

ews COVER STORY

Lockport's Christmas in the Square offers family fun

JESSICA CILELLA, Staff Writer

Cookie-decorating, riding down the streets of Lockport in a horse-drawn sleigh and, of course, meeting Santa were among the most popular activities for dozens of children who attended this year's Christmas in the Square.

The cold weather and live Christmas music added to the lively holiday spirit at the free event, which took place the afternoon of Saturday, Nov. 24, in Central Square.

Lockport Township Park District Recreation Supervisor Amy Rauhen estimated approximately 400 to 500 people attended the festival. It was organized by the park district, Lockport Township and the City of Lockport.

"It brings the community out to celebrate the holidays coming up," Rauhen said. "It's just a chance to come out and support your community and have a little fun, too."

Cindy Dragosh said although her family has lived in Lockport for more than a de-

cade, this is the first year they've attended the event.

"We came out to see Santa and to just spend some time outside ... and spend some time out in town," she said.

Her daughters Mikayla, 6, and Cassie, 8, said they enjoyed all the activities, such as watching a balloon artist and wood carver, petting two of Santa's live reindeer and taking a ride on a trackless train. The family took time to browse the goods offered by local vendors, too.

It was also the first time Lockport resident Candace Saucedo brought her two daughters to the event. She said she enjoys attending other events in Central Square throughout the year, like the Cruisin' Lockport Car Show, so she thought to check out the festival.

"I like it," she said, as she stood in line to visit Santa with her 2 and 4-year-olds. "It was a perfect day for it."

The event ended with a tree lighting ceremony attended by City officials.



Lockport residents Steven (left) and Sarah Clawson visit a reindeer at the annual Christmas in the Square event Saturday, Nov. 24, held at Central Square, located at 222 E. Ninth St., in Lockport.



ABOVE: Lockport resident Rylee Teel (center) gives a polar bear a high five at the annual Christmas in the Square event Saturday, Nov. 24.



LEFT: Lockport Mayor Dev Trivedi (right) claps while listening to children sing Christmas carols at the annual Christmas in the Square event Saturday, Nov. 24. PHOTOS BY TRISTAN ZEIER/22ND CENTURY MEDIA