BMO Harris Bank
THE MAGNIFICENT MILE
lights festival
30

2021

THE BMO HARRIS BANK MAGNIFICENT MILE

LIGHTS FESTIVAL GUIDE & MAP

Where Your Holidays Begin

TheMagnificentMile.com

#BMOLightsFest

Shining a light into millions of homes.

Visit the Magnificent Mile this holiday season for shopping, food and more!

Gather your family and join **#BMOLightsFest** as we kick off the holiday season with the 30th annual BMO Harris Bank Magnificent Mile Lights Festival.

Watch together on **November 21st at 6PM on ABC7.**

For more information, visit **themagnificentmile.com**

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ABOUT THE BMO HARRIS BANK MAGNIFICENT MILE LIGHTS FESTIVAL®

Shining bright for 30 magnificent years, The BMO Harris Bank Magnificent Mile Lights Festival® returns to downtown Chicago to kick off the holiday season the weekend before Thanksgiving. Chicagoans will come together safely again, after the 2020 live event hiatus, to celebrate the largest nighttime parade in the Nation.

GettinLocal

DOWNLOAD. DISCOVER. EXPLORE. ENJOY.

Download Your **Free** Discovery Guide Today

Discover the best restaurants, shopping, attractions, entertainment, and activities this Holiday Season on **The Magnificent Mile**.

Available on the App Store

GET IT ON Google Play

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

FRIDAY

PREVIEW NIGHT: FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 19 AT 4:00 P.M.

The Wrigley Building Centennial Plaza (410 N. Michigan Avenue)

The action-packed weekend will begin with a preview night featuring a ceremonial tree-lighting at The Wrigley Building Centennial Plaza in honor of the building's 100 years with a live performance by Grammy-nominated singer, actress, and Broadway star Deborah Cox and the Chicago Carolers.

SATURDAY

LIGHTS FESTIVAL LANE: SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 20 FROM 11:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.

Pioneer Court (401 N. Michigan Avenue)

A festive thoroughfare of booths and free family activities, including photos with Santa Claus! Read more about Lights Festival Lane featured activities on pg.11 of this guide.

PARADE ROUTE CLOSURES BEGIN AS EARLY AS 3:30 P.M.

3:30 P.M.: DuSable Bridge (formerly Michigan Avenue Bridge) closes to pedestrian traffic.
4:00 P.M.: North Michigan Avenue closes to vehicular traffic between Oak Street and Wacker Drive.

GRAND TREE-LIGHTING PARADE: SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 20 FROM 5:30 P.M. – 6:55 P.M.

Michigan Avenue from Oak Street south to Wacker Drive

Free, family fun culminates in the grand tree-lighting parade down North Michigan Avenue on with Grand Marshals Mickey Mouse and Minnie Mouse from Walt Disney World® Resort in Florida. The parade features fabulous floats, giant helium balloons, exciting marching bands, celebrities, musical performances, Santa Claus, and more, all helping to illuminate more than one million lights along The Magnificent Mile. The event draws to a grand conclusion with spectacular fireworks over the Chicago River at the DuSable Bridge at 6:55 p.m.

WATCH AT HOME AND RELIVE THE MAGIC!

If you cannot catch the parade live, or would like to relive the magic, ABC broadcasts the event throughout the holiday season across nearly 100% of the county! Relive the magic locally on ABC 7 Chicago at 6:00 p.m. CT on Sunday, November 21, 6:00 p.m. CT on Saturday, December 11, and 8:00 a.m. CT on Christmas Day. Visit TheMagnificetMile.com for a list of broadcast markets, and check your local listings.

CHICAGO Dibs

Visit The Magnificent Mile this holiday season and call Dibs on package rates from $159/night.

