



STATE OF MICHIGAN

JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF MANAGEMENT & BUDGET
LANSING

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Official Christmas tree arrives in Lansing Saturday

LANSING – The Michigan Department of Management and Budget and the Michigan Association of Timbermen are bringing the state’s official Christmas tree to Lansing from the western Upper Peninsula. The 60-foot green spruce will be set in place on the Capitol lawn Saturday, November 4, at 9 a.m.

“Michigan’s holiday tree represents the splendor of our natural resources,” said Gov. Jennifer M. Granholm. “It serves as the perfect symbol of the beauty and joy of the season.”

Each year, DMB’s Christmas tree crew looks at trees that are nominated by the public. Along the way, the crew also makes notes on trees that have the potential to become Michigan’s official tree. This year they asked Pat and Liz Valencia of Hancock to contribute their spruce, and the couple graciously agreed.

Individuals and communities across Michigan have been donating firs and spruces for the last 20 years. At least a dozen of them have come from the Upper Peninsula. The timbermen have harvested all of them the old-fashioned way, with crosscut saw and ax, and transported them to Lansing. Also for 20 years, Hi-Ball Crane of Laingsburg has volunteered its crew and equipment to set the trees in place at the Capitol. Boy Scout Troop 63 of Williamston has been on hand to cut the ropes binding the branches for transport.

“We are grateful to the Valencia family for their generous donation,” said DMB Director Lisa Webb Sharpe. “Without the goodwill of many individuals and the continuing involvement of the timbermen, this annual tradition would not be possible.”

The official lighting of the tree will take place Friday, November 17, during Lansing’s annual “Silver Bells in the City” celebration.

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