



## Marshall's Michigan Avenue

Marshall's Central Business District has a 175 year history of successful business along its length from old Courthouse Square to Exchange Square.

As Territorial Road, it saw Michigan's settlers pass through to populate much of the Lower Peninsula. The original design had streets 100 feet wide - unique enough to be noted in city planning text books found at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York.

The business district has shown an amazing ability to adapt itself to changing times. Imagine at one time there were 18 general stores along the road, 16 of them serving liquor by the glass.

Until 1930, the Interurban Railroad ran down the middle of the street while Michigan Central Railroad was only a half-mile south of the district. Marshall merchants planted the little leaf linden trees that grace the street today.

From the days of general stores, cigar makers, and farm support shops, Marshall's versatility has allowed the transition from that time to a modern shopping center for gifts, antiques and general needs all in 100+ year-old buildings.

Honors continue to flow to the distinctive business district that now readies itself for another joyous Christmas season. This unique town has been in the "Michigan Main Street" program since 2003. In 1991, the district became part of the city's National Historic Landmark District, the country's largest in the small urban category. It's also the heart of the Midwest's "Prettiest Painted Places," and one of America's "Dozen Distinctive Destinations." In addition, a 1.2 mile stretch of old Territorial Road was been proclaimed by the Michigan Department of Transportation as "a Michigan Heritage Route-Historic," one of only a handful so honored in Michigan. Marshall boasts eleven museums and fifty-five historical markers and plaques.

With all of these attributes, Marshall, Michigan continues to be a wonderful place to both remember and create new Christmas memories.

## 2012 Coming Events in Marshall

- Feb 10-11 Winter Blues Festival, Downtown
- May 18-23 Michigan Week
- May 19 30th Annual Oaklawn Hospitality Classic  
Tourism/Hospitality Day in Marshall
- May 19-20
- & 26-28 9th Annual Mayfaire Renaissance Festival
- May 28 Memorial Day Parade
- June 29-30 11th Annual Cruise to the Fountain, Fairgrounds
- July 4 Fourth of July Celebration, Fountain Circle
- July 14-15 22nd Annual Welcome To My Garden Tour
- July 21 9th Annual Marshall Blues Festival, Downtown
- July 26-28 15th Annual Bluegrass Festival, Fairgrounds
- Aug 12-18 164th Calhoun County Fair
- Sept 8-9 49th Annual Historic Home Tour
- Sept 8 11th Annual Civil War Ball & Social Event
- Oct 13 12th Annual "If These Stones Could Talk..."  
- A Living History Portrayal, Oakridge Cemetery
- 16th Annual Harvest Festival, Fairgrounds
- Nov 10 Santa's Bag Arts & Crafts Show
- Nov 26 48th Annual Christmas Parade, Downtown
- Nov 30 Retail Christmas Open House, Downtown
- Dec 8-9 33rd Annual Candlelight Tour

Dates are subject to change

Please call (800) 877-5163 or check [www.marshallmi.org](http://www.marshallmi.org) for a complete listing and current information.



**BROCHURE DESIGNED & FUNDED BY:**

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# Historic Marshall, Michigan

## A Storybook Christmas



## 2011

## Christmas Season

[www.marshallmi.org](http://www.marshallmi.org)

## Christmas Decorations in Marshall

Marshall's Christmas decorations started modestly 60 years ago but quickly gained popularity. Just like a storybook picture, arches of fresh evergreen garlands and antique holiday lights help to make the downtown a wonderland of colors. The business district's little leaf linden trees sparkle with white lights illuminating bustling shoppers below. Also, a special Christmas display highlights the fountain circle with overhanging lights illuminating a life size manger scene. Be sure to look for the "Camel Crossing" sign!



## 32nd Annual Candlelight Walk

Saturday & Sunday

December 10th & 11th (4:30 p.m. & 6:45 p.m.)

Five private homes and the Honolulu House will be featured on this highly personalized Candlelight Walking Tour. A reception precedes both the early and late tours each day. Reserved tickets are \$20 each and can be ordered with a check or credit card. Please contact the Marshall Historical Society, 107 N. Kalamazoo, Marshall, MI 49068 or the Marshall Area Chamber of Commerce at (800) 877-5163.

*"On its best blocks, Marshall makes the Midwest seem like the sweetest place on earth."*  
- New York Times

## Governor's Mansion Tea

Sunday, December 11th  
(1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.)

Held the same weekend as the Candlelight Walk, this historic structure will be beautifully decorated for the holiday season. Come join us for tea and cookies while enjoying this 1839 Greek Revival home.

*"Marshall resembles a page from a 19th-century scrapbook."*

- Michigan Travel Ideas

## 47th Annual Christmas Parade



Monday, November 28th (7:00 p.m.)

There are good reasons why residents and visitors from all over south central Michigan come to Marshall for this old fashioned holiday parade. It's a traditional delight that's highlighted by dozens of floats, bands, horses and lots of marching units to help usher in the holiday season.

(photo courtesy of Kathie Boyer)



## Retail Christmas in Downtown Marshall

Friday,  
December 2nd  
(6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.)

Christmas decorations, bright lights, carolers, strolling musicians and Santa make this evening magical. Inside the shops the merchants welcome their many visitors with holiday refreshments as shoppers stroll through the unique selections of Christmas gifts. The Honolulu House and American Museum of Magic will also be participating in the open house.

[www.marshallmi.org](http://www.marshallmi.org)



(800) 877-5163

## Santa Claus is coming to town!

Following his arrival as the highlight of the Christmas Parade, Santa will be available to discuss whether kids have been naughty or nice beginning Friday, December 2nd during the Retail Open House. He will be located downtown at **The Toy Barn**, 114 West Michigan Avenue. You can view Santa's schedule by either visiting the Chamber's website at [www.marshallmi.org](http://www.marshallmi.org), or by calling The Marshall Area Chamber at (269) 781-5163 or The Toy Barn at (269) 789-TOYS (8697).

(photo courtesy of Dennis Craft)










## Marshall Museum Holiday Hours

November & December, 2011

Not only will the Honolulu House and American Museum of Magic be open for the Dec. 2nd Retail Open House from 6-9 p.m., they will also be open Nov. 26th & 27th, Dec. 3rd & 4th, 10th & 11th, and 17th & 18th (Honolulu House 12-5 p.m., Magic Museum Sat. 10-4 p.m. & Sun. 12-4 p.m.). The Post Office Museum will open its doors Dec. 10th & 11th as well from 12-5 p.m., and anytime by appointment.

(Check online at [marshallmi.org](http://marshallmi.org) Attractions)

## Other Christmas Activities

-  Santa's Bag Arts and Craft Show at Marshall High School, Nov. 12th.
-  Barton Theatre Organ playing beautiful Christmas music at the Mole Hole during the holidays.
-  *Grandma Got Run Over By A What?* playing at Cornwell's Dinner Theatre, Nov. 3rd-Dec. 23rd.
-  Vote for your favorite during Marshall Main Street's *Window Wonderland*, Nov. 25th-Dec. 5th.
-  Caroling most evenings at Schuler's Restaurant through the holiday season.
-  The Franke Center for the Arts presents *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*, Dec. 9th-11th.
-  *A Campfire Christmas* at the Maple Grove Church, Dec. 18th.

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