

Activities Newsletter

December 2011

December 1st to December 8th, 2011

Friday, December 2, 2011

5:00 PM - Walk down candlelit trails through the gardens and woods and around the ponds at the Overland Park Arboretum & Botanical Gardens' Holiday Luminary Walk at 8909 W 179th St in Overland Park, Kansas. Hear and enjoy the holiday music and see the lighted displays. This annual event will be held from 5 to 8:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Dec. 2-3. Santa will be on hand from 6 to 8 p.m.

7:00 PM – Lexington, Missouri celebrates the Holiday season with a magical holiday parade with bright lights and festive floats!

Saturday, December 3, 2011

8:30 AM - Join the Kansas City Zoo from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m., as they serve breakfast at the Zoo to raise funds to bring Penguins to the Zoo. With your ticket to Pancakes for Penguins you will enjoy pancakes, sausage and juice from local legend Chris Cakes, a commemorative Penguin photo, and Zoo admission that day! The Kansas City Zoo is located at 6800 Zoo Drive (Swope Park) in Kansas City, Missouri.

9:00 AM – It will be a morning of fun and food, as Sid the Science Kid appears in person at Union Station, 30 W Pershing Rd in Kansas City, Missouri. Sid the Science Kid will be available for photos throughout the morning from 9 a.m. to 12 noon during the pancake breakfast. Sid the Science Kid will also be on hand from 12 noon to 2 p.m. to meet kids. Free admission to meet Sid the Science Kid but you may reserve your pancake breakfast now online for \$5 per person. Breakfast includes pancakes, sausage and drink.

9:00 AM - Enjoy donuts and juice (and coffee for the adults) when you come out to meet Old St. Nick at Powell Gardens, 1609 N.W. U.S. Highway 50 in Kingsville, Missouri. Afterward, make a craft to take home, join Mrs. Claus for storytelling and see the Victorian display in the conservatory. Then bundle up for a ride on the outdoor mini-train (weather permitting). Reservations are required. Call for pricing and reservations: 816-697-2600 x209

Sunday, December 4, 2011

12:00 PM - The Fairy Princess is enthroned in her special Pavilion at the Kansas City Museum, 3218 Gladstone Boulevard in Kansas City, Missouri . You can pay a visit to the Princess and get your own photograph. You may also visit the Fairy Princess Boutique, and see exhibits in the Visitor Center and StoryTarium. The Fairy Princess first appeared in Kansas City, Mo. in 1935 in the toy department at Kline's Department Store. Kline's Fairy Princess delighted children for as many as 30 years until the closing of Kline's in the 1970s.

Twenty years ago, The Kansas City Museum revived the Fairy Princess tradition. Over the years, many lovely young women of Kansas City have participated in the Fairy Princess court, attending slipper camp and honing their skills as good listeners. Thousands of area children have whispered holiday wishes in the Princess' ear, and experienced the magic of the season at Corinthian Hall.

2 December 9th to December 15th, 2011

Friday, December 9, 2011

6:30 PM -The Seasons of Giving Concert at Plaza Branch Kansas City Public Library, 4801 Main in Kansas City, Missouri: Music & Magic Live starring Reggie Regg the Magic Man, Rofessor the Professor, and Rappin Roy. Showtime at 6:30p. Free admission but everyone is encouraged to bring a donation gift for less fortunate (new, gloves, hats, coats, toys, etc.)

Saturday, December 10, 2011

9:00 AM - Join in experiencing how early residents would have celebrated Christmas in the mid 1800s. The buildings of Missouri Town will be decorated to reflect holiday traditions of French, German and English immigrants. Carolers and musicians will perform period tunes and you can sip hot cider. A special visit from "Belsnickle" will delight the children with treats, too. Missouri Town is located at 8010 E. Park Road in Lee's Summit, Missouri.

10:00 AM - Enjoy holiday music for kids and families on three Saturdays in December with The Doo Dads (December 3), Jim Cosgrove, aka Mr. Stinky Feet & The Hiccups (December 10) and Dino O'Dell and the Veloci Rappers (December 17). Shows start at noon and 2 p.m. at Crown Center, 2500 Grand Blvd. in Kansas City, Missouri.

