

November 15, 2012

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Christmas is coming to Burleson on Saturday, Dec. 1.

The fun includes the City's 13<sup>th</sup> annual Breakfast with Santa, the Burleson Rotary Club's Reindeer Run, Burleson Rotary Club Christmas parade, and the City of Burleson's Christmas tree lighting and fireworks. Santa won't be there, but the Senior Activity Center will also be hosting a Christmas Craft Fair, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at the center at 216 S.W. Johnson Ave.

The day starts off with Santa and his elves hosting Breakfast with Santa, 7 a.m.-11 a.m., at the BRiCk, 550 N.W. Summercrest Blvd. Santa picked a new and bigger location this year to host his breakfast! Saint Nick's elves will be up early flipping pancakes, cooking sausage, and making the orange juice and coffee. Santa will be in the BRiCk'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.

Advance Breakfast with Santa tickets are available at the BRiCk now at \$4 for children/\$5 for adults. Tickets at the door Saturday, Dec. 1 are \$5 for children/\$7 for adults. Call the BRiCk at 817-426-9104 or 817-426-9106 for more information.

Visit the Burleson Rotary Club website, <http://tinyurl.com/8znxc35> or more information about the Rotary Reindeer Run that starts at 1 p.m. at Bartlett Park, 550 N.W. Summercrest Blvd. There is a 5K and a Fun Walk. The Rotary is also hosting the Christmas of Lights Parade which steps off from Kerr Middle School at 6 p.m. and winds through Burleson's Old Town. The parade will start on the Irene Street side of the school parking lot, turn right on Gregory Street, right on to Johnson Avenue, and right on to Ellison Street. The Christmas parade will turn right at the intersection of Ellison and Warren Street (next to Community Bank and Burleson City Hall) and head back to the middle school parking lot. The parade will not go past city hall.

The corner of Johnson Avenue and Ellison Street will be bustling by 5:15 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 1, as dancers and singers entertain the crowd on the City stage in the back parking lot of the Burleson Police Department. The Stribling Elementary Choir will perform on stage at 6:15 p.m. After the parade passes the city stage, singers and dancers will entertain until Santa and his helpers can break away

from the parade and make their way back to the stage. The Christmas festivities conclude at 7:15 p.m. with the lighting of the City's Christmas tree, then a low aerial fireworks show choreographed to well-known Christmas carols and songs. This year's City tree is outfitted with more than 10,000 lights. The lights on the tree will be turned on by Santa Claus and his two helpers (the two third-grade winners of the City's holiday coloring contest). After the tree lighting, Santa will head to his sleigh to listen to more Christmas wishes.

To protect parade participants, drivers, pedestrians and parade watchers, the streets around Kerr Middle School will be shut down starting at 4 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 1, so that the parade organizers may begin staging of the parade at 4:30 p.m. Those closures include Irene Street, Lena Street and Dian Street. Every street and driveway between Gardens Boulevard and Renfro Street that intersect with Johnson Avenue will be barricaded by 5:30 p.m.

The square block area around the fireworks display (the First Baptist Church's parking lot at Ellison and Johnson) will be barricaded by noon on Dec. 1. There will be no access from Hwy. 174 to Johnson Avenue, including cutting through parking lots (FasTaco, Whataburger, Southwest Bank) starting at 5 p.m. Street vendors are not permitted at the event site or on the streets along the parade route. Violators may be ticketed.

For more information about Breakfast with Santa or the City's tree lighting and fireworks show, call the BRiCk at 817-426-9104 and ask for Charlene. For information about the parade, call Lisa Keese at 817-447-7300.