



Friday, November 1, 2024

Community Christmas Celebration set for Thursday, December 5

With the holidays just around the corner, preparations are under way for the annual community Christmas celebration, Boone County Convention and Visitors Bureau Executive Director Kris Blocker said today.

This year's theme is "Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree," which is an extension of this year's Pufferbilly Days' theme, "Rock the Rails."

Entry forms for the annual parade, which will begin at 5:30 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 5, are available by contacting Blocker at kris@visitboonecounty.com or at (515) 433-6900. The parade route will run from Sixth Street to Ninth Street on Story Street. The tree lighting in the Community Green Space at Eighth and Story streets will follow the parade.

Blocker has sent out parade entry forms to past participants but is extending an invitation to anyone who would like to participate this year. Entries will be accepted through Tuesday, Dec. 3.

"We'll have a group singing Christmas carols at the green space for the tree lighting. Then we'll do a countdown and Mayor Stines and Santa Claus will flip the switch and turn on the Christmas tree lights," she said. "After the tree is lighted, Santa will move on stage to welcome kids and share little goodie bags with each and every one."

The tree's lights will remain at least through Christmas and likely until New Year's Day.

Blocker also encouraged the public to turn out for the Boone County Historical Society's soup supper at the Boone County History Center, 602 Story St., between 4:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. that same day. BCHS board member Mary Lamoureux said society members will be serving soup, muffin or roll, veggies and dip, a dessert bar or cookie and a drink for \$8. Guests can dine in or carry out their meals and can pay with cash or a debit or credit card.

Blocker said the long-time annual celebration is "just a really good way to bring the community together and kick off the holidays." It's also a great reminder to "shop small, shop local, and support downtown businesses."

Some businesses will be open on that evening, and the Shops on Story collaboration of downtown businesses will have its big holiday celebration on Saturday, Dec. 7.

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