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Mount Vernon and Lisbon ring in the holiday season with the 29th Annual Magical Night Dec. 5 and Holiday Jubilee Dec. 14

MOUNT VERNON and LISBON – Mount Vernon’s 29th annual Magical Night event will take place Thursday, Dec. 5, from 5 to 8 p.m. at several locations throughout Uptown Mount Vernon. Lisbon’s Holiday Jubilee will take place Saturday, Dec. 14th, on the streets of Lisbon. Both events include visits from Santa and loads of holiday fun and good cheer.

The two events signal the beginning of Mount Vernon and Lisbon’s Hometown Holidays, a month-long celebration of the holidays.

Mount Vernon’s Magical Night Dec. 5

Thursday, Dec. 5, marks Mount Vernon’s annual Magical Night, a celebration of holiday magic that begins on the lawn of the First Street Community Center, 221 First St. NE. Volunteers from the Mount Vernon-Lisbon Community Development Group (CDG) have teamed with the City of Mount Vernon to celebrate the holiday season. At 5 p.m. on Dec. 5, Santa himself will be throwing the switch unveiling Mount Vernon’s holiday lights.

This will be followed by a wide range of events along Mount Vernon’s historic First Street that will include visits and photos with Santa in the Mount Vernon Bank & Trust building, a Holiday Craft Bazaar in the basement of City Hall, a Vendor and Art Fair at Mount Vernon Creates, a Live Nativity at Memorial Park and live music and activities in almost every Uptown building.

Mount Vernon’s historic 1st Street will once again be closed to traffic to create a Holiday-inspired Ped Mall for the entire festival from 5 to 8 p.m.

A shuttle provided by Mount Vernon Community Schools will be going back and forth along 4th Avenue, taking guests from the parking lots at the Mount Vernon Community School District to the United Methodist Church and back. The shuttle will run continuously from 5 to 8 p.m.

Trolley rides sponsored by St. Paul’s Lutheran Church, will run from 5 to 8 p.m. connecting all activities along first street.

Returning this year will be the International and Multicultural Holiday Celebration at Cornell College’s Stoner House, sponsored by the Office of Intercultural Life, and the growing series of animatronic window displays in several area businesses. Also returning is a trackless train that will be running from the parking lot of Iowa Physical Therapy, 108 1st St. SE.

“Magical Night is one of our most anticipated events of 2019,” said Joe Jennison,

Director of the Mount Vernon-Lisbon Community Development Group (CDG). “With lights and live animals, trolley cars, and Santa Claus himself, there is something for everyone this holiday season in Mount Vernon and Lisbon. The holiday season is a great time to discover the small-town magic of these two great communities.”

Lisbon Holiday Jubilee Dec. 14

Lisbon Holiday Jubilee has activities throughout the day on Saturday, Dec. 14, beginning with the annual breakfast at 9 a.m. at the Lisbon History Center, 102 East Main St., Lisbon. This will be followed by a performance of the Eulenspiegel Puppet Theater’s “The Snow Queen,” at 10 a.m. at the Lisbon Public Library, 101 E. Main Street, Lisbon. Other holiday activities in Lisbon that day will include a special holiday movie at the SE Linn Community Center; and a visit from Santa at noon, at the Lisbon History Center.

Below is a complete list of upcoming holiday events in Mount Vernon and Lisbon.

November

Nov. 12th-Dec 7th

during Business Hours

Hometown Holidays’ Basket Silent Auction

Nov. 28th-Dec. 25th

During Business Hours

Tree Festival with indoor and outdoor photo backdrop ops at Whimsy and Wonder

Shop Small Saturday

November 30th

9-am-4pm

Home Business Expo @ the First Street Gym

9am –5pm

Live music @ First Street Community Center

Drawings and giveaways at Shop Small Saturday HQ located at 100 1st Street SE

Holiday Shopping with special discounts & treats at individual merchants.

