

City cancels ‘Nutcracker’ again

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Enterprise staff writer

For the second year in a row, there will be no “Davis Children’s Nutcracker.”

The city announced Friday that the annual holiday tradition dating back to 1977 will not take place due to COVID-19 concerns.

“Keeping citizens safe and healthy, including participants and staff, is the city’s highest priority,” said City Manager Mike Webb.

Up until last year, “The Davis Children’s Nutcracker” had taken place every December for 42 years.

The city-sponsored program brings together 250 children under the age of



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Vivian Li, who played the Forest Fairy in 2018’s “Davis Children’s Nutcracker” dances amid the activity of rehearsal.

12 playing everything from gnomes to clowns, Russian dancers to fairies, and, of course, the iconic roles of Clara and the Nutcracker Prince.

Teen leaders are hired every year to teach the participants their roles and lines and rehearsals take place beginning the week

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after Thanksgiving at the Veterans Memorial Center and continue until performances the week before Christmas.

But given everything is indoors — including performances at the Veterans Memorial Theater — and the ages of participants (nearly all too young to be vaccinated), “it’s almost like it was custom built to be a bad COVID activity,” Councilman Will Arnold said this week.

That’s why there was no “Nutcracker” in 2020 and why it has been canceled for 2021.

The city said the Parks and Community Services Department “will host a variety of virtual and non-contact events during the month of December that will focus on the spirit of ‘The Davis Children’s Nutcracker.’”

One annual activity that will take place this fall is Davis Neighbors’ Night Out, the city announced

last week.

The 15th Davis Neighbors’ Night Out, sponsored by the city, Healthy Davis Together, UC Davis and the Associated Students of UC Davis, will take place on Sunday, Oct. 17. Guidelines will be provided before then for hosting COVID-safe gatherings.

But once again neighbors will be encouraged to host safe, small, outdoor gatherings and meet or reconnect with those in the neighborhood.

The city is encouraging food safety, social distancing and face coverings as appropriate. Traditional event elements, such as fire truck and bus visits, will return again next year, according to the city.

Adding to the festivities this year will be free giveaways thanks to Healthy Davis Together, which is sponsoring host incentives and raffle prizes, as well as party bags filled with goodies for attendees. Additionally, neighbors can tune into

KDRT 95.7 FM or stream on kdrt.org for event coverage and the chance to win grand prizes.

Mayor Gloria Partida said she is looking forward to the event. “As we continue to look for safe ways for community connection, the annual tradition of Neighbors’ Night Out provides an occasion for neighbors to visit with each other,” she said.

Neighbors’ Night Out is scheduled in October to include new or returning

UC Davis students in neighborhood festivities.

Neighbors, neighborhood associations, neighborhood watch liaisons, apartment complexes, and homeowner associations are encouraged to become event sponsors and take the lead in setting up

small neighborhood gatherings.

Typically Neighbors’ Night Out features 100 to 125 small block events, but this year the goal is 200 gatherings throughout Davis, according to the city.

To host an event, visit <http://cityofdavis.org/>

neighbors. For information, contact Carrie Dyer in the City Manager’s Office at 530-757-5602 or DNNO @cityofdavis.org.

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