

2018 Morgantown Jaycees Christmas Parade

6:30 pm, Monday, December 3, 2018

WHERE and WHEN WE MEET the DAY of the PARADE – Dec 3rd:

Volunteers will be gathering at 4:15 pm in the parking lot behind Panero's downtown.

WHAT TO WEAR and BRING:

Wear appropriate clothing for the weather. Dress warmly, bring gloves, a flashlight, and a smile. We will be outside for 3-1/2 hours. Wear any reflective gear or vest, if you have it..

WHO IS INVOLVED IN THE CHRISTMAS PARADE:

Morgantown Jaycees Alumni and friends will be organizing and conducting the Christmas Parade. Jaycees and Senators from other Chapters generally show up and join in the fun. WEST TV and their crew will video the Parade to be later aired, with Parade Sponsor Ads, on Comcast Channels 15 and 3 and on You Tube. Next year, 2019, it might be possible for folks at home to watch the Parade LIVE on Facebook. The Mon Wireless Association will have 12 or more volunteers out to help with Ham radio communications support. The Mon County 4-H will have a "Christmas Sing-Along" prior to the Parade and serve Hot Chocolate. The Independent Order of Odd Fellows Monongalia Lodge #10 will be serving coffee and hot chocolate. All in all, we will have 35+ volunteers helping out. The Morgantown City Police Department, the Mon County Sheriff's Department, tactical units, WVU DPS, escorts, City Fire Administration, the South Side Fire Station, City Public Works, Street, Signs and Traffic Divisions, City Manage, local tow companies, and more, are an integral and necessary part of the Parade planning, enforcement, and safety.

The Parade will feature ten (10) Middle and High School Bands from Monongalia and Preston Counties, Cub and Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, lots of dance groups, church groups, Fire trucks, area businesses, and more. All religious groups may participate. The Morgantown Public Library is presenting a cast of Disney characters such as Olaf, Cinderella, Prince Charming, Anna and Elsa. Also look for tow-Mater and Santa Cow. The Shriners will have a cast of characters patrolling around High Street. There are expected to be 100+ units.

Parade chairs, Mike and Ruth Hopkins, say: "come out Monday, Dec 3rd to High Street Downtown Morgantown, eat, shop, and bundle up for a festive evening with the Morgantown Jaycees Christmas Parade". A Special feature is SANTA CLAUS, direct from the North Pole. The man in the big red suit will arrive atop a shining red City of Morgantown Fire Truck and will be escorted by Santa's Honor Band - The "Red & Blue" Morgantown High School Marching Band.

PARADE SPONSORS AND AD SPONSORS:

Parade Sponsors and Major Parade Sponsors: Local businesses have the opportunity to gain recognition and advertising exposure with the Morgantown Jaycees Christmas Parade. There will be several venues where we meet and plan for the Parade and the big gathering after the Parade. Sponsors help with food costs, signage, etc. and are an integral partner with the Christmas Parade. We generally need up to \$250 for signage, supplies, reflective vests, etc., \$150 for planning meetings of volunteers to defer food and soda (no beer) costs. We generally will need up to \$350 for the "After Parade Gathering". Most of the time the sign company and restaurants will also work with us on cutting costs.

Parade Advertising Sponsors: WEST TV will work with the Ad Sponsors. Those that help with being a Parade Sponsor will receive some free ad space in the TV production video and in the Parade credits. We hope to raise a small total amount of around \$800-\$1,000 this year. \$39 gets you 2 spots \$78 gets you 4 spots, and so on. For \$600, the Grand Parade Sponsor has their Company Logo at the bottom of the TV video throughout the entire 1 hour plus video and ad spots. Check out You Tube to see ads from last year.

MISSION for OUR PARADE VOLUNTEERS:

WE ARE AMBASSADORS: First, we want to act as Ambassadors and welcome and thank the units for participating in our Christmas Parade. Talk to the children and adults and wish them to be safe, have lots of fun, smile, and wave.

SAFETY, FIRST: Second, we want to make sure everyone is SAFE. Please advise all units with vehicles that they are to turn their lights, drive slowly with caution, and watch for people in the vehicle and spectators. No jerky movements or revving of engines. Also, please advise units, that we may accept throwing of candy from cars but encourage people alongside the vehicle to do the throwing of candy or to have someone else other than the driver watching out for spectators. We absolutely DO NOT allow throwing of any candy from any large vehicle or trailer. That must be done by walkers beside the vehicle. ALL LARGE VEHICLES, other than Fire Trucks, should have people walking along both sides. If you feel uncomfortable with someone's actions, feel free to ask them to refrain and/or notify myself, designated persons, or City officials. SAFETY is paramount.

