



Performers announced for City of Kenosha tree lighting Nov. 24, 2023

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KENOSHA- The Kenosha Academy of Performing Arts will bring the holidays to life with performances by their Community Performance Groups to kick off the annual City Christmas tree lighting downtown at 3:45 p.m. Friday, November 24. Dancers from KAPA's Ballet Kenosha will perform excerpts from their upcoming performance of *The Nutcracker* to get everyone in the holiday spirit. The City Christmas tree is located at Fountain Plaza, west of the Kenosha Public Museum, 5500 First Ave.

Yesterday's Children are next on the entertainment lineup, offering an a capella performance of several holiday classics. Then Miss Kenosha 2023 Willow Newell will take the stage to sing a couple of her favorite Christmas songs, and everyone is invited to join her in a sing-a-long.

Look for the Frost Queen and Snow Princess mingling with the crowd on the beautifully decorated museum campus. Each fall the City parks department harvests a Christmas tree donated by a local citizen, which is decorated with 1,200 colored bulbs. This year's Christmas tree was grown by Neal and Frances Smaxwill, and Neal donated the Christmas tree in memory of his late wife.

Santa and Mrs. Claus will be the City's special guests at the tree lighting and will join Common Council President Rocco LaMacchia, Sr. to share a holiday greeting before a count down at 4:30 p.m. to light the tree.

Following the tree lighting, the Lightin' Up celebration continues downtown with an evening of festivities, including family activities, live entertainment and special promotions at Downtown businesses. At 5:30 p.m. a small Christmas tree will be lighted in Friendship Park, 5834 Sixth Ave.

Santa will be available to visit with people from 5-8 p.m. at the Rhode Center for the Arts, 514 56th St. Visits with Santa are free and photos are welcome. Mrs. Claus will help children write letters to Santa at Actor's Craft, 4900 Seventh Ave. from 5:15 to 8 p.m. Letters will be deposited in her special North Pole Mailbox. People can check out the festive windows and vote for their favorite holiday display in the Downtown Business Decorating Contest.

Festivities continue downtown through the end of this year, with a theme of "Merry and Bright." For further details about specials, entertainment and activities, visit www.visitkenosha.com