

# Tourism NEWS



Things to do...  
with a river view!



## Yes, Virginia, There Is A Santa Claus

This holiday production is inspired by a simple, poignant letter written over 100 years ago by 8-year-old Virginia O'Hanlon to the editor of the *New York Sun* and by the timeless editorial response printed on the front page of the *Sun*. Virginia wondered and wrote: "Dear Editor, I am eight years old. Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus. Papa says if you see it in the *Sun*, it's so. Please tell me the truth - Is there a Santa Claus?"

Two compelling stories come together in this heartwarming play inspired by the famous editorial, "Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus." On Christmas Eve, 1897, in New York City, eight-year-old Virginia is left pondering whether or not Santa really exists after a series of unhappy events. Meanwhile, a young newspaper editor also struggles against tough holiday times as he is faced with losing his job if he can't find his writer's voice by morning. Even though they don't know each other, the spirit of Christmas is about to bring these people together, creating in the process an unforgettable and cherished part of classic Christmas folklore. Rated: G



Don't miss this holiday classic, presented at the Clinton Area Showboat Theatre on Fridays and Saturdays, Dec. 2, 3, 9, 10, 16 and 17 at 7:30 p.m. and Sundays, Dec. 4, 11 and 18 at 3:00 p.m. Tickets are just \$15.00 and can be purchased at Clinton Printing and Co-op Records in Clinton and Sweet Woodruff in Fulton or log on to [www.summer-stock.org](http://www.summer-stock.org) or call 563-242-6760.

Productions for the 2012 Season at the Showboat Theatre, beginning June 1, include: *25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Love Letters*, *Bye Bye Birdie*, *Hate Mail* and *Into the Woods*.

## Holidays with the Symphony

Clinton Symphony Orchestra's annual "Holidays with the Symphony" concert will be performed at 7:30 p.m., Saturday, December 10 in the Vernon Cook Theater at Clinton High School.

On the program this year is Tchaikovsky's "Nutcracker Suite," the "Christmas Concerto" by Corelli, and "Russian Christmas Music" by Alfred Reed. The orchestra will be joined by Clinton's RiverChor, performing one of the Robert Shaw "Many Moods of Christmas" suites, and by additional area high school voices for choruses from Handel's "Messiah" and a carol sing-along.

Tickets for the concert are available at England Music Center in Clinton, Fitzgerald Pharmacy in Morrison, and Grummert's Hardware in Sterling. Admission is \$12 for adults and \$5 for students. Students through 8th grade are admitted free.

To accommodate holiday entertaining, the Symphony is offering a package of eight tickets for \$80 for this concert. The package may be purchased at the door of the concert, or in advance through Clinton Symphony, PO Box 116, Clinton, IA 52733-0116. Information or reservations for the package of eight can also be made at 563-243-5958, or 815-625-0922, or [execdirector@clintonsymphony.org](mailto:execdirector@clintonsymphony.org).

## LBPA Holiday Celebration

The Lyons Business & Professional Association presents a Holiday Celebration on Sunday, December 4 outside the Sawmill Museum, 2231 Grant St. in Clinton. There will be musical groups, hot chocolate, hot cider and cookies beginning at 4 p.m., followed by fireworks at 6 p.m.





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## Making a Holiday Wreath

This class will show you how to create your very own fresh, holiday wreath from over 10 fresh conifer greens collected from the grounds by the Arboretum's Director of Horticulture, David Horst. The class will be held on Saturday, December 3rd at 10 a.m. and taught by Master Gardener volunteers of the Arboretum. A free-will donation of \$25.00 goes to future programs. Class size is limited, so call 563-242-4771 and reserve a spot at Bickelhaupt Arboretum, 340 So. 14th St. in Clinton.



## Children's Discovery Center

Bring your toddler or pre-schooler each Friday at 10 a.m. for Fun time Fridays. This program is designed to captivate their interest with stories, songs, play, crafts and a snack. Dec. 2 is "Fitness Fun" with Center Staff. Dec. 9 is "Camouflage" with Clinton County Conservation. Dec. 16 is "Snowmen" with Area Education Agency.

The Wednesday Early-Out Reading Programs are sponsored by Target Stores, and is for children grades K-3rd from 1:30-3:30 p.m. It is comprised of a variety of literacy activities and topics. Pre-registration is required. Upcoming programs include Clinton County Conservation on Dec. 7, Ms. Richmond on Dec. 14 and Miss Kay on December 21.

