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Merry Christmas! Thank you to our sponsor Kurt Law.

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Celebrate the Winter Solstice

Penitentiary Glen Reservation Saturday, December 21 • 6 to 9 pm Register: \$5 per person (younger than two are free)

Make a new tradition with your family at Celebrate the Winter Solstice 6 to 9 pm Saturday, December 21 at Penitentiary Glen Reservation. The winter solstice is the shortest day and the longest night of the year in the Northern Hemisphere.

The program fee of \$5 per person (younger than two are free) includes an evening filled with night strolls, roasting marshmallows, meeting wildlife, listening to campfire stories, crafts and discovering the traditions of the solstice. Join in on this funfilled evening of light as we come together to celebrate a tradition

that has been revered for thousands of years.

The winter solstice has been celebrated across many cultures and many modern traditions are derived from this astronomical event.

As an added bonus, Candy Land gone to the BIRDS! Indoor winter wonderland exhibit is included for solstice registered participants throughout the event.

Please dress for time spent indoors and out.

Registration is required. To register online goto.lakemetroparks.com/solstice or call 440-358-7275.



NEW REGISTRATION SYSTEM ACCOUNT SETUP

Lake Metroparks is in the process of transitioning to a new registration software system. This system will require all customers to create an account login, username and password in order to access program registration (beginning with spring program registration in January 2020), facility reservations and Farmpark membership purchases.

To create a new account, follow http://goto.lakeme-troparks.com/new-registration-account-setup.

If you have had a Farmpark membership within the past

three years or have a facility reservation with Lake Metroparks in 2020, an account has already been established for you. You will receive an email message from lakemetroparks@vermontsystems.com with directions on how to access your account.

If you need assistance, please call the Registration & Visitor Services Department Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm at 440-358-7275. A registration specialist will be happy to assist you.

Holiday Celebration *Glow* Returns to the Cleveland Botanical Garden

Glow: Holiday Hollows Will Evoke the Warmth and Comfort of Home at the Holidays

One of Northeast Ohio's favorite holiday traditions, *Glow*, returns to the Cleveland Botanical Garden Friday, Nov. 23 and runs through Saturday, Jan. 4, 2020. This year's theme *Holiday Hollows* will celebrate the warmth and comfort of home during the holidays.

Glow: Holiday Hollows will feature returning favorites along with new highlights to celebrate the season. Dozens of fragrant fir trees, meticulously decorated for the season by garden clubs from throughout Northeast Ohio, will line the halls. Whimsical, hand-crafted gingerbread houses, created by families and community organizations, will showcase festive creativity from the community. The Garden Express train will take children through decorated gardens where riders will learn about animal homes. Other Glow highlights include:

- Indoor winter play area with fortbuilding, snowman dress-up, and make-it take-it craft stations
- A gnome scavenger hunt in the glasshouse
- Make-your-own gingerbread house stations (fee applies)



- Mini trees decorated by community groups
- Wishing tree to share your holiday sentiment
- Seasonal refreshments for purchase in the Garden Café including adult and children's beverages
- One-of-a-kind holiday gifts for purchase in the Garden Store

Glow is open 10am - 6pm Tuesday, Wednesday, and Saturday; 10am - 9pm Thursday and Friday; and noon - 6pm Sunday. The Botanical Garden is closed on Mondays, Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

Glow admission is \$15 per adult, \$10 per child age 3 to 12 (free for children 2

and under). Admission is free for Holden Forests & Gardens members. *Glow* tickets are available online, at the Botanical Garden ticket desk or by calling 216-721-1600, ext. 110. Advance ticket purchase is not required. The Botanical Garden is located at 11030 East Blvd., Cleveland, Ohio. Indoor parking is available for a fee based on availability. For complete details about *Glow*, visit cbgarden.org/glow.

The Cleveland Botanical Garden is supported in part by the residents of Cuyahoga County through a public grant from Cuyahoga Arts & Culture.

About Holden Forests & Gardens
Holden Forests & Gardens includes the
Holden Arboretum in Kirtland, Ohio
and the Cleveland Botanical Garden in
Cleveland's University Circle cultural district. The organization is making a positive impact in the region through urban
greening and forestry initiatives, environmental research, educational programs,
and world-class visitor experiences to its
two campuses. Holden Forests & Gardens
envisions a future in which vibrant green
communities and diverse native forests
flourish and sustain life.



HOP ON THE POLAR EXPRESS AT MADISON PUBLIC LIBRARY

Sign-ups have begun for Madison Public Library's family movie event Saturday, Dec. 14.

Families are invited to watch the movie of Chris Van Allsburg's classic book, "The Polar Express" while doing all things Christmas-y -- including cocoa, cookies and fun. Children are invited to wear their pajamas. Grown-ups will stay with their children during the program. The program is part of the library's focus on families, including recent not-so-scary Halloween fun for children birth through kindergarten.

The library is at 6111 Middle Ridge Road

in Madison Township.





NOV. 23 - JAN. 4

Celebrate the warmth and comfort of home during the holidays at Glow: Holiday Hollows. Experience the magic of the season with creatively decorated trees, whimsical gingerbread houses, elegant winter plants, and train rides and play areas for children.

> Adults: \$15; Children (3 –12): \$10 Members: Free



HOLDEN FORESTS & GARDENS

11030 EAST BLVD, CLEVELAND, OHIO 216.721.1600 CBGARDEN.ORG/GLOW







MY ONE WORD RESOLUTION CHOOSE JOY

According to Google there are over 8,500 hours in a year. If we want to get specific, Holidayomat.com states there are going to be 8,784 hours in 2020. And that number is up from 2018 by 24 hours. Think about how many of those hours we're awake, and how many things can be potential life suckers (or toxic) to your mental health! I can think of one. Negativity on social media. Another is that @\$\$&%*! driver who practically ran you off the road but flipped you off at the same time. Rude people. Traffic. Your boss. The kids. Even our dreams when we sleep can come into our space and bring us down. Then there's more: computers can crash, health issues arise, a breakup happens, we get lost, we get into a car accident, our roof leaks, a tree falls, we lose a job, or worse a child, spouse, family member or

friend. There's a vast amount of time and space for the unknown and unexpected. Even the trivial can bring us to an unhappy place. As busy as we tend to be in this world, I think it's hard to find peace, quiet and *positive*. Imagine if you don't love the area you live in due to the climate or community? That's just another thing adding to the heaviness of life.

