



SCOTTVILLE CHRISTMAS

Christmas in Downtown Scottville

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Scottville Christmas Party Enjoyed by Many



Submitted By:
Cathy Gilchrist

The annual Christmas Party thrown by the Scottville Main Street Promotions Committee was celebrated on the 5th of December at the Scottville Optimist Hall. Participants were greeted by Cayla Christmas, 2009 Harvest Festival Queen and Tiffany Christmas, 2009 Harvest Festival first runner-up. Santa and Mrs. Claus, Bob and Sharon Bailey, were present sharing candy canes and posing with young and old for pictures which were taken by Malinda Bender from Shelby and Crystal McCormick from Fountain. Games were played with the help of Mason Co. Central Student Council volunteers who gave of their time and talents. Bob Simms played Christmas music

Dear Josh,

It is Christmas in Scottville! As I write this the snow is falling on Main Street. Our historical buildings and Christmas decorations provide a festive back drop for the holidays. Included in this special Christmas edition of the Scottville Main Street Newsletter is a recap of the Christmas Party last weekend, a review of what to expect for the Christmas Parade upcoming this weekend, a special thank you to all Main Street's volunteers, an overview of the upcoming Winter Thaw Out, and a wonderful article by Bonnie Pfefferle reminising about the feeling of Christmas in Scottville.

Remember that all downtown Scottville retail businesses are open late on Tuesdays. A great time to do your Christmas shopping. Please check the Scottville Main Street Website and Facebook for updates on events downtown. www.scottvillemainstreet.org, [Facebook](#).

Merry Christmas!

Josh Spencer
Scottville Main Street Manager

Christmas in Scottville

Submitted by Bonnie Pfefferle

Scottville becomes aglow with twinkling lights from trees in each of the parking lot islands. Street decorations go up, store windows are filled with Christmas gift ideas. Children decorate the large tree and at night new fallen snow sparkles from the light of the street lamps. I love this time of year when MCC Schools and our area churches scurry to put together Christmas programs, families gathering to watch our children and grandchildren, nieces and nephews perform. With tear in eye we listen to their songs of peace and good will to all. Welcome to Christmas in Scottville.

The actual celebration of "Christmas in Scottville" can be an all day affair. We wouldn't miss breakfast with Santa. How fun to watch the children peeking from around the tables, scared to go to the big man in the red suit, while others anxiously await a turn to sit on his lap, wanting to whisper all their Christmas wishes.

It's then off to the Craft Fair. Always something for someone, from crocheted towels and handmade soaps to wooden bowls and furniture. Gifts that mean a little more because of the time and workmanship involved. Step outside to the smell of chestnuts roasting on an open fire. We've all heard the song, but have you had an opportunity to savor the taste? And if you're lucky, the roaster might even sing you a few

throughout the afternoon accompanied by Kerry Dodson. John Marek was busy making balloon animals, drawing caricatures, doing magic tricks and ending with a parade around the Hall. Like the Pied Piper, children were trailing behind playing their kazoos. Cookies were donated by several and consumed by many along with hot chocolate and orange drink which was donated by McDonalds of Ludington. Squires Family Care Chiropractic graciously donated a girls bike; won by Rylee Alway, age 7 from MCC and a boys bike; won by Aaron Dietz, age 11 from MCC. New this year, Ron Soberalski donated his time and team to give wagon rides during the afternoon and that was a big hit. Other sponsors of the party were Holden's Home Emporium and Business Print, both of Scottville.

verses to the song.

Soon people line the sides of the street waiting for the 1st glimpse of the police car, signaling the start of the parade. One never knows if Santa & Mrs. Claus will come through town via llama, monster truck, a John Deere tractor or, maybe, the Santa Express! Floats, Girl Scouts, soccer groups, dogs, goats and llamas-children wave to those they know and smile as each pass by. As we watch the MCC band in their Santa hats, we don't hear the off note or see a misstep, we only appreciate they are braving the cold to be in our parade. Some of them are surely destined to be future players in our own Clown Band.

