

Festivities and Parade

Home for the Holidays

Downtown Perrysburg

Sunday, Dec. 2 • Noon to 4 p.m. • Parade at 2 p.m.



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• **Live Reindeer**

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*O~Deer Diner-ice cream cone samplers

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*Perrysburgers—"Krabby Patties"

*Perrysburg Messenger-cookies

*Hand Picked in the 419-hot cocoa

• **Entertainment by Johnny Rodriguez**

Noon to 2 p.m., on the lawn at the Commodore Building

• **Christmas Bean Bag Toss Game - Win a prize!**

Noon to 2 p.m.
Commodore lawn

• **Craft Station at Way Library**

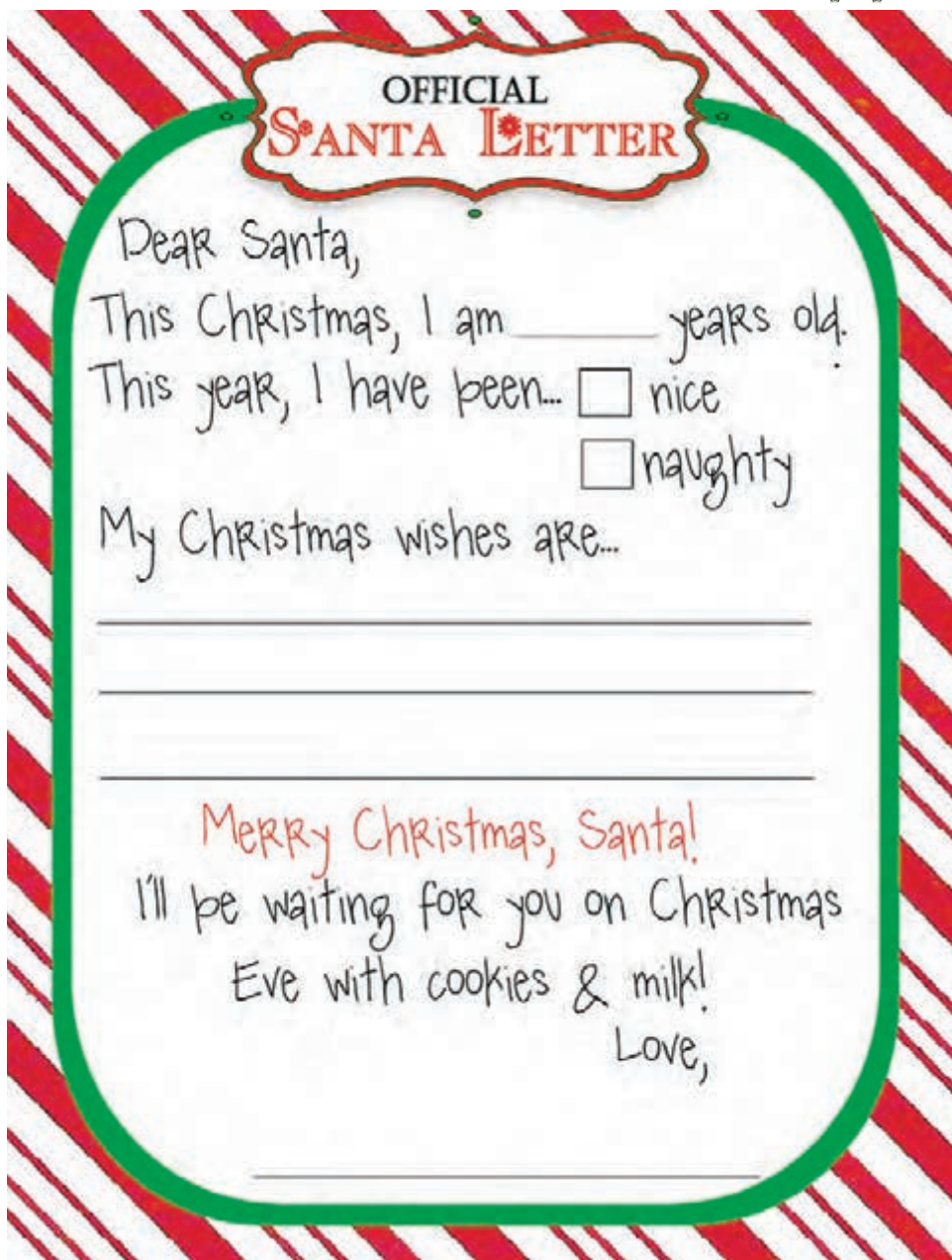
Noon to 2 p.m.