Even in just 24 hours alone, so many events can suck you in and take you down. Now if you have my luck, it will come in threes (that's what my mother-in-law used to say and she was so right). If it's not multiples in your world, it's likely that the one thing that got dumped on your head this week felt like a downpour and was enough to get Negative Nelly to come out. You know, that little voice that sometimes pops up? The one who believes

it's all going downhill from here...and of course, why wouldn't it? You. Me. Creak. No paddle.

If you've read my column around this

If you've read my column around this time of year, then you know I tossed out lists of resolutions almost a decade ago. Tired of overwhelming myself and trying to do too many things at once I was thrilled to have found a movement called My One Word. Here's an example of it: say you want to lose weight (seems the most common resolution after the holidays). So, in that case you might opt for the word Fit, Health, or Move. The one word you choose will become the word you think of all day everyday and hopefully in everything you do. Like when you are getting out of bed, getting into bed, going into the grocery store, snacking, sitting down looking at a menu at a restaurant or driving past the plaza that has a fitness center you don't belong to (AND which you could actually walk to). You get it, right? Pick one word and apply it. Similar projects are out there, like MyIntent.

It's not easy, but it is simple. That's because any change is hard and takes time and practice. But, to make it easier, I find the one word helps. My why for my word this year is because I want to be happy no matter what I have to do, or what happens to me. My life is no picnic, and maybe yours isn't either. If you're a parent of teens, semi-adult, or adult children I know you're with me on this (wink-wink). No matter what, I want peace, blessings and joy. My faith helps me with this, but I need to stay conscious with the act of being positive. This year's word for me is JOY. And it brings me back to a time working with a very special friend and mentor, when she taught us that we "GET to do things". I'm not a morning person, so I have used that mantra recently and I'm using JOY to remind me that I'm actually lucky to be able to do, go through, learn and grow from a lot of things. I want to enJOY, be JOY, spread JOY, have JOY, accept and harbor JOY this year. No matter what. There are some things in life that won't bring us happiness. There are many things that there is just no silver lining to. That is true. However, if that is something you are experiencing at some point, just know, you don't have to stay there and you aren't alone. You can choose a word that will help remind you of this, like I am.

However, I had a hunch Joy was going to be a particularly difficult a word for me, especially when I had to test it out right away. You see, as I began writing this, my computer died! Ha! What a test right? I was writing this column on a rainy Friday



morning and failed to grab the power cord for my laptop. So, as I got to the end of the first few paragraphs, where I was so excited that the words were just coming to me...silly I hadn't saved it yet, I forgot to. So, I had to grab the charger and start this all over again! Joy in the moment wasn't on my mind. I was like. REALLY? COME ON! WHAT THE HECK? FIGURES! Then I remembered...AHHHH. Right. Good. Test me early. Lol. Joy. There is no irony.

If it were easy, it wouldn't be worth it. No one loses 300lbs, battles cancer, gets their masters, climbs the career ladder or finishes raising children shouting, "Wow! THAT WAS A PIECE OF CAKE!". As the month of November rolled in, I noticed other instances where "Joy" was going to be especially difficult. Like when my mate frustrated me, when my teenage son cut me off for the hundredth time this month when I tried to communicate something important to him, and when my girls just don't want to do what they were taught. I've already said aloud a few times, "Phew, Joy is going to be a really tough word for me". But I know it will be worth it. As November keeps rolling, things aren't getting any easier, but I can say that having to come back to keep working on this column has certainly helped my perspective. There are a million things we should be teaching our kids. I listed some in my August column "20 Most Important Things To Teach A Child". I plan on covering them this year in my columns. I think that this movement could be one of them, classifying it in the Selfcare column. Why? Because, it can teach them to start small,



SEE PAGE 5>

Merry Christmas



Winter Evening at Lawnfield for Kids

Saturday, December 14, 2019 at 1 p.m. Enjoy an old-fashioned gingerbread cookie and listen to First Lady Lucretia Garfield as she reads some of her favorite Christmas stories and reminisces about family holidays and traditions. Children can participate in "The Night Before Christmas" scavenger hunt during a tour of decorated Garfield home. The program is free and open to the public, but space is limited. Regular admission prices for home tours apply, children under the age of 16 are always free!

CHOOSE JOY FROM PAGE 4

but make big changes. It can teach them to look at the bright side of something, take care of themselves, and have appreciation; gratefulness over entitlement if they don't get what they want. This particular word can teach them not to give up, instead give to others, charity, or focus on the less fortunate which always helps when we are down. Our kids can also benefit from this because it's the ripple and trickle down affect from us. No matter what happens to us, no matter how we are treated, we make a choice daily about how we will put out energy into the universe an even to our kids. If you spread joy, you might not experience it back. Yes, I meant to say that. If you are kind, some people will not (ever) be kind back. However, keep on spreading joy. One day, you will feel joy in your heart deeper than you've ever had. This is also a form of Selfcare. Protecting our minds and our hearts from the negative coming in/going out definitely helps.

Out of 365 days and over 8,000 hours this year choose to spread joy. Challenge yourself this year to reach out and thank, compliment, bless, praise or just randomly gift someone at least once a week. There are enough negative Tweets, reviews, posts and news stories out there. Be the joy someone receives. Write a positive review, actually write 3 positive reviews for every negative one because most hear more negative than positive, that's because it's easier in the moment to complain/vent. But it's the positive that helps lift people up. For all we know, that one person we praise, was yelled at three times in the last hour.

I've always tried to be kind to others. Because you honestly don't know what people are going through, and you might never know. If you just merely looked at me walking by, no one would probably guess all the stuff I've been through. They don't have to know, they don't need to know, but I also don't have to be forever angry/resentful about it either. Because we all have a story, and theirs might be much more awful than mine. We can lift others up. For every gripe about your own circumstances, say out loud three positive things you are grateful for. It won't be easy, as I'm learning already this month and the new year hasn't even begun yet. But I know it will be worth it. So, amidst the idiots on the road, the mean people in the stores, (tis the season), I don't see any reason not to be nice the rest of the day though. And that is something I think we should teach our children. I had a rough childhood and as you know I lack luck, but I don't' have to be mean to people. That's because there's no reason to be unkind, rude, cranky or angry. There are things that will happen (and they will) but we can still choose to be kind or choose joy.

