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Christmas Countdown 2017

Please remember the reason for the season. †

Plan for Santa's visit to your neighborhood!

- Compiled by Marge Neal and Devin Crum -

Wednesday, Dec. 20; Manorgreen, Transverse, Victory Villa, Glenmar and Maple Crest Thursday, Dec. 21; Greenbriar, Commons at White Marsh, Wampler Road, Pawnee Village and Ballard Gardens Friday, Dec. 22; Old Hawthorne and Hawthorne Saturday, Dec. 23; and Mariners Point, Crossroads and Wilson Point Sunday, Dec. 24.

North Point - Edgemere Volunteer Fire Department will visit Fort Howard, Todd's Farm, Miller's Island and Beacon Point Friday, Dec. 15, starting at 6 p.m.; Edgemere and Sparrows Point, including areas off Lodge Forest Drive, Lodge Farm Road, Sparrows Point Road and North Point Road in Edgemere, Saturday, Dec. 16, starting at 3 p.m.; and Beachwood Estates, Lynhurst, Briarwood and North Point Village on Sunday, Dec. 17, starting at 3 p.m. Areas along North Point Boulevard and the 4000-block of North Point Road will also be on this day.

Rosedale Volunteer Fire Company will visit the communities of Eagle's Walk, Gilley Terrace, and Cedar Lane Farms on Friday, Dec. 8, starting at 6 p.m.; Overlea and Linover on Saturday, Dec. 9, starting at noon; Elmwood-Belmar and the rest of Linover Saturday, Dec. 9, starting at 6 p.m.; Eastwood and Colgate (Dundalk)



Sunday, Dec. 10, starting at noon; and Elmwood and Hazelwood Park East starting at 6 p.m. Santa's reindeer will rest on Monday, Dec. 11. On Tuesday, Dec. 12, and Wednesday, Dec. 13, Thursday, Dec. 14, and Friday, Dec. 15, starting at 6 p.m. each night, they will visit Rose-dale neighborhoods.

They will visit Rosedale and Holland Hills starting at noon, and Rosedale and Hamiltowne beginning at 6 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 16; Fontana Village and other Rosedale neighborhoods on Sunday, Dec. 17, starting at 5 p.m; and the remainder of Rosedale neighborhoods Monday, Dec. 18, and Tuesday, Dec. 19, starting at 6 p.m. each night.

Visit their website, <https://rosedalevfd.com>, for a street-by-street breakdown of the routes each day.

White Marsh Volunteer Fire Company will conduct its Santa visits from Dec. 16 - 22, beginning at 6 p.m. each night. They advise finding a spot near main roadways to get the best view since the engine cannot fit down every street. Visit their Facebook page for more detail on where they will visit.

On Dec. 16, WMVFC will visit areas

south of Campbell Boulevard along Philadelphia Road and Franklin Square Drive, including Nottingham Village, Amberly at King's Court, Barrington, Castle Stone, Castle Creek and Cambridge Court; on Dec. 17: Vincent Farm and surrounding neighborhoods, Bird River Grove, Bird River View, Earls Beach, The Woods at Bay Country, Harewood Park, West Twin River, Bird River Beach, Whitmarsh Estates, White Marsh Farms II, The Commons at White Marsh, Sterling Reserve, Windlass Overlook and the Preserve at Windlass Run; on Dec. 18: Honeybrook, Misty Meadows, Moores Meadows, Parkside, Moores Orchard, Orchard Crossing, The Villages of Honeygo, Perry Hall Farms, Forge Meadows and Honeygo Village Center; on Dec. 19: neighborhoods surrounding Joppa View Elementary and Perry Hall High schools; On Dec. 20: neighborhoods north of Perry Hall Elementary and Middle schools, including Perry Hall Crossing and North Honeygo; on Dec. 21: The Fields of White Marsh, Williams Fields, Equestrian Acres, Honeygo Ridge, Red Lion Farm and Bowerman-Loreley Beach; and on Dec. 22: Southfield, Nottingham Woods, Hallfield Manor, Manorfield and Silvergate Village.

Wise Avenue Volunteer Fire Company visits are scheduled through Dec. 23, and each scheduled visit will begin at about 6 p.m. They will visit the West Inverness area Thursday, Dec. 7; Old Dundalk and Logan Village Saturday, Dec. 9; Gray Haven on Monday, Dec. 11; Oakleigh Beach/Wise Avenue on Wednesday, Dec. 13; Turner Station and Watersedge on Friday, Dec. 15; Charlesmont and Gray Manor on Tuesday, Dec. 19; Berkshire on Thursday, Dec. 21; and Dundalk and Graceland Park on Saturday, Dec. 23.

