla extract
20 oz crushed pineapple with juice
8 oz cream cheese
1 3/4 cup confectioners sugar
1/2 cup butter

Preheat oven to 350. Grease & flower 9 x 13 pan. Mix: flour, sugar, nuts, & baking soda. Add eggs, pineapple, & vanilla. Beat until smooth, pour in pan. Bake 40-50 minutes. For icing: combine butter, cream cheese, and confectioners sugar. Spread while cake is hot.

## Midnight Margarita

I love finding little things that can make the special days even more festive. This midnight margarita adds a fun touch to New Year's celebrations.

1 shot of a good tequila blanco
1 shot orange liqueur or triple sec
1 shot fresh lime juice
1 shot cranberry juice
1/2 ounce of honey

Note - 1 shot is equal to 1.5 ounces

Directions: give the ingredients a good shake in a cocktail mixer (a jar with a lid works just as well). Rim your glass with a lot of salt. Fill glass with ice and pour in drink. Top with ginger ale or champagne for extra holiday cheer. Cheers!

- Isabella Zarate

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# Memories of Holidays Past

Taken from issues of The Republican Newspaper



Photo of sled taken in Amo, early 1900's.

The Advertiser, Dec. 31, 1853

The silly practice of using gunpowder in the celebration of Christmas appears to have resulted in the usual number of accidents throughout the county.

Danville Union, Jan. 7, 1875

Christmas at James Smith's – "The baseball, the jokes and the turkey were all very enjoyable."

Issue of Dec. 12, 1889

Joe Schwartz has the first Christmas tree of the season. It is in his show window.

Issue of Dec. 29, 1881

In accordance with the laws of time and the calendar, Christmas, the merriest and happiest day of the year, has once more come and gone. Friday and Saturday were bright and warm, and the streets were thronged with people journeying from store to store in search of some suitable, something with which to gladden the hearts of children, parents, brothers, sisters and friends.

Issue of Dec. 21, 1899

Lizton: The announcement of all Christmas festivities has been recalled on account of scarlet fever.

Issue of Dec. 31, 1914

Plainfield: The municipal Christmas tree, erected on Elm Street, Christmas Eve, was a great success. It was beautifully lighted with colored lights and lanterns.

Issue of Jan. 5, 1939

North Salem: Unique among the lighting fixtures on the community Christmas tree was an old candle lantern owned by Mrs. Mollie Emmons and Lillie Davidson. The lantern is more than one hundred years old and was brought to Indiana from Kentucky by the sisters' parents.

Issue of Oct. 30, 1941

Four couples thronged the clerk's office, Tuesday afternoon, to secure the necessary papers for Christmas weddings.

Issue of Nov. 20, 1941

The North Salem Lions Club will purchase and install the Christmas lighting system for streets during the Christmas holidays.

Issue of Dec. 18, 1941

More than one hundred Central Normal couples celebrated last night as the Association of Women Students sponsored an all-college Christmas party in the grid room of the college gymnasium.



Danville Christmas Parade, 1977.

Issue of Dec. 12, 1945

Baker & Son will continue the tradition of amplifying Christmas carols from the store during the afternoon and evening of Christmas Eve. Mrs. Dan Shattuck will play the Hammond electric organ, which will be moved from the funeral home to the store. Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Shattuck and Mr. and Mrs. Cleo Dean will sing.

Issue of Dec. 27, 1956

The Danville Radio & Record Shop is having an open house New Year's Day for people wishing to see the Tournament of Roses. The annual New Year's parade, which precedes the Rose Bowl football game, will be shown in color on an RCA Color TV set at the local store.

Issue of Dec. 23, 1999

Little 10-year old Hannah Faith Starlin of North Salem paid her first visit to Santa Claus Saturday at the Danville IGA.

Issue of Nov. 24, 2005

Plainfield Tri Kappa will host the 35th annual Gingerbread Christmas on Saturday, December 3rd, at Plainfield High School.

***Holiday Tradition: My family and I attend the Christmas Tree Lighting on the Square in Danville the day after Thanksgiving every year. Afterward, we gather at my sister's home for dinner.***

**Cass**  
AND COMPANY SALON

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Avon, IN 46123

We would love for you to join us at our Holiday Open house on December 5, 2025 4-7pm Come and enjoy light refreshments, raffles, holiday shopping and fun! We will have local vendors joining us as well!