I recommend heading to my blog to check out the links I've posted. I recommend reading them before you choose your word. Give this One Word thing a try. Also, check out the other links I've posted for you on what words I've used over the years (and my whys). Have your kids join you. Read more inspiring, encouraging and funny stories and ideas, visit www. FamilyMatterswithAmber.blogspot.com.

LAKE METROPARKS FARMPARK

TOY WORKSHOP



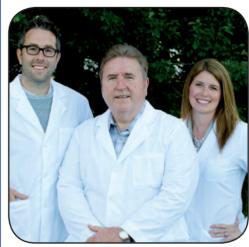


Children ages 2 to 12 can build a wooden toy with an elf in Santa's Workshop!

Farmpark admission applies

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Top 7 winter activities to try at Lake Metroparks this winter

Snowshoe the Parks: Have you ever tried snow-shoeing? It's a great way to explore the outdoors and also has many health benefits. Lake Metroparks offers visitors opportunities to snowshoe on a variety of terrain throughout the park district. Girdled Road Reservation offers backcountry snowshoe trails, Chapin Forest Reservation offers nearly six miles of trails and Penitentiary Glen Reservation offers seven miles of trails. Snowshoes can be rented at Chapin Forest Reservation and Penitentiary Glen Reservation.

Skiing Fun: Because Lake and Geauga Counties are blessed with the best snowfalls in the state each year, cross-country skiing is a great way to get out and enjoy the parks! Lake Metroparks offers both groomed and ungroomed trails for skiers of all abilities.

View the Dunes: Have you ever seen the ice dunes along the Lake Erie shoreline? Visit one of our lakefront parks and discover what happens to the lake in winter.

Sled Down the Hills: Lake Metroparks offers a variety of winter activities for all ages, but by far, sledding is one of the most popular. Our parks offer four different places to bring your family for a day of thrills upon whatever apparatus you choose to bring.

Winter Camping: Have you ever thought about camping in the winter? Lake Metroparks offers winter camping at Girdled Road Reservation in Concord Town-

ship. It is a hike-in or ski-in site about ¾ of a mile into the Big Creek Valley. Enjoy this park in a new way from the comfort of your tent!

Winter Birding: There are birds around in the winter that are often not seen any other time of the year. Such rarities as snowy owls, northern gulls and winter finches are just some of the birds that can be seen during the winter. Whether you check the lake for ducks and gulls, watch feeders for winter finches and western strays, just get out and see what you can find. Who knows—it may help the winter go by faster.

X-plore the Parks: Ever wonder what made that track? Or what bird that is? Now you can discover that and much more. Come out to Penitentiary Glen and discover all of its hidden wonders at your own pace! X-plorer Packs are filled with fun nature games and seasonal activities for the whole family. Sign out a backpack and "X-plore" the park today!

Interesting facts:

The trails at both Chapin Forest Reservation and Girdled Road Reservation are groomed daily, snow amount and trail conditions permitting.

A mile of trail is lit for nighttime skiing at Chapin Forest Reservation.

Cross-country ski and snowshoe rentals from Chapin Forest Reservation may be used in other parks.



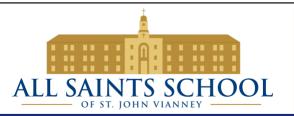
Link:

Winter activities at Lake Metroparks: https://goto. lakemetroparks.com/winter

Lake Metroparks offers programs and lessons for people of all ages.

Cross-country ski programs: https://goto.lakemetroparks.com/cross-country-ski-programs

Snowshoe programs: https://goto.lakemetroparks.com/snowshoe-programs



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2019 8TH GRADE ACRE SCORES:

Profession of Faith - All Saints Avg. 97% (National Avg. 69%)
Liturgy and Sacraments - All Saints Avg. 94% (National Avg. 69%)
Life in Christ (Morality) - All Saints Avg. 98% (National Avg. 79%)
Christian Prayer - All Saints Avg. 98% (National Avg. 73%)

OPEN HOUSES

Sunday, January 26 • 11 am–1 pm Wednesday, January 29 • 9–11 am & 6–8 pm • Sunday, February 9 • 11 am–1 pm If you can't make it to one of our open houses, please call 440-943-1395 for a private tour.

GREAT LAKES MALL

SANTA HAS ARRIVED

Santa's at Great Lakes Mall! Stop by for a visit or photos during these times:

DECEMBER

22

10am-9pm

23

10am-9pm

01	02	03	04	05	06	07
11am-6pm	10am-8pm	10am-8pm	10am-8pm	10am-8pm	10am-8:30pm	10am-8:30pr
08 11am-6pm	09	10	11	12	13	14
	10am-9pm	10am-9pm	10am-9pm	10am-9pm	10am-9pm	10am-9pm
15 10am-6pm	16 10am-9pm	17 10am-9pm	18 10am-9pm	19 10am-9pm	20 10am-9pm	21 10am-9pm

For more information visit: shopgreatlakesmall.com

24

9am-6pm

FAIRPORT HARBOR LIBRARY

335 Vine Street Fairport Harbor, OH 44077 (440) 354-8191

fairportlibrary.com All programs are free, and no registration is needed.

Special Hours – Fairport Harbor Public

Library will be closing at 4 pm on November 27, and all day November 28 for Thanksgiving. We will be closed December 24 and 25 for Christmas and December 31 and January 1 for the New Year. Win A Thomas Kinkade Print! - The Fairport Harbor Friends of the Library are holding a silent auction for a limitededition framed lithograph print of Thomas Kinkade's "A Holiday Gathering." Bids open November 2. The highest bid at 3 pm on December 7 wins the print. The print is 36 x45 inches and on display at the library.

Monday Mischief - 10:30 AM / all ages with a participating caregiver - Scamper in and enjoy some art, science, cooking, music, mischief, and fun: November 25 – Torn Paper Collage

Harbor Holidays - December 7 - 11:00 am- 4:00 pm - Photos and Book Signing with the Grinch - Drop-in Craft, Book Sale, and Bake Sale.

