



# MERRY CHRISTMAS

## FROM MONTICELLO



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# Downtown Christmas brings merry-makers to town

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ECB Publishing, Inc.

Christmas might still be a few weeks away, but that was no reason to delay the celebrations, as MainStreet Monticello hosted its annual Downtown Christmas gathering on Friday, Dec. 6.

Starting at 5 p.m., as Dogwood Street opened its vendor village, the festivities kicked off with a delightful shopping experience.

Home-baked desserts, knitted goods, candles, pecan candies, hand-crafted wooden toys, artisan hardwood home decor, Christmas ornaments and festive gifts were plentiful in the vendor village, as several local craftspeople, businesses and creators sold their wares.

By 6 p.m., all the shoppers had moved from

Dogwood Street’s vendor village to instead stand and gather near Cherry Street and East Washington Street in order to watch the arriving parade.

Dubbed the Light Parade, the name was deftly explained as several brightly-lit, festively decorated golf carts and ATVs rolled through the Christmas parade - even a pony-drawn carriage, also decorated in lights, made an appearance in the parade!

The highlight of the parade, however, was Santa Claus, as he rode through Monticello’s streets atop a firetruck from the Monticello Volunteer Fire Department. After the parade concluded, Santa stayed around for pictures and to hear Christmas wish-lists from the attending children.

The festivities continued for several hours, with DJ Tom dishing out Christmas beats and popular

dance music throughout the evening, and visiting carolers singing Christmas hymns near the downtown Christmas tree.

As the Downtown Christmas festival drew closer to its end, merry-makers made their way to South Water Street, behind the First United Methodist Church of Monticello, in order to step back in time with the church’s live Nativity scene.

Complete with donkeys, sheep, chickens and two camels, the walk-through Nativity Scene transported people back to the time of Christ’s birth. Shepherds, blacksmiths, carpenters and three Wise Men gave insight to the real-life Christmas story.

The evening was one of fun and festivity, and the Nativity scene provided a heartfelt reminder for the reason for the holiday season.



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