

the *W* collection

*Light
the Night!*

*Santa's Arrival, Carriage Rides,
Fireworks and more!*

MERRY & BRIGHT

The Fashion, the Food, the Festivities. . .
it's all at Watters Creek!

*Get Your
Holiday
Glam On!*

Wrap It Up!

Holiday Gifts Yule Love

Experience Your Holiday Traditions at Watters Creek

by Lisa Beach

When you think of Christmas Eve traditions, you probably envision a treasured family dinner, a special religious service, or a milk-and-cookies treat for Santa. But hundreds of people, including plenty of families, come to Watters Creek on Christmas Eve. No, they don't come to shop. They come to sing, shoulder to shoulder with their community neighbors, at **Christmas Eve on the Green**. Led this year by Tangible Grace Fellowship, this beautiful, candlelit evening of fellowship and music draws people together for an enchanted Christmas Eve, surrounded by the lush landscape and twinkling lights of Watters Creek.

When guests embrace Watters Creek as part of their holiday traditions, that's a true sign that the property has moved beyond "just a place to buy gifts." In fact, Watters Creek embodies the holiday spirit by immersing visitors in a festive experience that touches all their senses. From the sound of Christmas carols, to the smell of hot chocolate, to the sight of dazzling light displays, to the taste of holiday treats, to the feel of community fellowship, Watters Creek provides a holiday gathering place to share the joys of the season with friends and family.

"One of the crowd favorites—our complimentary horse and carriage rides—kicks off on weekend evenings starting Nov. 19, this year's annual **Light the Night** event, and then every night except Sunday starting Dec. 12," says Debra Martinez, Watters Creek Marketing Director. "Guests can ride through the center, soaking in the beauty of the dazzling Christmas tree display and thousands of sparkling lights lining the rooftops and trees. It's simply stunning!"

Part of the huge appeal of Watters Creek lies in those "feel-good" moments created by memory-making opportunities throughout the last two weeks of November and all of December. For example, moms and dads can get creative with their little ones at **Elves, Inc.**, free make-and-take craft sessions on Thursdays at Blue House Too. And photo opportunities abound, whether it's beside the 30-foot Christmas tree ablaze with lights, the bubbling creek and footbridge, or a wish-sharing visit to Santa's Cottage. In addition to Christmas Eve on the Green, music fills the air on weekends with **A Very Jazzy Christmas!**, featuring husband-and-wife jazz duo Eddie and Debi Crocetti.

"We work hard to make sure Watters Creek is a destination, not just for shopping, but for a magical holiday experience," says Martinez. "Every year, we add something that makes the season even more special, including how we make a difference in our community."

With a long history of giving back throughout the year, Watters Creek continues to set the bar high for philanthropy and community partnerships. The holidays are no exception with an annual toy drive to benefit Allen Community Outreach and a special **Trees for Troops** event on Dec. 2 and 3 where guests can help spread Christmas cheer by writing a note of appreciation to our troops. Each note will be attached to one of the 100 Christmas trees given to military families, thanks to a partnership between Watters Creek, FedEx Freight and the Christmas SPIRIT Foundation. Watters Creek even gets the schools and city hall involved, with students and the mayor penning their own thank you notes.

With five weeks of Christmas cheer on the calendar, Watters Creek aims to illuminate the holidays for its guests, helping create beloved traditions and treasured memories along the way.