Early Bird Bonus Prize, 1st 25 Shoppers at "HQ" will be eligible for an "Early Bird"

\$100 bonus prize sponsored by Kae Apothecary

10am-4pm

Holiday Vendor and Art Fair @ Mount Vernon Creates

December

Tuesday, Dec. 3rd

9-11am

WMT’s Stuff the Bus, Bring new toys, games, canned food, or cash to Bauman’s. Items to be donated to SE Linn Community Center

Thursday, Dec 4th

11am-1pm: Project 60 Senior Dinner (60 years old or better) at Lisbon Community School

Magical Night

Thursday, Dec. 5th

4p.m.-8pm: Magical Night Vendor and Art Fair at Mount Vernon Creates

5pm: Help Santa light up the First Street Community Center

5-7 p.m. Soup Supper and a cookie walk at Mount Vernon United Methodist Church

5 – 8pm: Business Open House, visit local businesses, enjoy live music, snacks and begin your holiday shopping

Tractor Trolley rides sponsored by St. Paul and P&K Midwest

Train Rides-sponsored by Meridith Hoffman, Iowa Realty

Luminary Light Display

Photo opportunity with The Ice Queen from the movie “Frozen”

Decorate a dog bone ornament at Zoe’s Pet Deli

International Life presents Multicultural Holidays Celebration at Cornell College’s Stoner House, sponsored by the Office of Intercultural Life, Cornell College

Visit with the Lisbon Mount Vernon Ambulance Service at the old fire station

Card-making workshop at Whimsy and Wonder (Dec. 7th from 10am-5pm as well)

5-8pm at the First Street Community Center (221 1st St. SE) Cookie Decorating, sponsored by Mount Vernon Parks and Recreation

Art Installation presented by Mount Vernon elementary and high school art students at the First Street Community Center gym

5:30-6:30pm: Living Window at Palisades Café, sponsored by Dance Arts Iowa

5:30-7:30pm: Praise Team Outreach Carolers stroll through town

5:30-8pm: Pictures with Santa, treats, window displays and MVHS Carolers @ Mount Vernon Bank, sponsored by Mount Vernon Bank

6pm: Holiday Music by Heart Consort Music Students at MV Presbyterian Church - Reception to follow

6:15 pm & 7pm: Live Nativity at the Gazebo in Memorial Park, with hot chocolate and cookies at the Visitor Center, sponsored by St Paul Lutheran Church

6:15 & 7 pm at the First Street Community Center (221 1st St. NE): “Nutcracker Holiday Preview” from Dance Arts Iowa @ Uptown Theatre

Thursday-Saturday, Dec 5th—Dec 7th

Holiday Craft Bazaar and Bake Sale at MV City Hall Thursday 5-8pm, Friday 1-7pm, Saturday 9-3pm

Dec. 5th-Dec 14th

during Business Hours

“Animenagerie,” animatronic window displays in several 1st Street buildings

Friday, Dec. 6th

4:30 to 6 p.m. Pictures with Santa at Bridge Community Bank

Wednesday, Dec. 11th

6:30-7:30 pm: Candlelight Advent and Christmas service, Alle Chapel, Cornell campus, “a gentle candlelight service of carols, scripture readings, and prayer for rest within healing love, beauty, humility and peace of Emmanuel—God with us.”

Thursday, Dec. 12th

2 p.m.

Cocoa & Carols @ Cherry Ridge. Sing along with Ron Burgess.

Lisbon Holiday Jubilee

Saturday Dec. 14th:

9am – Noon: Breakfast at the Lisbon History Center

9am – Noon (while supplies last): Christmas Treasures for Christ - Bake and Craft Sale, Silent Auction baskets – Hosted by Lisbon United Methodist Women at the Southeast Linn Community Center

10 a.m. – Eulenspiegel Puppet Theatre presents “The Snow Queen” at the Lisbon Library

Noon – Santa will arrive at the Lisbon History Center

1p.m. – Holiday movie with hot chocolate at the Southeast Linn Community Center

Information on these and other Mount Vernon-Lisbon events is available at www.visitmvl.com

About the Mount Vernon-Lisbon Community Development Group

The Mount Vernon-Lisbon Community Development Group exists to improve the social and economic well-being of Mount Vernon and Lisbon by capitalizing on their unique identity, assets and character. Mount Vernon was selected as a Main Street community in 2008, and practices economic development within the context of historic preservation.

Mount Vernon was named one of America’s “10 Coolest Small Towns” by Budget Travel magazine in October of 2009. More information is available at www.visitmvl.com

About Main Street

The Main Street Approach is a copyrighted process of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. The Program has been used in Iowa since 1986 with a total of 56 communities having participated. Mount Vernon was selected as a Main Street community on March 4, 2008 by the State of Iowa, after submitting a comprehensive application and presenting to a select board of reviewers.