

Countdown to Christmas

Shipshewana | 2024



Schedule of Events

SHIPSHEWANA SHOPS

Every week Mon-Sat

MAP10-11

FEATURE ARTICLE12-13



3

LIGHTING CEREMONY Nov 9

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



5

COUNTRY CHRISTMAS ALONG HARRISON STREET Nov 9

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



7

SHIPSHEWANA'S LIGHTS OF JOY DRIVE THRU Nov 22-Dec 31

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



9

WANA NIGHT OUT Dec 3

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



15

CHOCOLATE DAY Dec 7

Participate in a chocolate box filling with 100% of proceeds being donated to those in need in the community.



15

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA Dec 7, 14, 21

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



17

SHIP-CHIC HOLIDAY MARKET Dec 7

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



19

ICE FESTIVAL Jan 17-18, 2025

CHILI COOK-OFF & WING SAUCE COMPETITION

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

17TH
ANNUAL

Watch for parade
Grand Marshal
announcement!

Lighting Ceremony

The Lighting Ceremony is one of the biggest celebrations is turned towards the Shipshewana hosts each year. People lighting of the tree, located come from all over the country to in front of the Blue Gate experience the lighting of the tree in Restaurant. our cozy hometown.

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 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 for more details.

SCHEDULE OF Lighting Events NOVEMBER 9

All Day

Blue Gate Shops, Harrison St., Davis Mercantile, & other town shops are open. Most stores open at 10am and will close at 9 pm. Food vendors throughout town.

1:00pm to 5:30pm

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

1:00pm & 6:00pm

Live Christmas Music

7:00pm

Light Parade
from Flea market Grounds

7:45pm (approx.)

Lighting Ceremony
Immediately after parade at the Main Stage on Middlebury Street



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NAPPANEE

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9270 W 1350 N
Nappanee, IN 46550



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 9. 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 and hosting the Country Corral with their Chili Soup and Ham Sandwiches. 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!

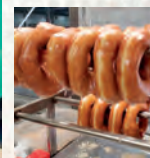
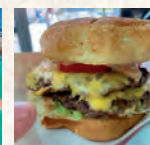
The Harrison Street shops will


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 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 14.

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





Sales Starting November 15 through December 15.
Different Sales Daily! | In-Store and Online
 More information in-store and on Facebook.
 133 Harrison St. | Shipshewana, IN



glow
 A Christian Bookstore
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Open 9 am – 6 pm



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December 13th & 14th
20% Off Bag Sale
 Items that will fit in the bag provided. Some exclusions apply.



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



Coupon valid at Town & Country Hardware Only.



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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 22 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 fami-

lies 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 22 - December 31 (Closed Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day)

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

• **Admission:** \$20 per vehicle Sunday-Thursday, \$30 per vehicle Fridays and Saturdays. Same night (2nd time through) \$5. Tickets can be purchased at the gate or online at Shipshewana-LightsofJoy.com.

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

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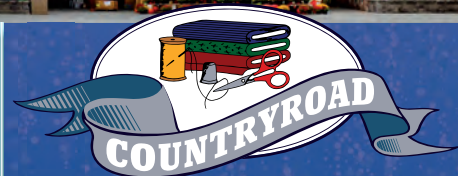
Happy Holidays



Melting @chocolate



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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 3, 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.



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Oils.



