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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Redwater Lights up the Night!

Redwater, Alberta (December 12, 2020)

Redwater celebrated their Kris Kringle and Parade of Lights event, Friday, December 4th, 2020 a bit different this year due to the pandemic. With the number of active cases of COVID-19 rising in Alberta, an outdoor, non-contact event was determined to be the wisest choice to keep everyone safe.

The event was broken into two parts – a drive-thru portion in which Santa, Mrs. Claus and friends would hand out refreshments and treat/activity bags to the attendees and a Parade of Lights where residents, businesses, and community groups were asked to decorate their homes and places of operation and share their displays with the public.

Anyone who participated in decorating their home, business or organizations was asked to register with Community Services. A map was made up of all participating locations and was distributed to the general public. When pandemic restrictions were changed to no longer allow the drive – thru portion of the event, we were forced to adjust. We distributed the treat/activity bags through the schools and left-over candy bags to Diamond Spring Lodge.

We estimate that more than 100 vehicles with at least 2-4 people in each toured the Town to check out the beautiful light displays. 86 voting ballots were submitted, and 56 surveys were completed. On the surveys, many people mentioned how “incredible” and “beautifully decorated” the Heartlands Water Services Truck and Rudolph Bus were decorated. Others were thrilled and excited as they toured the town checking out the light displays.

After tallying up all the ballots, the Redwater Shining Stars were revealed:

- Mel Sautner #103
- Ed and Deb’s North Pole Auxilliary Airport #102
- Tyson Tidsbury #113
- Sonya and Kyle Needham # 110
- Joe and Crystal Rose # 107



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- The mother and son duo of Jeffrey and Andrea Woychenko #114
- Mel and Sophie Smith #115
- Wanda and Dave Brisson #119
- Friends of the Redwater Public Library Society #130

With the heartfelt help of Heartlands Water Services and the Rudolph Bus who went around town collecting food donations, the Food Bank collected around 2200 pounds of food, toiletries, and toys, and \$2861 in cash or gift card donations. This will help tremendously as they start making up their Christmas hampers.

This year, our sponsors included Wolf Midstream who generously provided a \$850 donation to cover the costs of the candy bags, the Redwater Lions Club who kindly donated \$150 towards offsetting the overall costs of the event and Tim Hortons who offered to supply the cookies for the drive-thru refreshments.

We had a number of community groups who helped out as well. The Redwater Art Society, Redwater Public Library and Redwater HYPE put together some crafts to add to the activity bags; the Redwater Volunteer Fire Department offered their services to assist with traffic control; residents of Diamond Spring Lodge helped pack Santa bags; Mayor and Council members, along with community volunteers, were ready to lend a hand giving out instructions and treat/activity bags; Santa and Mrs. Claus were hoping to come and see the boys and girls; and Liz Chernoff and Tina Cosby, members of the Community Services Board, diligently packed candy and activity bags. Public Works was ready to bring out the road barricades, and Pembina Place staff were ready and willing to help as needed.

It takes the involvement of a whole community to put on an event such as Kris Kringle and the Parade of Lights and to make it a huge success. We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to each and every person who attended the event, all of our wonderful and dedicated volunteers, our generous sponsors, and everyone who decorated their home, organization, or business to share their displays for all to enjoy.

Contact:

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