



306 South Church Street
Murfreesboro, TN 37130
(615) 893-5373
www.wgnradio.com

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To all our Christmas Parade participants,

The parade will take place on Dec. 14 this year. The theme will be "A Middle Tennessee Christmas". There will be some changes this year that we want you to know about. One of the most exciting events is a major basketball game at MTSU; the Blue Raiders Women's basketball team will play the University of Alabama. The game at Murphy Center was originally scheduled to take place at 2:00 on Dec. 14, the same time as the parade. The Athletic Dept. at MTSU is working with us and we have reached a compromise we think will work. The parade will move their scheduled start time to 1:00 on Sunday and the basketball game will move their 2:00 game to 4:00. MTSU is offering tickets to parade participants and onlookers at only \$5.00 each, which will be a great way to finish your parade day and enjoy a landmark Lady Raiders/Alabama game. You can purchase tickets by calling 898-2103 or get them at the ticket office on the NE corner of Murphy Center on the day of the parade.

The biggest effect on you will be the time change. All arrival times will be earlier starting with the delivery of floats at 9:00 AM on the 14th. Judging will begin at noon which means to be judged the entries will have to be decorated and all participants **in place at noon**. This means everyone who is part of a judged entry will have to arrive at 11:00.

We need to reduce the size of the parade in order to clear the parking lot for people coming to the ball game and this is where we need your cooperation.

Vehicles:

- As of this year the following vehicles will no longer be in the parade: dump trucks, wreckers, tow trucks, buses, tractor trailers, motor homes, campers, no car clubs and no *individual street cars, trucks or vans. In addition go-carts, motorcycles, skateboards, bicycles and mini-bikes will no longer be allowed because they pose a danger to onlookers as well as participants.
- Please do not arrive at the parade with any motorized or non-motorized vehicle as described above. Be sure that the people who will be in charge of your entry at the parade understand the above rules. Don't risk having disappointed children who are turned away because their entry includes any of the above. They won't be allowed in the parade. We absolutely don't want to eliminate anyone the day of the parade

*Although we want to eliminate the above vehicles we don't want to lose your participation. You may use a car, pick-up truck or van to pull a float. This can be a good opportunity for your business to participate. Vehicles that are 25 years or older or customized are allowed as are vehicles carrying pageant winners. If you have further questions please email us at boroparade@live.com. Photos or a description of the vehicle must be included with entry. Sponsors will be allowed a vehicle.

Candy:

- Our insurance does not allow the throwing of candy. Does yours? Are you covered if someone falls off your entry while throwing candy? Are you covered if a child is hurt running out in the street to get candy? Is your business liable if you hit someone? **Do not throw candy!** Whoever is in charge of your entry needs to know this. Upon entering the parking lot, they will be asked if they have candy and reminded again to not throw it. If they do throw candy you will not be allowed to participate in the parade the following year, NO EXCEPTIONS. You can **hand out** candy but we will publicize the fact that no candy will be thrown. It should be noted that several entries will not be invited back this year because kids on floats were aiming their candy at people's heads, stop signs, traffic lights, etc. We had quite a few complaints about people being hit.

Printed materials, samples, promotional giveaways:

- No! No! No! No! No! This includes political and religious materials. No food, no coupons, no cups, nothing! Candy only and only if handed out.
- The biggest problem we have is at check-in when people say they knew nothing about the rules, they didn't fill out the entry form. They say they were just told to come. If you are reading this letter it's your job to make sure your representatives get this message! If you don't do this they might waste their time and money on an entry only to be turned away.

Floats:

- If you are pulling a float your total entry length should be 45 feet from front bumper of towing vehicle to end of trailer. We allow approximately 2 car lengths to park each entry and you need to fit within that space. Anybody who has been in the parking lot during parade morning has seen the problems caused by entries that are too large. Measure your entire entry before you come. The parade committee reserves the right to make some exceptions to the float/vehicle rule.

Measuring your entry: At check-in we will have a 45' space marked. You may be asked to drive into that space. Please don't wait until that morning to find out your entry is too big.

We have spent a great deal of time researching how other cities organize their parades and feel that the changes we have made are right in line with other cities. You may want to search the internet for "Christmas Parade entries yourself. We have a great parade with many wonderful, creative entries and are confident that the above changes will make this year's parade more fun, exciting and safer for everyone involved.

Download an entry form at **www.wgnsradio.com**. If you cannot download the form you can get a copy at WGNS Studios (306 S. Church St.), Linebaugh Library (Murfreesboro), Smyrna Library, Rutherford Co. Chamber of Commerce offices (893-6565) and City Hall or we'll be happy to mail or fax one to you. Return your entry to us by mail with your entry fee as soon as possible. Note the deadline on your entry. Thank you for helping us have the best parade in Middle Tennessee! You can contact us at **boroparade@live.com**.

Sincerely,

Angie Walker & LeeAnn Walker
Parade Coordinators