

# Countdown to Christmas

Shipshewana | 2025





# Schedule of Events



## SHIPSHEWANA SHOPS Every week Mon-Sat

MAP.....10-11

FEATURE ARTICLE ..... 12-13



## LIGHTING CEREMONY

Nov 8

Come see Father Christmas and the parade of floats light up town before experiencing the Christmas Tree lighting.

3



## COUNTRY CHRISTMAS ALONG HARRISON STREET

Nov 8

Stroll down Harrison Street to enjoy shopping, activities, food vendors, and Christmas decorations.

5



## SHIPSHEWANA'S LIGHTS OF JOY DRIVE THRU

Nov 14-  
Dec 31

Sun-Thurs 6p-9p  
Fri-Sat 6p-10p  
Admission charged

7



## WANA NIGHT OUT

Dec 2

Sale hours will vary from store to store. Some sales last all day long, while others will just have sales in the evening.

13



## BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

Dec 6,  
13, 20

Pick your date and expect a fun experience with music, laughter, and lots of special surprises.

13



## SHIP-CHIC HOLIDAY MARKET

Dec 6

A unique shopping experience with amazing holiday gifts for creative gift-givers! Admission charged. Free parking.

14



## ICE FESTIVAL CHILI COOK-OFF & WING SAUCE COMPETITION

Jan  
16-17,  
2026

Ice carvers will be drilling and shaving blocks of ice. Taste and vote for the best chili and wing sauce.

15



18th Annual

# Lighting Ceremony

The Lighting Ceremony is one of the biggest celebrations Shipshewana hosts each year. People come from all over the country to experience the lighting of the tree in our cozy hometown. It was named one of the best holiday parades in the nation by USA Today and second place among the “most festive and fun” parades by 10 Best Readers; Choice Awards.

The tree lighting follows the Holiday Light Parade, wherein businesses from the area create a float that will shine in the darkness. These floats travel over a mile along the parade route to brighten up downtown Shipshewana and prepare

the crowd for the Lighting Ceremony spectacle. Once the last of the floats has reached the end of the parade route, the focus is turned towards the lighting of the tree, located in front of the Blue Gate Restaurant.

It is encouraged for attendees to arrive early in order to find parking and a good viewing location. With arriving early, attendees can experience the events scheduled prior to the lighting. From shopping and food trucks along Harrison Street to photo opportunities along Middlebury Street, and others in between, there is plenty to keep the

family occupied until the start of the Holiday Light Parade.

For those who are visiting, it's a travel experience. For the locals, it signifies the start of preparing for the Christmas season with hometown events and activities every weekend. From the moment the tree is lit, anticipation starts to build as the countdown to Christmas begins. Visit [www.lightingofshipshewana.com](http://www.lightingofshipshewana.com) for more details.

## SCHEDULE OF Lighting Events NOVEMBER 8

### All Day

Blue Gate Shops, Harrison St., Davis Mercantile, & other town shops are open. Most stores open at 10 a.m. and will close at 9 p.m. Food vendors throughout town. Shipshewana Visitors Center open 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. - 350 S Van Buren St, Shipshewana

### 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Holiday Market - Morton St  
Activities for families

### 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

There are many photo opportunities set up throughout Shipshewana. Explore around town to find your favorite one!

Santa Claus is Here - Middlebury St.  
Face Painting - Harrison St

### 2:00 p.m. & 6:00 p.m.

Live Christmas Music - Main Stage  
Meet Reindeer (2:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.)

### 6:00 p.m.

Light Parade  
from Flea Market Grounds

### 6:45 p.m. (approx.)

Lighting Ceremony  
Immediately after parade at the Main Stage on  
Middlebury Street w/The Chuck Wagon Gang &  
Special Music



This Page Sponsored by **BLUE GATE HOSPITALITY**



# Alpha, Your Christmas Gift Destination!



THE BEST WAY TO PRESERVE FOOD!



**HOME PRO FREEZE DRYER**



**MILLERTECH LED HEADLAMP**



**BUG-A-SALT SALT GUN**

## GIFTS THEY'RE SURE TO LOVE!

Gift Cards Available



**CRESCENT 150 PIECE TOOL SET**



**DEWALT ADJUSTABLE SHOP STOOL**



ENTIRE SELECTION IN STOCK & AVAILABLE!