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# November Events

**Hendricks County Winter Farmers Market**, Hendricks County 4-H Fairgrounds, Danville, 4-6:30 p.m.

**GIVINGback, Mary Lee Maier Food Pantry** drive thru donation drop off at Avon Town Hall, 7:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

**Annual Tree Lighting & Parade**, Shops at Perry Crossing, Plainfield, 5-8 p.m.

**NMRA Train Show**, Central Indiana Division, Hendricks County 4-H Fairgrounds, Danville, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

**Winter Wreath Workshop**, McCloud Nature Park, North Salem, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

**Avon United Methodist Church Craft Fair**, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

**Christmas on the Square**, Danville, 4-7 p.m.

**Children's Entrepreneur Market** at Christmas on the Square, Danville, 4-7 p.m.

**Reindeer Day at Perry Crossing**, Shops at Perry Crossing, Plainfield, 1-3 p.m.

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Daily

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**Ladies Night Out**, Danville Square, 5-8 p.m.

**Treesgiving**, volunteer to plant trees at Williams Park, Brownsburg, 9-10 a.m.

**Clay Handprint Ornament Making**, uPaint Pottery, Plainfield, noon-3 p.m. or 5-7 p.m.

**Murder Mystery Dinner Series: Murder with all the Trimmings**, The Prewitt, Plainfield, 6:30-9 p.m.

**Merry Making Monday**, Clayton Liberty Twsp. Public Library, 2-6 p.m.

**Letters to Santa Mailbox** opens, Brownsburg Town Hall, Green St., 9 a.m.

**Science Claus**, Hendricks Live!, Plainfield, 2 p.m.

**Brownsburg Lions Club Holiday Craft Bazaar**, Hendricks County 4-H Fairgrounds, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

**Santa at the Orchard**, Beasley's Orchard, Danville, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

**Polar Express Experience**, Washington Twsp. Parks, Avon, 3-6:30 p.m.

**Light up Main Street**, Plainfield Tree Lighting, 6:00-7:30 p.m.

**Friendsgiving Painting Party**, uPaint Pottery, Plainfield, 6-9 p.m.

**Starting Nov 21** Danville Winterland Holiday Lights, Ellis Park, thru Dec. 28, Sun.-Thurs: 6-9 p.m. Sundays, Fri & Sat: 6-10 p.m.

**Hendricks Regional Health YMCA Gobble Gallop**, YMCA Avon, 8-10 a.m.



Dates are from time of publication and may be subject to change. Please check websites [hendrickscommunitycalendar.org](http://hendrickscommunitycalendar.org) or [visithendrickscounty.com/events](http://visithendrickscounty.com/events) for more info.

Photos are courtesy of community Facebook pages.

# December Events



**Deconstructed Books- Junk Journal Workshop: Holiday Edition**, Indiana Farmhouse, Danville, 6-9 p.m.



**Holiday Fest & Cookie Walk**, Hendricks County 4-H Fairgrounds, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.  
**Santa in the Igloo**, Creation Cafe, Danville, sensory-friendly experience 4:30-5:30, then from 5:30-7:30 p.m.



**Gingerbread Christmas Craft & Fine Arts Show**, Plainfield Tri-Kappa, Plainfield High School, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.  
**Indiana Lyons v. Indiana Shuckers**, Bosstick Gym, Danville, 5 p.m.  
**Reindeer Day at Perry Crossing**, Plainfield, 1-3 p.m.  
**Avon Tree Lighting**, Avon Town Hall Park, 4-6 p.m.  
**Brownsburg's Christmas Under the Stars**, 4-8 p.m., parade at 6 p.m.  
**Christmas Under the Stars**, North Salem, 5-9 p.m.  
**Santa at the Orchard**, Beasley's Orchard, Danville, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.  
**Sensory Santa**, Washington Twsp. Parks, Avon, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.



**Hendricks Symphony Orchestra: Deck the Halls with Silver and Gold**, Hendricks Live!, Plainfield, 3 p.m.



**Hendricks County Winter Farmers Market**, Hendricks County 4-H Fairgrounds, Danville, 4-6:30 p.m.



**Trees of Plainfield**, Al & Jan Barker Sports Complex, Plainfield, 6-9 p.m.



**Indiana Lyons v. St. Louis Spirits**, Bosstick Gym, Danville, 4 p.m.  
**Christmas Painting Social**, Danville Town Hall, 1-3 p.m.



**Ornament Making**, Blanton House, Danville, 6-7:30 p.m.



**Hendricks Symphony Orchestra: Deck the Halls with Silver and Gold**, Hendricks Live!, Plainfield, 7:30 p.m.  
**Santa in the Igloo**, Creation Cafe, Danville, 5:30-7:30 p.m.



**Trees of Plainfield**, Al & Jan Barker Sports Complex, Plainfield, 6-9 p.m.



**Hendricks Civic Theatre Presents: A Seussified Christmas Carol**, Longstreet Playhouse, Pittsboro, Thurs.-Sat., 7:30 p.m., Sat. & Sun.- 2:30 p.m.



