

# 2022 Holiday Traditions



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# Happy Holidays

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# Tour Romeo homes decked out for Christmas

**BY STACY SOBOTKA**

The Romeo Historical Society's 2022 Christmas Home Tour is taking place on 1-7 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 3.

Historical society member Linda St. Laurent said the tours have been enjoyed by Romeo residents for many years.

"It started off as a fall tour, then a spring tour, then spring and fall, and now we do just Christmas," she said.

The tour is completely self-guided.

As you meander the streets in the Village of Romeo, decked in all its Christmas finery, it is amazing to think the span of time these beautiful homes represent, the stories they tell

and the memories they hold.

This year's homes represent five distinct architectures — Greek Revival, Queen Anne, Colonial Revival, Victorian Gothic and Late Greek Revival.

These homes range from circa 1845 to 1893 and are all located within the historic Village of Romeo.

"They have either not been on tour before or it has been well over 10 years since they were last on Christmas Home Tour," St. Laurent said.

Besides St. Laurent, Gabrielle Lawson and Andrea St. Laurent make the decisions on what homes to

**(Continued on page 4)**



These photos are homes featured in the Romeo Historical Society's 2021 Christmas Home Tour. This year features a new set of historic homes decorated for the holidays. (Photo courtesy Romeo Historical Society)

(Continued from page 3)

feature each year.

"We've always tried to pick houses that haven't been on the tour before and on top of that, we also make sure that we have five distinct different types of architecture," Linda St. Laurent said.

A popular stop during the tour is the Bancroft-Stranahan Home Museum on Church Street trimmed head to toe in its Christmas best. Dale and Linda Jarosz will perform Christmas carols, and this year's featured exhibit is "Christmas Without Electricity."

Past and current Romeo Historical Society home ornaments will also be available to purchase at the museum.

"The Clyde Craig Blacksmith Museum will be open and our very own smithy, Stu Walters, will be welcoming guests and sharing his knowledge of this lost art as well as giving

demonstrations," said St. Laurent.

St. Laurent also said that children should keep an eye out for Mrs. Claus, who will be near the blacksmith shop right next to an antique 1890 sleigh. Perhaps it might be Santa Claus' own sleigh? "Thanks to Jerry and Marilyn Zaetta for loaning the sleigh to the Clauses for this trip," she said.

Visitors might even see Mrs. Claus strolling through out the village, as the caroler's music fills the air. The talented singers are from All The Worlds a Stage, an award-winning 501(c)(3) non-profit theater arts education organization based in Romeo. From a partnership with the Stafford Festival to participation with Disney's Performing Arts, ATWAS provides programs that contribute to an artistic, cultural, educational and social community revitalization.

This year the Romeo Historical Society will be sharing an active exhibit by The Great Lakes Rug Hooking Guild.

An American folk art, rug hooking began in Maine, New Hampshire and the Canadian Maritime Provinces.

By the end of the 19th century, hand-hooked rugs were being made from coast to coast. The craft is now making a revival and interest is wide-spread.

Rug hooking is a form of fiber art using mostly new and recycled narrow wool strips which are hooked onto burlap, linen and other backing. Traditional, contemporary, realistic, and primitive designs can be from patterns or originals. The wool is often hand-dyed to suit the design.

Demonstrations will be ongoing throughout the day in one of our featured homes on tour by members of the guild, who will also be available



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(Photo courtesy Romeo Historical Society)

to answer questions.

The Romeo Indian Village Questers will be hosting their annual Santa's Sweet Shop located at 163 Church Street.

Donations towards this fundraiser goes to the historic preservation, restoration and education with in the Village of Romeo.

“This year Santa made sure that some of the delicious offerings will be “Gluten Free” so everyone can enjoy,” St. Laurent said. “We are also selling vintage and antique cookie cutters.”

The cookie cutter sale is a fundraiser within a fundraiser, and they will be sold via donations.

St. Laurent and her committee are grateful for the overwhelming support of local merchants and services in the village.

“Our special thanks to Main’s Treat Coffeehouse, Romeo Family Restaurant, MJC Market Place, The Cottage, All Around The House Interiors, Town Hall Antiques, Four Corners Diner, Romeo Indian Village Questers, Alley Catz Boutique Pop Up Markets, Old World Nouveau,

Kezar and Graubner Libraries, Keller and Associates Real Estate LLC., Greater Romeo-Washington Chamber of Commerce, Siracoff & Associates, Starkweather Art Center, Romeo DDA and Tarr Financial,” she said.

