



The city's annual **HOLIDAY LIGHTS PARADE AND TREE-LIGHTING CEREMONY** will take place on Dec. 14 in Downtown Arlington.

The parade will start at 6 p.m. at the corner of Main and Center Streets and will travel west on Main Street, south on West Street, east on Abram Street and will end at the corner of Abram and East Street. Handicap parking is available in the lot at South Street and Oak Street.

Before the parade, activities will begin at 2 p.m. at and around the Levitt Pavilion Arlington (100 W. Abram St.) and will include Reindeer Games (2-5 p.m.), pictures with Santa (2-4 p.m.), movies in the City Council Chambers (2-6 p.m.) and music at the Levitt (3 p.m.). Following the hour-long parade, the City's official tree-lighting ceremony will take place.

For more: holidaylightsparade.com.

MANSFIELD'S HOMETOWN HOLIDAYS, which will take place from 5-9 p.m. on Dec. 6 at City Hall, has a Hallmark-worthy lineup of merry moments, including shopping in a historic downtown, tree lighting with Santa, a hometown parade and much more. The free festival includes live reindeer in a petting zoo; food trucks; games and rides; and hands-on activities like cookie decorating, ornament making and more. Of course, Santa and Mrs. Claus will be in their house, ready to hear wishes from little ones.



And because Mansfield does the holidays like no other, following the lighting of the official city tree, there will be a fireworks show. Other activities include a snow hill for sledding, street hockey and a bevy of photo ops.

For more: mansfieldtexas.gov/789/Hometown-Holidays.

Holiday highlights

Here are some fun and worthwhile 'happenings' to help you make the most of the season this year



Arlington Music Hall will present **SPECTACULAR CHRISTMAS**, the magical, musical celebration of the holiday season, on Dec. 7, 8, 14 and 15. Shows begin at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday and at 2 p.m. on Sunday.

Spectacular Christmas showcases sensational singers, dynamic dancers, charming children, a kick-line of lovely young ladies, colorful costumes, sparkling special effects and tops it off with a visit from Santa.

You don't want to miss the Texas talent on display in a beautiful holiday show at the historic landmark Arlington Music Hall.

For more: arlingtonmusichall.net.



Join Pantego's locally owned shops and restaurants for a family-friendly holiday event, **A THOUSAND SNOWFLAKES**, which will take place from noon-10 p.m. on Dec. 12.

The event will feature special items, sales, door prizes and a holiday decorating contest – plus an appearance by Santa! Visitors to participating locations may enter to win a gift basket valued at over \$1,000.

For more: townofpantego.com.

INTERLOCHEN CHRISTMAS LIGHTS, one of the largest holiday light displays in north Texas, will be on display from Dec. 13 through Christmas.

Beginning Friday, Dec. 13, the Arlington Police Department will set up traffic control posts from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. to help facilitate safe travel through the area. Motorists must enter the Interlochen neighborhood from Randol Mill Road at Westwood Drive.



Every year, more than 200 homeowners in this northwest Arlington neighborhood near Interstate 30 celebrate the season by adorning their homes and property with festive lights and holiday-themed displays. Admission is free. Travel route and safety information is below:

Interlochen Neighborhood Entrance and Exit:

- Enter the Interlochen neighborhood from Westwood Drive at Randol Mill Road.
- From Westbound I-30, take the Fielder Road exit and go south to Randol Mill Road. Turn right on Randol Mill Road and follow it to Westwood Drive.
- From Eastbound I-30, take the Eastchase Parkway exit, turn east on Meadowbrook Boulevard to Randol Mill Road, then right on Randol Mill Road to Westwood Drive.
- All other streets to the Interlochen neighborhood are closed. Left turns are prohibited from northbound Bowen at Westwood and northbound Oakwood at Randol Mill. All traffic will be forced to turn southbound on Crowley Road. Tour buses will not be allowed on Porto Bello Court.

