



Aquatennial Kicks Off Wednesday with CenterPoint Energy Torchlight Parade

Heroes of Healthcare will serve as 2021 Grand Marshals this Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. on Nicollet from 12th to 4th Streets

Minneapolis (July 19, 2021) --- The **CenterPoint Energy Torchlight Parade** will kick off Aquatennial on Wednesday, July 21 beginning at 7:30 p.m. Dozens of festive floats, colorful displays, and marching bands showcasing groups from all over Minnesota will proceed down Nicollet Mall from 12th Street to 4th Street. This event is free and open to people of all ages.

“Everyone loves a parade, and there’s hardly a better way to welcome people back to downtown Minneapolis this summer than by enjoying the CenterPoint Energy Torchlight Parade,” said Brad Tutunjian, CenterPoint Energy Vice President-Minnesota Region. “Our company and employees have been excited to sponsor the parade for 20 years as a special thanks to the customers we serve. This year is even more special as we come together to celebrate our community and a renewed downtown. We invite everyone to join us for the parade on Wednesday, July 21.”

This year’s Grand Marshals will represent **Heroes of Healthcare** in our community, those who have helped us navigate the COVID-19 pandemic and save lives over the past 16 months. Serving on the Grand Marshal float will be five members of mpls downtown’s Hennepin Healthcare system: Shawna Sheppard (respiratory therapist), Dr. Shirlee Xie, M.D., Jalilia Abdul-Brown (Next Step program), Evan Trewyn (registered nurse), and Emily Herding, M.S. (Molecular Diagnostics Laboratory).



This is CenterPoint Energy’s 20th year sponsoring the Torchlight Parade. In addition to witnessing Minnesota’s largest nighttime parade, attendees can take in piano performances, games, Street Show performances, and other activities all along the parade route from 6 - 8 p.m. Gather your friends and family, bring your blanket or folding chair, find a spot along Nicollet, and enjoy the show!

“We invite you to celebrate summer with us as we kick off Aquatennial with the CenterPoint Energy Torchlight Parade,” said Leah Wong, vice president of external relations, mpls downtown council. “We’re bringing floats, entertainment and unique cars together with interactive games and piano performances all along Nicollet’s restaurant scene. Join us for a fun night out as Aquatennial brings us together downtown.”

The emcees for the CenterPoint Energy Torchlight Parade are K102’s Chris Carr and Company featuring Chris Carr, Kia and McKaila. You can check out their play-by-play near Peavey Plaza at 11th and Nicollet.

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CenterPoint Energy Torchlight Parade

Learn more about this year's CenterPoint Energy Torchlight Parade here:

<https://www.aquatennial.com/torchlightparade/>

Aquatennial, the Official Civic Celebration of the City of Minneapolis, sets sail July 21 through July 24, 2021. A full schedule of Aquatennial events can be found at

<https://www.aquatennial.com/events/>.

About the Minneapolis Aquatennial

The Minneapolis Aquatennial, the Official Civic Celebration of the City of Minneapolis, offers outstanding entertainment and activities in the City of Lakes for all ages. It is managed and produced by the mpls downtown council. This year's Aquatennial is sponsored by Target, CenterPoint Energy, Hennepin Healthcare, Minneapolis Recycles, City of Minneapolis, and Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board. For more information, please visit aquatennial.com or call 612-376-7669.

About the mpls downtown council

Founded in 1955, and one of the most historic business associations in the nation, the mpls downtown council (mdc) is a membership-based entity that works to create an extraordinary downtown. The mdc's collaborative development of the Intersections: Downtown 2025 Plan is designed to help downtown businesses; community leaders and citizens build on downtown assets and implement future goals. For more information, please visit mplsdowntown.com.

