

Youth First SPOTLIGHT ON YOUTH

DECEMBER 2011

Upcoming events

December 1st
BIRMINGHAM CITY SCHOOLS
72ND ANNUAL ALL CITY CHRISTMAS
MUSIC FESTIVAL
Fair Park Arena
1pm

December 6th
CITY OF BIRMINGHAM ANNUAL
CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING
Linn Park
5pm—7pm | 205-254-2391

December 8th
2011 CHOCOLATE NUTCRACKER
Alabama Theater
7pm | 205-302-0475
www.projecthopewell.com

December 10th
SWAC CHAMPIONSHIP
Grambling vs. Alabama A&M
Legion Field
12 noon | 205-251-7573
www.swac.org

December 26th-30th
HOLIDAY CAMP
McWane Science Center
205-714-8300

William A. Bell, Sr. Mayor
Cedric D. Sparks, Sr., *Executive Director*
City of Birmingham Mayor's Office
Division of Youth Services
1608 7th Avenue North
Birmingham, AL 35203
(P) 205-320-0879 (F) 205-297-8139
www.bhamyouthfirst.org
www.birminghamal.gov

2011 Step in the Name of Love Extravaganza Kicks-off DYS' Holiday Toy Drive



The 2011 City of Birmingham Mayor's Office Division of Youth Services held its *Step in the Name of Love Extravaganza* kicked off DYS' holiday initiative on Sunday, November 20, 2011 at the Carver Theater.

Step in the Name of Love is an annual benefit step show that kicked off DYS' holiday initiatives to provide an enjoyable holiday to

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OPERATION STRAIGHT A's Recognizes Birmingham Youth Who Shine in Academics, Attendance, and Attitude

The City of Birmingham Mayor's Office Division of Youth Services' (DYS) **OPERATION STRAIGHT A's** is back recognizing Birmingham youth for academic achievement, perfect attendance, and good conduct while in school.

This quarter, we recognized those students with a special screening of the movie, **HAPPY FEET 2** on Saturday, November 19, 2011. Birmingham youth who meet **one** of the criteria listed below, earned a **FREE movie pass for themselves and 2 guests**.

Participation Criteria:

- * Increased a letter grade in 2 core academic subjects (excluding PE)



Merry Christmas



’Twas the Night Before Christmas

English/Spanish Version

’Twas the night before Christmas y por toda la casa,
Not a creature was stirring—Caramba! Que pasa?

Los niños were tucked away in their camas,
Some in long underwear, some in pijamas,

While hanging the medias with mucho cuidado
In hopes that old Santa would feel obligado

To bring all children, both Buenos y malos,
A nice batch of dulces y otros regales.

Outside in the yard there arose such a grito
That I jumped to my pies like a frightened cabrito.

I ran to the window and looked out afuera,
And who in the world do you think that it era?

Saint Nick in a sleigh and a big red sombrero
Came dashing along like a crazy bomber.

And pulling his sleigh instead of venados
Were eight little burros approaching volados.

I watched as they came and this quaint little hombre
Was shouting and whistling and calling my nombre:

“Ay Pancho, ay Pep, ay Cuco, ay Berto,
Ay Chato, ay Chopo, Macuco, y Nieto!”

Then standing erect with his hands on his pecho
He flew to the top of our very own techno.

With his round little belly like a bowl of jalea,
He struggled to squeeze down our old chimenea,

Then huffing and puffing at last in our sala,
With soot smeared all over his real suit de gala,

He filled all the medias with lovely regales-
For none of the niños had been very malos.

Then chuckling aloud, seeming muy contento,
He turned like a flash and was gone como viento.

And I heard him exclaim, and this is verdad,
Merry Christmas to all, y Feliz Navidad!

Step Extravaganza (cont.)

(Continued from page 1)

some of Birmingham’s less fortunate. Overwhelmingly, donations of unwrapped toys and non-perishable food items poured in from youth and their families, faith-based institutions, youth service providers, and Greek-letter organizations. We’re especially proud to announce that *House of Payne* star, Cassie Davis will serve as the Honorary Chairwoman of the 2011 Holiday Campaign.