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A HILTON HOTEL

Hilton
CHICAGO

The Drake
A HILTON HOTEL

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MICHIGAN & SUPERIOR

NEW THIS YEAR IN 2021

Watch for new floats designed by Chicago Public School students from UPLIFT Community High School and Curie Metropolitan High School in partnership with BMO Harris Bank and T-Mobile. Championed by BMO Harris Bank, this new partnership with Chicago Public Schools' Department of STEM and the Department of Arts Education was created to bring a real-world work-based STEAM design challenge to the students. The floats, built by Mardi Gras-float builders New Orleans-based Kern Studios, are debuting live in the parade.

Also new this year to the parade route is the balloon debut of Bumble, the Abominable Snowman (from 1964 TV special Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer), sponsored by Special Olympics Illinois, and four high school marching bands from Ohio.

BMO Harris Bank float design rendering by Uplift Community High School

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BMO HARRIS BANK HELPFUL HINTS

INFORMATION TENT:

Stop by The Magnificent Mile Information Tent for questions and information about The BMO Harris Bank Magnificent Mile Lights Festival®, and learn about The Festive Season on The Magnificent Mile, additional area holiday events and activities throughout the season. Download a local visitor's discovery guide, with app partner GettinLocal, onsite to receive real-time events updates about the parade.

COVID-19 PROTOCOLS DURING LIGHTS FESTIVAL:

Guests attending any of the Lights Festival events will be asked to wear a mask, regardless of vaccination status, throughout the Lights Festival footprint, including The Wrigley Building Centennial Plaza, Lights Festival Lane, and along the parade route.

BEST VIEWS:

Remember that Michigan Avenue is less crowded on the east side of the street, especially on the north end of the parade route.

The Fireworks Spectacular happens over the DuSable Bridge (formerly Michigan Avenue Bridge) at approximately 6:55 p.m., so standing along Wacker Drive is a prime place to view the show!

WHEELCHAIR VIEWING:

Wheelchair viewing is available by the Plaza of the Americas for the tree-lighting parade and fireworks show. Drop-off area for guests is at the corner of Hubbard Street and Wabash Avenue.

STREET CLOSURES:

- North Michigan Ave (Oak St to Wacker Dr): Closed to vehicular traffic Saturday, November 20, 3:30 – 8:00 p.m.
- DuSable Bridge (formerly Michigan Ave Bridge): Closed to pedestrian traffic Saturday, November 20, 3:30 – 7:00 p.m.

If you want to get to your favorite spot for the tree lighting Parade, be sure to make your way across the bridge before 3.30 P.M.

FIRST AID:

If you require emergency medical attention, please call 911.

