



The Courier REVIEW TIMES
The Advertiser-Tribune

Discover

December 2023



Friday evenings in Findlay to feature yuletide fun

New outdoor Market added to holiday event lineup

By: Bret Nye, bretnye@thecourier.com

This year, the city of Findlay will spread the Christmas spirit in many of the ways it traditionally has — by lighting a large community tree at the center of town, opening the doors of Santa’s house to good girls and boys and featuring all manner of holiday treats at local restaurants and bakeries. But new to Findlay’s WinterFest this year is an outdoor holiday market, featuring crafts and other goods from local artisans around the well-lit base of downtown Christmas tree every Friday evening.



The community Christmas tree shines in all its splendor in front of the city of Findlay’s municipal building at Dorney Plaza in November 2022.

themed activities available on Fridays (like visiting the Kiwanis Santa’s House at St. Andrew’s Church from 6-8 p.m., where visitors can enjoy cookies and hot chocolate while telling Santa what they want for Christmas, or even go on a downtown wagon ride, all courtesy of Kiwanis Club of Findlay), the Market will be set up every Friday evening around the city’s Christmas tree in Dorney Plaza. Craft makers and artisans from Findlay Art League and elsewhere will set up in tents and display their goods for the perusal of those out in

Among the other holiday-

Continued on page 3

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UPCOMING CLASSES Register for classes online at www.FindlayArtLeague.org

DECEMBER 2023

Charcoal Drawing: Old World Saint Nicholas- Friday, 6:00 – 8:00 pm, Dec. 1; Tuition: \$40, all materials provided, all skill levels welcome.
Instructor: Cindy Meadows

Making Artwork Candle with Calligraphy Script- Friday, 6:00 – 8:00 pm, Dec. 8; Tuition: \$40, all materials provided, all skill levels welcome.
Instructor: Cindy Meadows

Garland of Mittens Family Project- Saturday, 2:00 – 4:00 pm, Dec. 9; Tuition: \$5/mitten, all materials provided, all skill levels welcome.
Instructor: Cindy Meadows.

New Moon Candle Pour Workshop- Tuesday, 6:00 - 8:00 pm, Dec. 12; Tuition: \$41, all materials provided. Learn how to make your own, pouring two soy candles with essential oils. Vessel choices are recycled glass. (18 years or older) Instructor: Amber Kear

Making Artwork Christmas Tree with Calligraphy Script- Friday, 6:00 – 8:00 pm, Dec. 15; Tuition: \$40, all materials provided, all skill levels welcome.
Instructor: Cindy Meadows

Life/Figure Drawing- Sunday, 2:00 – 4:00 pm, Dec. 17; Tuition: \$10 (Adult students: \$5) to help pay for the model, no instruction, bring your own supplies.
Convenor: Bruce McKinney

Beginning Pottery: Wheel Throwing- Wednesday, 7:00-9:00 pm, Dec. 27, Jan. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31; Tuition: \$180, all materials provided, all skill levels welcome (age 18+). Instructor: Marcie Allen

Intermediate Pottery: Wheel Throwing- Thursday, 7:00-9:00 pm, Dec. 28, Jan. 4, 11, 18, 25, February 1; Tuition: \$180, all materials provided, 18+ (must have taken Beginning Pottery or equivalent). Instructor: Marcie Allen

Watercolor Painting: Camille Pissarro- Friday, 6:00 – 8:00 pm, Dec. 29; Tuition: \$50, all materials provided, all skill levels welcome. Instructor: Cindy Meadows

JANUARY 2024

Hand Building Pottery: Coil Vessels- Tuesday, 10:00-11:30 am, Jan. 2, 9, 16, 30; Tuition: \$120, all materials provided, all skill levels welcome 18+.
Instructor: Marcie Allen

Young Adult Pottery- Saturday, 9:00-10:30 am, Jan. 6, 13, 20, 27; Tuition: \$150, all materials provided, all skill levels welcome (9-17 years old).
Instructor: Cindy Meadows

Young Adult Pottery- Wednesday, 2:00-3:30 pm, Jan. 10, 17, 24, 31; Tuition: \$150, all materials provided, all skill levels welcome (9-17 years old).
Instructor: Cindy Meadows

Watercolor Painting: Claude Monet- Friday, 5:00-7:00 pm, Jan. 19; Tuition: \$40, all materials provided, all skill levels welcome. Instructor: Cindy Meadows

Oil Painting: Paul Cezanne- Friday, 5:00-8:00 pm, Jan. 26; Tuition: \$50, all materials provided, all skill levels welcome. Instructor: Cindy Meadows

WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

Join the Findlay Art League, the oldest visual arts organization in the region (est. 1947) Network with other artists and become actively involved in our community. Class discounts. Leadership/volunteer opportunities. We encourage active participation for the common good and well being of our community. As a volunteer-driven organization, your action makes our existence possible. Memberships starting at \$40/yr. Visit findlayartleague.org to register.