This year’s event featured Birmingham’s own recording artists Rod G. Newman and Big Prophet, with 95.7 Gospel JAMZ’s, DJ Strick, serving as this year’s host. Featured performances included:



Mad Skillz Dance Troupe

Total Man Mime Ministries

S.W.A.G. (Worship & Deliverance Ministries)

S.W.A.T. (45th Street Baptist Church)

First Baptist Church, Kingston Stompers

**Jefferson County Alumnae Chapter of
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.**

There was also a special performance by the
DYS All-Star Steppers!

Operation STRAIGHT A’s (cont.)

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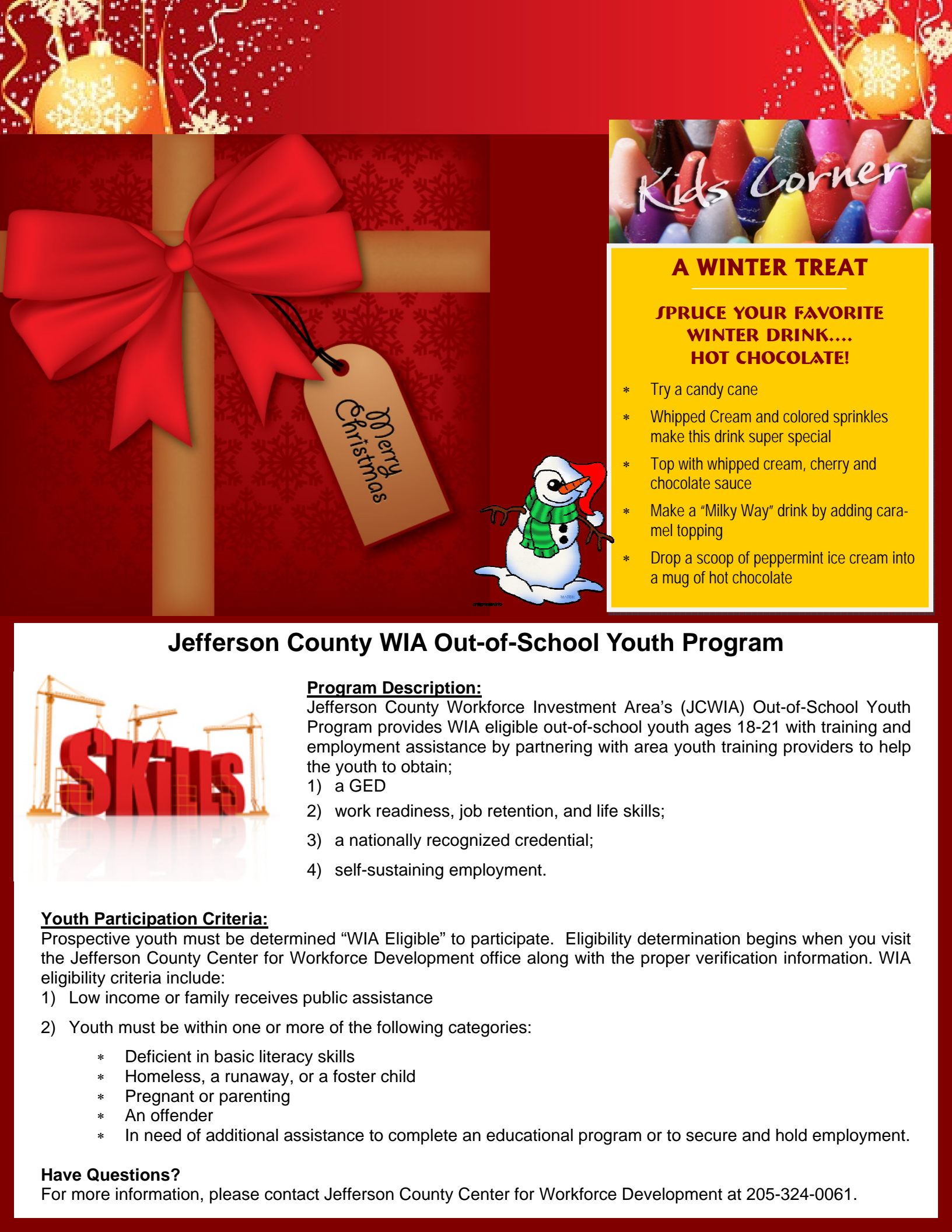
- * Perfect Attendance and Good Conduct grade for the most recent grading period

OR

- * Maintained a C average or Above for two consecutive grading periods



Over 300 youth and their families were in attendance as DYS celebrated their academic achievements. Keep up the good work!



