Winter days means WinterDaze

By Pamela Powers
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Winter is here.

On Thursday, Dec. 9 there is a chance to celebrate it in downtown Menomonie with the Main Street WinterDaze Parade and fireworks over Lake Menomin.

This is the seventh year of the parade, which last year was canceled due to extreme cold weather, according to Main Street executive director Shelley Stewart.

An added feature this year is there will be sites along Main Street where visitors can drop off non-perishable food items to help the Stepping Stones of Dunn County food pantry.

Starting at 4:30 p.m. at the UW-Stout clock tower Santa Claus will be there with an animal petting area until 6 p.m.

At 6:30 p.m. the parade, which averages about 60 units, will take place on Main Street and part of Broadway Street. The parade is being lead by Tall Oaks District Boy Scouts of America as flag bearers.

One favorite float that will be back this year is the Cedar Corporation Holiday Express which is made from recycled building materials. It features smoke from the train, a train whistle and a rotating Christmas tree.

The festivities end with fireworks over the lake immediately following the parade, which is usually around 7:45 p.m.

About 3,000 to 5,000 people attend the WinterDaze events. Stewart urged people to come early.

Free hot chocolate is available as well as coffee samples, Stewart noted.