

**Bridgeport Herald**  
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# STRATFORD PEOPLE WILL GATHER 'ROUND COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS TREE MONDAY

## PRESENTS FOR CHILDREN AND SOLDIERS.

The old town of Stratford is ready to celebrate her first community Christmas tree. The big event in which everyone in Stratford, both young and old, is interested, will be held Christmas Eve, beginning 6:30 o'clock. The tree has been erected on Academy Hill and will be lighted by colored electric lights and all sorts of Christmas tinsel.

If ever that Biblical saying, "An a little child shall lead them," proved itself, it has in this case of the community Christmas tree. The Christmas tree is made possible by the Boys and Girls' Useful club of Stratford, club organized by Mrs. Richard Howell, the purpose of which is to use the energy of the little folks to some good purpose and get them interested in the real things in life which make them and other people happy.

The little folks suggested some months ago that they have a Christmas tree that the whole town could enjoy. Two of three times before efforts had been made to have a Christmas tree in Stratford, but for some reason the plan failed. This year, however, the club members suggested a community Christmas tree that will equal if not surpass anything of the sort in the state. The assistance of the churches and the Child's-Welfare club and other organizations was asked and all entered into the spirit of the affair with a vim. First Selectman Lalley [sic] was happy to know that Stratford was at last to have a real community Christmas tree and he has

worked like a beaver to make the event a big success. The Citizens committee, which has done so much good work in giving the town's soldiers a suitable send-off when they went to camp, have given their assistance also. This committee is composed of George Bateman, chairman; David L. Rhodes, Charles Abercrombie, Harold Lovell, F. W. Townroe, Olaf Unbehagen and Selectman Lalley.

The women's committee, composed of Mrs. Richard Howell, Mrs. Wade Cook, Mrs. Ogden S. Willey, Mrs. Walter Goddard and Mrs. Thomas Taylor have performed wonders in working out the many details to bring the affair to a successful termination.

It is some work to cut out and sew together 2,500 stockings and fill them with candy, nuts and oranges. But the women of Stratford who are interested in any worthy work for the good of the town did all of these things, meeting in the town hall and at their private homes both days and nights. And yesterday everything was in readiness for the greatest Christmas eve Stratford has ever known.

It is planned to give every child in Stratford, up to the age of twelve years, a Christmas stocking. Further than this, every soldier boy of Stratford, no matter where he is, will be sent one of those stockings from his home town Christmas tree. Maybe that won't make him feel that he is no forgotten by the folks back home!

The children are to meet at the town hall at 6:30 o'clock tomorrow night and, headed

by the Stratford Home Guards, they will march to the Community Christmas tree, and here the Home guard will give out the stockings to the children holding tickets which entitle them to a present. These tickets have been given out through the schools. The singing of the Christmas carols by the children will one of the interesting features. The children have been drilled by Musical Director Clark of the public schools.

Following is the programme:

Song - Come, All Ye Faithful.

Prayer - Rev. Henry P. Lyman-Wheaton.

Presentation - Miss Dorothy Buck.

Acceptance - Elliott F. Peck.

Song - Hark, the Angels Sing.

Address- Rev. R. C. U. Whitehead.

Presentation of gifts.

Benediction - Rev. Artye M. Baggett.

Herbert L. Bartram will play cornet for the singing.

The Boys' and Girls' Useful club is not a year old, but it is already one of the leading organizations in making over Stratford from an old fashioned town into a modern, wide-awake community.