



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

November 13, 2019

**City of Wheeling Launching Holiday Season with *Winter on the Plaza***

**WHEELING, W.VA.** – Santa Claus is coming to town on Nov. 20! Jolly old St. Nick will be making an appearance at the City’s *Winter on the Plaza*, the first ever holiday tree lighting ceremony and kick off to the Winter season. The event is slated for 5-7 p.m., Wednesday at the Plaza on Market, 1053 Market Street.

In addition to Santa and the lighting of the holiday tree, there will be music, vendors, and activities for kids. Marketing & Community Relations Specialist Michele Rejonis said the idea for such an event came about a few years ago. She and some of her colleagues joined forces with representatives from RED, AEP, Augusta Levy and Wheeling Heritage to make this year’s event a reality.

“We opted to hold *Winter on the Plaza* mid-week so the tree and the Plaza will be lit for the annual Main Street Bank Fantasy in Lights parade slated for Nov. 22,” she added.

Triadelphia Middle School Strings will perform at 5:30 p.m. At 5:55, officials from the City of Wheeling will offer a welcome, and Santa’s arrival and the tree lighting are scheduled for 6 p.m. The St. Michael’s Bell Choir will perform at 6:30 p.m. Kids can get their photos taken with Santa from 6:30-7 p.m.

Other vendors that will be set up on the plaza include: Ideal Provisions, Otey BBQ, Gypsyface Café, Empress Emporium, Paw Tree, My Daily Choice/Hempworks, Bella Rose’s Boutique, Boy Scouts, Heather’s Cookies, Wheeling Arts & Cultural Commission Craft Station, Augusta Levy Learning Center Sensory Table and the U.S. Census. The Wheeling Nailers will be on hand to distribute hot chocolate to the kids from Gypsyface Café.

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There's still time to participate as a vendor. Those interested should contact the City Clerk's office at 304-234-6401.

The Mountain State Camper photo booth, complete with props and decorated for the holiday season, will also be onsite so those attending the event can commemorate the occasion with photos free of charge. The camper and pictures are compliments of Wheeling 250.

"The Plaza on Market is a great location for events like this, and we are excited to bring these activities to our downtown. We hope folks come out and enjoy some winter fun with us as we kick off the holiday season," Rejonis said.

Public use of the Plaza on Market is possible. To check date availability and/or to book the space, interested parties should contact the City Manager's office at 304-234-3617.