

Life in the Valley

THE ULTIMATE MID-VALLEY HOLIDAY EVENTS GUIDE

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Happy holidays!

There's only one month remaining in the decade and so much to do in the Mid-Valley before 2019 is over. This ultimate guide to holiday events happening through December is filled with theater, tree lighting ceremonies, festivals, markets, parades and so, so many lights.

Make sure to grab a Sharpie and mark these festivities on the calendar:

Events with lights

Christmas in the Garden: Based on a traditional German Christmas Market, the 7th annual event returns to Silverton, with more than one million lights, ice skating, vendor shopping, festive music, photos with Santa and other activities, 5 to 9 p.m. Nov. 29 through Jan. 5 (closed Dec. 2, 3, 9, 24 and 25), Oregon Garden Resort, 895 W Main St., Silverton. Ticket prices vary, season passes available. christmasinthegarden.com or 503-874-2539.

Holidays at the Hangar: Indoor Winter Lights Festival: The first annual indoor winter lights festival featuring miles of lights decorated on Museum exhibits and aircraft, Santa, activities, food and drink, storytelling and more, 5 to 9 p.m. Nov. 30, Dec. 6-7, 13-14, 20-23, 27 and Dec. 29 through Jan. 1, Evergreen Aviation & Space Museum, 500 NE Captain Michael King Smith Way, McMinnville. \$6 for ages 17 and older, \$4 for museum members and \$3 for ages 3-16. evergreenmuseum.org.

Parade of Lights: This parade hosted by the Independence Downtown Association will feature lit parade floats, animals and vehicles, 5:30 to 6 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 7, downtown Independence. Free. fb.com/2407228006215786.

Holiday Lights Parade: The Keizer Chamber of Commerce's annual parade featuring lighted entries from local businesses, fire districts, civic groups, car clubs and marching bands, 7 to 9 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 14, River Road from Lockhaven to Glynbrook, Keizer. Free. cm.keizerchamber.com.

Keizer Miracle of Lights Display: Check out the houses in the Gubser Neighborhood decorated for the holidays and benefit Marion Polk Food Share, 6 to 10 p.m. each night, Dec. 6-26, entrance is north on 14th from Lockhaven, Keizer (follow the event signs). Non-perishable food and cash donations will be accepted at the tent on Mistwood Drive. facebook.com/MiracleofChristmas

Magic at the Mill: Celebrate the holidays with thousands of lights, children's activities, heritage tours, and blacksmith and textile arts demonstrations, 5:30 to 8 p.m. each night, Dec. 19-23, Willamette Heritage Center, 1313 Mill St. SE #200. \$8 for adults, \$5 for ages 3-17 and free for ages younger than 3 and WHC members. willametteheritage.org.

Tree lighting events

Santa's Parade and Tree Lighting Ceremony: Features a tree lighting, holiday parade, Santa, caroling, hot chocolate and local businesses open for shopping, 4:30 to 7 p.m. Friday, Nov. 29, McMinnville Downtown Association, 105 NE 3rd St. Free. fb.com/589053005171944.

Mayor's Tree Lighting: Featuring a tree lighting and Santa's Workshop at the Woodburn Public Library (4 p.m.) and a holiday bazaar from 4 to 8 p.m. at Metropolis, 347 N Front St., 5:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 1, Downtown Plaza, located on 1st Street between Garfield and Hayes, Woodburn. Free. woodburn-or.gov.

Downtown Twice Around Christmas Parade and Community Tree Lighting Ceremony: Featuring a tree lighting and a parade including the Albany Trolley, Horse Drawn Wagon, community groups, schools, businesses and Santa riding on Albany's Antique Fire Truck, 5 to 10 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 1, downtown Albany. Free. albanyvisitors.com.

Tree Lighting Ceremony: Featuring a musical performance followed by the tree lighting ceremony, a visit from Santa and complimentary refreshments, begins at 5 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 3, Oregon State Capitol rotunda, 900 Court St. NE. Free. oregoncapitol.com.

Holiday Tree Lighting: Featuring a tree lighting, Mid-Valley Christian Academy Choir, carols, Santa being escorted by the Keizer Fire Department and a drawing for ages 12 and younger where two names will be drawn and



Rylee O'Roke sleeps in Santa's arms at the Tree Lighting Celebration in 2017. MOLLY J. SMITH/STATESMAN JOURNAL



Mackenzie Gray and boyfriend Michael Guerrero take a selfie during Christmas in the Garden. MICHAELA ROMÁN/STATESMAN JOURNAL

asked to join Santa in flipping the switch that lights the tree, 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 3, Walery Plaza, corner of Cherry Avenue and River Road. Free. keizerchamber.com.