• **Strolling Carolers**

Indiana Avenue to Front Street
Noon to 2 p.m.

• **"Home for the Holidays" Parade**
2 p.m.

• **Pictures with Santa Claus**
After the parade on the Commodore Building lawn



Kids,

Write your letter to Santa and drop off at Santa's mailbox at:

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416 Louisiana Avenue,
Perrysburg

Remember to put your name and return address at the bottom so Santa can answer your letter.

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PHS graduate, WWII veteran, businessman, past councilman

Paul Sargent grand marshal for the 'Home for the Holidays' parade this Sunday

By Richard Baranowski

If anyone could be considered a living history book of Perrysburg, Paul Sargent is one such candidate. To honor Mr. Sargent's many contributions to our community over the past 70 years or so, the former PHS graduate, WWII veteran, village businessman, local property developer, city councilman, Chamber of Commerce founder, and tireless member of various boards and civic groups too numerous to mention, will preside as grand marshal for Perrysburg's 2018 Christmas parade.

Mr. Sargent was born in Dunbridge in 1923. His father was in the process of building a new automobile garage and dealership on the corner of Dowling Road and Route 25. Mr. Sargent's family moved there shortly after he was born.

"In 1924 my father opened a Paige-Jewett automobile dealership," Mr. Sargent said. "The Paige was the luxury model and the Jewett its cheaper counterpart. In 1927, Dad added Reos. They made a four-door sedan called the Flying Cloud. The dealership also doubled as a repair garage and gas station. There was also a lunchroom, which my mother ran. The business was called the Midway Garage, it being seven miles halfway between Maumee and Bowling Green."

Mr. Sargent remembered how it was at this rural outpost in the 1920s and '30s as he was growing up.

"Route 25 was a two-lane highway. There was little truck traffic, but cars were plentiful. During the Depression there was a lot of movement of people looking for work. It wasn't unusual for a guy to leave his watch or spare tire for a couple of

gallons of gas. The people who seemed to get into trouble were ones going to Detroit in hopes of finding a job. Many of them were coming from down south.

"As for us, I'm sure my father struggled, but I didn't notice it. I did notice though, that my parents seemed to work all the time. Once in a while we would go fishing at Sandusky Bay. But vacations were unheard of. It was all survival trying to stay ahead of the Depression."

Even in the middle of nowhere things could be exciting. Mr. Sargent recalled one night when a Model T Ford came careening around the corner onto Dowling and slid into the ditch.

"It was still Prohibition. The guys were carrying a load of whiskey and driving too fast because the Perrysburg constable was chasing them. They unloaded the booze, which was in five-gallon cans and hid them in the cornfield to pick up later. These fellows were not dangerous; they just were trying to make a living. My dad pulled their car back on the road but I think the police eventually rounded them up."

Mr. Sargent lived on the southern boundary of the Perrysburg school district. He was the first to be picked up in the morning for school and the last to be dropped off. He graduated in 1941. In 1942 he married Virginia Sarver, also a 1941 PHS graduate. They set up housekeeping in a first-floor apartment of a house on the corner of Findlay and Fifth.

"The rent was \$17.50 per month," Mr. Sargent remembered, "and we got the first month free because we cleaned it up and painted it."

"At that time I was working at City Auto Stamping in Toledo as a machinist. We

were into war production full bore. We made windshields for 40mm machine gun shells, 155 mm Howitzers, and other projectiles. When you fired a projectile it didn't travel through the air very well. We made a nose bullet that fit on the end of the shells which was called a windshield. I made \$1.25 an hour and all the overtime I wanted. My first check was for \$200. I had never seen that kind of money."

The draft was on, but Mr. Sargent had contracted rheumatic fever during his senior year.

"They didn't know what it was then," he said. "If I walked too far, my knees swelled up. I was deferred three times. Finally, they came out with something called Limited Service and I was drafted in February of 1943."

Mr. Sargent eventually found himself at Camp Blanding, Florida. Due to his garage experience, he was assigned to a trucking regiment, working as a mechanic. He was later assigned to help establish a motor pool for the camp's military police.

Corporal Sargent was discharged late in 1945 and returned to his job at City Auto Stamping.

"About three months later they went on strike," he remembered. "It was a bunch of damn foolishness. It was six months before I could get my tools out of there."

"I went to work for Haskin's White Truck. That job went flying after a few months and I went back to my Dad's garage to work."