KEEP a FULL LANE OPEN ON HIGH AND WILLEY STREETS: Third, we always want to maintain crowd control and keep a full lane OPEN to bring down Units as needed on N HIGH and on WILLEY. Please ask that vehicles and persons, stay to the LEFT facing down N HIGH so that a full safe lane is available next to Wesley United Methodist Church. Correspondingly, keep all to the LEFT nearest to BB&T on WILLEY to HIGH.

THE CHRISTMAS PARADE MUST GO ON:

The Christmas Parade on Dec 3rd must go on and on time and generally regardless of weather. If you hear the Parade is cancelled or postponed, it will be come directly from me. Also, if you hear rumors or see Facebook posts of the Parade being cancelled, please, inform me immediately, AND, squash and politely correct the posts, call the individual(s)

We have never cancelled. We have moved the date of the Parade to a makeup date but do not like to do so, as we will lose Bands and participants. For the 2018 Christmas Parade, on Thursday, Nov 29th a decision will be made among the chair, bands, etc. to postpone the Parade to the make-up date of Thursday, Dec 6th, if the weather forecast is expected to be a projected State of Emergency. At that time, if there is a date change, we will notify the Parade Participants personally by phone and E-Mail, and notify the Public by radio, newspaper, TV, and Facebook. There will be a 95% probability that we do not postpone the Parade date. Understand that some rain or snow will not postpone or change the date of the Parade. The published Parade start is 6:30 pm, but we traditionally step off at 6:25 pm.

STAGING AREAS:

All units will face or eventually face down High Street “the Parade Route”. All units are not to disburse until they pass the old Post Office – new County Building

N HIGH BELOW CANTEEN = from Canteen Lunch to Panera’s and High/Willey intersection

N HIGH ABOVE CANTEEN = above Canteen Lunch up toward the Lair garage

PROSPECT = from N High intersection up to Price St

EPISCOPAL LOT = parking lot next to Trinity Episcopal Church just off Willey St

WILLEY – BANDS = from N HIGH past Book Exchange to University Ave

WILLEY = from HIGH up to SPRUCE to PRICE

N SPRUCE = from Willey/Spruce intersection to Prospect/Spruce

PRICE = only Fire Trucks from there and on to Willey

LARGE VEHICLES and UNITS:

Stage on **N SPRUCE** and **WILLEY STREETS**. Note, that after 5:30 pm. Spruce, Willey to High, and Prospect from Price are shut off to non-Parade traffic. Parade units will face **DOWN N SPRUCE** (the opposite direction from oncoming traffic before 5:30pm). It is important that you caution every vehicle coming down N SPRUCE, prior to 5:30 pm, to stay to the right facing down N Spruce and watch for any oncoming traffic coming up Spruce.

All FIRE TRUCKS line up on PRICE to WILLEY: (except Santa Claus which lines up on North High above Canteen Lunch).

PARADE ORDER:

Generally no one lines up in the exact order due to timing and traffic. We therefore, adapt accordingly. It is important that animals go down close to the start before any candy is thrown and not near any music. Next, units that have small toddlers/children have priority to go down near the parade start. Also, it is important that there is a buffer of a few Units between Music or Dance groups and Bands. Sometimes, there may be a request from a Unit to go down early so as some of their participants can run back up the street and change into their Band uniform. This is the case for a couple of Units this year, the ALL STAR TWIRLETTES and LIL JAMMAZ HIP HOP COMPANY.

IMPORTANT NOTE:

As you notice the nearing of the end of the Parade, I would like to have all volunteers congregate near Panera's on High/Willey. We are to walk down High Street immediately after the Morgantown High School Band starts down. We will walk in front of and along side the Fire truck carrying Santa Claus.

Please take pictures or video of the kids and Santa. Be sure to encourage everyone to wave and have fun. If anything, a picture of smiling children and parents, will be etched in your memory for years to come.

I want us to gather at the Walnut/High intersection near Citizens and pose for pictures and video. The entire Christmas Parade is being videoed by Mike Ellis of WEST TV and will be rebroadcast on Comcast Channels 15 and/or 3, at a later date, on or near, Christmas and on You Tube. We will stay there at the intersection, as we allow Santa to proceed through the ranks of the MHS Band. A sight to see! Then, we will soon disburse to our cars and to the after Parade gathering.

After the Parade (7:45 - 8:00 pm) we will go out to have pizza or something – to be determined. Last year, we went to Pizza Al's at University Town Center, across the street from Target. A Proud Sponsor will treat us. No cost to you for food and soda, but, you must pay for your own beer.

**** Have a Merry Christmas ****
