

Mustang getting into the holiday spirit

City hosting Festival of the Trees Dec. 7, and Breakfast with Santa Dec. 12

By Traci Chapman
Staff Writer

It will be a holiday like no other as the novel coronavirus pandemic continues not only its presence, but also a major surge throughout Oklahoma and much of the country.

But that won't stop the holidays and Mustang Parks and Recreation's celebration of everything Christmas, as they head into December with two of its most popular events – events that will bring a certain jolly guy to the city on his sleigh, while working to keep everyone associated with them safe and healthy, officials say.

Before Santa heads out on his international overnight trip Christmas Eve, he makes a couple of trips each year to Mustang. Those events will have a twist, after parks and recreation director Jean Heasley recently announced that masks will be required at Mustang Town Center for most events and activities, except generally during physical activity or for children three and under.

"We implement this change so that we can continue to remain open for everyone's enjoyment," Heasley said.

It begins Dec. 7 with Festival of Trees, which includes myriad entertainment and activities, as well as the city tree lighting and Santa's first Mustang appearance of the holiday season.

This year due to COVID-19 all activities except photos with Santa will be held outside, parks and recreation program coordinator Heather Huff said recently.

"We'll have activities like the tree lighting, music and a giant blow up Snow globe outside," she said. "This is a free event – including pictures with Santa – and we're looking forward to starting an early celebration."

Festival of Trees begins at 6 p.m. Dec. 7 and will be held in front of Mustang Town Center. Santa



historically arrives at about 6:15 p.m. and the city tree lighting is generally held shortly thereafter.

Next up is the Dec. 12 Breakfast with Santa, which involves a pancake and sausage breakfast, as well as the opportunity for a professional photo with the big man himself, Huff said. Families this year would be seated at individual tables, and reservations should be required for the event.

"That will allow us to clean and sanitize tables and chairs for the next reservation," Huff said. "Everyone will be set up for a particular reserved time, and we ask that all families come at that time."

Organizers are also asking for donation to Canadian County Santa's Toy Shoppe. Anyone who wishes to contribute to that effort may bring unwrapped toys for donation to Breakfast with Santa. Mustang Fire Department annually spearheads that effort locally.

Breakfast with Santa costs \$25 – which includes breakfast and photo – for families up to six people. Reservation times begin at 8:15 a.m.



Santa returns to Mustang Dec. 7 and Dec. 12 for annual Festival of Trees and Breakfast with Santa, both popular events for the city.



More information about parks and recreation holiday events, as well as all other department activities, can be found on its Facebook page, found by searching for "Mustang Parks and Recreation Special Events;" information and

the link for registration is also available online on the city of Mustang page, located at <https://secure.rec1.com/OK/Mustang-OK/catalog>. The department may also be reached by calling 405-376-3411.