**A Night to Rescue**, Hendricks Live!, Plainfield, 6:30-8:30 p.m.



**Christmas Evening in the Park**, Scamahorn Park, Pittsboro, 5-8 p.m.  
**Santa's Workshop Market Craft Fair**, Scamahorn Park, Pittsboro, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.  
**Winter Board Game Blitz**, McCloud Nature Park, North Salem, 10 a.m.- 2 p.m.  
**Reindeer Day at Perry Crossing**, Plainfield, 1-3 p.m.  
**Santa at the Orchard**, Beasley's Orchard, Danville, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.  
**Breakfast with Buddy the Elf**, Washington Twsp. Parks, Avon, 10 a.m.-noon



**Food Festival and Holiday Market**, Hendricks Power Expo Hall, 4-H Fairgrounds, Danville, Fri: 5-9 p.m., Sat, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.



**Winter Board Game Blitz**, McCloud Nature Park, North Salem, 10 a.m.- 2 p.m.  
**Reindeer Day at Perry Crossing**, Plainfield, 1-3 p.m.



**Winter Solstice at Pecar Nature Park**, Avon, 4:30-5:30 p.m.

# Interfaith Celebrations

The Center for Interfaith Cooperation (CIC) works year-round to strengthen relationships among Central Indiana's diverse faith and cultural communities. We create opportunities for dialogue, shared service, and mutual respect.

This holiday season, we celebrate the many ways people find meaning, connection, and joy, from a shared meal to a sacred tradition. Every celebration, in its own way, adds to the beauty of our shared community.

No matter what or how you celebrate, the CIC team wishes you a joyful, peaceful, and meaningful holiday season. Learn more about us at [indycic.org](http://indycic.org).

## Diwali – A Celebration of Light, Renewal, and Sweet Beginnings



The Sandadi family during their Diwali celebration.

In our Hindu tradition, Diwali (Deepavali) marks the triumph of light over darkness and goodness over ignorance. But for our family, it also begins with a deep sense of renewal — both in spirit and in space.

In the days leading up to Diwali, we clean every corner of our home, polish brass lamps, and decorate the entryway with rangoli—colorful designs made from rice flour or flower petals. The idea is simple: when the home is pure and bright, so too is the mind.

On Diwali day, we dress in new clothes, light rows of small clay lamps (diyas), and place them all around our home — in windows, doorways, and porches — to symbolize the welcoming of Goddess Lakshmi, the bringer of prosperity and well-being. As the flickering lamps glow in the evening, the entire house seems to come alive with warmth and peace.

The night fills with the aroma of incense, the laughter of family, and the sweet taste of homemade treats.

By: JR Sandadi, Hindu community member and CIC Board Chair

## Christian - 53 Bethlehem Dinners Over Three Generations

After Judy and I were married in 1971, we wanted to begin a family tradition that would help us focus more deeply on our Savior and Redeemer during the Christmas season. We decided to create a special Christmas Eve experience we called our Bethlehem Dinner.

On that night, we turn off all the lights in our home and eat by the soft glow of our Christmas tree and a few candles. The dinner itself is made up of foods that Mary and Joseph might have eaten in their time—figs, dates, cheeses, flatbread, fish, grape juice, and other simple fare—eaten only with our fingers, just as it might have been done in Bethlehem.

Over the years, we added roast lamb and various herbs and spices to enrich the meal, but the spirit of the evening remains the same: reverent, simple, and centered on Christ.

As our family grew, the Bethlehem Dinner became one of the most cherished parts of our Christmas celebration. In time, we added a reenactment of the Nativity.

Now, fifty-three years later, this tradition has carried on into the homes of each of our five children and is being passed down again as our grandchildren begin families of their own. It's a legacy of love, faith, and remembrance that continues to bless us all as a family.

By: Ernest Lifferth, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, CIC Board Member



The Lifferth family on Christmas Eve.

## Hanukkah

Jewish people world-wide celebrate Hanukkah each year by sharing the story and traditions of this holiday. Hanukkah is an eight-day holiday that begins on the 25th day of the month of Kislev and ends on the 2nd day of the month of Tevet (on the Hebrew calendar, which is now in the year 5786). This corresponds to our calendar year of 2025, with Hanukkah beginning at sundown on December 14th and ending at sundown on December 22nd.



A traditional menorah used for Hanukkah celebrations.

With prayers of thanksgiving, we celebrate the victory God gave to those who believed in Him. We light Hanukkah candles at sundown on each of the eight days from a special candle called the shamash ("assistant"), adding a candle each day, so that a full menorah (candle holder) of 9 candles (8 plus the shamash) burns brightly on the last day.

May the lights of this season shine brightly on us all.

By: Dr. Alan Bercovitz

## Chanuka

In the Jewish tradition there really are no major holidays in the November/December season. The only holiday that falls in that time period is Chanuka which is a relatively minor holiday on our calendar.

