

Holiday Highlights

Join the circus (for an evening, at least)

Step right up for a magical holiday experience under the big top at The Super American Christmas Circus, kicking off Dec. 2 at Traders Village in Grand Prairie.



This thrilling holiday spectacle features amazing daredevil and aerialist acts, cotton candy and other

circus treats, hilarious comedy routines, song-and-dance numbers, and even an appearance by Santa himself.

For more: superamericancircus.com

Be sure to take the Holiday Home Tour

The Mansfield Women's Club's Holiday Home Tour will take place from 1-5 p.m. on Dec. 5. The tour will feature six beautifully decorated Mansfield homes; you can see all of them for \$25.

All proceeds will benefit the Mansfield Women's Club' projects for the health, welfare and education of women and children in our area through grants in 2022.

Tickets are available at Tom Thumb, Merle Norman Cosmetic Studio and Poured Wine Bar, or contact Kathleen Powers 817-932-2329.

For more: themansfieldwomensclub.com



JLA to host the second annual Festival of Trees & a cookie charity event

The Junior League of Arlington's second annual Festival of Trees will be held from Dec. 3-23 at the Center for Community Service (4002 W. 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 and to vote for their favorite trees online.

The Junior League of Arlington is also partnering with Santa Claus to spread some much-needed holiday cheer this year at the Annual Cookies with the Clauses event from 6-8 p.m. on Dec. 3.

This family-friendly event will feature Reindeer Games, pictures with Santa, and take-home Sugar Bee Sweets Cookie Kits.

In addition to the family-fun festivities, JLA is also hoping to be able to send a Sugar Bee Sweets Cookie Kit to every child residing at SafeHaven, Tarrant County's domestic abuse shelter.

The women of JLA hope to sponsor 100 cookie kits to send to children in need. SafeHaven Cookie Kits can be sponsored for \$5, which provides one child a cookie kit at-cost. All funds raised during the Cookies with the Clauses event will provide funding to JLA's abuse-prevention efforts in Tarrant County. For more information, to buy tickets or to sponsor a cookie kit: jlarlington.org

Don't miss the Interlochen Lights ...

The vastly popular Interlochen Christmas Lights, one of the larger holiday light displays in north Texas, will be on display throughout December.

Throughout the month, 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.

For more: lakeinterlochentx.com/christmas-lights

... And be sure to take in Prairie Lights

One of Texas' more popular holiday attractions, Prairie Lights in Grand Prairie, will be better than ever this year with one-of-a-kind custom displays and new indoor and outdoor attractions.

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.

Prairie Lights will be open at 6 p.m. each day through Dec. 31. In addition to the dazzling light

displays, photos with Santa and Concessions will be available for purchase at the park's Holiday Village, located in the midst of the drive-through light displays.



The end of the General Admission line will be marked on busier nights with a designated Prairie Lights vehicle. This park status will also be posted each night to Prairie Lights website, prairielights.org.

Admissions include drive-thru experience, Holiday Village Carnival Rides and the Magical Walk-Thru Forest.

For more: prairielights.org/hours-pricing/

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Mansfield celebration will be held Dec. 3-4

Mansfield will host its annual Hometown Holidays event on Dec. 3-4 in Historic Downtown. This year's theme is "Main Street Midway," and there will be activities aplenty for residents and visitors.

From 5-9 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 3, there will be the annual tree lighting ceremony, live entertainment at The LOT Downtown, an ice slide, a Ferris wheel, a carousel, carnival games, fireworks, art vendor booths and plenty of food options. Visitors with youngsters are encouraged to bring their cameras to get photos with Santa and Mrs. Claus.

From 10 a.m.-9 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 4, Hometown Holidays will continue with entertainment at The LOT Downtown, the Ferris wheel, the carousel, games, art vendor booths, more food and shops. Santa Claus will be back, as well. Plus, Graceland Ninjaz will perform a holiday show at The LOT Downtown.

