

November/December 2008

# The Connection

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*Holiday Memories  
Festive Family Outings  
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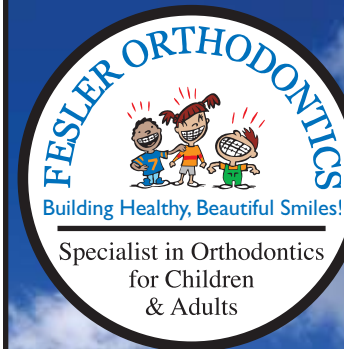


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### COLUMNS

- 6

CALENDAR

Events in Our Area
- 10

LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS

Get Involved in the Community
- 18

HEALTH

Holiday Safety
- 20

EDUCATION

WISD School Performances
- 22

PETS

Don't Forget our Furry Family
- 24

DUDES DO DINNER

Ye Shire Tavern
- 26

SPORTS

Professional Referee Tim Millis
- 28

MONEY

5 Tips to Becoming a Millionaire



Photo by Anne Hiney

Madilynn & Mackenzie Wintters with Santa & Mrs. Claus, aka. Robert & Ada Mooney. To hire the Claus' for your event call 972-771-5551.

Just for fun, find the butterfly! Last issue it was hidden in the Sachse Fallfest free on page 30.

### BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

5

PAPA MURPHY'S PIZZA



### FEATURE ARTICLES

- 12

HOLIDAY MEMORIES

Stories from City Leaders
- 14

HOLIDAY EVENTS

Family Outings

The Connection

Wylie • Sachse • Murphy Community Magazine

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The Connection is published bimonthly by the Wylie Chamber of Commerce. The Connection is mailed free of charge to over 28,000 households in the Wylie/Sachse/Murphy area and more than 1,000 copies are distributed to local businesses. Contents of this magazine may not be reproduced without written permission from the publisher. Advertisers and advertising agencies assume liability for content of all advertisements. Information published in The Connection is the opinion of the sourced authors. The Wylie Chamber of Commerce does not necessarily share the editorial opinions expressed in The Connection magazine. Personal decisions regarding health, finance and other matters should be made after consultation with the reader's professional advisors.

Corrections: The fish illustration by Maddy Aguilar was a Large Mouth Bass. We extend an apology to the Friends of the Sachse Library - I accidentally left their book sale off of the community calendar.

Papa Murphy's

TAKE 'N' BAKE PIZZA



About Papa Murphy's

Papa Murphy's is the fifth-largest pizza chain in the country and the pioneer and leader of the take 'n' bake pizza segment. There are over 1,000 locations in 30 states and Canada.

Papa Murphy's offers custom-made pizzas featuring high-quality fresh toppings generously layered on pizza dough that is made fresh each morning in each store. By baking Papa Murphy's pizzas at home, customers get to experience the home-baked aroma of a convenient, delicious meal for which the brand is known. In addition to handmade pizzas, the company offers a growing menu of take 'n' bake items, including Cheesy Bread, Cinnamon Wheels, Lasagna, and Chocolate-chip Cookie Dough.

Papa Murphy's has been voted "Best Pizza Chain in America" for six consecutive years by consumers nationwide in the Restaurants and Institutions "Consumers' Choice in Chains" survey and was recently named Pizza Today's "2008 Chain of the Year" for the third time.

Our Story

After enjoying Papa Murphy's Take 'N' Bake Pizza for 10 years in Washington State, my husband and I made the big decision to open a store of our own – in Texas. It has long been a dream of ours to own a business. We opened our Papa Murphy's in Wylie, Texas on December 31, 2007.

As with any new business, it has not been easy. But, we have been blessed with a dedicated staff and the best customers. The communities of Wylie, Sachse, and Murphy have warmly welcomed us. We have been deeply touched by your friendliness and caring.

It is our goal, and has been since the day we opened, to provide you with the best service and high-quality pizza at a great value. We are also committed to giving back to our community. We have raised funds for local churches and have supported local schools and youth organizations. If there is something we can do for you, please call us.

We hope we are succeeding at our goals and will continue to work hard to do so.

We sincerely thank you for your business.

~ Patricia Newton

Have You Tried Us Yet?

