The annual Christmas parade will light up downtown Wright City next week on Thursday, Dec. 5. The parade begins at 6 p.m. at Ruge Park. It will travel north on Elm Street and then turn west toward Diekroeger Park. Carolers from Wright City High School will entertain the crowd.

Once at the park, there will be annual traditions around a bonfire. Wright City firefighters will be making s'mores at the park, and Mayor Dan Rowden will tell the origin of the yule log.

High school Student Council students will be handing out hot chocolate and cookies, and the Kiwais Club will have hot cider.

Santa and Mrs. Clause will be in the Wil Heiligenthal building for photos. Kids can also write a letter to Santa while there, and Youth in Need will have other activities.

"With the help of the students and other community groups this event has grown and blossomed into a hugely successful community event," Wright City Parks Director Curt Kehoe said in a summary provided to the Record.

New this year, local businesses are adding some extra color to the parade route. Businesses are competing to have the best-decorated lamp post in downtown.

**Breakfast with Santa**

The following Saturday, Dec. 7, the Wright City Parks Department and high school Student Council are hosting a pancake breakfast with Santa. Children 10 and younger eat free, and anyone else is $3.

Parents as Teachers will provide an activity at the breakfast, and Warren County Literacy will be handing out free books.