A WINTER TREAT

SPRUCE YOUR FAVORITE WINTER DRINK.... HOT CHOCOLATE!

- * Try a candy cane
- * Whipped Cream and colored sprinkles make this drink super special
- * Top with whipped cream, cherry and chocolate sauce
- * Make a "Milky Way" drink by adding caramel topping
- * Drop a scoop of peppermint ice cream into a mug of hot chocolate



Jefferson County WIA Out-of-School Youth Program



Program Description:

Jefferson County Workforce Investment Area's (JCWIA) Out-of-School Youth Program provides WIA eligible out-of-school youth ages 18-21 with training and employment assistance by partnering with area youth training providers to help the youth to obtain;

- 1) a GED
- 2) work readiness, job retention, and life skills;
- 3) a nationally recognized credential;
- 4) self-sustaining employment.

Youth Participation Criteria:

Prospective youth must be determined "WIA Eligible" to participate. Eligibility determination begins when you visit the Jefferson County Center for Workforce Development office along with the proper verification information. WIA eligibility criteria include:

- 1) Low income or family receives public assistance
- 2) Youth must be within one or more of the following categories:
 - * Deficient in basic literacy skills
 - * Homeless, a runaway, or a foster child
 - * Pregnant or parenting
 - * An offender
 - * In need of additional assistance to complete an educational program or to secure and hold employment.

Have Questions?

For more information, please contact Jefferson County Center for Workforce Development at 205-324-0061.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Holiday Reading Recommendations

There are a variety of interesting books available to spark the interest, imagination and most of all the love of reading for children of all ages this holiday season.

Elementary (Pre K – Grade 2)

A New Coat for Anna
Harriet Ziefert

The Polar Express
Chris Van Allsburg

A Kwanzaa Celebration Pop-Up Book
Nancy Williams

The Legend of the Poinsettia
Tomie dePaola

A Wish to Be a Christmas Tree
Colleen Monroe

Elementary (Grades 3–5)

Hurray For Three Kings' Day!
Lori Marie Carlson

The Velveteen Rabbit
Margery Williams

Christmas Around the World
Mary Lankford

Seven Candles for Kwanzaa
Andrea Davis Pinkney

On Christmas Eve
Ann M. Martin

Middle School (Grades 6-8)
The Best Christmas Pageant Ever
Barbara Robinson

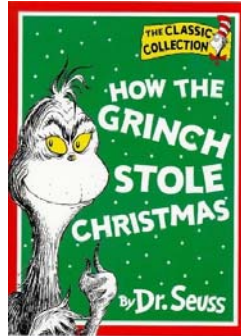
Amazing Peace
Maya Angelou

The Christmas Box
Richard Paul Evans

A Kwanzaa Story: Or How One Gentleman Found His Way
Nancy Guthorn Harrington

Dream Soul
Laurence Yep

The Bells of Christmas
Virginia Hamilton



Source: www.justreadfamilies.org/holidays/reading.asp

GIVE THE GIFT OF IMAGINATION



Santa is busy in Birmingham this Christmas season! There are a number of activities and events happening this month that you definitely don't want to miss!



November 25th - December 31st
Santa vs. The Snowman
McWane Science Center
205-714-8414
www.mcwane.org



November 25th - December 19th
The North Pole Express
Heart of Dixie Railroad Museum
205-757-8383



December 3rd
Breakfast in Santa's Workshop
McWane Science Center
205-714-8414



December 3rd - 11th
'Twas the Night Before Christmas
Birmingham Children's Theatre
205-458-8181



December 4th & 18th
Polar Express PJ Parties
McWane Science Center
3pm & 6pm
205-714-8414
www.mcwane.org



