



**CITY OF DRIPPING SPRINGS**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

***The Magic of Christmas on Mercer Street is Upon Us!***  
*Christmas on Mercer Street December 5*

Date: November 16, 2009

**Editors Note:** If you have any questions regarding this press release, please call City Administrator Michelle Fischer or Deputy City Administrator Ginger Faught at 512-858-4725.

**DRIPPING SPRINGS, TEXAS** – “It’s beginning to look a lot like Christmas” in Downtown Dripping Springs as businesses and citizens prepare for the *5th Annual Christmas on Mercer Street*. The day-long festival has been set for Saturday, December 5 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and will be hosted by the City of Dripping Springs and Dripping Springs Lions Club. Admission is free to the public.

As in years past, the street will be closed to motorized traffic and filled with the magical sights and sounds of an old-fashioned Christmas. With arts and crafts booths, Santa Sleigh Rides, children’s activities, delicious food and drinks, free music and holiday entertainment, there is no place better than the charming surroundings on Mercer Street around the holidays.

City of Dripping Springs Parks Director Ashley Seay said the 2009 event will be one of the best holiday festivities yet. “This year we will have a trackless train ride, pony rides, an entertainment stage, mouth-watering food selections, Christmas Caroling and activities to keep people all day and into the evening for the annual Christmas Tree and Town Lighting,” Seay said.

Offering a great opportunity for some holiday shopping, *Christmas on Mercer Street* will once again provide an annual resource for unique gifts with artistic originality and quality craftsmanship. Last year more than 90 vendors participated in the event and the festival continues to grow. Don’t miss out on a great opportunity to Buy Local!

Helping bring the spirit of Christmas to town, Santa Claus will make an appearance in his grand Clydesdale-drawn carriage. The day’s activities will lead up to the highlight of the hometown holiday event, the annual *Lighting of the Tree*. This special tree lighting ceremony will be held at the Triangle at 6:15 p.m. See the brilliant illumination of the spectacular Christmas tree and downtown area as it is transformed into a winter wonderland. Christmas carolers will serenade with heart-warming, traditional Christmas Carols. Representatives of the City of Dripping Springs will also announce the winners for the community holiday lighting contest.

## ***Community Lighting Contest Entries Due to City Hall by December 1***

This year the City of Dripping Springs will bring back the town holiday lighting contest. Everyone is welcome to participate in this free contest. The three contest categories will include residential, commercial, and public/non-profit. All entries are due to City Hall by December 1 and judging will take place December 1-3.

An awards presentation for the lighting contest winners will be held at the *Christmas on Mercer Street* event and will be announced at the annual *Lighting of the Tree*.

Lighting contest entry forms are located on the homepage of the City of Dripping Springs website at <http://www.cityofdrippingsprings.com>, or stop by the Dripping Springs City Hall to pick one up today. ***Holiday Lighting Entry Forms must be received at City Hall by December 1 to be considered for the contest.***