

Press Release | November 24, 2020

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Discover Peoria, the Pekin Area Chamber of Commerce and the City of Pekin Announce the 18th Annual Christmas on Court

Pekin is having a parade and the community is invited to drive the route. Roll down the car windows and crank up the heat to experience live entertainment, local retailers, Curbside Santa and the magic of Christmas on Court.

Peoria, IL- The Peoria Area Convention and Visitors Bureau (Discover Peoria), the Pekin Area Chamber of Commerce and the City of Pekin are gearing up to host the **18th Annual Christmas on Court from 5 - 8 p.m on Friday, December 4.**

Based on the new COVID-19 parameters provided by Governor Pritzker, Discover Peoria has reimagined Christmas on Court to shift from a block party event to a parade-inspired festival around Court Street. The community is encouraged to jump in their vehicles and drive a predetermined route through Pekin. Spectators will drive by exhibits, entertainment and displays put together by area Pekin businesses, organizations and community members.

“Discover Peoria is thrilled to continue the holiday tradition in Pekin with this year’s Christmas on Court event,” said **J.D. Dalfonso, President/CEO of Discover Peoria**. “This is an event we look forward to hosting every year. The shift to a parade-inspired celebration will allow for a safe, family-friendly holiday kick-off everyone will enjoy. This event would not be possible without the incredible support from local leaders like Mayor Luft, Lelonie Luft, Amy McCoy at the Chamber, and all others that have given time and talent to all transitions and details--and for that, all of us at Discover Peoria say ‘thank you.’”

Vehicles will enter on Washington Street and line up on South Capitol Street between Broadway and Washington Street. There will be a 5 mph speed limit through the parade route to protect our participants. Vehicle occupants are encouraged to mask-up, roll down the windows and crank up the heat.

The parade route will be lined with:

- Live Entertainment
- Surprise Meet-n-Greets
- Curbside Santa with a mailbox for Christmas lists

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- Take-n-Make Crafts/Activities
- Food and Beverage
- Christmas Tree Contest Voting
- Curbside Shopping
- Holiday Cheer Sprinkled Throughout

“Christmas on Court is one of our favorite events entering the holiday season,” said **Mayor Mark Luft, Mayor of Pekin**. “It’s an opportunity to bring our community, businesses and organizations closer together; especially this year when Christmas Cheer and a sense of togetherness is needed more than ever.”

“This has been a difficult year for local businesses and our holiday season will be different than what we’re used to but having the support of Discover Peoria and the continuation of this year’s event will hopefully bring some sense of normalcy and revenue to our local entrepreneurs,” said **Amy McCoy, Executive Director of the Pekin Area Chamber of Commerce**.

“First Pekin Savings Bank is excited to be a Top Sponsor for this year's Christmas on Court. Being involved in our community means a lot to us,” said **Earl Riley, Community Bank President of First Pekin Savings Bank**. “We are looking forward to spreading some holiday cheer and hope you all like the surprises we have in store.”

Discover Peoria, the Pekin Area Chamber of Commerce and the City of Pekin are extremely grateful to the sponsors of this year’s Christmas on Court.

TOP Sponsor:

- First Pekin Savings Bank
- Discover Peoria

GOLD Sponsors:

- Pekin Insurance
- CEFCU
- Excalibur Seasoning
- PAL Health Technologies
- Allegra
- The Pekin Park District

SILVER Sponsors:

- Thompson Brothers Construction
- Matthews Family Farms

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Activity Sponsors:

- Advance America
- Advanced Medical Transport
- DSL Rentals
- Kiwanis Club of Pekin

A small selection of this year's local participating businesses, organizations and performers include:

Businesses and Organizations:

- Pekin Area Chamber of Commerce
- Yesterday's Bar & Grill
- Curvy Chic Boutique
- Coffee Connection
- Maquet's Rail House
- Mike's Knot Just Ribs
- Pekin Public Library
- The Unique Twist
- TAPS
- West Dublin Pub
- Peek in Pottery
- The CBD Store
- R Belle Boutique
- Sweet Bean Coffee & Treats
- Blown Away Balloons
- Mackinaw Valley Vineyard
- American Motor Trends
- Godfather's Pizza

Musicians:

- Chris Hawkins
- Emily Hope Band
- Lee Hall
- Carolers from over five Pekin-area choirs
- 3 Times a Lady
- Cornwolves

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Discover Peoria is asking all community members to mask-up during car window interactions and to please stay home if they have tested positive, have been in contact with someone who tested positive and/or is showing symptoms of COVID-19.

More information about 2020 Christmas on Court can be found on Discover Peoria's Event Page at www.DiscoverPeoria.com/christmas-on-court and on the [Christmas on Court Facebook Event Page](#).

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