



## News Release

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**GAHANNA'S HOLIDAY LIGHTS! PARADE & FESTIVAL PRESENTS  
A NEW FRIDAY NIGHT OFFERING,  
AND THE HOLIDAY VILLAGE WILL WELCOME VISITORS AT CREEKSIDE PLAZA,  
PLUS THE NEW TWO-MILE HEALTHY HOLIDAY FUN RUN ON SATURDAY**

GAHANNA, Ohio – A chill is in the air, signaling the approach of the holiday season, and the Gahanna community is busy making plans for the 11th annual *Holiday Lights! Parade & Festival*. Grand Marshal Tiney McComb, Chairman of Heartland Bank, will lead the parade on Saturday, Nov. 28, as Gahanna heralds the season with this popular holiday event. New this year, a two-mile *Healthy Holiday Fun Run*, presented by Mount Carmel, sets the pace on Saturday with the race beginning at 5 p.m. The parade steps off at 6 p.m. from the Gahanna Municipal Building, 200 S. Hamilton Rd., travels north on Hamilton, then west onto Granville Street and into downtown Gahanna.

The festivities will begin at 5 p.m., Friday, Nov. 27, with two new attractions:

- *A holiday children's village*. The buildings were designed and fabricated by the Architecture, CAD and Manufacturing Technology classes at Gahanna Lincoln High School that will be located in the center of Olde Gahanna on Creekside Plaza.

It will feature four, three-dimensional buildings: a toy store, hobby/hardware store, a post office and a bank. The toy and hobby stores will provide tempting glimpses of visual, active displays through "store-front" windows while the post office and bank are designed for children to enter and play.

The new village will begin welcoming visitors after it is unveiled on Friday, Nov. 13 at 7:30 p.m.

- *The new family-oriented Holiday Mystery Pizza Party*, presented by Gahanna's Original Pizza Pan. Visitors will enjoy a delicious pizza dinner as they collectively solve the holiday caper from 5-7 p.m., or 7-9 p.m., at the historic Olde Gahanna Sanctuary, 82 N. High St.

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The fun continues on Saturday, Nov. 28, with holiday activities, including:

- NEW—*Healthy Holiday Fun Run* presented by Mount Carmel
  - Race begins at 5 p.m., and the two-mile Fun Run will follow the Parade route, beginning on Hamilton Rd. near Rocky Fork Blvd. Check-in at 4 p.m. at Gahanna City Hall, 200 S. Hamilton Rd.; entry fee: \$20 prior to race day; \$25, race day.
- *Holiday Story Time Breakfast* (Saturday, 8 a.m.-noon)
  - Children can celebrate the season with *Pig* from *If You Give a Pig a Parade*, *Skippyjon* from *Skippyjon Jones*, *Froggy* from *Froggy Goes to School*, and other favorite literary characters, all-you-can-eat pancakes and holiday stories.
- *Santa's Secret Workshop*, presented by Ohio State's University Hospital East (Saturday, 9 a.m.-6 p.m.)
  - Little shoppers can visit the workshop where Santa and his helpers have created holiday gifts for them to choose from that will fit their "little" budgets.
- *Visits with Santa* (Saturday, 9-5:30 p.m.)
  - Picture taking and wish making will be available with the Jolly Old Elf himself.
- *Holiday Song Wagon*, presented by Fifth Third Bank (Saturday, 1-4 p.m.)
  - A great place to take a break and relax while enjoying a festive ride through Olde Gahanna and the sounds of holiday carolers.

Additional festival activities include: children's crafts and games, presented by Primrose School, holiday cuisine, horse-drawn holiday rides, entertainment, the Olde Gahanna Community Partnership Festival of Trees silent auction, unique offerings at a variety of downtown establishments, and most notably, the lighted parade.

The flurry of activity is just starting when the sun goes down, as Ohio's premiere evening parade begins (6 p.m.) and warms the crowd with lighted entrants, including: both community designed and professionally constructed floats, three marching bands, horse drawn carriages and a host of other dazzling surprises, along with post-parade fun.

In addition to the parade and festival, visitors strolling through Creekside Park & Plaza will delight in the twinkling light displays at the *Winter Wonderland at Creekside Park* (Nov. 13, 2009 - Jan. 4, 2010).

Don't miss the exciting kickoff to the magical holiday season at the 11th annual Gahanna *Holiday Lights! Parade & Festival*. For additional information, visit [www.gahannaholidaylights.com](http://www.gahannaholidaylights.com) or call (614) 418-9114.

*The Gahanna Convention & Visitors Bureau (GCVB) is a 501(c) (6) non-profit organization funded by a local hotel tax and partner support whose mission is to promote Gahanna as a vibrant destination by connecting the people and places of our community which contributes to economic prosperity. The GCVB annually presents the Creekside Blues & Jazz Festival and Holiday Lights! Parade and Festival. We are grateful for the support given to Holiday Lights by the event sponsors listed on our Web site: [www.gahannaholidaylights.com](http://www.gahannaholidaylights.com).*

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