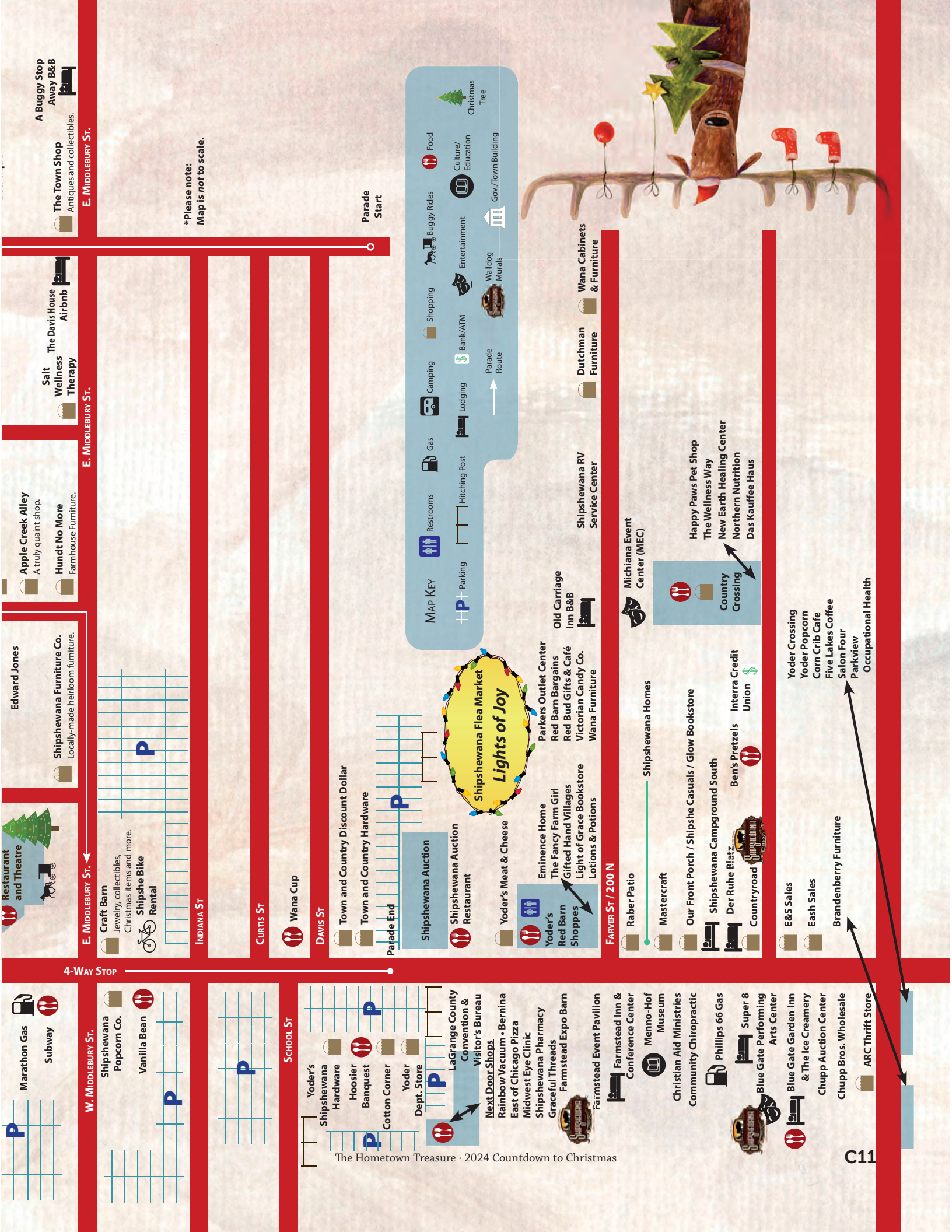
Women's, Men's & Children's
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Hat Bar



A Buggy Stop
Away B&B

The Town Shop
Antiques and collectibles.

E. MIDDLEBURY ST.

*Please note:
Map is *not* to scale.

Apple Creek Alley
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Locally-made heirloom furniture.

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The Fancy Farm Girl

Gifted Hand Villages

Light of Grace Bookstore

Lotions & Potions

Shipshewana Flea Market
Lights of Joy

Parkers Outlet Center

Red Barn Bargains

Red Bud Gifts & Café

Victorian Candy Co.