Ticket are \$25, with only cash or checks accepted. They are available at the following locations:

- MJC Marketplace, 218 North Main Street
- Romeo Family Restaurant, 66020 Van Dyke Avenue
- Town Hall Antiques, 205 North Main Street
- Main’s Treat Coffeehouse, 215 North Main Street
- Old World Nouveau, 164 South Main Street
- Romeo Graubner Library, 65821 Van Dyke Avenue
- Romeo Kezar Library, 107 Church Street

Updates to the tour will be posted at the Romeo Historical Society’s Christmas Home Tour Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/Romeo-Historical-Society-Christmas-Home-Tour-103659677660881> 🎄

# Rochester Holiday Home Tour

## Sunday, Dec. 11

One of Rochester's oldest holiday attractions — The Friends of the Rochester Hills Library's Holiday Home Tour — is back.

Scheduled for 12-5 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 11, this year's showcase of five area homes decorated in high style for the holidays for all to visit and see, marks a return after being cancelled in 2020 and 2021 due to COVID-19.

One more thing to take special note of: The tour's popular Gift Boutique will be hosted at a sixth stop, Rochester Hills' Van Hoosen Museum Dairy Barn.

Holiday items of all sorts will help you fill out holiday gift lists; cider and donut refreshments will be available at the barn for each person with a Holiday Home Tour ticket.

Holiday Home Tour-goers will also get free admission to the

annual model train display in the Van Hoosen complex.

"We are very grateful to the homeowners who offered to keep this wonderful event alive for another year," said Friends President Ron Meegan. "Many local businesses and individuals have donated money to the Holiday Home Tour to help underwrite the cost of the event. The tour presents some truly singular design options and ideas and shouldn't be missed by anyone who enjoys this time of the year."

Docents will be at each location to guide visitors through and answer questions.

Helpers will direct visitors to parking. Tickets are \$25 per person.

Tickets, which include a map to the tour homes and the boutique, can be purchased at:

- The Friends Store inside the Rochester Hills Library lobby, 500 Olde Town, Rochester.
- Wild Birds Unlimited, 3032 Walton Boulevard, Rochester Hills.
- Werner's Hallmark, Country Creek Commons, 4866 North Adams Road, Oakland Township.
- Dillman and Upton, 607 Woodward Street, Rochester.
- Lytle Pharmacy, 340 South Main Street, Rochester.

Tickets are also available online via the Friends link at the bottom of [rhpl.org](http://rhpl.org).

Here are descriptions of the stops:

### STOP A

Welcome to Tree City! The hosts



Select Rochester area homes will be open to be toured during the annual Holiday Home Tour. (Submitted photo)

decorate 12 trees with the main one a rotating, 7 ½ foot tall model. Like to see snowmen? Expect to glimpse at least one in just about every room of the house. Like Christmas village displays? The parlor features a playful Christmas Tree Lane theme. The dining room is home to a traditional Dickens Christmas village and a woodland themed tree. Want something current? Look for the themed Star Wars tree with the musical Death Star tree topper!

### STOP B

This house salutes wander lust with a main tree filled with souvenir items from their vacations. And because runners live here, there's a tree festooned with their medals from their various running exploits. And then there's their collection of Rochester's downtown store replicas in a Christmas village. "I made sure to collect them all," the host notes. And on the fireplace mantel, enjoy the collection of bears, collected and made in Tennessee.

### STOP C

Just take the word of this homeowner's teenaged niece who told her aunt "I love coming to your home at Christmas. It feels so magical and I feel so special." Appreciate a well-tinsel tree? Take in the 9-foot Olde World style tree with ornament from the family collection with tinsel lovingly strung one strand at a time. In the kitchen, enjoy a tree that features bird ornaments, many of birds that actually can be seen outside the home's windows.

### STOP D

A connoisseur of Waterford Crystal? This is the stop for you. Our host has dressed up the home's main tree — one of six — with an exquisite Waterford ornament collection And all that crystal is in a Mocerri custom-designed home which once was the builder's personal residence. This

design award-winning abode has been featured in several local magazines. Why do they decorate? It's "a way to keep the kids (now out of college and living out-of-town) coming back to visit."