Hot Dog! Read with a Dog - Monday, December 9, 6:00 pm - enjoy a delicious hot dog and read with a gentle, trained therapy dog.

Holiday Music with the Lakeshore Winds Quintet - December 14 - 2:00-3:00 pm

Bedtime Storytime - December 16, 6:30 pm - Wear your pajamas and bring your favorite adult lap for snuggly bedtime stories. We'll make a holiday craft and snack on cookies and milk. All ages welcome. No registration needed.

Winter Coming Events: Adult Spelling Bee, Yarn & Fabric Swap, Socrates Café, Cake Walk, Winter Reading Contest for Kids & Adults

MENTOR PUBLIC LIBRARIES

Main Library

8215 Mentor Ave. Mentor, OH 44060 (440) 255-8811

Mentor-on-the-Lake

5642 Andrews Rd. Mentor-on-the-Lake, OH 44060

(440) 257-2512

Headlands 4669 Corduroy Rd.

Mentor, OH 44060 (440) 257-2000 BCOS

www.mentor.lib.oh.us

Elf on the Library Shelf Dec. 1 through Dec. 23 Main Branch in the Children's Department Find the elf hiding on the library's shelves. Drop by the Children's Department at Main Branch to participate in this fun hide-and-seek game. Children can play daily for a small prize. All ages welcome.

Grinch on the Shelf Dec. 1 through Dec. 23 Mentor-on-the-Lake Branch Find the Grinch lurking on the library's shelves. Children can play daily for a small prize. All ages welcome.

There's a Reindeer in Here Dec. 1 through Dec. 23 Mentor Headlands Branch Santa needs your help to find his reindeer. Kids can stop by the Headlands Branch each day to spot them and win a small Christmas gift.

Deck the Halls Family Story Time Monday, Dec. 2, at 10 a.m.; Wednesday,

Dec. 11 at 10 a.m.; and Friday, Dec. 20, at 10 a.m.

Main Branch in the James R. Garfield Room Families can get together for Mentor Public Library's special seasonal story times. Enjoy stories, rhymes, songs and a simple craft. Open to all ages. No registration necessary.

Make a Craft Monday, Dec. 2 Main Branch in the Children's Department Kid can stop by the Children's Department any time throughout the day (while supplies last) and get creative with one of the library's monthly crafts. No registration is necessary.

Lunch & a Movie at Lake: Holiday Edition Monday, Dec. 2, at 1:15 p.m.
Mentor-on-the-Lake Branch Kick off the season with a family-friendly holiday film at the Lake Branch. Bring your own lunch and the library will provide snacks. No registration required.

Paws to Read Monday, Dec. 2, at 6 and

6:30 p.m. Mentor Headlands Branch Kids who are able to read independently are invited to practice their reading skills during one of two 30-minute sessions with a licensed therapy dog. Registration is required.

Jingle All the Way Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m., on Dec. 3, 10 and 17, at Mentor-on-the-Lake Branch A delightful series of holiday story times. Enjoy holiday tales, songs and a simple craft each week. Fun for kids of all ages with an adult.

Gingerbread Terra Cotta House

Tuesday, Dec. 3, at 4:30 p.m. The HUB at Mentor High School (6477 Center St., Mentor) Kids (ages five through 12) can transform a terra cotta pot into a gingerbread house at The HUB. Registration is required.

Comics Club Tuesday, Dec. 3, at 7 p.m. Main Branch in the Children's Story Room Children, eight to 12 years old, are invited to join the Comics Club to read, discuss, and make their own comics. Club members will meet the first Tuesday of every month. Registration is required.

American Girl Book Club Wednesday, Dec. 4, at 4 p.m. Meet Julie. Main Branch in the Children's Story Room Girls between the ages of six and 12 years old meet once a month for a craft and a snack for each of the historical American Girl dolls. Each month will focus on a different doll. Be sure to read "Meet Julie" before this program. Registration is necessary each month.

Music & Play Club Wednesday, Dec. 4, at 6:30 p.m. Mentor-on-the-Lake Branch Kids of all ages can enjoy a music-themed story time at the library's Lake Branch

Tyke Time Thursdays from 11 to 11:30

a.m. Mentor Headlands Branch A weekly, interactive story time for children from six months to four years old at the Mentor Headlands Branch. Kids will enjoy stories, songs, rhymes and, perhaps, a craft. An adult must remain with the child during story time. No registration is

Minecraft Club Thursday, Dec. 5, at 4 p.m.

Main Branch in the James R. Garfield Room Join the library's Minecraft Club where you can mine, explore and share strategies in the wide world of Minecraft. Each session will feature a new challenge. Kids must bring their own charged laptop, tablet or mobile device and have an active Minecraft account. The club is for children from ages eight to 12. Registration is required.

Wood Ornament Craft Thursday, Dec. 5, at 4:30 p.m. The HUB at Mentor High School (6477 Center St., Mentor) Kids (ages five through 10) can paint and decorate wooden ornaments to hang on their tree. Registration is required.

Saturday Crafty Pop-Up Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Mentor Headlands Branch Kids (and kids at heart) can make a craft to take home. No registration is necessary.

Mugs & Merriment Saturday, Dec. 7, at 11 a.m. Mentor-on-the-Lake Branch Kids – accompanied by an adult – will embellish a holiday mug. Then the families can enjoy warm refreshments and stories by the fireside. Registration required.

Headlands Annual Christmas Program Saturday, Dec. 7, at 1 p.m. Mentor Headlands Branch Families can make several holiday crafts while singing Christmas carols and spreading holiday cheer. Registration is required.

Frozen Frenzy Saturday, Dec. 7, at 2 p.m. Main Branch in the Village Room Kids (ages three to 12) can celebrate the release of Frozen 2 with a special visit from Elsa herself. She will be here for a special story time and sing-a-long. Kids can make a princess craft and enjoy some princess treats. Registration is required. Mentor Ice Breakers Reading Monday, Dec. 9, at 10 a.m. Main Branch in the Village Room The Mentor Ice Breakers, Mentor's professional hockey team, are coming to the library for a short story time. Players will read their favorite books and answer your questions about what it's like to be a hockey player. Open to all families. No registration required. Curious Kids Monday, Dec. 9, at 6 p.m.

