

Light Up Lakewood

A Beginner's Guide To Attending Light Up Lakewood

by Matt Bixenstine

Greetings, first-time Light Up Lakewood attendee. You're in for a real treat.

Don't be surprised if your enthusiasm upon reaching Detroit Avenue nears Buddy The Elf levels. Light Up Lakewood – a fun-filled fixture within Lakewood's downtown district each December for the last decade – represents one of the preeminent holiday events in Northeast Ohio. If it's not the most wonderful time of the year, it comes awfully close.

But before you join 25,000 of your closest friends at LakewoodAlive's dazzling community festival on Dec. 3, there are some things you should know. Consider this cheat sheet a gift to be unwrapped prior to the first Saturday in December. Here's your beginner's guide to attending Light Up Lakewood 2016.

Who to Bring

Light Up Lakewood is family-friendly and open to everyone – all kids from 1 to 92 (and older, for that matter). So bring your spouse, grandparent, child, sibling, uncle, friend, insurance agent, mail carrier and cousin twice removed. Since Light Up Lakewood has a large regional draw, it's worthwhile to invite your out-of-town friends to come experience the City of Lakewood and this festive occasion.

Cost

Free to attend!

Arrival Time

So much merriment to spread, so little time. Light Up Lakewood represents a day-long celebration that starts with Lunch with Santa at Dewey's Pizza at 11 a.m. and doesn't end until the music stops playing at 8 p.m. Guests are welcome to attend everything or stick with the main festivities taking place between 4 and 8 p.m. Visit LightUpLakewood.com ahead of time to plan which events you wish to attend.

Parking

With thousands of Light Up Lakewood attendees anticipated, parking spots near Downtown Lakewood will be in high-demand. Thankfully, Lakewood has numerous side streets in close proximity offering free, convenient street parking. Free parking will also be available at the INA Building's parking garage accessible from Warren Road. It's important to note that

motorized traffic on Detroit Avenue between Lakeland and Marlowe will be closed on Dec. 3 starting at 3 p.m. Provided the weather cooperates, walking or biking to Light Up Lakewood also represent fine transportation options.

Staying Warm

If Light Up Lakewood 2016 proves to be wintry, there are various strategies at your disposal for staying warm as you partake in the spirit of the season. Head indoors for Vendor Village at the Lakewood Masonic Temple, or take in a performance at Barton Senior Center or Lakewood Public Library. For those who opt to stay outdoors, several hot chocolate vending stands will be available, as well as a warming station at Lakewood Presbyterian Church.

Social Media

LakewoodAlive will be posting to its Facebook, Twitter and Instagram accounts throughout the duration of Light Up Lakewood. Guests are encouraged to use hashtag #LightUpLakewood for their own social media. Don't be afraid to go live on Facebook during the Holiday Parade, Lighting Ceremony and Fireworks Show.

Food

Be sure to bring your appetite with you to Light Up Lakewood. The many terrific restaurants and eateries contained within the event footprint will be open for business throughout the festivities. Additionally, a collection of food trucks will be on-site along Detroit Avenue.

Entertainment

There's truly something for everyone at Light Up Lakewood 2016. The main schedule of events, as well as entertainment and activity options, are listed below, but please visit LightUpLakewood.com for more detailed information, including schedules for performances taking place at Barton Senior Center and Lakewood Public Library.

Other Entertainment/Activities:

Cleveland Metroparks NatureTracks DJ
Ice Carvings
Live Huskies
Face Cut-Out Photos
Face Painting
Green Screen Photo Booth
Ice Bowling
Kids Games
Life-Sized Games
Ohio Mobile Gaming Truck

Schedule of Events

11 a.m. - 1 p.m. – Lunch with Santa at Dewey's Pizza
11:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. – Ongoing performances at Barton Center
3 p.m. - King and Queen Ceremony at Plantation Home
4 p.m. - Festival Kickoff with Vendor Village & Food Court opening
5 p.m. - Start of Parade at Manor Park and Detroit Avenue
5:30 - 8:30 p.m. – Santa visits Lakewood Public Library
5:30 - 8 p.m. – Ongoing performances at Lakewood Public Library
6 - 6:30 and 7 - 8 p.m. – Performance by THE SELLOUTS
6:30 pm – Lighting Ceremony at Main Stage at City Center Park
6:45 pm – Fireworks Show

Pedi Cab Rides

Watching the Parade

The Holiday Parade will step off from Manor Park at 5 p.m. and proceed west on Detroit Avenue, ending in front of Lakewood Public Library. It's recommended to find your parade-viewing spot early and to consider bringing a lawn chair if you think you'll be more comfortable sitting down. Many merchant window-fronts on Detroit Avenue also provide prime indoor vantage points.

