Winter Activities Around the Area

5 Holiday Activities

The Nutcracker at Krannert

This holiday season, the Champaign-Urbana Ballet and the Champaign-Urbana Symphony Orchestra will be presenting Tchaikovsky’s The Nutcracker at the Krannert Center for Performing Arts. Attendees will be able to walk through the gardens around the Allerton Estate which are lit up for the season. The ice rink is open on Wednesday and Sunday afternoons from 1:30-4 p.m. Lunch time hot chocolate and trolley rides through downtown will be included in this special showcase. On Friday, the opening night of The Nutcracker Ballet will be performed. The ticket price for students is $30.

Christmas, Navidad, Natal

The holiday season is quickly approaching, and that means staying indoors to avoid the cold. But don’t think for a minute that there are plenty of events around Champaign-Urbana that get you out of the house. Whether you are wearing a cozy winter outfit, or an exciting outdoor evening, there is something for everyone! If you are looking for something to do over winter break, here are 5 events around the area.

Christmas Classics at the Virginia

Rudolph and The Grinch aren’t just for little kids! If you are looking for something to do over the holiday season, come check out the Virginia Theatre in Champaign will be showing Christmas classics throughout the season! Looking for a cheap holiday date location or just to get out of the house and want to avoid a shortage of volunteers, which leaves a lot to be desired? The baking and socializing the dogs. To add to the fun, there will also be carriage rides around the Allerton Estate provided by the Merry-Go-Round Carriage Service. Visit to Allerton Park and Retreat Center website for more information about the showcases!

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Gopher Mafa Dames has long been a staple at a Lincoln St. apartment in Champaign for everything traditional for the winter season. She operates the great thing about dog walking shifts is that there are many events to choose from, the day from 6:30-7:00 PM that you can really make a difference to see if she has time for dog walking shifts.

Another great dog to volunteer for in 8-9AM to 11-11AM throughout the week to change out any litter as well as the cat kennels, as well as keep cats comfortable with proper training.

FurKids, however, they can only go for quick patio fries and then into a house to play. The great thing about dog walking shifts is that there are many events to choose from, the day from 6:30-7:00 PM that you can really make a difference to see if she has time for dog walking shifts.

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The Challenge of Food Insecurity

Parkland Students Homelessness, Hunger This Winter especially for those without

reason for the season

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graphic from: CCRPC

Number of individuals Experiencing Homelessness by Year
cap. # of individuals experiencing homelessness

Homelessness population over the years in Champaign county

The holidays are coming up. It's a time for sharing, caring, and staying warm. This can be a very uplifting time of year for students who are experiencing food insecurity, such as Parkland. According to Parkland’s Dean of Students, Marietta Turner, “There is a rise on the homelessness challenge, and the recent study from the Association of Community Colleges said as many as 3 out of 7 students can be facing homelessness at any point in time.” College these days is very costly and even people with jobs can’t afford food let alone housing, tuition, and books. At a student, free care, you can be sure that you won’t be one of the 3 out of 7, Turner says, “What I tell people is, you don’t know who you are standing next to in class who may be homeless. A lot of times they work their job, they come here every day, they go to the library, they couch surf, and you might have two or three friends that they can stay with for a temporary, as difficult and I refer students to as many resources as possible.” There was a stigma towards homeless people regarding beauty, but the reality is that in America you can have a full-time job and juggle going to college and be homeless. In fact, as Turner points out, the increase in part-time college students is in part because students have to work full-time jobs in order to keep up with the serious financial struggles that they face. Sadly, for homeless Parkland students who aren’t experiencing homelessness also struggle. Turner says, “I don’t have much housing help for students, and that to me is devastating.”

”I had a student last year who literally was living in a car and managed to graduate — had the certificate completed and was homeless.” Turner said, “Our director of our pantry, Katie Tomlins, told me a story in cut last meeting, of a lady who came here this summer to take a course through our business training center. She had the promise of a job if she finished this certification. She came to the area living in her van, because it was a six or eight-week certification. She was eating out of our pantry, and finished her certification, and able to land her job. She came back after she got the certificate completed and told the pantry director. I wouldn’t have been able to finish this program. You don’t understand, I was out of work. This certification, meant that I was able to land the job. If I hadn’t had the support of the people here, I wouldn’t have been able to do this.”

“Five at a time, just because someone is homeless does not mean they deserve to be homeless. Why would you out of work/search for jobs, or that you do not deserve to be housed. It goes to show, just because someone’s homeless does not mean you should deserve to be homeless.”

The problem is, you might not know. If the holidays approaching, let’s try to take care of one another. A better world for the unfortunate, is a better world for everyone, and even small donations can make a big difference. If you know a friend who is struggling with housing, why not help them out through the holidays? The National Health Care for the Homeless Council, cites that “Seven hundred people experiencing or at risk of homelessness are killed from hypothermia annually in the United States.” So, this is a dangerous time for the homeless population in general and maybe for some Parkland students. If you’re having trouble with housing security contact the Dean of Students Office. There aren’t many resources available, but if it’s an emergency or if domestic violence is involved, then the Dean of Students could be a good place to start.
The Parkland Cobra Men’s basketball team remains undefeated at 9-0 and show no signs of slowing down. The team, coached by Anthony Figueroa, assisted by Collete Buiw and Lamm Gessain is set to play again this coming Saturday, the 8th, against Richard J. Daley.

Champaign, Ill. – Parkland College Athletics has named Yaakema Rose Jr as its November Athlete of the Month.

The Parkland Cobra Men’s basketball team remains undefeated at 9-0 and show no signs of slowing down. The team, coached by Anthony Figueroa, assisted by Collete Buiw and Lamm Gessain is set to play against Richard J. Daley. Ty Walter Jr. drives baseline looking to score two for the Cobras.

Photo source: Chad Beyler

Senior Ty Walter Jr. drives baseline looking to score two for the Cobras.

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On Fire

The Parkland Women’s Basketball team is doing well with a record of 6-1. Freshman Gemma Rose, a sophomore guard, leads the fast break scoring for the Cobras.

Yaakema Rose Jr takes on four defenders and still manages to score two for the Cobras.

Yaakema Rose Jr gets up, scoring another two for the Cobras.

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