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Discover Holyoke highlights urban treasures

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HOLYOKE – Discover Holyoke was on a roll Saturday with events that highlight the city's features including a double-decker bus tour.

According to Discover Holyoke tour guide Eileen Maginnis, among her favorite stretches of the downtown tour on the bus – which she voiced during the daylong Discover Holyoke event – was rolling through the Flats neighborhood.

"It's so cool to see the Flats and neighborhoods like that, at a higher level, to see parts of Holyoke you may not drive through regularly and see it from so high, that's cool on so many levels," Maginnis said, between trips through the city on Saturday.

Maginnis, a staffer at Wistariahurst Museum, said riders often shared their own stories as the tour bus rolled through the city's heart. Several had worked at the city's paper mills or had family members who worked there, bringing a live historic slant to a history tour.

"Maple Street is a killer for me," Maginnis said. "It seems like everything is historic on that street." Discover Holyoke attempts to showcase the best of the city including Heritage Park, Open Square, Wistariahurst Museum and the city's canals and historic buildings.

Families teemed around the Holyoke Merry-Go-Round, where "Trevor the Games Man" teetered around on stilts with a "martian yo-yo," and youngsters vied for the brass ring on the carousel. The event is designed to showcase the best of Holyoke; Realtors advanced home listings and advertised open houses in Holyoke later this month.

Available are passports for a \$2 wristband to sample events and demonstrations at 4 Open Square Wat, the Winter Palace Theater, plus Heritage Park and Wistariahurst.

The line-up included wagon rides, live music, art exhibits and a Latin Jazz festival.

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