

Ashford to host fourth annual tree lighting



Journal file photo

The tree is lit during last year's Town of Ashford tree lighting event.

Max Borsuk
Editor

A holiday tradition in the Town of Ashford is returning for the fourth year. The annual Ashford tree lighting ceremony will be on Friday, Dec. 6 at 6 p.m. in front of the Ashford Community Center, located at 9377 Route 240, in West Valley and will provide many fun activities for people of all ages.

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During the tree lighting, a variety of fun activities will be held including a guest speaker, singing from the West Valley Central School chorus, refreshments from the Girls Scouts and the 4H Club, the Boy Scouts will be conducting the Pledge of Allegiance and there will be a visit from Santa Claus on a decorated fire truck. The tree for the lighting will be donated by the [New York State Energy Research and Development Authority](#) and the Ashford Highway Department will be putting up the tree.

"We are doing cookies and hot chocolate and it's a great time to get together with friends and neighbors you don't see," Ashford councilwoman and event organizer Jean Bond said.

Now in its fourth year, the reception to the annual tree lighting has continually grown over the years, Bond said. As the tree lighting gets closer, Bond hopes even more people come out to the event, have some refreshments and enjoy a fun night with their friends and neighbors.

"The first one was pretty good, but I believe it has been growing every year," Bond said. "We hope people can enjoy the music and enjoy the tree lighting."

West Valley safely demolishes former chemical process cell storage building

Springville Journal Staff

WEST VALLEY – EM and its prime contractor CH2M HILL BWXT West Valley recently demolished the chemical process cell-waste storage area at the [West Valley Demonstration Project](#). The galvanized sheet metal arched structure was installed in



A large crane is used to relocate sections of the CPC-WSA to an area where they can be safely demolished.

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1996 to replace the original sprung tent structure that reached its end of life. This brings the total number of surplus buildings removed from the site to 65, with 44 structures removed under the CHBWV contract.

The CPC-WSA, a 13,065 square-foot structure, was used to store containers holding highly contaminated and high dose fuel reprocessing equipment removed from the CPC in the mid- 1980s to facilitate reuse of this cell for storage of high level waste canisters. At the time of its construction, the Department of Energy did not have a path forward for the waste stored in the structure. With the commissioning of the remote-handled waste facility in 2003, the waste that was stored in CPC-WSA could be processed. Most of the containers in the CPC-WSA were remotely processed in the RHWF and either shipped off-site for disposal or packaged and stored onsite until an offsite disposal site becomes available for greater-than-class C waste.

DOE WVDP Director Bryan Bower commended the team for its work.

“The CHBWV Team continues to make great progress in completing the demolition of 47 onsite structures as part of our cleanup efforts. To date, they have safely completed the demolition of 44 structures in an environmentally-sound manner.”

Scott Anderson, president of CH2M HILL BWXT West Valley, EM’s cleanup contractor, said his employees continue to reduce the **West Valley** footprint and eliminate legacy risks at the site.

“I’m proud to be a part of an organization that prides itself on delivering results in a safe and compliant manner. Our accomplishments on this project would not be possible without the dedication and skills of our employees and I look forward to continuing our work together in reducing legacy risks at the site,” Anderson said.