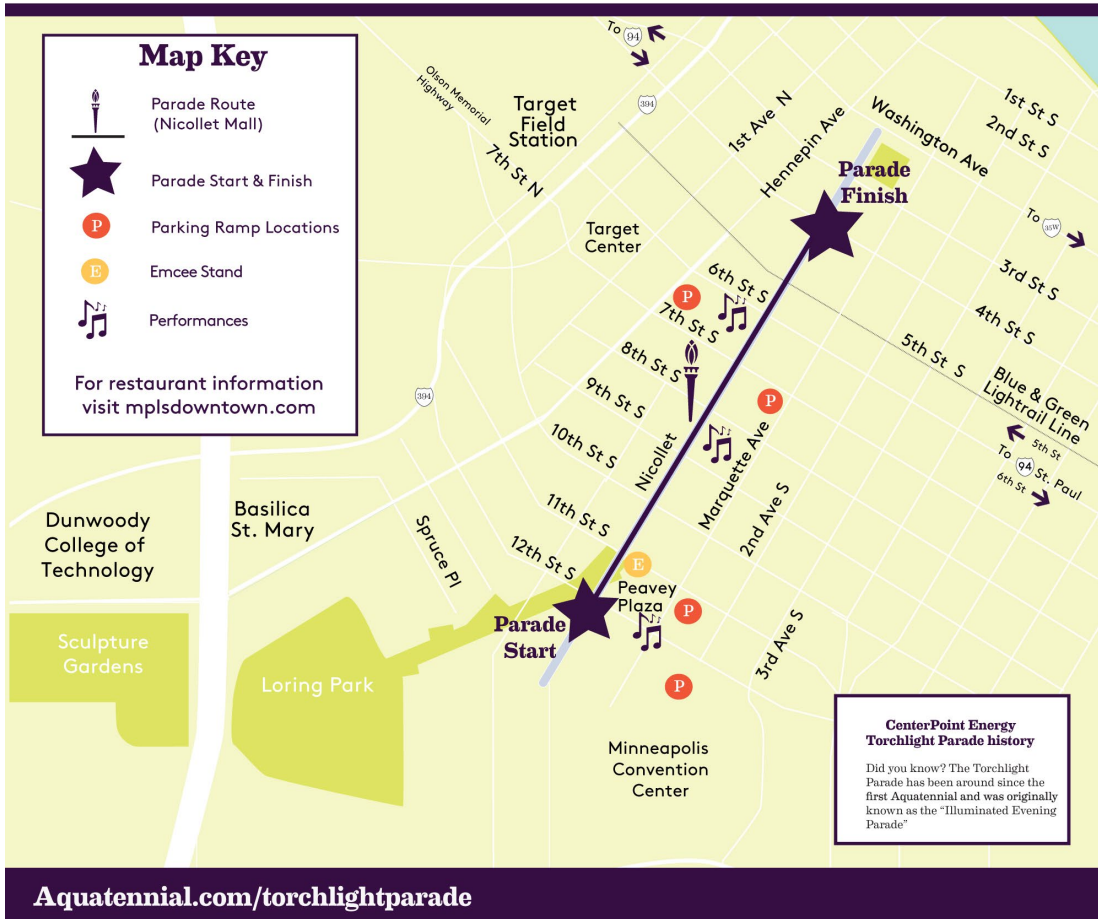
About CenterPoint Energy

CenterPoint Energy, Inc. (NYSE: CNP) is an energy delivery company with electric transmission and distribution, power generation and natural gas distribution operations that serve more than 7 million metered customers in Arkansas, Indiana, Louisiana, Minnesota, Mississippi, Ohio, Oklahoma and Texas. As of March 31, 2021, the company owned approximately \$36 billion in assets and also owned 53.7 percent of the common units representing limited partner interests in Enable Midstream Partners, LP, a publicly traded master limited partnership that owns, operates and develops strategically located natural gas and crude oil infrastructure assets. With approximately 9,500 employees, CenterPoint Energy and its predecessor companies have been in business for more than 150 years. For more information, visit CenterPointEnergy.com.

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Access to Aquatennial logos, images, PDF schedule and press releases can be found at

<https://www.aquatennial.com/press/>



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