



Union Depot to Bring the Cheer Once Again During its Annual Hub for the Holidays

Popular events to include the European Christmas Market, Holiday Tree Lighting, visits from holiday trains, and the Holiday Bake Sale

SAINT PAUL, Minn. (October 22, 2025) --- Union Depot is getting ready to once again become the region's ultimate holiday destination with its annual Hub for the Holidays event series. A variety of holiday festivities will take place throughout the merry season beginning Friday, Nov. 28 and going through Sunday, Dec. 21, 2025.

The final touches are coming together on another full calendar of seasonal favorites including the Holiday Tree Lighting and Movie Night, European Christmas Market, visits by the North Pole Express and CPKC Holiday Train, and the Holiday Bake Sale.

Amy Struve, Marketing Manager at Union Depot, is looking forward to welcoming past and new guests to Union Depot throughout the season and beyond. "Hub for the Holidays is always a wonderful time of the year, but this year is extra special as the CPKC Holiday Train will be stopping on a Saturday for the first time. That means guests will be able to enjoy the Holiday Bake Sale and European Christmas Market before heading outside to watch the train arrive and take in the musical performance."

Below are details on each event, in chronological order. For the most current information, please visit uniondepot.org/holiday.

Here is a link to assets for each event: [Hub for the Holidays - Dropbox](#)

European Christmas Market Four Three-Day Weekends Beginning November 28

Hub for the Holidays festivities kick off with the European Christmas Market. Inspired by old world traditions, it is the largest authentic outdoor European Christmas Market in Minnesota and will feature over 70 vendors.

Exceptional gift options await visitors who will be able to find the perfect stocking stuffers for friends and loved ones. Market offerings include Scandinavian-inspired handcrafted goods, traditional German ornaments, Eastern European souvenirs and much more. There will also be a variety of food vendors with a wide selection of food and beverage options.

A full schedule of entertainment will include live music, carolers, dancers and choir ensembles. The Minnesota Krampus, an eclectic set of Austrian folklore creatures, will also be in attendance.

Dates

Every Friday – Sunday from November 28 – December 21
November 28 – 30, December 5 – 7, December 12 – 14, December 19 - 21

Times

Friday Hours	3 p.m. – 9 p.m. (Noon start on opening day - Fri., Nov. 28)
Saturday Hours	11 a.m. – 9 p.m.
Sunday Hours	11 a.m. – 6 p.m.

North Pole Express December 5 – 7 and December 11 – 14

The family favorite North Pole Express will roll into the station during two Hub for the Holidays weekends. Vintage rail cars will take riders on an adventure to a North Pole village, where they'll have the opportunity to meet Santa and his elves. Along the way, entertaining characters will interact with riders and sing holiday carols. This is the perfect short trip for fans of holiday trains and families with children. This event always sells out fast, so those interested in attending are encouraged to get their tickets early. [Tickets and more information](#)

Dates

December 5 - 7 and December 11 - 14

Tree Lighting and Movie Night Saturday, Dec. 6

Exciting entertainment and giveaways await Union Depot visitors on Saturday, Dec. 6, for the annual Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony.

Guests can watch the unveiling of the 2026 Saint Paul Winter Carnival buttons by members of the Carnival's Royal Family, Vulcan Krewe, and Klondike Kates.

Attendees will then be able to enjoy a concert by The Mistletones before heading to the North Plaza for the Tree Lighting Ceremony which includes fireworks. This year's holiday tree will provide the perfect backdrop for festive photos throughout the season. Rounding out the night's free events will be a screening of "Elf," the holiday crowd-favorite film.

Times

Winter Carnival Button Unveiling	5 p.m.
Mistletoes Concert	5:30 – 6:30 p.m.
Tree Lighting	7 p.m.
“Elf” Movie	7:30 p.m.

Holiday Bake Sale Saturday, Dec. 13

Top bakeries from around the Twin Cities will congregate at Union Depot for the annual Union Depot Holiday Bake Sale. This year’s lineup will feature 45 local bakeries and food vendors offering their tasty treats for sale. Anyone with a sweet tooth will feel right at home as they sample free bites of cookies, candy, and holiday confections. This free event will also feature live entertainment, and the first 300 people to arrive will receive a free Holiday Bake Sale tote bag and baking-themed giveaway item.

Time

11 a.m. – 7 p.m.

CPKC Holiday Train Saturday, Dec. 13

A popular crowd-pleaser, the CPKC Holiday Train, will once again be making a special stop at Union Depot.

Once the brightly lit locomotive arrives, a concert stage will drop from the side of the train. Visitors who arrive to the concert early can stay warm and enjoy concessions inside Union Depot—a unique feature compared to other stops along the train’s route.

CPKC Holiday Train shows are free to attend, though CPKC asks attendees to bring a cash or non-perishable food donation if they're able. A local food shelf will collect both canned goods and cash donations, which can make an even greater impact than food donations.

Time

7 – 7:30 p.m.

MEDIA CONTACTS

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ABOUT UNION DEPOT:

Union Depot is a multi-modal transportation hub and vibrant event venue in the heart of the Twin Cities. Completed in 1926 and on the National Register of Historic Places since 1974, it was beautifully restored in 2012. Union Depot offers a robust schedule of free community events year-round, making it a cultural hub for residents and visitors. It provides extensive transportation services, including Amtrak®, Jefferson Lines, Metro Transit, Greyhound, Megabus, FlixBus and Hertz, along with parking and bike storage. Home to businesses such as Lowertown Bike Shop and Coffee, Choo Choo Bob’s Train Store, 1881 Eating House and Story Line Books, Union Depot is also an ideal setting for weddings, events and meetings. Union Depot is owned by Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority and operated by JLL. For more information, visit uniondepot.org.

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