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nothing
so powerful
as truth"*
DANIEL WEBSTER



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Manchester tree lighting ceremony set for Saturday

By Paul Feely
Union Leader Staff

The Queen City will host the 2nd Annual Downtown Tree Lighting Ceremony Saturday from 4:45 to 5:15 p.m. at City Hall Plaza, the Manchester Economic Development Office announced this week.

The ceremony will begin at the Bookery, 844 Elm St., at 4 p.m. with Santa and Mrs. Claus hosting a story time event for kids, followed by the tree lighting at City Hall Plaza, where hot chocolate will be provided by Diz's Cafe and traditional holiday songs performed by Mr. and Mrs. Claus.

"Manchester's Tree Lighting ceremony is a wonderful holiday tradition. I encourage families and visitors to join us to meet Santa and Mrs. Claus, listen to holiday music and enjoy some delicious hot chocolate," said Mayor Joyce Craig in a statement. "It's a great opportunity to come together and enjoy all that downtown has to offer. From the Winter Wonderland Holiday Parade to the Tree Lighting ceremony to the Holiday Lights Contest, our city is in the holiday spirit."

Attendees can get a picture taken with Santa and Mrs. Claus during a photo

session immediately following the tree lighting, before the pair head off to visit Manchester's small businesses and patrons from 5 to 6 p.m. along Elm Street.

Attendees on Saturday are encouraged to bring a new and unwrapped toy or gift to drop off at City Hall Plaza for the Tower of Toys Drive benefiting local children's organizations, or bring your item directly to Bonfire Restaurant and Country Bar at 950 Elm St., to donate to the Miracle on Elm Street Toy Drive, which benefits kids in need in the Queen City through the Manchester Housing and Redevelopment Authority.

"The Manchester Economic Development Office is excited to partner with New England Holiday Lights for the city's second annual tree lighting event, sharing the joy of the holiday season with our residents and visitors while providing a positive impact on our local small business community for the third straight weekend of holiday events," said Jodie Nazaka, the city's economic development director. "This marks the beginning of a new holiday tradition in Manchester, one we anticipate will gain popularity and expand over time."

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