**MAKTRAK MODULAR STORAGE SYSTEMS**



**NAPPANEE**



📍 8270 W 1350 N Nappanee, IN 46550  
☎️ (574) 773-7787

**SHIPSHEWANA**



📍 0855 N SR 5 Shipshewana, IN 46565  
☎️ (260) 768-4410

**NOTTAWA**



📍 26250 M-86 Sturgis, MI 49091  
☎️ (269) 467-4800

## COUNTRY CHRISTMAS ALONG

# Harrison Street



Get in the spirit of Christmas on Harrison Street while you wait for the Light Parade and the Lighting Ceremony on November 8. The entire street will be blocked off to traffic to allow you and your family to walk freely and explore the world of shops on Harrison.

There will be plenty of food trucks and vendors on the street. The boardwalk will be serving their fresh Kettle Corn. Picnic Tables will be added for the people to sit and enjoy their food.

As with last year, the shops along Harrison will set up several photo opportunities to stop at in-between shopping. Don't let the excitement on the street distract you from the fun inside the stores!

The Harrison Street shops will be open all day to help you with your Christmas shopping, and even have

a couple activities inside available for shoppers.

The Shops on Harrison Street have an assortment of Christmas decor and other cozy items to bring home a touch of Christmas. They will be participating in the Reindeer Scavenger Hunt again! Beginning on November 8, pick up your Scavenger Hunt Entry Passport at Cornucopia. Explore the shops on the street to search for the reindeer that are hidden inside. As you locate the reindeer within each store, the shop keeper will stamp your passport.

Once your passport is complete, you can enter a drawing for a gift card to use at any of the participating stores! The last day to take part in the Reindeer Scavenger Hunt will be December 13.

With all of the fun activities, you do not want to miss all of the excitement happening on Harrison Street this year!





Your source for Holiday Baking Supplies

- Holiday Sprinkles
- Candies
- Nuts
- Melting Chocolate
- Cappuccino Mixes
- Meats & Cheeses
- Party Mix Supplies

*Happy Holidays*



*Melting Chocolate*



1265 N SR 5 • Shpshewana, IN 46565  
M - F 7:30am - 5:00pm • Sat. 7:30am - 3:30pm • Closed Sun.  
260-768-4736



Fabrics • Shoes • Boots • Apparel

### Holiday Gifts

- Toys
- Games
- Books
- Blanket Fleece

Regular business hours:  
Monday – Friday 8 – 5,  
Saturday 8 – 3:30

1205 South Van Buren St  
Shpshewana, IN  
P: 260-768-7804 • F: 260-768-7801



# SHIPSHEWANA'S Lights of Joy



# Drive-Thru

Shipshewana's beloved holiday tradition, Lights of Joy, is returning this year with more lights than ever before, making it one of the biggest and most spectacular drive-through light experiences in the region. Over two million LED lights will illuminate a nearly 2-mile route filled with magical scenes, traditional Christmas stories like the nativity, lighted arches, and animated displays, creating an unforgettable winter wonderland for visitors of all ages.

Opening November 14 and running through December 31 (closed Thanksgiving and Christmas), this year's event features even more lights and displays, ensuring it's the brightest yet.

Shipshewana Trading Place and Blue Gate Hospitality have once again teamed up to present this awe-inspiring experience. "We're thrilled to keep growing and enhancing Shipshewana's Lights of Joy," said Brian Lambright,

Business Development Director of Shipshewana Trading Place. "With each passing year, we add more features, more lights, and new surprises for families to enjoy. It's truly a special way to create lasting memories."

Visitors will drive through a nearly 2-mile journey of enchanting holiday scenes, including new animatronics and miniatures that capture the magic of Christmas. From giant arches to festive animations, the expanded display offers a dazzling array of sights that bring holiday cheer to everyone who passes through.

Ryan Riegsecker, president of Blue Gate Hospitality, expressed excitement over the continued expansion: "Our goal is to make Shipshewana the heart of holiday joy in the region. By adding even more lights and displays this year, we're not only investing in the event but also in the memories of the families who

visit. It's a special experience, and we're proud to share it with our community and guests."

