

Holiday highlights

ACVB to host '12 Days of Christmas'

The Arlington Convention & Visitors Bureau is hosting a "12 Days of Christmas" giveaway



throughout the month of December. Prizes will range from gift cards to local small businesses, tickets to events in town, free food in Arlington and more leading up to one grand prize. Follow Arlington CVB's Instagram and Facebook pages and keep a look out for directions on how to participate.

arlington.org

City's Holiday Lights Parade is set for Dec. 12

The city's annual Holiday Lights Parade and tree-lighting ceremony will take place on Dec. 12 in Downtown Arlington.

The parade traditionally starts 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 ends 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 a variety of entertaining options, set up to ensure that social distancing will be practiced by attendees and participants. Following the hour-long parade, the City's official tree-lighting ceremony traditionally takes place.

holidaylightsparade.com



There's music in the air ...

Symphony Arlington will present a holiday-themed concert at 7:35 p.m. on Dec. 17 at Arlington Music Hall and online.

The concert will feature tenor Ricardo Garcia (pictured) and will include performances of Beethoven's Symphony No. 1 in C Major, as well as holiday favorites.

To continue a Symphony Arlington tradition, the featured musical artists will ask audience members to join them for a holiday sing along that will include historical, cherished and fun Christmas songs.

symphonyarlington.org



Here's your invitation to a Holiday Party

Are you ready for some Christmas cheer? Then come to **Theatre Arlington's Holiday Party** and spend some time with Micah, Leslie and Lori as they sing the night away.

This Holiday Party will last from Dec. 4-12, with shows at 8 p.m. on Friday and Saturday and at 2 p.m. on Sunday.

The performing artists will share laughs, stories, songs and give the audience a chance to join in the fun. This is the perfect party and Christmas celebration for 2020 and a fun time to share with the whole family.

theatrearlington.org

Please note: While at press time, the events listed here are scheduled, many are subject to change due to the pandemic. Check the websites this month for updated information.

Mansfield's gearing up for Hometown Holidays

Mansfield's **Hometown Holidays** will take place from 5-9 p.m. on Dec. 4 and from noon-8 p.m. on Dec. 5 in Historic Downtown Mansfield.

The 2020 event will include the same crafts, live musical performances, food trucks, petting zoo and ice slides you know and love. New this year, Hometown

Holidays will feature exciting carnival rides, including a 40-foot tall Ferris wheel for the middle of Main Street.

The free festival traditionally includes live reindeer in a petting zoo and hands-on activities like cookie decorating, ornament making and more. Of course, Santa and Mrs. Claus will be in their house, ready to wave to little ones.



The official City of Mansfield tree is moving to The LOT Downtown, at the corner of Main and Broad, and will be lit on Friday night (Dec. 4) at 6:30 p.m. It will remain there throughout December for photos. Fireworks will follow the tree lighting on Friday night and will be done again on Saturday night, both times at approximately 6:30pm.

mansfieldtexas.gov/789/Hometown-Holidays



Are you ready for Holiday in the Park?

Seeking thrills along with some holiday magic? Look no further than **Holiday in the Park at Six Flags Over Texas**. Open for select days through Jan. 4, this immersive winter wonderland experience features seasonal entertainment with festive shows and dancing reindeer, a Merry Marketplace where you can indulge in holiday favorites like hot chocolate and smores, and the chance to slide down The Frosty Snow Hill, a hill covered in real snow.

World class thrills are also on deck this holiday season, as many of your favorite rides will be operating during Holiday in the Park. That's favorite, as in El Diablo, The Riddler Revenge, Runaway Mine Train and others.

sixflags.com/overtexas



Festival of Trees to make its debut this month

The Junior League of Arlington will bring a new tradition to Arlington this holiday season: the inaugural **Festival of Trees**, which will be held from Dec. 4-23 at the Center for Community Service (4002 Pioneer Pkwy.).

More than 50 uniquely decorated Christmas trees will be on display, each one sponsored and decorated by an individual or group, including local businesses and non-profit organizations. The public is invited to tour the Festival of Trees for free in person or virtually, and can vote for their favorite trees online. The tree that receives the most votes will receive a grant to their non-profit (501(c)3) organization of choice. The public will also have the opportunity to purchase or bid on Christmas trees and decorations beginning Dec. 20.

The Festival of Trees will be open for viewing Monday-Friday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and from 6 to 8 p.m., Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and on Sundays from noon to 6 p.m.

jlarlington.org

Enjoy Interlochen from the safety of your car

The vastly popular **Interlochen Christmas Lights**, one of the largest holiday light displays in north Texas, will be on display from Dec. 18 through Christmas.

Beginning Friday, Dec. 18, 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. The natural social distancing provided by the free, two-mile car tour through the 200 plus homes parade of Lights makes it one of the few local holiday entertainment options that can go on in a normal way and still be totally safe.

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.

lakeinterlochentx.com/christmas-lights



Viridian Lights

The **Viridian Lights Drive-through Christmas lights display** will run through Jan. 3.

The free tour, which is open to the public, will take place along Viridian Park Lane.

viridiandfw.com



Prairie Lights is a sight to behold

Officials at the City of Grand Prairie Parks, Arts, and Recreation Department have good news for fans of the City's annual **Prairie Lights tradition**: The park will re-open for a 15th year and be open through Dec. 31 – safely and with almost no adjustments required for park visitors, thanks to the event's already-baked-in socially-distanced structure.

Located along the shores of Joe Pool Lake, Prairie Lights is a two-mile, drive-through holiday park experience that showcases a stunning display of more than five million lights arranged in hundreds of festive holiday scenes throughout the park. While the park's out-of-car experience (the Holiday Village) will not open this year due to pandemic considerations, the event will feature a new drive-through concession option; and one of the most famous light installations – the animated grand-finale tunnel – will once again be in place to delight visitors as they make their exit from the park.

Since its premiere in 2005, Prairie Lights has become one of the top holiday attractions in the region, drawing more than 29,000 vehicles and 165,000 guests last year alone. Duane Strawn, Executive Director for the City's Parks, Arts, and Recreation Department, said that the City is expecting an even stronger turnout in 2020.

prairielights.org



Observing Chanukah

Congregation Beth Shalom (1212 Thannisch Drive) will observe **Chanukah** with a variety of services from Dec. 11-18. Here are the highlights:

Dec. 11: Candle lighting at 5:05

p.m.; Shabbat service at 6:30 p.m.

Dec. 12: Shabbat service at 10 a.m.;

Havdalah at 6:13 p.m.; Brotherhood/

Sisterhood-sponsored virtual

Chanukah party at 6:30 p.m.

Dec. 13: Religious school at 9:30 a.m.

Dec. 14: Torah study at 10:30 a.m.

Dec. 18: Candle lighting at 5:07

p.m.; Shabbat service at 6:30 p.m.

bethshalom.org

Mission Arlington Christmas Store

The **Mission Arlington Christmas Store** will be open from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. on Dec. 12-22 (excluding Sundays) and from 10 a.m.-noon on Dec. 23, providing area residents in need with gifts and food.



The store is set up like many traditional "stores." Shelves and tables are used to hold the gifts and divide those gifts by age groups. It is staffed by churches, schools, families and individuals who have donated toys, worked, planned and prayed for the people who will come to the Store.

Volunteers' tasks include being a shopper helper, helping adults to find gifts for their kids, stockers, keeping toys and other gifts placed in the store, child care, providing a safe place for parents to leave their children when they shop – and so much more.

missionarlington.org/the-christmas-store