2:00 PM - Magnificent sets and costumes, marvelous choreography by Todd Bolender, dozens of beautiful dancers, and the Kansas City Symphony playing Tchaikovsky's music, make The Nutcracker a delightful event to attend this holiday season. You don't want to miss this holiday classic in the theater at the Kauffman Center, 1601 Broadway in Kansas City, Missouri.

5:00 PM - Enjoy a brisk walk along candlelit garden paths at Powell Gardens in Kingsville Missouri from 5 to 7:30 p.m. on Dec. 10 and 11. Saturday evening features String Theory playing traditional music in the Visitor Education Center and Lee's Summit High School's "Sounds of Summit" choir singing in the chapel. On Sunday evening String Theory returns for a performance in the chapel and the Kansas City Flute Choir plays in the visitor center. Trolley service will run between the two venues. Powell Gardens will serve home-baked cookies and hot chocolate in the Grand Hall. All activities are free with admission.

December 16th to December 24th, 2011

Friday, December 16, 2011

7:30 PM - Set to the rousing melodies of some of the best known classical--and not so classical composers, Mother Goose's Christmas Crimes stars such characters as Little Bo Peep, Simple Simon, and the Old Woman in the Shoe. Unravel for yourself the crime of the century in this offbeat operetta. Holiday Hi-Jinx features the always favorite, Water Glass Symphony, and back by popular demand Charlie the Wonder dog along with other seasonal silliness to get you in the holiday spirit at Martin City Melodrama at Metcalf South Shopping Center at 9601 Metcalf Avenue in Overland Park, Kansas.

Christmas SHOW DATES 2011

Friday December 16th 7:30

Saturday December 17th 3:30

Saturday December 17th 7:30

Sunday December 18th 3:30

Sunday December 18th 7:30

December 16th to December 24th, 2011 cont.

Saturday, December 17, 2011

10:00 AM - Walk-in (All ages) Nature produces many materials that can be used to make colorful ornaments that can provide our trees and homes with seasonal decorations. Explore and experiment with the many material options available right outside the door at Anita B. Gorman Discovery Center, 4750 Troost in Kansas City, Missouri.

11:00 AM - Put on a merry face and enjoy the spirit of Christmas with face painting. Experience Face Painting Paradise with a holiday twist, Watch creative artwork in action and receive the special treatment of wearing the design of your choice at Platte City Public Library located at 2702 Northwest Prairie View Rd in Platte City, Missouri.

3:00 PM - Get in the Christmas spirit! Kids, come visit with Santa and listen as he tells an exciting holiday story at Blue Ridge Mid-Continent Public Library in Kansas City, Missouri. Bring Mom, Dad, Grandma and Grandpa, and a camera. Also make a simple craft to take home.

6:30 PM – Take a break from the busy holiday festivities as you hike through the woods along little Cedar Creek at Ernie Miller Nature Center, 909 N. K-7 Highway in Olathe, Kansas to witness the natural display of winter’s quiet time. Then warm up by the fireside in the nature center and listen to ancient stories about the longest night of the year. Visit live owls and discover animal mysteries of survival during the long winter. Gather round for campfire treats of toasted marshmallows and hot chocolate. Portions of this program will be outdoors, so be sure to dress for the weather. This wonderful 90-minute event begins at 6:30 p.m. The cost of the program to be paid at the site is \$6 per person including adults. For more information and to register call (913) 764-7759. Reservations are required.

Sunday, December 18, 2011

1:00 PM - Listen to story-time favorites read by Santa’s Friends such as the Grinch Who Stole Christmas, Polar Express, and The Night Before Christmas in the Whole Foods Market café at Whole Foods Market, 91st and Metcalf in Overland Park, Kansas.

Monday, December 19, 2011

12:50 PM - Children can choose from the wide variety of art materials in this FREE art experience at Hallmark's Kaleidoscope at 2500 Grand Blvd in Kansas City, Missouri. Every session offers art projects that stimulate your students’ imaginations. Each session lasts 40 minutes. Family Art Sessions for ALL AGES are available throughout the day... just walk in and join the fun!

December 23rd to December 31st, 2011

Saturday, December 24, 2011

4:00 PM - The Christmas story performance at St. Peter’s United Church of Christ, 110th and Holmes in Kansas City, Kansas. The Christmas story performance features larger-than-life Wise Men, each with three church members inside to move the puppet figure and his arms. The church’s children created 60 floating papier mâché and gauze angels for the nativity scene. The public is and children are especially welcomed. A Christmas Eve candlelight service, including communion, will be held at 11 p.m. For information call 816-942-1155.

