

Local parade expected to draw big numbers

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BALTIMORE -

Planning is under way for the White Marsh holiday parade, an annual event that last year drew approximately 15,000 spectators to the Baltimore County town.

The parade kicks off at 10 a.m. Sunday at The Avenue at White Marsh, proceeds down the main street through the shopping area and files out to Honeygo Boulevard where it ends at White Marsh Mall Ring Road.

“The parade has grown since its inception,” said Mary Ann Knab, public relations consultant for The Avenue at White Marsh. “This year there are more than 80 units [in the parade], many of which are groups.”

According to Knab, the annual White Marsh parade has been a partnership project between White Marsh Mall and The Avenue at White Marsh since 1997. The purpose is to create a free event that can be enjoyed by the whole community.

Six area high school marching bands will be on hand, as well as representatives from the Boumi Temple Shriners, clowns, jugglers, area car clubs and many more. This year’s celebrity guest will be none other than Patrick Star from TV’s popular cartoon “SpongeBob Squarepants.”

James Dark, vice president of the local car club Team Vivid Images, explained their participation in the event: “A lot of time and effort is put into our vehicles and participating in the White Marsh holiday parade is a great venue to show them. We hope to give everyone a chance to look into the custom car and truck world to see the joy we get from doing this.”

Twelve vehicles will represent Team Vivid Images. As for their part, they will also be transporting the Baltimore Orioles and Ravens mascots along the parade route. The club’s own Arron Shrieves will carry the Grand Marshall for the parade in his 2002 Chevy S-10.

But of course no holiday parade would be complete without Santa Claus, who will arrive in a horse-drawn carriage.

“In addition, Vytas Reid of Fox 45 and several elected officials will be there,” said Knab.

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