

On behalf of the St. Clairsville Chamber of Commerce I would like to address the change in format of our traditional St. Clairsville Christmas Parade. Like other long standing local parades/festivals and national events, we have decided to proceed in an alternative format this year only. This is due to decreased participation from entrants due to concerns of a live format along with continued COVID concerns based on the CDC, state, and federal guidelines.

The board was faced with the difficult decision of changing our parade to a televised broadcast. We plan to feature Belmont County schools vocal and musical programs along with community performance pieces. This was not without a lot of thought, deliberation, and evaluation. We entertained many ideas to allow for a safe parade and due to decreased entrant interest and attendance concerns with or without bystanders, we decided on the alternative format mentioned above. We could not, in good conscience, put the children and community at risk with typical crowds of several thousand and congested pre-parade set up areas.

Thankfully, The Chamber has recently been able to start promoting and hosting community events where adequate social distancing can be observed, due to significantly lower crowd sizes at 100 or less. We plan to continue to provide these events to serve our local community and businesses in lieu of our traditional full capacity celebrations, until we are past COVID and the restrictions that come with it. Just like many, we are saddened by having to proceed in this manner, however, we must err on the side of caution being mindful of the health and safety of our children and residents.

We are very excited to bring to you “The Belmont Savings Bank Hometown Christmas”. We felt this would be a great way to display the talents of our local youth, in a year when performance forums are very limited, along with bringing you typical parade performance pieces by local community groups. There will also be beginning and ending surprises and traditions to which, we have all grown accustomed, added in to get you into the Christmas spirit.

We are very thankful for our Title Sponsor, Belmont Savings Bank, and to WTOV9 for making this possible despite the challenges we are all facing this year and we look forward to a wonderful holiday season and are hopeful for the year to come.

On behalf of St. Clairsville Chamber of Commerce Board,

Sincerely & Respectfully,

Jennifer L. Gerevics, Board President