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### Atchison Prepares For Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony

(KAIR)--The holiday season is just around the corner, and with that, comes an annual event for Downtown Atchison.

Atchison Area Chamber of Commerce President Jacque Pregont says those attending the event will not be disappointed , though the ceremony is short, but promises to be very, very fun.

Girl Scout Troop #8347 will be serving up hot chocolate, as people hear holiday songs from local children including children from Saint Benedict's Grade School and from Atchison Child Care.

Event attendees are encouraged to bring items for a canned food drive that benefits local pantries. Pregont says "This time of the year, we always think of the less fortunate people that are maybe going to struggle through the holidays. So we like to collect things, and we are going to divide that up amongst the food pantries in town...if you bring ten items, we are going to let you sign up, and we are going to have a drawing. We've got a little basket we have put together of all different things from lots of different people around town. You may win that basket as a thank you from everybody for contributing to the food pantries".

And of course, the tree lighting ceremony wouldn't be complete without a visit from Jolly Old Saint Nicholas himself, who will be arriving on an antique fire truck.

The tree lighting ceremony will take place Thursday, starting at 5:15 on the Commercial Street Mall.

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