Festival of trees runs through Jan. 3

BY NORMAN CANNADA
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SENECA — Duke Energy's second annual Festival of Trees is combining the holiday spirit with a little bit of competition.

A total of 20 decorated Christmas trees are set up in the lobby of the World of Energy at the Oconee Nuclear Station through Jan. 3. Visitors are free to walk through, see the trees and vote for their favorite.

The winner will receive a $1,000 grant from Duke to go to the winner's favorite charity. All participants are asked to pick a charity registered with the Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c)3 registered charity. Since two of the trees are from Duke Energy, the other 18 will be competing for the grant.

"We started last year, and it was well received, so we thought we would have it again and add a little something extra to it," Duke Energy spokesperson Amanda Dow said.



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Visitors to Duke Energy's World of Energy education center will have the chance to vote for their favorite decorated Christmas tree during the Festival of Trees, which runs through Jan. 3. The winner will receive a $1,000 grant for the charity of their choice.

"We were all just kind of thinking of new things we could do to get people to come to the education center. The holidays are always a great time especially since folks have a lot of people visiting our area. It looks nice and gets people to come visit the center."

The World of Energy is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and from noon to 5 p.m. Saturday. Admission is free. The World of Energy will be closed Dec. 24-28 and Jan. 1.

The official tree lighting ceremony at the World of Energy is scheduled for 6 p.m. Dec. 6. There will be free refreshments and live holiday music by "Out of the Blue," a Bluegrass band.

Santa and Mrs. Claus will visit the World of Energy from 1-3 p.m. Dec. 6. Those attending are welcome to bring a camera or the staff of the World of Energy will share photos they take.

For more information about events at the World of Energy, call (864) 873-4600 or visit www.Duke-Energy.com/worldofenergy.



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This tree from Toys for Tots reminds visitors to give Christmas presents to help provide gifts for needy children.

ncannada@upstatetoday.com | (864) 973-6684
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