

For Immediate Release Ripon, WI, October 29, 2009

From: Ripon Area Chamber of Commerce

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Photo and schedule of activities(below) also included



Santa's Arrival Heralds the Holiday Season

Hear those sleigh bells jingling? It's time to sharpen your pencil, get out your notepad, and start making your list 'cause Santa is coming! Be ready to tell him all your Christmas wishes when he arrives in Historic Downtown Ripon on Friday, November 13th at 6:00 p.m. Santa's arrival will kick-off Ripon's *Twinkle at Twilight* Christmas Open House, which will go on throughout the city Friday, November 13th through Sunday, November 15th.

Santa's trusty reindeer, including a baby reindeer, will be with him on the 200 block of Watson Street, and what fun is Christmas without that wish list? Kids, and their parents, can whisper their wishes into Santa's ear from 6:00 until 8:00 p.m. During this time ThedaCare will be collecting new mittens to donate to the Ripon Community Thrift Store. Santa's visit to Ripon is sponsored by Ripon Chamber Retail Members & ThedaCare.

Families will also have a chance to view the sparkling Christmas lights of downtown Ripon as they ride up and down Watson Street in a horse-drawn carriage, courtesy of Golden Rule Credit Union. Be sure to stop in Ripon's fine shops and stores. They'll be open until at least 8 p.m. for a special night of shopping. Don't miss out on Ripon's fine dining including America Restaurant, which will be offering free supper for kids 10 & under.

On Saturday, November 14, parents are invited to Drop-So-You-Can-Shop at the Ripon Public Library. The Library will have a variety of crafts, story times and games for children of all ages from 10 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Parents are required to sign-in each child and provide staff with a working cell phone number. Also on Saturday, participating businesses will have live music during the hours of 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

This weekend will mark the start of registration to win a \$500 Ripon Shopping Spree or 1 of 6 weekly prize packages. Each week a "Mystery Store" will be featured in the Ripon Commonwealth, on the Chamber website Ripon-WI.com, and the Commonwealth website RiponPress.com. Shoppers who identify the "Mystery Store" can register at that location. The store location will change weekly.

The Christmas Open House is the first opportunity shoppers will have to see Ripon turned into a sparkling holiday showcase. They will also be able to preview the unique gifts and enjoy the personal customer service Ripon merchants take pride in. Many stores will have extended holiday hours starting this weekend to accommodate visitors and to be open for local residents who are unable to shop during the day.

This event is sponsored by the Ripon Chamber of Commerce, which encourages you to “Shop Ripon First” this holiday season. Please call (920) 748-6764 or email chamber@ripon-wi.com for more information.

Friday Evening

Visit with Santa & His Reindeer

Pet a Baby Reindeer

Free Horse-Drawn Carriage Rides

ThedaCare Mitten Donation Collection

6:00 – 8:00 p.m. • Downtown Ripon

Shop Late ‘Til 8 • Special Shopping Night

Shops and stores open until at least 8 p.m. • Citywide

Kids Eat FREE!

Friday evening • Free supper for kids 10 & under at America

Saturday

Drop-So-You-Can-Shop Library Lock-In

10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. • Ripon Public Library

Parents must sign-in each child & provide a working cell number.

Musical Open House

1:00 – 3:00 p.m. • At participating businesses

All Weekend

Register to WIN a \$500 Ripon Shopping Spree or be 1 of 6 lucky weekly winners!

Shoppers who identify the “Mystery Store” can register at that location. *Store location will change weekly.*

A photo of the “Mystery Store” will be featured in the Ripon Commonwealth Press; on the Chamber website ripon-wi.com; and the Commonwealth website RiponPress.com.