COUNTY KIDS · DECEMBER 2019 · PAGE 8

Mentor Headlands Branch Kids can explore new ideas every month through science experiments and playful activities. See new things and challenge yourself to be more curious about the world. DIY Macramé Ornaments Monday,

Dec. 9, at 6 p.m. The HUB at Mentor High School (6477 Center St., Mentor) Teens (ages 12 through 18) can add a bohemian touch to their holiday decorations this year by learning basic macramé techniques and creating their own unique ornament. Registration is required.

Holiday Concert featuring the Erie

Holiday Concert featuring the Erie Heights Brass Ensemble Monday, Dec. 9, at 6:30 p.m. Main Branch in the Village Room The Erie Heights Brass Ensemble will perform an evening of your favorite holiday tunes. Registration required to attend.

Wordplay Creative Writing Club
Wednesday, Dec. 11, at 4:30 p.m. Main
Branch in the Children's Story Room
Young writers can get creative with
words at Wordplay. Kids from third
through sixth grade will write, share
stories and play word games. Bring your
imagination. The library supplies paper,
pens and snacks. Registration required.
Mugs & Merriment Wednesday, Dec.
11, at 6:30 p.m. Mentor-on-the-Lake
Branch Kids – accompanied by an adult
– will embellish a holiday mug. Then the

families can enjoy warm refreshments

and stories by the fireside. Registration

required, which opens Nov. 27.

Holiday Saran Wrap Ball Game
Wednesday, Dec. 11, at 6:30 p.m. Main
Branch in the Village Room Tweens and
teens (ages 11 through 18) can play the
Holiday Saran Wrap Ball Game. See how
many gifts you can find inside a giant
ball of saran wrap during your turn.
You get to keep whatever you unwarp,
including gift cards, candy, games, and
more surprises. Registration is required
to play the game. It opens Nov. 27.

Pinecone Owl Ornaments Thursday, Dec. 12, at 5 p.m. The HUB at Mentor High School (6477 Center St., Mentor) Kids (ages six through 12) can make ornaments using pinecones and felt. Registration is required and begins Nov. 28.

Family Afternoon Movie Saturday, Dec. 14, at 1 p.m. Main Branch in the Village Room Bring the whole family to the library for an afternoon movie. On the second Saturday of each month, the library will show a family movie and provide popcorn. All movies will be rated G or PG. Find out which movie will be playing each month in the Children's Department. This event is for families with children 13 and younger. Ages eight and younger must have parent supervision. No registration required.

Decorate a Gingerbread House

Saturday, Dec. 14, at 2 p.m. Mentor-onthe-Lake Branch Kids in kindergarten through sixth grade can come to the Lake Branch and decorate a gingerbread house. The library will provide all the

supplies. Registration is required and

begins Nov. 30.

Jedi Arts Academy Saturday, Dec. 14, at 2 p.m. Mentor Headlands Branch Kids can come to the library for an afternoon of Star Wars crafts to celebrate the new movie. Registration is required and opens Nov. 30.

Studio MPL Art Club Monday, Dec. 16, at 4 p.m. Mentor-on-the-Lake Branch Kids in second through fifth grade can come to the library for a fun art project. Children need to be able to work independently and responsibly with art supplies for a successful studio experience. Please dress for mess.

Handmade Holiday Decor Monday, Dec. 16, at 4:30 p.m. The HUB at Mentor High School (6477 Center St., Mentor) Teens (ages 12 through 18) can create a gorgeous but simple-to-create decoration that's perfect for the holidays. Registration required and opens Dec. 2.

DIY Holiday Gift Monday, Dec. 16, at 6:30 p.m. Mentor-on-the-Lake Branch Tweens and teens (ages 10 through 18) can make a holiday gift with the supplies provided the library. The library will provide snacks too. Registration opens Dec. 2 and is required to attend.

Fluffy Snow Slime Tuesday, Dec. 17, at 5 p.m. The HUB at Mentor High School (6477 Center St., Mentor) Kids (ages four through 12) can make fluffy snow slime at The HUB. Registration required and opens Dec. 3.

Twas the Night Before Christmas Sto-

rytime Tuesday, Dec. 17, at 6 p.m. Main Branch in the Village Room Kids (ages two through six) can enjoy a special reading of the classic poem, "Twas the Night Before Christmas." There will also be carols, cookies, cocoa and a craft. Registration required and opens Dec. 3.

Make Your Own Popcorn Tin Tuesday, Dec. 17, at 6:30 p.m. Main Branch in the James R. Garfield Room Teens and tweens (ages 11 through 18) can

customize and season popcorn for their

own holiday popcorn tin. Learn how to drizzle, drench and decorate popcorn in a variety of flavors: chocolate, cheese, caramel, cinnamon, or a combination of them all. Registration required and opens Nov. 27.

Color Me—Headlands Wednesday, Dec. 18, at 7 p.m. Mentor Headlands Branch Looking for some quiet time? Bring the family to a calm evening of coloring at the Headlands branch. Supplies provided.

Firehouse Friends Thursday, Dec. 19, at 10:30 a.m. Main Branch in the Children's Story Room Join our friends from the Mentor Fire Department for stories and songs. Meet the local firemen. Find out what it's really like to be a fireman. Open to all ages. Each time kids attend the "Firehouse Friends" story time will receive a raffle ticket for a chance to win lunch with the firemen in December.

MPL Arcade: Video Game Club Thurs-

day, Dec. 19, at 4 p.m. Main Branch in the Village Room Enjoy an afternoon of gaming with the library's video game club, MPL Arcade. The library will have age-appropriate games available to play on the Wii U, as well as fun board and tabletop games. For kids in third through sixth grade. Registration is required.

Let's Make Heart"felt" OrnamentsSaturday, Dec. 21, at 1 p.m. Mentor Headlands Branch Tweens can create felt

ornaments at the library. **Let's Go LEGO Club** Saturday, Dec. 21,

at 2 p.m. Mentor Headlands Branch
Families can drop in and build with the library's LEGO blocks.

