

friday

BEST BET



David Lassman / The Post-Standard, 2011

CLINTON SQUARE in downtown Syracuse will be aglow Friday for the annual Christmas tree lighting. This year's theme is "Home for the Holidays."

Bring food items, enjoy music at tree lighting

Thousands of Central New Yorkers gather in Clinton Square every year the Friday following Thanksgiving to watch the big tree get pretty for the season.

"Home for the Holidays" this year features a Norway Spruce donated to the city by Wegmans.

At 6:30 p.m., entertainment will begin. Acts include Joey Nigro and John Nilsen, the Gospel Workshop of North America Syracuse Chapter led by Joan Hillsman, the Syracuse Brigadiers Alumni Drum and Bugle Corps and Corcoran Live!, the music ensemble from Corcoran High School.

Mayor Stephanie Miner will flip the switch to light the tree. She'll be joined by the winners of the Mayor's Annual Holiday Letter Writing Contest as well as Santa and Mrs. Claus.

Volunteers will be on hand to collect non-perishable food items for the Food Bank of Central New York. Donations also can be

THE DETAILS

WHAT: "Home for the Holidays" celebration.

WHEN: 6:30 p.m. Friday.

WHERE: Clinton Square, Syracuse.

ADMISSION: Free.

MORE INFORMATION: syracuse.ny.us.com.

brought to City Hall, one of the downtown locations where the festivities will continue after the tree lighting. There also will be events at the Erie Canal Museum, Hanover Square and the Onondaga Historical Association.

The Landmark Theatre will welcome visitors to the lobby before the lighting with the Chittenango High School Choir and Spirit of Syracuse Chorus performing. "Elf" will screen at the theater at 7:30 p.m. It's free, but tickets will be required, available at the Landmark box office and the office of Y94 on Plum Street.

— Mark Bialczak, staff writer

