

Chickasha's 28th annual Festival of Lights

By Van Mitchell
Contributing Writer

Tree damage left from the recent ice storm caused some communities across Oklahoma to cancel their Christmas light displays.

But Chickasha's 28th annual Festival of Lights will continue as scheduled Nov. 21 through Dec. 31 at Shannon Springs Park.

Hours of viewing are from 6-10 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and 6 p.m. to 11 p.m. on Friday and Saturday. Admission to the park is free.

Cassandra Erslund, executive director of Chickasha's Festival of Light, said the park had significant tree damage, but city crews and volunteers have it ready to go.

"The city crew was out there and did a fantastic job of cleaning up," she said. "There were around 200 trees out there and every sin-

gle one of them had damage. We have an outpouring of volunteers to help with the lights this year. We are done and ready to open."

Each holiday season visitors from across the state and nation converge on Shannon Springs Park in Chickasha to view the Festival of Light which features over 3.5 million twinkling lights.

The 43-acre park is transformed into a drive-through or walk-through holiday wonderland with four miles of lighted walkways, a 25-foot tall angel, state-of-the-art animated, musically-choreographed show and more.

In 1992, what started out as a small group of local citizens with a dream to spark community spirit, became Festival of Light, Inc., a nationally recognized Christmas light display dedicated to long-term initiatives that enhance and improve quality each year.



The Festival of Light, Inc., is a volunteer based non-profit organization that is dedicated to promoting goodwill and building community spirit that is created and managed by local citizens. Erslund said COVID-19 has caused a few changes to the event.

"We are an outdoor event," she said. "If a family doesn't feel comfortable getting out and walking around, then they can stay in their

car and see beautiful lights as they drive through."

Erslund said there will be an outdoor skating rink, a Ferris wheel, gift shop, concession stand, as well as carriage rides.

"Carriage rides will occur, but riders are encouraged to bring their own blankets," she said.

For more information about the Festival of Light visit its Facebook page at www.facebook.com.

Del City celebrating Christmas with drive-thru tree lighting Holiday celebration scheduled for Dec. 4 at the Del City Community Center

By Jeff Harrison
Staff Writer

Del City will continue its Christmas celebration.

Just in a different way.

Del City and the Del City Chamber of Commerce will host a special drive-thru Christmas Tree Lighting event Dec. 4 at the Del City Community Center, 4505 SE 15th St. The special event is scheduled for 6 - 8 p.m.

The outdoor celebration will take place on the east side of the community center. Activities along the route include carolers, Christmas treat bags for children, and a visit from Santa. A photographer will be on site taking photos of families.

"We'll have the outside of the community center all decked out and we'll have police and firefighters

out there handing out candy and gift bags to kids," said Mayor Floyd Eason. "Everyone will stay in the car so it'll be a low contact event."

Eason said the drive-thru event allows the community to still celebrate the holidays in a safe manner.

"We needed to do something and not ignore the season," he said. "This is a way to celebrate and protect our city employees and citizens."

Del City traditionally hosts an indoor Christmas Tree Lighting inside the Community Center. The event includes music, a visit from Santa and gifts for children. City leaders chose to move this year's event outdoors due to COVID-19 concerns.

Eason said the city will continue planning safe community events in the future.