### STOP E

Listen to the owner's own words of her highlights: "I have a copy of my father's storyboards from the Coca-Cola Christmas commercial he created as the senior art director at Ross Roy years ago. It means so much to me because we watched him create this in his studio and as kids we couldn't wait to see his drawings come to life on the screen! ... The main tree is 10 feet tall. Although it may look like I bought it all to match, most of the ornaments were gifts from special friends and family. I love red! So it's a very red tree with some gold and fur too ... In the piano room I have all of my musical ornaments that have been given to me over the years ... even one from my first piano teacher!"

### STOP F

The tour's popular Gift Boutique will be hosted at Rochester Hills' Van Hoosen Museum Dairy Barn. Vendors of holiday items of all sorts will help you fill out holiday gift lists; cider and donut refreshments will be available at the barn for each person with a HHT ticket. And as one more perk, Holiday Home Tour-goers will also get free admission to the site's annual model train display. 🎄

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# *Rochester Gifts and Green Market in a new location*

The Rochester Garden Club's annual Christmas Gifts and Green Market has moved to a new location this year.

The 76-year tradition continues on Dec. 1, 2 and 3 at Abiding Presence Lutheran Church, 1550 Walton Boulevard, just west of Livernois Road.

Shoppers will find displays of affordable fresh greens perfect for gracing your home inside and out, fresh and permanent table arrangements that are hand made by the club's talented designers, holiday cookies and gourmet items, herbal concoctions and one-of-a-kind handmade gifts.

"Our club members volunteer their time and talents to create these beautiful arrangements, delectable treats and handmade gifts," said Jenny Van Dusen, co-chair of the

event. "We are able to price our items reasonably and still raise funds for our community."

Knowledgeable club members will be on hand to help customers select just what they need.

The event begins with the opening gala on Thursday evening, Dec. 1 between 5 p.m. and 8 p.m.

For a \$5 entrance fee, shoppers can enjoy a lovely evening, sampling snacks while getting ready for the holidays.

Market Days are held 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Friday, Dec. 2 and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 3 with a \$2.00 entrance fee.

"As our regular customers know, shopping at the Gifts and Greens Market means supporting the greater Rochester area," Van Dusen said.



**Shoppers Carol DeLater and Cathy Ford browse the gifts and greens available at the Rochester Garden Club's prior year events. (Submitted photo)**

All proceeds are returned to the community in the areas of conservation, education, scholarships, horticulture therapy, and civic improvement.

The club supports the Children's Garden at Van Hoosen Farm, college scholarships, summer camp scholarships in partnership with 4-H, annual flower plantings at parks and public spaces, Seven Ponds Nature Center, The Wildflower Association

of Michigan, Clinton River Watershed Council, and many other causes.

The Rochester Garden Club, a branch of the Woman's National Farm and Garden Association, has received civic recognition over the years for its contributions to the quality of life in our community. New members are welcome.

Visit [RochesterGardenClub.org](http://RochesterGardenClub.org) or their Facebook page for more details about the event. 🎄

Displays show the multitude of decorations for sale at the prior year's event. (Submitted photo)



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# *Kris Kringle Market returns to downtown Rochester*

Kris Kringle Market returns to downtown Rochester for its 15th year.

The open-air street market will be 4-10 p.m., Friday, Dec. 2 and 12-10 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 3 on West Fourth Street between Main and Walnut streets and will coincide with The Big, Bright Light Show.

The Kris Kringle Market is inspired by the 700-year-old tradition of the European Christmas markets.

Visitors can enjoy food, shopping and live entertainment.

Offerings include hand-crafted gifts, specialty foods, gift wrapping and baked goods.

This year's new vendors which include Hcubed Candles, Mel's Toffee and, All in Good Taste CO.

Returning vendors include Nitsche's Meats and Deli, The Original Strudel Factory and Uhlianuk's Specialties from the Farm.

"With one-of a kind shopping experience, festive food and drinks, musical entertainment and, great gifts for the holidays, the Kris Kringle

Market has certainly become a holiday tradition," said Taylor Knuth, Marketing Coordinator for the Rochester Downtown Development Authority. "Families join us year after year making holiday memories together. It's hard not to do with such a joyous atmosphere."

Children can enjoy a visit and photo opportunity with Santa Claus, a chance to play in child-sized gingerbread houses and warm up by the s'more station.

