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Burlington celebration revived

BY MARK HANSEL • MHANSEL@NKY.COM • NOVEMBER 26, 2010

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BURLINGTON - Members of the Historic Burlington Business Association hope to revive a mostly forgotten holiday tradition.

A weekend of activities to celebrate "A Burlington Christmas" is scheduled for Dec. 3 through Dec. 5 throughout the Burlington business district.

"Some of us have never stopped having it," Linda Whittenburg of Cabin Arts said.

Cabin Arts, a quilting supply store that specializes in quality cotton fabrics, is located in two log cabin buildings on Jefferson Street.

Whittenburg says she and other merchants have tried to keep up the holiday tradition in recent years, with mixed success, but is encouraged by the enthusiasm for this year's

event.

"I've been going in for 18 years," she said. "We want to offer family-friendly events that are mostly free and spotlight how nice the Burlington businesses are."

The Historic Burlington Business Association has increased its profile in an effort to draw more attention to local merchants and helped develop standards for businesses along the corridor.

The Burlington Christmas weekend used to be one of the area's more popular events, with a host of activities including a parade.

The Christmas weekend festivities kick off at 6:30 p.m. Friday when Santa Claus will arrive to help with the tree lighting ceremony at the gazebo next to the Boone County Administration Building. There will also be treats, caroling and photo opportunities.

Saturday activities include pet photo opportunities and a Santa Paws Pet Parade through the streets of downtown Burlington, beginning at 1 p.m. The event is fashioned after to the annual "Reindog Parade" in Mt. Adams. The Boone County Animal Shelter Adoption Waggin' mobile unit is also scheduled to be on hand throughout the day.

Other activities include another visit from Santa Claus at the Central House Diner on North Jefferson Street from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday and the Dinsmore Homestead will feature dancers and candlelight tours Saturday evening. The historic homestead, which is located west of Burlington on Ky. 18, will also be open for tours Sunday afternoon.

Gingerbread homes will be on display at the Old Courthouse on Friday and Saturday and many shops and restaurants will have expanded hours throughout the weekend.

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Mike Crane's collection of Lionel trains will be set up and on display at his Farm Bureau Insurance office on Burlington Pike on Friday and Saturday.

Crane, another longtime supporter of the holiday festivities said he would like to see the weekend of events, including the parade return at some point.

"Maybe someday we'll get back to that," Crane said. "The main event this year is the Christmas program on Saturday. We are really encouraging people to participate in the gingerbread house display."

Information about the display and other activities is available by contacting the merchants listed here or at the other participating shops located in the Burlington business district.

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