December 24th to December 31st, 2011 cont.

Saturday, December 31, 2011

9:00 AM - Walk-in (All ages) for an end of the year film festival. They will play nature movies and short documentaries throughout the day, featuring On the Wings of the Monarch at 9:00 a.m., Planet Earth: Freshwater at 11:00 a.m. and Winged Migration at 1:00 p.m. Sit back and enjoy these spectacular films highlighting our natural wonders at Burr Oak Woods Nature Center , 1401 NW Park Road in Blue Springs, Missouri.

Christmas Lighting Ceremonies in Kansas City: 2011

Mayor's Tree Lighting: Grandview Dec. 1, 6:45 PM, Grandview City Hall. Donations will be accepted for this event to benefit the Grandview Assistance Program (GAP). Get into the holiday spirit at this beautiful community event. Gather with friends at Grandview City Hall for the lighting of the Mayor's Christmas tree and enjoy live entertainment from area school music programs. Santa is there to pass out candy canes and everyone is in good cheer. Donations accepted to Grandview Assistance Program.
www.grandview.org/index.aspx?page=17&recordid=1704

Christmas on the River: Parkville Dec. 2, 9:00 AM, Downtown Parkville. Live Music and Dance Performances, Santa Arrives with Live Reindeer, Fireworks! Visit Santa at his house on Main Street (Free Photos!). Downtown Shops and Restaurants Open Late! Dec. 2 & 3 www.parkvillemo.com

Holiday Lights and Festive Sights Dec. 2, 5:30 PM, Santa and his Cyber Sleigh, caroling, hot chocolate and smores, kids activities and musical fireworks! sylvesterpowell.com/pdf/CityOfMission_FALL2011.pdf

Old Town Lenexa Lighting Ceremony Dec. 2, 6:30 PM, Lenexa Community Center. Old Town Lighting is an annual holiday lighting ceremony that takes place across from Old Town at the Lenexa Community Center on the first Friday in December. This year's event will be held on December 2, 2011. The community is invited to gather at 6:30 p.m. in the parking lot between the Lenexa Community Center and Lenexa Senior Center for a panoramic view of the lighting of Old Town's historic row of buildings. This long-time holiday tradition includes a variety of festive entertainment for all ages, school choir performances, visits with Santa, holiday refreshments, dance performances and the holiday secret shop for kids where gifts can be purchased for an average price of \$2 to \$5. 913.541.0209 www.ci.lenexa.ks.us/parks/lightingceremony.html

Festival of Lights Parade Dec.2, 7:00 PM, Lexington Missouri celebrates the Holiday season with a magical holiday parade with bright lights and festive floats! www.visitlexingtonmo.com

Christmas Around Town: Shawnee Dec. 3, 4:30 PM, City Hall. Join Santa and Mrs. Claus for Christmas Around Town. An evening full of holiday activities awaits you, including sleigh and carriage rides, Dickens Carolers, Face Painting, holiday arts and craft activities by Wonderscope, and of course Santa Claus. The evening will begin at 4:30 p.m. with local music and dance groups performing in the City Hall parking lot, followed by the Mayor and Santa throwing the switch to light up the Mayor's Christmas tree at 5:30 p.m. Then the festivities continue from 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. at Shawnee Town. Various Downtown businesses will also be hosting open houses throughout the afternoon. www.cityofshawnee.org

Mayor's Christmas Tree Lighting: Merriam, KS Dec. 3, 5:00 PM, Merriam Marketplace. Outdoor tree lighting, holiday music and a special visit from Santa! Santa hides candy canes around the Merriam Marketplace for children (ages 1-7) to find, starting at 5:30pm. Then, the Mayor's tree is lit starting the ceremony at 6pm. 913.322.5550 merriam.org/calendar

Santa in Kansas City: 2011

Letters from Santa (Nov. 24 - Dec. 14). He's making his list and he's checking it twice, but he's waiting to hear from you! Put your Christmas wishes in writing and drop a self-addressed, stamped envelope and letter to Santa in the special mailbox located in front of the Oak Grove Civic Center to receive a special note directly from St. Nick. Cost: Self-Addressed, Stamped Envelope. 816.690.4003

Letters from Santa Request by December 16. Arrange for a special someone to receive a personalized letter from Santa for just \$5! Call the Overland Park 50 Plus office at 913.642.6410 to remind Santa of name, address, hoped-for gifts and any particular information that can personalize his letter. Santa types and signs each one himself!