Set on the grounds of the Shipshewana RV Park, the light display will weave through stunning holiday scenes, with entry starting at the Shipshewana Flea Market on SR 5 and exiting onto CR 200 N.

• **Dates:** November 14 - 16 (Fri, Sat & Sun only), November 21 - December 31 (Closed Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day)

• **Hours:** Sunday-Thursday 6 p.m. - 9 p.m., Friday & Saturday 6 p.m. - 10 p.m.

• **Admission:** \$30 per vehicle.

• **Season Pass (5 Visits) :** \$100  
Tickets can be purchased at the gate or online at [ShipshewanaLightsofJoy.com](http://ShipshewanaLightsofJoy.com).  
Buses & Motorcoaches call (260.768.4725)

For more details, visit the official website or follow Shipshewana's Lights of Joy on Facebook.

*This Page Sponsored by  
SHIPSHEWANA TRADING PLACE AND BLUE GATE HOSPITALITY*





# JOJO'S PRETZELS

OPEN MON-SAT.  
10-5PM

LOCATED INSIDE THE  
DAVIS MERCANTILE

JOJOSPRETZELS.COM



# SARAH DAVIS

Shipshewana, IN  
Ladies' Fashion Boutique

## Village Boutique

Shipshewana, IN  
All Things Home Decor and Gift



KITCHEN  
CUPBOARD  
COFFEE HOUSE



Open: Mon-Sat.  
(8AM-5PM)

Located inside  
The Davis  
Mercantile!

**gLOW**  
A Christian Bookstore

1055 S. Van Buren St. | Shipshewana  
260.336.7925

M - F 9 am - 6 pm  
Sat 9 am - 5 pm

# Oh what fun it is to save!

Now is the perfect time to open a  
**Christmas Club Account\***  
for the next Holiday Season.

FIRST STATE BANK

Bfirst.bank | 574.825.2166

\*Christmas Club accounts have a \$50 minimum to open. Only one withdrawal per year is allowed, in addition to the annual payout. Full balance plus interest will be automatically transferred into a First State Bank account in mid-October of the following year. Visit Bfirst.bank for full details.

Town & Country  
HARDWARE

325 S Van Buren St.  
Shipshewana, IN 46565  
260.768.4991

Town & Country  
DOLLAR DISCOUNTS

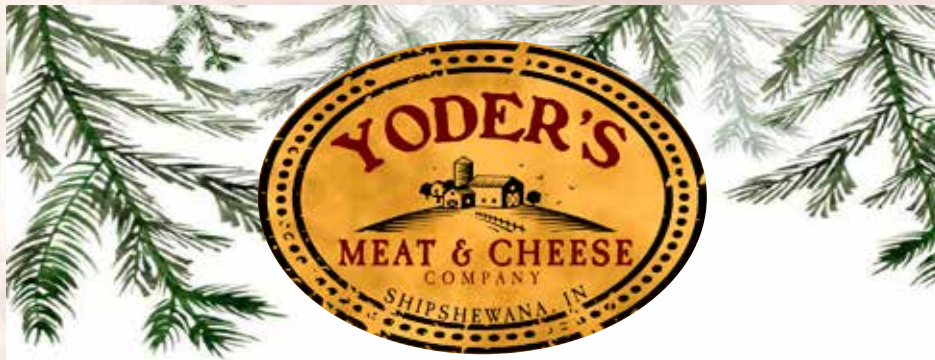
December 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup>  
**20% Off Bag Sale**  
Items that will fit in the bag provided. Some exclusions apply.

**20% Off Entire Store**

Valid at Town & Country Dollar Discounts Only.

December 1 - January 6  
**20% Off All Regular Priced Toys**  
**10% Off Orange Stickered Toys**

Coupon valid at Town & Country Hardware Only.



*Taste the Difference during the Holidays!*

**Prime Rib • Hams • Turkeys  
Gift Boxes**



*Hours: Monday-Saturday 8:00am-5:00pm*

(260)768-4715

435 S Van Buren St. (SR 5) • Shippshewana



**February 7, 2026**

Start the shopping bright and early at 6:00 a.m. in Shippshewana. Wear your pajamas and get special deals. Stay tuned for more information in the January issue of *The Hometown Treasure*.



