



**JOINT PRESS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE DISTRIBUTION**

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**Chamber Media Contact:**

Jessica Stoller  
Leavenworth Chamber of Commerce  
(509) 548-5807  
media@leavenworth.org

**City Media Contact:**

Kara Raftery (Zupke)  
City of Leavenworth  
(509) 548-5275 ext. 136  
media@cityofleavenworth.com

**ATMOSPHERIC RIVER AND POWERFUL WINDS IMPACT LEAVENWORTH AND THE VILLAGE OF LIGHTS**

Due to the significant and ongoing impact of recent weather events in Leavenworth, Washington, the Village of Lights display in Front Street Park for the Christmastown festival will not be illuminated this weekend.

Currently, the power grid is experiencing a wide-scale outage, impacting over 5,000 Chelan County residents, many of whom are within city limits. We also have extensive damage throughout our residential neighborhoods, including downed trees and power lines. Restoring power to critical medical resources and residents and not overtaxing the system when it comes back online is a primary concern. During this extended power outage, the Chamber will be assessing the damage to trees in Front Street Park and repairing the damage sustained to the lights due to the extreme wind, flying debris, and broken tree branches.

Multiple closures remain on city streets, county roads, and state highways, severely limiting accessibility to Leavenworth and leaving city crews unable to haul off the debris. Recent rising water levels on the Wenatchee and Icicle Rivers have inundated city infrastructure, leading to ongoing flooding concerns. Emergency services are actively responding to the storm's aftermath.

Following an assessment during the day, City staff identified several damaged parking lots that are currently unable to accept vehicles. The loss of this capacity severely limits parking for those accessing the downtown area. In addition, access to vital hospitality resources, including local restaurants, food vendors, and delivery services, has been compromised due to the prolonged power outage and road closures.

The lack of power expected through Friday, and the resulting recovery needed through this weekend, means that the Christmastown events at the Gazebo and the lights in Front Street Park won't be returning in force until next weekend.

"Leavenworth is known worldwide for its *Willkommen* spirit. Right now, we are prioritizing the safety and recovery of our community. We are facing unprecedented storm damage," said Mayor Carl Florea. "We need some time to clear the debris and restore power to our homes and essential services. We deeply appreciate the support and understanding from our friends near and far. The lights and the welcome will be here through February, and we look forward to having you when we can do so."

Those planning a trip this December are encouraged to visit <https://leavenworth.org/emergency-resources> to track the recovery. Remember, if you can't make it in December, we leave the festive light display on all the way through February!

Thank you for all the outpouring of concern and support. We look forward to welcoming you soon to enjoy the beauty and charm of our Bavarian Village when we can provide the experience safely and fully.

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