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# Sidney Daily News

Saturday, November 14, 2009

## 30th annual Winter Wonderland Parade set

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Brown

This year marks the 30th anniversary of the annual Winter Wonderland Parade and Lighting Rally, which will take place Friday.

The Lighting Rally, "Jesus, the Reason for the Season," will take place on the east side of the Shelby County Courthouse at 6:30 p.m., followed by the parade at 7:30. The parade will begin at the corner of Main and Water streets in downtown Sidney and travel north to North Street and then south on Ohio Avenue past The Spot restaurant.

Parking will be restricted along Main and Ohio avenues for the duration of the parade to ensure safety along the route.

This year, the "Jesus, the Reason for the Season" rally will include greetings from city of Sidney officials and Shelby County Commissioners. The program also will feature singing of many popular Christmas carols. The musical aspects of the program will be interspersed with various scripture readings and prayers that will be provided by members of the Shelby County Ministerial Association.

"We are looking forward to a great turnout again this year," said the Rev. Phil Chilcote, organizer of the rally. "It has seemed to have grown each year and people really enjoy coming, singing carols and celebrating this wonderful time of the year. It's a great way to start the evening while waiting for the parade."

There are multiple entries in the parade, including marching units, animal units, floats and bands. The Sidney Police Department and the Shelby County Sheriff's Office again will lead the parade of more than 60 units. Military units will be honored, followed by City Council members, Shelby County officials, floats from businesses and organizations, limousines, motorcycles and boats. All units are encouraged to light up their entries for the evening.

This year's grand marshal is Lisa Brown, executive director of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Shelby and Darke County. Brown is being honored for her continued work with children of Sidney and Shelby County, and her many years of community service.

Big Brothers Big Sisters is a nationally affiliated organization with more than 100 years of mentoring experience. Locally, Big Brothers Big Sisters has been mentoring youth for more than 30 years. The agency is comprised of 120 volunteer community members serving as mentors and 150 high school volunteers mentoring children in the after-school mentoring program.

Brown has been with Big Brothers Big Sisters for 20 years. She is a Shelby County native and resides in Sidney with her husband, John, and two daughters, MacKenzie and Madilyn. Brown not only serves as executive director for the local agency, she also is a volunteer mentor to 9-year-old Kia Arrone and 8-year-old Jennah Arrone, her "little sisters" in the program.

The end of the parade will usher in the holiday season with the first appearance of Santa and Mrs. Claus.

Special sales are being held in the downtown area Friday and Nov. 21 to celebrate the parade and the beginning of the holiday sales season. More than 24 stores will offer special pricing, refreshments, music and gifts.

Those with questions about the parade or lighting rally may call Cindy Stangel, parade chairman, at 492-9122 or visit [www.downtownsidney.com](http://www.downtownsidney.com).

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