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



Elf on the Shelf's Magical Holiday Journey will run through Jan. 2

After a sold out run in Los Angeles last year, The Elf on the Shelf's Magical Holiday Journey is coming to Choctaw Stadium in Arlington (formerly Globe Life Park) with a one-of-a-kind, open-air experience to spread a Texas-sized serving of Christmas cheer. The dazzling adventure runs through Jan. 2, 2022, and features journeys beginning at 5 p.m. each evening, with new groups heading out every 15 minutes.

Here's the story behind The Elf on the Shelf's Magical Holiday Journey:

With Christmas Spirit running low, Santa's sleigh's compass goes haywire, and Scout Elf Tiny Tinkerman and the Scout Elves need human help. Visitors join Scout Elf Tiny Tinkerman and the Scout Elves on a quest to collect the ingredients for Christmas Spirit, as each elf-loving crew magically shrinks down to elf size and embarks on a journey through twinkling wonderlands to set Santa and Christmas back on course.

For more: dallas.elfontheshelfjourney.com

Christkindl Market is a local gem

Back in person after a hiatus because of the pandemic, the Texas Christkindl Market will run through Jan. 2, 2022 at Choctaw Stadium (formerly known as Globe Life Park).

This family-friendly market, inspired by a cherished German tradition, features holiday gifts, decorations, and other festive goods.

Holiday shoppers will find exclusive Käthe Wohlfahrt Christmas decorations and designs from the renowned Rothenburg ob der Tauber Christmas Village in Germany, as well as experience authentic German cuisine.

The market is free; parking fees may apply. The market is open from 11 a.m.-9 pm. It will be closed every Monday, on Christmas Day and on New Year's Eve.

The almost 70-year relationship between Arlington and its sister city, Bad Königshofen, inspired the Texas Christkindl Market to commemorate its first magical

season in 2011. With several markets all over Europe for the holidays, the Texas Christkindl Market also works with its partner Christmas city, Rothenburg ob der Tauber, to bring the same wonderful magic and feeling to Texas.

Among the unique features at the market are gifts inspired by the Christkindl Angel. In some parts of Germany and Europe, the Christkindl Angel brings gifts to children on Christmas. She is depicted as a fairy-like being with angelic wings, dressed in gold and white, who is never seen. Traditionally, the children are ushered out of the room on December 24, and the angel



arrives to decorate the tree and leave the presents. The arrival and departure of the Christkindl Angel is announced by the ringing of a small bell. Upon her departure, family members get to see their presents.

For more: txchristkindlmarket.com

Holiday Lights Parade is set for Dec. 11

The city's annual Holiday Lights Parade and tree-lighting ceremony will take place on Dec. 11 in Downtown Arlington.

The parade traditionally starts at 6 p.m. at the corner of Main and Center Streets and travels 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 for all attendees. Reindeer Games will be held from 2-5 p.m. Parade-day entertainment will take place from 2-6 p.m.



Following the hour-long parade, the City's official tree-lighting ceremony traditionally will take place at 7 p.m. Santa Claus will be available for photos from 7:15-8:30 p.m. And there will be a holiday-themed movie screening, beginning at 7:30 p.m. at the Levitt.

The first holiday parade, called "The Parade of Lights," occurred in 2002, although a tree-lighting ceremony dates to 1993.

For more: holidaylightsparade.com

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Mission Arlington Christmas store

The Mission Arlington Christmas Store will be open from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. on Dec. 11-22 (excluding Sundays) and from 10 a.m.-noon on Dec. 23, providing area residents in need with gifts and food. The store is staffed by churches, schools, families and individuals who donate toys and funds, work, plan and pray for the people who will come to the store. Volunteers are always welcome.

For more: missionarlington.org/the-christmas-store



Have an EPIC breakfast with Santa this month

Santa is making pit stops at the EPIC Waters indoor water park in Grand Prairie - from 9-11 a.m. on Dec. 11-12 and 18-19.

Bring your Christmas lists and enjoy an EPIC breakfast with Santa Claus himself. Visitors can enjoy an immersive meet and greet experience that features delicious treats, a special keepsake activity and more. This event is part of EPIC H₂olidays, the park's special celebration that concludes with EPIC Family New Year on Jan. 1.

