

Westland Shopping Center Christmasland

You've heard of Never-Never Land, the Land of Oz and Fairy Land. Charming places all -- except that you can't visit them unless you possess the ability to fly or own a magic pair of red slippers.

You need nt be a magician to visit Westland Shopping Center on Wayne and Cowan Roads. Ordinary transportation will get you there in fine style -- parking has recently been expanded -- and you'll be delighted at the holiday fantasy world that greets you.

All decked out in seasonal array. Westland Shopping Center, a completely enclosed mall that will insulate you from rough wintry winds, has become a Christmasland to meet all of your holiday needs. It's open Monday through Saturday from 9:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m., and on Sundays from noon to 5 and until 6 beginning November 26.

Christmas Parade November 24

Starting at Wayne and Cherry Hill Roads at 9 a.m., the parade will include a wide variety of floats and displays sponsored by local businesses, schools and service groups as well as Santa Claus and Miss Christmas Carol, newly crowned by the Westland Chamber of Commerce. The parade will wend its way toward Westland Shopping Center where Santa Claus will arrive at about 11 a.m. to set up shop.

Santa will remain at the Center until Dec. 24 to take gift orders from the kids in his Chrismas fantasy house which includes animated figures and an Eskimo train. Photographers will be on hand to take color photos of your child's visit with the jolly old elf.

Christmas Displays -- the Christmas theme this year is international and during the holiday season you'll see displays of Christmas in 8 countries -- Poland, England, Italy, Mexico, Germany, America, Sweden and Holand. Each display includes a full sized tree decorated in the native style of each country as well as animated figures decked out in peasant costumes.

International Festival Dec. 7-10

Booths from many nations will be set up throughout the Center with a colorful array of ethnic wares. Browse through a potpourri of hard-to-find hand crafted items as well as home baked pastries from such places as India, Japan, France, Greece, Sandinavia, Poland, and the Ukraine.

Music Festival Dec. 14-17

A number of local bands, orchestras and talented musicians will entertain you from a stage set up in the main mall during evening hours.