

Bangor Rotary

Festival of Lights Parade

LIGHT UP THE SEASON

October 2, 2015

Dear Friend,

The Rotary Club of Bangor will host its annual, *Festival of Lights Parade*, on Saturday, December 5, 2015, beginning at 4:30 pm along Main Street in downtown Bangor.

Our **2015 parade theme is “Light Up the Season”**. As in the past, we hope to present a spectacular nighttime parade, featuring entries that convey the many ways of celebrating winter in Maine.

To help defray the cost of transportation, the Rotary will contribute \$500 to the first five school or non-profit marching bands who register and march in our parade.

We can accommodate approximately 70 glittering units: marching bands, small and large floats, dancers and other performing groups. Your group may represent traditional scenes celebrating Christmas, Hanukkah, Ramadan, New Years, Solstice, Kwanzaa or any winter happening. This dazzling event brightens the season for the thousands of spectators who will line the streets of Bangor.

You may apply to be part of this parade by completing the application form and returning it. If you have a float, please return the form with a sketch and written description of your unit/float design (art work doesn't count -- any layout will help planners tremendously—size and theme will help us plan). *We ask you to include these with your application as it helps us present a better parade for spectators...we want to avoid putting two “Frosty” floats, or two units playing the same music close together. So, please remember to include these with your application:*

Please include the following with your application:

- ❖ A sketch of your design
- ❖ The size (length) of your vehicle plus float and/or number of people walking or marching—**This is important**--Will your float be one unit (like a decorated van), or will it include a vehicle pulling a trailer? If so, what type of vehicle, and what is its approximate length? If pulling a trailer, how long is the trailer. What is the total approximate length of your float? If your float will have individuals walking behind, approximately how many will there be?
- ❖ A written description
- ❖ The music you will play or perform

There is no fee. Please return your application by November 12 at 5:00 PM. Call Roland Narofsky at 862-7259 (w) or email to rnarofsky@mainesavings.com with “Rotary Parade” in the subject line, with questions or concerns regarding your application, or participation in the Bangor Rotary's *Festival of Lights Parade*. **Please provide your email address** in your application to allow timely communication from the committee. We will not share it with others outside the Parade Committee operation.

For the second telephone number, please include a number that may be reached on the day of the parade. **The parade is weather dependent. In the history of the Festival of Lights Parade Rotary has only cancelled it once due to significant icing.**

Building A Float

Creating a spectacular float—that is all aglow--takes time, a dedicated crew of volunteers and Yankee ingenuity. Check out these websites for ideas and, have fun building a fabulous entry.

<http://www.valleydecorating.com/howto.html>

<http://www.wikihow.com/Build-a-Float>

<http://www.beverlyfarms.org/Float-Building-Manual.pdf>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bzfeO5kM3VU>

<http://paradefloats.wordpress.com/category/winter-float/>

Judging and Trophies

Our judges will be seated on the Reviewing Stand in West Market Square. Marching bands, performing groups and those who would like to perform (a song, dance, skit, etc), for the judges will have 30 seconds to stop at the reviewing stand. *Please practice with a stopwatch.*

*The Bangor Rotary will present trophies in six categories plus best overall entry—be sure to check off the **appropriate designations** for your unit. Categories include, Outstanding **Non-Profit**; Outstanding **Youth Group**; Outstanding **Commercial Entry**; Outstanding **Performing Entry**; Outstanding **Adult Group** and Outstanding **Band**.*

Notes to Entrants

For last minute info go to <http://www.BangorRotary.org>

This is a nighttime parade...be sure your entry (vehicle and people) are festively decorated and loaded with **lots of lights!!!**

- ◆ Please no candles. Use a *quiet* generator, or another source of power. *Test and re-test your lights. Follow the manufacturer's instructions.*
- ◆ **No candy or other items are to be handed out or thrown to spectators along the parade route.** *This is a safety requirement, as children dart into the streets for candy.*
- ◆ During the parade, designate at least two spotters to walk near your float to check on float riders and parade viewers.
- ◆ Create 2 signs with your name (**1 for each side of your float**) so spectators and judges will know who you are.
- ◆ Please, **no Santa**—we already have one.
- ◆ *Please be sure your entry features music.* You may sing, play instruments or play recorded music.

***Please carefully review the following changes we have made to the Parade Formation , Parade Route, and Parade End.**

Parade Formation: Parade units will form on Exchange Street and utilize the side streets and parking areas around Exchange Street including Hancock Street between Oak and Exchange, York Street between Oak and Exchange as well as the public lots in Kenduskeag Plaza.

Parade Route: The “official” parade starting point can be at any point along Exchange Street. At this point it might be an easy landmark to use the intersection of State/Exchange. From there, the route will follow Harlow Street to Central Street. It will turn left onto Central Street and proceed down Central to the intersection at Main/State/Hammond. It then turns right onto Main Street and proceeds up Main Street through the intersection of Main/Union and continue up Main Street towards Cedar Street. The parade will end in the area in front of Davenport Park.

Parade End: Once units have reached the end in front of Davenport Park, they can turn left onto Cedar Street and follow this street as it continues onto Summer Street. From there, they can turn right onto May Street and at the end of May turn right onto Front Street and unload in the parking lots along Front Street. Please note: Once you go from Cedar to Summer Streets you are now in regular traffic and proceed accordingly.

The Rotary Club of Bangor
is dedicated to serving the needs of the people of the greater Bangor region and beyond.
The club meets Tuesdays at noon, at the Wellman Commons.
Rotary Club of Bangor annually distributes over \$25,000 to charitable organizations and causes.
For more information see the Club’s website at <http://www.bangorrotary.org/>

Special thanks to our Parade route businesses for their understanding during the closing of the roads in front of their establishments. Please remember to thank them by visiting them and shopping in there while you are in Bangor.

Sincerely,

Roland Narofsky
Parade Chair
Rotary Club of Bangor

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