"Things had changed



Perrysburg High School 1941 graduate Paul Sargent.

while I was away. Route 25 had expanded to four lanes and the highway took the front off of the building. Dad had built a new service station and garage and expanded the restaurant and bar into a nightclub. I took over the service station and the garage.

"In 1946, Virginia and I bought three acres on the corner of Maple Street and Boundary. There was a house already on the corner and we moved into it. To let you know how prices have changed, we paid \$10,000 for the whole piece, although it was considered 'out in the country' then. I wanted to develop the rest of the property and planned to run a street between Maple and Locust. But there was some controversy about property lines and there wasn't enough room for the street. I ended up dividing the land into lots and sold them."

In the meantime, Mr. Sargent and his wife took over what was now called the "Midway Nightclub" in 1952 after his father died. It was located next to the family's automobile garage. He and his wife operated the roadhouse until selling it in 1961. He then decided to get into the real estate business and began working for John Zachman.

"The Zachman Associates office was downtown on Madison Street. In 1964,



Paul Sargent and his daughter Melissa Sargent.

John decided to move the office to Perrysburg and I went with him. John was not terribly interested when it came to business matters. That was too boring. He'd love to run a full-page ad, whether he had the money or not. I became his sales manager, gaining confidence. I was in my own town and knew the neighborhood and community I was selling."

In 1960, after reaching a population of 5,000 Perrysburg transformed from village to city. Hiring practices changed and Mr. Sargent became chairman of the committee to set the rules for Civil Service testing for city jobs.

In 1966, Mr. Sargent began working for George Garn. He and Mr. Garn formed Garn Realty Inc. as partners and Mr. Sargent became president. George sold insurance as Garn Insurance Agency, which was a separate entity and Mr. Garn stuck pretty much to that while Mr. Sargent handled the realty.

In 1968, Mr. Sargent was elected to city council. It would be a four-year term. "And one term was enough," he said laughing. "Side-walks were the big subject."

Mr. Sargent moved over to Grogan Realty in the 1970s and in 1980 decided to start his own realty company, Sargent Associates located at 124 Louisiana Avenue. During this time,

he served a term as President of the Toledo Board of Realtors and also was a member of the Appraiser Board of the Maumee Watershed Conservancy District. Mr. Sargent retired in 2013.

From garage mechanic to machinist, restaurant-owner to realty broker and sales, and later president of his own real estate agency, Mr. Sargent attributes much of his success to his father's example.

"He told me, 'just treat people right.' And my wife was always a big help. We worked side-by-side for a lot of years."

Mr. Sargent's wife Virginia died earlier this year. Now at 95, Mr. Sargent still drives and gets around on his own. His daughters, Melissa and Andrea live nearby and look after him, although Mr. Sargent runs his own errands, often visits the library and lunches out frequently with Perrysburg friends.

"The city has gotten so large today," Mr. Sargent remarked. "My life was a village. I would sit in my window of the office and know everybody. Today I wouldn't know anybody. It's not a reflection of the people, it's just a change of atmosphere, but that's everywhere."

"It's a privilege to be grand marshal of the parade. I'm looking forward to it."

Parade Route

The parade will travel from Municipal Park on Elm Street to Seventh Street to Louisiana Avenue, north on Louisiana Avenue to Front Street and turn east and disband.



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The Oscar Mayer Wienermobile will travel down Louisiana Avenue in the 'Home for the Holidays' parade Sunday, 2 p.m.



While traveling across the country, the Oscar Mayer Wienermobile will make a stop in Perrysburg on Sunday to participate in the annual Home for the Holidays parade.

Parade organizers Rick and Dana Ruffner submitted a request for the Wienermobile last year, and in early November received confirmation that Perrysburg will be part of its route.

"The Wienermobile just puts a smile on your face. It is fun," said Mr. Ruffner. "We are so excited and pleased that they are joining our parade."

Wienermobile History

The first version of the Oscar Mayer Wienermobile

was created in 1936 by Oscar Mayer's nephew, Carl G. Mayer.

Since that time, it has evolved from the original 1936 vehicle to today's version.

Because fuel rationing kept the Wienermobile off the road during World War II, in the 1950s, Oscar Mayer and the Gerstenslager Company created several new vehicles using a Dodge chassis or a Willys Jeep chassis. One of these models is on display at the Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn, Michigan.

These Wienermobiles were piloted by "Little Oscar" who would visit stores, school, orphanages and children's hospitals and

participate in parades and festivals.

In 1969, new Wienermobiles were built on a Chevrolet motor home chassis and featured Ford Thunderbird taillights.

