



NEWS RELEASE
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Don't Let The Grinch Steal Your Christmas Main Street Columbus Announces Holiday Activities

Main Street Columbus is working diligently to make sure that our community enjoys a fun, holiday season, without losing any of the fabulous downtown events that we all look forward to each year!

“While sitting in the office one day, the “Grinch” popped into my head and seemed to offer the perfect theme for this holiday season. We had already decided that we were not going to cancel one event ... we would just modify them where necessary for this year and that is what we have done”, says Barbara Bigelow, Executive Director of Main Street Columbus.

Each year, Christmas shopping begins at the Christmas Open House and 2020 is no exception. Shop in beautiful downtown Columbus as retail businesses showcase holiday items and specials to kick off the Christmas season! The Downtown Christmas Open House will take place on Friday, November 6 and Saturday, November 7, from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and some downtown stores will be open on Sunday, November 8, from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. You’ll find yourself in the holiday spirit as you walk through historic downtown Columbus to begin your holiday gift-buying. And, who knows, the “Grinch” may make appearances throughout downtown hoping to “snatch” a few goodies of his own.

Downtown merchants will again be donating gift certificates worth hundreds of dollars and one lucky shopper will have the opportunity to win this fabulous grand prize. Who does not enjoy gift certificates at Christmas time or any other time of the year? The annual Christmas Open House is an exciting and unique opportunity for the many downtown merchants to showcase their products, including great food, clothing, gifts, jewelry, art and more!

“It is also a time when our community can show its support for small, local businesses, which in turn helps to boost our local economy”, says Bigelow. “Windows will be decorated and the holiday spirit will be in the air”.

As in the past, the Hitching Lot Farmers’ Market will offer an opportunity to purchase locally homegrown, homemade and handcrafted holiday food and gifts. The Holiday Farmers’ Market will be held on the Saturday before Thanksgiving, November 21, from 9 a.m. until 12 noon, and will celebrate its 13th year. Make plans to get those last-minute Thanksgiving goodies and even do some holiday shopping.

Applications are available now in the Main Street Columbus office at 107 5th Street North, on the website at www.columbusmainstreet.com and on the Hitching Lot Farmers’ Market Facebook page. You can also call 662.328.6305 to obtain information. Space is first-come, first-serve so get those applications in now!

We will be observing Small Business Saturday, which is November 28, the Saturday following Thanksgiving. From 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., your downtown small businesses will be open so be sure to pay them a visit while shopping for your Christmas needs.

The annual lighting of the community Christmas Tree is taking on a new look this year. It will be brought to you virtually by way of Facebook LIVE. Join Mayor Robert Smith and the “Grinch” as we “flip the switch” and illuminate the tree lights around 6:00 p.m. with Santa and Miz Clause standing by. Following the tree lighting, Santa will take requests/questions from children via the “Chat” box for about 30 minutes. Let’s make the “Grinch” jealous as Santa answers all those questions from our precious kids who are anxiously awaiting Christmas Eve when Santa makes a special visit to their home.

We know that one of the favorite holiday activities in downtown Columbus is Wassail Fest. We also know that it would be difficult this year to enjoy wassail in the same way as the past. However, that “Grinch” is not going to take away the fun of our holidays. We invite you downtown to “Grinch Fest in Whoville” on Friday, December 4, from 5 to 8 p.m. Pick up your “Whoville Passport” at one of our participating merchants and get it stamped for a chance to win an unbelievable grand prize worth hundreds of dollars in gift certificates provided by Main Street Columbus. Have your picture taken with one of our “Whoville” visitors, dine in one of our great downtown restaurants and just enjoy the holiday season in beautiful, historic downtown Columbus. Dress in costume as a “Whoville” character ... who knows, we may even have a costume contest so begin making your plans now!

To shake things up and in place of our traditional Christmas Parade of years past, we will take over the streets for some “Whoville Cruisin’”. Decorate your vehicle, watch for the route on media outlets and join the excitement as we cruise in downtown Columbus. How many people can honestly say that they have never gone “cruisin’”? Decorate your vehicles “Grinch” style and have a little fun on Saturday, December 12. Time will be announced at a later date so be sure to keep an eye out for final details. There is no football on this Saturday so there are no excuses.

Plans are still being made for the “Grinch Fest in Whoville” and “Whoville Cruisin’”, so stay tuned for more details.

“Yes, there will be lots going on during the holidays in our downtown. Be sure to make plans on the following dates to join us in downtown Columbus. No sir, that “Grinch” is not going to steal our Christmas!”, says Bigelow.

November 6 – 8	Christmas Open House
November 21	Holiday Farmers’ Market
November 28	Small Business Saturday
November 30	Christmas Tree Lighting
December 4	“Grinch Fest in Whoville”
December 12	“Whoville Cruisin’”

All events will follow state and local mandates in effect at that time.

Stay tuned to all media outlets for details as each event draws nearer. Start NOW getting your costume ready and plan to participate in the fun times in downtown Columbus this holiday season.

Bigelow says, “Plan to join us in “Whoville” ... Don’t Let The Grinch Steal Your Christmas!!”
