

Merry Christmas  
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# The Westfield Republican

"First Republican Newspaper Printed in U. S. A."

Also serving the communities of Chautauqua and Mayville since 1856

Volume 191, Number 30

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2023

Westfield, New York

75¢

## Sherman tractor parade brings 'Christmas spirit'

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Oh, there's no place like home for the holidays . . . except, maybe, Sherman. Capping off a week of Holiday Events, the second annual lighted tractor parade which was nearly twice the size of last year's, was held earlier this month.

"I'm really excited for it. I wish they had this when I was young," said Taylor Kochanowski of Sherman. "I think it really brings the community together."

Kelly Skinner, also of Sherman, had a personal interest in the parade. "Both of our sons are in it. They are in the big rigs," she said. "It definitely increases Christmas spirit, especially for the little kids."

Chase and Ellie Jones and their two children, Emma and Kelly, who arrived early, were eager for the parade to begin. "It's all they have talked about all day," Ellie Jones said. "I think Sherman is a tight-knit community. This helps bring people together."

The first lighted tractor parade in Sherman in 2022 was a tremendous success with more than 50 participants.



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The idea to have a parade during the Christmas season was suggested by someone from the Cooler Cafe who was familiar with the one in Linesville, Pa., said Village Clerk Jeanette Ramm.

The parade was presented by the Sherman Chamber of Commerce, The Cooler Bar & Grille and the village of Sherman. Several businesses supported the parade by decorating their windows with a tractor theme.

Village Mayor Colleen Meeder noted that a lot of work goes on behind the scenes in order to make the parade a success. "We worked out all the last minute challenges to have a nearly perfect event," she said. "And the weather was great for the second year in a row."

Meeder said there were 49 entries but many more pieces of equipment because some of the entries had multiple vehicles in the parade. "The families and businesses that entered the parade put on a spectacular display for all that came to see," she said. "Some have been planning

for months if not since last year's parade!"

The creativity and hours of planning that the participants put into the decorations were obvious to everyone, Meeder said. "We had a bus, even a pontoon boat full of dancing cows that took first place," she said. "It was created by Slab city Organics with Greg Rater's family."

"There were enormous tractor trailer trucks, including Safford Services, the 2nd place finish with a great blow up display," Meeder said. "Third place was the Robson family's seven tractor entry with wagons depicting the Polar Express and North Pole. Those were closely followed by Reliance Dairy's Grinch driving the giant combine! The smallest entry was the child on a toy tractor with wagon all lit up."

Meeder also said the new sound system helped with the holiday spirit. "We are grateful particularly for the help of Cole Electric on the sound system . . . many people remarked

about the new speakers and lights installed through the CCPEG grant on the restored awning by Conrad Contracting through the NYMS grant."

Sherman's Holiday Events began on Sunday, Dec. 3 with a chicken and biscuit dinner at the fire hall. During the week, there was a pet parade in Edmunds Park, a scavenger hunt, Christmas bingo and horse-drawn wagon rides. "The tractor parade is the main event, though," said a woman in the crowd. "I think there are more people here for this than for Sherman Days."

This year's participants, which numbered about 75, included tractors, horses, golf carts, big rigs and the Sherman Fire Department, with many riders tossing candy to spectators. "The parade was awesome and I loved all the tractors and semis," said Emma Nesselhauf of Erie. "And the candy was yummy."

Her 4-year-old brother, Jackson said, "I loved the tractor parade! Can we come again next year?"