Family Memory Jar Monday, Dec. 30, at 5:30 p.m. The HUB at Mentor High School (6477 Center St., Mentor) Families can create a new tradition by making family memory jars. Personalize the jar using The HUB's vinyl cutter and decorate it as a family. Registration is required for this program and opens Dec. 16.

Happy Noon Year Party Tuesday, Dec. 31, at 11:15 p.m. Main Branch in the James R. Garfield Room Kids (three to 10 years old) can watch the ball drop at noon on New Year's Eve at the library. They can celebrate with music, games, dancing, snacks, and of course, a balloon drop. Come dressed in your best attire and let the fun begin. Registration is required for the party and opens on Dec. 17.

MORLEY LIBRARY

184 Phelps St. Painesville, OH 44077 (440) 352-3383

www.morleylibrary.org

Kids Scavenger Hunt: Sunday, December 1st through Sunday, December 15th Kids 12 and under can participate in a fun, FREE picture Scavenger Hunt in the Children's Room. Find all 10 pictures hiding around the Children's Room, then turn in your sheet for a free, small prize from the treasure chest. Limit once per child, please.

Baby Ornament Craft: Tuesday, December 3rd & Tuesday, December 7th ~ 10:00 - 10:30 AM For babies age 0-1. Enjoy two free half-hour art sessions with baby and create a keepsake for when your little one isn't so little anymore! Press baby's feet or hands into salt dough to create an awesome holiday ornament and then come back the next week to decorate them! Registration is required. This is a two-day craft project so please plan on attending both days, Dec. 3rd and 10th. **Read with Dugan:** Tuesday, December 3rd ~ 6:30 – 7:30 PM Attention young readers, Dugan, a certified therapy dog, will be stopping by on from 6:30 to 7:30. This program is intended for independent readers ages 5 to 12. Parent or quardian must sign waiver. First come, first seated for a 10 minute reading slot no pre-registration.

KIDS CRAFTERNOON! Thursday,
December 5th ~ 3:00 – 7:00 PM Make a
FREE kids craft! Drop by the Children's
Story Room to make a fun, free hot cocoa
necklace craft. As supplies last; small
children may need help. No registration
needed.

Family Holiday Cookie Decorating:
Saturday, December 7th ~ 10:00 AM –
12:00 PM We invite families to join us for a fun morning of holiday cookie decorating! Drop by the Project Room on the Children's Floor between 10:00 AM and 12:00 PM to frost and decorate a prebaked cookie. Then enjoy it here or take it home for a special treat. All supplies provided for free by Morley Library. No

registration needed. **The Polar Express:** Saturday, December 14th ~ 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM All aboard the Polar Express! For children ages 3-8 and their parents. Celebrate the magic of the holiday season with the classic children's movie, The Polar Express. Kids will be decorating cardboard box train cars and watching the movie "drive-in" style, then taking the cars home after the movie. Light snacks will

be served. Registration is

necessary as space is limited. Registration opens 2 weeks before the program on Nov. 30th. Parents must stay with children.

Holiday Storytimes

Monday, December 16th Toddler Tales ~ 10:00 – 10:30 AM Books at Bedtime ~ 6:30 - 7:00 PM Wednesday, December 18th Music in Motion ~ 10:00 - 10:30 AM Preschool S.T.F.A.M. Stations ~ 10:30 -11:00 AM

Let It Snow! Wednesday, December 18th ~ 4:15 - 5:00 PM For tweens ages 9-12. Do you want to build a snowman? Well, maybe we will just paint one instead! Join us for this fun painting tutorial on how to create a winter wonderland! You can keep this artwork for yourself or give it as a holiday gift. Registration is required and will begin on December 4th. Please dress for mess! KIDS CRAFTERNOON! Thursday. December 19th ~ 3:00 - 7:00 PM Make a FREE kids craft! Drop by the Children's Story Room to make a fun, free colorvour-own mini stocking. As supplies last; small children may need help. No registration needed.

Family Gift Makerspace: Saturday. December 21st - 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM For families with children 12 and under. Oh no! Did you forget to do your holiday shopping? Haven't been able to find the perfect gift? Come and make some gifts for your loved ones here at Morley library! Our makerspace will be set up for some creative holiday fun with several crafts you can make to give to someone you love. No registration is necessary.

Reading with Reptiles: Saturday, December 28th ~ 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM We are offering independent readers under the age of 12 an exciting way to practice reading! Four tame lizards from the Herps Alive Foundation in South Euclid are visiting with us for you to pet/hold as you read your favorite picture book to them! Participants should be able to read on their own for this program. Younger siblings not yet reading are welcome to share a time slot with an older sibling. Registration required. Starting December 14th please call 440-352-3383 or stop by to pick your favorite lizard (pictures will be available at the children's desk) and sign up for a 15 minute time slot.

WICKLIFFE PUBLIC LIBRARY

1713 Lincoln Road, Wickliffe, Oh 44092

(440) 944-6010 www.wickliffe.lib.oh.us

Little Beans Story Time Monday, December 2 at 11:00 am Join Miss Linda at CouchLand Coffee House (29933 Fuclid Ave.) for books, rhymes, and music perfect for ages 6 and under with an adult. Coffee and food available for purchase before and after story time. Registration requested, call 440-944-6010.

Young at Heart Story Time Monday. December 16 at 11:00 am For ages 10 and under with an adult, join Miss Linda from the Wickliffe Public Library for an inter-generational story time at Tapestry Senior Living, 28500 Euclid Ave. We'll have stories and songs, a craft and refreshments. Registration requested. **Adventure Travelers** First Tuesday of the month at 3:15 pm: 12/3 Children Kindergarten through 4th grade, experience the custom, crafts and geography of various states and countries. Registration requested.

Arts &Craft Club Second Tuesday of the month at 3:15 pm: 12/10 Children Kindergarten through 4th grade will be making a variety of fun projects and display them at our very own art show in May! Registration requested.

Wild Child Third Tuesday of the month at 3:15 pm: 12/17 Children Kindergarten through 4th grade will explore nature themes with hands on activities, crafts, and stories. Registration requested.

Tales for a Dog Saturday, December 7 at 9:30 or 10:00 am Readers Kindergarten and older, come share a story with a certified therapy dog. Reading aloud in a non-judgmental environment helps children with confidence and fluency. Pre-register or drop-in.