Food and beverage will be available in the warming tent.

Visitors can purchase a commemorative mug filled with hot-spiced wine or enjoy hand-crafted beer sponsored by the Rochester Mills Beer Co.

Proceeds from the warming tent will benefit the Rochester Area Youth Assistance (RAYA) on Friday evening and the Rochester Avon Recreation Authority (RARA) on Saturday.

For more information, visit [downtownrochestermi.com](http://downtownrochestermi.com) or contact the Rochester Downtown Development Authority office at 248-656-0060. 🎄



Shoppers browse the wares at the Kris Kringle Market on West Fourth Street in downtown Rochester. (Submitted photo)



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# Romeo's annual Christmas ornament on sale

**BY STACY SOBOTKA**

The 27th edition of the Romeo Historical Society's Christmas ornament is now available.

This year's ornament is the house at 450 North Main Street.

The current owner is Brian McGuckin, who purchased the home in August 2021. He and his German Shepherd Viktor moved in a month later.

"I've always loved Victorian architecture," he said. "I'm happy to be here. The best part about Romeo is the people."

McGuckin thanked the Romeo Historical Society for featuring his house as a Christmas ornament.

"I was very excited. It was a surprise. The incredible detail is amazing. They did a wonderful job with it. I'm very honored," he said.

Romeo Historical Society President Tim Billo said each year the society chooses a home to feature based on its history and architecture.

According to the society, the steeply pitched roofs and the arcades with the pointed decoration above the porticos make the architectural style of this year's featured home Victorian Gothic.

The bracketed hoods over the elongated windows, the chamfered pillars, multicolored exterior are characteristic of Italian architecture, according to the society.

The home was built by Ransom Odion who as early as 1872 built a home for Alden Giddings in Romeo.

In 1875 Odion received the contract to build the Romeo First Congregational Church, which was finished in 1877.

*The Romeo Observer* reported on Sept. 19, 1883 the following: "R.F. Odion has the frame of his house (at 450 N. Main) nearly all up and hopes to have the fabric wall toward completion by the time snow flies, if it doesn't fly soon."

Odion built the Charles Tackel house next door to the south in 1887.

In 1891, Odion sold his home at 450 North Main to the Harvey Mellen,



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Holiday Gift Shop

November 11th—December 23rd

Our Mission: To promote and foster the appreciation of the arts and artists and to support the preservation of the character and quality of life in the Historic Village of Romeo.



Ornaments may be purchased in downtown Romeo at Town Hall Antiques, MJC Marketplace, Four Corners Diner, the Bancroft-Stranhan Museum, and online at [romeohistoricalsociety.org](http://romeohistoricalsociety.org).

who had it repaired and renovated at a great expense, according to accounts in *The Romeo Observer*.

In 1902, M. Jay Crissman owned the home until it was sold to David Wilson in 1939.

“We are excited about this year’s ornament and want to make sure everyone has an opportunity to purchase one in time for Christmas,” Billo said. 🎄

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# Holiday Events

## THURSDAY, NOV. 24

### Thanksgiving

#### Tri-Community Thanksgiving Dinner

12 p.m. to 3 p.m., Romeo Masonic Temple, 231 North Main Street, Romeo. Come enjoy a free dinner open to all residents of Romeo, Washington, and Bruce. Volunteers will also be offering complimentary delivery for those that are unable to attend in person.

## FRIDAY, NOV. 25

### Day after Thanksgiving

State holiday.

## THURSDAY, NOV. 26

### The Holiday Tree Showdown

11 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 1 to 2 p.m., Wolcott Mill Metropark – Farm Center, 65775 Wolcott Road, Ray. Wolcott is searching for creative families to design and decorate holiday trees to make the farm festive. They will provide the trees and lights; you provide the decorations and ideas. Throughout the month of December, visitors will be encouraged to vote for their favorite tree both in-person at the farm and online via social media accounts. The top three

vote-getters will win bragging rights and a choice of complimentary admission to a future program. This program will be held entirely outdoors. For all ages. \$3 per person, children under two are free. Registration required at metroparks.com.

### Puzzle Day

1 p.m. to 3 p.m., Graubner Branch – Romeo District Library, 65821 Van Dyke, Washington. Compete and have fun in building puzzles. There will be prizes, food, and music too. Registration required at romeodistrictlibrary.org.