BMO Harris Bank

THE MAGNIFICENT MILE

lights festival® 30

PARADE TALENT

GRAND MARSHALS

MICKEY MOUSE & MINNIE MOUSE

KOOL & THE GANG

TAG TEAM

GRACE KINSTLER

WILLIE SPENCE

BEBE WOOD

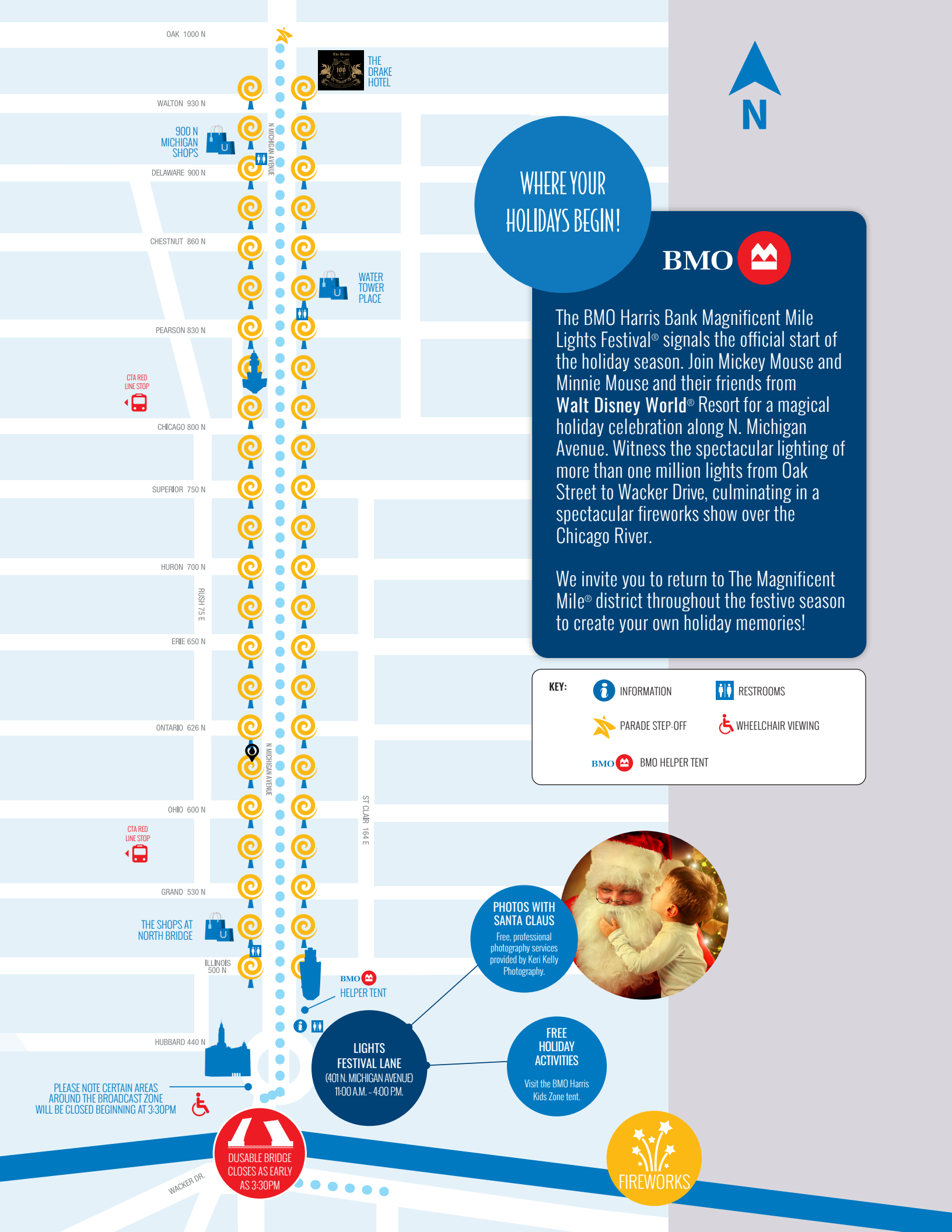
DEBORAH COX

For more information visit:
TheMagnificentMile.com

#BMOLightsFest

THE MAGNIFICENT MILE®

MICHIGAN AVENUE DISTRICT | CHICAGO


OAK 1000 N
THE DRAKE HOTEL
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900 N MICHIGAN SHOPS
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RUSH 75 E
ERIE 650 N
ONTARIO 626 N
N. MICHIGAN AVENUE
ST CLAIR 164 E
OHIO 600 N
CTA RED LINE STOP
GRAND 530 N
THE SHOPS AT NORTH BRIDGE
ILLINOIS 500 N
BMO HELPER TENT
HUBBARD 440 N
PLEASE NOTE CERTAIN AREAS AROUND THE BROADCAST ZONE WILL BE CLOSED BEGINNING AT 3:30PM
DUSABLE BRIDGE CLOSES AS EARLY AS 3:30PM
WACKER DR.
LIGHTS FESTIVAL LANE
(401 N. MICHIGAN AVENUE)
11:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.
FREE HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES
Visit the BMO Harris Kids Zone tent.
PHOTOS WITH SANTA CLAUS
Free, professional photography services provided by Keri Kelly Photography.
FIREWORKS
N
WHERE YOUR HOLIDAYS BEGIN!
BMO
The BMO Harris Bank Magnificent Mile Lights Festival® signals the official start of the holiday season. Join Mickey Mouse and Minnie Mouse and their friends from Walt Disney World® Resort for a magical holiday celebration along N. Michigan Avenue. Witness the spectacular lighting of more than one million lights from Oak Street to Wacker Drive, culminating in a spectacular fireworks show over the Chicago River.
We invite you to return to The Magnificent Mile® district throughout the festive season to create your own holiday memories!
KEY:
INFORMATION
RESTROOMS
PARADE STEP-OFF
WHEELCHAIR VIEWING
BMO HELPER TENT