Chanuka celebrates the story of the Maccabees and their followers who overcame the Syrian army and reclaimed the Temple and (most importantly) the right to religious freedom. The story is found in the Apocrypha. It is a holiday that is celebrated in the home with family and friends and, in most countries, is not a major celebration. In America merchandising and marketing have made it an excuse for gift giving instead of reflection on the origin of the holiday — much like what has happened with Christmas.

Chanuka traditionally is celebrated in the home by lighting the Chanuka candles and eating foods that are fried in oil (remembering the miracle of the vial of oil that lasted for 8 days) like jelly doughnuts and potato pancakes (latkes).

By: Carolyn Hiser

## Islam

I am at home in Hendricks County. When I was a child in Indianapolis, one of my favorite holiday dishes was cooked cabbage, black-eyed peas, cornbread, and hamhocks. This meal was a tradition established by many African American families in recognition of both New Year's Day in 1863, in celebration of the Emancipation Proclamation, and later Juneteenth (June 19th).

At the age of 13, I embraced Islam. I told my mother and family that I would no longer eat pork, that it was against my newfound faith.

The following New Year's Day, we sat down to eat. My mother dished out the usual: black-eyed peas, cornbread, and cabbage, but the cabbage was flavored with smoked turkey legs instead. I was in total shock. My family had surprised me. Some had issues but Mom said it was healthiest for us all. That day, a new traditional meal began in my family.

My sisters and brothers who are still with us and I continue to eat this wonderful family meal, without the pork. They respected my faith and respected my dietary restrictions. They even add that they like the healthier eating.

By: Dr. Clete Ladd



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# Ways to Give Back



## Hendricks County Food Pantry Coalition

As the holidays approach, so does the pressure to provide. Between gift giving, special meals, and having bills to pay, many find themselves struggling to stay afloat during the so-called "happiest time of the year."

In times like these many turn to their local food pantries for support. Though, just as the food pantries are hoping to provide, they too are limited.

The Hendricks County Food Pantry Coalition was created in 2006 on the basis of helping Hendricks County pantries meet the basic nutritional needs of residents. The coalition, which now consists of twenty locations, works together to support pantries that feed the community.

According to Shirley Larsen, treasurer for the Coalition, the holiday season brings with it an increased demand for pantry assistance. That being said, if you are looking to give back in some way at this time, there are a few ways you could be part of supporting the pantries and feeding the community.

The first option being to host a donation drive! Whether among co-workers, friends, family, or any other group you're a part of, donation drives are a way to bring people together for a good cause. Hosting a drive for the Coalition consists of asking your group to gather non-perishable food items within an allotted amount of time. All collected items then can be given to the Coalition as a whole, or dropped off at one of their pantry locations.

Speaking of pantry locations, another way to serve this season is by volunteering at a pantry near you. Depending on location, volunteers can expect to help with a number of things from organizing stock and packing meal boxes.

Whether you want to host a food drive, volunteer at a pantry, or donate monetarily visit [hendrickscountyfoodpantries.com](http://hendrickscountyfoodpantries.com) for more information on how you can help this holiday season.

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**Ah, the holidays - a time for gathering, reflecting, celebrating, and often giving back.**

**Amid all the gift giving, indulgences, and spending, the season usually brings with it a spirit for service. If you're looking for ways to get involved locally, you've come to the right place.**

**We at The Republican have compiled a variety of ways you can give back this holiday season.**

## Hendricks County Extension Homemakers

The Hendricks County Extension Homemakers are preparing for their Annual Holiday Fest and Cookie Walk, and they would love your support.

Taking place on December 5th from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Hendricks County Fairgrounds, this event is the organization's way to give back in a festive manner!

Vendors, cookies, holiday music and hot cocoa fill the walls of the expo hall all to raise money for the various community support activities the homemakers participate in throughout the year.

From monthly scholarships to local teachers and students, to hygiene kits for the homeless, the homemakers have a mission of giving back and this is your chance to help.

All you have to do is attend the event, shop a little (or a lot), enjoy some cookies, cocoa and the spirit of the season.

Further information about the organization and the event can be found at [extension.purdue.edu](http://extension.purdue.edu).

## Sheltering Wings

Sheltering Wings is a Danville based non-profit geared toward providing emergency housing and services for survivors escaping domestic abuse.

With Christmas fast approaching, Sheltering Wings would love for you to get involved, here's how:

- Provide Christmas gifts and sponsor a child, adult, or a whole family (roughly \$150 per/person)
- Stuff a stocking, by sponsoring a stocking you commit to around \$30
- Host a donation drive: collect things like non-perishable food, paper products, laundry pods, and bath towels
- For a seasonal drive, ask for donations of items such as children's gifts, gift cards for groceries or gas, bonus items like hygiene and beauty products (think perfume and makeup), shoes, and jewelry
- Monetary donations can be made by visiting [shelteringwings.org/donate](http://shelteringwings.org/donate)
- Get hands on: volunteer at the Shelter to help with things like decorating rooms and pulling together the residents' Christmas party

For questions about getting involved, hosting a drive, or volunteering contact Jess Jones at (317) 386-5056 or email [jjones@shelteringwings.org](mailto:jjones@shelteringwings.org).