In 1988, Oscar Mayer launched its Hotdogger program, where recent college graduates were hired to drive the Wienermobile through various parts of the nation and abroad.

Currently, there are six full size—a 27-foot-long hot dog on wheels—each assigned to their own section of the United States.

The "hotdogger" position of driving the Wienermobile is open to U.S. citizens, and the jobs last from the first of

June until the following first of June.

Only college seniors who are about to graduate are eligible. Current hotdoggers and Oscar Mayer recruiters visit college campuses across the country in search of the next round of hotdoggers.

Candidates are screened from an average of 2,000 applicants. Each March, a pool of 30 final-round candidates are brought to Kraft Foods and Oscar Mayer headquarters in Madison, Wisconsin, for interviews.

Each vehicle can hold two hotdoggers, and 12 people in total are chosen. Currently there are approximately 300 hotdogger alumni.

'Home for the Holidays' festivities and parade

Taylor Automotive Family, parade sponsor, along with O~Deer Diner and Welch Publishing have finalized plans for the annual "Home for the Holidays" festivities and parade, this Sunday, December 2, at 2 p.m., in downtown Perrysburg.

"Home for the Holidays" Parade

The parade will travel from Municipal Park on Elm Street to Seventh Street to Louisiana Avenue, north on Louisiana Avenue to Front Street and turn east and disband.

Carrying the parade banner will be Eagle Scouts Alex Klosterman and Josh Emmert.

The parade staging area will be at Municipal Park, corner of Elm and Silver Maple streets. Participants may enter the staging area between 12:30 and 1:30 p.m.

Activities

Families are invited to see a live reindeer display on the corner of Louisiana Avenue and Third Street. Also, children can write letters to Santa and put them in a special mailbox at the diner. Stationery will be available for the children and volunteers will assist them writing their letters.

During the afternoon, parade goers can stop by the following businesses for free treats (while supplies last):

- O~Deer Diner will have ice cream cone samplers;
- Skotynsky Financial is offering cider and donuts;
- Hand Picked in the 419 will have hot cocoa;
- Perrysburg Messenger Journal is offering cookies, and
- Perrysburgers will have "Krabby Patties."

From noon to 2 p.m., visitors can enjoy music on the Commodore lawn by Johnny Rodriguez.

There also will be strolling carolers throughout the downtown.

After the parade, Mr. and Mrs. Claus will be on the Commodore lawn and families can have a free picture taken with the jolly couple. Families are welcome to bring cameras for additional pictures.

Johnny Rodriguez to perform Sunday, noon to 2 p.m.



Joining the "Home for the Holidays" festivities in downtown Perrysburg on Sunday, December 2, is musician Johnny Rodriguez.

Mr. Rodriguez is a guitar player who loves to play. Northwest Ohio and southeast Michigan area locals have seen him performing many genres of music with his Martin 12-string acoustic guitar and harmonicas.

He will perform from noon to 2 p.m., in the gazebo on the Commodore Building lawn.



Holiday wishes.

Barry E VanHoozen CLU, Agent
130 W South Boundary St.
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"Home for the Holidays" parade to feature three marching bands

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- Eastwood High School Eagle Marching Band
- Otsego High School Marching Knights





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Welch Publishing to donate \$10 to PCU for every subscription sold

From now until December 31, for every new subscription sold, Welch Publishing Co., —home of the *Perrysburg Messenger Journal*—will donate \$10 to Perrysburg Christians United (PCU) food pantry.

“The holidays are a special time and we want to make sure everyone has food on their tables,” said Chet Welch, co-owner of Welch Publishing. “We are pleased to be able to offer this to our subscribers and to PCU. It is the time of giving.”

PCU serves the needs of the community through its various projects and services. It is a 100 percent volunteer operation and relies on the generosity of the community to support its mission—“Perrysburg Christians United believes it has been called to provide assistance to individuals, families and the community to foster comfort of mind, body and spirit dur-



ing needful situations.”

Currently, PCU has the largest food pantry in northern Wood County and provides assistance to families in need.

The pantry serves those who live in Wood County north of State Route 582.

Those receiving food assistance must present two proofs of address and verify their income falls within the

guidelines of the Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services.

The pantry is located at Grace United Methodist Church, 601 East Boundary, Perrysburg. The pantry is in the back southeast corner of the parking lot.

Pantry hours are Mondays, 1 to 3 p.m., and Fridays, 9 to 11 a.m.

PCU also provides crisis assistance, sponsors blood drives, and participates in Stamp Out Hunger and Feed the 5,000.

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