

Deck the halls ...



SPECIAL TO THE JOURNAL

The Seneca Christmas lights show is scheduled to return to downtown Nov. 19.

Christmas lights show returning next week

BY NORM CANNADA
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SENECA — For those ready to get into Christmas spirit a little early, the holiday season is just a week away in downtown Seneca.

City administrator Scott Moulder said this week the fourth annual Christmas lights

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Seneca city administrator Scott Moulder

and music display downtown will open for the 2021 season at 5:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 19. The show will continue to run

nightly through the holiday season.

Moulder said he and other city officials did a "trial run"

earlier this week and are tweaking it a little before the unveiling next week.

"I'm excited. It's going to be bigger and better than it was," Moulder said. "We did turn the lights on and gave it a trial run. We noticed some issues that we need to resolve, which

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is why we had the trial run. And the staff worked real hard, getting some of those issues taken care of. ... We're excited.

"I think this is a great time of year," he added. "I can't wait to see the people gathered down there, the smiling faces, ready to enjoy the season."

Christmas lights were revamped downtown in 2018 with a nearly 30-foot tree and lights and music throughout Norton Thompson Park. The city has upgraded the show each year and new features are planned for this year as well:

The Christmas tree at the center of the display near Norton Thompson Park will be taller this year, with the addition to two frames of the base, upping the tree from 29 ½ feet to 35 ½ feet tall. That tree will not be lit until the annual tree-lighting ceremony on Nov. 29 before the Seneca Christmas parade.

The lighted tunnel that was a popular attraction with children and families last year has doubled in size from 48 feet to 96 feet.

"I love watching the kids lay down in that tunnel," Moulder said last month. "We put carpet in there and they'll just lay down there and watch it. It's so cool. They'll run through it. It's almost like you're in Star Wars — going into hyper speed."

A 4-foot wreath provides a new photo opportunity along with others that have been set up in recent years.

A second "walk-through-present" will be added for visitors to enjoy.

Moulder said a "surprise" attraction is also being added to the display this year, but will not be unveiled until Nov. 29.



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Above, Skylar and Grayson Kotun visit Santa with Seneca Police Chief Casey Bowling during the Christmas lights and music display last December in downtown Seneca. The fourth annual lights show is scheduled to begin at 5:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 19. Left, Seneca city administrator Scott Moulder gets his photo taken with a reindeer display that became part of the city's downtown display last year.