## Family Promise

Family Promise is collecting holiday gifts for their annual Santa Shop, where families in need can shop for their children. Gifts should not be wrapped and can be delivered to Family Promise December 15-16th, between 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. This is for HC families not already sponsored by holiday programs. For more info, visit our Facebook page.

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# This Holiday Season



## Project Angel

Project Angel has been spreading Christmas cheer for over 40 years. If you have ever walked into a local business during the holidays and noticed a tree decorated with angel ornaments then you have likely seen a part of how they do it.

Project A.N.G.E.L (Area Neighbors Giving Extra Love) is a local non-profit with a mission of providing social services for families in need. Each year project angel provides Christmas gifts for hundreds of Hendricks County families, and that is something you can be a part of.

"Last year was our biggest year we've ever had. We helped 230 families and over 630 kids," said organization President, McKenzie Crose. This year, the non-profit is expecting to serve upwards of 700 children.

One way you can help is by picking an angel (or a few) off of one of the designated trees, purchasing the listed item, and returning the item[s], unwrapped, to the set location by the date provided.

Another way to participate is by becoming a sponsor. Sponsorship entails fulfilling the entire wish/needs list of a child. On average, sponsoring one child can cost between \$250 to \$350 with lists including the following items:

- Two outfits of clothing (pants & shirt)
- Three wish list items, if possible (toys, books, etc.)
- Items of necessity, upon request (shoes, coat, boots, etc.)

To become a sponsor, contact the organization by emailing [president@projectangelofhendrickscounty.com](mailto:president@projectangelofhendrickscounty.com)

In addition to providing clothing and gifts, the non-profit strives to provide at least a box of food per household member as well as either a turkey or ham for Christmas dinner.

Visit [projectangelofhendrickscounty.com](http://projectangelofhendrickscounty.com) for more information.

## Hendricks County Animal Shelter

The Hendricks County Animal Shelter, located at E. Campus Blvd. in Danville has the following items on their wish list this holiday season:

- Regular bleach (no splashless)
- Nylabones
- Dog treats (no red 40 dye)
- Amazon, Walmart, Tractor Supply gift cards
- Monetary donations

Donations can be dropped off during shelter hours, or visit their Amazon Wish List and ship directly to the shelter.

The shelter is also seeking volunteers, from walking dogs to doing laundry, you can have a direct impact on helping animals in need. More than anything else, consider adopting a shelter pet in 2026, and change a life forever.

Visit them on Facebook to learn more.

## Hendricks County Humane Society

If you're an animal lover, or simply looking to support a good cause consider donating to the pets at the Hendricks County Humane Society.

The organization, which was founded in 1970, strives to end pet overpopulation here locally.

This season HCHS is seeking donations of the following:

- Adult dry dog food
- Adult dry cat food
- Canned adult dog food
- Dog treats
- Cat treats

Monetary donations can also be made by visiting [hendrickshumane.org](http://hendrickshumane.org). Looking for other ways to help out? Direct further questions to [info@hendrickshumane.org](mailto:info@hendrickshumane.org)

## Hendricks County Community Foundation

The Hendricks County Community Foundation (HCCF) is encouraging Hendricks County residents to join together and give local on Giving Tuesday—December 2, 2025. Giving Tuesday is a global day of giving that encourages philanthropy and celebrates generosity. It inspires people to take action to improve their communities, give back to the charities and causes they believe in, and help create a better world.

"This Giving Tuesday, let's empower change right here in Hendricks County by supporting our local nonprofits" stated Frances Mock, Director of Community Relations at HCCF. "When we give together, our community gets stronger and better."

## Plainfield Community Thanksgiving Dinner

Started 21 years ago with the belief that no one should go without a meal on Thanksgiving, The Plainfield Community Thanksgiving Day Dinner Committee is hosting their annual free dinner from 11:00-2:00 on Thanksgiving Day, November 27th.

Please note the new location this year - Plainfield Christian Church, 800 Dan Jones Road, Plainfield. Dine-in or drive-thru options available and possible delivery for homebound residents.

To help support this event, which provided nearly 2,300 meals last year, call 317-839-2384.

**Holiday Tradition: Each December, my cousin Mike organizes a day of giving for our extended family. Each family takes a shift ringing the Salvation Army bell and monitoring donations at the Plainfield Walmart. In the evening, we all gather together for a meal and holiday merriment.**



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# STAFF PICKS

Staff members of *The Republican* share their favorite holiday movies, songs, sweet treats and gifts. What are yours?

