



## Holidays in Missouri

Those of us who grew up or have resided in Missouri for decades have experienced many Christmas parades, holiday lights and snowy winters. Sure, it's cold, but our winters can also be quite beautiful. Apparently, it's no longer our secret. Missouri has become a very popular holiday destination.

This year, Branson made Fodor's travel list of top 12 classic American towns that are perfect for the holidays as well as for summer travel. It doesn't stop with the bright lights of Silver Dollar City, though. Towns like Hermann, St. Charles and Warrensburg have become very popular for big city travelers along with those who live in areas of the country where it is not possible to see snow. However, the possibility of

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seeing snow is only a part of what is bringing the tourists to Missouri.

Local festivals and parades are a big draw. Though we enjoy them, we may take them for granted a bit. Large city parades often display elaborate floats and amazing lights, but they miss that small town, family feel that you get with the parades we have in Central Missouri. This is often what is shown in holiday movies, and the dream of seeing it in person is a huge draw. Midwestern hotels have reported a rise in holiday guests not only from warmer states but as far away as Asia, Australia and New Zealand.



**Guests line the street to watch the Lighted Tractor Parade in Centralia.**

Missouri gained some added attention this year with the release of a movie filmed in Hermann. The movie, titled, "A Vintage Christmas," was actually filmed during the warmer months. The snow was digitally added for the opening scenes and provided a beautiful picture of the small town.

Though we often hear complaints about the constantly changing weather, the

reality is we are blessed to be able to experience the seasonal changes and the beauty each brings. The rise in holiday tourism shows that those who do not have that option are willing to pay to experience it.

To learn more about the festivals and holiday events in Missouri visit: <https://www.visitmo.com/articles/winter-events-in-missouri>

## Marketplace (ACA) Open Enrollment Continues

The Affordable Care Act's (ACA) open enrollment period is the annual window during which individuals and families can compare the various health plans that are available and select the one that will best fit their needs for the coming year. Open enrollment for ACA will continue until January 15, 2024. To make an appointment with one of Aging Best's Certified Navigators call 800-369-5211.

## Health and Wellness

Aging Best's assortment of workshops and educational presentations continues to grow. In addition to providing great content, one of the benefits to our educational opportunities is that we bring them to a location near you. Our leaders enjoy

traveling throughout our service area to bring a variety of programs to communities who would like to host.



**Participants in Osage Beach learn about fall prevention, strength & balance at a recent "A Matter of Balance" workshop.**

To learn more about our 2024 programs be sure to read our January newsletter where we will feature an article about each. For immediate information contact 573-489-3260 or [mschulte@agingbest.org](mailto:mschulte@agingbest.org).

## **Ombudsmen Speak to Law Students**

Aging Best's Regional Long-Term Care Ombudsmen recently had an opportunity to speak to the law class of David M. English, W.F. Fratcher Missouri Endowed Professor of Law, at the University of Missouri in Columbia.

The class of second and third-year law students have been studying Elder Law. They were interested in learning more about the role of the long-term

Ombudsman and were able to discuss the different levels of care they provide to the residents they work with. The students also learned about residents' rights and how an Ombudsman advocates for them..

For more information about the program or how you can become a volunteer contact Ronda Giger at [rgiger@agingbest.org](mailto:rgiger@agingbest.org) or 800-369-5211.



The CoMoGives online fundraiser is off to a great start and will continue through December 31, 2023. Aging Best's largest number of donations have come in on New Year's Eve the past two years. Many donors like to make a last-minute donation that can be counted on their 2023 taxes.

Every \$50 we receive allows us to provide services to 20 more aging adults, so each \$10 donation we receive adds up quickly. Our connections and creativity allow us to address the unique needs of the increasing population of aging adults.

If you would like to make an online donation during the CoMoGives fundraiser, visit Aging Best's page at <https://comogives.com/product/aging-best-area-agency-on-aging>.



# Happy Holidays

From the team at Aging Best



Shadaryl Bassett



Rebecca Nowlin & Family



Steve Dopp



Jody Doppelt



Vienna Senior Center



Marissa Peterson & Family



Lynn Hogue



Carol Senor



Trish Luther



# Happy Holidays

From the team at Aging Best



Lorie True, Janice Class & Brenda Doyle



Jennifer Mahurin & Family



Boonslick Senior Center



Shannon Hasenstein & Family



Dayna & Bob Graham



Maureen & Brian McKeage



Osage Beach Senior Center



Ken Shaw & Joyce Blomberg  
Clark Senior Center



Becky Robnett-Chandler  
& Family



# Happy Holidays

From the team at Aging Best



Daylena Lutman & Family



California Nutrition Center



Sayers Senior Center



Hughes Senior Center



Nate Wall



Moniteau Nutrition Center



Fayette Senior Center



Salem Senior Center



Boone Nutrition Program



# Happy Holidays

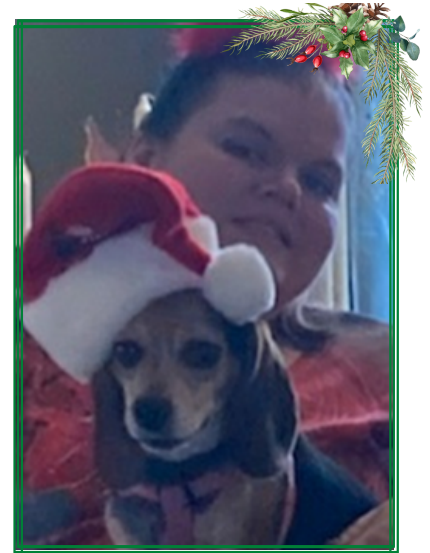
From the team at Aging Best



Glasgow Senior Center



Nick Neebe & Family



Mary Ann Matthews



Candi Bockenstedt



Sharon Nowak



Melissa Schulte



Ryan Andersen



Mexico Senior Center



Cuba/Bourbon Senior Centers