Afterwards children hurry to the Optimist Hall for punch and cookies. What is mass confusion to the adults is wonderful fun to the children--cookies, punch, a coloring contest, games with prizes, face paintings, pictures with Santa. Children don't question why Santa comes back to town on a train the next day. They're just happy they have one more chance to tell him about that gift they want under their tree.

But Christmas isn't just one day in Scottville. Come see our interesting window displays. See for yourself the wonderful variety of gifts and items you can find in our downtown stores. Warm yourself with a friendly hello. Take a walk or drive to see our new bridge, hike the trail within the River Park. The PM River holds year round beauty.

I will never tire of walking through downtown Scottville and being greeted by my first name. Of running into someone from years past, reminiscing about a store or people we used to know. Of window peering and people watching. Sometimes I just sit in the mall enjoying the quiet beauty around me-remembering the past, thinking of our future.

Yes, we do have vacant stores and not everything a big city has to offer. But we're not about big, we're about down-home. A small town struggling to succeed and counting success with each small step forward. In many ways Scottville will never be the same, but we accept that challenge. This is our downtown, our hometown, and we want to share it with you.

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The Christmas Parade and Santa's Train

Submitted by Linda Holden

Each year excitement builds as December 25th comes closer and closer. Young and old alike look forward to the magic that only Christmas can bring. Whether it is for the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ or the plain fun of Santa Claus, we anxiously looking at our calendars to plan for family get-togethers, caroling with friends, sharing gifts and a myriad of other activities.

As part of these festivities, Scottville will once again hold their annual Christmas Party and Parade. This year the Christmas Parade is scheduled to happen as part of a recent announcement by the Marquette Rail LLC's Community Outreach program. The Parade is being held on Saturday, December 12th starting at 2:45pm. The route will be the same as previous years, meeting at the Mason County Central Elementary School east parking lot and going south on Main Street ending in the West Parking lot of the Downtown Business District.

All parade participants and watchers are then invited to stay close by for a very special treat! Santa and Mrs. Claus will be coming into town on the Santa Express! They will be stopping at the Main Street crossing between 3:20 and 3:30 pm. We would like to thank the North Pole's Office of Tourism and Marquette Rail LLC's Community Outreach program for scheduling the event.

After visiting with Santa and Mrs. Claus, there will be hot chocolate and cookies in front of Cox's Sales and Service. We will be finishing the day with community Christmas caroling.

If you are interested in joining the parade, entry forms can be picked up at the Scottville City Hall, the Scottville Main Street Office, Cox's Sales and Service and the Holden Home Emporium. If you have any questions, please call Linda at 757-8733.

WINTER THAW OUT

Submitted by Linda Holden

Tired of being cooped up all winter? Do you just want to get out and blow off some of those cobwebs that collect after New Year's? Well, here's a solution for you!

Scottville and Ludington will be holding their Annual Winter Thaw Out Friday and Saturday, February 5th and 6th.

Scottville will be holding events Saturday with area merchants offering a warm and cozy atmosphere to warm you throughout the day.

There will be a "Snow Ball" drop to be held at noon on Main Street. Come catch as many balls as you can to be redeemed at participating merchants for the prizes designated on each ball.

The Scottville Area Senior Center will host a quilt show during the day. They will also have a chili cook-off immediately following the "Snow Ball" drop. Stop in to buy a bowl of chili and support your local senior center. You may contact Sandy at 757-4705 for more information.

From 9:00 am till noon, get into the old-fashioned joy of snowman building! Weather permitting. There will be a snowman competition on Saturday morning. Individuals, families and teams are encouraged to participate. You will need to pre-register to participate. So put on your thinking caps and come up with unique ideas.

Watch for more details to follow in the next month or two.

