

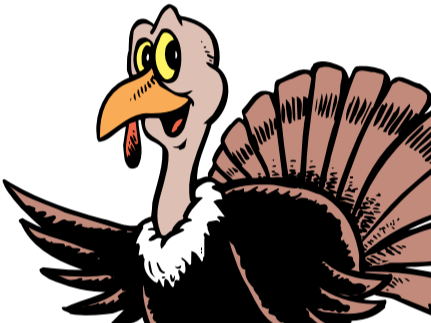


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» BRIEFLY

HAVE A HAPPY THANKSGIVING!



Christmas lighting ceremonies at Krug & Hyde Parks Friday

The East Hills Optimists and the City of St. Joseph Parks, Recreation and Civic Facilities Department invite you to the Opening Ceremonies of Holiday Park (Krug Park in the off season) and the South Pole (aka Hyde Park) on Friday, November 27th. Changing the date to treat friends and families visiting for the Thanksgiving holiday has been well received and openings will continue to be the Friday after Thanksgiving Day.

Holiday Park ceremonies begin at 6pm and Hyde Park at 7pm. We will be treated with holiday music. After the caroling, there will be recognition of the volunteers and contributors to the park, as well as introduction of dignitaries.

At 6:20 Mayor Shearin, with the assistance of some young helpers, will switch on the lights for the season. This is very impressive. If you have never seen all the bulbs go on simultaneously, you're missing a holiday treat. The Mayor will fly to Hyde Park to assist with the ceremonies and flip the switch there. There will be refreshments, Santa & entertainment at both parks.

There is the addition of a South Pole sign and banners at Hyde Park, plus you will recognize the favorites that have been building since 1981 at Holiday Park and 1993 at Hyde Park.

Both events are free and open to the public.

Thank a Farmer on Thanksgiving

As families across the state prepare to gather and celebrate Thanksgiving, Missouri farmers and ranchers were recognized today for their efforts in providing an abundant supply of safe, wholesome and affordable food. Missouri Director of Agriculture Jon Hagler, on behalf of Governor Jay Nixon, met with Kelly Forck on his family's farm to proclaim Nov. 25th Thank a Farmer Day.

"The holiday season is a time to be thankful for America's farmers and ranchers who produce the food that nourishes our bodies and serves as the centerpiece for family gatherings and holiday celebrations," Hagler said. "Farming and ranching play a vital role in the economy of the country and our state."

Forck, who serves as president of the Missouri Soybean Association, raises soybeans, cattle and corn on his farm near Jefferson City, Mo.

"Thanksgiving would not be possible without agriculture," Forck said. "The average farmer feeds about 144 people and we are proud to play that role. I hope others will join me in saying thanks to America's farmers and ranchers for providing our food this holiday season."

"(On Thanksgiving) millions of American families will sit down for Thanksgiving to share a meal together in laughter and fellowship. When they do, we hope they all will take a moment to give thanks to our farmers for providing the safest, most affordable, reliable food in the world," said

Dr. Hagler. "Most of the food on our tables this Thanksgiving, if not all of the food, has been produced by farmers across the state and the U.S."

Missouri's nearly 108,000 farms directly contribute over \$12 billion to the state's economy. Missouri remains one of the leading states in the production of livestock and row crops. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, in 1940, Americans spent over 20 percent of their incomes on food. Today, Americans spend less than 10 percent.

"Farming in Missouri is not just a job, it is a way of life bringing many benefits to our entire state," said Dr. Hagler. "We are thankful that we

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Holiday Lighting at Wyeth-Tootle

Downtown St. Joseph will have a distinctive glow throughout the holiday season as the St. Joseph Museum turns on the lights of the Wyeth-Tootle Mansion, 1100 Charles Street. The St. Joseph community is cordially invited to "Come Home for the Holidays" as the exterior lights are turned on during the annual "Holiday Lighting Ceremony" on Thursday, December 3. Visitors are welcome to tour the Mansion in its holiday finery during the event, which will take place from 6 to 8 p.m. The activities during the "Holiday Lighting Ceremony" will also include carriage rides, Santa and Mrs. Claus (a perfect photo opportunity), refreshments, live holiday music, and a children's craft area.

This year, the event is co-sponsored by the Mayor of St. Joseph and the St. Joseph Museums. The exterior lighting of the Mansion will take place promptly at 6 p.m. Festivities inside the Wyeth-Tootle Mansion will begin

with holiday music by the Hosea Elementary School Handbell Choir under the direction of Marcia Wahlert. They will be followed by the Griffon Junior Singers from Missouri Western State University.

The holiday lighting of the massive 1879 Victorian mansion has been an annual tradition for the St. Joseph Museums since 1994. The lighting ceremony is held the first Thursday after the Thanksgiving holiday and the event is free to the public. Early ceremonies focused on the Mansion's exterior, but the event soon expanded to include an exquisite array of Victorian holiday decorations inside the Mansion. As in previous years, the interior of the Mansion will glow as brightly as the exterior with many colorful trees and holiday trim on the fireplace mantles and doorways. Museum volunteers put in many hours alongside the staff to coordinate the elaborate interior décor that graces the ele-

gant Mansion each holiday season.

"Seeing the Mansion decorated for the holidays offers the community a taste of the Victorian grandeur of St. Joseph's Golden Age," said St. Joseph Museums Executive Director Jackie Lewin. "We welcome one and all to come and enjoy the beauty of the Mansion, live music, the refreshments, and the opportunity to take family pictures. You might even come away with some new decorating ideas thanks to the efforts of our wonderful volunteers who help make this event possible for the community"

The "Holiday Lighting Ceremony" will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. on Thursday, December 3, at the Wyeth-Tootle Mansion, 1100 Charles Street. The exterior lights will be turned on at 6 p.m. Admission is free. Call 816.232.8471 for more information.

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