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117 W. Crawford St., Findlay / 419-422-7847 / FindlayArtLeague.org / contact@FindlayArtLeague.org

December 2023

419Discover.com

Continued from page 1

downtown Findlay getting holiday drinks or snapping some photos about the Dorney Plaza tree.

“We took what’s been done with ArtWalk’s great success with supporting local vendors and partnered with the Findlay Art League and local artists to start the Market,” said Alissa Preston, director of the Findlay-Hancock County Convention and Visitors Bureau. “We hope to start this year with a quaint little market of arts and crafts from local vendors, and then grow on that each year, to have a nice addition around the Christmas tree.”

Once the season kicks off with the city Tree Lighting Ceremony at 6 p.m. Friday, Nov. 24, the next four Fridays after that (Dec. 1, 8, 15 and 22) will feature the outdoors Market.



A group of kids admire the Christmas trees on display at Santa’s House in Findlay in November 2022.

In addition to the tents artists will set up in, electric heaters will also be placed near vendors to help people stay warm.

Vendors signed up ahead of time to display their works around the Christmas tree, and the Visitors Bureau encouraged downtown retailers to extend their hours on Fridays in December. Visitors can see what’s going on in the city’s restaurants and bars once they’ve seen the tree, shopped the Market and met Santa.

“We’re asking businesses to stay open until 8 p.m., and we’re listing any live music and special happenings at bars and restaurants as well on our website,” Preston said.

Retail shops committed to staying open later on Fridays in December are Trends! on Main, hand and home, Gems Fairy Cakes and 3 Oaks, among a number of locations.

Patrons of Findlay’s downtown restaurant, bakery and bar scene can likely expect some winter-themed drinks or desserts if they hit the town on Friday evenings also, and the city’s DORA will come in handy for those looking to sample what the whole of the town has to offer.

“The DORA is a nice asset to have downtown for these events,” Preston said, “and False Chord Brewing is located right off of Dorney Plaza there. We’ve also encouraged cafes and coffee shops to have later hours in December.”

DORA-participating businesses will serve drinks in special DORA cups, and those who purchase drinks in the special

cups will be able to take them outside of establishments and walk around in the designated zone with them as usual.



Santa and his helpers pose for a photo amidst a busy 2022 Christmas season at Kiwanis Club of Findlay’s Santa’s House.

DORA hours are 11 a.m. to 11 p.m., and the zone where alcohol can be taken is bordered with signs throughout the downtown area.

The Visitors Bureau is excited to see how people take to the new outdoors Market and all of the other events for locals and others to enjoy on Friday evenings in December.

“We’re hoping to build off of Findlay’s small-town charm this holiday season, among family and friends,” Preston said.

For questions, email the visitors bureau at info@visitfindlay.com





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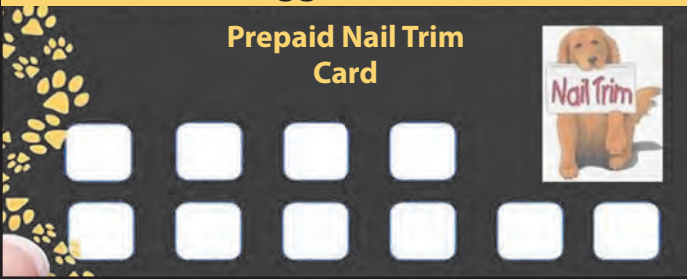
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WHAT'S HAPPENING IN DECEMBER

DECEMBER 1 - 30



Upper's Winter Fantasy of Lights

Harrison Smith Park, Upper Sandusky

Since 1997, Harrison Smith Park, just east of downtown Upper Sandusky, is transformed into a fabulous light show for the month of December. Enjoy the 33 acres of the park ablaze with millions of lights and a myriad of unique light displays along the drive through the park. A donation per car is requested: proceeds benefit a local charitable organization that is selected yearly.

Fri., Sat. & Sun. 6 - 10 p.m. Mon.- Thurs. 6 - 9:30 p.m.