Star Trees Lighting and Holiday Celebration: Featuring the lighting of the historic star trees, a make-your-own S'mores bar, coat and clothing donations, hot cocoa and cookies followed by a holiday concert in Smith Auditorium featuring the University Wind Ensemble, University Chamber Orchestra and Jazz Collective, Star Tree Lighting 6:30 p.m. and concert 7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 4, Willamette University, 900 State St. Free. willamette.edu.

24th Annual Riverfront Park Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony: Featuring a tree lighting, a visit from Santa, complimentary hot chocolate and cookies, reindeer, letter to Santa station, live music from the North Salem High School Choir, crafts, scavenger hunt and visits from the Salem Fire Department and Salem's Park Ranger, 6 p.m. Friday, Dec. 6, Riverfront Park, 200 Water St. NE. Free. <http://bit.ly/37mkUBe> or 503-588-6211.

Silverton Tree Lighting: Featuring a tree lighting, music, hot chocolate and Santa arriving to light the tree on a Silverton fire truck, 6 to 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 6, Town Square Park, 111 W Main St., Silverton. Free. business.silvertonchamber.org.

52nd Annual Holiday Tree Lighting: Featuring a tree lighting featuring various student groups, local businesses and organizations followed by cookie bake-off contest, arts and crafts, a Toys for Tots donation site and holiday pictures in the Werner University Center; plus a parade, starts at 6 p.m. Friday, Dec. 6, Western Oregon University, 345 Monmouth Avenue N, Monmouth. Free. wou.edu.

Christmas in the Country and Light Parade: Featuring "A Candy Land Christmas" parade, tree lighting and the Sublimity Fire District will give out candy canes with arts and crafts for children, 6 to 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 7, parade begins at Sublimity Middle School, 376 E Main St., tree lighting at City Hall, 245 NW Johnson St. Free. business.staytonsublimitychamber.org.

Miracle on Main Street: Featuring a tree lighting, a holiday bazaar at the Dallas Events Center, downtown businesses storefront decorating contest, Mr and Mrs. Claus at the Courthouse lawn, complimentary hot chocolate and cookies, music and a business lighting, holiday bazaar 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Mr. and Mrs. Claus 3 to 6 p.m., tree lighting 6 p.m. and business lighting 6:15 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 7, downtown Dallas. Free.

Mt. Angel: Featuring a parade and

Santa lighting the "Tree Of Trades" downtown and handing out treats in the gazebo, parade begins at 5 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 7, Mt. Angel Festhalle, 500 Wilco Highway, Mt. Angel. Free. This event is part of the Hazelnut Fest and German Holiday Market.

Christmas in the Park: Featuring a tree lighting, photos with Santa, free refreshments, hayrides, raffles and music, 4 to 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 14, Porter-Boone Park, 1105 Main St., Aumsville. Free. fb.com/2528842970566397.

Holiday theater productions

"Dashing Through the Snow": It's four days before Christmas at the Snowflake Inn in the tiny town of Tinsel, Texas. Innkeeper Trina has more than she can handle coping with her eccentric, nuttier-than-a-fruitcake guests who include Mrs. Claus and one of Santa's elves, a troupe of pompous B-level actors, a feuding family and a wacky wedding party, Nov. 29 through Dec. 21, Pentacle Theatre, 324 52nd Avenue NW. \$24-29. Tickets at 145 Liberty St. NE, 503-485-4300 or tickets.pentacletheatre.org.

"Twas the Night Before Christmas": The wild holiday adventures of a mouse, an elf, and a spunky little girl who just won't take no for an answer, on their quest to find out why Santa missed their house last year, Nov. 29 through Dec. 22, Enlightened Theatrics at Salem's Historic Grand, 187 High St. NE. \$15-30; \$10 for preview nights, free for students with Thespian cards. enlightenedtheatrics.org.

"And the Snow Falls": In 1938 London, the employees of a cosmetics shop are busy with before Christmas sales, but things are not going well, 7 p.m. Friday, 2 and 7 p.m. Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 6-8 and 13-15, The Spotlight, 193 N 3rd St., Stayton. \$8-15. facebook.com/aumsvillecommunitytheatre.

