

'Holly Jolly Parade' lights up downtown Fremont

[Jon Stinchcomb](#), Fremont News-Messenger Published 8:54 a.m. ET Dec. 8, 2019



FREMONT - With the sun setting below the horizon on Saturday night, strings of lights stretching overhead and wrapping all around illuminated downtown Fremont as hundreds of families began to gather along Front Street.

A shine even brighter grew off in the distance as the night pressed on and the glow from countless floats of this year's "Holly Jolly Parade" approached.

"It's our second year having it in the evening and it's been very successful," said Kristie Bilger, executive director of Downtown Fremont, Inc., which organized the holiday festivities on Friday and Saturday.



The Fremont Ross Marching Little Giants lit the night along Front Street during the "Holly Jolly Parade" on Saturday night. (Photo: Jon Stinchcomb/The News-Messenger)

Judging by just how packed downtown Fremont was by the time the parade was set to begin, locals have really embraced the tradition moving to the evening.

Fremont's Christmas parade used to take place earlier in the day, but organizers decided to move it to the evening beginning last year.

"With all of the lights and stuff, we thought it would be a little more creative," Bilger said.

It also gave visitors to downtown Fremont a chance to take part in some of the other fun activities going on or even make their own.

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Paramount Cinema offered free movies such as "The Lion King," "Dora and the Lost City of Gold" and "A Dog's Journey," for those donating nonperishable food items.

The parade topped off a weekend of events as part of a Downtown Open House, an opportunity for businesses to extend hours and show off the products they are offering to holiday shoppers.

"Visitors could go to lunch, they could shop, see a movie," Bilger said. "And then they got to come out to the parade."



The Grinch and his dog, Max, were spotted marching in the "Holly Jolly Parade" on Saturday night. (Photo: Jon Stinchcomb/The News-Messenger)

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