**GIFTS FOR EVERYONE**

- Corporate gifting
- Holiday parties
- One stop shop for all your Christmas gifts
- 50 flavors gourmet popcorn
- Special Christmas gourmet popcorn flavors
- Christmas Fundraisers
- Nostalgic candies, In house hand dipped chocolates
- Create your own gift bags, baskets and boxes

CALL TODAY TO PLACE YOUR ORDER

260-293-2534

SHIPSHEWANAPOPCORN.COM

100 S. VAN BUREN ST, SHIPSHEWANA, INDIANA 46565

**Call ahead and place your order for  
10% off for orders of \$200 or more**







# Holidays Through the Years

by Marsha Patrick

As a child growing up in Vermont, I was surrounded by my grandmothers, aunts, uncles, and cousins. The holidays were always special. It always felt like that wonderful time of year would never come — and then suddenly, it was here.

On Thanksgiving, my family would gather for a feast. I got to play with my cousins while the adults laughed and shared memories of years gone by. After the meal, we'd each say something we were thankful for — a tradition I always loved.

Once Thanksgiving passed, it was time to decorate for Christmas. I loved watching the lights sparkle off the tinsel as the tree lit up the corner of the room. Helping my mom bake Christmas cookies was always a treat — especially when I got to sneak a few warm ones fresh from the oven.

On Christmas morning, my sister and I would wake up very early, full of excitement. When our parents finally let us out of bed, we'd rush to open our stockings. After breakfast, we moved on to the presents under the tree.

But that wasn't the end of it — we also celebrated Christmas with

both my mom's and dad's families. My cousins and I would gather around the tree, searching the pile of presents for our names. We made so many memories during those years. Even now, thinking back on them fills me with joy.

When I was ten, my parents moved us to Indiana. That first holiday season was especially hard — we didn't have our extended family to celebrate with. Wanting to make it meaningful anyway, my parents invited a few people who were alone for Thanksgiving to share our meal.

Then on Christmas Eve, we heard carolers singing outside. When we opened the door, to our surprise, it was my mom's sister and her family — they had come all that way to visit. That year, we shared an intimate Christmas together, and it meant the world to us.

The following Thanksgiving, we decided to return the surprise. We drove all the way to Vermont and pulled into my grandmother's driveway just before the rest of the family arrived. The look on everyone's faces — shocked and overjoyed — is something I'll never forget.

Years later, when I got married,

I was blessed again with a big extended family. My husband's side gathered in large, joyful celebrations, and it felt like coming full circle.

As a mom, I loved making Christmas magical for my two sons. It always felt like the year sped by, and suddenly it was time again for the holidays. Starting in November, my to-do list grew long: sending cards, baking, cooking, decorating, shopping, wrapping. It was exhausting at times, but always worth it. The joy in my boys' faces made it all so special.

Now that my sons are grown and have families of their own, I get to watch them create their own holiday traditions. It brings me so much happiness to see them making the season just as special for their children as we did for them.

Through all the hustle and bustle of the holiday season, I've always tried to pause and reflect on the true reason we celebrate. Every year, we read the Christmas story from the Bible and talk about Jesus' birth — and the reason He came to earth as a baby.

He is the reason for the season.





# Wana NIGHT Out

Shipshewana is typically quiet in the evening hours but not when Wana Night Out comes around. This usually falls on the Tuesday after Thanksgiving and this year is no different. Tuesday, December 2, stores will be open late to accommodate additional deals and sales during this gift-giving season.

Sale hours will vary from store to store so look for advertisements listing specific times and coupons as the event dates gets closer.

From clothing to home goods to collectibles and more, the variety of purchase potential is exponential!

Add Wana Night Out to your calendar and don't miss this night of fun.



# Breakfast

## WITH SANTA

Guests who join Santa for breakfast at The Blue Gate will enjoy a fun breakfast, story-time with Santa, crafts, and each child will have their own individual time to tell Santa what they want for Christmas. Expect a beautiful and fun experience with music, laughter, and lots of special surprises!

Parents are encouraged to bring their cameras for photos during the event and when their children visit Santa.