Watching the Lighting Ceremony and Fireworks Show

The Lighting Ceremony represents one of the highlights of Light Up Lakewood, and it's taking place at a new location this year. The Main Stage serving as the site of the Lighting Ceremony will be at City Center Park in front of the Marc's Shopping Plaza. Arrive there early to secure that photo-worthy view. Many of the best vantage points for

viewing the Fireworks Show are also located within this general vicinity, and it's recommended to take in this culmination to Light Up Lakewood from in front of City Center Park, Lion & Blue or Rozi's Wine House.

For more information regarding Light Up Lakewood 2016, please visit LightUpLakewood.com.

Light Up Lakewood is generously supported by the following sponsors: First Federal Lakewood, City of Lakewood, Lakewood City Center, Convey360, Discount Drug Mart, Lakewood Anglican Church, Plantation Home, Roundstone Insurance, The University of Akron Lakewood, Barton Senior Center, Dewey's Pizza, IMCD US, Lakewood Hardware, Lakewood Masonic Temple, Lakewood Public Library, Lakewood Catholic Academy, Beck Center for the Arts, Burgers 2 Beer Lakewood, Dollar Bank and Modelo Dental Care.

Celebrate
Light Up Lakewood 2016
Presented by LakewoodAlive
Saturday, December 3

FESTIVAL 4-8 PM PARADE BEGINS 5 PM
LIGHTING CEREMONY AT
CITY CENTER PARK 6:30 PM
FIREWORKS SHOW TO FOLLOW

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Light Up Lakewood: Saturday

“Christmas Secret”

by Bill Knittel

Lakewood Poet Laureate

I know a Christmas Secret,
I think all of you should know,
And being the nice guy that I am,
This secret, I'm going to show;

It's all about “Light Up Lakewood”,
And why it shows up every year,
Plus all the work that makes it great,
That brings this Christmas cheer;

First of all, LakewoodAlive,
They get the bestest volunteers,
Friends, neighbors, Lakewood merchants,
They have helped, all these years;

They put their heads together,
To work and figure out a plan,
For entertainment, games, and such,
Yes, they work hand in hand;

There's lunch with Santa,
And hundreds of holiday lights,
With fun songs, from holiday Christmas carolers,
That enhance all the Christmas sights;

Food trucks with goodies and hot chocolate,
Ice carvings that will amaze,
Smiling parents with excited children,
That will keep you in a Christmas daze;

Next you'll want to line up,
For a treat that Santa made,
And you'll want to shout and cheer for them,
At their famous Christmas parade;

Then it's on to Vendor Village,
Inside historic Masonic Temple and it's treats,
Then Lakewood Public Library for Santa,
Where he, meets and greets;

But one of the best gifts for you and I,
Is at Lakewood City Park, as we look up at the sky,
You will see our great Christmas fireworks display,
A wonderful ending for an amazing special day;

Then you will know the Christmas Secret,
For all this day was done for love,
From all of us to all of you,
And from the man upstairs above;

P.S.

The Christmas Secret is “Love”,
And Love starts with the letter L,
Also, Lakewood starts with the letter L,
So we guarantee you'll have one “L” of a good time,

At---Light Up Lakewood!

Sights & Sounds

- 1 Cleveland Metroparks NatureTracks
- 2 DJ
- 3 Ice Carvings (4)
- 4 LakewoodAlive Tent
- 5 Lakewood Chamber of Commerce
- 6 Live Huskies
- 7 King and Queen afternoon ceremony

Vendor Village

- 8 Face Cut-Out
- 9 Face Painting
- 10 Green Screen
- 11 Ice Bowling
- 12 Kids Games
- 13 Life Size Game
- 14 Ohio Mobile G
- 15 Pedi Cab Ride
- 16 Vendor Village
- 17 Warming Stat

Holiday Book Sale At LPL On December 3

by Genevieve Jaskulski

It's time for our famous bag of books sale! Saturday, December 3 is the Bag Sale starting at 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the Main Library Friends Book Sale Room located in the basement. The price is just \$3 a bag! Our sale this time around is just stuffed to the brim with amazing finds. It's the perfect chance to get ready for the cold winter months with tons of great reading material for such a bargain!

The preview sale starts as usual on Thursday from 6 to 9 p.m. This is the last chance to sign up and become a Friend of the Library for the price of two dollars, starting in January the price will be three dollars for an individual membership.

The membership allows you early access to the book sale on the night of the preview sale! This upcoming preview sale is not a 'Bag sale', only the main sale is.

