

## ?Christmas around the square has something for everyone especially children

Written by

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? Christmas is coming soon and what a great way to get into the Christmas spirit, visit Christmas Around the Square, Friday, December 5, from 6-9:30 p.m. and enjoy a little something for everyone especially children of all ages.

"The square will provide lots and lots of children's activities. Children will be very happy and entertained." stated Denise Humphrey, who is spearheading the entertainment.

Children can learn about Alpacas at the Blue River Alpaca booth, have fingerprinting done along with coloring activities.

Children can make their own Christmas ornaments at Coffee Villa, along with "Whoooty" ornaments from Christopher the Christmas Tree, all free of charge.

Each ornament made can be placed on the tree beside Santa's house to be judged at 9:30 p.m. The winner of the ornament contest will win a \$20 gift certificate to Papa John's. Each ornament needs to have their name and phone number on them. Judging will be by Laurie Carr and Patricia Persinger.

If children or their parents would like to have their ornaments back to take home, they will be available after judging at Coffee Villa.

"We will have lots of non-profit organizations that give back to the community." stated Humphrey.

The Moose Lodge will be the only food vendor along with bake sales. The Moose Lodge will be serving pulled pork.

Washington County Memorial Hospital, The Waters and Meadow View will be providing activities together on the south side of the square.

Legacy Life Church, Friends of Becks Mill and Cheddar Depot will have booths throughout the square.

New this year is the Prince and Princess contest for children ages 8-10 and Christmas Carolers.

The Prince and Princess contest information can be obtained by calling Becky Deweese at 883-4141.

Christmas Carolers will be on each side of the courthouse lawn, rotating every 30 minutes.

Carolers include, Bunker Hill, Bradie Shrum Lower Elementary, Daisy Troop 166, First Baptist Church of Pekin, Salem Assembly of God, Crossroads Church and more.

According to Humphrey there are currently two vacant spots for Carolers that need to be filled, the times are 8:30- 9 p.m. and 9-9:30 p.m. If interested you are urged to call Denise Humphrey at 883-9565.

A parade will start at 6:15 coming from Walnut Street around the square and off at Brick Street departing at City Hall.

Humphrey described the parade to be "short and sweet."

A very important guest will make his arrival in the parade "Santa Claus."

Santa will be at his house for all the children to sit on his lap and personally tell him what they want for Christmas.

The Countdown to light up the courthouse will approximately be 7 p.m. with the honor of Mayor David Bower present.

Along with all the other children activities, the biggest event of all is Christopher the Christmas Tree being celebrated and showed to all the children on the courthouse lawn following the light up of the courthouse.

This will be a very exciting event for the family, so come and enjoy the many activities taking place.