The weather couldn't have been any better. There was a slight nip in the air, but compared to a year ago, Monday night's Dec. 3 Country Christmas and Parade of Lights was paradise.

High winds earlier in the day calmed not long before activities downtown began. Following a kids' movie, which nearly 40 enjoyed at the Peerless Theatre, a large crowd gathered on the northwest corner of the Phillips County Courthouse lawn in anticipation of Santa's reindeer.

Kyle and Holly Hendrix of Wray had two of their reindeer on display and they proved to be one of the main attractions of the evening. The two reindeer jingled and jangled as onlookers snapped photos, talked with the owners and beefed up their knowledge on reindeer.

These two reindeer were the town celebrities Monday night, Dec. 3 during the Holyoke Chamber of Commerce's annual Country Christmas and Parade of Lights. Large crowds gathered all evening, with eager eyes catching a glimpse of the marvelous creatures. Hundreds of photographs were snapped by interested onlookers.

—Enterprise photo

The attraction was such a hit that Chamber of Commerce executive director Mary Tomky said she has already booked them to visit Holyoke during next year's celebration.

Santa and Mrs. Claus met with children at the Vet's Hall where members of Holyoke's FBLA chapter snapped 64 photographs.

Holyoke's volunteer firemen served approximately 475 people a tasty soup supper. Freewill donations will help HVFD with the 2013 4th of July fireworks display.

After Santa led children to the stoplight in Holyoke, he grabbed one lucky youngster who helped flip on the city's Christmas lights. After the streets had been lit, the 15th annual Parade of Lights commenced with a nice display of floats.

Youngster Evan Tomky gets a lift from Santa Claus Monday night and flips on the city's Christmas lights prior to the annual Parade of Lights.

—Enterprise photo

Taking home the first-place prize was Phillips County Extension Office. Second was earned by Regent Park/Carriage House while St. Patrick's Youth Group garnered third.

Phillips County Museum saw about 35 visit while enjoying some cookies and beverages.

During the soup supper, people entered their guesses in the Jolly Dozen FCE guessing game. Winning were youth Emily Anderson who missed the actual 141 amount by one, 140. Sara Ring won the adult guess, hitting it right on the head with 128.

Throughout the evening, residents frequented numerous downtown establishments—some of which were offering special treats and warm beverages for people to enjoy.

Holyoke's junior high marching band made its way through the Parade of Lights Monday evening. Pictured from left are Regan Van Overbeke, Drew Stewart, Jair Jimenez and Rebecca Owens.

—Enterprise photo

Click here to see more photos from Country Christmas and the Parade of Lights!!

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