



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release – 10/14/2020

The Greenwood-Leflore County Chamber of Commerce is pleased to announce its plans for the 85th annual Roy Martin Delta Band Festival and Christmas Parade on **Friday, Dec. 4, 2020**.

Due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic and for the safety of our parade participants and spectators, we will be doing a modified version of our parade this year.

This year's parade will be called **"Roy Martin In Reverse"** and will be a Drive-Through Parade along the Rail Spike Park in downtown Greenwood. Parade entries will be lined up along the Rail Spike Park walkway and grassy/parking areas, and cars will be able to drive WEST along Johnson Street beginning at Johnson/Lamar for several city blocks to view the parade entries. The parade will be available for viewing/drive through from 4:00-6:30 p.m. All parade drive-through traffic will be westbound ONLY on Johnson Street for the allotted time period of the parade viewing. Johnson Street will also be blocked earlier in the day to allow for parade entries to arrive and set up. For safety reasons, pedestrians may NOT walk through the parade entries or on the street but are encouraged to follow the sidewalk on the SOUTH side of Johnson Street.

We are now taking parade entries! We are calling all floats, bands, musical and dance groups, mascots, inflatables, beauties, civic and community groups, and other entries for this year's Reverse Parade display. We are encouraging a variety of musical entries this year due to the smaller number of participating high school bands. That includes caroling groups, small ensembles, party bands, drumlines, gospel groups, etc. Parade entry forms are now available at <http://greenwoodmschamber.com/annual-events/delta-band-festival-christmas-parade> or may be picked up at the Chamber office, 402 Highway 82 West. You may also call and we will be happy to fax or email a form to you.

All entries should arrive downtown between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 4. Police and volunteers will be on hand to assign and place parade entries in their designated spots.

"While it's not the traditional parade format we've come to know and love, we are just happy to be able to shift and create an experience that will still be exciting and get everyone into the holiday spirit," said Chamber Executive Director Beth Stevens. "We've all had to get creative in 2020, and we know this will be a fun and positive way to continue our tradition while keeping everyone as safe as possible. We know the community will understand and support our efforts."

Fireworks will also take place this year and are sponsored by the Greenwood Convention and Visitors Bureau.

“The Roy G. Martin Band Festival and Christmas Parade is one of Greenwood’s most beloved traditions. While it will look a little different this year, The Chamber and city leadership have worked diligently to ensure an alternate plan that will keep this tradition alive while promoting safety to visitors and residents. The Greenwood Convention and Visitors Bureau (GCVB) contributes to this wonderful event each year by providing a firework display over the Yazoo River following the parade. GCVB leadership and board of directors felt it was important to continue this part of the celebration as a way to lift our community’s spirits as we enter the holiday season,” said Danielle Morgan, CVB Executive Director. “One stipulation for being able to move forward is that spectators help by enjoying the fireworks from their vehicle and with their households only. We are confident that our community will do their part by enjoying the firework show responsibly. We will be working with the Chamber and city leaders to provide some guidelines and designated parking areas for viewing the show.”

The fireworks will begin at 7 p.m. between the bridges on the Yazoo River.

For additional information, please call the Chamber at 662.453.4152.