Safety Tips:

- Traffic must keep right at all times, leaving the left lane open for emergency vehicles and Interlochen homeowners.
- Adults and children must be properly secured by safety belts and child safety seats.
- Visit during the week. Weekends are the highest traffic-volume days.
- Pack a little patience. Traveling through the area could be slow.
- Pedestrian traffic is permitted. Roller skating in the street is prohibited by the Arlington Municipal Code. No solicitation or sales by any vendors or group will be allowed from any public roadway or public rights-of-way.

For more: lakeinterlochentx.com/christmas-lights.

MOORE FUNERAL HOME WILL HOST AN EVENING OF REMEMBRANCE on Dec. 14. A Candlelight Memorial Service will take place at 5 p.m., followed by a Holiday Luminary Park Tour from 6-8 p.m.



The tour will feature a live nativity scene, a petting zoo and photographs with Santa Claus. Moore Funeral Home is located at 1219 N. Davis Drive.

For more information, visit

dignitymemorial.com/funeral-homes/arlington-tx/moore-funeral-home/2348.



Arlington Master Chorale will present its annual holiday concert, **“THE LIFE OF CHRISTMAS,”** at 7 p.m. on Dec. 12 and 13. The Thursday concert will be held at First United Methodist Church (313 North Center St.). The Friday concert will be held at Trinity United Methodist Church (1200 W. Green Oaks Blvd.).

During each performance, the chorale will sing holiday favorites, such as “Joy to the World” and “Sing, Sing Noel.” On Thursday, the concert will feature numbers by The Children’s Chorus from Fort Worth Academy of Fine Arts. On Friday, the Arlington Children’s Chorus will perform.

For more: arlingtonmasterchorale.com.

The Art Ballet Academy will present **“THE NUTCRACKER”** on Dec. 14 at the Mansfield ISD Center for Performing Arts (1110 W. Debbie Lane, Mansfield).



Show times are 2 p.m. and 6 p.m.

Join the Art Ballet Academy

on a magical trip to the land of the Sugarplum Fairy, waltzing snowflakes and enchanted toys.

Tchaikovsky’s glorious score, dazzling costumes, giant growing Christmas tree and falling snow make The Nutcracker a can’t-miss production.

For more: abacademy.com/The_Nutcracker_IXZ2.html.

PRAIRIE LIGHTS, the premier holiday light park in Texas located at Lynn Creek Park on Joe Pool Lake in Grand Prairie, will be open Dec. 1, 6-8 and 13-29, featuring more than 5 million lights in a breathtaking celebration of the Christmas season. Upon arriving at the entrance of Prairie Lights, you will be dazzled with lights set along two miles of a drivable path.



Hundreds of new displays in shapes of all kinds line and arch over the roads. Halfway through the drive you get out of your car for a stop at Holiday Village where you will find food, gifts, Santa, a new indoor Holiday Show and the Holiday Magic Lighted Walk-Through Forest. Once you get back in your

vehicle, the second half of the drive ends with the very animated light tunnel – the perfect finale to a night you will never forget!

Holiday Village

Halfway through the drive, get out of your car to play in Holiday Village. Under a giant tent enjoy pictures with Santa, concessions, a gift shop and additional attractions.

Concessions sold include hot cocoa, apple cider, coffee and a variety of seasonal food like funnel cakes, kettle corn and more.

All-New Indoor Holiday Show

Inside the Holiday Village Tent performers help spread holiday spirit via an entertaining, family friendly performance.

Holiday Magic Lighted Walk-Thru Forest

Get out of your car at Holiday Village and take a stroll through the trees that will be lit up with tens of thousands of lights. With an amazing walk-through tunnel of lights and an animated Christmas tree, this attraction is sure to have everyone saying WOW!

Santa will be at Holiday Village every night through Dec. 23 listening to holiday wishes and taking pictures with the kids for an additional fee. On Dec. 24 Santa must return to the North Pole to pick up all the presents and deliver them to homes all around the world.

Gift Shop & Vendors

Take care of a few gift items on your holiday shopping list inside Holiday Village.

For more: prairielights.org.



