

***Celebration in Lights* Opens in Newport News Park Nov. 22**

~ 2018 display marks the 26th season for this popular light show ~

Newport News, VA, Oct. 25, 2018 – The year was 1993, and *Celebration in Lights* had just opened its first season in Newport News Park. On Dec. 11th of that year, two weeks before Christmas Day, the event set a record when 2,563 vehicles drove through the park to see Virginia’s first drive-through holiday light show!

With many neighboring cities now touting their own shows, Newport News welcomes an average of 1,400 vehicles on its busiest *Celebration in Lights* nights. And as it’s done every Thanksgiving night since 1993, the show will open for its 26th season at 5:30 p.m. Nov. 22.

It takes approximately six weeks for workers to transform Newport News Park into a magical winter wonderland of more than 1 million twinkling lights in the hundreds of display pieces, arches, and miles of rope lighting found along the two mile drive through Newport News Park.

New for 2018, on select nights only, special effects “snow” will fall as vehicles drive into the Winter Wonderland area. There will also be new scenes on the two 25’ x 16’ color-changing light screens in Animation Station. The Forest of Lights display area now has upgraded color-changing bulbs, which will create more complex colors and patterns on the trees. Also new is a gingerbread house display.

Over the years, *Celebration in Lights* has won numerous awards. Among them are “*Best New Parks and Recreation Program in Virginia*” from the Virginia Recreation and Parks Society in 1993. In 1995 and again in 1996, *Celebration in Lights* was named one of the “*Top 20 Events in the Southeast*” by the Southeast Tourism Society.

Celebration in Lights is open daily from 5:30 to 10 p.m. Nov. 22 through Jan. 1, 2019. Admission is \$12 per car or \$60 per bus. Visa, MasterCard, cash and checks made payable to the City of Newport News are accepted.

Tickets may be purchased in advance at the Newport News Visitors Center at the entrance to Newport News Park, 13560 Jefferson Ave. To get to the park from eastbound I-64, take Exit 247 (Lee Hall) or from westbound I-64, take Exit 250 B (Ft. Eustis).

For more information, click [here](#) or call 757-926-1400, 757-886-7777, or toll-free 888-493-7386.

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FUN FACT: Although severe winter weather is rare in Newport News, the event was closed for five days for an ice storm in 1998, two days for snow in 2004, and three days for snow in 2009.

Newport News
Virginia

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