## SUNDAY, NOV. 27

### Washington Historical Museum

1 p.m. to 4 p.m., Washington Museum, 58230 Van Dyke, Washington. The museum is open for viewing through November. There are several rooms which include historical scouting, military, school, and local items. They are always looking for new members and volunteers to help with tours, displays, projects, and events. For more information, visit [www.washhistsoc.org](http://www.washhistsoc.org), the Greater Washington Area Historical Society Facebook Page, or call 586-786-5304 (answering machine).

### Thanksgiving Weekend Walk



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*Happy Holidays!*



2 p.m. to 4 p.m., Seven Ponds Nature Center, 3854 Crawford Road, Dryden Township. Looking for something to do with the family after the holiday feast? Enjoy a nice walk around the ponds and see how winter is approaching the nature center. Cost: \$5, \$3 for nonmembers. Register online at sevenponds.org.

#### Perspectives and Pages

3 p.m. to 4 p.m., Stony Creek Metropark Nature Center, 4300 Main Park Road, Shelby Township. Explore the natural world and human relationships to nature through a monthly book club. Read the book or listen to the audio version and join the group for a discussion. After a book talk, the group will head outdoors for an optional activity or walk. Everyone is welcome (even if you didn't quite get to the monthly book selection). Ages 18 and over. Preregister and see the book list at metroparks.com.

#### MONDAY, NOV. 28

##### Making Sleeping Mats for the Homeless

9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., Washington Activity Center, 57880 Van Dyke, Washington. Learn to sort, cut, and roll plastic grocery bags into "plarn" balls used to crochet into mats for sleeping. Supplies needed: clean plastic bags, scissors, and crochet hooks.

#### THURSDAY, DEC. 1

##### Romeo Christmas Tree Lighting and Parade

7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., Romeo Village Park, North Rawles Street and Newberry Street, Romeo. Enjoy music, entertainment, hot cocoa, treats, and more. Visit Santa and Mrs. Claus and help light the tree this holiday season.

#### FRIDAY, DEC. 2

##### Kids Night at the Nature Center

5 p.m. to 7 p.m., Stony Creek Metropark Nature Center, 4300 Main Park Road, Shelby Township. The nature center can be a fun place to explore at night. Your kids will have a blast as they meet the nature center animals, including a nocturnal opossum. They'll get a chance to explore outside along a trail, looking for tracks in the moonlight, gazing at the growing moon, and listening for owl calls and coyote howls. Everyone will warm up around our campfire and cook s'mores. Cost: \$10 per child. For ages 7-12. Preregistration required at metroparks.com.

##### Holiday Lights at the Farm

6 p.m. to 9 p.m., Wolcott Mill Metropark – Farm Center, Ray. Stroll through the farm and enjoy traditional holiday decorations and thousands of sparkling lights. Write your letter to Santa at the letter writing station, then visit with him in his workshop in the Dairy Barn. Listen to holiday music while you visit their resident animals and take a tractor drawn wagon ride around the farm fields to check out the holiday light displays. Cost: \$8 per person, under 2 is free. Preregistration is required at metroparks.com.

##### Symphonia Chorale Concert

7 p.m. to 9 p.m., St. John Lutheran Church, 246 Benjamin Street, Romeo.

##### Washington Christmas Tree Lighting

7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., Washington Township Park, 57900 Van Dyke, Washington. Enjoy music, entertainment, hot cocoa, treats, and more. Visit Santa and Mrs. Claus and help light the tree this holiday season.

#### SATURDAY, DEC. 3

##### Dungeons & Dragons

1 p.m. to 5 p.m., Addison Township Public Library, 1400 Rochester Road, Leonard. Join the group in playing this fantasy tabletop role-playing game. All experience levels welcome. Fun for the whole family. No registration required. Equipment is provided.

##### Annual Christmas Home Tour

1 p.m. to 7 p.m., Downtown Romeo, St. Clair Street and Main Street, Romeo. A self-guided tour hosted by the Romeo Historical Society. Tickets are \$25 and are available at various locations. Visit romeohistoricalsociety.org for more information.

##### Holiday Lights at the Farm

6 p.m. to 9 p.m., Wolcott Mill Metropark – Farm Center, Ray. See

Dec. 2's listing.