Celebrating our Main Street Volunteers

Submitted by Leon J. Begue

As we celebrate Christmas and the year comes to an end, it also does us well to take a look at and celebrate the hard work of the many volunteers of the Scottville Main Street Program during the past year. Their efforts have been focused both on planting the seeds for our future growth as well as making concrete improvements and re-building the historic buildings and business culture in our Downtown community.

We all have very limited patience with the task of Planning. Planning however, done well, sets the foundation for concrete and sustainable future growth. Planning has resulted in the development of Design Guidelines to maintain the historic character of our downtown; a Market Study providing a focus on the types of businesses that will thrive in our downtown and a business survey of what currently exists. Individuals from throughout the community helped to put together the Design Charette. This is a blueprint of how we want our downtown to look in the very near future. What the volunteers involved in these projects have done has charted a course that you who read this article may also want to help to develop and make happen. More about this opportunity at the end of this article.

There are a variety of "housekeeping activities" that go into keeping up an appearance of a community that has pride in itself. Volunteers maintain the Islands in our parking lots; keep the Mall, Fountain and

downtown area clean and inviting. In the spring they take a weekend to accomplish a community wide clean up. Throughout the year they decorate the windows in our vacant stores and see to it that the spring, summer, fall and winter decorations are put up.

Then there are the activities surrounding promoting Scottville. With the snow still on the ground, the Winter Thaw Out happens; then, the Friday Night Cruise and Saturday Car Show; the Music Festival (Jeff Daniels created many relaxing and happy smiles); the Realtors that sponsored and participated in the Realtor Tour of our available business buildings; the Farmers Market with our weekly vendors and faithful customers and for our business owners, the Wake Up Scottville coffee hour (or more).

It is often remarked, "we don't see anything happening". For things to happen plans have to be designed, grants applied for, loans secured. Many things have to fall into place. It is the Main Street Managers role to see to it that this happens. Well, guess what? Some of those seeds are beginning to pop-up. The Flower Baskets were very beautiful this past summer and, based on what we have learned, they promise to be even more so next year extending into the Fall.

The Facade Grants are beginning to take shape. Holden's Home Emporium has lead the way; Carr Internet is in the process of rebuilding the Theater Marquee in preparation for the restored Theater entry front (Glenn Wallace will be smiling broadly). Dollar General is constructing their storefront with a brick façade in keeping with our downtown character.

In the works are projects that are about to happen. Four of our business owners have been approved for remodeling or constructing new apartments above their businesses, bringing quality living spaces for people to live and be a part of our downtown community. The sale of the Healy building in the coming months will enable the southern business district to have better access to parking. This will benefit the Senior Center, the new occupant of Steve's Fine Food and Tavern, Erin Doan's State Farm Insurance and Cox's Sales and Service.

How has this all happened? Nothing of this nature can happen without financial backing. That financial backing comes in part from our local business owners. Our Main Street Manager keeps all the parts working together and does the heavy lifting when it comes to working with the State and local funding sources, Developers, Contractors, Realtors and property owners and much more. It is our Main Street Volunteers who develop and carry out our Vision, Mission and Project Work Plans on a day-to-day basis. During this past year that has consisted of 144 volunteers and in excess of 1600 hours of donated time and effort.

To you the volunteers, we give this word of recognition and thanks. To those of you in the broader Mason County community and beyond, who have supported us, we also express our appreciation and wish you a very Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays and a hopeful New Year.

Next year is promising to become another year of growth and development. If you would like to become part of this effort, consider becoming part of our active volunteers as a Friends of Scottville. It is an opportunity to volunteer or contribute financially to the Scottville Main Street Program. The Work Plans developed by each of our Committees (Organization, Promotions, Economic Restructuring and Design) spell out the individual task (both large and small) where volunteer and financial support can be given. In recent months our Business owners have also become part of this "getting involved" by taking Friday each week and having their employees sport the Friends of Scottville polo shirts and logo. Take the opportunity to join us as a Friend of Scottville. By calling 757-9674 you can obtain more information.

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