One of the favorite Christmastime traditions for many in eastern Baltimore County is Santa Claus' tour of area neighborhoods with the help of local volunteer fire personnel.

Here's your chance to see Santa - and maybe get a free candy cane - as he comes near your home with all the fanfare of a fire engine and its lights and sirens! Please keep in mind, however, that emergency calls are the priority during the scheduled tours, and the times are approximate.

So with out further ado, here is Santa's schedule as he is escorted by several area volunteer companies:

Bowleys Quarters Volunteer Fire Department will visit the Carroll Island Shopping Center and the Long Beach neighborhood on Thursday, Dec. 7; the Williams Estates and Stevens Road neighborhoods Friday, Dec. 8; all of Carrollwood Saturday, Dec. 9; and Seneca Harbor Sunday, Dec. 10, beginning at 6 p.m. each night. Monday, Dec. 11, is the rain date.

Middle River Volunteer Fire and Rescue, beginning at 6 p.m. each night, will visit Golden Tree and Aero Acres



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Ballestone to host 40th Holly Tours

Members of the Ballestone Preservation Society will see to it that Essex has a white Christmas, even if it doesn't snow. The group will celebrate the 40th anniversary of their Holly Tours at the historic mansion with "White Christmas," the theme of this year's Christmastime open house.

The house will be open from 5 to 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 9, and from 2 to 8 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 10. Visitors will be able to tour the house from room to room and enjoy not only the year-round period furnishings but holiday decorations, including fresh greens and other natural items.

"And then after the tour, visitors are invited to have complimentary cider and cookies in the kitchen building," Colleen Baugher, a society volunteer, told the *East County Times*.

Visitors will also be able to do some unique holiday shopping in the mansion's gift shop. Baked bread fresh from the ovens will be sold, as will rose potpourri made from rose petals from the property's

gardens, according to Baugher.

The recorded history of the property dates to 1659 when Walter Dickenson acquired it and named it for himself, according to the group's website. Thomas Stansbury inherited the land in 1725 and renamed it "Stansbury's Claim."

Baltimore County bought the property in 1969. The farmhouse was heavily vandalized and had been allowed to deteriorate until The Heritage Society of Essex and Middle River campaigned to save the piece of local history.

The house was adopted by the Essex-Middle River Bicentennial Committee as a restoration project to mark the country's 200th birthday. Restoration began in 1974 and was completed in 1977, according to the website.

Admission to the tours is \$5 for adults and \$1 for children 11 and younger. The house is at 1935 Back River Neck Road, near the entrance to the golf course, in Essex. In case of bad weather, call 410-887-0218 to verify the tours are on as scheduled.

Ornament marks 100 years of Old Dundalk

The Dundalk-Patapsco Neck Historical Society and Museum continues its annual edition of collectible glass Christmas balls with an ornament that pays homage to the 100th anniversary of the founding of Old Dundalk.

The green ball is marked with a white circle and gold lettering that proclaims, "Dundalk, 1917-2017," according to

society President Jean Walker.

Each ornament costs \$10. Limited ornaments from previous years are available for \$5 each. They can be bought at the museum, 4 Center Place in Dundalk, from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday and from noon to 8 p.m. Saturday and Sunday while the train garden is open. For information, call 410-284-2331.

Tree sales support local efforts

With fresh Christmas tree stands now open on many street corners, there are many opportunities to buy a tree and support a local nonprofit organization at the same time.

Here are a few local groups that would appreciate your business, with all proceeds remaining in the community to support philanthropic efforts:

The White Marsh Volunteer Fire Company, 5419 Ebenezer Road, will sell trees from 2 to 9 p.m. Monday through Friday and 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday and Sunday through Dec. 23, or until trees are sold out. The group is also offering wreaths, roping, swags, tree stands and tree bags. Santa Claus is scheduled to

visit on weekends. For more information, including times for Santa's visits, call 410-335-5112.

The Optimist Club of Dundalk, 4528 North Point Blvd., will sell trees from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. seven days a week until trees are sold out. All trees cost \$55 each. Decorated wreaths cost \$30. For more information, call 410-388-0320.

