

**City of Taunton
Office of the Mayor**



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Mayor O'Connell Shares Upcoming Christmas Event Updates

Taunton, MA . . . Today Mayor Shaunna O'Connell shared information regarding upcoming Christmas events in Taunton, including the annual Lights on Festival and Christmas Parade.

"There is no better time to be part of our City than the holiday season when Taunton comes to life as the Christmas City. It is a joyful time and particularly meaningful this year as we fully return to our annual traditions. With the beautiful lights, decorations and music, it truly is the most wonderful time of the year," said O'Connell.

The City of Taunton's 108th Lighting of the Green is being held on Saturday, December 4, 2021 followed by the Christmas Parade on Sunday, December 5, 2021. This year's theme is "Unwrap the Magic."

The Lights On Festival will take place from 3pm-8pm in Downtown Taunton. The official ceremony starts at 4:30pm with the Lighting of the Green, Santa's arrival and fireworks following thereafter. Additional information and a map of the activities will be available at <https://www.lightsonfestival.org/>

Lights On buttons are required for indoor activities and for some of the outdoor activities such as hay wagon rides. Buttons cost \$5 each and are not required for children 12 and under. Buttons are currently available for sale at Taunton City Hall, Taunton Public Library, Trucchi's, Studio 27, Tux Towne, Devito's Pizzeria, and Taunton Federal Credit Union. In addition, buttons will be on sale at various locations during the festival as well.

As in previous years, Lights On ornaments will be offered for sale. Additional information regarding the Christmas ornaments will be forthcoming from the Department of Parks & Recreation.

The Christmas Parade will start at noon on Sunday, December 5, 2021 on Broadway and will follow Broadway to Downtown Taunton. The parade will conclude at Marion Manor on Summer Street. In support of the Christmas Parade, the 6th Annual Basket Raffle is ongoing until November 30, 2021. Raffle baskets are currently on display and tickets are for sale on the 2nd floor (front entrance) of City Hall at 15 Summer Street. Stop by and see the creative baskets crafted and donated by City of Taunton employees. Chances are 11 tickets/\$10 or 24 tickets/\$20. Winners will be drawn prior to the City Council meeting on Tuesday, November 30th.

The Mayor's Office is hosting the 2nd Annual Gingerbread House Decorating Contest starting on Monday, December 6, 2021 and closing on Monday, December 20, 2021. Photos of decorated gingerbread houses (no professional entries) may be submitted to the Mayor's Office at gingerbread@taunton-ma.gov. Photo entries will be shared on the City of Taunton Facebook page. City Hall employees will vote for the best gingerbread house and the winner will be announced on Tuesday, December 21, 2021.

Downtown businesses will participate in the annual Window Decorating Contest, beginning on November 27, 2021. Residents can vote online for their favorite decorated window on the Lights On Facebook page. Winners will be announced on December 4, 2021 during the Lights on Ceremony.

In a true display of holiday spirit, local businesses, private individuals and City government are all working together to make this Christmas one to remember. Mayor O'Connell is particularly grateful to all of the sponsors and volunteers who generously donate time and money in support of the City's holiday events. "Christmas brings out the best in all of us. This is truly a time of year when generosity and charity renew our sense of faith and fill us with hope," O'Connell said.

Lights On Sponsors include: B & D Construction Co., Inc.; Bristol County Savings Bank; Morton Hospital; Taunton Community Access Media; The Lopes Companies; Bristol Community College; Taunton Federal Credit Union; Taunton Development Corporation; Tech Mechanical; Your House Delegation (Representatives Haddad, Orrall, Doherty); Quality Beverage; Walker Insurance; and Christ Community Church.

Christmas Parade Sponsors include: Hyde Paving, BETA group, PJ Keating, Agostini Construction Companies, Glenn and Linda Rich; RFS Corp.; and LAL Construction.

For further updates, please refer to the City of Taunton website (taunton-ma.gov) and Facebook page, and the Lights On website (www.lightsonfestival.org).

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