THE CRC ARLINGTON CHRISTMAS EVE 5K will take place at 8 a.m. on Dec. 24 at River Legacy Parks (701 N.W. Green Oaks Blvd.).

Runners can kick off their Christmas Eve in a special way this holiday season, while seeing old friends and making new ones. Runners and race walkers from all over the community are welcome to participate.

For more: runningintheusa.com/details/53278.



Trinity United Methodist Church's annual **SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS CONCERT** will take place at 6 p.m. on Dec. 8 at the church (1200 W. Green Oaks Blvd.).

The concert will feature the Trinity Chancel Choir, Children's Choir, Handbells and the church's specialty ensembles, accompanied by a full orchestra.

Come celebrate the season with joyous songs both secular and sacred. The concert is free, and no tickets are required, but church officials recommend arriving early as seating has been known to be extremely limited in years past.

For more: trinityarl.org.



To help you unwind during the holiday season, Arlington Yoga Center (1011 W. Abram St.) will host **CANDLELIGHT YOGA + MEDITATION** at 6 p.m. on Dec. 8.

This evening of restorative movement and relaxation will feature a gentle yoga practice by candlelight, followed by a guided relaxation to quiet the mind.

What to bring: Water, mat, pillow, blanket, eye pillow, essential oils, any other items of comfort.

For more: arlingtonyogacenter.com.



Congregation Beth Shalom (1212 Thannisch Drive) will observe **CHANUKAH** with a variety of services from Dec. 22-30. Here are the highlights:

Dec. 22: A youth group event

Dec. 23: A Torah study at 10:30 a.m.

Dec. 24: A Sisterhood gift-wrapping fundraiser.

Dec. 27: Candle lighting at 5:12 p.m.; a Hanukah Shabbat service at 7:30 p.m.

Dec. 28: A Shabbat service at 10 a.m.; Havdalah at 6:26 p.m.

Dec. 30: A Torah study at 10:30 a.m.

For more: bethshalom.org.



The University of Texas at Arlington's Department of Art and Art History will present a **HOLIDAY GLASS SALE** from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. on Dec. 14 at the UTA The Studio Art Center (810 S. Davis Drive).

The Glass Program will host faculty, staff, students, and the general public for this one-day event. Thousands of one-of-a-kind functional, decorative, and artistic works will be available for purchase. The event is free and open to the public and will also include live demonstrations. Come stay warm by the furnaces, find some wonderful gifts for friends and family, and get to know the members of this part of the UTA community.

For more, email Justin Ginsberg at ginsberg@uta.edu.

THE MISSION ARLINGTON CHRISTMAS STORE will be open from 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. on Dec. 9-21 (excluding Sundays) and from 10 a.m. - noon on Dec. 23, providing area residents in need with gifts and food.

In 1989, in the office of the Mission's Director Tillie Burgin, the ministry of the Christmas Store started just like every other ministry: a person had a need. In previous years, the requests for assistance through Mission Arlington increased significantly in January of every year. Families were taking rent and utilities monies and trying to provide "Christmas" for their children. That began a toy collection. Bible Study leaders were able to come to Tillie's office and pick out toys for their families, and deliver grocery sacks full of toys to their apartment Bible Studies. Families were encouraged to



pay their rent, pay their utilities and let Mission Arlington help with the "extras" of toys, trees and turkey.

This simple act of caring for a few families during their time of need led to a remarkable evolution over the years. The Arlington community began to support the concept of helping people through the Christmas Season in a huge way, some by donating money, others by donating gifts and food, still others by volunteering their time at the store. The number of people assisting with gifts and toys increased by hundreds every year. Now, thanks to donations, more than 30,000 children receive Christmas gifts each year at the store, located at 400 W. South St.

The children of the area aren't the only ones served at the Mission. Adults who come through the Christmas Store hear the story of Christ's birth, shared from the Scriptures and narrated by faithful story-tellers. Then they proceed to the store to choose from thousands of gift and food items for their children.

For more: missionarlington.org.