Visit the gift shop at the Discovery Center for all your gift-giving ideas. Choose Kapla blocks, Brio train pieces, "Melissa & Doug" puzzles and crafts, books and many other quality infant, toddler and children's toys and activities.

The Discovery Center is located at 332 8th Ave. So., Clinton IA. Hours are Wed.-Sat. 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Sun. 12:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m. Contact 563-243-3600 or e-mail [discoverycenter@qwestoffice.net](mailto:discoverycenter@qwestoffice.net).

## Holiday Events at Curtis Mansion

On Sunday, December 4, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., the Clinton Women's Club will host a Christmas Breakfast at the Curtis Mansion, 420 5th Ave. So., Clinton. The breakfast will be served for \$10.00 per person. An egg casserole will be featured with fruit, home-made breads, rolls and muffins. Advance tickets are for sale by members of the Clinton Women's Club or at Clinton Printing. All three floors of the Mansion will be beautifully decorated for Christmas, with Christmas trees and other beautiful items. Nativity sets will be featured. Visitors may view the downstairs at no additional charge. To view the second and third floors, there will be a charge of \$6.00 per person.

Holiday tours at the George Curtis Mansion by members of the Clinton Women's Club, most weekends from noon until 4 p.m., Saturdays and Sundays from November 19 until January 8. All three floors will be available for tours for \$6.00 per person. The Mansion will be decorated through Jan. 8, 2012. There will be a sign in the yard at 420 5th Ave. So., when there are tours. Many varieties of nuts and chocolates will also be for sale in one-pound packages.

For more information, contact the Mansion at 563-242-8556 or Jeanette Petersen at 563-249-5861.



## Clinton County Conservation Events

Dec. 1 – Music in the Loft, Soaring Eagle Nature Center, 7 p.m. Local musicians will play, sing and lead you through a night of music, dance and fun. All are welcome!

Dec. 7 – Hibernation, Soaring Eagle Nature Center, 10 a.m. This nature program focuses on children ages three to five. Come experience this hands-on presentation about why some animals hibernate. Includes a story around a "campfire," game/hike and snack. This event is free of charge.

Dec. 7, 2 p.m. and Dec. 9, 10 a.m. – Camouflage, Children's Discovery Center. Come to the hands-on presentation for school age children on Dec. 7 and for children ages three to five on Dec. 9. The topic is about animal camouflage, including a story around a "campfire," game and snack. This event is free of charge.

Dec. 17 – Snowshoe Workshop, Soaring Eagle Nature Center, 1 p.m. Come discover the ease and fun of snowshoeing and get help starting your own pair from a pre-ordered kit. Purchase them through Clinton Conservation and get them at wholesale prices. Kits can be viewed on line at [www.snowshoe.com](http://www.snowshoe.com). Then call to place your order and register at 563-847-7202 by Dec. 1.

## Christmas Spectacular

Gateway Contemporary Ballet presents this production, performed by Carousel School of Dance on Sunday, December 18. It will be held in the Vernon Cook Theatre at Clinton High School at 2:00 p.m. Advance tickets are \$8.00 and tickets at the door are \$10.00. This is a Christmas tradition that un-wraps the magic of the holiday season. Magnificent sets, beautiful music and finely accomplished dancers will provide an afternoon of holiday entertainment.

## Local Holiday Gift Giving Ideas

Hard to believe, but it is getting close to Christmas and gift giving time. We always have family and friends who are difficult to buy for, but if you think about it, we can buy in Clinton and help keep our local businesses **in business**. Small businesses in our area oftentimes have trouble getting started and staying in business, but with our support, they can be successful. A gift of carwash tokens or a certificate for detailing a car at one of our local businesses would be great gifts. For Mom, Grandma or Aunt Mary, how about a certificate to their favorite beauty salon? Dad or Grandpa might like the gift of having a lawn service all summer, whether it be mowing or keeping the lawn free of weeds and varmints, or better yet, a snow removal service this winter. Even gift certificates from a restaurant run by a small owner could keep that business going. We have many local crafters who make their own jewelry, cards, pottery and wooden items, and these are displayed at various gift shops in town.

Having said all this you may say, "What does this have to do with tourism?" Well, I began thinking that tourists come to Clinton, and often times need the services of a carwash or even a beauty salon, and of course, some of our best restaurants are those that are family run, and we have many lovely gift shops and stores. If we don't support these businesses, before we know it, they are gone, and we don't have these unique things to offer our visitors when they come to Clinton.