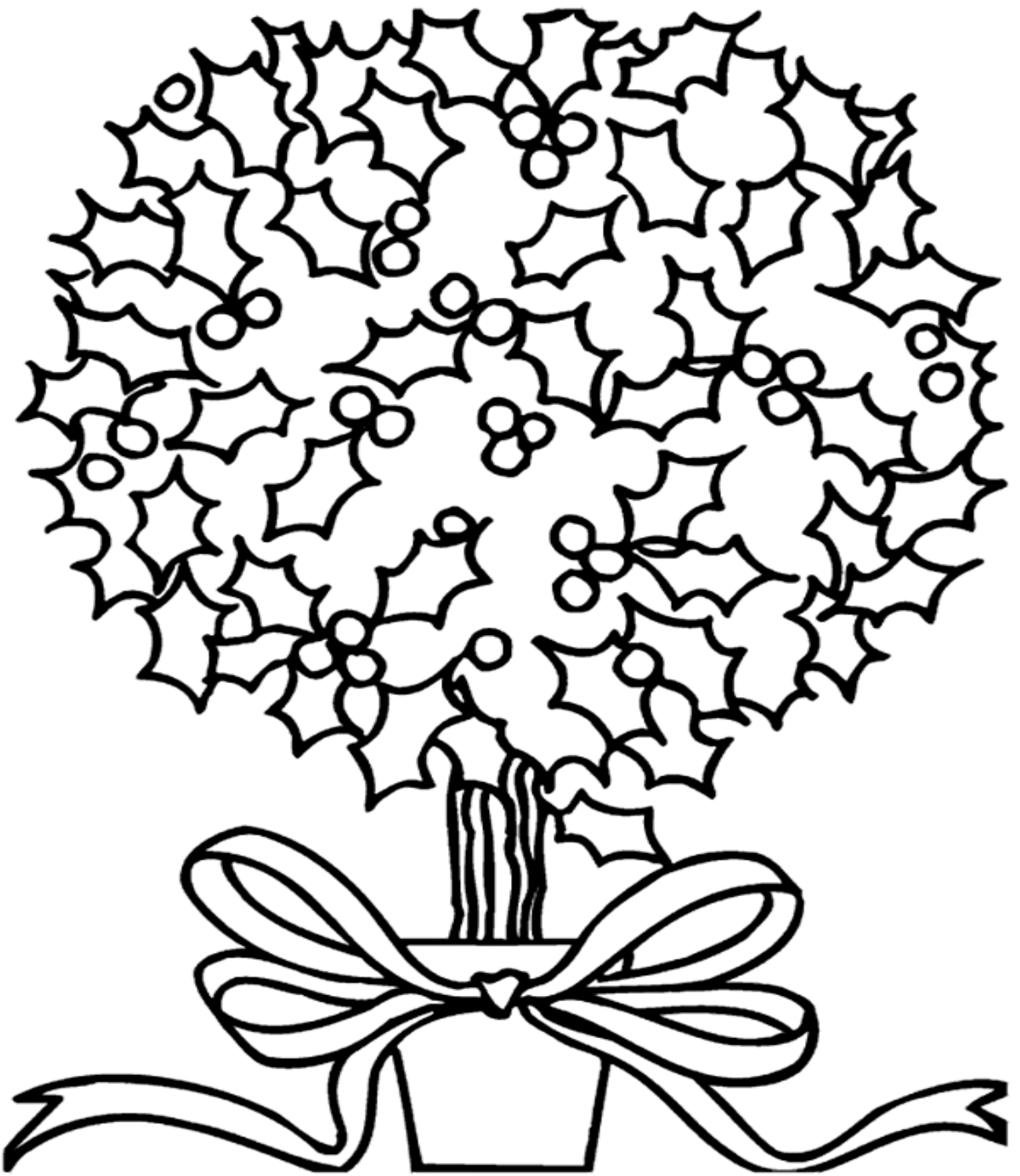
December 6th
City of Birmingham Annual Christmas Tree Lighting
Linn Park
5pm—7pm
205-254-2391



December 8th
The Chocolate Nutcracker
Alabama Theatre | 7pm
800-745-3000



December 9th - 31st
Zoolight Safari
The Birmingham Zoo
5pm – 9pm
205-879-0409
www.birminghamzoo.com



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Happy
Holidays!