

Silver medalists to be featured in Asheville parade

ASHEVILLE — The Asheville Downtown Association on Tuesday announced Olympic silver medalists Lauren Tamayo and Manteo Mitchell will serve as grand marshals for the 66th Annual Asheville Holiday Parade on Saturday, Nov. 17.

This year's parade theme is "Silver & Snowflakes" and is sponsored by Mission Health Systems, The Grove Arcade and co-sponsored by the City of Asheville.

Tamayo, who took the silver medal as part of the women's pursuit cycling team, makes her home in Asheville. Mitchell, one of the most decorated men's athletes in Western Carolina University's history, ran on a broken leg to help the men's 4x400 meter relay team earn silver.

"It's particularly fitting to have Lauren and Manteo as grand marshals since we're also celebrating the silver anniversary of the Asheville Downtown Association this year," said Parade Director Sandie Rhodes.

New this year is a completely revamped judging and prize structure. The revised format will allow for prizes in different categories such as school groups, dance teams, best handmade float, etc.

Parade entry applications are available at www.ashevilledowntown.org/events with a deadline of Oct. 1. This year there are stricter guidelines for entries emphasizing decorations, costumes and entertainment value. All applications are reviewed by committee before acceptance.