Letters from Santa's Elves Request by December 16. Children of all ages can receive one of these very special letters during the holidays. Send a self-addressed, stamped envelope plus \$1, by Dec. 16 to Elves Mailing List, c/o Vesper Hall, 400 NW Vesper, Blue Springs, MO 64014. Please include a phone number along with helpful information such as age, pets, and friends. Volunteers at Vesper Hall are happy to help make your child's day. 816.228.0137

Santa All Season Long:

Santa's Wonderland - Bass Pro Shops creates a magical Wonderland experience for children with visits from Santa, special crafts and activities, photos and more!

Santa's Crayola Christmas Land November 25 – December 31, Crown Center Shops, Level 1 Atrium. Children play on super-sized Crayola® products, while waiting to tell Santa all their holiday wishes. Santa is in residence November 25 through December 24. The Crayola Christmas Land play area is open through December 31. FREE admission. Photos with Santa are available for a fee.

Santa's Gingerbread Village November 25 – December 24, Crown Center Shops. Three locomotives travel through a Santa's gingerbread village in the North Pole, all created by the chefs at The Westin Crown Center and Hyatt Regency Crown Center hotels.

Holiday Wild at the Zoo Dec. 3 & 4 and Dec. 10 & 11 from 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM, Kansas City Zoo. Begin your holiday fun at the Kansas City Zoo! Meet the big guy in person along with his friends from the North Pole. Activities included in Zoo admission; free to FOTZ Members

Special Events & Parties with the Santa:

Christmas on the River December 2 & 3, Parkville. Live Music and Dance Performances, Santa Arrives with Live Reindeer, Choo Choo with Santa, Holiday Movies and Fireworks! Visit Santa at his house on Main Street

Weston Candlelight Homes Tour Dec. 2-4, Weston, MO. Keeping with Weston tradition, Father Christmas, in his holiday splendor, will light up the streets and welcome you.

Christmas Open House December 3 from 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM, Mahaffie Stagecoach Stop and Farm. Kids can make an ornament and visit with Father Christmas! Music provided by the Shady Grove String Band. Find those unique gifts and stocking stuffers, including farm and animal related toys in our gift shop. Make your own basic gingerbread house for \$2/house, (extra building supplies are \$2/bag). Stagecoach rides will be offered for a fee, weather and ground conditions permitting.

A Visit with St. Nicholas December 3 from 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM, Shoal Creek Living History Museum. Experience Christmas as it was meant to be in the 19th century. Visit the farm house of 1889, log cabins of 1830's; Experience the Civil War Encampments; Make your Christmas purchases at the 1876 Mercantile, post your letters to St. Nicholas at the Post Office; visit the serene setting of the 1884 Church; at the Arnold Home see how Swedish immigrants of the 1880s celebrated Santa Lucia Day and watch how lace was made. Warm up by the 'potbellied' stove in the school, visit the Doctor's office and then a visit with St. Nicholas in the family home decorated in high Victorian style. At the end of your visit, you may want to ride the horse drawn sleigh for a brief ride through the countryside!

Christmas on the Farm December 3 from 2:00 – 7:00 PM, Watkins Woolen Mill State Park and State Historic Site. Activities at the home will include holiday caroling, reading of family letters, free samples of traditional holiday treats, plum pudding flaming demonstrations, and an opportunity for children to visit with Father Christmas. Activities at the visitor center will include kids crafts, live traditional holiday music, and a performance by the Lathrop Singing Mules grade school choir. Admission is free for the event and there will be an open house at the Watkins family home for the duration of the event. 816.580.3387

KCS Holiday Express Dec 16 - 18. The 11th Annual Holiday Express will bring Santa Claus and his elves to visit 25 communities in seven states through the Kansas City Southern system. The train's final stop will be at Union Station Kansas City. Free tickets to see Santa will be available at Union Station!

