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# News Release

For Immediate Release: November 21, 2018

## **KICK OFF THE HOLIDAY SEASON AT DURHAM'S HOLIDAY PARADE AND FUN FEST**

*Thousands Scheduled to Celebrate the Holiday in Downtown Durham on December 8*

**Durham, NC:** The spirit of the holiday will come alive at Durham's Holiday Parade and Fun Fest on Saturday, December 8 in downtown Durham beginning at 10 a.m.

This year, NEA Jazz Master, renowned Grammy Award®-winning saxophonist and Tony Award® nominee composer Branford Marsalis along with City of Durham Mayor Steve Schewel will kick-off the parade and lead dynamic floats, hometown bands, drill teams, schools, and community groups down Main Street. The procession will conclude with a guest appearance from Santa.

CBS 17 News' Chief Meteorologist Wes Hohenstein and Reporter Derrick Lewis will introduce the approximately 100 units to include 6 bands and 10 floats to the thousands of participants scheduled to attend. The parade will be live streamed at [CBS17.com](http://CBS17.com).

There will be no parking on Main Street on December 8 and the street will be closed to vehicular traffic beginning at 7 a.m. Parking violators will be towed. The roads will reopen no later than 2 p.m.

The parade will start at 10 a.m. at the Health Department (Main and Dillard streets) and end near Duke University East Campus (Main Street and Buchanan Boulevard).

Some of the units will entertain the crowd at one of the three designated performance areas located near the following intersections: Mangum and Main streets; Chapel Hill and Main streets; and Duke and Main streets. There will be temporary restroom stations located along the parade route.

Spectators are encouraged to bring their own chairs and blankets. Seating will not be provided at the parade.

The Holiday Fun Fest will be held on Blackwell Street between Morehead Avenue and West Lakewood Avenue from 1 p.m. – 4 p.m. Participants will enjoy snow sledding, pony rides, inflatable bounce houses, arts and crafts activities, visits with Santa, train rides, music and more.

Toys that will be distributed at the Fun Fest to those who visit Santa during the event while supplies last. The toys are for children ages 0-10 and will be distributed on a first come, first serve basis. Parents must register at the event and their child(ren) must be present in order to receive a toy.

Participants can grab a bite to eat from one of the many food trucks at the Fun Fest and/or the many restaurants in downtown Durham.

Event parking is available for \$5 at Durham Center City, Chapel Hill Garage, Corcoran Street Garage, and Church Street Garage. Parking at the Durham County Justice Center will be \$2 for the first hour and \$1 for each additional hour. Parking is also available at the [American Tobacco Historic District](#).

The official media partner for Durham's Holiday Parade and Fun Fest is CBS17. Additional event sponsors include: Radio One of Raleigh, Univision40, Durham Magazine, Durham Convention & Visitors Bureau, Pulse FM, Lowes, and the Shirt Lab.

**The parade will be held rain or shine. For more information, call 919-560-4355 or click [here](#).**

**About Durham Parks and Recreation**

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