#### Holly Days Parade

6:30 p.m., Downtown Armada, Main Street and Fulton Street, Armada.

#### SUNDAY, DEC. 4

##### Nutty Nature Field Trip

10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Stony Creek Metropark Nature Center, 4300 Main Park Road, Shelby Township. Give your kids a field trip from home at the Stony Creek Nature Center. Your child will have a blast as they meet the nature center animals, enjoy some outdoor activities, explore a trail looking for tracks and discover how to build a lean-to shelter. Everyone will warm up around a campfire and cook s'mores. Children will need to pack a cold lunch, dress for the weather and bring a water bottle. Cost: \$15 per child. Ages 4 and up. Preregistration required at metroparks.com.

##### Symphonia Chorale Concert

7 p.m. to 9 p.m., St. John Lutheran Church, 246 Benjamin Street, Romeo.

#### MONDAY, DEC. 5

##### Craft Night

6:30 p.m., Addison Township Public Library, 1400 Rochester Road, Leonard. Create a festive treasure. Materials are provided. Registration is required. Call 248-628-7180 to reserve your spot.

#### TUESDAY, DEC. 6

##### Home Sweet Homes

4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m., Lost Lake Nature Park, 846 Lost Lake Trail, Oakland Township. Explore the wild homes of different kinds of birds and mammals. Build and decorate a bluebird house and compare it to where they would build a nest on their own. For ages 6-11. Cost: \$5, \$7 for nonresidents. Register online at oaklandtownship.recdesk.com.

##### Teen Dungeons & Dragons

6 p.m. to 8 p.m., Graubner Branch – Romeo District Library, 65821 Van Dyke, Washington. Come join the group on an exciting jour-



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ney into the world of Dungeons & Dragons. No experience is necessary, they will teach you how to play this fun role playing game. Pizza and snacks will be provided.

### WEDNESDAY, DEC. 7

#### Christmas Traditions

6:30 p.m., Paint Creek United Methodist Church, 4420 Collins Road, Rochester. Learn how pre-Christian traditions of winter solstice, yule and Saturnalia influenced modern Christmas celebrations. Bring a dish to pass for the potluck – Christmas goodies and appetizers welcome.

### THURSDAY, DEC. 8

#### Holiday Luncheon

11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Greystone Golf Club and Banquet Center, 67500 Mound Road, Washington Township. It's that time of year again; the time to come together to celebrate the holiday season. Lunch will be served along with dessert, coffee and soft drinks. Enjoy amazing entertainment plus the holiday raffle table. Get ready to dance, laugh and meet new friends. Cost: \$21, \$24 for nonresidents. Cash bar available. Register by Nov. 29 at 586-752-6543.

#### Genealogy Workshops

5:45 p.m. to 6:45 p.m., Kezar Branch – Romeo District Library, 107 Church Street, Romeo. Come work together to share resources, ideas, and support at monthly topical workshops. A genealogy librarian will be on hand to answer questions and help guide your search with free library resources and reference materials. Meetings will be held both in-person and virtually through Zoom. Email [julie@romeodistrictlibrary.org](mailto:julie@romeodistrictlibrary.org) for more information.

#### Genealogy Society

6 p.m. to 8 p.m., Addison Township Public Library, 1400 Rochester Road, Leonard. Meet for assistance in conducting research into your family's history, and learn tips and tricks from experienced local genealogists.

#### Guardians of Michigan: Architectural Sculpture of the Pleasant Peninsula

7 p.m., Rochester Hills Public Library, 500 Olde Town, Rochester. Historian and photographer Jeff Morrison will discuss his latest book, Guardians of Michigan: Architectural Sculpture of the Pleasant Peninsula. Morrison will present over 100 photos of architectural sculptures found on buildings throughout Michigan – from Ann Arbor to Ontonagon and all points in between. This program is open to RHPL cardholders. Registration is required. To register, visit [calendar.rhpl.org](http://calendar.rhpl.org) or call 248-656-2900. To apply for a library card, visit [rhpl.org](http://rhpl.org).

#### Holiday Mystery Craft

7 p.m. to 8 p.m., Graubner Branch – Romeo District Library, 65821 Van Dyke, Washington. Enjoy making crafts and need an evening to forget about the holiday stress, then join the group as Kathleen Clinton from Wolcott Mill leads a class on a making a fun, holiday mystery craft. If you like surprises and getting creative, then this program is for you. Registration is needed. Limited to 30 participants. Call 586-752-0603 or stop in at the adult reference desk and sign up.

