2013 Christmas In Zumbro Falls

2012
Commemorative Christmas Ornament

We held our first 2013 Christmas Festival meeting on Thursday, 7/18/13 @ 7:00 pm. It was a great opening meeting for this year's festival and I believe we are putting the pieces together for another very successful celebration!

The committee has set the date for the celebration to be the night of December 13th and all day December 14th, Friday night and Saturday. The main consideration was Plainview's celebration on 12/6 & 12/7.

The team reviewed last year's activities and proposed activities to determine what we want to keep and what we wish to drop. After checking with some contacts outside the meeting, the items we are dropping or reconsidering,

Dropped activities or to be reconsidered-

Dog Sled Races: I was able to talk to Brian and he regretfully informed me that the dog sled races will not happen. He had contacted several clubs and there is very little interest from the clubs or individual club members to hold a sled race during the festival. The main reasons are that it is too early and we are too far south for most teams to be interesting in coming. Thanks Brian for investigating!

Saturday Morning buffet @ Scooter's.

Last Years activities that we want to keep-

Medallion Hunt: Begins on Wednesday, 12/11/13, with clues posted each day at 8:00 am with 2 clues on Saturday, 8 am and 3 pm, if necessary. Evidently, we need to make the clues tougher than last year.

Friday night Bonfire and outdoor Children's movie: Need to pick a shorter movie this year (roughly 1 hr.) due to construction, location TBD (to be determined) this fall.
Live Music to follow the movie; Marshmallows, hot chocolate, and other snacks to be available.

Open House: Moments by Kara – Times TBD

Open House: Burr Oak Bed and Breakfast – times TBD

Children's Nativity: relocate to the FEMA lot between Moments by Kara and Scooter's.

Christmas lighting contest: Friday night, 12/13/13. Announced on Saturday, site TBD. Prizes TBD, ZF Bucks?

Craft Sale: VFW Hall. 12/13/13 and 12/14/13. Expanded to start Friday night (vendors' request) and Saturday till 1:00 pm

Santa Coming to Town: VFW Hall: Children's activity to precede Santa's visit ~ 2:00 pm.

Make your own Christmas Wreath: Fire Hall: Saturday, 12/14, @ 2:00 pm till 4:00 pm or while supplies last.

Bar Bingo, Neptune: Saturday, 12/14. Time TBD

Live Music and Bar Specials: Saturday, 12/14. Time TBD

Free Horse Drawn Wagon Tours: Saturday, 12/14, from ~3:00 pm to 6:00 pm. New route.

Evening meal specials on Friday and Saturday @ Scooter's.

Punch Card for participating Zumbro Falls businesses. Prize Drawing location and time TBD.

New Activities-

Classic Snowmobile Show: Saturday, 12/14. Locations and Times TBD

Ice Skating Rink Dedication and Opening: Date/Time TBD

Christmas Raffle: Prizes - TBD but could include 1/2 hogs, turkeys, Prime Rib Roast, 1 or 2 night stay at Burr Oak Bed and Breakfast, Amish quilt, Christmas Ornaments, ZF Bucks, other ZF merchandize.

City constructed decorations to purchase for the event. (Large decorated Christmas Tree, Lights on city properties, candle lit buckets, etc)

Merchandize-

Christmas Ornaments, Stocking Hats.

Possibly add sweatshirts (hooded or not hooded), gloves/mittens, scarves, other items.

Promotion of Event-

Community Calendars (will add when activities finalized), newspaper articles, public postings, and websites (City, Facebook, and area websites)

Paid: Newspaper ads, radio ads, ???

Other ideas: ?

Overall, it was a great meeting though much work over the next couple of months needs to happen. If you did not attend the first meeting but would like to participate with any of the activities listed above or have an idea of your own, please come to our next meeting. If you know others who may wish to participate, please share this information.

Thursday, 8/8/13, @ 7:00 pm in the City Hall

Businesses: It is important that you attend these meetings to ensure that we have coordinated events that provide several options at any one time for potential visitors while maintaining our theme for this event.

Remember, we are trying to promote our event and town as a place of good clean fun in a small town setting, where all can find interesting activities around a common Christmas/ Winter Carnival theme.

Thanks,
Al Christensen, Mayor