SAINT COMES TO TOWN — Santa Claus greets children outside the Schownegardt House in downtown Warren County ahead of a Christmas tree lighting, part of the Hometown Christmas festival Dec. 5. Adam Rollins photo.

CHRISTMAS

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said Lori Miller with the downtown association. That concern turned out to be unfounded, and Miller said the event was a general success.

“After being penned up all summer, all cooped up, everybody was ready for an outside event that they could get out to. And the weather was beautiful,” Miller said. Festivities looked different this year due to the virus. The only outdoor vendor this year was a funnel cake truck. The remainder of the activities before and after the parade were focused on Main Street businesses.

“We tried to make a very kid-friendly event. Most of the stores did a good job partnering with us, as far as providing something for the kids,” Miller said. “The whole goal was to get people downtown, get people involved, and make them aware of some of the small businesses that have popped up.”

“I got a lot of responses, ‘Oh, I didn’t even know that little business was here,’” Miller added. For the lighted parade, Miller said organizers with the downtown association wanted to start small for the parade’s return. That’s why only non-street legal vehicles were allowed to participate this year. In the future, Miller said organizers might consider growing the parade with larger vehicles and floats.

Miller said the one activity that didn’t get as much engagement as they would like was a scavenger hunt designed to lead families into the participating Main Street businesses. She said COVID concerns likely kept some people outside, although multiple businesses had thriving foot traffic.

Ambulance upgrades

In September, the county commission distributed a combined $203,000 to the county’s two ambulance districts. Just under $20,000 went to Marthasville Community Ambulance, the bulk of which paid for an automated CPR machine to reduce contact with patients and improve care.

Warren County Ambulance received $183,000 for seven automated CPR machines, as well as a new ambulance, according to Commissioner Hubie Kuesner. He said this investment was necessary to mount an adequate response to the winter months, which can be deadly for heart attacks.

Radio project

The county commission in September agreed to devote up to $2.4 million from the CARES fund to upgrade or replace nearly all the electronic equipment involved in the solar projects.