



## MUNICIPALITY OF **West Elgin**

### Staff Report

---

**Report To:** Council Meeting

**From:** Lee Gosnell, Manager of Operations & Community Services

**Date:** 2021-09-23

**Subject:** Rodney Christmas Event

---

#### **Recommendation:**

That West Elgin Council hereby receives the report from Lee Gosnell, Manager of Operations & Community Services, And

That West Elgin Council supports the Rodney Kiwanis and Rodney Lions 'Night Market' event this December in lieu of a Rodney Santa Clause parade, And

That West Elgin Council supports the closure of Furnival Road in downtown Rodney on December 4, 2021 and directs staff to obtain the necessary approvals from Elgin County.

#### **Purpose:**

The purpose of this report is to decide on what type of event will be held in Rodney this holiday season.

#### **Background:**

In past years, there were 2 Santa Clause parades held, one in Rodney and one in West Lorne. The West Lorne parade was held by the West Lorne Optimists and the Rodney parade was held by the Municipality of West Elgin. Last year, the two groups came together and organized a festival of lights event due to COVID-19. This was a drive through event which could be safely held considering the health crisis we were experiencing.

Now that restrictions have eased and people are able to gather outdoors again, the West Lorne Optimists have indicated their intentions to run a Santa Clause parade in West Lorne again, as in past years. Council did approve funding for the Optimists in the 2021 budget. This left staff wondering what type of event would best suit Rodney, when the idea of a night market was brought forward by two local service clubs. The Rodney Lions and Rodney Kiwanis have formed a committee to organize this event, which includes two municipal staff members.

Staff have considered various options and feel the 'Night Market' may be a new and exciting way of bringing holiday cheer to the town of Rodney. This would provide 2 unique experiences for all members of West Elgin who want to take in a Santa Clause parade (West Lorne) or enjoy a Holiday themed night market (Rodney). Also, by supporting our local service clubs who have taken the lead on these projects, it helps to reduce staff time which is already at a premium.

**Financial Implications:**

There is money allocated in the 2021 parks and recreation budget for a Christmas event. Staff's recommendation would be to provide financial support to the 'Night Market' committee, similar to the support given to West Lorne Optimists.

**Report Approval Details**

Document Title:	Rodney Christmas Event - 2021-41-Operations Community Services.docx
Attachments:	
Final Approval Date:	Sep 21, 2021

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

Jana Nethercott