



Santa Claus Parade

Peoria Area Community Events (PACE)

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www.peoriaevents.com

November 1, 2023

TIME CHANGE NOTE: THE PARADE STEPS OFF AT 9:15 AM

For Immediate Release

Central Illinois Santa Parade – Peoria, IL

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Peoria Area Community Events (PACE) ANNOUNCES 2023 SANTA PARADE

PACE is pleased to present the **136th Annual Santa Claus Parade**, the longest continually running holiday parade in the country. **The parade is scheduled to step off at 9:15 a.m. on Friday, November 24, 2023.** The parade features costumed characters, novelty walking units, decorated floats, marching bands, and of course **Santa Claus**.

Costumes and floats depicting the parade theme **“Musical Notes and Holiday Floats”** will compete for awards presented for the *Best Novelty Unit, Best Overall Unit, Best New Entry, Best Commercial Float Entry, and Best Non-Profit Float Entry.*

The **Grand Marshall** of the parade is Legendary **Coach Lorene Ramsey**. Coach Ramsey was a four-sport standout athlete at Illinois State University before she became a star on the Pekin Lettes fast-pitch softball team. She coached more than 1,700 basketball and softball victories at Illinois Central College. Coach Ramsey coached basketball at ICC from 1969 until 2003 (career record 887-197) and softball from 1970 until 1998 (career record 840-309) including seven Junior College national championships. The ICC gymnasium bears Coach Ramsey’s name.

Santa’s helpers (all volunteers) have been busy painting and repairing all of the **22** floats that PACE owns. The parade is telecast **live on WMBD-TV beginning at 9:30**. The telecast is sponsored by **Busey Bank**.

The parade route begins at the Peoria Central Firehouse on Monroe & Bryan Streets, then proceeds on Monroe to Main, left on Main Street, left on Adams and will end past the Peoria County Courthouse on Fayette

A special thank you to the **City of Peoria’s Tourism Grant** and **Discover Peoria** for assisting in securing the sponsorship of the parade.

Peoria Area Community Events: PACE produces events to contribute to the quality of life by involving the community in events that celebrate and reinforce pride in the Peoria area.