

Book it: Storyland coming to downtown Bradford

Posted: Thursday, December 11, 2014 9:01 am

The McKean County Collaborative Board's Early Learning Outreach Committee knows there aren't many little ones who wouldn't want to take a trip to Storyland with Mrs. Claus and Santa's elves this holiday season.

Area children can do just that from noon to 3 p.m. Saturday at the Bradford Little Theatre's 79 Main St. office, and every day thereafter thanks to free books to be provided during the event.

In an effort to raise awareness of the early-childhood-development and early-learning opportunities in the community, representatives from area agencies will be on hand to read stories to the children.

Appearing with Mrs. Claus and the elves will be representatives of Bradford Little Theatre, McKean County Early Intervention, The Learning Center, McKean County Family Centers, Bradford Area School District, the YMCA Early Learning Center, CARE for Children, Grace Lutheran Growing with Grace preschool, Bradford Area Public Library, McKean County Department of Human Services, St. Bernard Elementary and Middle School and Bradford Area Christian Academy.

"Books are the bridge between where you are and anywhere in the world you want to go," said Bob Esch, American Refining Group vice president of external affairs and community advocate for early-childhood development and early learning. "It is important to recognize that these early-learning opportunities exist for all of our community's children from birth to age 5."

The event is free and open to the public. There will also be Christmas crafts, Christmas cookies and milk and songs of the season played on the piano.

Stopping in the BLT office will be a good way for parents and children to get out of the cold and enjoy holiday activities while attending events as part of Bradford's Old Fashioned Christmas.



Storyland

Childhood education supporters and Bradford Little Theatre decorated the BLT office on Main Street in preparation for their collaborative Storyland event, to take place on Saturday as part of Bradford's Old Fashioned Christmas celebration. From left are Cindy Wright, who works with infants and toddlers at Intermediate Unit Nine's Early Invention program; Dave Garris, husband of BLT president Nanci Garris, who is seated next to him; Cindy Smith, a staff member of the McKean County Family Centers — a program of The Guidance Center; and Bob Esch, a regional advocate for early childhood learning.

Santa Claus will be on hand, attending a holiday brunch from 9 a.m. to noon at The Aud and visiting Whimsical Studio from 1 to 4 p.m.

A free showing of “The Polar Express” will be offered at 10:30 a.m. at the Main Street Movie House, and horse-drawn carriage rides courtesy of Real Living AVISTA and Hennard Construction will be offered in front of the Main Street Mercantile, where a live Nativity and carolers will be stationed.

Studio B dancers will perform at Wright’s Music Shed, and the Tin Ceiling Gift Shoppe will serve hot beverages and treats and will offer a chance to win a six-foot-tall snowman decoration to benefit The *Era*’s Less Fortunate (ELF) Fund.

A number of downtown businesses will also have specials for anyone who wants to shop locally this Christmas season.