



THE CITY OF FREEPORT, FLORIDA

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RUSS BARLEY
MAYOR

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Christmas is just around the corner! If you were a part of the 2019 Freeport Christmas Parade, I want to thank you for supporting our city and for helping make the parade a tremendous success. If you were not a part, I invite and encourage you to join us this year! Discussions, planning, and meetings for 2020 Freeport Christmas began just days after last year's event and plans are well underway. Tom and Barbara Tillman are the coordinators for the events. Ashley Gay is directing the tree lighting program, Geoff King is directing the other activities outside City Hall, and Becky Rose will be directing lining up units on the day of the parade.

The Freeport Christmas Parade will take place on the **first Saturday of the month which is December 5th this year**. The rain date will be December 12th. We're delighted to announce that Mr. Russell Hughes, Superintendent of Walton County Schools, will be our Grand Marshall.

The parade start time is 4:40 pm and the Christmas tree lighting program will immediately follow. The route will be the same as last year, beginning at the elementary school, moving south down Business 331, west on 20 past City Hall, then northeast on Blueberry. It will be a lighted parade and we are highly encouraging parade units to LIGHT UP! This will make for a more exciting parade and makes it a safer parade. For those entering floats and other large vehicles, walkers are required on each side of your entry. Whether you choose for them to be costumed to the theme of your entry or in Christmas attire, they help ensure the safety of the children watching along the parade route.

So that you can begin your parade planning, I wanted to share that the theme this year is **Christmas Around the World**. Choose any country or culture and research their Christmas customs and costumes. We hope to see a wide variety!

I would like to ask for your help to begin spreading the word about this event. Please be sure to mark your calendars and begin planning as soon as possible. Our goal is to have all but the finishing touches in place by the Thanksgiving holiday.


Russ Barley
Mayor