You will be so glad you did!!!!

Our customers constantly tell us "Since we've tried Papa Murphy's, we don't go anywhere else for pizza."

What you can expect:

- Dough that is made fresh each day in our store
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- Friendly service
- Great tasting pizza!

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one discount per combo

Coupon may not be combined with any other offer.



Buy Any Pizza

At the Regular Price

Your Church Will Receive \$2.00

(Church Name)



4 • September/October 2008



# November Events

**Nov. 6th & 20th** - Wylie's Smith Public Library Wagging Tales 6:30-7:30 p.m. Brand new readers can practice by reading aloud to Abby the Collie. Tickets are required and limited. They are given out free on a first come, first served basis, on the evening of the program. 800 Thomas Street, Wylie (972)442-7566.

**Nov. 7th** - Sachse's annual Daddy/Daughter Dance will be at Park Lake Church gym, 3702 Sachse Road, from 7 to 9 p.m. This event is a great way for young women to strengthen their relationships with their fathers. We will have games, refreshments, music and of course dancing. Each couple will receive a picture and corsage to take home. The cost is \$15 per couple and \$5 for each daughter after the initial cost. For more info please call the Parks Department at (469)429-0275.

**Nov. 8th & 9th** - Barnes & Noble Book Sale: The Friends of the Rita & Truett Smith Public Library invite you to Barnes & Noble at the Firewheel Shopping Center for music, shopping & fun! Mention the Smith Library when checking out and Barnes & Noble will donate a part of the profits to the library.

**Nov. 8th** - Lake Pointe Church in Rockwall, Texas will host a free adoption and foster care conference featuring Emily Chapman from 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. for anyone interested in adoption and foster care. Emily Chapman, adoption advocate and daughter of Christian musician Steven Curtis Chapman, will give the keynote address to the conference and foster care. For more info, visit [www.adoptionconference.net](http://www.adoptionconference.net), e-mail [adoptionministry@lakepointe.org](mailto:adoptionministry@lakepointe.org), or call (469)698-2200, ext. 2647.

**Nov. 10th & 11th** - "55 Alive" Safe Driving class will be sponsored by the Sachse Senior Center from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. This is a special offered by the AARP - 2 for the price of 1 - \$5.00 each. Class will meet in the Sachse Library community room. You may call 972-495-6282 to sign up or stop by the Sachse Senior Center.

**Nov. 13th & 20th** - Sachse Public Library staff invite children ages 2 to 6 for two special Thanksgiving story times featuring Thanksgiving stories along with a mini-feast. The fun starts at 11 a.m. 3815 Sachse Road, Suite C.

**Nov. 13th** - Teen Library Council Meeting at Smith Public Library 5 - 6 p.m. The Teen Library Council meets once a month to decide on teen programs, give feedback on the teen collection and discuss their favorite reads. All teens (6th-12th grade) are welcome! 800 Thomas Street, Wylie (972)442-7566.

**Nov. 14th** -Dinos After Dark: Museum Sleepover - Spend the night with dinosaurs! Experience a night hike with 12 life-sized animatronic dinosaurs, live animal presentations, exhibit scavenger hunts, and more! Package includes light evening snack, light continental breakfast, and museum admission for Saturday. Visit [www.heardmuseum.org](http://www.heardmuseum.org) for complete details.

**Nov. 15th** - Texas Recycles Day

**Nov. 15th** - Wylie's Creek Fest creek cleaning event at Creekside Estates Park (meet at the water tower at Francesca Dr.) and Sage Creek (at Ryan Lane & Tyler Trail) 9 a.m. until Noon. For more info call (972)442-8195. Rain date Nov. 22nd.

**Nov. 15th** - The Plano Symphony Orchestra presents "An American Rhapsody in Blue" with special guests Maureen McGovern and Michael Schneider. 8:15 p.m. at the Eisemann Center in Richardson. An evening of American favorites by Copeland, Gershwin, Kern, Porter, Mercer and more awaits!

