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Photo by Deb Jacques

Macomb Township kicks off Christmas with tree lighting

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Kaiden Owens, a first grader at Mohawk Elementary School in Macomb Township, helps Santa Claus during the Macomb Township Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony Dec. 3.

Photo by Deb Jacques



The Joiner family, of Macomb Township, Vivian, left, David, and Ian, visit Santa Dec. 3 at Macomb Township's afterglow.

Photo by Deb Jacques

MACOMB TOWNSHIP — Below freezing temperatures, Christmas carols and a visit from Santa Claus.

A festive atmosphere filled the air in Macomb Township Dec. 3 for the 15th annual Holiday Tree Lighting & Afterglow.

Macomb Township Parks and Recreation Director Sal DiCaro said it took the facilities and grounds crew nearly three weeks setting up the giant Christmas tree and adorning the exterior of the recreation building and town hall with lights.

Santa Claus made a grand entrance via firetruck, and Kaiden Owens, a first grader at Mohawk Elementary School in Macomb Township, was chosen to help Father Christmas light the tree by flipping the switch.

"The one thing we're real proud of is we see the same people every year, so we know it's a tradition that people come out with their families to kick off the holidays," DiCaro said.

The event was hosted by the Macomb Township Parks and Recreation Department.

"My staff does a great job of putting this on," DiCaro said. "I want to thank them for what they do tonight and what they do all year."

officials, the arrival and greeting of Santa, and concluded with the lighting of the tree. After the ceremony, families were invited to go to the recreation center for a festive celebration that included visits with Santa, refreshment stations, children's crafts and activities, and "carol-o-ke."

For the Ferguson family, of Macomb Township, it was their first time attending the tree lighting and afterglow. Nicole and Jeremy brought their two children, Ella, 8, and Joshua, 7.

“Everything else the Macomb Parks and Rec Department puts on has been awesome, so we figured this would be awesome too,” Jeremy said. “There’s a bunch of families out here and it’s something fun to be part of. We like the family-centered events.”

DiCaro views the tree lighting ceremony as a great way for residents to come together and kick off the holiday season.

“It has become a tradition for many families to join us,” he said. “This is one of our signature events and one of our biggest events of the year.”

The tree, a creation of lights off a flagpole, is located directly across from Township Hall.

The department was expecting about 250 people to attend the tree lighting, with many more at the afterglow and visiting Santa inside.

The Dakota High School choir set the tone for the evening with Christmas favorites like “Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer,” “Silver Bells” and “We Wish You a Merry Christmas.”

Lights will remain on display through the beginning of January and will come on daily at 5 p.m., ending at 10:30 p.m.