So, you get first dibs on all the great stuff we have available. If you are already a member, look out for the new postcards,

they have a delightful Holiday theme.

One of the reasons we all love this time of year so much is because there are so many opportunities to let your loved ones know how much you care. It's the perfect time to put aside our differences and embrace that we are all human and that every single one of us needs to be loved and made to feel important. This season at the Lakewood Public Library, our Friends of the Library have truly turned out something amazing as they always do.

On the tirelessly, hardworking Friends volunteer staff we have people who have spent quite some time putting together beautifully homemade gift baskets, they are pulling together their cumulative experience to create some unique and one of a kind Holiday themed baskets. These baskets promise to be a great gift, for anyone in your life; with a full assortment of things, hand selected by our talented volunteers.

Every year we are granted a little bit

Monday, December 3rd, 2016

KEY
 P Parking
 Restrooms
 Lost Kid / First Aid (at LakewoodAlive #4)

Activities
 Photos
 Photo Booth
 Games
 Gaming Truck
 Games (2)
 (Indoors, please)
 (4-8:00PM)

Food Trucks
 Buckeye Concessions
 Fired Up Taco Truck
 Happy Hour Kettle Corn
 The Manna Truck
 Niko's Food Truck
 Proper Pig Smokehouse BBQ Truck
 River Dog Cafe Food Truck
 Sauced Mobile Wood Fired Pizza
 The Sweet Spot

HC Hot Chocolate (2)

Parade on Detroit Avenue begins at 5:00PM, from Manor Park to Arthur.

Lighting ceremony on Main Stage in Lakewood City Center Park at 6:30PM. Fireworks show to follow.

Motorized traffic on Detroit is closed between Lakeland and Marlowe, starting at 3:00PM

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December 3rd

of time to let people know; "you mean so much to me" and we as your local Library are no exception, there is so much appre-

ciation that we hold for our patrons who utilize our services; it is all of you who make us so relevant in our community.

Thank you so much for all that you do, and happy Holidays everyone.

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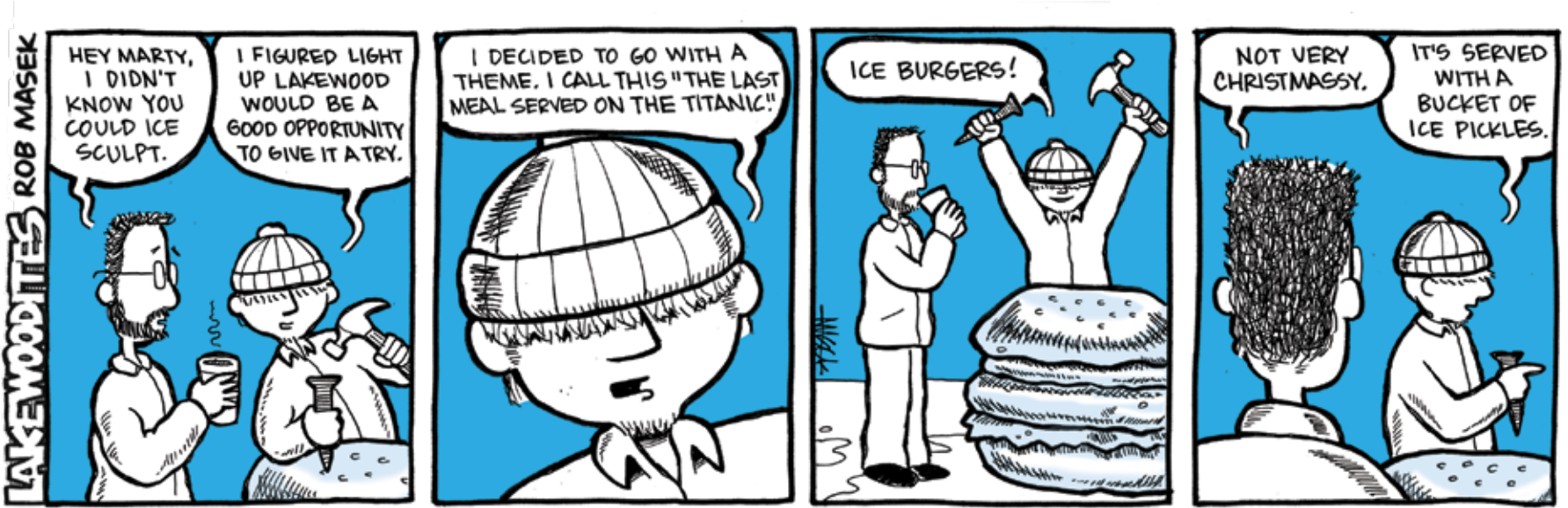
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