

Festival of Trees starts at World of Energy

THE JOURNAL STAFF

SENECA — Duke Energy's annual Festival of Trees is kicking off with a canned food drive.

The World of Energy is setting up for its 10th annual Festival of Trees display. Duke Energy announced Friday, inviting the public to participate early by dropping off 15-ounce canned goods for the Pack the Pantry initiative between now and Nov. 26.

The monthlong campaign highlights food insecurities and supports food programs in Oconee County. The cans will be transformed into a canned good tree — made with 400 cans of food — which will be displayed in the Festival of Trees.

The festival will open

on Wednesday and continue through Jan. 6. The event is free, and visitors can vote for their favorite of the 25 trees, which are decorated by local businesses and organizations.

In celebration of the 10th anniversary, Duke Energy is donating a total of \$10,000 to the top vote-getters.

- First place: \$3,500
- Second place: \$2,500
- Third place: \$1,500
- Fourth place: \$1,000
- Best-themed tree to represent their organization: \$750
- Most creative: \$750

Entrants selected a local nonprofit to receive the money if they win.

The display will be open this Saturday to Dec. 17 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Wednesday through Friday and Saturdays from 10 a.m.-1 p.m.