**DECEMBER 1
THRU JANUARY 1**

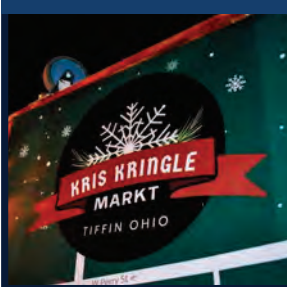


Blaze of Lights

Downtown Bluffton

The 37th annual Blaze of Lights is bringing back traditions for everyone to celebrate! The Blaze of Lights display--including the Ream folk art collection--will be illuminated at 112 N. Main St. (Bluffton Presbyterian Church).

DECEMBER 1 and 2



Kris Kringle Markt

Downtown Tiffin

**December 1 5 - 9 pm
December 2 10 am - 3 pm**

Enjoy the spirit of the holiday season with shopping, an open-air holiday market, restaurants and food truck dining, highlighting German/Bavarian-inspired Christmas offerings.

DECEMBER 2



Holiday Sip & Shop 10 am - 5 pm

Fostoria Learning Center, Fostoria

Complete your holiday shopping all in one stop. The vendor show will feature over 45 local makers and craftspeople. Event will be held at 342 Perry St., Fostoria.

DECEMBER 2



Kiwanis Christmas Parade 10 am

Downtown Tiffin

Bring the family and enjoy the annual Tiffin Kiwanis Christmas Parade. Christmas spirit, holiday decorations, and your best jolly outfits are encouraged! However, please **no Santas!** The Tiffin Kiwanis Club will be sponsoring the parade Santa that will bring up the rear of the parade.

DECEMBER 3



Hometown Christmas 4:45 - 8 pm

McComb

Plan to celebrate the Christmas season in McComb with this free, family event. The evening will include the lighting of the McComb Christmas tree at Premier Bank downtown, activities for kids, entertainment, food trucks, and the Christmas Market!

DECEMBER 9 and 10



Christmas Open House

December 9 5 - 8 pm

December 10 1 - 4 pm

Hancock Historical Museum, Findlay

Get into the holiday spirit with a visit to the museum and enjoy the season with a bit of history! Stroll through the campus beautifully decorated for the holidays. Join the Hull family as they celebrate Christmas in the 1890's, sit by the fire in the Crawford Log House, savor hot cider and seasonal goodies. Enjoy crafts and games for children, and a visit by Father Christmas! Refreshments provided. \$1.00 per person

DECEMBER 9



8th Annual Holiday Glass Scavenger Hunt 10 am

The Poignon Project, Tiffin

Golden tickets will be hidden in downtown Tiffin for your chance to win various prizes made by The Poignon Project. Festivities start at 10am at The Poignon Project but come early and enjoy free hot chocolate and cookies. Maps released at 10 am. Raffles will also be held during the event. Free family event, starts at 227 E. Perry St., Tiffin.

This information was pulled from community websites and was considered current at press time.

We apologize for any information that may have been changed/updated after this edition was printed.



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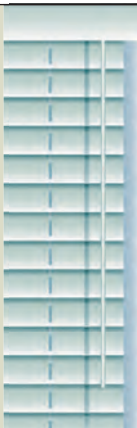


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Seeds bloom even in winter at earth literacy center

Tiffin's Sisters of St. Francis grow hydroponic veggies through offseason

By: Vicki Johnson
vjohnson@advertiser-tribune.com

TIFFIN — It's not too late to buy fresh lettuce, microgreens and other vegetables at Seeds of Hope farmstand in Tiffin.

Director Sister Shirley Shafranek is extending the season to year-round at the farm, which is part of the Franciscan Earth Literacy Center on the Sisters of St. Francis campus.

She's using a hydroponic system, which uses nutrient-laden water instead of soil to grow leaf and head lettuce and similar leafy vegetables such as basil, arugula and spinach.

"There's no soil involved," Shafranek said. "It's all water with nutrients."

Seeds are started in wet paper towels, which keep them moist and allow them to germinate.

"When they start growing roots and leaves we put them in sponges and let them continue to grow until they're big enough to put in the units," she said.

The tiny plants are placed in a hydroponic unit, which continues the growth process

by feeding them with nutrient-laden water that circulates through the system. Each unit has a pump on a timer that runs 10-15 minutes each hour.

Her job then is to monitor the water's pH levels, and add water to the tanks as needed to replace liquid that evaporates due to temperature and the amount of sunshine.

She also adds nutrients to the water on a regular basis.

"And that's about it," she said.

Shafranek said the lettuce is no different from seeds grown in the soil outside.

"It takes a total of about four weeks for the lettuce to be ready to harvest," she said. "Lettuce is the easiest to grow."

"And then I taste the lettuce, and if they taste good they're ready to put out in the farm stand," she said.

Hydroponic lettuce tastes the same as garden lettuce, she said.