Lego Club Saturday, December 14 at 2:00 pm Children Kindergarten and older, stop by for some building challenges and fun! Drop-in.

Make & Take Craft December 19-20 during open hours Kids 12 and under, stop by, use our supplies, make a craft, take it home! Crafts will change throughout the week.

Noon Year's Eve Monday, December 30 at 11:00 am Families join us and count down to Noon with activities, crafts and fun! Registration required.

Tween Time Wednesdays at 2:30 pm Children, 5th – 8th grade, join us for fun activities and socializing! Check the website for weekly themes and information. Registration requested, call the Library and ask for the Children's Department December 4—Board Games December 11—Decorate Glass Orna-

December 18—Gingerbread Houses (Registration Required!)

Santa Paws Humane Society Drive Saturday, December 14 at 10:00 am-

Patrons that bring a donation for the Humane Society may come in with their pet and take their own picture with Santa. All pets must be leashed and pet friendly. Entrance for pictures will be at the back of the Library. Directional signs and door will be labeled. Wish List: Clorox Bleach, Dawn dish soap, powder laundry detergent, paper towels, cat toys, Cat Nip, and cat treats. We only accept brands made in the USA, dry dog food: (Taste of the Wild Brand) dog toys: Kong, Nylabones and GumaBones (all sizes needed). Registration requested, call 440-944-6010 and ask for the Children's Department.

WILLOUGHBY-EASTLAKE PUBLIC LIBRARIES

Eastlake Public Library 36706 Lake Shore Blvd. Eastlake, OH 44095 (440) 942-7880 x. 105 Willoughby Public Library 30 Public Sq. Willoughby, OH 44094 (440) 942-3200 x. 104 Willowick Public Library 263 E. 305 St. Willowick, OH 44095 (440) 943-4151 x. 116 (440) 516-0843 TTY Willoughby Hills Public Library 35400 Chardon Rd.

Willoughby Hills, OH 44094 (440) 942-3362

www.welibrary.info

Flower Clown's Magic and Balloon

Show Everyone's favorite clown will entertain us with his awesome magic show and balloon creations! Monday, December 2, 6 pm Willoughby Hills Library 440-942-3362

SciCraft at Eastlake Library Create & explore with some fun hands-on projects! Grades 3-6. Tuesdays, December 3, 6:30 pm Eastlake Library 440-942-7880

Teen Art Club Do you love to create art but never get the chance? Join other art-loving teens for art club. We supply the paint/pencils, you supply the genius. Ages 11-18. Wednesday, December 3,

Willoughby Library 440-942-3200

Tween Crafts & More



Club Children ages 9-12 are invited to create a variety of different proiects together. Register for each class you plan to attend Wednesday, December 5, 6:30 pm

Willoughby Library 440-942-3200

LEGO Club We provide the LEGOs, you

provide the imagination in our LEGO club. All ages welcome! Saturday, December 7, 2-3:30 pm Willowick Library 440-943-4151 Special Needs LEGO Club at Willowick Library meets on the same dates from 10:30 am-12 pm. Saturday, December 7, 2-3:30 pm Willoughby Hills Library 440-942-3362 Saturday, December 28, 1:30-3 pm Eastlake Library 440-942-7880 Holiday Open House Join us for a holi-

Sunday, December 8, 2-4 pm Willowick Library 440-943-4151 Basement Writers Write with us in our creative writing group. Bring your writing and ideas to share. All writing welcome. Positive feedback and fun environment provided. Grades 7-12. Ages 13-18. Monday, December 9 & December 23, 7-8 pm Willowick Library 440-943-4151

Marvel Cinematic Universe Discussion

Group for Teens and Adults Do you

day craft while supplies last, music, cook-

ies and hot chocolate. All ages welcome.

love the MCU? Want to vent or praise any of the movies? Discuss any of the graphic novels? Come to the Willoughby Library and join with others who love the MCU as much as you do. Ages 11 & up. Tuesday, December 10, 7-8 pm Willoughby Library 440-942-3200 **Yoga Storytime** Try out our brand new

class that incorporates yoga into storytime. This class is taught by our very own certified yoga instructor! Please bring a mat or towel. Ages 3-6. Thursday, December 12, 10 or 11 am

Willoughby Library 440-942-3200 **Sewing for Teens** Sew easy Christmas ornaments and decorations. Sewing machines, fabric and tools provided. Thursday, December 12, 5:30-7:30 pm

Willoughby Hills Library 440-942-3362 Grinch PJ Movie Night Get in the holiday spirit by watching The Grinch and creating a craft with us! Pajamas are encouraged, but not required, as well as sleeping bags, pillows and stuffed animals. Snacks will be provided. Thursday, December 12, 6 pm

Willoughby Library 440-942-3200

Willowick Library Friday Family Films Join us for a Friday matinee at the Willowick Library. Movies begin at 2 pm. Friday, December 13 – The Polar Express Willowick Library 440-943-4151

Tov Playgroup Stop in and play with tovs from our Tov Library. Friday, December 13, 10 am-12 pm

Willoughby Library 440-942-3200 Saturday, December 28, 2–3:30 pm Willowick Library 440-943-4151

Star Wars Scavenger Hunt Celebrate the release of Star Wars: The Rise of Skvwalker with a fun scavenger hunt around the library! Hunt takes place the week of December 16-21 during library hours. Willoughby Hills Library

Adapted Storvtime Specifically for children with special needs, this storytime features stories, rhymes, songs and other engaging activities in a welcoming environment.

Tuesday, December 17, 6:30 pm Eastlake Library 440-942-7880

Gingerbread House Decorating Design and construct your own gingerbread house for the holidays, Grades 6-12, Ages 11-18.

Tuesday, December 17, 7-8:30 pm Willowick Library 440-943-4151

Teen Craft-a-Palooza Come to the Willoughby Library and see what you can make using some left-over craft supplies. Ages 11-18.

Wednesday, December 18, 7-8 pm Willoughby Library 440-942-3200 Homeschool Thursdays Children ages 6-12 will enjoy a variety of different hands-on projects. Space is limited.