The Rosedale Volunteer Fire Department, 8037 Philadelphia Road, will sell trees from 6 to 9 p.m. Monday through Friday and 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday and Sunday until the trees are sold out. The stand will sell Fraser firs (\$58), Douglas firs (\$48) and Canaan firs (\$38). For more information, call 410-866-4042.

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The official Baltimore County tree in Towson was lit on Friday, Dec. 1, for the enjoyment of all county residents. But if you're looking for something a little closer to home, the North Point-Edgemere Volunteer Fire Company in Edgemere, the Ateaze Senior Center in Dundalk and Perry Hall Elementary School each lit up their community trees on Dec. 1, 3 and 4, respectively.

Still to come are also the Essex community tree at the Essex-Middle River Heritage Museum in Essex at 5 p.m.

this Saturday, Dec. 9, and the Overlea tree at the Overlea-Fullerton Community Center at 7 p.m. the same day.



The Essex tree will be officially lit at 5 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 9. Photo by Devin Crum

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Breakfast with Santa

The Wise Avenue Volunteer Fire Company, 214 Wise Ave. in Dundalk, will hold Breakfast with Santa from 8 to 11 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 10. The menu includes pancakes, eggs, sausage, coffee, milk, soda and juice boxes for the kids. Tickets cost \$6; children under 3 eat for free.

Breakfast with Santa

Middle River Recreation Council will hold Breakfast with Santa from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Dec. 9, at the Victory Villa Community Center, 404 Compass Road. The menu will include pancakes, sausage, fruit, coffee and juice. The event will also include arts and crafts, games, giveaways and music, and will include a celebration marking the 75th anniversary of the community center. Tickets cost \$10 for adults and \$8 for children ages 2-12. Children younger than 2 eat for free. Tickets can be ordered online at www.middleriverrec.com. For more information, please feel free to contact us at 410-887-0234.

Luminaria Night

The Dundalk-Patapsco Neck Historical Society and Museum will hold its annual Luminaria Night beginning at 6 p.m. Friday, Dec. 22. In addition to the luminarias, the museum's train garden will be open, seasonal music will be broadcast outdoors in the Dundalk Village Shopping Center area and Santa and Mrs. Claus are scheduled to visit. For more info., call 410-284-2331.

'Scrooge!' at CCBC

The Children's Playhouse of Maryland, in residence at the Community College of Baltimore County's Essex campus, 7201 Rossville Blvd. in Rosedale, will present "Scrooge!" at 1 p.m. Dec. 9, 10, 16 and 17; 4:30 p.m. Dec. 10 and 17; and 7 p.m. Dec. 9, in the Administration Building's lecture hall. "Scrooge!" tells the classic story of an old miser who is visited by the ghosts of Christmas past, present and future. Tickets cost \$10. To reserve seats, call the CCBC box office, 443-840-2787.

Marshy Point NC

Marshy Point Nature Center, 7130 Marshy Point Road in Middle River, will hold a holiday celebration at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 19. The family-friendly event will feature many activities, including Christmas wreath-making with freshly cut greens; decorating trees with popcorn, cranberries and seed to feed the birds; Christmas caroling; and making pod and cone ornaments. Light refreshments will be available; attendees are asked to bring a dessert or appetizer to share. No advance registration is required. For more information, call 410-887-2817.

MR Concert Band

The Middle River Concert Band will perform at 7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 11, at 7 p.m. at the Bowleys Quarters VFC hall, 900 Bowleys Quarters Road. The concert is free but attendees are asked to bring nonperishable food donations for the St. Matthew's food pantry.

Holidays at Hampton

Hampton National Historic Site, 535 Hampton Lane in Towson, will hold Holidays at Hampton: Through the Generations from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 9 and 10.

The historic mansion will be decorated for Christmases from the Early Republic through the 20th century, according to organizers. During afternoon and evening open houses, attendees will be able to travel through seven generations of holidays in the Ridgely mansion. National Park Service rangers and volunteers will lead tours as carolers and musicians perform in the Great Hall. Nineteenth-century craft-making will be offered Saturday and Sunday afternoon in the Lower House on the Hampton Farm.

Admission and parking are free. Free shuttle services will be available from parking areas at Towson United Methodist Church on Hampton Lane and Hampton National Historic Site. For more info., call 410-823-1309.