Sister Shirley Shafranek leans over pots of tomato plants as she sorts through dried sunflower seeds heads grown at the Franciscan Earth Literacy Center in Tiffin for seeds to use for growing microgreens in the greenhouse.

She gets two or three cuttings off of each growth cycle "before it starts tasting bitter."

"Lettuce has been harvesting for a couple weeks now," she said.

She plans to continue the indoor crops until the garden is producing again next spring, probably around May.

Shafranek said this is the beginning of her second winter using hydroponics.

"It hasn't been very long, so I'm still learning a lot," she said. "This year, I started growing lettuce earlier."

Last year, she learned how much time was required, and this year there hasn't been a gap in produce availability.

Shafrenek operates the farm and greenhouse year-round with developmentally-disabled employees. Two people are working this winter, and that number expands to five or six during the summer. In the fall and winter, they assist with day-to-day operations.

This fall, Shafrank is growing basil for the first time, and she said it's taking longer to grow than the lettuce.

She said a summer intern from Heidelberg University started a project to grow mushrooms as well.

"It seems to be working," she said. "We've gotten some mushrooms. Again, it's a learning experience."

Of course, she can't grow root vegetables such as carrots or potatoes in hydroponic units, but types of lettuce such as Swiss chard, arugula, spinach, some herbs and "anything like that works well."

There are, however, some vegetables still available from



Leaf lettuce that's almost ready to harvest in a hydroponic unit.

the fields because of the unusually warm fall weather.

"This is really late," she said. "The carrots are still OK, and some beets."

The farmstand is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and people can stop by to buy produce anytime they wish.

"The money box is out there," she said. "You just put the money in it."

Produce continues to be offered outside in the stand's refrigerator until temperatures get too cold, and then it's moved inside FELC.

In addition to hydroponically-raised vegetables, the farmstand offers eggs from chickens raised at FELC as well as dried herbs such as oregano, sage, thyme, basil and parsley.

Shafrank also grows microgreens — tiny versions of nutritious plants — from sunflower seeds, pea seeds and a variety of other plants in the greenhouse.

"We do those year-round," she said.

As another winter crop, she's growing tomatoes in pots, which are actually buckets, in the greenhouse.

"Again, this is my second year of doing it so I'm learning," she said. "I started the seeds earlier in the summer so they were ready to transplant earlier. We'll hopefully get tomatoes soon."

Last year, she said tomatoes weren't available until March or April.

So she invites everyone to brighten their winter tables with fresh, locally-grown vegetables.

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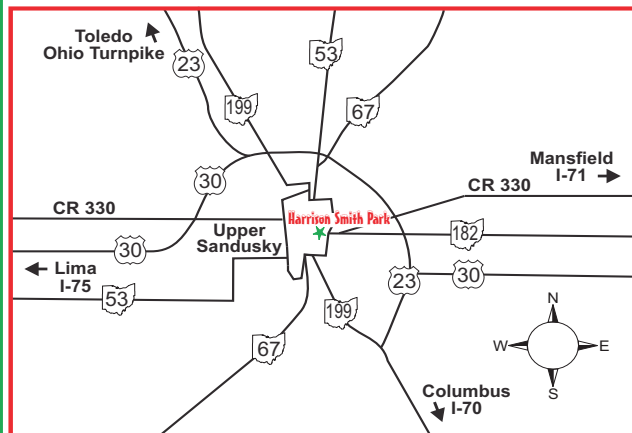
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Valid for Like It® (Sm), Love It® (Reg) or Gotta Have It® (Lg) sizes only. Limit one per customer per visit. Valid only at participating U.S. locations. Offer not valid at locations in Hawaii and Guam and all Cold Stone "yogurt bar" locations. Frappes not available at Tim Hortons® Cold Stone Creamery® co-brand locations. No cash value. Not valid with other offers or fundraisers or if copied, sold, auctioned, exchanged for payment or prohibited by law. 16.7564 © 2021 Kahala Franchising, L.L.C. All rights reserved.

LIVE IT CYO 119 SIG 131 SHAKE 208 SMOOTHIE 142 FRAPPE 236	LOVE IT CYO 121 SIG 141 SHAKE 162 SMOOTHIE 189 FRAPPE 237	GOTTA HAVE IT CYO 126 SIG 164	MIX-IN 174 PLAIN WAFFLE 235 DIPPED WAFFLE 246	Expires DEC. 31, 2023
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\$3 OFF

Any Cake
(excludes Pies, Petite Cakes, Cupcakes
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Expires DEC. 31, 2023 PLU # 211