



ROCKWALL CITY NOTES

A Monthly City Publication

November 2021

Rockwall Plans for Festive Christmas Celebration

Get ready to ring in the holidays with a hometown celebration to remember. Saturday, December 4 will be a day-long event filled with Christmas cheer with festivities in Downtown Rockwall from 9 a.m.-8 p.m.

Get a seat early for the 52nd Annual Kiwanis Christmas Parade, which starts at the Rockwall County Courthouse (1111 E. Yellowjacket Ln.) and ends up in Historic Downtown. For more than five decades, this parade has been a fun family tradition in Rockwall, 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 snow globe photos, the largest snowman bounce house, Christmas musicians, food trucks, train rides, Santa and sleigh, and a Christmas pet parade.

The celebration wraps up with the 38th 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 provided by the Rockwall Women's League 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.



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 1,100 local children. The annual Toy Drive kicks off this year on November 12. 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 5 p.m. on Monday, December 6. For more information about ways to help with the toy drive, please visit: RockwallHelpingHands.com.



Happening Around Town

Saturday, November 27

Shop Small Event, Historic Downtown Rockwall, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Saturday, December 4

Rockwall Christmas Events, Historic Downtown Rockwall, 9 a.m.-8 p.m.

Friday-Saturday, December 10-11

*Holiday Home Tour, North Rockwall, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. (**Ticket information available on Facebook @DowntownRockwallTexas)*

Saturday, December 11

Breakfast with Santa, The Center, (Details soon on PlayRockwall.com)

Saturday, January 22

*Daddy Daughter Dance, Hilton at The Harbor, (**Tickets on sale soon at PlayRockwall.com)*

*For more information:
Rockwall.com, PlayRockwall.com*

Out and About in Rockwall



Building Official Best Among Peers

Rockwall Building Official, Jeffrey Widmer (above left), was recognized for excellence in his field, being named Building Official of the Year for 2021 by the Building Officials Association of Texas (BOAT). Mr. Widmer has been the City of Rockwall's Building Official since 1998, and served as President of BOAT for the past two years, from 2019-21, and before that as the organization's Vice President.



Decorating Downtown Rockwall

Once again, volunteers have worked to decorate Downtown Rockwall to help keep it festive for the fall season. This helps attract both visitors and patrons to the area. Every year a group of very dedicated volunteers, led by Claudette Hatfield, work to help Rockwall stay vibrant, thriving, beautiful and festive.



Rockwall Farmers Market Success

As the books close on year 14 of another successful Rockwall Farmers Market season—thanks goes especially to event founder, Claudette Hatfield, for all she's done for the City of Rockwall.

The Rockwall Farmers Market presented two checks to Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeast Texas and Rainbow Room of Rockwall for \$5,000 each.



Rockwall Officers Honor Police Memorial Day

Police officers from Rockwall and across the nation gathered in Washington D.C. to commemorate Police Memorial Day. Joining them for the ceremony, were the wife and sons of Rockwall Police Officer Tracy Gaines, who died of COVID-19 in August 2020.

The group attended the candlelight vigil on the National Mall and the national memorial service on the U.S. Capitol grounds, and President Joe Biden addressed the group before families placed roses on wreaths in honor of their loved ones.



Rockwall Parks Scores a Hat Trick of Awards

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

They hold the honor of being back to back champions for 2019, 2020 and 2021! They nailed the competition in events including, plant identification, zero turn mower maneuvers, and backpack blower skills. As winners, the team has earned a spot to compete in the state championships next spring.

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. 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 disposal
- Wipe excess grease from pans and throw away
- Toss food scraps in garbage instead of disposal

