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TREE LIGHTING AND PARADE TO KICK OFF DOWNTOWN HOLIDAY SEASON

The Downtown Winston-Salem Partnership and the City of Winston-Salem will present the annual **City Christmas Tree Lighting Celebration** on **Saturday, December 6**, in **Corpening Plaza** at the corner of First and Liberty streets. The fun will begin immediately following the Jaycees Holiday Parade, with music, dancing, costumed mascots, and treats for the children. The program, which is packed with talent from all parts of the community, will start at **6:30 p.m.** The public is invited to attend both back-to-back events which will officially kick off the holiday season in downtown Winston-Salem.

This year's City Christmas Tree Lighting Celebration will include dancers from the Academy of Dance Arts and Positive Image Performing Arts, a performance from The Nutcracker, gospel singers from Greater Cleveland Avenue Christian Church, the Reynolds High School Jazz Band and Acappella Ensemble and a multitude of costumed mascots to entertain the children. Other special attractions will include an appearance by Miss Forsyth County and, of course, Old Saint Nicholas himself!

Mayor Allen Joines will light the giant tree that is erected each year by the City Vegetation Management Department. It will be dressed with over 20,000 lights and will be the centerpiece of beautiful Corpening Plaza. The Recreation and Parks Department will add other decorations around the Plaza for a festive, holiday scene. Blankets and lawn chairs for seating on the greensward are encouraged, along with cameras for take-your-own holiday photos at special holiday vignettes.

The tree lighting has become a holiday tradition in Winston-Salem that is free for the entire family. The title sponsor is Harris Teeter, Inc. with presenting sponsor BB&T, media sponsors WMAG 99.5 and the Winston-Salem Journal, and Capture Public Relations and Marketing.

This is the fourth year that the tree lighting has been held in conjunction with the Winston-Salem **Jaycees Holiday Parade, which will begin at 5 p.m.** at Fourth and Poplar streets and end at Corpening Plaza.

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