



46 °F Norwalk, CT
Light Rain
Weather | Contact Us

Norwalk Citizen

Tuesday, November 22, 2011

SEARCH

norwalkcitizenonline.com Web Search by YAHOO! Businesses

Register Sign In

Home News Police Reports Sports Community Opinion Jobs Homes Rentals Cars Index

Holiday tree lighting to return to SoNo this year

Nicole Rivard, nrivard@bcnew.com

Published 11:36 a.m., Tuesday, November 22, 2011

VIEW: LARGER | HIDE

3 of 3

PREV NEXT



Colin Grotheer crouches down next to the stump that remains from the 35-foot tree he donated to Norwalk for the city's annual tree lighting ceremony. Photo: Jordan Osterhout / CT



Most Read | Most Commented

1. A fight to write about
2. Father charged in baby girl's death
3. Obituaries
4. Holiday tree lighting to return to SoNo this year
5. McMahon's Madaffari lends new meaning to being 'student-athlete'
6. NHS gets in the holiday spirit with two comedies
7. Co-op swimming rounds out season with 10th-place finish in State Open

0 0 0

Like

Comments (0) Email This

Larger | Smaller Font

Printable Version

When Colin and [Nicole Grotheer](#) moved into their house on West Rocks Road in Norwalk two years ago, they thought the 35-foot tree in the front yard looked like a big Christmas tree.

While the tree was too massive for them to decorate during the holidays, Colin said he suspects that when the tree was smaller the previous owners ran lights to it because there was an electrical outlet in the front yard.

This year the tree will once again be lit--but this time for the whole city to enjoy.

The Grotheers decided to donate the tree for the city tree lighting this year, which is going to take place at 50 Washington St. in South Norwalk on Dec.1 instead of at City Hall.

The idea came about during a conversation with Colin's friend [Eric Raines](#), a SoNo architect who is also a member of the SoNo Collaborative, a collection of local businesses, residents and other SoNo enthusiasts who serve as the "voice" of SoNo, from simplifying parking to organizing SoNo arts events.

On Monday morning, staff from [Almstead Tree Company](#), [A & A Crane Company](#) and [FGB Construction](#) removed the tree from the Grotheer's home and hauled it to its SoNo destination.

"It's exciting. It's one of those things that is fairly innocuous, but then it turns out being a great thing for the community as well as yourself. You just don't realize you will have such a contribution with such a simple thing," said Colin, who works in SoNo.

Flyerboard



Local advertising by PaperG

"My wife and I are happy to try and renew a tradition that's kind of vanished from the downtown neighborhood and be a part of this reemergence of activity in the SoNo area. I hope these efforts continue to pay dividends for the city."

According to Stacey Hascoe, who works at [SoNo Corporate Center](#) and is a member of the SoNo Collaborative, the last year the city had SoNo Park as the location for the official tree lighting for Norwalk was back in the mid 80's.

Mike Moccie, director of the [Recreation and Parks Department](#), said the Washington Stree Plaza tree lightings held in the 80s were sponsored by [U. S. Surgical](#).

"The SoNo Collaborative started to ask for the event to be held in SoNo again and many people from the city agreed with us and supported our efforts to make it happen," Hascoe explained Monday via e-mail.

"It has been park of Norwalk's tradition for so many decades. It has been huge community effort to make this happen. We have so many willing supporters and sponsors of this event. Today the tree was installed in the park and the excitement was tangible.

"We, at SoNo Corporate Center, support all events in the park, as it is important to use this space to help cultivate a positive community with lots of activities such as our summer concert series and the Day of the Dead Halloween event for the kids of SoNo. This was our last event and we had more than 100 kids and their parents come enjoy what was for some of these kids their first [Halloween Party](#). It was awesome to see the joy this event brought to them.

"The park acts as an epicenter of SoNo and if we don't use it for the good of the community, then we may not like how it is used otherwise. The tree lighting is a good thing for SoNo and good for all of Norwalk."

The tree lighting ceremony will take place on Dec. 1 at 50 Washington St. beginning at 6:30 p.m. There will be performances by Billy Guenario & Co., [Crystal Theatre](#), Norwalk Community Chorale and members of the [Norwalk High School](#) chorus.

Refreshments will be served by the [Norwalk Exchange Club](#) and employees from Pepperidge Farm.

Goodies have been generously donated by the following companies: [Angela Mia Bakery](#), Black Bear Saloon, Brewhouse Restaurant, Ripka's Bulls Head Market, Cranbury Market, Michele's Pies, Ola!, Pepperidge Farm, [Sono Baking Co.](#), Stew Leonards, Stop & Shop, strada 18 and Yum Nuts. Additional donations have been made by: Aitoro's, Costco, County Portables, Licari Floral Designs, Sassafrass, Taylor Rental and [Walmart](#).

Pepperidge Farm donated the lights that will adorn the tree this year.

[Printable Version](#)
[Email This](#)
[Like](#)
0
0



Add Your Comment

<p>New to the site?</p> <p>To use commenting, you need to sign up.</p> <p><input type="button" value="Register"/></p>	<p>Already a member?</p> <p>Please log in. (Forgot Password?)</p> <p>Email <input type="text"/></p> <p>Password <input type="password"/></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Remember Me <input type="button" value="Sign In"/></p>
------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

- NORWALK CITIZEN**
- [Home](#)
 - [News](#)
 - [Sports](#)
 - [Entertainment](#)
 - [Obituaries](#)
 - [Living](#)
 - [Opinion](#)
 - [Find Norwalk jobs](#)

- [Homes](#)
- [Rentals](#)
- [Cars](#)
- [Business Directory](#)
- SERVICES & INFO**
- [Contact Us](#)
- [Privacy Policy](#)
- [Terms of Service](#)
- [Hearst Corporation](#)

- HOW TO**
- [Get More Hair Volume](#)
 - [Virtual Makeover](#)
 - [Try Virtual Hairstyles](#)
 - [Find Haircut Ideas](#)
 - [Get Wavy Hair](#)
 - [Get Rid of Blackheads](#)
 - [Teen Hairstyles](#)
 - [Beauty Tips](#)
 - [Going Green Tips](#)
 - [How to Stop Hair Loss](#)
 - [Get Longer Lashes](#)

- BEST**
- [Hair Color](#)
 - [Soup Recipes](#)
 - [Best Eye Cream](#)
 - [iPod Docking Stations](#)
 - [Twilight Trivia](#)
 - [Twilight Quizzes](#)
 - [Best Haircuts Ever](#)
 - [New Beauty Products](#)
 - [Fragrances for Women](#)
 - [Best Toning Exercises](#)
 - [Paint Colors](#)

- BEAUTY**
- [Get Celebrity Hairstyles](#)
 - [Best Beauty Trends](#)
 - [Medium Length Hair](#)
 - [Cover Under Eye Circles](#)
 - [Treat Damaged Hair](#)
 - [Best Anti-Aging Cream](#)
 - [Half-Up Hairstyle](#)
 - [Best Beauty Products](#)
 - [Fast & Easy Hairstyles](#)
 - [Best Health Secrets](#)
 - [Eye Makeup Tips](#)

- FOOD & HEALTH**
- [Pasta Salad Recipes](#)
 - [Amazing Soup Diet](#)
 - [Low Calorie Recipes](#)
 - [Best Diet Plan](#)
 - [Mixed Drinks Recipes](#)
 - [Best Sandwiches](#)
 - [Rachael Ray Recipes](#)
 - [Coupons for Groceries](#)
 - [Chicken Breast Recipes](#)
 - [Cake Recipes](#)
 - [Grilled Chicken Recipes](#)

