

Holiday Gala kicks off the season in Multnomah Village

By KC Cowan
The Southwest Portland Post

If you keep your eyes peeled, you just may see a jolly old elf strolling around Multnomah Village on Dec. 2 and 3, perhaps checking to see who's been naughty or nice.

It's just one of the activities planned by the Multnomah Village Business Association for the annual Holiday Gala. The two-day event is slated to include caroling, a tree-lighting, gingerbread making and much more.

"It's a two-day event for us now," explained MVBA executive director Randy Bonella. "It starts Friday evening about 4:30 or so, with horse drawn wagons at the Multnomah Arts Center, and then at 6:15 at the Key Bank."

Friday night also includes carolers around the Christmas tree, which is set up by Village Beads on the corner of Southwest 35th Avenue and Capitol Highway. Umpqua Bank provides the strings of lights and neighbors add ornaments. The tree is officially lit at 6:42 p.m. Why such a precisely odd time?

"Because it's weird," laughed

Bonella. "No rhyme or reason for it."

All the stores will have special treats and specials, and Village Dental will have free treats at Umpqua Bank with a raffle at 7 p.m. Shopping at all the stores continues until 9 p.m. that evening.

Don't sleep in on Saturday, or you might miss the Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast at the Lucky Lab brewpub from 8-11 a.m. Santa Claus will be there and youngsters (or just the young at heart) can get their photo staken with him, and give him their Christmas wish list.

At 2 p.m., head over to Riversgate Church and make your own little gingerbread house for your decorations. There's a \$5 suggested donation, to cover costs. Then return to the village stores to get a head start on your holiday shopping.

The village businesses chip in to pay for all the fun to thank neighbors for their support during the year.

"It's always good to remind people that the shops in Multnomah Village are locally owned, small businesses," said Bonella. "Many of the shop owners live in the area, too. And shopping local is a

great way to keep your neighborhood strong and vital. So we always try to remind people to shop local."

The gala also kicks off the annual Golden Ticket shopping bonus, which runs through Dec. 31.

The tickets are accepted at participating shops in both Multnomah Village and Hillsdale.

Shoppers who purchase something that meets the store's minimum requirement are rewarded with a golden ticket. On the back is a list of participating shops and you can then take your golden ticket to that store for a special discount or treat.

"Some people use it like a treasure hunt and go shop store to store," said Bonella.

The golden tickets help keep the holiday spirit going through the end of the year and they give people just one more good reason to "shop local" and support all the businesses that make Multnomah Village so special.



Peachtree Gifts owner Petie Farkas (left) and employee Melissa strike a pose during the annual Holiday Gala event held on the first Friday of December in Multnomah Village. (Post file photo by Erik Vidstrand)

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A horse-drawn carriage leaves Key Bank in Multnomah Village in 2015. (Photo courtesy of Topanien Gifts)

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Holiday Gala: December 2nd & 3rd

Participating Businesses

Multnomah Village	Hillsdale		
Annastasia Salon	Multnomah Marketplace	Hillsdale Veterinary Hospital	
Anne Bocci	Multnomah Village Dental	Other Worlds Games & Comics	
Annie Bloom's Books	Northwest Wools	Paloma Clothing	
Antoinette Antique Jewelry	Peachtree Gifts	Portland European Facials	
Craft Factory	Peggy Sundays	Southwest Portland Marial Arts	
Healty Pets Northwest	Sara J	The UPS Store	
Indigo Traders	Switch Shoes & Clothing		
Jacquelines Found & Fabulous	Thinker Toys		
Jones & Jones Jewelers	Topanian Global Gifts		
Jules of Morrocco Clothing	Village Beads		
Little Shop of Drawers	Village Family Dental		
Maggies Boutique	Village Frame & Gallery		
Multnomah Antiques			
Food & Drink			
Baker & Spice Cakery	GiGi's Cafe	Nectar	Renner's Grill
Casa Vaca	Grand Central Baking	O'Connor's	Salvador Molly's
Dairy Hill Ice Cream	Hatties Sweet Shop	Oak & Olive	Sasquatch Brewing
Down to Earth Cafe	Marco's Cafe	Otto & Anita's	Sip D'Vine
Driftwood Coffee	Medley	Prosperity Pie Shoppe	Verde Cocina

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