### FRIDAY, DEC. 9

#### Holiday Lights at the Farm

6 p.m. to 9 p.m., Wolcott Mill Metropark – Farm Center, Ray. See Dec. 2's listing.

#### Swim with Santa's Elves

6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m., Romeo Middle School, 297 Prospect Street, Romeo. Meet Santa and swim with his elves. He'll even have some surprises for the kids. \$4 at the door.

### SATURDAY, DEC. 10

#### Breakfast with Santa

9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., Romeo Masonic Temple, 231 North Main Street, Romeo. Enjoy a delicious breakfast of pancakes, eggs, and sausage while visiting with Santa. Tootsee the Clown and other special guests will be joining as well. Register at 586-752-6543 to save your seat.

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### **Santa Visits the Nature Center**

11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Stony Creek Metropark Nature Center, 4300 Main Park Road, Shelby Township. You'll get to meet all kinds of critters as well as create natural crafts from things you can find outside. Kids will even get a chance to make a "secret gift" craft to give to their parents. And don't forget to see Santa in the winter workshop. Each family will be able to have one-on-one time with Santa. Bring your letter to give to Santa or put it in his mailbox. For all ages. Children must be accompanied by a registered adult. Cost: \$6 per child, \$2 per adult. Preregistration required at metroparks.com.

### **Modern Women's Self-Defense Seminar**

1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m., Graubner Branch – Romeo District Library, 65821 Van Dyke, Washington. Come learn the modern techniques of women's self-defense with instructor Andrea Moon. Learn how to fight off attackers and how to use your body as a weapon. This class will be approx. 90 mins long. Registration is required at roeodistrictlibrary.org. Limited to 20 attendees.

### **Holiday Lights at the Farm**

6 p.m. to 9 p.m., Wolcott Mill Metropark – Farm Center, Ray. See Dec. 2's listing.

### **SUNDAY, DEC. 11**

#### **Santa Christmas Open House**

12 p.m. to 4 p.m., Octagon House, 57500 Van Dyke Avenue, Washington. The Octagon House will be dressed in all its Victorian Christmas charm. Self-guided tours with docents on each floor to assist you. Santa will visit the Octagon House from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. \$6 admission, members and under 4 are free.

### **MONDAY, DEC. 12**

#### **Adult Christmas Craft**

6 p.m. to 7 p.m., Ray Township Library, 64255 Wolcott Road, Ray. Come make a Cricut board sign and a lightbulb snowman. Register in advance at raylibrary.org.

### **TUESDAY, DEC. 13**

#### **Winter Wildlife**

7 p.m., Rochester Hills Public Library, 500 Olde Town, Rochester.

Rochester Hills Public Library welcomes Dinosaur Hill's Amanda Felk who will explore and discuss with attendees some of the adaptations that all-weather wildlife have to keep warm and stay fed during the coldest time of the year. This event is open to the public. Registration is required. To register, visit [calendar.rhpl.org](http://calendar.rhpl.org) or call 248-656-2900.

### **THURSDAY, DEC. 15**

#### **Amoris Lingua Christmas Concert**

7 p.m. to 8 p.m., Graubner Branch – Romeo District Library, 65821 Van Dyke, Washington. Come celebrate the holiday season by enjoying the beautiful music of Amoris Lingua. A local Mexican band; they will be dressed in ethnic attire and will be harmonizing songs both in English and Spanish, accented by guitar and other instruments. This concert will be a mix of holiday music and other entertaining songs. No registration needed.

### **FRIDAY, DEC. 16**

#### **Senior Center Christmas Party Luncheon**

11 a.m., Armada Township Hall, 23121 East Main Street, Armada. \$6 per person, due Dec. 1 with RSVP.

### **Holiday Lights at the Farm**

6 p.m. to 9 p.m., Wolcott Mill Metropark – Farm Center, Ray. See Dec. 2's listing.

### **Live Christmas Music Event**

6:30 p.m., Addison Township Public Library, 1400 Rochester Road, Leonard. Come enjoy a night of Christmas music and festivities.