## **Jerry Vornholt**



Movies: Miracle on 34th Street  
Nightmare Before Christmas  
The Grinch (with Jim Carey)

Songs: Just about any Christmas song done by the Trans-Siberian Orchestra  
Silent Night  
Santa Claus is Coming to Town (Bruce Springsteen)

Treat: Peanut butter cookies with a Hershey Kiss melted on top. My wife makes them every year. So good. Now, I want one.

Gift you always wanted as a kid: It sounds like a stereotype, but honestly, I wanted a Red Rider BB gun just like Ralphie in *A Christmas Story*.



## **Isabella Zarate**



Movies: Eloise at Christmas Time  
Christmas with the Kranks  
8-Bit Christmas

Songs: 12 Days of Christmas (Straight No Chaser)  
Carol of the Bells (from *Home Alone*)  
Feliz Navidad

Treat: Peanut butter blossoms! I especially like them right out of the oven just as the chocolate is melting onto the cookie. (And sorry Jerry, but I would argue that my mom's are better.)

Gift you always wanted as a kid: I remember flipping through the J.C. Penney Christmas catalog and seeing a six-foot stuffed dog. I remember running down the stairs on Christmas morning to "Sloopy" barely fitting under the tree. Though worn, lacking stuffing, and a bit slouchy, Sloopy still has a place at my parents' house.



## **Peggy Stevens**



Song: White Christmas

Treat: Homemade pecan turtles

Gift you always wanted: Something handmade and candles

## **Beth Polly**

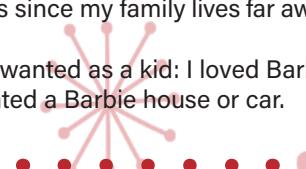


Movies: The Holiday  
It's a Wonderful Life  
Frosty

Songs: Beautiful Star of Bethlehem (The Judds)  
Come, O Come Emmanuel (Sufjan Stevens)  
The Greatest Gift (Andrea Bocelli, Matteo Bocelli & Virginia Bocelli)

Treat: My mom's sugar cookies! My memories are of making them with her and my sister listening to the Judd's Christmas album! I now do a sugar cookie night with my boys and friends since my family lives far away.

Gift you always wanted as a kid: I loved Barbies as a kid and always wanted a Barbie house or car.



## **Renee Bowman**



Movies: Love, Actually  
Christmas Vacation  
The Muppet's "Emmett Otter's Jugband Christmas"

Songs: All I Want for Christmas is You (Mariah Carey)  
O Holy Night  
Jingle Bell Rock

Treat: My mother's stuffing on Thanksgiving

Gift you always wanted as a kid: I have a quintessential "child of the 80's" Christmas memory: receiving Louisa Emma Lynn, my Cabbage Patch Doll. I loved her red hair, green plaid dress, and the way she smelled like baby powder.



## **Phil Brickler**



Movie: It's a Wonderful Life

Songs: O Holy Night  
Jingle Bell Rock  
Jingle Bells

Treat: Chocolate Chip Cookies

Gift you always wanted as a kid: Toy gun of some sort

## **Kirsten Simon**



Movies: Elf  
White Christmas  
Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer (1964)

Songs: Oh Holy Night  
All I want for Christmas is You  
Joy to the World

Treat: Buckeyes and chocolate covered toffee with nuts

Gift you always wanted as a kid: I always wanted a real sapphire diamond ring that is super sparkly.



## **Michelle Pritchett**



Movies: Planes, Trains and Automobiles - Thanksgiving  
Christmas Vacation  
White Christmas

Songs: O Holy Night (Nat King Cole)  
Winter Wonderland  
The Christmas Song

Treat: My mom's buckeyes or my sister's m&m cookies.

Gift you always wanted as a kid: Barbie Fashion Face and roller skates.



## **Connie McClure**



Movies: White Christmas  
A Christmas Story  
Miracle on 34th Street

Songs: I'll be Home for Christmas  
Jingle Bell Rock  
White Christmas

Treat: Homemade Chex party mix.

Gift you always wanted: The ring from my husband and first child.

Not pictured: Betty Bartley



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# Christmas Tree Tips

By COLLETTA KOSIBA  
HENDRICKS COUNTY  
MASTER GARDENER



December. Time to think about a Christmas tree. Real trees have a wonderful scent, bringing back wonderful memories of Christmas past. Go to a Christmas tree farm and cut your own for the freshest tree. Now it may take a while before the whole family agrees on the perfect one. Make it a real adventure by donning silly holiday hats and bring along candy canes and hot cocoa.

After arriving home get the stand and recut the bottom to fit the stand and put the tree in it; fill with water. The fresh cut wood will draw water right up. (A fresh cut tree trunk seals over with tree sap when exposed to air in a couple of hours.) Your tree will last at least five weeks as long that you keep 1-2 inches of water in it. Clean water works the best. Such additives as sugar, aspirin or vodka won't help.

