

## EDITORIAL

# *Good to see balloons back*

**M**ore than 30 hot air balloons will soar above Vermilion County this weekend as part of the first Balloons Over Vermilion festival at the Vermilion Regional Airport.

It's good to see the balloons return after a 15-year absence. Another balloon festival had called Danville home for a number of years before its demise.

Balloons Over Vermilion brings back the beauty of color filling the skies and the wonder inspired by the way the hot air balloons glide almost silently through the air.

In addition to the balloon events on Friday and Saturday – with a special preview set for dusk on Thursday at the Boat Club on Lake Vermilion – the festival will offer a variety of activities for families on the ground at the airport.

Traffic is expected to be heavy on Bowman Avenue around the airport, so visitors are encouraged to park at the outlying lots – at Wal-Mart and Heavenly Square at Bowman and Voorhees streets – and ride the shuttle buses into the festival site.

Balloon's Over Vermilion organizers have done a good job building interest in the event, starting in May when they formed a partnership with fourth-graders at Bismarck-Henning Elementary School. Since then, they have sponsored special balloon events in communities across the county.

The festival adds another unique event to the calendar, attracting visitors to the area and giving a boost to the local economy.

Whether you've never seen the majesty of a mass balloon launch or you're an experienced balloon watcher, Balloons Over Vermilion promises to be a spectacular event. Be sure to make your way out to the airport this weekend.