

'Christmas in the Park' to begin

The Rolla Lioness Club is gearing up for its eighth annual "Christmas in the Park Light Display," a free, drive-through, Christmas-light show that will be open for 10 evenings, beginning Friday, Dec. 12.

Christmas in the Park features approximately 60 different light displays set up throughout Lions Club Park in Rolla. Once opened, the displays are available for drive-by viewing Fridays and Saturdays from 6 to 10 p.m. and Sundays through Thursdays from 6 to 9 p.m.

The start of Christmas in the Park begins at the entrance to Lions Club Park. "Christmas in the Park gives Rolla residents something to look forward to," said Julie Schmidt, chairperson of the Lioness event, "Kids just light up when they see Santa's Workshop and Mrs. Claus."

The drive-through Christmas light show is sponsored by the Rolla Lioness Club, with the assistance of the Rolla Lions Club. Although the event is free, Rolla Lioness Club does accept and welcome donations, which they use to pay electrical costs and fund their many, local service projects.

The light displays are set up by local businesses, churches and other organizations, and Schmidt said spaces are still available.

Displayers do not pay a fee to include their display in the show, but they do have to purchase the materials and lights to build it. Displayers are scheduled to set up their light displays on Dec. 10 and 11.

Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus will be on hand in Santa's workshop, and Schmidt said all the children who visit will receive a surprise gift from Santa.

"We hope everyone comes out, enjoys the lights and has a good time," Schmidt said. "Our goal is to keep expanding the light show every year, to keep it fresh. "It's so rewarding to see the kids' faces."



The Rolla Lioness Club sponsors and funds local service projects, including Special Olympics, college scholarships for high school students, LPN scholarships, Leader Dogs for the Blind, Mid-South Lions Sight and Hearing, Phelps County Habitat for Humanity, Heart to Heart, Backpacks for Kids, Shop with a Cop, RSVP and Joy of Caring. Additionally, the Rolla Lions and Lioness Clubs sponsor a program in which disadvantaged children are given funds to purchase Christmas presents for their family.

More information about the Christmas in the Park Light Display may be obtained by calling Julie Schmidt at 364-4376. Organizations interested in adding a display to the park may contact Jaci Huebner at 578-9090.

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