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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release – December 4, 2017

Celebrate the holidays in Ocean Springs with free, festive activities for family

Starting on **Thursday, Dec. 7** the City of Ocean Springs and the Ocean Springs Chamber of Commerce-Main Street-Tourism Bureau will host the annual Tree Lighting with Santa at **Marshall Park from 6 to 8 p.m.** Enjoy two hours of holiday cheer with live music provided by the First Baptist Church Choir, singalongs on the big screen, and a chance to take a picture with Santa.

Have fun at the holiday stations by writing a letter to the North Pole with the U.S. Postal Service, decorate a cookie with the Mary C. Cafe, or make an ornament at the craft station with the City of Ocean Springs Parks & Leisure Department. Families are invited to hop along the Biloxi Tour Train for a festive ride around town. Train departs and returns from Robinson Street by Marshall Park.

Bring a toy for the Ocean Springs Police Department Blue Christmas Toy Drive, a canned good for the Lord is My Help and/or pet food for the Jackson County Animal Shelter. Refreshments provided by Ocean Springs Chamber, First Baptist Church and Froghead Grill. Marshall Park decorated by the Historic Ocean Springs Association. Bring your own camera for pictures. Robinson Street from Washington Avenue to Church Street will be closed to traffic during the event. ***Rain location for event is the Ocean Springs Community Center.***

Get a start on the night by visiting **The Roost** located at 604 Porter Avenue between **5 and 7 p.m.** and get an **Oyster Shell ornament from a visiting elf!** Take the ornament to the Tree Lighting and place it upon the town Christmas Tree! Eat Drink Love will be opened during the event with holiday drink specials.

On **Friday, Dec. 8 and Saturday, Dec. 9 beginning at 10 a.m.** the shops, restaurants and galleries come alive with holiday cheer offering specials on clothing, jewelry, holiday décor and more for **the Holiday Open House**. Participating businesses will celebrate the season as they invite you to come shop and dine throughout Ocean Springs. Start your fun by visiting the Ocean Springs Visitor Center located at 1000 Washington Avenue for a cup of hot chocolate and ask an elf for a holiday guide to all the specials throughout town. On **Saturday between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.** join the **First Baptist Church Choir as they sing Christmas carols** around downtown!

Many of the shops and galleries downtown, uptown, all around town will have **extended hours throughout the month of December**. Some will stay open on Sundays for the Christmas shopping season. Visit the Ocean Springs Chamber & Visitor Center for more details. Visit facebook.com/oceanspringschamberofcommerce and click on the Photos Page for the **Holiday Gift Guide Ocean Springs** Album with numerous gift ideas from our local shops!

For more information on any of these holiday festivities, contact the Ocean Springs Chamber of Commerce-Main Street-Tourism Bureau at 228-875-4424.

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Mission: To promote tourism, provide progressive leadership for economic and community vitality for the greater Ocean Springs, Jackson County area and gulf coast and to enhance local culture and preserve quality of life through planned growth, diversification and beautification.