Wana Furniture

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Inn B&B

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Wana Cabinets
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MAP KEY

+P+ Parking

Restrooms

Hitching Post

Lodging

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Shopping

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Food

Buggy Rides

Entertainment

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Gov./Town Building

Waldog Murals

Parade Route

Christmas Tree

Michiana Event
Center (MEC)

Country
Crossing

Happy Paws Pet Shop
The Wellness Way
New Earth Healing Center
Northern Nutrition
Das Kauffee Haus

Yoder Crossing
Yoder Popcorn
Corn Crib Cafe
Five Lakes Coffee
Salon Four
Parkview
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Our Front Porch / Shipshewana Casuals / Glow Bookstore

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Interra Credit Union

Blue Gate Garden Inn
& The Ice Creamery

Chupp Auction Center

Chupp Bros. Wholesale

ARC Thrift Store

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Cotton Corner

Yoder Dept. Store

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Next Door Shops

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Midwest Eye Clinic

Shipshewana Pharmacy

Graceful Threads

Farmstead Expo Barn

Farmstead Event Pavilion

Farmstead Inn & Conference Center

Menno-Hof Museum

Christian Aid Ministries

Community Chiropractic

Phillips 66 Gas

Super 8

Blue Gate Performing Arts Center

Blue Gate Garden Inn

& The Ice Creamery

Chupp Auction Center

Chupp Bros. Wholesale

ARC Thrift Store

The Hometown Treasure · 2024 Countdown to Christmas

C11

Reflections

by Arlene Thompson



With Christmas decorations on display in July, the holiday season always comes in a flash. Never prepared, it feels as if the tree is put up and taken down with only a few seconds in the spotlight. The craziness that comes with Christmas always leaves a blanket of reassurance around.

The first thing that comes to mind when I hear the word "Christmas," is our small, approximately four-foot tree. Every year, it goes on the same wooden table, with the same cover my grandma made, with the same lights that play music every time you plug them in (my dad hates those lights). My chaotic, but beautiful, tree is the center of my Christmas spirit with the boxes on boxes full of family ornaments, Disney Princesses, crafts my brother and I created, and past and present pet paw prints.

I love going through the ornaments from before my time, like the snowman ornament that only depicts three people in our family, with the date 2001. Giving my parents a hard time, I put that one back in its case, and get out the ornament with four snowmen. I throw as many lights as I can get onto the tree, all colored of course. The rainbow haze it creates in the corner of our living room is a vision of comfort I will keep with me forever.

Growing up, my parents would take me to the Johnson County Fire Department to eat breakfast and sit on Santa's lap. Little me had no fear. I would go up and talk to anybody who would listen and try as many new things as I could. However, for some reason, that specific location and Santa freaked me out beyond words. I never wanted to tell him what I wanted for Christmas,

and I never wanted to sit on his lap. Pictures from that moment truly capture the alarm I had within.

My brother, who is 12 years my senior, is in the Marines. This causes timing conflicts for when he can come home. My favorite Christmases have always been when my brother is there with me, offering his sarcastic comments or trying to rile me up. Even though those Christmases are few and far between, they are the ones I remember the most.

As I grow up, Christmas has become a more enjoyable time. I enjoy the presents my mom gets for my cats more than the ones for me, and spending time with my parents and the smell of cinnamon rolls is enough to make me content. I don't need the fanciest Barbie Dreamhouse, or a Furby. I just want to spend the holidays with my parents and get Broadway tickets.

The true meaning behind Christmas was always lost on me as a child. I never understood how it could be about giving more than receiving. My family endured the homemade gifts I would make on Christmas Eve, while I impatiently waited to tear open the biggest gift under the tree. As someone close to leaving her childhood behind, this year I realized how much better it feels to give.

This holiday season enjoy sipping hot chocolate, seeing the Shipshewana lights, and spending time huddled inside with loved ones. Nothing in the world can beat the feeling of being surrounded by people who love you, especially during the Christmas season. Light some candles, bake some goodies, give to those less fortunate, and celebrate this joyous time of year!



As someone close to leaving her childhood behind, this year I realized how much better it feels to give.



