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October 20, 2020

It's time to start planning for the annual Christmas Parade in Winnsboro! This year marks the **17th night time parade** and if the past parades are any indication, thousands of spectators will line the parade route for this great holiday event capped off by a fireworks display over Landis Park.

This year's parade is scheduled for Friday, December 4th, at 7 p.m. and will follow the traditional Parade route in Winnsboro.

The success of the parade depends heavily on the entries and participation by groups such as yours. Even if you have never before participated, this year's parade and related events offer a great opportunity for your group to become involved, and we encourage your participation in this great community event. The entry fees are nominal and strictly go for defraying parade expenses.

There will be two categories for float entries this year, **commercial** and **non-commercial**. Our commercial winners in the past have been, **Friendly Farms Pet Retreat (2017), Little Smiles and Mustang Lucy's (2018), NELPCO (2019)**. Non-commercial categories will offer three prizes of \$500, and the commercial division winner will receive recognition and possession of the coveted revolving "Santa" trophy for one year, along with advertising recognition in the Franklin Sun and KMAR-FM radio.

As always, the parade will cap a week of yuletide events in the downtown area of Winnsboro.

We have included in this packet information pertaining to this year's parade. Please respond to the category in which you or your group is interesting in entering. **If you have any questions, please contact the Chamber Office (435-4488).**

We look forward to hearing from you, and hope that you'll plan to join with us in making this year's Christmas Parade the best one yet!

Lisa Kiper
Parade Chairperson

2020 Parade Float Checklist

The theme for this year's parade will again be "Christmas in Franklin Parish". Please note that this theme is used each year so that organizations can "build" on their floats year after year without incurring additional expense.

There is no limit on the amount of money that can be spent on each float. Float building organizations should locate their own sources for donated materials, as well as sponsors.

- All floats **MUST** have Christmas music, live or recorded, clearly audible at 75 feet.
- All floats **MUST** be lighted with Christmas-type lights. There is no limit on the number or type of lights that can be used.
- All floats **MUST** have proper taillights on the trailer, and all vehicles pulling floats **MUST** only use parking lights during the parade.
- Those pulling floats in the parade will have to take a brief **safety course** conducted by the Winnsboro Police Department on **Monday, November 30, at 6 p.m.** Please plan to have a representative present. Please bring **ID** and **insurance card**.
- All floats powered by a gasoline-powered generator **MUST** have a fire extinguisher on board. The City of Winnsboro Fire Department will inspect each float prior to the parade. Those not in compliance will not be allowed in the parade.
- Each float builder will be responsible for meeting their sponsor's requirements for any and all signage on their float.
- All floats **MUST** have a minimum of four (4) security walkers (adults) stationed on the four "corners" of their float (including the pulling vehicle). Tractor-trailer rigs ("18-wheelers") **MUST** have a minimum of six adult walkers. Marching bands must also have walkers on the four "corners".
- For safety reasons, **nothing can be tossed from any float or vehicle.**
- No float can feature a "Santa"**. Santa will be at the end of the parade tossing candy.
- No horses will be allowed.
- No four-wheelers will be allowed except those entered by retail merchants.
- Float builders must muffle generator noises to the best of their ability.
- Floats may begin lining up at 4 p.m. and must be available for initial judging in parade formation **NO LATER** than 5:15 p.m. Floats not in place and ready to roll by that time will not be judged. All Judging will be completed by the 7 p.m. start of the parade.
- Deadline for notifying the Chamber office that you plan to enter a float is November 25.**

2020 Christmas Parade Fact Sheet

Date and Time

The parade will be held Friday, December 4th, starting at 7 p.m.

Theme

As in years past, the theme for this year's parade will be "*Christmas in Franklin Parish*". This is our recurring theme so that those making a significant investment in their floats will be able to reuse them in ensuing years. **Christmas-type lighting for all parade entries and parade units is mandatory.**

The Parade Route

The parade will follow the traditional parade route through Winnsboro. After "checking in" with parade officials at the corner behind the new Franklin Bank at the corner of Mary Marr and Fair Avenue, parade entrants will be directed to their designated location. Once the parade starts, it will turn right onto Kinloch Street, then take an immediate left and proceed south along Common Street to the Franklin State Bank. At that point, the parade will turn left and proceed in an easterly direction down Prairie Street to Pine Street, where it will turn north and proceed to the stoplight at the intersection of Main and Pine Street by the courthouse.

The parade will turn left and move west along Main Street to Gill Funeral Home, then turn right on Kinloch and proceed in a northerly direction to Johnny's Pizza. The parade will then turn right back on Fair Avenue and proceed to Progressive Bank before dispersing.

Float Categories

There are two float categories, **commercial** and **non-commercial**. **Float entries in all categories will pay a \$50 entry fee.** Deadline for entry is **November 25**, and entry fees must be paid by that time.

Commercial entrants are businesses with no limit on building supplies for their floats. These entrants are not eligible for cash awards, but the top judged entry will receive possession of the coveted revolving "**Santa Award**" trophy until next year's parade.

Non-commercial entrants include civic organizations, schools and school organizations, nonprofit organizations, and churches. **These organizations are responsible for securing their own sponsors.** These entrants are eligible for cash prizes. This year, \$500 cash prizes will be awarded to the top judged non-commercial entrants in the following categories: **President's Award, Chamber Award, and Judge's Award.**

(See enclosed "Parade Float Checklist" for float requirements)

Lighting Requirements for Floats

Since this is a night parade, **it is mandatory that all entries light their floats and/or vehicles with Christmas lights.** There are no set requirements for this, but entrants should use liberal amounts of lighting that will add to the spirit of the nighttime parade. Float entries should decorate the vehicle used to pull their float. **This will be the tie-breaker for the judging of the floats.**

Lighting Requirements for Other Vehicles

All vehicles in the parade **must** be decorated in an appropriate manner for a nighttime Christmas parade.

Participation

The parade is open to any individual or group. All entries and participants **must** be registered through the Chamber office. Non-judged entries (*i.e., vehicles with elected officials, beauty queens, etc.*) must be registered with the Chamber of Commerce office prior to the parade, and their vehicle must be lit with Christmas lighting.

Bands

Bands, both high school and junior high school, are encouraged to participate. **Marching bands, drill teams, cheerleader squads, and other similar units will be required to have security walkers on all corners of their formation.**

Judging and Prizes

The announcement of the winners - floats and antique cars - in this year's parade will be made just before the parade in the lineup, and signs will be affixed to the winning floats.

The cash prizes will be awarded to the float building organizations, and a float is eligible to win only one cash award. The winning organizations will also be recognized in the Franklin Sun, as will the commercial float winner.

Float building organizations are encouraged to use their imagination, and pull ideas and materials from the resources to which they have access.

Only entrants in the non-commercial division are eligible for cash prizes.