**Nov. 17th** - Family Fun Night: Picturing America Art Reception 6:30-7:30 p.m. The National Endowment for the Humanities and the American Library Association have teamed up to present 20 carefully selected works of art spanning several centuries — all by American painters, sculptors, photographers, and architects. Join us for an art reception complete with music, an art scavenger hunt for the kids and refreshments!

**Nov. 15th** - Sachse High School All Region Jazz Concert at 7 p.m. in the SHS auditorium.

**Nov. 15th** - Sachse High School Theatre - Rumpelstilzkin children's show will be performed at 2 p.m. in the SHS auditorium.

**Nov. 15th** - Heard Museum Ropes Course Grand Opening - Open to the Public Day. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Experience the Zip line, Rock Climb and Dangle Duo! Adults and children ages 7 and older. Children must be accompanied by an adult. General admission: \$25/per person. First come, first serve.

**Nov. 15th** - The Trinity Trail Preservation Association (TTPA) will sponsor a trail ride at the Brockdale Park trailhead in Lucas, Texas, weather permitting. Arrive at trailhead at 2 p.m. Ride out at 2:30 p.m. Bring your own beverages and lawn chair. TTPA will be providing a campfire and cooking hotdogs and s'mores. Join us for some great conversation with other riders. You can adjust your ride to your own schedule.



Photo courtesy of City of Wylie.

**"Reach for a Star", the City of Wylie's Gift Assistance Program, Gift Stars will be available for the public to pick up at City Hall or other participating locations (Bank of America, Brookshire's, Capital One, Chase Bank, Great American Storage, Inwood National Bank, Texans Credit Union, Walmart, Woodbridge Golf Club) beginning November 12 through December 5. Help a Wylie family celebrate the Holidays.**

**Nov. 18th** - The Sachse Friends of the Library will host a "pot luck" feast on Tuesday, starting at 7:00 p.m. at the Library. For more information, please call the Library at (972)530-8966, 3815 Sachse Road, Suite C.

**Nov. 20th, 21st & 22nd** - Plano East Senior High Fine Arts Musical production. 7:30 p.m. at PESH.

**Nov. 20th** - BeTween Book & Movie Club 6:30-7:30PM 4th & 5th graders are invited to talk about the book and the movie How to Eat Fried Worms by Thomas Rockwell. We will watch scenes from the movie and enjoy snacks. Free copies of the book are available for the first 15 kids who sign up! Smith Library, 800 Thomas Street, Wylie (972)442-7566.

**Nov. 22nd** - Join us for the premiere of Kung Fu Panda at Salmon Park, 4302 Williford Road, Sachse. The fun begins at 6:30 p.m. with a Kung Fu costume contest followed by the movie at 6:45 p.m. There will be popcorn and drinks while you enjoy the movie. There is no charge for this event. For more info please call the Parks Department at (469)429-0275.

**Nov. 22nd** - The Sachse High School Choirs present their 3rd Annual Holiday Tour of Homes. Tickets will be available at several locations in Sachse, including the Kroger on Highway 78, Sachse Chamber of Commerce, Sachse Public Library and Sachse High School. Tickets are \$10 each and are good for admission at all five homes. Proceeds impact the choral program at Sachse High School through scholarships to music camps and university. For more info, please contact Joshua McGuire at 972-414-7450, ext. 63052.

**Nov. 24th** - The Fourth Monday Book Club: Ages 18 and up will meet at 6:30 p.m. Reserve a copy of All Souls by Michael Patrick MacDonald at the Smith Library. 800 Thomas Street, Wylie (972)442-7566.

**Nov. 24th - Nov. 28th** - WISD & GISD Thanksgiving Break

**Nov. 26th - Nov. 28th** - PISD Thanksgiving Break

**Nov. 27th** - Join us Thanksgiving morning for the 5th Annual Turkey Trot at Sachse High School. They offer a one- or three-mile fun run starting at 8 a.m. from the high school parking lot, 3901 Miles Road. There will be raffle items and a live DJ. Proceeds benefit the Class of 2011 senior activities. Email [sallyemert@aol.com](mailto:sallyemert@aol.com) for more info.



