



A GUIDE TO AREA EVENTS CELEBRATING THE SEASON

Arkansas Holidays

Friday, Nov. 23, 2019 • An advertising supplement to the Combat Airlifter

AT A GLANCE

Jacksonville

6:30 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 7

Cabot

5 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 7

Sherwood

2 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 7

Beebe

5 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 14

North Little Rock

5:30 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 30

Ward

2 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 15

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PARADES



DAVID SCOLLI/Leader photo

The Jacksonville High School Band plays festive Christmas music during the parade on Main Street last year.

■ Jacksonville will hold an all-day Christmas celebration downtown on Saturday, Dec. 7 that will culminate with the Christmas parade that evening.

The day will begin at 10 a.m. with dance performances at the community center for youngsters who will not be in the parade line.

Chopsticks Event Center will host a history-themed Christmas event with vendors, Santa and more from 10 a.m. till 2 p.m. Food trucks will be at Main and James streets starting at 3:30 p.m. until the parade is over.

Esther D. Nixon Library will have a Christmas-themed story time and activity with Santa at 4 p.m. The Christmas-tree lighting will be at 5:15 p.m. at the Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce, 200 Dupree Drive.

The city's 62nd annual Christmas parade will begin at 6:30 p.m. will travel down Main Street from Sharp Drive to First United Methodist Church. To enter a float, call Megan Vandergriff at 501-982-4171.

■ Cabot's Christmas parade will be held at 5 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 7. The theme is "A Storybook Christmas!"

Participants are asked to select an idea or image that represents a favorite memory or interpretation of this Christmas theme and use it to design their entry or float.

Entry forms, rules and route maps are now available at the Veterans Park Community Center, the Cabot Chamber of Commerce and online at www.cabotparks.com. The deadline to register is Monday, Dec. 2. Completed forms and \$10 entry fees should be sent to Cabot Christmas Parade, P.O. Box 1101, Cabot, Ark. 72023.

For more information, call 501-920-2122 or e-mail cabotbeautiful@yahoo.com.

■ Sherwood will hold its Christmas parade at 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 7. The theme is "Christmas Movie Memories."

For more information, or to request an entry form or volunteer for the event, visit bit.ly/SherwoodChristmasParade19 or email sherwoodparade19@gmail.com.

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Leader file photo

Santa Claus waves to the crowd as he closes out the annual Cabot Christmas parade.

Parades

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ade@sherwoodparks.com or call Julie Tharp at the Duran Youth Center at 501-835-9599.

■ Beebe's Christmas parade is at 5 p.m. Saturday Dec. 14. The theme is Hollywood movies. The route starts at Beebe Public Schools campus, left on Center Street, right on Dewitt Henry Drive, right on Pecan Street and left into the ASU-Beebe parking lot.

Register online at beebechamberofcommerce@gmail.com or call 501-882-2600.

■ Ward's Christmas parade is at 2 p.m. Sunday Dec. 15. The route is Front Street to Markham Street onto Hwy. 367 to Elm Street and right on Hickory Street to City Hall.

There will be a tree lighting ceremony at 5 p.m. Followed by cookies and refreshments in the gym. There will be photos with Santa and Mrs. Claus.

■ North Little Rock will hold its Northern Lights Festival will be held from 5:30 till 9:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 30 in the new Argenta Plaza, 510 Main St.

The city will light its tallest Christmas tree ever – 38 feet plus – and mark the grand opening of Argenta Plaza.

Doors open at 5 p.m.; tree-lighting ceremony is at 6:30 p.m.; Big Dam Horns Concert at 7 p.m.; and a fireworks show at 9 p.m.

There will be horse-carriage rides, a holiday market filled with local-made goods, food trucks and libations, kids zone with photos with Santa and Mrs. Claus.

Visitors can make holiday cards for veterans, enjoy story time with Laman Library on a trolley, carolers and actors from Argenta Community Theater's "A Christmas Carol."

North Little Rock, Christmas parade, sponsored by Sertoma Club, will be held at 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 1 on Main Street.



Leader file photo

Jaelil Vences of Ballet Folklórica Reflejos Mexicanos participates in the North Little Rock Christmas parade down Main Street last year.



JEFFREY SMITH/Leader photo

Cabot Christmas for Kids director Bill Holden (left) and Ashley Bray, manager of the Dollar General in Austin, stand next to a toy-drive donation box last year. Toys for Christmas for Kids can be dropped off at Dollar General stores in Austin, Cabot and Ward, at all Cabot public schools, Centennial Bank main branch or the Cabot Schools Warehouse at 310 G.O. Murrell Drive.

COLLECTION DRIVES

■ The Christmas for Kids committee has kicked off its annual toy drive.