Breakfast includes pancake bar with toppings, sausage, scrambled eggs, milk, juice, and coffee. Toppings

include maple syrup, mini chocolate chips, butter, peanut butter, whipped cream, bananas, Christmas sprinkles, and more! Make Reservations at: <https://www.thebluegate.com/shipshewana/blue-gate-theatre/event/breakfast-with-santa-shipshewana>

**Dates:** December 6, 13, and 20

**Time:** 8:30 a.m. (event will begin promptly, please plan accordingly)

**Price:** Adults - \$29.99

Children (11 & under) - \$14.99

**(Reserved Seating)**

**Location:** Victorian Room, Blue Gate Restaurant, Main Level



This Page Sponsored by  
*SHIPSHEWANA TRADING PLACE*



## SHIP-CHIC CRAFTS, GIFTS & GOODIES



# Holiday Market



Looking for crafts, baked goods, Christmas items, or holiday gifts? Make plans to be in Shipshewana for the Ship-Chic Crafts, Gifts & Goodies Holiday Market on Saturday, December 6, from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. inside the Shipshewana Auction Miscellaneous & Antique Building.

This curated indoor pop-up market will feature amazing products for DIY lovers, Pinterest-inspired creators, thoughtful gift givers, small business

supporters, and anyone who wants a unique holiday shopping experience.

Nearly one hundred exceptional vendors will fill the building with holiday gifts, crafts, clothing, sweet treats, collectibles, repurposed items, furniture, signs, home décor, and more! Food and refreshments will also be available. It's the perfect opportunity to check off your Christmas list—or find a little something special for yourself.

Plus, the first 100 shoppers through the doors will receive a free Shipshewana reusable shopping tote, four of which will include a \$25 shopping certificate redeemable at the market!

Admission is \$5 at the door. Kids fourteen and under are ALWAYS free, and there is no charge for parking.

For admission or vendor information, visit [www.shipshewanatradingplace.com](http://www.shipshewanatradingplace.com) or call the Shipshewana Auction & Flea Market at 260-768-4129.



# ICE Festival

## JANUARY 16-17, 2026

Celebrating it's 18th year, the Ice Festival hosts one of the largest ice carving events in the area. Shipshewana businesses provide space in front of their stores for Ice Carvers to drill and shave blocks of ice into artful masterpieces. Sponsors purchase these large blocks of ice to be carved, sometimes submitting a design for the carver to create with the ice block and other times allowing the carver free reign over their creation.

It is an amazing spectacle to see. Take a walk around town to check out the wonders the carvers are creating. The sponsored blocks will be carved all day on Friday, leading up to the Wing Sauce Competition from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. that night. Some stores in the downtown area will remain open until 7 p.m. as well.

On Saturday, the remaining ice blocks will be carved, with competition ice carvings occurring on the south side of the Davis Mercantile at 11 a.m.

The annual Chili Cook-off will also be happening Saturday morning, starting at 11 a.m. until sold out. Both the Wing Sauce Competition and the Chili Cook-Off will take place at the Smokehouse Grill & Supply store located on Morton Street.

Don't forget to purchase your Ice Festival Pin. This year, Malia Weaver placed first in the pin design contest. Second place was awarded to Zuriah Reed and third place to Avionna Duke. Pins are \$20 each and gets you numerous deals throughout Shipshewana for two whole months, plus free entry to both the wing sauce competition and the chili cook-off.

Ice pin deals are good from December 1, 2025 until January 31, 2026. Brochures with more information on where to find ice pin deals and ice carving locations will be available after November 8.

*This Page Sponsored by* **KING CORP**



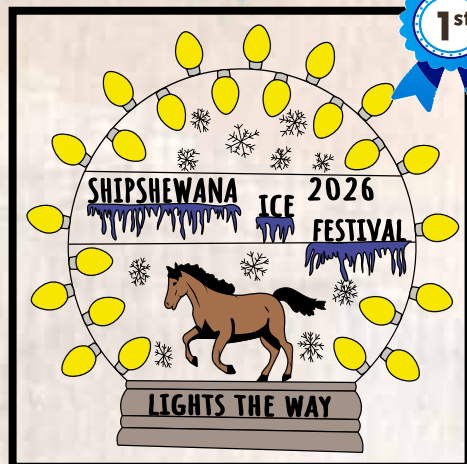
### WING SAUCE COMPETITION

Friday Night 4 p.m. - 7 p.m.