Mansfield Women's Club will conduct its annual **HOLIDAY HOME TOUR** from 1-5 p.m. on Dec. 8. The tour features five to six beautifully decorated homes in Mansfield and South Arlington this year and supports the Women's Club's main fundraiser of the year.



Proceeds will benefit the health, welfare and education of women and children in our area through the club's yearly charity grant program. Tickets are \$30 in advance or \$35 at the door of each tour home on Sunday, Dec. 8. Holiday raffle tickets will also be available at each tour home for \$10. You might win one of three great prizes that would make a wonderful

Christmas present for yourself or a loved one.

All ticket sales are final. The event is open to people who are at least 13 years of age. Homes are not handicap accessible. The event will be held rain or shine.

For more: themansfieldwomensclub.com/holiday-home-tour-2019.

Epic Waters Indoor Waterpark in Grand Prairie (2970 Epic Place) just got a little more magical! Create the best Christmas memory this season on December 7, 14, and 21 by bringing your little ones to have **BREAKFAST WITH SANTA**.



The event includes a breakfast buffet, a souvenir photo with St. Nick, holiday crafts, and all-you-can swim, splash and slide access for the entire day. Guests can also participate in a Santa Letter Workshop and post their notes at the waterpark's North Pole Mailbox ... replies guaranteed! Times: 8 a.m. (sharp) Saturdays. Cost: \$49 for guests over 48 inches tall; \$19 for guests under 48 inches tall. (Season pass holders will only pay \$29). The fee includes all-day park admission.

For more: epicwatersgp.com/breakfast-with-santa.

On page 40, we highlighted Prairie Lights. The Hilton Arlington (2401 E. Lamar Blvd.) is hosting its annual **HOLIDAY LIGHT TOUR** on Dec. 10, beginning at 4:30 p.m.

If you sign up for the tour, you can tour the Prairie Lights with family, friends

and colleagues. Bites, cocktails and networking will take place from 4:30-6 p.m., then you'll take the tour of this fabulous venue that features more than 5 million lights in an array of displays. Plus, you can take in all the fun at the Holiday Village.

The cost for the tour is \$20 for adults, which includes admission to the tour and Santa's Village, light bites and two drink tickets per adult. The cost is \$10 for children 15 and under.

The tour is sponsored by TxACOM (Texas Alliance of Convention, Meeting & Event Operations Managers) and The Hotel Association. It is conducted via a luxury coach courtesy of Roadrunner Coaches. This event has limited space and will sell out so please purchase your seat(s) soon.

For more: allevents.in/arlington/annual-holiday-light-tour/200018357787634.



Enjoy pancakes with everyone's favorite North Pole resident at Trinity United Methodist Church's third annual **BREAKFAST WITH SANTA!** Admission includes a photo with Santa taken by a church photographer on a beautifully decorated set.

Special holiday craft tables will be available while kids wait for their turn with the Big Guy. Breakfast with Santa at TUMC (1200 W. Green Oaks Blvd.) is a fantastic family experience for kids of all ages.

For more: 817-274-1345.



817 Arts Alliance seeks to empower local artisans by providing affordable venues for them to bring their creations to market. At the **HAPPY HOLIDAYS POP-UP SHOP**, which will be held through Dec. 22 at Arlington Museum of Art, you will find many one- or few-of-a-kind works of art, fine craft and other handmade goodies, including ceramics, jewelry, bath products and more.

There is no fee to shop at the Happy Holidays Pop-Up Shop. If you are not attending the exhibit "Albrecht Dürer: Master Prints" at AMA, come to the side door and take the elevator to the basement level. Free parking is available in downtown Arlington.

HHPS is open during museum hours from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. on Tuesday through Saturday and from 1 - 5 p.m. on Sunday.

For more: facebook.com/817ArtsAlliance.



Arlington Charities serves local families during the holidays by providing **HOLIDAY FOOD BASKETS AND TOYS**. Last year, 528 families and 1,842 individuals received holiday help.

Arlington Charities' mission is to lead and engage the community in the fight against hunger and poverty, and it welcomes donations and volunteers to help process the baskets.

For more: arlingtoncharities.org.