



# ROCKWALL CITY NOTES

A Monthly City Publication

November 2020

## Christmas Events Happening Soon in Rockwall

Get ready to ring in the holidays with a hometown celebration to remember. Saturday, December 5 will be a day-long event filled with Christmas cheer with festivities from 9 a.m.-8 p.m.

Grab a seat early for the 51st Annual Kiwanis Christmas Parade, which starts at the Rockwall County Courthouse (1111 E. Yellowjacket Ln.) and ends up in Historic Downtown. This event has brought families together in Rockwall for more than five decades, and it's still going strong.

After the parade, you can head over to the Square to continue the celebration. The Hometown Christmas festivities begin right after the parade at about 10 a.m. The heart of Downtown Rockwall will be transformed into a winter wonderland with an antique sleigh, a snow tubing hill, mini Farmers Market, trackless train rides, Christmas musicians, food trucks, scavenger hunt, and a Christmas pet parade.

The celebration wraps up with the 37th annual Christmas Tree Lighting on the lawn in front of City Hall (385 S. Goliad St.). This is a can't miss event that's complete with a photo opportunity with Santa (bring your own camera), free Christmas cookies and hot chocolate bar—all as lively holiday music fills the air. For more information about all the day's events, please visit [Rockwall.com](http://Rockwall.com).



## Parks and Recreation Wins Back to Back Awards

The Rockwall Parks and Recreation Department has won the Texas Recreation and Parks Society (TRAPS) Park Maintenance Rodeo North Regional Championships for the second year in a row.

They hold the honor of being back to back champions for both 2019 and 2020. They nailed the competition in events including, plant identification, irrigation assembly, and obstacle mowing. As winners, the team has earned a spot to compete in the state championships next spring.

## Helping Hands Toy Drive

Every year Rockwall residents rally to help our neighbors in need during the holidays. Rockwall County Helping Hands has a program to provide toys to make Christmas brighter for more than 1,000 local children. The annual Toy Drive kicks off this year on November 13. Toy tags are available at drop-off locations, such as City Hall, located at 385 S. Goliad St., and new unwrapped toys must be dropped off by noon on Monday, December 7. For more information about ways to help with the toy drive, please visit: [RockwallHelpingHands.com](http://RockwallHelpingHands.com).



## Out and About in Rockwall



### Fall Transformation Downtown

Once again, volunteers have worked to decorate Downtown Rockwall to help keep it festive to attract both visitors and patrons to the area. Every year a group of very dedicated volunteers work to help Rockwall stay vibrant, thriving, beautiful and festive.



### Fire Prevention Month

While some recognize Fire Prevention Week every year, the Rockwall Fire Department dedicates a whole month to fire safety education and awareness. The Rockwall City Council marked October as Fire Prevention Month to honor the FD's efforts to inform and protect people.



### Happy 100th Birthday!

Rockwall residents turned out to honor local celebrity, Mr. Herman Billnitzer. Well wishers lined up in a parade of 100 cars to drive by his house and celebrate his 100th birthday! The Rockwall American Legion Terry Fisher Post 117 organized the event to honor the celebrated World War II veteran.



### City Celebrates Second Annual Arbor Day

Trees are an important part of the landscape in the City of Rockwall, and it takes a lot of effort to maintain their beauty. The City is hosting the second annual Arbor Day Celebration this year. Rockwall Mayor Jim Pruitt will present a proclamation and the Parks and Recreation Department will mark the occasion by planting a handful of beautiful new trees at The Park at Breezy Hill.

### Defend Your Drains—Does That Really Belong in the Sink?

As the holidays approach, we begin to worry about FOG, or fats oils and grease, in our drains. FOG, comes from meats, butters and margarine, lard, food scraps, sauces, salad dressings, dairy products and cooking oil.

FOG hardens in the drain and clogs sewer pipes, and can cause **raw sewage to back up into your home, lawn, neighborhood and streets.**

This can cause health issues, it's expensive to fix, and it can run into a nearby stream or river, which affects our drinking water.

Here's how to properly dispose of FOG:

- Put oil and grease in sealable containers for recycling
- Wipe excess grease from pans and throw away
- Toss food scraps in garbage instead of disposal