For more: epicwatersgp.com

ACB Christmas Concert will be held on Dec. 7

The Arlington Community Band will present its Christmas Concert at 7 p.m. on Dec. 7 at Trinity United Methodist Church (1200 W. Green Oaks Blvd.) The band is conducted by Rick Backer.



The concert is free to the public and will spotlight an iconic local musical ensemble that will celebrate its 40th anniversary next year. Two founding members remain with the Arlington Community Band: Backer and flutist Velma Bogart. The band was started in 1982 with Ray Lichtenwalter as director. Bob Copeland was director for 16 years. Backer has been director since 2010.



Join the Kringle Village Holiday Hoedown at Knapp Heritage Park

The Kringle Village Holiday Hoedown at Knapp Heritage Park (201 W. Front St.) will take place from 5:30-8:30 p.m. on Dec. 3-5, 10-12 and 17-19.

Children and adults of all ages are filled with the joy of the Christmas spirit thanks to fun activities such as Frosty's Dance Party and Mrs. Claus' reading of "The Night before Christmas." The hoedown also will feature music, dancing and a sing along, and Santa's Helpers will be there to deliver letters to the jolly one himself. There are scenic holiday photo opportunities throughout the event space, which will give visitors a chance to look back at how Christmas was celebrated in days gone by in the Historic Cabins. Seasonal treats, beverages and exclusive merchandise will also be available.

Six Flags' Holiday in the Park is back

Six Flags Over Texas' popular seasonal feature, Holiday in the Park, is back and will run through Jan. 2. 'Tis the season for glittering lights, delicious snacks, and a festive spin on your favorite rides.

Holiday in the Park offers an array of fun, family friendly features. Guests can gather nightly as Santa lights up a giant Christmas tree. They can experience the story of the Nativity with live animals and flying angels. They can sing along to holiday favorites at dazzling shows throughout the park.

Whatever they choose to enjoy, they'll do it in the midst of holiday magic. Each night, millions of lights are illuminated at once by Santa in a magical moment. For the little elves in your family, head over to the Merry Marketplace to meet Santa Claus. After meeting Santa, venture into Casa Magnetica and celebrate Nochebuena in the park's unique tilted



house attraction. And be sure to check out dozens of rides and shows, as well as indulging in seasonal treats like hot chocolate, seasonal turkey legs, holiday snacks such as s'mores and more.

For more: sixflags.com/overtexas/events/holiday-in-the-park

Arlington Music Hall holiday-themed shows

Arlington Music Hall (224 N. Center St.) will be your musical home for the holidays as the storied venue presents a number of Christmas-themed concerts.

- Dec. 3 (7 p.m.): **Leap of Faith Dance & Performing Arts** presents "The Nutcracker."
- Dec. 4 (7:30 p.m.): **Wynonna-Christmas**, featuring country music legend Wynonna.
- Dec. 8 (7:30 p.m.): **Christmas with the Beatles**, featuring the award-winning tribute band Abbey Road. Satisfaction, a Rolling Stone tribute band, will play an opening set.
- Dec. 9 (5 and 8 p.m.): **The Texas Tenors** will present **Deep in the Heart of Christmas**, featuring the Emmy-award-winning band.
- Dec. 17 (8 p.m.): **Chad Prather & Friends Christmas**. Prather will share his many talents during this show.
- Dec. 18 (2 p.m.) **Al Joslin-Blue Christmas**. Joslin is an award-winning Elvis Tribute Artist. For more: arlingtonmusic hall.net

Shop local at the Happy Holidays Pop-Up Shop

Shop Pantego, Simply Divune Café and Juice'd are partnering with 817ArtsAlliance to create the Happy Holidays Pop-Up Shop at 2230 W. Park Row Drive in Pantego. It will be open through Dec. 23.

The shop will be full of unique creations from local vendors. Shopping hours are 10 a.m.-2 p.m. on Monday; 10 a.m.-5 p.m. on Tuesday through Thursday; 10 a.m.-6 p.m. on Friday and Saturday; and 1-5 p.m. on Sunday.