

# Board okays Christmas Parade permit

The Lake Ozark Board of Aldermen has made it official – the 2020 Christmas Parade will be held Dec. 12 along Bagnell Dam Blvd. Aldermen approved a Special Event Permit at a recent board meeting.

Theme this year is “We Need A Little Christmas.”

The Bagnell Dam Strip Association, which sponsors the event every year, announced recently that the parade would be held despite continued concerns about COVID-19. The BDSA decided that entry fees for the parade will be waived this year because of the challenges some Lake Ozark businesses have experienced because of the coronavirus. Aldermen also agreed to waive the Special Event fee.

The BDSA is strongly suggesting following CDC guidelines including masks, sanitizing and distancing.

Alderman Judy Neels raised concern about potential spread of COVID-19 because historically the parade is one of the most popular events for the BDSA. She also wondered why the parade was announced in early November before the board had approved the Special Event Permit.

The throwing of candy from parade entries is prohibited for safety reasons, but participants can walk along the route and hand out candy, treat bags, etc.

Santa Claus will arrive in Lake of the Ozarks style as the parade finale. He will be pulled by his reindeer in a beautiful red sleigh featuring more than 2,000 lights, garland, music and Santa helpers. The sleigh was designed and built by Steve Lemens and his late wife, Pat, who embarked on this labor of love for the joy of children at Christmas time. Many others contributed to the original project.

The BDSA offered special thanks to Lemens, Brian and Angie Schuster of Summerset Boat Lifts and Big Thunder Marina for continuing this tradition.

Santa will make his appearance exclusively in the parade and elves will distribute gift bags along the route in lieu of a personal visit. Children are encouraged to write letters which will be collected by the elves along the route for Santa to read before Christmas.

Things to know

- The Grand Marshal this year will not be a person but instead will embody the spirit of gratitude for essential workers.

- Line-up of parade entries starts at 11:30 a.m. on Rt. 242.



**Santa Claus will make his annual appearance in the Lake Ozark Christmas parade Dec. 12. He may even have Mrs. Clause and favorite elves with him!**

- Judging of entries occurs before the parade during line-up.
- The Maine Corp League Honor Guard will lead the parade turning onto Bagnell Dam Blvd.
- Please note that Bagnell Dam Blvd. will be closed to thru traffic from Rt. 242 to Bagnell Dam during the parade.
- There will be no separate categories but there will be first, second and third place overall winners with cash awards of \$200, \$100 and \$50 for the best representation of the theme.
- No full Santa costumes are allowed, but Santa hats are okay.

To register for the parade, send an e-mail [rickie@mylaketv.com](mailto:rickie@mylaketv.com) or call 573-434-3552.

The parade will be aired live on LakeTV online at [mylaketv.com](http://mylaketv.com); also on Spectrum channel 197, Co-Mo channel 90, on Facebook, Roku or YouTube.