"Curiously Wonderful Christmas Stories": Theatre 33 presents an evening of storytelling, Christmas cheer and holiday traditions from around the world as Tom, Liz, Jenn, and Cameron rollick through curiously wonderful stories, 7 p.m. Dec. 13-14 and 19-20; 2 p.m. Dec. 14-15, M. Lee Pelton Playhouse, Willamette University, 900 State St. \$12-15. brownpapertickets.com/event/4441589.

"A Christmas Story — The Musical": All the iconic scenes from the movie are here, joined by a delightfully versatile score that ranges from gentle ballads to show-stopping full-ensemble numbers, 7:30 p.m. Dec. 19-20 and 27-28 and 2 p.m. Dec. 21-22 and 29, Elsinore Theatre, 170 High St. SE. \$29-59. 503-375-3574 or elsinoretheatre.com.

More things to do

Holiday Film Series: Two screenings at 2 and 7 p.m. at the Elsinore Theatre, 170 High St. SE. \$6 per person per event.

■ "Scrooged" (1988) Monday, Dec. 2

■ "The Santa Clause" (1994) Wednesday, Dec. 4

■ "Elf" (2003) Monday, Dec. 9

Christmas With the Keizer Community Band Concert: The 40 member Keizer Community band will perform a family-friendly concert featuring carols, holiday favorites and a special sing-along finale, 7 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 4, Community Center, 930 Chemawa Road N, Keizer. Free. kcband.org.

Holidays at the Capitol: Listen to visiting choirs from all over the state and take in the Capitol's holiday decor, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Saturday, Dec. 4-24, Oregon State Capitol, 900 Court St. NE. Free. oregoncapitol.com.

Christmas in Hudson Hall: The Willamette University Music Department will perform a noncommercial presentation of the historical roots of the Christmas season in the ornately decorated Hudson Hall, 7:30 p.m. Thursday and Friday, Dec. 5-6, Willamette University, 900 State St. \$10 for adults, \$8 for children and students w/ID. Tickets at willamette.edu.

Winter Family Fest: Enjoy festive activities including face painting, live music, "a real snow experience," live ice sculpting, an activities passport and a visit from Elsa and Olaf of "Frozen," 3 to 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 7, Riverview Park, 50 C St, Independence. Free for everything. fb.com/2532451167039197.

Hazelnut Fest and German Holiday Market: A Kristkindle Market with authentic German and regional arts and crafts, Oregon wineries and breweries and foods that feature Hazelnuts, 4 to 8 p.m. Friday and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 6-8, Mt. Angel Festhalle, 500 Wilco Highway, Mt. Angel. Free admission. hazelnutfest.org.

Deepwood Holiday Market: Shop for holiday decorations, handmade soaps, wreaths, chocolates, wood-turned pens, vintage items and more, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 7-8, Deepwood Museum & Gardens, 1116 Mission St. SE. Free admission. www.DeepwoodMuseum.org or 503-363-1825.

Salem Holiday Market: Shop from local vendors and makers selling handmade, handcrafted or homegrown items, 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 13-15, Oregon State Fair and Exposition Center, 2330 17th St. NE. \$8 admission, \$15 for couples on Friday; \$4 admission Saturday and Sunday with discounted tickets; discounted tickets available in advance or at the event with donation, coupon, etc. salemcommunitymarkets.com.

Keizer Jingle Dash: Dress up in Santa suits, reindeer antlers or lights while you run, walk or stroll down River Road as spectators for the Keizer Holiday Lights Parade prepare for the light show to begin, 6 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 14, starts and finishes at the Keizer Chamber of Commerce, 418 River Road N, Keizer. \$20-30. <https://bit.ly/2NUct8M>.

Eugene Ballet's Nutcracker: Each performance features hundreds of aspiring young dancers joining the Company on stage, while the Sugar Plum Fairy transports all to the Snow Kingdom and the Land of the Sweets, 3 and 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 14, Elsinore Theatre, 170 High St. SE. \$17-47. elsinoretheatre.com.

Festival Chorale Oregon: Sing We Now of Christmas: Enjoy traditional carols performed by the festival carolers with a select ensemble dressed in Victorian costume, 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 15, Elsinore Theatre, 170 High St. SE. \$10. elsinoretheatre.com.

Salem Tuba Holiday: An annual tradition featuring musicians from all over the Northwest playing conical bore instruments and performing an arrangement of popular Christmas carols and holiday songs, noon Tuesday, Dec. 24, Elsinore Theatre, 170 High St. SE. \$10. elsinoretheatre.com.

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Interested in telling at one of the upcoming Salem Storytellers Project events? Submit your story: www.storytellersproject.com/tell.