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HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

'Christmas in the Village' returns to Youngstown with live theater, marketplace, Santa

Family holiday activities found throughout Youngstown



Look for visits with Santa and storytelling at the Youngstown Recreation Department's children's Christmas party. The Youngstown Lions will be at the Red Brick with free hot dogs and popcorn for visitors. (File photos)

BY TERRY DUFFY
 Editor-in-Chief

Youngstown's "Christmas in the Village" celebrations return Saturday, Dec. 11, with a host of family-oriented activities – from carriage rides to visits to Santa, gift-buying options galore to live theater. The Village of Youngstown and its business community present the holiday event.

Plans are shaping up rather nicely for the annual revisit of this pre-Christmas experience that was canceled last year due to COVID-19 restrictions.

"Oh yes, we'll be ready," Village Mayor



Raleigh Reynolds commented recently when asked of the many activities in store for next weekend. One of several holiday experiences that returned to the River Region for 2021 – including last Sunday's Ransomville Parade and this weekend's Lewiston Christmas Walk – Youngstown's

SEE CHRISTMAS, continued on Page 8

Christmas Walk weekend is here!



Mari Salada shows off some of the holiday merchandise available at Research and Design, located at 721 Center St. – inside the former HSBC Bank. RD is one of the Lewiston Christmas Walk sponsors, and will offer live music Sunday afternoon ahead of the Lewiston Christmas Lights Parade.

Lewiston's Christmas Walk weekend is underway.

• On Friday, the 30th annual Christmas tree-lighting ceremony will take place at the Alphonso DiMino Memorial Bandshell. The event is coordinated by the Village of Lewiston Recreation Department and features dance numbers by Rachel Novelli's Lewiston Dance Center (7 p.m.), the St. Peter's R.C. School chorus performing holiday songs (roughly 7:15 p.m.), and Christmas characters in costume and reading a story for the children. The Lewiston Public Library's Ann Siejka will have free books and candy canes available for youngsters.

The tree will be lit following the live entertainment. Refreshments will be provided.

• On Saturday, Santa and his elves will arrive in the village – some set to fly in with Skydive the Falls at 11:15 a.m. inside Academy Park (weather-permitting).

St. Nick will then make his way to the International Peace Garden on Center Street, where he will meet with families from noon to 4 p.m.

The Lewiston Choraleers will sing Christmas carols and other holiday music from 1 to 2 p.m. in front of St. Peter's

R.C. Church, 620 Center St.

• On Sunday, free carriage rides will be available from 12:30-3:30 p.m.

Center Street will close at 3:30 p.m. in preparation for the Lewiston Christmas Lights Parade at 5:30 p.m.

• Throughout the weekend, stores will be open with extended hours, with many of the storefronts decorated, and activities, treats, promotions and great shopping sales to be found.

In addition, there will be a petting zoo, a mailbox to send letters to Santa (in between You & Me boutique and The Spicy Pickle), and a photo wreath in front of Apple Granny.

The Lewiston Family Ice Rink also is open at Academy Park, and has skates available for rent.

Of course, the village's famed restaurants also will be offering an assortment of specials.

Find more information and advertising deals at www.wnypapers.com.

A schedule of events can be found at www.niagarariverregion.com.

The Niagara River Region Chamber of Commerce presents the Lewiston Christmas Walk.

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