SEUSS-TACULAR WONDROUS Experience

During Lights Festival Weekend

These Hilton Hotels in Chicago have countless celebrations to add some sparkle throughout your holiday season.

PALMER HOUSE A HILTON HOTEL

Hilton CHICAGO

The Drake REAL CHICAGO

Little kids (and parents) will delight with holiday afternoon teas, gingerbread village, huge Christmas tree, letters to Santa, and a full host of holiday events & kid friendly packages like The Cat In The Hat Dr. Seuss Package at The Drake Hotel.

Future chefs will love the Saturday morning deck-orate the donuts series, annual tree lighting ceremony held on November 19th at 4pm, Holly Jolly Santa Brunch Sunday series, and Horton Hears a Who Dr. Seuss Package at the Hilton Chicago.

Kiddos will delight at the enchanting Lorax Dr. Seuss Package, tree lighting ceremony on November 20th at 11am, and brownies invented at Palmer House, a Hilton hotel.

LEARN MORE

LIGHTS FESTIVAL LANE ACTIVITIES

NOVEMBER 20 | 11:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.

BMO HARRIS BANK KID'S ZONE

Stop by the BMO Harris Kid's Zone tent, featuring free, temporary holiday tattoos for all ages!

ELI'S CHEESECAKE

Visit Eli's tent for a FREE slice of cheesecake, in partnership with the Chicago High School for Agricultural Sciences (one per person, while supplies last). The Greater Chicago Food Depository will be onsite collecting monetary donations (credit cards only) and when you donate $30 or more, you'll get a free whole Eli's Cheesecake to take home! Plus, see Eli's giant 350 lb. cake on display, created to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Lights Festival.

LIFEWAY FOODS

Lifeway Foods will get you into the holiday spirit with Lifeway Kefir sample treats!

HOLIDAY TUNES

A DJ spins festive season tunes all afternoon for Lights Festival Lane, while strolling Carolers fill the court with holiday favorites.

PHOTOS WITH SANTA

Stop by for safe holiday photos with Santa and Mrs. Claus! Photos are taken of kids and families for free by Keri Kelly Photography.

SUBARU

Stop by the Subaru display to play with adoptable dogs from PAWS Chicago! Be sure to check out the all-new 2022 Subaru Outback Wilderness and 2021 Subaru Crosstrek while you're there. With standard symmetrical all-wheel drive and Eyesight standard for your family's next adventure!

T-MOBILE

Check out the mobile showroom truck featuring the full inventory of products and services in addition to games, giveaways, and free charging stations.

THE GLOW ZONE

Look for holiday-themed light-up necklaces and wands with a festive twist in Lights Festival Lane. Choose from Christmas Light Bulb Necklaces, Jingle Bell Necklaces, and Candy Cane and Snowflake Wands.

THE MAGNIFICENT MILE®
MICHIGAN AVENUE DISTRICT | CHICAGO
Special Experiences All Season Long!
The Festive Season
ON THE MAGNIFICENT MILE
For More Information, Visit TheMagnificentMile.com

SHINING BRIGHT FOR 30 YEARS

@THEMAGMILE #BMOLIGHTSFEST

GettinLocal

Don't forget to download the GettinLocal App for the latest BMO Lights Festival updates!

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