Park & Recreation Commission Item

November 25, 2025

Item	Tree Lighting Ceremony & Holiday Events Preview
Item No:	H.1
Agenda Section	**REPORTS**
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SUGGESTED ACTION

SUMMARY

Each year, the City of Chanhassen hosts a variety of holiday events throughout the season, including the Holiday Market (formerly Holiday Boutique), Tree Lighting Ceremony, Tour of Lights, and Gingerbread House Decorating Contest. More information on holiday programs can be found on the City's website at chanhassenmn.gov/holiday.

Santa's Workshop & Letters to Santa Mailbox: November 27-December 24
The Santa's Workshop house, along with a 'letters to Santa' mailbox, will be present at the Chanhassen Recreation Center from November 27 through December 24. Santa's Workshop is a popular photo location for families, and the mailbox is a popular drop-off spot for kids' letters to Santa Claus throughout the holiday season. Santa's workshop and mailbox is typically set up at City Center Park, but will be located at the Rec Center this year due to Civic Campus Project construction.

Gingerbread House Decorating Contest: December 2-4
The all-ages gingerbread house decorating contest will be accepting submissions from Tuesday, December 2 - Thursday, December 4. Submissions cost $5 per entry and prizes will be awarded for the most difficult and most creative houses. All gingerbread houses will be displayed at the December 6 Tree Lighting Ceremony.

Holiday Market: December 6
Taking place at the Chanhassen Recreation Center from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. on Saturday, December 6, the Holiday Market (formerly named the Holiday Boutique) features a variety of commercial and handcrafted arts & crafts, jewelry, collectibles, food items, home decor, toys, and trinkets available for purchase. This free event is a great time to find unique and special gifts for the holidays, as well as support local artisans and businesses. All attendees are encouraged to bring a non-perishable food item

or donation to Bountiful Basket Food Shelf.

Tree Lighting Ceremony: December 6
This year's annual Tree Lighting Ceremony will be held on Saturday, December 6 at 5:00 p.m. at the Chanhassen Recreation Center. Due to Civic Campus Project construction, the event will be temporarily hosted at the Rec Center, moving back to the new Civic Campus space in 2026. The holiday light display will also be moved to the Rec Center, and trees around the building and the hockey rink area will be decorated with holiday lights. The display will remain lit at night through mid-January.

The Tree Lighting event will run for approximately one hour with the park holiday lights being lit around 5:10 p.m. The event is free and open to all ages. Activities included in this year's event are refreshments, bonfires, s'mores, caroling, gingerbread house displays, live reindeer, and a visit from Santa Claus. If able, attendees are encouraged to bring a food item or cash donation to support the Bountiful Basket Food Shelf in Chaska.

This annual event is expected to draw 300-500 attendees. Special thanks to BuyChanhassen, the SouthWest Metro Chamber of Commerce, The Mustard Seed Landscaping and Garden Center, and SouthWest Transit for sponsoring this event. Also, thanks to our Park Maintenance department for stringing the multitude of holiday lights that will decorate City Center Park throughout the season!

Tour of Lights: December 6-31
For the sixth year, residents of Chanhassen will be able to register their home holiday light displays to help create a beautiful driving tour of residential holiday lights throughout our city. The tour will last December 6-31, with displays being lit from 5-9 p.m. An interactive map will be available on the website beginning December 6 of the home light displays, and the community can use the map to design a personalized driving tour of the displays. Registration is free, and each home that registers will be entered to win a holiday prize pack.

Toys for Tots and Food Collections
The Chanhassen Fire Department will again be collecting new toys for Toys for Tots. Drop-offs will be available November 17 through December 12 at the Chanhassen Fire Station, City Hall, and Recreation Center. Additionally, City Hall will be collecting food donations for PROP in Eden Prairie and Bountiful Basket in Chaska through the holiday season.

BACKGROUND

DISCUSSION

RECOMMENDATION

ATTACHMENTS
December 6 Holiday Events