DETAILS: 58th Annual Christmas Tree Lane 2026

"Santa's Workshop" is the theme for this year's **Christmas Tree Lane**. You can use any of the season to inspire your tree decorations.

Tree decorating begins Monday, November 2 and is open to all groups, organizations, families, classrooms, churches and businesses. There is no charge. Trees are provided by ICHS. Bring your own decorations and lights. Please do not use glitter or food products in your decorations. Trees must be decorated by Monday, November 30.

There will also be a **Christmas House Gallery** this year. You can use the theme or choose one of your own. The only restriction is that it must fit into the display case. Houses should be brought to the Museum by 4 p.m. on Monday, November 30.

Do not delay in selecting your tree. There are trees on the main and upper floors. You can stop by the museum during office hours or call to reserve your tree. The registration form for trees and houses is available from the museum website. If you cannot make it to the museum to choose a tree, we can do that for you, but be sure to complete the registration form, and let us know you want a tree.

For the People's Choice Awards, all trees and houses will be voted on with cash by museum visitors during regular business hours Sunday, December 6 through Wednesday, December 23 at 4:00 p.m.
** All trees will be entered in Best Decorated and People's Choice. Each participant then chooses to be entered in 1 of the other 3 categories: Best Hand-Crafted Ornaments, Most Original, or Best Use of Theme. **

Visitors to Christmas Tree Lane and House Gallery will vote on People's Choice. A panel of judges will be choosing winners in the categories of BEST DECORATED, BEST USE OF THEME, MOST ORIGINAL and BEST HAND-CRAFTED DECORATIONS. The Houses will be judged on MOST ORIGINAL and BEST DECORATED DISPLAY.

Monday, November 2 – Decorating begins. 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Decorating continues through Monday, November 30, 4:00 p.m.
November 26-27 – Museum closed for Thanksgiving Holiday.
Sunday, November 29 -- Museum will be open 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. for tree decorating.
Monday, November 30 – Houses must be in place and tree decorating ends at 4:00 p.m.
Sunday, December 6 – Christmas Tree Lane Open House, 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Come to view two floors of beauty, and enjoy holiday music throughout the courthouse. Voting begins.
Sunday, December 6 – Wednesday, December 23 – Viewing and voting continue during regular hours, Monday – Friday, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Museum will be closed December 24-25.
Wednesday, December 23 – Voting ends at 4:00 p.m.
Saturday, December 26 – Museum will be open 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. for viewing the trees and houses.
Museum is closed December 27 – January 1, 2027.

If you have any questions, please call the museum office at 815-432-2215 during business hours, Monday – Friday, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. If you need an evening to decorate, contact us and we will work with you.