For a great scent, go for the balsam fir—or really any fir. The unique white fir smells like citrus! The best way to preserve the fresh cut Christmas tree's smell is to keep the tree watered!

## Top Eight Trees:

Fraser Fir	Douglas Fir
Balsam Fir	Colorado Blue Spruce
Scotch Pine	White Spruce
Eastern White Pine	White Fir or Concolor Fir

Remember, Christmas isn't about how big the tree is, or what's under it. It's about who's around it.

## Local Tree Farms

Jay's Tree Farm, Mooresville | 755 E. Joppa Road | [jaystreefarm.com](http://jaystreefarm.com)

Evans Whispering Pines, Danville | 1538 N. 400 West | [evanswhisperingpines.com](http://evanswhisperingpines.com)

Dull's Tree Farm, Thorntown | 1765 W. Blubaugh Avenue | [dulltreefarm.com](http://dulltreefarm.com)

Watts Christmas Tree Farm, Zionsville | 9101 Moore Road, Traders Point Creamery | [wattschristmastreefarm.com](http://wattschristmastreefarm.com)

# SLEDDING HILLS

**Bible Church of Brownsburg (Hamstra Hill):  
6045 E. CR 500/Tilden Rd.**

**Ellis Park (Danville): Located at 600 E. Main St.**

**Hummel Park (Plainfield): 1500 S. Center Street**

**Washington Township Park (Avon): 115 S. County Rd. 575 (near shelter & basketball courts).**

**W.S. Gibbs Memorial Park (Danville): 4521 Gibbs Rd.**

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# Holiday Lights

By Eric Ivie

**Winterland Holiday Light Show:** Nov. 21 – Dec. 28 at Ellis Park in Danville (except Thanksgiving & Christmas). A magnificent, drive-through experience featuring more than a million lights. Pay at the gate and then make as many laps as you'd like to soak in all the holiday spirit.

**Historic Hendricks County Courthouse Square:** Kindle your holiday spirit at the 19th annual Christmas On The Square from 4 to 7 p.m., Nov. 28. Join Santa Claus on the historic Courthouse Square in Danville for a winter wonderland with all the trimmings.

**Avon Town Hall Park:** From 4 to 6 p.m. on Dec. 6 at Avon Town Hall Park, the annual Avon Tree Lighting will provide families with a free and fun way to get into the holiday spirit.

**Lights on Lancaster:** A private residence, 7188 Lancaster Lane in Avon, features a huge, computer-controlled animated holiday light show. The fun part is getting on their website and voting for what song is played next.

**Trees of Plainfield:** Visit the Al & Jan Barker Sports Complex in Plainfield on Dec. 5-7 and 12-14 from 6 to 9 p.m. each evening for free family fun during the Trees of Plainfield event. Be sure to check out the holiday schedule and plan your visit accordingly, as each night offers something special for everyone.

**The Shops at Perry Crossing:** Make sure to head out to experience this winter wonderland of lights. The outdoor mall will display a 54-foot-tall tree lit up in the Town Square area beginning at their Tree Lighting & Parade from 5 to 8 p.m. on Nov. 22.

**Town of Brownsburg:** Brownsburg offers several light viewing options, and they're located relatively close to each other. Brownsburg Town Hall is where the Town will hold its Tree Lighting Ceremony on Dec. 6, right after the Christmas Under the Stars parade. Arbuckle Acres Park is another spot to find some nice Christmas lights.

**Poulton Family Home:** The Poulton family home, 1501 Winding Creek Trail in Brownsburg, boasts a massive holiday light display, featuring more than 50,000 bulbs! On select nights, Santa Claus and the Grinch will be there, and the Poulton's offer homemade cookies and hot chocolate to visitors. See Jennifer Poulton's Facebook page.

**Christmas of Lights:** This private residence at 5990 N. County Road 550 East in Pittsboro will feature a whole slew of computer-controlled, synchronized Christmas lights. Visit their website and control which Christmas song and light show plays next. Be sure to follow their Facebook page for the latest updates.

