



Dec. 1, 2020

Peoria Heights moving forward with COVID-safe holiday events

The Peoria Heights Chamber of Commerce begins its holiday festival season starting Saturday, Dec. 5 with “Santa in the Heights” and continuing the following weekend with the longstanding tradition of “Chocolate in the Heights.”



Meanwhile, the Chamber also is kicking off a “Light the Heights” contest that is projected to become a perennial fixture.

This being 2020, extra measures are being taken to make these COVID-safe events.

For example, Santa and Mrs. Claus will be riding in the back of a pickup truck this year, waving and smiling, speaking and reading with those who eagerly await this time to come out and see him. It’s the same old loveable Santa, just interacting from a precautionary distance.

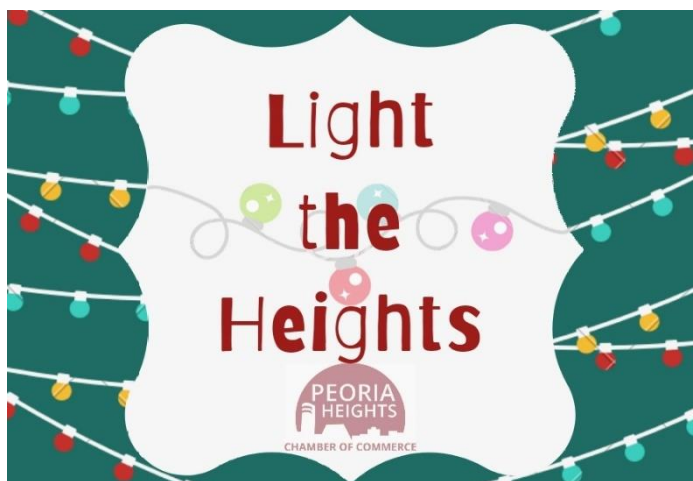
His schedule begins at 1 p.m. Saturday with a visit to the Trefzger's Bakery parking lot, followed by appearances driving around the Downtown at 1:30 p.m., at the Heritage Square parking lot at 2 p.m., more mobile Santa at 2:30 p.m., at I Know You Like a Book in the 4700 block of North Prospect at 3 p.m., at the Alwan's parking lot at 4 p.m., at the St. Thomas Catholic Church parking lot at 4:30 p.m., and at a meet-and-greet with the Peoria Heights Fire Department at 5:30 p.m.

To cap it all off, the ceremonial lighting of the Christmas tree will happen at 6 p.m. at Tower Park, with Santa arriving by fire truck and, if the spectators are up to it, a joyous round of socially distanced caroling to follow.

Saturday, Dec. 12, is also an all-day affair with Chocolate in the Heights, with multiple merchants participating. There will be all manner of chocolate-themed items to choose from, including a little pick-me-up – say, a chocolate martini, or two -- for those who might need one in the year 2020. Again, COVID mitigation precautions will be in force.



As for "Light the Heights," the Chamber is promoting a competition for the most impressively decorated home in the Village. Address recommendations are due by Dec. 5 and can be made by email at Peoriaheightschamber@gmail.com or by posting on the Chamber's [Facebook page](#).



Chamber officials are asking Village officials to vote on their favorite entry, with the winner announced live in front of their home at 6 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 12, with the news also being shared on [Facebook](#). A map will be created listing the finalists so that motorists can see for themselves the most dazzling displays of the season.

Chamber leaders decided to keep it simple this year given the pandemic and the accompanying restrictions, but are excited about an event they only expect to grow moving forward.

Finally, Chamber officials are seeking local musicians and singers who may be willing to perform on the two coming Saturdays. If you're interested, please contact Jill Wakefield at 309-697-9015.

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