

# A Storyland Christmas in MWC

*The third annual Storyland Christmas will be a family-friendly, fun-filled event*

Christmas is in the air in Midwest City, as the City prepares to present the third annual Storyland Christmas. This multi-sensory, family-friendly event will be held December 1-17 in the Charles J Johnson Central Park, located in Town Center Plaza.

Storyland Christmas offers visitors amazing visual art, performing arts entertainment, kid's crafts, Photos with Santa and a beautiful musical and animated 40' Christmas tree - everything you need to enjoy the Christmas season.

Throughout the three-week event, the park is transformed into a Christmas wonderland that features thirty-five professionally painted, bigger-than-life, 4" x 8" murals. The murals depict scenes from eight traditional Christmas stories, including Night before Christmas, 12 Days of Christmas, Frosty the Snowman, The Gingerbread Man, Rudolf the Red-nosed Reindeer, The Christmas Carol, Polar Express and Christmas in Oklahoma. Thousands of twinkling lights adorn the murals and provide a special holiday glow throughout the park.

The eight groupings of murals will be spread throughout the park and will also feature a music or story voice over component. This feature creates a multi-

sensory component to the experience.

The 35 murals were painted by renowned Oklahoma artist, Dr. Bob E. Palmer, Ed.D, and his selected protégés. Palmer, a retired educator, is best known as the artist who has painted over 1,800 murals across the state, Canada, Mexico and Eastern Europe. He has been recognized as the "Outstanding Oklahoma Higher Education Faculty Member"; "Oklahoma Art Educator of the Year"; selected as the State's Centennial "Feature Mural Painter" in 2007 and in 2013, was recognized by Governor Mary Fallin with the "Governor's Art Award in Community Service."

A special feature of the event is Photos with Santa. Each Friday evening, Saturday, daytime and evening, and Sunday afternoon's, attendees can enjoy a visit with Santa, along with the opportunity to take your own photos. New this year is the Santa House, which will provide a festive backdrop to the Photos with Santa. Costumed storybook characters will also be strolling through the park during the weekends to hand out special Christmas treats to kids, as supplies last.

On Saturday, December 9, beginning at 2:00 p.m., Sugar Free All-Stars will be performing a special



-Provided

**A Storyland Christmas offers visual art, performing arts entertainment, kid's crafts, photos with Santa and more.**

kid's concert at our entertainment pavilion. Additional entertainment will be performing each Saturday afternoon during the event.

The popular Kid's Christmas Craft tent is back again this year. Each Saturday during the event, up to 30 kids at each session, ages 4 - 10, are encouraged to join us in an enclosed tent, as they will each get to make special Christmas crafts to take with them. The craft times will be at 1:00 and 3:00 p.m. This opportunity will be first-come, first serve and is free.

Kay Hunt, event organizer said that the goals of the event include creating a unique holiday experience that will hopefully become

a family tradition with the residents of Midwest City, as well as visitors. "Our goal is to create an event that will remind people of fun memories they have of past Christmases and one that they will want to come back to year after year," Hunt said.

City officials think that Storyland Christmas is a great compliment to their other traditional holiday event, Holiday Lights Spectacular. City Manager J. Guy Henson said the city has enjoyed the holiday lights drive-through event for nearly twenty-five years and that Storyland Christmas is a wonderful addition to the city's offering of holiday activities.

"Midwest City is a very special place during

December. We hope that not only our residents will enjoy the events, but, that other's from across the area will come here to enjoy them as well," Henson said.

The event is funded in part by the Memorial Hospital Authority Board of Grantors.

For a complete schedule of movies and activities, please go to [www.midwestcityok.org/687/storyland-christmas](http://www.midwestcityok.org/687/storyland-christmas).

If you or a group in which you belong would like to have information regarding entertainment opportunities or volunteering, please contact Kay Hunt at 702.3411 or email: [khunt@midwestcityok.org](mailto:khunt@midwestcityok.org)