Think about these things as you make your holiday gift lists, and let's support tourism and local business. It might even be easier and wiser to give these types of gifts than the ones that will end up in the trash a few weeks after Christmas.

Marsha Smith  
CVB Director

## River Arts Center News

An exhibit of more than thirty area artists is currently on display at the River Arts Center, 229 5th Ave. So. in Clinton, Iowa, through December 24, 2011

Clinton Art Association members, who operate the art center on a non-profit, volunteer basis, show their art at the end of each year. This year we welcome five new members as well as many professional and amateur artists. Many of the pieces are for sale, some for exhibit only.

Photography by Karen Austin, Bill Bicksler, Ron Blatchley, Alicia Cichon, Keith Morrison and Rita Templeton is showing. Sharon Mooney has delightful sock puppets and Georgia Parks has fabric coasters. Julie Holsclaw, Christine King, Steven Parker and Kate Thompson have original jewelry in our gift shop area, and Rose Holsclaw's popular florals and wreaths are also in that area.

The gallery features handmade wooden keepsake boxes by Judd Pashimpaur, three-dimensional art by Karla Byl, pottery by Emma Yahn and paintings by Lyle Andresen, Lois Bock, Natalia Denger, Greg Dickinson, Judy Gentile, Jan Harvey, Martha Hayes, Lisa Hewes, Mark Hubbard, Bonnie Hufford, Deb Jacobsen, David Kracht, Vernon Schaver, Greg Steele, Andrea Streets, Bonnie Temperley and Karen Vroman. The gift shop has many other paintings, cards, glass sculpture, wood items and other original gifts.

## 28th Annual Clinton Eagle Watch

You are invited to participate in the 28th Annual Bald Eagle Watch on Saturday, January 7, 2012. This event is dedicated to the understanding, appreciation and protection of our national symbol. Naturalists and volunteers will be on hand to share their enthusiasm and knowledge of these and other grand birds of prey. The Exhibit Hall at Clinton Community College will feature wildlife exhibits, food, drinks and door prizes.

Programs will feature lectures, videos, songs, stories and live birds of prey.

From 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. there will be eagle watching at Lock #13 in Fulton IL. Due to limited parking, participants are encouraged to use the free courtesy bus



service, traveling between the viewing site and the college, departing and arriving every half hour beginning at 10 a.m. and finishing at 2:30 p.m. Exhibits and educational programs will be held at Clinton Community College, 1000 Lincoln Blvd. in Clinton from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Did you know that our national emblem was threatened with extinction in the lower 48 states because of DDT poisoning? Protection under the Endangered Species Act, together with re-introduction programs, brought populations up, and the species was re-classified as Threatened in 1995, and they were de-listed in June 2007 – a true conservation success story! There are eagles all over the world, but the American Bald Eagle only lives on the North American Continent.

For more information, contact the Thomson Park Rangers at 815-259-3628 or the US Fish and Wildlife Service at 815-273-2732. Or visit the following websites: [www.missriver.org](http://www.missriver.org) or [www.eicc.edu](http://www.eicc.edu).



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# Calendar of events

**December**

- 1-4/30/12 "Exploring Trees Inside and Out," Sawmill Museum, 2231 Grant St.
- 1-30 Symphony of Lights Holiday Display, Eagle Point Park, Daily, 6-9 p.m.
- 2-18 "Yes, Virginia, There is a Santa Claus," Clinton Area Showboat Theatre
- 2 Carolyn Whetstone & Terry Swails Book Signing,  
Clinton National Bank, 1-3 p.m.
- 3 Handmade Holiday Wreath Class, Bickelhaupt Arboretum, 10 a.m.
- 3 Children's Holiday Party, CCC Auditorium, 10 a.m.
- 4 Christmas Breakfast, Curtis Mansion, 8 a.m.-1 p.m.
- 4 LBPA Holiday Celebration, 4-6 p.m., followed by Fireworks at 6 p.m.,  
Sawmill Museum
- 5-9 Freezin' for Food with Chris Streets, Clinton Walmart
- 9 Jingle Bell Jam, Eagle Point Park Lodge, 5-7 p.m.
- 10 Holidays with the Clinton Symphony and RiverChor,  
Vernon Cook Theater, CHS, 7:30 p.m.
- 17 Cookies and Crafts with Santa, Children's Discovery Center, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
- 18 Christmas Spectacular by Carousel Dance Studio,  
Vernon Cook Theatre, CHS, 2 p.m.
- 22 Winter Solstice, Bickelhaupt Arboretum, 5:30 p.m.