

“Elf on a (Half) Shell”
Mathews Annual Christmas Parade
December 9, 2023 at 1:00 p.m.
Sponsored by the Mathews County Visitor Information Center

The Mathews Christmas Parade Committee invites you to join us in making the 2023 Christmas Parade a memorable experience for children of all ages. Feel free to be as creative as you like in making a float or other type of entry exhibiting the parade theme, “*Elf on a (Half) Shell*”, as you go along the parade route. There is no rain date if the parade is cancelled due to inclement weather.

We want to acknowledge and thank Lynda Smith Greve & Emily Allen for their successful running of the Mathews Christmas Parade in past years. This year’s parade is being lead by Kat Larkin and a committee at MCVIC. Please direct all questions to Kat going forward. Please have patience and understanding as I work hard to try to fill these lovely ladies’ shoes!

Talk with your church, friends, neighbors, school or sports groups, businesses or youth groups and join in the parade. Prizes will be awarded for the best entry in each of the following categories: Civic, Animal, Walking Unit, School, Commercial, Motorized, Church, Parade Theme, and Antique Vehicle.

Registration is due no later than November 25, 2023, and there is no entry fee.

We will be starting at Thomas Hunter Middle School and ending at the Chesapeake Bank parking lot. ***Due to the large number of entries and for the safety of all, the Sheriff has requested that all units go to the rear of the Bank parking lot to ensure space for all units to enter and that you remain in the bank parking lot until the parade has ended.***

The Thomas Hunter parking lot will be available at 11:00 a.m. for last minute touch ups to entries. ***Upon arrival, please come to the check-in table to get your assigned lineup position.*** Line up will start at noon. The parade will start promptly at 1:00 p.m. The judging will take place during the parade in front of the Mathews Post Office on Main Street. The parade will take place rain or shine.

As in the past, ***there will be only one Santa Claus in the parade so please do not have a Santa on your entry.*** If you would like to give out candy, please have walkers pass it out instead of throwing it. All race cars must be trailered or towed. The parade committee asks that you please remove all materials from your staging area at Thomas Hunter Middle School and the finishing area at Chesapeake Bank, and that you make provisions to clean up after any animal you have in the parade. This is a time for uplifting celebration to bring together our community for the holidays, therefore any display deemed offensive or controversial will be asked to be removed from the parade.

Please be sure and fill out the attached registration form completely as all information is important to us for contact purposes. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Thank you for your willingness to participate, and we look forward to another wonderful parade!

Kat Larkin

Executive Director, MCVIC
804-725-4229
mathewsvisitorcenter@gmail.com

Please mail the following registration form to:
Christmas Parade Committee
Mathews Visitor and Information Center
P. O. Box 1456
Mathews, VA 23109

OR drop it off in person:
Mathews Visitor Center
Sibley’s General Store
239 Main Street
Mathews, VA 23109

2023 Christmas Parade Registration

“Elf on a (Half) Shell”

Applicant/Organization: _____

Contact Person: _____

Mailing Address: _____
Street/P.O. City Zip

Telephone Number: _____ Email: _____

Briefly describe your entry so we can appropriately place you in the lineup. *Example:* school age children, walking unit, **type of vehicle**, animals, float, carolers, etc.

Please estimate the required space you require during lineup. *Example:* Truck & Trailer, 30 ft

Parade units will be announced as they pass the Food Lion parking lot on Main Street. In the space below, please include the narrative you would like announced as you pass.

Please circle the category/categories most appropriate for your entry.

Best Civic
Best Animal
Best Commercial

Best Walking Unit
Best School
Best Parade Theme

Best Motorized
Best Church
Best Antique Vehicle