Chamber Singers Concert

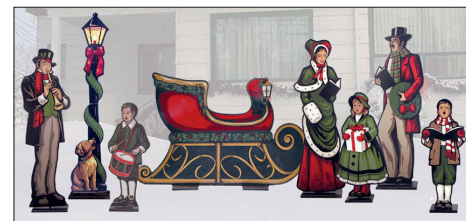
The CCBC Chamber Singers will offer a concert of varied classical and popular musical selections, including holiday arrangements, at 12:20 p.m. Friday, Dec. 8, and 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 9. The concert will be held in the recital hall in the Arts and Humanities Building on the CCBC Essex campus, 7201 Rossville Blvd. in Rosedale. The concert is free and open to the general public. No reservations are required.

Dundalk UMC Concert

Dundalk United Methodist Church, 6903 Mornington Road in Dundalk, will host the Maryland Military Band at 3 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 16, in the sanctuary (use the Dunran Road entrance). The all-volunteer band is under the direction of retired U.S. Air Force Master Sergeant Yari Villanueva, whose military band résumé includes being a bugler at Arlington National Cemetery. All are welcome to attend the holiday concert and enjoy free refreshments in the social hall afterward. The performance is free but donations will be accepted during the concert.

'Holiday Harmonies'

The Chorus of the Chesapeake will hold its Holiday Harmonies concert and dinner Saturday, Dec. 9, at the Odd Fellows Grand Lodge, 7721 Old Battle Grove Road in Dundalk. Doors will open at 6 p.m., dinner will be served at 6:30 and the show will begin at 7:45. The concert will feature the entire chorus as well as chapter quartets. The meal will include baked lasagna, salad, garlic bread and dessert. Beer, wine and soft drinks are included. Tickets cost \$30 each. Tickets must be purchased in advance. To reserve tickets, call Larry Deiss, 410-375-6724.



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Local train gardens bring back memories, build traditions

- By Marge Neal -

No holiday display seems to conjure childhood memories like a traditional train garden.

The intricate productions perhaps bring back memories of time spent with a parent building a display in the basement of the family home or of listening to the stories from a grandparent about the origins and history of pieces in the family's collection.

In any case, eastern Baltimore County is rife with train gardens, with three differently themed but equally popular displays offered each year. They are designed and built each year by prominent community organizations - one that fights fires and provides emergency medical service and two that are dedicated to preserving history. And there's plenty of time to visit all of them.

Martinville Train Garden

As the name suggests, Martinville is at the Glenn L. Martin Maryland Aviation Museum in Middle River.

The fourth annual Martinville Christmas Train garden at Martin State Airport, 701 Wilson Point Road, is open through Jan. 13. The holiday display of miniature planes and trains will be open 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday. Access to the train garden is included in the museum admission of \$3 for adults and \$1 for children. For more information, call 410-682-6122.

Dundalk-Patapsco Neck Historical Society and Museum

Also done by volunteers, the Dundalk-Patapsco Neck Historical Society's display was born when a volunteer's personal Christmas collection grew too big for his house.

The holiday display now consumes more than 300 square feet at the museum at 4 Center Place in Dundalk.

The 18th annual holiday train garden will be open to the public from 1 to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday and from noon to 8 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays through Jan. 7. The garden will close at 5 p.m. Dec. 24 and will be closed all day Dec. 25. The garden also includes the popular scavenger hunt that encourages visitors to find specific objects and characters in the garden.

Admission is free but donations are accepted. For more information, call the museum at 410-284-2331.

Wise Avenue VFC

The Wise Avenue Volunteer Fire Company's Christmas Train garden, which dates to 1981, is the granddaddy of the local displays. Wise Avenue volunteers were inspired to pick up the mantle when the Dundalk Fire Station closed its long-running holiday display in 1978.

The 2017 version will be open through Jan. 7, at the fire house, 214 Wise Ave. in Dundalk. The hours are noon to 9 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays and from 6 to 9 p.m. Monday through Friday. The garden will be closed Christmas Day, Dec. 25. Admission is \$1 per person; children 7 and younger will be admitted free of cost.

