



By Lisa Mosca, MPA

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'TIS THE SEASON IN SANFORD



Framed by the backdrop of Lake Monroe, Sanford is a city with a “postcard-esque” historic downtown that is particularly festive during this special time of the year. The twinkle of the season will be seen along First Street in historic downtown Sanford as the street and lampposts are decorated in their holiday best, thanks to the City’s Parks Division. And we have it all! For instance...

TREE LIGHTING AND CHRISTMAS PARADE

On Friday, December 5, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., visit with Santa as we light up Sanford’s tree in Magnolia Square. Christmas in the square is abundant with live entertainment, including carolers. All in all, a fun time for the whole family. On Saturday, December 13, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m, you’re sure to

be impressed with Sanford’s Illuminated Christmas Parade. Join the city for a fun-filled family night out in historic downtown Sanford, with lights, floats, Santa, and lots more!

HOLIDAY TOUR OF HOMES

This year is the 26th Anniversary of the Holiday Tour of Homes presented by the Sanford Historic Trust. The Candlelight Tour of Homes on Friday evening, December 5, features beautifully decorated homes and festive gardens on Magnolia Avenue in Sanford’s Historic District. Stroll candlelit streets while enjoying live saxophone, string, and choral music. Food and beverages samples will be offered by local restaurants. On Saturday afternoon, December 6, check out the Tour of Homes and Gardens. For more information visit SanfordHistoricTrust.org.

LIVE THEATER

It’s a holiday tradition that charms kids from one to 92. On Saturday, December 20, 7:00 p.m., see the performance of Ballet Fedotov as they present The Nutcracker at Sanford’s historic theater, the Wayne Densch Performing Arts Center (www.wdpac.com).

“Our City is a great place to visit any time of the year and especially during the holiday season,” says Mayor Jeff Triplett. “Sanford’s a friendly and welcoming city. Stop by our downtown businesses, visit the Seminole Towne Center mall, bring the kids to Fort Mellon Park, and see First Street in downtown Sanford - all dressed up in holiday lights. Sanford will surely get you into a festive mood for the season.”

SOME NOTEWORTHY EVENTS PRIOR TO THE HOLIDAY SEASON



THE 40TH ANNUAL GOLDEN AGE GAMES

From November 8 to 15, the 40th Annual Golden Age Games will be held in Sanford. Eligibility is for adults 50 years of age and older. Events include: archery, basketball shooting, bowling, golf, horseshoes, swimming, table tennis, tennis, and track and field. This event (visit NSGA.com to learn more) brings hundreds of people into the City. Sanford has an extensive senior program, and for more information on how you can get involved, contact Kim.Eltonhead@SanfordFl.gov.



VETERANS DAY

Every November Sanford honors our veterans on November 11 in Veterans Memorial Park, 11:00 a.m. to noon. Please take the time to visit the beautiful park that jets out into Lake Monroe flanked by majestic palms. Veterans of all wars are remembered and honored here all year long. Veterans Day falls on a Tuesday this year.

SANFORD RIVERWALK

Sanford’s RiverWalk Phase II is scheduled to be completed before the holidays, dovetailing with the beautiful change in our weather. This extension to the current RiverWalk, built adjacent to the water, will be lengthened to Central Florida Regional Hospital, making it a delight for lovers of the outdoors who appreciate magnificent sunsets and breathtaking sunrises. Get healthy too, exercise and have a good time on the RiverWalk. And of course, bring your cameras!



ALIVE AFTER 5 HOLIDAY FEST

Historic Sanford Welcome Center’s Alive After 5 “Holiday Fest” on Thursday, December 11

For information on all things Sanford, visit SanfordWelcomeCenter.com.