Thursday, December 19, 1:30-2:30 pm or 3-4 pm

Willoughby Library 440-942-3200

Barks for Books Practice your reading skills by reading to a therapy dog! Grades K-5th grade. Saturday, December 21, 9:30 am and 10 am (Choose one time slot) Eastlake Library 440-942-7880

Learn and Play Chess Club Join us for an informal gathering of chess enthusiasts, including instruction and play, fun and refreshments! It's also a perfect opportunity for scouts to earn their chess merit badge. All ages and chessboards welcome.

Saturday, December 28, 12-4 pm Willoughby Library 440-942-3200

Homeschool Technology Each month we will explore different facets of technology starting with the very basics. Ages 10 & up.

Monday, December 30, 1:30 or 3 pm Willowick Library 440-943-4151

DECEMBER COMMUNITY CALENDAR

DECEMBER 1

Wildwood Holiday Craft Show

10:00am - 4:00pm, 7645 Little Mountain Rd. Mentor. Crafts, crafts, crafts - complete your holiday shopping here! Many wonderful holiday items for sale from over 40 vendors including: greenery, teas, stain glass, jewelry, birdfeeders, baked goods, ornaments, stockings and much, much more. Live greenery for purchase from the Wildwood Garden Club. Sponsored by the Community Arts Commission. Admission \$2 - Children 12 & Under: Free

DECEMBER 5

Holiday Lighting Celebration Get into the holiday spirit and join us in Downtown Willoughby for the annual Holiday Lighting Celebration on Thursday, December 5th at 7 pm. This year is the 50th Anniversary! Also that evening, a Live Nativity, sponsored by Willoughby United Methodist Church starting at 6 pm and the 27th annual Evening Lions Holiday Auction downstairs of City Hall to benefit the Lions Eve Care Program and community service projects.

DECEMBER 6-8

Home for the Holidays 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM at the Lake County History Center 415 Riverside Dr., Painesville. Sponsored by the Ohio Arts Council. Join the cheer at the largest and most spectacular display of festive Christmas trees in Lake County. Treat your senses to over 70 beautiful bedazzling trees. Find one-of-a-kind gifts & stocking stuffers from both local Ohio crafters as well as in our Mistletoe Marketplace. Take a tour of our current exhibits & hear the pleasing Magical Musical Machines. Savor lunch at the Candy Cane Cafe. Treat yourself to delicious baked goods from Santa's Sweet shop. GENERAL ADMISSION \$5; Under age 3 FREE.

DECEMBER 7

Harbor Holiday and a Day with the Grinch 11:00 AM 7:00 PM Businesses, churches, schools, and organizations all participate and a trolley circulates through the village. Who Village is next to the Finnish Heritage Museum in Finn Hollow Park with tree lighting and costume contest. Grinch climbs the lighthouse at 5:45pm to read the classic story. There are 14 Trolley stops in the village with Trolley stop #1 at Who Village at High and 3rd St.

DECEMBER 6-8

Santa's Wild Workshop Wildwood Cultural Center & Park 7645 Little Mountain Rd, Mentor. Make a tov in Santa's workshop, decorate cookies with Mrs. Claus. play games and visit with Old Saint Nick! To register call Wildwood at 440-974-5735.

DECEMBER 8

A Downtown Willoughby Christmas

Holiday Concert Sunday, December 8, at 4 PM - 6 PM. 15 Public Sa. Willoughby. Songs of the season performed by the WUMC Worship Choir, Bell Choir, Band and Organ. Narrated by Willoughby Mayor Robert Fiala. Bring the whole family to this great holiday event! For more information go to dtwchurch.org/advent.

DECEMBER 13 - 15

Chardon... Home for the Holidays

The Chardon Square Association is presenting Home for the Holidays! Area merchants will have special sales or refreshments, along with carolers, horsedrawn carriage rides around the Square, Christmas lights, and Santa Claus will be at Beans Coffee Shop from 4:00-6:00. Chardon Square | chardonsquareassociation.org/events/home-for-the-holidavs

DECEMBER 14

Santa on a Firetruck Saturday, December 14 at 11:30 AM - 1 PM. City of Kirtland 9301 Chillicothe Road, Kirtland. Watch Santa parade SOUTH down Route 306 on a Kirtland Fire Truck! Parade steps off from Kirtland High School at 11:30 and ends at City Hall. Spectators can watch from the WEST side of Route 306. Join the Big Guy at City Hall, snap a picture, and grab a cup of hot cocoa! Stop by the Kirtland Library to make a holiday craft! Drop off donations of new socks at City Hall or the Library to be donated to area homeless shelters. Local businesses are invited to participate and do something fun!

DECEMBER 14

Cookies & Milk with Mrs. Claus Saturday, Dec 14, 2019 at 1 PM – 2 PM Great Lakes Mall, 7850 Mentor Ave, Mentor, Get vour little ones ready for a good book and a good time. Enjoy a cookie, milk and a story or two with Mrs. Claus! I ocated in the Dillard's Concourse near the Santa Set. Best of all...it's FREE! Sponsored by the Mentor Public Library, Cookies provided by Max & Erma's.

DECEMBER 15

Holiday Figure Skating Performance (FREE) Sunday, December 15, 3:45 -5:45pm Mentor Civic Ice Arena, 8600 Munson Rd, Mentor Enjoy a free holiday performance from the members of the Mentor Figure Skating Club at this special

show at the Mentor Ice Arena. **DECEMBER 15**

Christmas Train and Toy Show There will be more than 200 dealers with model trains of all gauges, antique toys, and diecast toys. Attendees also can watch the operating train layouts in many different scales and dioramas. Santa Claus will be at the show from 12:20 to 2 p.m. Lakeland Community College's Main Gym, 7700 Clocktower Drive in Kirtland. Admission is \$6 for adults, \$15 for families, \$3 for children ages 6-12 and free for those younger than 6. The event is also free for active military personnel. There also will be a toy collection for needy families. christmastrainshow.com



Child Care LAKE COUNTY YMCA

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Preschool, School-Age

Preschool, School-Age 440.946.1160

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For more details visit us online at www.lakecountyymca.org

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Ashtabula Office:

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Geauga County Office:

401 South St., Ste. 2B-5, Chardon, Ohio 44024 (T) 440 285-7750