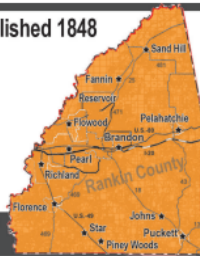




Rankin

Established 1848



County News

"Fear No Man, and Render Justice to All Men"

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Christmas in the park begins December 1

By: Charles Bailey

Journalist
Rankin County News



FLOWOOD- Christmas begins early in Flowood.

On Thursday, December 1, to be exact.

That's the evening that the Grand Lighting of Winner's Circle Park and the Chamber of Flowood's annual Chili Cook-Off will be held. The festivities begin at 5:30 p.m. sharp and will run until 8:30 p.m.

"This is our 24th Grand Lighting celebration," said Susan Bolian, coordinator of the event.

Winner's Circle Park is located at the intersection of Old Fannin Road and Flowood Drive, adjacent to Flowood Elementary School.

The night will include hot chocolate, photos with Santa Claus (bring your own camera), and more than 20 business-oriented Chili Cook-Off booths.

Cook-Off tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children under 12. Participants will vote for the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Place teams, the People's Choice, and Best Team Spirit entrants.

A Cook-Off ticket will include a sample from each booth, and a full bowl of your favorite chili. All proceeds will go toward the Chamber of Flowood's Scholarship Program, which benefits one high school senior from Hartfield Academy, Jackson Preparatory

School, and Northwest Rankin High School.

The sponsor of the Cook-Off is Community Bank.

Chili Cook-Off tickets can be purchased online at flowoodchamber.com, or in person at the event.

Santa will return and hot chocolate will be available on December 8, 9, 10, 15, 16 and 17 from 5:30 until 8 p.m.

At 5:30 p.m. on December 1, Flowood Mayor Gary Rhoads will announce the count down that leads to the illumination of thousands of lights throughout Winner's Circle Park. That night will also include musical performances from three school groups and one church group.

For more information on the Grand Lighting ceremony, contact Susan Bolian at 601-992-4440 or at sbolian@cityofflowood.com.

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READY FOR THE BIG NIGHT- Organizers and area children are looking forward to December 1, when the Grand Lighting of Winner's Circle Park in Flowood and the Chamber of Flowood's annual Chili Cook-Off will be held. There will also be photos with Santa, hot chocolate, and musical entertainment that evening. The festivities begin at 5:30 p.m. Shown here, on the first row (left to right), are Ivan Reihle, Bentley Smith, Kene Jordan, Tyler Wolfe, Paisley Purviance, Paislee Jordan, and Angelina Maggio. On the back row (l to r) are Shane Dubois, Susan Bolian, Kathy Smith, Riley Adcock, Janet Reihle, Chris Bowers, and Tammy Phillips.