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Chocolate DAY



Join in on the hunt for chocolate in this year's Chocolate Walk on December 7! will be open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. that day and will be marked with Chocolate Walk signage.

Starting at 10 a.m., head over to Aunt Millie's Candy & Nut Shop in the Davis Mercantile to pick up an empty limited edition candy box to fill. Then it's time to search for the participating stores to fill your box with a variety of sweets. All participating stores



Only 100 chocolate boxes will be sold this year, and you do not want to miss out on this sweet event! The suggested donation price per box is \$25. All proceeds raised from the Chocolate Walk will go to benefit a local family or individual in need.

Shopping with chocolate while supporting a good cause, there's no way this can't be good!

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!

Dates: December 7, 14, and 21

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

Price: Adults - \$25.99

Children (11 & under) - \$14.99
(reserved seating)

Location: Victorian Room, Blue Gate Restaurant, Main Level

A BLUE GATE CHRISTMAS

Blue Gate Theatre Highlights



**Celtic Angels
Christmas**

Nov 30



Magic of a Gospel Christmas
w-Doug Church & the Fabulous Blackwood Qt

Dec 3



The Texas Tenors
Deep in the Heart of Christmas
Dec 6



**Steven Curtis
Chapman Christmas**
Dec 7



David Phelps
It Must Be Christmas
Dec 10



**Gaither Homecoming
Christmas**
Dec 14



**Mannheim Steamroller
Christmas**
Dec 20

2024 Full Holiday Concert List

Nov 7-Dec 21	Songs of the Season	Dec 04	The Texas Tenors - Deep in the Heart of Christmas
Nov 8-9	PBR Bull Fest	Dec 05	Ashley McBryde
Nov 8	Trace Adkins	Dec 06	Dionne Warwick
Nov 8	Chuck Wagon Gang	Dec 07	Steven Curtis Chapman Christmas
Nov 14	The Piano Guys	Dec 07-21	Breakfast With Santa!
Nov 15	Lou Gramm - The Original Voice of Foreigner	Dec 10	David Phelps - It Must Be Christmas
Nov 16	Blackberry Smoke feat. Sam Morrow	Dec 11	Cheap Trick
Nov 21	Shenandoah	Dec 12	Collingsworth Family - A True Family Christmas
Nov 22	1964 The Tribute - Best Beatles Tribute on Earth	Dec 13	Big Bad Voodoo Daddy Wild & Swingin Party
Nov 22	The Commodores	Dec 14	Gaither Homecoming Christmas
Nov 23	Chris Janson	Dec 19	Classic Nashville Christmas w-Jason Petty
Nov 30	Celtic Angels Christmas	Dec 20	Mannheim Steamroller Christmas
Dec 03	The Magic of a Gospel Christmas w-Doug Church & the Fabulous Blackwood Qt	Dec 21	Frankie Valli Tribute...Let's Hang On Christmas

Preorder Your Holiday Meals & Pies!

Place your heat and serve meal order at the Bakery now! With over 20 pie varieties available, including: Cherry, Dutch Apple, Peanut Butter, Pecan, Pumpkin, Red Raspberry Cream & More!



TheBlueGate.com | 260.768.4725



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SHIPSHEWANA TRADING PLACE



SHIP-CHIC CRAFT & VINTAGE

Holiday Market

Looking for crafts, baked goods, Christmas items or holiday gifts? Make plans to be in Shishewana for the Ship-Chic Craft & Vintage Holiday Market on Saturday, December 7, from 9 a.m.—3 p.m. inside the Shishewana Auction Miscellaneous & Antique Building.

The show is a curated indoor pop-up market featuring amazing products for DIY lovers, the Pinterest-obsessed, creative gift givers, small business supporters, or anyone who just wants

a unique holiday shopping experience.