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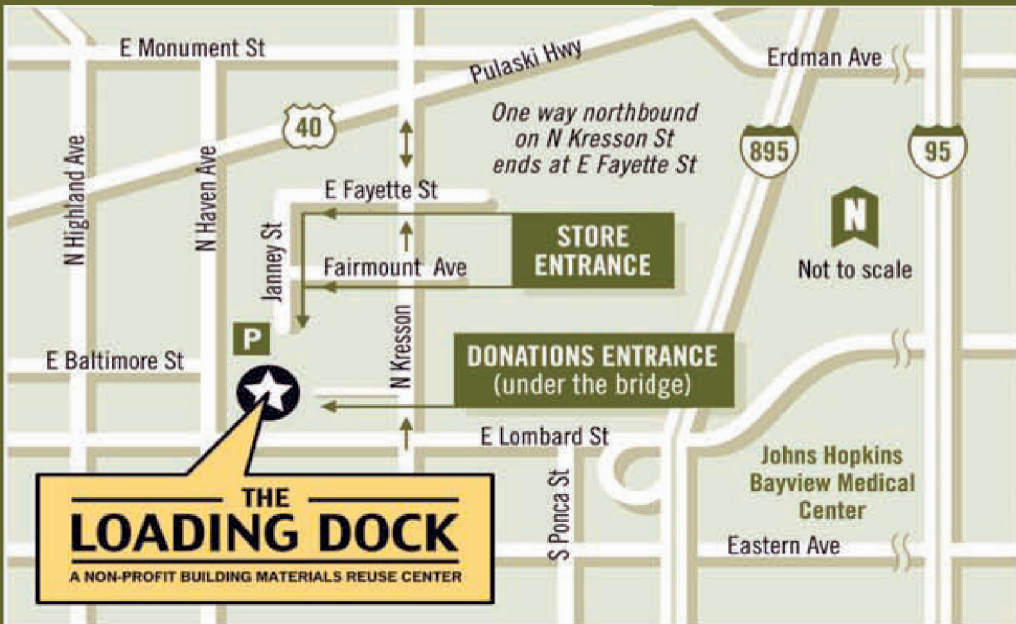
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 *BALTIMORE MAGAZINE 2017

Santa's workshop at Oak Crest does it again!

Annual project provides 400 stockings to Baltimore-area families for distribution by Salvation Army

Seventy residents of Oak Crest filled 400 stockings with toys, games, school supplies and other items for the benefit of Baltimore-area families... in just 45 minutes!

The event took place on Nov. 21, marking the 22nd year in which residents transformed the Erickson Living retirement community into Santa's workshop for a day to support the Salvation Army of Central Maryland. The stockings will be distributed by the Salvation Army at its Angel Tree Distribution Center in Baltimore next month.

Ann France, an Executive Board member of the Baltimore Area Command Women's Auxiliary, leads the project. "I love fulfilling the mission of the Salvation Army through projects such as the annual stocking stuffing," described Ms. France, a resident of Oak Crest. "Many of my fellow residents tell me it's become the unofficial start to the Christmas season. We couldn't do it without their generosity and time, as well as the coordination of the Oak Crest Resident Life Department."

More than \$4,600 was raised for the project from contributions by residents of Oak Crest, Erickson Living and the Lady Elks of Towson. The Dollar Tree store located in the Perry Hall Square Shopping Center provided invaluable support in boxing and delivering the toys to Oak Crest.

More information about supporting the mission of the Salvation Army of Central Maryland can be found at <http://salvationarmymwv.org/centralmaryland>.



On Nov. 21, residents of Oak Crest retirement community filled 400 stockings with toys, games and school supplies in just 45 minutes. The stockings will be distributed by the Salvation Army of Central Maryland for families in need in the Baltimore area. The charitable activity is a 22-year tradition at Oak Crest. Pictured are Ann France, resident of Oak Crest, and Major Becky Hogg, associate area commander for the Salvation Army Central Maryland Command.

RICHARD DAVIS

Democratic Candidate for
BALTIMORE COUNTY COUNCIL
DISTRICT 7



I am running for County Council and will represent the Edgepoint community. I will provide a written petition against the (PUD) application for planned development that has been submitted to Councilman Todd Crandell. They want to build 300 plus residential units at this location. The community does not want the wildlife and trees to be destroyed or have to relocate. It will also cause overcrowding and more traffic in the community. The people of the community have voiced their concerns with a written petition.

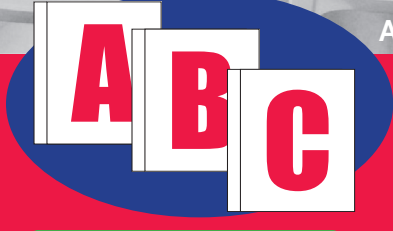
A meeting will be held at the Sparrows Point Country Club on December 5.

I want to be the voice of the people!

**Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year to Everyone!**

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