### CHILI COOK-OFF

Saturday 11am until Sold Out

Both located at **Smokehouse Grills & Supply**



### Ice Festival Pin Winners



*First Place:* Malia Weaver, 9th Grade.

*Second Place:* Zuriah Reed, 10th Grade.

*Third Place:* Avionna Duke, 9th Grade.

Photos Submitted

# THE BLUE GATE

SHIPSHEWANA, IN

## Christmas Concerts

**David Phelps, Selah & Mickey Bell**  
Nov 04 Blue Gate PAC | 7:30 pm

**Brian Culbertson**  
Nov 05 Blue Gate PAC | 7:30 pm

**The Christmas Candy Caper - The Musical**  
Nov 06 - Jan 03 BG Music Hall | Times Vary

**The Fab Four - The Ultimate Tribute**  
Nov 06 Blue Gate PAC | 7:30 pm

**Chuck Wagon Gang**  
Nov 07 Blue Gate Music Hall | 7:00 pm

**Walker Hayes: Unplugged**  
Nov 07 Blue Gate PAC | 7:30 pm

**Shaun Cassidy**  
Nov 11 Blue Gate PAC | 7:30 pm

**Battle of the Big Bands:**  
*Glenn Miller vs Tommy Dorsey*  
Nov 12 Blue Gate PAC | 6:00 pm

**Grand Funk Railroad**  
Nov 13 Blue Gate PAC | 7:30 pm

**KC & the Sunshine Band**  
Nov 14 Blue Gate PAC | 7:30 pm

**Ben Folds & A Piano**  
Nov 15 Blue Gate PAC | 7:30 pm

**The Rush Tribute Project**  
Nov 20 Blue Gate PAC | 7:30 pm

**Mitchell Tenpenny**  
Nov 21 Blue Gate PAC | 7:30 pm

**NEEDTOBREATHE** feat. Bre Kennedy  
Nov 22 Blue Gate PAC | 2:00 pm

**Sounds of the Season**  
Dec 02 to 20 Blue Gate Music Hall | Times Vary

**Jim Brickman - The Gift of Christmas**  
Dec 02 Blue Gate PAC | 7:30 pm

**David Foster & Katharine McPhee**  
Dec 03 Blue Gate PAC | 7:30 pm

**The Irish Tenors Christmas**  
Dec 04 Blue Gate PAC | 7:30 pm

**Holiday Dreams Family Cirque**  
Dec 05 Blue Gate PAC | 7:30 pm

**Katy Nichole & Riley Clemmons**  
Dec 06 Blue Gate PAC | 7:00 pm

**A Christmas Carol**  
Dec 09 Blue Gate PAC | 7:30 pm

**Gaither Homecoming Christmas**  
Dec 10 Blue Gate PAC | 1:00 pm & 7:00 pm

**Dean Z's Ultimate Elvis Christmas**  
Dec 11 Blue Gate PAC | 2:00 pm & 7:30 pm

**Mannheim Steamroller Christmas**  
Dec 12 Blue Gate PAC | 3:00 pm & 8:00 pm

**Celtic Woman Symphony Christmas**  
Dec 13 Blue Gate PAC | 7:00 pm

**Herman's Hermits Starring Peter Noone - An Olde English Christmas**  
Dec 16 Blue Gate PAC | 7:30 pm

**Andrew Peterson - Behold the Lamb of God**  
Dec 17 Blue Gate PAC | 7:00 pm

**Lady A: This Winter's Night Tour**  
Dec 18 Blue Gate PAC | 7:30 pm

**Diamond Rio**  
Dec 19 Blue Gate PAC | 7:30 pm

**Luminare Christmas**  
Dec 20 Blue Gate PAC | 7:30 pm

AND MORE SHOWS  
COMING SOON!



SEE THE FULL 2025 & 2026 SCHEDULE AT [THEBLUEGATE.COM](http://THEBLUEGATE.COM) • 260.768.4725