

Insider
For 12/02/09
By Kim Burger

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas! And oh, the things you can do to celebrate! Holiday happenings abound this year with enough variety to keep the entire family entertained.

Now that Santa has arrived, the Holiday Hoopla continues in downtown Main Street with free horse-drawn trolley rides every Thursday from 5-7pm and Sunday, December 6th and 20th from 2-4pm; a live nativity every Thursday and December 21st through 23rd, from 5-7pm; and Santa's Workshop every Thursday from 5-7pm, Saturdays from 11am-1pm, and December 21st through the 23rd from 5-7pm. Check out Santa50613.com for details.

Santa can also be seen daily at College Square Mall and Crossroads Center through Christmas Eve. Why he will even pose for keepsake holiday photos with pets at College Square from 6-8pm on Sundays, December 6, 13, and 20th and on Thursday, December 17th from 5-9pm at Crossroads. A complete schedule of special events for each mall can be found at www.collegesquaremall.com and www.shopcrossroadscenter.com.

You can have breakfast with Santa, too, at Heritage Farm in Hudson. Begin with a horse-drawn sleigh ride to a rustic cabin nestled deep in the winter woods. At the cabin Santa's helpers will greet you with breakfast followed by a chat with the jolly old elf himself, horse and pony rides, a sing-a-long, hayloft fun, and time to play with some farm animals. Event dates are Saturdays, December 5, 12, and 19th from 9-3pm. Reservations are a must and space is limited, so call Marie Brown at 988-3734.

Downtown Waterloo will Light the Night this Saturday, December 5th from 4-6pm. Bring the kids to the Masonic Temple at 325 E. Park Avenue to enjoy free crafts, games, and refreshments as well as shopping at the North Pole gift center and a visit with Ole St. Nick.

The Cedar Falls Historical Society invites you to the Victorian Home where guides will be available in period costumes for their annual Christmas Walk at 2pm on Sunday, December 6th.

University Museums are hosting a Homemade Christmas tomorrow, Thursday, December 3rd from 6:30-8pm, with crafts and activities reminiscent of the 1930's, caroling, and more at the Marshall Center One-Room School

Special theatrical offerings and concerts take place throughout the month as well with the Winter Wonder Slam Tour, featuring TobyMac and Kutless at the McLeod Center on Friday, December 4th. The UNI Varsity Men's Glee Club will perform a Christmas Variety Show at the Gallagher-Bluedorn Performing Arts Center on Friday and Saturday, December 4th and 5th. Also at the Gallagher-Bluedorn, two annual favorites, Lorie Line and Jim McDonough return to the stage. Ms. Line's show, "An Intimate Christmas"

takes place on Tuesday, December 15th as she brings five of her favorite musicians for a spectacular event that will highlight the best from 20 great years of performing. Jim McDonough's Holiday Grande 2009 takes place Sunday afternoon, December 13th, with a stage production that includes Jim at the grand piano, his 15-piece orchestra, a cast of singers and dancers, elaborate sets and costumes, and the true spirit of the season. Cedar Falls Community Theatre's production of Nuncrackers takes place at the Oster Regent Theatre weekends, December 4th through the 13th; and Christmas with Wartburg – Tidings of Great Joy is offered at Neumann Auditorium December 4th through the 6th. Frankincense, Myrrh and Fool's Gold can be seen at the Lampost Theatre, weekends, December 4th through the 20th. The Waterloo Community Playhouse will present Miracle on 34th Street weekends December 6th through the 20th.

Wow! Where to start! Details regarding all of these offerings (and many, many others) can be found on our web site at CedarFallsTourism.org so I encourage you to log on and plug these dates into your calendar right way so you don't miss a thing!