"The Christmas for Kids Committee works side by side with the Cabot Christmas Alliance in their food drive. We help families that need help during the Christmas holiday in providing toys for the children so that they may have a good Christmas and enjoy the spirit of the holiday. To be able to accomplish this goal, we need your help and support. We need new toys or monetary donations to help buy new toys," the announcement said.

All money and toys donated is used to help children in the Cabot School District. Toys can also be left at donation boxes at all Cabot public schools through Dec. 19.

Toys can also be delivered to Centennial Bank's main branch, Dollar Generals in Cabot, Ward and Austin and to the Cabot Schools Warehouse 310 G.P. Murrell Drive.

Monetary donations can be mailed to Christmas for Kids, c/o Bill Holden, 100 Gunsmoke Drive, Austin, Ark. 72007.

To sponsor a family, call Terena Woodruff at 501-843-3363 or ext. 1029.

People who may need assistance

with food and toys are asked to visit <http://bit.ly/CCACFK2019>. It is required that recipients live in the Cabot School District.

Anyone who knows a family which needs assistance with food and toys for Christmas is asked to call Woodruff at 501-843-3363 ext. 1029.

To donate toys, one may call Bill Holden or Rita Stewart at 501-743-3560 to have toys picked up.

Pickup can be arranged by calling Shelley Montoya at 501-286-8912.

■ The Jacksonville Rotary and Sertoma clubs are seeking donations for their annual Civics for Kids Christmas drive to ensure Jacksonville elementary students have a happy holiday.

The civic groups are seeking monetary donations to pay for the gifts. Checks are asked to be sent by Nov. 30 to Jacksonville Sertoma Club, P.O. Box 933 Jacksonville, Ark. 72078. To make a contribution, call Ron McDaniel at 501-590-0183.

Students in pre-K through fifth-grade who attend Homer Adkins, Dupree, Lester, Taylor, Bayou Meto, or Pine-wood elementary schools, Lighthouse Charter Schools, Pathfinder, the Boys and Girls Club and the Arkansas

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Collection

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School for the Deaf will be given Christmas presents from the civic clubs.

"Gifts will be distributed by school counselors and staff to the families in need who otherwise might not have much of a Christmas," according to the announcement.

■ The Beebe Chamber of Commerce will hold its annual "Fill the Truck" toy and coat drive from Friday, Nov. 29 through Sunday, Dec. 1. New toys, coats and monetary donations can be dropped off from 10 a.m. till 5 p.m. at Walmart, 2003 W. Center St.

All donations will be used for the Beebe Angel Tree program, which helps local families in need for Christmas.

The toy and coat drive is a joint effort of the city of Beebe, the cham-

ber, Stallion Transportation, the Beebe Ministerial Alliance and Walmart.

Donation boxes will be available inside Walmart and volunteers will be there to accept donations.

Donations will also be accepted at the following locations now through Dec. 15: Merle Norman, First Security, Goff Realty, Hometown Dreamers, Beebe City Hall, Anytime Fitness and Total Erosion Control.

"The compassionate citizens of Beebe always come together to help those in need. This year, the Beebe Angel Tree program has more than 600 children who need your help. Please find it in your heart to sponsor an angel or make a donation this Christmas season," said Mayor Mike Robertson.

For more information, call city hall 501-882-8117 or the chamber at 501-882-8135. For details about the Angel Tree program, call Penny Parchman at 501-912-2917.

PICTURES WITH SANTA

Santa Shack opens Nov. 29 in Cabot

Cabot City Beautiful's annual Santa Shack at Walmart will be Nov. 29 through Dec. 22.

Hours are 6-8 p.m. Fridays; 9-11 a.m., noon-2 p.m., 3-5 p.m. and 6-8 p.m. Saturdays and from noon-2 p.m. and 3-5 p.m. Sundays.

On Dec. 23, the hours are 9-11 a.m., noon-2 p.m., 3-5 p.m. and 6-8 p.m.

Kids can have their pictures taken with Santa, receive a candy cane and tell Santa what they want for Christmas.

Pet photos with Santa set for Dec. 15

Pet Photos with Santa will be held from 3 till 5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 15 at Unique Connection Center, 618 W. Main St. in Jacksonville as a benefit for the Jacksonville Arts, Theater and Life Academy. There will be food vendors, games, music and dancing performances, door prizes, a \$1,000 Unique Furniture gift certificate, fire safety from the Jacksonville Fire Department, free child ID kits from the Jacksonville Police Department. Admission is free.

For more information, call Sue Khoo at 501-985-8888.

MOVIES

Ron Robinson Theater, Library Square, 100 River Market Ave, Little Rock

A Christmas Story (PG)

7 p.m. Dec. 5

A young boy must convince his parents that a toy rifle is the only Christmas gift that will make Christmas worthwhile. Not only do his parents face what many other parents do during that time of the year, but their actions fit in with the All-American Christmas.

