

## **New Christmas Events Date, Format and Theme**

The holiday season is fast approaching. This year the El Dorado Springs Chamber of Commerce has planned some exciting changes to the Wonder City's holiday events!

The Christmas Parade will be combined with the Holiday Expo and the Lighting Celebration in Spring Park for one fantastic event on November 18. The chamber board decided to move the date from the first Saturday in December to the third Saturday in November to make it a larger event. Besides making it a "huge happening" we are anticipating more area bands might join us. In recent years the state band competitions coincided with the parade date which meant area bands couldn't participate.

We encourage spectators to gather downtown between Hightower Street (1 block south of Spring Park) and Broadway (one block north of Spring Park). Please, for children's safety, no parking along Main Street. Parking is available in areas just one block east and west of Main Street. Candy will be distributed by walkers only, in the downtown area from Hickory Street to Broadway. The parade line-up will start at about 1:30 PM and will commence at 3 PM. Chamber of Commerce Christmas events committee chairman Dr. Neil Linsenmayer (El Dorado Springs Family Chiropractic) said "We looked at several other dates including the fourth Saturday in November but we didn't want to compete with the biggest shopping weekend of the year. There are a few details we still need to work out but it's coming together. The theme of this year's parade is *Thankful for the Holidays!* We truly hope the community will appreciate the new format and that it will add to everyone's enjoyment of the entire holiday season."

The Lighting Celebration will start with entertainment and activities to keep everyone entertained immediately after the parade's conclusion. The lights will illuminate Spring Park, Main Street and U.S. Highway 54 around dusk. The event will include GFWC's Miss Merry Christmas and Little Mr. and Miss Santa candidates plus music, food and fun for the entire family. Of course Santa Claus will make the trip to El Dorado Springs that day too.

The 4<sup>th</sup> annual Home-Based/Small Business Holiday Expo will once again be in the Spring Park Community Building. Attendees get to see local/home-based business wares before and after the parade, which is great for our community's local businesses. Contact Expo Chair Vicki Hillsman at 417-876-7126 or [vickihillsman@gmail.com](mailto:vickihillsman@gmail.com) to participate.

Chamber President Toshua McCormick (State Farm Insurance) commented "These events bring visitors to El Dorado Springs, gather the community and showcase local merchants. We are proud to organize our community's holiday events and strive to better them each year." More exciting information will be forthcoming as the events near.