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Fort Wayne greets holidays with a whirlwind of festivals

Fort Wayne, Indiana—
Holiday Fest, a six-week
whirlwind of activities that runs the
gamut from a Festival of Trees to
Christmas at the Zoo, begins here
Thanksgiving Eve and runs through
New Year's Eve.

Highlights include the
Gingerbread Festival in the Old City
Hall Historical Museum, which
delights thousands of visitors to this
whimsical display of edible abodes.
There are several different entry levels
for competition, from very young
children up to professional bakers,
with more than 100 unique
gingerbread houses on display each
year.

The walls the Old City Hall
Historical Museum are "papered" with
coloring contest entries. Literally
thousands of school age kids compete,
giving color to their vision of the
perfect gingerbread house. The
Museum is located downtown at 302
E. Berry St.

The Fort Wayne Children's Zoo
re-opens for its famous Christmas at
the Zoo. As Zoo Director Earl Weits
warns guests, "Be careful not to stand
still or my staff will load you up with
lights!"

The Zoo changes its time format
and is open at night, so everyone can



FESTIVAL OF TREES—Fort Wayne's historic Embassy Theatre is packed with trees, trimmed by professional decorators, running the gamut of styles from Victorian to space age imagery.

"ooh" and "aah" over a myriad of
twinkling lights. It's such a
spectacular sight, most visitors forget
that it's cold outside. The Children's
Zoo is located at 3411 Sherman Blvd.

The Festival of Trees is another
"illuminating" event. Literally
hundreds of trees at the historic
Embassy Theatre are trimmed by
professional decorators. Creativity is
the name of the game as visitors view
amazing decorating concepts from
Victorian to space age imagery.

Trees are everywhere throughout
the theatre building, gracing the lobby,
the expansive staircase, the
mezzanine, down the aisles and across
the stage. The Embassy Theatre
location is 121 W. Jefferson.

Visitors will enjoy other unique
Holiday Fest offerings such as the
Festival of Dollhouses displayed in the
Lincoln National Corporation
Headquarters building at 1300 S.
Clinton St. The craft of making
dollhouses has intrigued many

throughout the world. The intricacy
and creativity of these judged
masterpieces will be on display for a
third season.

Browse through the Festival of
Wreaths at the Botanical
Conservatory. Sit back and be caught
up in the fantasy of Tchaikovsky's
incomparable *Nutcracker* ballet. Take
a romantic carriage ride through
downtown Fort Wayne and be dazzled
by the lights—from huge historic
displays mounted to building sides to
the delicate shimmer of lights woven
through urban park flora.

Holiday Fest runs from
Thanksgiving Eve (Nov. 27) through
Dec. 31. Many of the activities do not
run the entire length of the festival.
To get complete information on times,
dates and places, please call the Fort
Wayne Visitor Information Center at
800-767-7752.

Fort Wayne is located in northeast
Indiana and is easily accessible via
Interstate 69.

Northville Christmas Walk will benefit historic village

Northville, Michigan—
Northville's historic Mill Race
Village will be decorated for the third
annual Christmas Walk the weekend
of Nov. 16-17, noon to 5 p.m. each
day. Village homes, school, church,
blacksmith shop and general store will
be trimmed for a Victorian holiday.

Created in 1972 by the Northville
Historical Society, Mill Race Village
serves as a focal point for the
northwest Wayne County community
while preserving architectural styles
common to the area prior to 1900.

Admission to the Christmas Walk is
\$1 per person. All proceeds are
 earmarked for the maintenance and
further restoration of the village.

A variety of crafts will be
available for sale, including
ornaments, weaving and stocking
stuffers. Artisans will also be
demonstrating their crafts.

Mill Race Village is located on
Griswold, just north of Main Street in
Northville. Call 313-348-1845 for
more information.

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