



Balloons Over Vermilion

News Release

For Immediate Release

June 7, 2016

Contact: Community contacts are listed below

For event, Contact: Pat O'Shaughnessy, 217-260-6716 or Lindsay Light, 216-304-0827, or Linda Bolton, 217-474-6044

Balloon Community Events Getting Underway

Among the many new features of this year's ***Balloons Over Vermilion*** event are Community Balloon Events scheduled from now to the July 15 and 16 activities at the Vermilion Regional Airport. "We wanted this balloon event to be for everyone in Vermilion County and to take balloons out to as many communities as were interested in having a visit by a hot air balloon and pilot; and we wanted to create a way to help communities raise money for their local projects," says event lead organizer Pat O'Shaughnessy.

Organizers reached out to communities across the county to ask if they wanted to participate by hosting a balloon at a local event. "The response was wonderful for this first year," O'Shaughnessy says. Seven communities will be hosting a hot air balloon during their local community activities leading up to the main July balloon event. Each community has planned their own activities and each has designated a local project or activity in their communities that can benefit from raffling off one ride for two people this summer, based on pilot and winner schedules.

At each community event, the balloon pilot will arrive around 6pm, to set up and inflate the balloon. While the balloon will not fly, people will be able to get closer to the balloon than is normally the case during events, and they will be able to climb in and out of the basket, posing for pictures and talking to the pilot about ballooning.

The community events are getting underway soon:

>> June 18th ***Bismarck*** Men's Club and Fire Department are sponsoring a full day of ball games, a picnic and fireworks at the ball park. Contact is Jake Wright 304-9343

>>> June 18th ***Sidell*** Fire Department is offering a pancake & sausage breakfast; the Sidell Lions club is hosting the Brick Street chicken BBQ, along with a town rummage sale and afternoon parade following a pancake & sausage breakfast; the Village of Sidell is sponsoring the event, and Mayor Don Okuley is the contact 217-497-9420

>> June 25th **Potomac** has planned a town rummage sale, Lion's Club Cake Walk, and street dance in the ball park area, sponsored by Gibson Area Hospital, Casey's General Store and Gifford State Bank. The contact is Shelly Cessna, shelly.cessna@villageofpotomac.org Funds raised go to their Food Pantry

>> July 2nd **Georgetown** activities will be in the park near the Fairgrounds, and will include a movie on the outdoor big screen, fireworks, food vendors and a bike helmet give-away is planned. The sponsor is McDonald's and the contact for information is Darren Readnour 217-662-2525

>> July 3rd **Hoopeston** Rotary is planning bounce houses ice cream and other activities in the McDonald's Plaza. McDonald's is the sponsor. Contact is Trisha Curry 217-304-1086 Funds raised to renovation of the Lorraine Theater

>> July 4th **Rossville** is celebrating July 4th in their park with a variety of activities. Sponsors are Zarate Seeds, Anthem Chevrolet Buick in Hoopeston, Norton Machine and Twisted Sisters Funds raised go to their Little League

>> July 8th **Oakwood** is planning fun for the family to benefit the Oakwood Park The sponsor is McDonald's and the contact for more information is Julie Leverenz at the Village Hall, 317-354-4255 Funds raised go to playground equipment

ADDITIONALLY:

>> July 9th The **Danville Dans** will host a fly over of a hot air balloon, with the game's first pitch to be thrown from the balloon basket

>> July 14th **The Danville Boat Club** is hosting their traditional Lake Vermilion event on Thursday July 14th when 10 balloons are expected to fly over the lake in competition for a \$1,000 prize. This event is open to the public from 5pm to 10 pm, with a \$15/person admission (club members are \$10) that includes draft beer; a cash bar will also be available and food

Media: Anything you can do to help promote these community activities will be greatly appreciated. Sponsors are covering the costs of pilots, balloons and fuel. Communities get all proceeds from sales of ride raffle tickets. Our intent as stated above was to increase the ability of all the communities to engage in the balloon event and to benefit local community projects. All of these folks have worked hard on behalf of their communities to put these days of community fun together. If you can promote the events in anyway, it will be greatly appreciated. Thank you.

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