



CITY OF MANTECA

ADMINISTRATION

* PRESS RELEASE *
PARKS AND RECREATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
NOVEMBER 3, 2011

City of Manteca to Display U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree

The Holiday season will begin early in Manteca this year as the City will be host of the U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree. Manteca will be one of the first stops and one of just several California cities to display the tree on its way to the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C. The Capitol Christmas Tree is being cut from an undisclosed location in the Stanislaus National Forest.

The tree will begin its journey with a tree-cutting celebration on November 5 and 6 at the Tuolumne County Fairgrounds. The tree will then make its way out of the Sierras with a stop in Manteca on November 8. The tree will be on display at Library Park between 5:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. The evening will include public viewing of the tree and the opportunity for the public to sign a large banner accompanying the tree. The City will hold a brief program at 5:45 p.m., and there will also be face painting and refreshments. The theme for this year's tree is "California Shines." The public is encouraged to bring a non-perishable food item to donate to the Capitol Christmas Tree Food Drive campaign to demonstrate California's generosity and kindness to those in need.

Since 1970, it has become an honor for one of the National Forests to be asked to provide the Capitol Tree. The appointed National Forest, in turn, engages help from diverse partners throughout its respective State. The opportunity to provide the Capitol Christmas Tree becomes a Statewide celebration and civic event, leaving a lasting impression on all who are fortunate enough to be involved.

This year will be only the fourth year California has contributed the Capitol Christmas Tree – the last time was in 1995. Known as "The People's Tree," it will be harvested from the Stanislaus National Forest located in the Central Sierra Nevada Mountains of California. Ideally, a California red fir will be found – the first time this species has been selected.

On the road trip to Washington, D.C., the Christmas tree will travel on a semi-truck, resting on a custom-built cradle that supports the branches, and prevents damage while maintaining the tree's perfect shape. In addition, a specially designed 60-gallon "bladder" is used to water the tree during the trip. A second semi-truck will transport the 7,000 handmade ornaments and the smaller trees. A caravan of vehicles, including law

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enforcement, will escort the tree to the East. California's tree will tour the State for approximately eight days before traveling across the country for an additional 12 days. Numerous cities and town including Manteca, will welcome and celebrate the tree along its journey providing a wonderful opportunity to share with the country the many products and resources of California.

For more information about the U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree event in Manteca, contact Mark Hall, Parks and Recreation Director, at 456-8620.

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Manteca City Council
Manteca Bulletin

The Modesto Bee
Stockton Record

Manteca Unified School District