

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2017

Clemson Christmas parade rescheduled for Thursday

BY JUSTIN LEE CAMPBELL
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CLEMSON — Originally scheduled for tonight, the Clemson Christmas parade has been rescheduled for Thursday due to expected inclement weather, according to city program director Lindsey Watley.

The National Weather Service forecasts an 80 percent chance of rain tonight, with up to half an inch of precipitation expected.

Watley said the city would try to work with a forecast for a 60 percent chance of rain, but more than that is risky.

"We never cancel unless the chance for rain is that high," she said. "We don't want kids out in the rain and people walking in the streets. The rain also makes it difficult for convertibles."

Although the date is different, the pre-parade celebration will still start at 5 p.m. in front of Tiger Town Tavern and feature hot chocolate, cookie decorating and performances by the Clemson University Rally Cats and Elevation

Dance Company of Pendleton, according to Watley.

The parade will begin at 6 p.m. on College Avenue near S.C. Highway 98 and end at Strode Circle. Watley said the parade will still feature Santa Claus, but the original grand marshal, former long-time city parks and recreation director Steve Figueroa, is unavailable.

Clemson Community Foundation chair Bo Crader will be Thursday's grand marshal.

The city rescheduled the parade for Thursday after city officials expressed concern the original rain date of Wednesday conflicted with a public input session for long-range plans for the downtown corridor from 5-8 p.m., according to Watley.

"Though we've had a change in plans with the rain, we do encourage everybody to come out on Thursday," Watley said. "We'd like everyone to come down and participate."

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