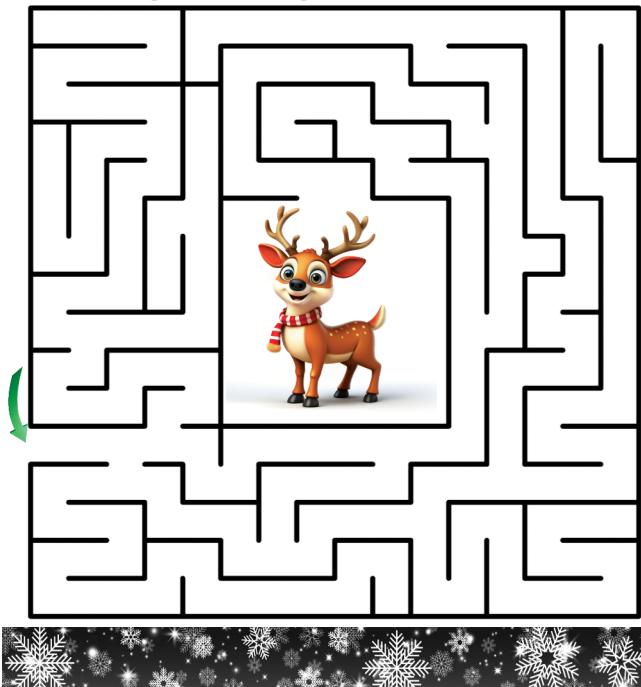
**Kaufmann Family Home:** Since 2013, the Kaufmann family has offered a holiday light show on their home, 5185 N. County Road 600 East in Brownsburg, synchronized to classic Christmas music. Follow the signs down their long driveway, park in a large flat open area, and tune your radio to 98.1 FM. Freewill donations are accepted, which the family donates to Habitat for Humanity of Boone County.

For additional holiday news, events & things to do, go online to [VisitHendricksCounty.com](http://VisitHendricksCounty.com).

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**Find your way to the reindeer!**



## Holiday Shaped Garland

1. Draw a template: Sketch the shape of your choice onto a piece of cardboard to use as a template or use a craft punch tool (shape of your choice).
2. Trace and cut: Trace the template onto the newspaper and cut out multiple copies of the shape (or use punch tool).
3. String them together: use a hole punch and connect pieces using twine. Space approximately 2 inches apart. Tie a loose knot in twine behind each piece to keep in place. You can also staple paper shapes to twine.
4. Create garland: Continue stringing pieces until you have a complete garland.



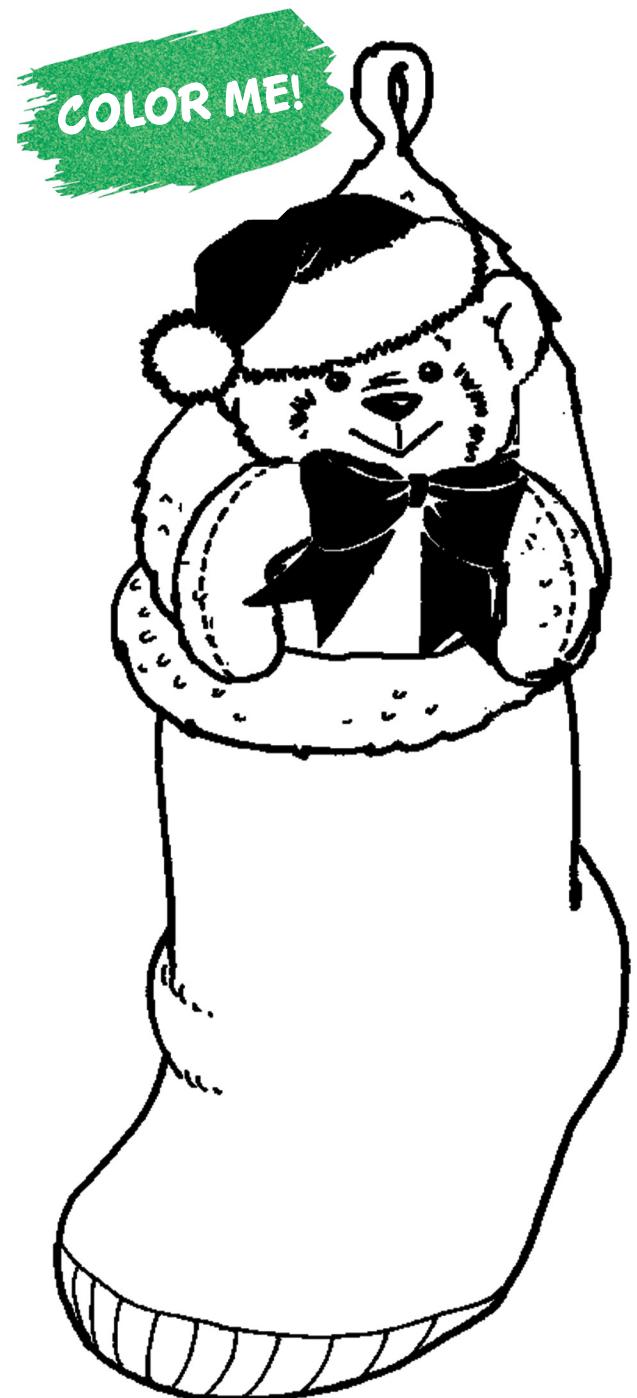
## Newspaper Gift Wrap

Upcycle your newspapers and use as wrapping paper for a unique look in gift-giving, saving money too! Add ribbon, twine, berries or greenery for a festive flair. We know just the newspaper to recommend!



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