

November 28, 2011

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Take a seat and enjoy the Christmas festivities in Burleson on Saturday, Dec. 3.

The Burleson Rotary Club's annual Christmas parade steps off from Kerr Middle School (517 S.W. Johnson Ave.) at 4:30 p.m. The parade will commence from the back parking lot of the school on to Irene Street, turns on Gregory, then on to Johnson, and on to Ellison. The Christmas parade will turn at the intersection of Ellison and Warren Street (next to Community Bank and city hall) and head back to the middle school parking lot. The parade will not go past Burleson City Hall.

To protect parade participants, drivers, pedestrians, and parade watchers, the parade route will be shut down, starting at 2:30 p.m., with the streets around Kerr Middle School. Staging for the parade also begins at 2:30 p.m. Every street and driveway, between Gardens Boulevard and Renfro Street that intersects with Johnson Avenue will be barricaded by 4 p.m.

According to the police, it is illegal to go around or disregard a barricade. The square block area around the fireworks display (the First Baptist Church parking lot at Tarrant and Johnson) will be barricaded by 1:30 p.m.

There will be no access from Hwy. 174 to Johnson Avenue, including cutting through parking lots (FasTaco, Whataburger, Southwest Bank), starting at 4 p.m. The parade is open to floats, cars, horses, fire trucks, and more. Most floats will include Christmas music. Rotary Club Christmas parade applications are still available at the Burleson Area Chamber of Commerce, Service First Mortgage and Burleson City Hall.

Saturday starts off with Santa and his elves hosting the 12th annual Breakfast with Santa, 7 a.m.-11 a.m. at the Senior Activity Center, 216 S.W. Johnson Ave. Saint Nick's elves will be up early flipping pancakes, cooking sausage and making the orange juice and coffee. Santa will be in the center's Winter Wonderland until 11 a.m. to hear Christmas wishes. Bring your camera to take those memorable pictures with Santa. Children can also visit Santa's workshop to make their own holiday crafts. Breakfast With Santa tickets are \$3 for children/\$4 for adults in advance at the BRiCk (550 N.W. Summercrest Blvd.) or \$5 for children/\$7 for adults at the door (Senior Activity Center). Call the BRiCk at 817-426-9104 or 426-9106 or 817-295-8168.

The corner of Johnson and Ellison will be bustling by 4:30 p.m. as dancers and singers entertain the parade crowd on the City stage. The Dec. 3 festivities conclude at the corner of Johnson and Ellison at 6 p.m. with the lighting of the City's Christmas tree and a low aerial fireworks show. The tree is outfitted with more than 10,000 lights, which will be turned on by Santa and his two helpers (the two third grade winners of the Christmas Coloring Contest). Singers and dancers will entertain until Santa and his helpers can break away from the parade and make their way back to the City stage. After the tree lighting, Santa will head to his sleigh to listen to more Christmas wishes.

For information about the breakfast and tree lighting, call the BRiCk at 817-426-9104 and ask for Charlene. For information about the parade, call Lisa Keese at 817-447-7300. For a map of the street closures, go to <http://tinyurl.com/d6yqavp> on the City website.