

Capitol Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony



**West Front, U.S. Capitol
Wednesday, December 5, 2007
5:00 P.M.**

Open Coverage (LIVE)

Organizations wishing to cover the lighting ceremony will be permitted to set up before the security sweep at 3:00 pm, but gear may not be left unattended.

Parking for microwave trucks will be available (one per organization) on Maryland Avenue, S.W. (across from Botanic Gardens). **All trucks must be cleared through the Gallery no later than 12 noon on the day of the ceremony.** Please be aware that it may be more convenient to use fiber lines located on the West Front. Organizations who plan to use their lines should contact the House Radio-TV Gallery at 202 225-5214. Architect of the Capitol electricians will be available to provide power to those in need. A mult will also be provided by the AOC.

THE ROSTRUM AREA WILL NOT BE ILLUMINATED! It is the responsibility of those covering the event to provide their own lighting. All lights must remain in place until the end of the ceremony.

The 2007 tree is a 55-foot-tall **Balsam Fir from the Vermont's Green Mountain National Forest.** [Rep. Peter Welch- (D) – at large] As part of the Architect of the Capitol's continuing commitment to save energy, strands of LED (Light Emitting Diodes) lights will be used to decorate the entire tree. LED lights use little electricity, have an extremely long life-span, and are environmentally friendly. In addition, Vermont's Christmas Tree Committee will reduce the carbon footprint associated with transporting the Capitol Christmas Tree to Washington by purchasing carbon offsets. The Capitol Christmas Tree will be lit each evening through January 1, 2008, from nightfall until 11 pm.

Speaker Pelosi plans to flip the switch to light the tree at *approximately* 5:20 pm, with Brandon Young, a 6th grade student from Randolph Elementary in VT.

All questions regarding coverage should be directed to **Helen DeBarge** in the House Radio-TV Gallery at 202 225-5214.