

JESSICA NELMS | THE JOURNAL

**City of Seneca employees work to set up Christmas decorations as the city moves into the Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday season next week. Seneca's Christmas Parade is set for Dec. 2.**

# *Christmas parades coming soon*

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**BY MONICA KREBER**
THE JOURNAL

Christmas Day is more than a month away, but Christmas parades are just around the corner.

Municipalities all over the tri-county area are gearing up for festive floats, holiday music and hot chocolate as they approach their parade dates. Some parades are staying the same this year, but others are bringing a new twist to the scene.

Pendleton has a tradition of holding its annual Christmas parade around the Village Square downtown. This year's parade is scheduled for a 3 p.m. start Dec. 8, and parade participants will also be competing in float competitions. Entrants can win a $25 prize by winning in one of five different categories — best church entry, best decorated ride entry, best float entry, most original and most holiday spirit. Entry forms are still being accepted up through Nov. 29 and can be obtained at www.townofpendleton.org.

Mayor Frank Crenshaw said town council members will be banding together for the parade.

"We're looking forward to it — it's always fun," he said. "People really get into it. Pendleton has a huge sense of community."

Central will be kicking off its Christmas Parade with a lineup starting in front of Mount Zion Cemetery. The

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## Local Christmas Parade Schedule

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| Central | Dec. 7, 1:30 p.m. |
| Clemson | Dec. 3, 6 p.m. |
| Keowee Marina | Dec. 6, 6 p.m. |
| Pendleton | Dec. 8, 3 p.m. |
| Salem | Dec. 8, 4 p.m. |
| Seneca | Dec. 2, 6 p.m. |
| Six Mile | Dec. 7, 10:30 a.m. |
| Walhalla | Dec. 7, 5 p.m. |
| Westminster | Dec. 5, 6 p.m. |
| West Union | Dec. 14, 5 p.m. |

# PARADES: First set for Dec. 2

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parade route is staying the same. The lineup will start at noon, with the parade beginning at 1:30 p.m.

Six Mile's Christmas parade is scheduled for Dec. 7 at 10:30 a.m., with a rain date of Dec. 8 at 2:30 p.m. The town's first parade was held in 1970 and has been an annual event ever since.

On Dec. 3 at 5 p.m., Clemson residents will be occupying downtown, ringing in the holiday season with pre-parade festivities. At 6 p.m., the parade will start and head down College Avenue.

"A Child's Heart at Christmas" is the theme for this year's Seneca Christmas parade. This year's parade will honor the Emerson Rose Heart Foundation. All registered participants will be contacted by Nov. 25 for placement in the parade. The parade will travel through downtown Seneca.

Despite recent discussions to change Westminster's parade route, the city's traditional parade is not coming with any major changes this year. It will begin at 6 p.m. on Dec. 5. Floats will line up at First Baptist Church on West Oak Highway at 5 p.m. The Christmas tree will be lit up at the Depot, and downtown shops will extend their shopping hours.

One new addition to the parade is the Community Outreach Proactive Solutions (COPS) Toy and Can Drive. Parade attendees are encouraged to bring a toy or canned good for the drive and are asked to look for the police hummer. All donations collected in the COPS program will be used within Oconee County.

Westminster Chief of Police Dean Awalt said this is the first year the police department is running a toy/can drive. Awalt said the police hummer will at all city-wide Christmas events this holiday season.

"We're trying to kick it off this year and see how well it does," Awalt said. "We're just trying to bring a positive influence from the police department. I think it's a good thing that we support the community that way as well."

Drop-off boxes for the COPS drive are also being placed inside Westminster stores. The police department hopes to be done placing boxes by the end of next week, Awalt said.

"We just saw a need with some of the kids in the local schools," he said. "We're all about supporting the community."

Walhalla's Christmas Parade, which will begin at 5 p.m. on Dec. 7, will be themed "What I want for Christmas." Categories for judging are most inspirational, best use of theme and best dance group. The deadline for entry is Dec. 5 at 5 p.m. Following the parade, the town will hold its first annual Walhalla Luminary Tour of Churches. Participants will get to visit area churches and see how they celebrate Christmas.

West Union's Christmas Parade will take over Main Street. The theme is "the Beauty of Christmas." The parade is Dec. 14 and will begin at 5 p.m. on Main Street.

Salem's Christmas parade, scheduled for a 4 p.m. start on Dec. 8, will be themed "Peace on Earth." Parade entries are still being accepted through Dec. 6 — those interested need to call Town Hall at (864) 944-2819. Organizers will also give a trophy to the floats that win best church entry, best band and best organizational dance.

Marti Jennings, an organizer for the parade, said the town felt like with everything going on in today's news, "Peace on Earth" seemed fitting.

"We thought it would be nice," she said. "We do have horses at the end of the parade, and, of course, Santa."

In addition to municipalities, Keowee Marina is holding its second annual in-water Christmas boat parade on Dec. 6. Line up is scheduled for 5:30 p.m., and the launch will be at 6 p.m. Entries for the parade are $25, and all proceeds go to the Angel Tree Program. The Marina is located at 150 Keowee Marina Drive in Seneca. For more information, call (864) 882-2047.

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