Elf (PG)

7 p.m. Dec. 10

Will Ferrell stars as the ultimate fish out of water, Buddy, who as a baby crawls into Santa's toy bag and is whisked off to the North Pole, where he is raised as an elf. A misfit who grows to be three times the size of his elf family, Buddy ultimately heads to his birthplace of New York City to seek out his roots.

Die Hard (R)

7 p.m. Dec. 12

Facing Christmas 3,000 miles from his estranged wife and two children, New York policeman John McClane flies to Los Angeles bearing presents and hoping to patch up his marriage. He then becomes the only hope for a small group of hostages, one of whom is his estranged wife, trapped in a Los Angeles high-rise building when it is seized by terrorists on Christmas Eve.

National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation (PG-13)

7 p.m. Dec. 17

The comic misadventures of the beleaguered Griswold family continue in the third and most successful entry in the Vacation film series. This time America's most dedicated dad, Clark Griswold (Chevy Chase), is determined to stay at home to create "the most fun-filled old fashioned family Christmas ever" — but life has a particular way of throwing wet logs on the Griswold family fire.

It's A Wonderful Life (PG)

7 p.m. Dec. 19

Produced and directed by Frank Capra, It's A Wonderful Life is based on the short story and booklet The Greatest Gift, which Philip Van Doren Stern wrote in 1939 and published privately in 1943. The film stars James Stewart as George Bailey, a man who has given up his dreams to help others.

For tickets visit: <https://cals.org/ron-robinson-theater/>



5 DECEMBER

☆

Holiday Tree Lighting

5:15 - 5:45 PM | HERITAGE PARK
HOT CIDER | HOT CHOCOLATE | CHOIR PERFORMANCE

— & —

Rudolph the Red-Nosed Herk

Holiday party hosted by the 19th Maintenance Group

6 - 8 PM | HANGAR 232
(shuttles provided to & from Heritage Park, on-site parking for EFMP)

PHOTOS WITH SANTA | ARTS & CRAFTS | BOUNCE HOUSES
CHICKEN TENDERS, MAC & CHEESE & A DRINK AVAILABLE FOR \$5

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MENORAH LIGHTING

Join us at Outlets of Little Rock (OutletsofLittleRock.com) in lighting the menorah near the Food Pavilion at 6:30 p.m., Monday, Dec. 23. Attendees will enjoy music and light refreshments. Rabbi Yosef Kramer, Lubavitch of Arkansas will be leading the Menorah Lighting.

Outlets of Little Rock is located at 11201 Bass Pro Parkway.

SEARCY HOLIDAY OF LIGHTS

The Christmas season officially kicks off in Searcy when the Holiday of Lights gets underway during Thanksgiving Week.

"Holiday of Lights" is the umbrella title for every Christmas-related event that goes on in Searcy from the beginning of November through the end of the year.

"We like every holiday event in town to feel welcome," said Kristi Thurmon, Holiday of Lights committee member. "The goal of Holiday of Lights is to bring more people to Searcy. When more people come, everyone wins. Plus, it's just more fun the more people you have."

Holiday of Lights was brought back to Searcy in 2015. Since its return, thousands of Arkansans make the trek to Searcy every year to take part in dozens of holiday events, including light displays, carriage rides, unique shopping experiences, skating in Spring Park, and the Living Nativity.

It all truly kicks off with the annual lighting ceremony. This year's event will be a little different; along with being held on Tuesday, November 26 instead of the Friday after Thanksgiving, the ceremony is being moved from the the Courthouse Square in downtown Searcy to Berryhill Park.

"The courthouse is not going to have as many lights this year because it's undergoing a restoration project in the month of December," said Thurmon. "However, we are going to have more lights downtown on the other buildings than ever before. We are putting lights all the way down Spring Street and on the buildings around the courthouse."

While the ceremony is moving to a different location, you can still expect to be 'wowed' when the lights go on. Berryhill Park always features close to a million twinkling bulbs shaped into dozens of holiday-themed

displays. With the lighting ceremony moving to Berryhill, Thurmon says they've upped their game this year.

"We have really beefed up Berryhill and ordered a lot more lights," said Thurmon. "When we started Holiday of Lights, we actually had lighting ceremonies both downtown and at Berryhill. We're lucky to have two areas that are so perfect for this kind of event."

There are a few other new things at this year's lighting ceremony, including a new emcee. KATV's Barry Brandt will take over emceeing duties from Ned Perme who retired from KATV. Perme, who had emceed the ceremony since its inception, made his final public appearance on behalf of the station at last year's lighting ceremony.

There will also be a unique installation at Berryhill that Thurmon believes visitors will really enjoy.

"A collection of local artists have painted some wooden Christmas trees that are going to be on display at Berryhill," said Thurmon. "They will be auctioned as a fundraiser for Holiday of Lights."

