

## Lacon Chamber Announces Foam & Flight Hot Air Balloon Glow Festival

The Lacon Chamber of Commerce has announced a new community event planned for 2026.

On September 26, 2026, the Chamber, in partnership with Greenwing Aviation and the Marshall County Airport, will present the Foam & Flight Hot Air Balloon Glow Festival.

The family-friendly event will include food and craft vendors, music and dancing, foam activities, glow hot air balloons, tethered hot air balloon rides, a Human in a Bubble experience, Bubblepalooza, and a glow foam cannon party. Additional activities and details will be announced as planning continues.

According to the Chamber, the event is designed to provide a new community gathering that brings residents, visitors, and local businesses together.

To help fund the festival, the Chamber has partnered with the City of Lacon on the installation of a new flagpole at the Marina. As part of the fundraising effort, residents, businesses, and organizations may purchase engraved bricks that will

be placed around the flagpole.

Brick options are fully customizable and may include business logos, memorials or tributes, family names, Class of 2026 bricks, sports teams, school pride messages, or personal recognitions such as "Best Dad," "Best Mom," "Coach," or "Proud Grandparent."

Purchasers may also choose to add a 4x4 replica leather coaster engraved to match their brick as a personal keepsake.

Bricks can be ordered online at [polarengraving.com/laconchamber](http://polarengraving.com/laconchamber), or by picking up a brochure at City Hall or participating local businesses. These bricks are a great legacy being a lasting part of Lacon for generations to come.

The Chamber is also encouraging community members to like, comment on, and share the festival announcement on social media for a chance to win a free engraved brick.

Questions regarding the event or the brick fundraiser may be directed to [laconchamberofcommerce@gmail.com](mailto:laconchamberofcommerce@gmail.com).



Pictured left to right: Christian Carboni of Greenwing Aviation, and Chamber members Amanda Barnett and Shamra Carboni.

## Christmas Fund Closes Out Season

The 2025 Lacon Home Journal Christmas Fund has reached its close. The contributions have been distributed to more than 115 families of all sizes. Given in the form of "cash coupons" for the Lacon local stores, these funds benefit not only the recipients but the entire community because they are spent in the stores.

This week, we received additional gifts, and we are very grateful.

"In Memory of John & Betty Moobery".....\$500.00  
"In Place of Christmas Cards,

"In Memory of Our Grandson" Bill & Cheryl Meismer...\$150.00

When it is time to begin the fund in November of each year, we are so hopeful. And, each year, we are amazed at how very generous our community is. This year, as in the past, we are overwhelmed with all the wonderful donations received here. Our total has met and exceeded any goal we may have had. \$21,200.50 was given.

We have been instructed by each and everyone who came through this fund to extend their gratitude for your kindness.

## Chamber Light-Up Contest Winners Named

Winners have been announced for the 2025 Light-Up Lacon Holiday Lights Contest, and organizers would like to thank everyone who participated. The displays brought holiday cheer to neighborhoods and around the community throughout the season.

### Category Winners

#### Best Traditional Display: Grant & Donna Cordes

This display delivered classic Christmas charm with vibrant holiday lighting and a glowing, colorful Christmas tree. A stand-out spotlight light pole cast an icy glow that made visitors feel as though they had stepped straight into the North Pole.

#### Best Themed Display: Rich & Christy Koch

Their display stood out for its creativity and scale, with lights visible from Route 26 and firehouse elements woven into Lacon's very own Clark Griswold-style holiday setup.

#### Best Business Display: Fro-Smokes Meatery

Located at the marina, Fro-Smokes impressed with painted holiday windows, decorated trees, (Continued On Page 2)



Best Themed Display: Rich & Christy Koch



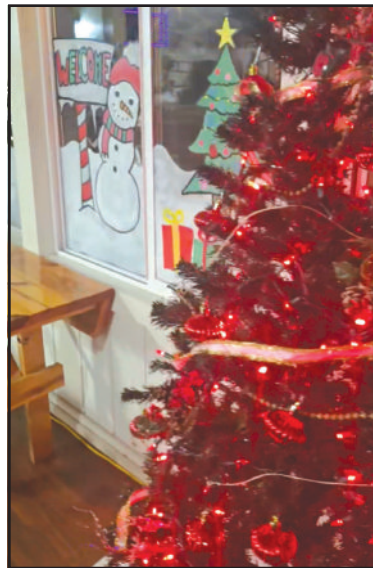
People's Choice Award: Grant & Donna Cordes



Runner-up for Best Traditional Display: Dennis & Julie Herridge



Christina Patellaro of Keller Williams Revolution



Best Business Display: FroSmokes Meatery

## Tiskilwa Man Arrested For Indecent Solicitation Of A Child



On December 27, 2025 at 7:21 p.m., members of the "proactive" unit of the Woodford County Sheriff's Department made an arrest of Rodney K. Harrod, age 54, of

Tiskilwa, IL. Harrod was taken into custody after traveling to Woodford County to meet a minor who he met on the internet and believed to be a 15-year-old female.

The intent of the meeting was to engage in a sex act with the minor female. Harrod is being held on four felonies, two counts of indecent solicitation of a child class 3, one count traveling to meet a minor class 3, and one count grooming class 4. This arrest and investigation was conducted by members of our "predator team" within our "proactive" unit. They focus on internet crimes against children. Harrod is currently being held in our jail awaiting his first appearance before a judge to determine if he qualifies for detention under the pretrial fairness act.

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