### **Super Splash Bash**

7:30 p.m. to 9 p.m., Romeo Middle School, 297 Prospect Street, Romeo. Music, party lights, and lots of fun. Kids can swim, splash, jump off the diving board or just float around on a tube. Children under 48" must be accompanied by adult. Aqua diapers/plastic pants must be worn if not trained. \$5 at the door.

### **SATURDAY, DEC. 17**

#### **DIY Saturday**

10 a.m. to 12 p.m., Stony Creek Metropark Nature Center, 4300 Main Park Road, Shelby Township. Do you enjoy crafting? Come visit Stony Creek Nature Center and create a new project each month. They'll supply all the materials and tools needed for you

to bring home a finished product. Get inspired as you learn how to paint, build, or create new items from upcycled and/or natural materials. Ages 18 and up. Price changes based on project. View pricing and preregister at metroparks.com.

#### **Gumdrop Snowflake Ornaments**

1 p.m. to 2 p.m., Kezar Branch – Romeo District Library, 107 Church Street, Romeo. Come make some edible snowflake ornaments. (They may or may not make it home to the tree.) Recommended for ages preschool-3rd grade. Register beginning December 1 at romeodistrictlibrary.org.

#### **Gingerbread House Decorating**

2 p.m. to 3 p.m., Graubner Branch – Romeo District Library, 65821 Van Dyke, Washington. Celebrate the holiday season by making a festive and delicious gingerbread house. Take your house home with you or leave it at the library for display and enter the "Best Gingerbread House" contest. Registration is required and begins December 3 at romeodistrictlibrary.org. All supplies will be provided.

#### **Holiday Lights at the Farm**

6 p.m. to 9 p.m., Wolcott Mill Metropark – Farm Center, Ray. See Dec. 2's listing.

#### **MONDAY, DEC. 19**

##### **Let's Go Outside Pre-K**

10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., Stony Creek Metropark Nature Center, 4300 Main Park Road, Shelby Township. You and your little ones are invited to participate in an outdoor nature adventure. Walk along reflection trail by the nature center while searching for signs of animals, playing games, and doing fun activities along the way. Each adventure will start with a story by the campfire and focus on a different topic. For ages 3-5. Children must be accompanied by a registered adult. Cost: \$3 per child. Preregistration is required at metroparks.com.

#### **TUESDAY, DEC. 20**

##### **Teen Dungeons & Dragons**

6 p.m. to 8 p.m., Graubner Branch – Romeo District Library, 65821 Van Dyke, Washington. Come join the group on an exciting journey into the world of Dungeons & Dragons. No experience is necessary, they will teach you how to play this fun role playing game.

Pizza and snacks will be provided.

#### **THURSDAY, DEC. 22**

##### **Winter Sowing for Native Pollinator Gardens**

10 a.m. to 12 p.m., Stony Creek Metropark Nature Center, 4300 Main Park Road, Shelby Township. Come out for this hands-on workshop where you'll learn about native plants and their pollinators, and then do some winter sowing of native seeds. Participants will take home a flat of seeds as well as instructions on how to maintain them through the winter and transplant them in the spring. For all ages. Cost: \$5 per person, under 2 is free. Preregistration required at metroparks.com.

#### **SATURDAY, DEC. 24**

##### **Christmas Eve**

#### **SUNDAY, DEC. 25**

##### **Christmas**

#### **MONDAY, DEC. 26**

##### **Making Sleeping Mats for the Homeless**

9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., Washington Activity Center, 57880 Van Dyke, Washington. Learn to sort, cut, and roll plastic grocery bags into "plarn" balls used to crochet into mats for sleeping. Supplies needed: clean plastic bags, scissors, and crochet hooks.

#### **WEDNESDAY, DEC. 28**

##### **Winter Break Craft Day**

2 p.m. to 3 p.m., Kezar Branch – Romeo District Library, 107 Church Street, Romeo. Getting restless being at home? Kids, elementary through high school, are welcome to come to Kezar to make a Perler Bead craft to take home. They have beads, pattern boards, and an idea book. Bring your siblings, cousins, and friends. No registration.

#### **FRIDAY, DEC. 30**

##### **Senior Center New Year's Potluck**

11 a.m., Armada Township Hall, 23121 East Main Street, Armada. Come in your pajamas and enjoy some BBQ meatballs.

#### **SATURDAY, DEC. 31**

##### **New Year's Eve**

#### **SUNDAY, JAN. 1, 2023**

##### **New Year's Day**



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