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KETV DRIVE-THROUGH FAMILY FESTIVAL
ENJOY A FREE AND FESTIVE DRIVE-THROUGH EXPERIENCE
Craft Kits, Santa, Holiday Characters, Police Officers on Horses, and More

(OMAHA, Neb.) November 17, 2021 – The Holiday Lights Festival and KETV Channel 7, Omaha’s News Leader, is proud to present Omaha Metro families with an opportunity to experience a festive drive-through event—for free—at the Omaha Police Mounted Patrol Barn (615 Leavenworth Street). This year’s Family Festival will be held Sunday, Dec. 5, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Once again this year, for the safety of the community, families will not need to leave their vehicle as they drive through (no foot traffic).

The KETV Drive-Through Family Festival is part of the series of events comprising the annual Holiday Lights Festival. Traditionally, the Family Festival takes place at a variety of Omaha’s leading downtown attractions with a trolley service to connect sites. Like last year, out of an abundance of caution, the event this year has been reinvented as a drive-through (no foot traffic). The event will take place at the Omaha Police Mounted Patrol Barn and guests should approach the Patrol Barn from Leavenworth Street.

The drive-through experience will include picking up craft kits to do as a family, holiday characters and Santa, Police Officers on their horses, and holiday entertainment – all in the warmth and safety of a vehicle. Children under 10 years old will receive a free book, courtesy of Omaha Public Library.

Families are encouraged to “Shine the Light on Hunger” and donate nonperishable food items for children and families in need through Food Bank for the Heartland. As part of the drive-through event, volunteers will be on hand to collect food donations for the communitywide campaign.

“The KETV Channel 7 team is excited to present another year of festive and free holiday activities for the city of Omaha,” said Shawn Oswald, KETV’s president and general manager. “Laying down roots in any community has a lot to do with the traditions we celebrate together. The Family Festival has become an annual tradition for many area families, and we are honored to work with local downtown attractions and the Holiday Lights Festival event partners to provide this festive opportunity for the community. It’s the fun and heartwarming traditions like these that make Omaha home for so many”

The 2021 Family Festival will feature the following organizations. All activities will take place at the Omaha Police Mounted Patrol Barn (615 Leavenworth Street) from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Omaha Police Mounted Patrol Barn

- Pick up an ornament craft kit and a free candy cane treat!

Omaha Children's Museum

- See some of the museum's favorite characters.
- Pick up a Winter Olympics STEAM Kit to do as a family (first come, first serve and one per vehicle).

Downtown YMCA

- Pick up a Craft Kit to do as a family (first come, first serve and one per vehicle). Also included will be a healthy snack and a Santa Letter packet – kids can write their letter to Santa and send it to the North Pole.

Omaha Public Library

- OPL mascot, Scamper, will be out celebrating!
- Children under 10 years old will receive one free book (while supplies last).

Sponsors

The Holiday Lights Festival is produced by Mayor Jean Stothert and the Downtown Omaha Inc. Foundation, with media sponsors KETV Channel 7 and STAR 104.5 The Christmas Station.

For more information, visit holidaylightsfestival.org.

About Holiday Lights Festival

The idea of decorating Omaha with holiday lights had been discussed by downtown advocates for many years. The occasion of the millennium provided the impetus for the project. In 1999, a coalition of city officials, corporations and foundations chose to present a legacy gift of holiday lights to the City of Omaha as the Millennium Lights celebration. That first year, more than 60,000 people came downtown to witness the lighting ceremony. The Downtown Omaha Inc. Foundation was established the following year to continue Millennium Lights as the Holiday Lights Festival. The Shine the Light on Hunger campaign, sponsored by Conagra Brands Foundation and in partnership with Food Bank for the Heartland, was added to the Holiday Lights Festival in 2007.

About KETV Channel 7

KETV NewsWatch 7 is Omaha's News Leader, the number one station for local news in the Omaha DMA, one of the top ABC stations in the country among the top 100 markets (A25-54) and has the largest local media presence on social media. This includes a Facebook page that is followed by more than 338 thousand people. KETV broadcasts from the historic 7 Burlington Station, an Omaha landmark that's been transformed into a state-of-the-art broadcast facility. The Burlington Station opened on July 4, 1898 as a part of the Trans-Mississippi International Exposition. It served as a rail station for the Omaha area until 1974. KETV has been an ABC affiliate since it began broadcasting in 1957. For its first 57 years KETV broadcast from 2665 Douglas St. in Omaha. In 2011 KETV added MeTV Omaha on its digital channel 7.2. The station's web address is KETV.com

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