The entire building will be filled with nearly one hundred exceptional vendors who offer holiday gifts, crafts, clothing, sweet treats, collectibles, repurposed items, furniture, signs, home decor, and more! Food and refreshments will also be available. It will be a day of amazing holiday shopping for everyone on your Christmas list including yourself! Plus, the first 100 shoppers

through the doors will receive a free Shishewana reusable shopping tote, four of which 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 or call the Shishewana Auction & Flea Market at 260-768-4129.





SHOP OUR UPCOMING SALES!

- November 4-16 40% OFF FALL DECOR & FLORALS
- November 18-23 50% OFF FALL DECOR & FLORALS
- November 29-30 25% OFF CHRISTMAS DECOR & GREENS
- Black Fri & Small Business Sat
- December 3 20% OFF STOREWIDE
- Wana Night Out
- December 9-14 15% OFF ALL THROW PILLOWS & BLANKETS
- December 16-23 50% OFF CHRISTMAS DECOR & GREENS

Eminence
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INSIDE YODER'S RED BARN SHOPPES
f i "Thoughtfully Curated for your Home"

Oh what fun it is to save!

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



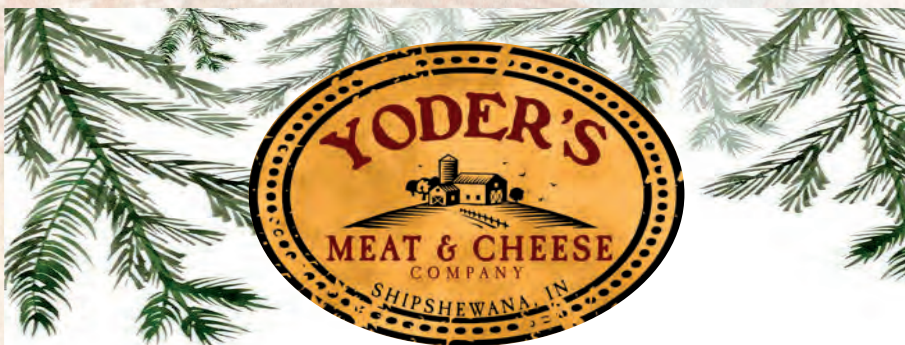
Bfirst.bank | 574.825.2166

*An automatic transfer from a First State Bank Checking or Savings Account is required. The entire savings, plus interest, will payout Mid-October 2025 and be transferred back into a First State Bank Account of your choice. Visit Bfirst.bank for additional details.



February 1, 2025

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



Taste the Difference during the Holidays!

Prime Rib • Hams • Turkeys
Gift Boxes



Hours: Monday-Saturday 8:00am-5:00pm
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OPEN MON-SAT.
10-5PM

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ICE Festival



JANUARY 17-18, 2025

Celebrating it's 17th 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.

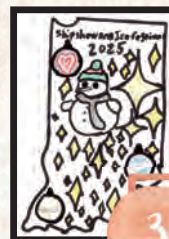
It is an amazing spectacle to see. Take a walk around town to check out the wonders the carvers are creating. The sponsored blocks will be carved all day on Friday, leading up to the Wing Sauce Competition from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. that night. Some stores in the downtown area will remain open until 7 p.m. 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, Shelby Mullet placed first in the pin design contest. Second place was awarded to Thomas Bryan and third place to Katie Bontrager. 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, 2024 until January 31, 2025. Brochures with more information on where to find ice pin deals and ice carving locations will be available after November 8.



First Place: Shelby Mullet, 9th Grade.

Second Place: Thomas Bryan, 9th Grade.

Third Place: Katie Bontrager, 8th Grade.

Photos Submitted

Winners



WING SAUCE COMPETITION

Friday Night 4pm - 7pm

CHILI COOK-OFF

Saturday 11am until Sold Out

Both located at Smokehouse Grills & Supply



from  **LaGwana**

We wish you a happy and holy Christmas season! Please enjoy reading about some of our employees favorite traditions they have with their families this time of year!

- Seth

- Michele

- Linda

- Jamie

- Sabrina

- Connie

- Jessica

- Abby