Along with the lights, attendees will be able to enjoy hot chocolate as well as s'mores prepared by First Security Bank on the Teal Grill. There will also be musical performances by the Searcy High School band and the Van Patten Handbell Choir from Searcy First United Methodist Church.

Searcy's Santa will be making his first appearance at the lighting ceremony. Afterword he will make regular appearances in the Santa Hut on the Courthouse Square through Dec. 24th. Kids can visit with Santa, get a picture, and let him know what they'd like for Christmas.

Berryhill Park won't be the only lights on display in Searcy. Harding University will flip the switch on more than one million LED lights on Monday, December



Photo courtesy Pioneer Village

Take a trip back in time to an Old Fashioned Christmas at Searcy's Pioneer Village.

2nd. Visitors can enjoy free hot chocolate and Christmas music at the lighting ceremony then come back to enjoy the lights again through New Year.

The annual Searcy Christmas Parade will be held the evening of Saturday, December 7th. The parade will take its usual path around downtown before heading down Race Street and finishing at Berryhill Park.

"It's really neat that anyone can enter the parade," said Tillie Slavin, Searcy resident and parade enthusiast. "All they have to do is have lights on their float. It's so much fun to bundle up and see the lights and creativity on each float. It's a great family activity and I'm so excited to bring my daughter for the first time."

For those looking for less tradition and more unique holiday events, you can start early by taking in one of the largest Santa collections in the United States. 85-year-old Wanda Emde spent over 50 years collecting nearly 1,700 Santa pieces for her collection, most

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LITTLE ROCK

Big Jingle Jubilee

The Big Jingle Jubilee Holiday Parade will start at 3 p.m. Dec. 1 at Second and Broadway streets in Little Rock, turning west onto Capitol Avenue and ending at the State Capitol. The Arkansas Secretary of State's lighting and fireworks display will follow at dark or approximately 6 p.m. Both events are free and open to the public.

Reindeer on the River

Two of Santa's Reindeer will be at Little Rock's River Market Pavilions from noon to 5 p.m. Dec. 21 for a meet and greet and photos – bring your own camera. There will be other fun holiday-related activities, but the reindeer will be the stars of the show. River Market Pavilions is located at 400 President Clinton Ave., Little Rock.

St. Luke's

CONWAY

Illuminate Conway

Now in its third year, Illuminate kicked off Nov. 24 at Rogers Plaza around Conway's 54-foot-tall Christmas tree. Illuminate features a Ferris wheel, mini-train rides for kids, live music, a food truck, horse-drawn carriage rides, photo opportunities with an oversized snowman and gingerbread man, and, of course, a visit from Santa Claus! The events at Rogers Plaza will be going on nightly through Dec. 23 but the tree will stay lit until Dec. 31.

Mistletoe Madness

Mistletoe Madness kicks off the final two weeks before Christmas. On Dec. 8, you'll find store-wide holiday markdowns at participating downtown Conway merchants. Finish the day downtown with the Conway Christmas Parade at 6 p.m.

Makers Holiday Market

Sunday, Dec. 9 beginning at 10 a.m. local makers holiday market will be open on Oak St. between Parkway and Locust St.

Searcy

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of which are on display at the Carmichael Community Center. The "Deck the Halls with Santa" display is available for viewing through December. You can also find other pieces of her collection around town.

When you're in town for the parade on December 7th, make sure and visit Searcy's Pioneer Village for their annual Old-Fashioned Christmas.

"Definitely stop by Pioneer Village," said Thurmon. "We're very lucky to have a historical society that does such a great job, both with the village overall and the holiday event in particular. People look forward to that all year."

"Then of course there's the Living Nativity," said Thurmon. "It draws thousands of people every year."

After taking 2018 off to rebuild parts of the display, the Living Nativity is back at Searcy First Assembly of God. Visitors can drive

through Bethlehem and witness the story of the birth of Jesus, like a living storybook. The event is free and draws between 10-13 thousand people each year.

"There are so many events to mention," said Thurmon. "The 'It's a Wonderful KLife Fun Run', the 'Annual Tour of Homes' that the Women of Harding do such a great job with. There are shopping experiences like the Holiday Craft Fair and Holiday Pop Up Shop. Don't forget Skating at Spring Park which is back for a third year."

One other new event to mention; the Polar Express Party. Main Street Searcy will host a showing of the now classic Christmas film at the historic Rialto Theatre in downtown Searcy at 10 am on Saturday, December 14th. The event costs \$7 and includes hot chocolate, a bell—like in the movie—and the opportunity to take selfies with Santa. Kids are encouraged to come in their pajamas. Proceeds benefit Main Street Searcy.

You can find the full list of events at the Searcy Holiday of Lights Facebook page where details and information are posted regularly.