

121 W. Broadway St.
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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Annual Christmas Festival to light up downtown Prosper

PROSPER (November 12, 2010) Lights merrily twinkling, Christmas carols filling the air, children anxiously awaiting Santa, tacos, turkey legs, fried pies and funnel cakes, are all part of the annual Prosper Christmas Festival.

The Town of Prosper is preparing for its yearly holiday party, this year featuring some new items and bringing back old favorites, according to Festival co-organizers Karen Gill of the Town Manager's staff and community volunteer Linda Guthrie.

Set for a 3 p.m. start on Sunday, Dec. 12, this year's Festival will begin with the traditional Santa Parade. Following the parade, live entertainment from local school children, Lighthouse Christian Fellowship Church, Fancy Fingers Baton Twirlers and Raising the Barre Dance Studio will fill the downtown area with Christmas cheer.

Shoppers will enjoy a bonanza of holiday bargains, many of the handmade crafts variety. Kids are sure to take great pleasure and have plenty of fun with the Barrel Train, bounce houses, and a number of other attractions. A chalk art contest will be held. To enter, contestants can register online by visiting www.kidsandart.com. On-site registrations will be accepted, space permitting. Online registration, however, will guarantee a spot in the contest.

New this year is an ice skating rink, regardless of the temperature, located atop the basketball court at Main Street Park. The Cotton Gin Café will be open for afternoon coffee and early dinner. And, for those seeking a Texas flavor, there will be plenty of kettle corn, barbecue, tacos, turkey legs, funnel cakes, fried pies, and many more local culinary delights.

"We still have openings for groups to participate in the Santa Parade. Whether they walk, march, ride a float or pull a sleigh, we would welcome them to be part of the kick-off event," said Gill. Last year's parade had over 30 entries, and more are expected this year. After the parade, Santa and Mrs. Claus will meet the children at the "North Pole."

As always, volunteers are crucial to the Festival's smooth operation. Volunteers are needed to greet visitors at the shuttle bus area, assist vendors with unloading their vehicles, marshal the parade assembly area, and assist at the food court, among other areas.

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“We’re asking interested volunteers to work a minimum of a two-hour shift, although we would greatly appreciate anyone who can put in more time,” she said.

Because the event will take up the downtown area, visitors are encouraged to take advantage of free event parking behind Reynolds Middle School, 700 N. Coleman Road. Free shuttle buses will transport visitors between the Festival grounds and the parking area. Parking spaces at Main Street Park are reserved for vendor vehicles.

“Of course, without the sponsors, the Festival would not be as impressive as it promises to be, so we send our special thank you to our sponsors,” she said.

This year’s Gold Sponsor is Prosper Medical Center. Silver Sponsors include Prosper Town Center, Whitley Place, and Frisco STYLE Magazine. Bronze Sponsors are Kids ‘N Art and Prosper Pet Clinic. Friends Sponsors consist of Prosper Economic Development Corporation and the Prosper Press.

“Mark your calendar, and come join the fun,” she concluded.

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ABOUT THE TOWN OF PROSPER – The Town of Prosper is a fast-growing suburb with small town charm, located 30 miles north of Dallas at the crossroads of U.S. 380, Preston Road and the Dallas North Tollway in Collin and Denton Counties. Prosper sits on 27 square miles and is home to more than 9,000 people. A home-rule municipality, governed by a council-manager form of government, the town has full-time fire and police departments, including its own dispatch service. As the Town grows to its projected build-out population of 90,000 residents, Prosper’s vision is to remain a “Place Where Everyone Matters.”