



## *The City of Alton is Hosting a Christmas Parade and Festival*

The city of Alton's Christmas parade and toy give away will be hosted on December 14, 2019, Saturday at Alton's recreation center. The parade will begin at 11:00 AM and the toy give away will start at 6:00 PM.

The event was founded by Alton's city working members and businesses 14 years ago.

"This event has always been hosted on the second Saturday of December every year," said Samm Mercado, Alton's Recreation Director.

According to Director Mercado, around 750-800 toys are given away every year. Around 1,200 people attend the give away festival including children and their parents.

"The Police Department had a toy drive this year (2019) and collected around 250 toys. However, the Police Department is not the only one that helps with toy donations but also community organizations, private businesses and our department also help collect toys for the give away," said Mercado.

The children get to meet Santa Claus and get to receive their presents from him.

"You can see the excitement in the children reactions when they receive their presents," said Mercado.

This event takes a lot of volunteers to be functionable. The volunteers help in the morning light up. They help judge the decorations and the set them up and they help move the people along the parade so they know where they should be headed.

"You can always the see the appreciation from the people who attend the event. You can see the joy and happiness on their expressions!" said Mercado.

