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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE DISTRIBUTION

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Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony and *NEW* Winter Fair in the Square

The City of Des Plaines is excited to announce its annual Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony along with the first-ever Winter Fair in the Square, new in 2022. The public is invited to join Mayor Andrew Goczkowski and the City's Elected Officials for this year's event celebrating the "Season of Giving." Both events will be held at Metropolitan Square in Des Plaines. The Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony will be on Friday, Dec. 2, and the Winter Fair will be Saturday, Dec. 3. Admission is free. Hours are Friday, 4 p.m. until 6:30 p.m.; Saturday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Friday evening will kick off with community groups decorating trees. The Mitten Tree will be available and ready for donations of new hats, gloves, mittens, and scarves. In addition, the Des Plaines Self-Help Closet and Food Pantry will be accepting non-perishable food donations. The evening will be filled with entertainment from local groups like the Maine West Choraliers, the Maine West Marching Band, Artistry in Motion, Move The Beat, Kalapadma Dance Academy and Big Noise Theatre. Children are encouraged to bring a letter to Santa to drop in the mailbox. Look for Santa Claus to arrive at 4:45 p.m., followed by the Holiday Tree Lighting at 6:30 p.m.

Our inaugural Winter Fair in the Square on Saturday is designed to get everyone in the holiday spirit and will include the following:

- Winter Market with local artisans and food trucks from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Trolley tours around the city with the Des Plaines History Center at 12:15 p.m., 2 p.m. and 4 p.m.
- Carolers from 12 p.m. – 1 p.m.
- Live ice sculpting from 3:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

"We are so pleased to host our Annual Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony again this year," said Mayor Andrew Goczkowski, "and we're thrilled to offer families another way to celebrate the winter season and the holidays with the creation of Winter Fair in the Square. Our hope is that the fair will become an annual tradition in the community."

Metropolitan Square, located north of Miner Street between Lee and Pearson streets, is easy to find. Free parking is available in several nearby municipal garages.

More information can be found on the City's website [desplaines.org/holidaylighting](https://www.desplaines.org/holidaylighting) for the full schedule of events.

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