

Sandy Lake forecasting tinsel, tractors this Friday

By [caleb](#) | on December 05, 2018

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SANDY LAKE— This Massey Ferguson decorated by Ron White will be the lead vehicle in the Sandy Lake Tinsel & Tractors Parade Friday. White decked the tractor out with 1,000 Christmas lights, and the decorated manure spreader he'll be pulling will have 1,500 lights on it. Contributed photo

SANDY LAKE — Instead of just a parade in Sandy Lake, Friday's Christmas Magic Parade will feature "Tractors & Tinsel" to usher in the Christmas season.

Nancy McDowell is chairing the tractor parade, which is sponsored by the Mercer County Agriculture Development Council.

The parade will step off at 5:30 p.m. with the man of the season, Santa Claus, closing the parade and setting up shop in the Sandy Lake Borough building.

The idea for the parade of decorated and lighted lawn and farm equipment sprang from a suggestion at a meeting in October, "and grew from there," according to McDowell.

With only two months' lead time, the parade came together with a much better response than McDowell expected. But that doesn't mean there weren't some bumps in the road.

“We’re learning a lot this first year,” she said. “It’s been an education; it’s more than just having a parade.”

In order to hold a parade down Main Street, the borough needed permission from PennDOT to close the road.

Next on the list was to get insurance for the event, requiring Mc- Dowell to have a route, and know how many overall entries and participants there would be.

For the inaugural event, there will be 20 tractors, 30 side-by-sides, a Wheel Horse lawn tractor and two combines.

This year’s parade isn’t a competition

— no awards, just bragging rights, McDowell said.

“We’re really hoping to build from this year and make it a tradition,” she said.

Along with the tractor parade, there will also be a dairy promotion. One of the units in the parade will be a milk truck filled with 1,000 half pints of chocolate milk donated by AgChoice Farm Credit.

Patty Adamson, Mercer County State Bank branch manager, has spearheaded the Christmas Magic celebration since 2006. McDowell said working with those organizers has been a pleasure.

“They were very gracious to let us join in; we were very thankful for that,” McDowell said.

Aside from the 23 local businesses on the bingo card, Elsa and Olaf from Disney’s “Frozen” and the reindeer petting zoo will return.

“It’s always been a real good turnout,” Adamson said.

It was good for Santa last year, too, as 224 children sat on his lap over a two-hour period.

“It’s a real fun night and a night of giving back to the community,” Adamson said.