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## December Events

**Dec. 1st - 10th** - Live eBay Auction to benefit the Collin County Children's Advocacy Center. Donations are currently being accepted from sponsors who would like to participate in this year's auction (minimum retail value of donation \$100 or higher). Please contact Karen Green at (972)547-6824 or tnktradingco@sbcglobal.net. To connect to the eBay auction site, log onto www.KHYI.com and click on the "12 Days of Christmas" or visit www.cacplano.com.

**Dec. 2nd** - The Sachse Chamber of Commerce invites everyone to the 10th Annual Christmas Tree Lighting at 5:30 p.m. at the Red Caboose, 5941 Hwy. 78. Light refreshments will be served immediately following the tree lighting ceremony. There is no charge for this event. For more info, please call (972)496-1212.

**Dec. 3rd & 6th** - "Reach For A Star" Fill-The-Trailer: Once again, The Wylie View, LLC is seeking donations of unwrapped gifts for boys and girls to help assist the City of Wylie's Reach For A Star program. New clothes and toys for all ages will be delivered to the city to distribute as needed. The trailer and volunteers will be located in the Wylie Albertson's parking lot on Wed., Dec. 3rd from 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. and Sat., Dec. 6th from Noon - 2 p.m.

**Dec. 4th** - Murphy's Tree Lighting Ceremony will take place from 5 - 7 p.m. at the Murphy Municipal Complex. We will have a petting zoo, picture's with Santa and hot chocolate.

**Dec. 4th** - The Sachse Library is pleased to present the Sachse High School Madrigal singers at 7 p.m., 3815 Sachse Road, Suite C.

**Dec. 4th & 18th** - Wylie's Smith Public Library Wagging Tales 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. Brand new readers can practice by reading aloud to Abby the Collie. Tickets are required and limited. They are given out free on a first come, first served basis on the evening of the program. 800 Thomas Street, Wylie (972)442-7566.

**Dec. 6th** - Holidays at the Heard and Artisan's Market - Enjoy our trails and special exhibits like Dinosaurs Alive! Activities will also include \$5 photos with Father Christmas and Mother Nature, situated in a natural holiday setting. Shop for a one-of-a-kind gifts. Enjoy complimentary holiday treats and sandwiches for sale, while kids make a complimentary holiday craft. The new outdoor amphitheater will feature local musical talents performing holiday favorites. Watch our website for updates about this event. www.heardmuseum.org

**Dec. 6th** - The Reason for the Season will have a glorious start in "Bethlehem" from 8:00 - 10:30 a.m. at First Baptist Wylie. Families will stroll down the streets of Bethlehem and share together the story of Jesus Christ at His birth. Characters are dressed in period costumes and visitors witness what life was like on that special morning in Bethlehem nearly 2000 years ago. The marketplace is busy selling goods by the different merchants. Animals will be here for the children to pet and enjoy. The cost is \$3 per person with a \$12 maximum per family. Children under 2 years of age are free. Cost includes: A Pancake Breakfast, Bethlehem Tour & Family Picture. For more info call 972-442-2261.

**Dec. 6th** - Breakfast with Santa: The Friends of the Smith Public Library invite you to join Santa for Breakfast from 9 - 10 a.m. After breakfast, Santa will be taking pictures with his library friends from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. The cost for breakfast and a picture with Santa is \$8 per child with a maximum of \$24 per family with three or more children. Muffins and juice will be served to the children with coffee available for the parents. The cost is \$5 for families interested in pictures only. Tickets go on sale at the library Monday, Nov. 10. This is a fundraising event to benefit the new library. 800 Thomas Street, Wylie (972)442-7566.

**Dec. 6th** - Wylie Women's League Twilight Tour of Homes from 4 - 6:30 p.m. We will be featuring 6 homes in downtown Wylie. Tickets are on sale now from any WWL member. The tour will begin at the Birmingham House. For more info please call Stacey Daniel (469)964-7425 - Public is invited to tour the wonderful homes.

**Dec. 8th** - The Children's Chorus of Collin County and the orchestra of Park Cities Baptist Church will present a Fa-La-La! Concert at 7 p.m. at the St. Andrew United Methodist Church, 5801 W. Plano Parkway, Plano. The concert begins with the chorus processional, "Christmas Is the Best Time of the Year". Traditional secular and sacred holiday music will be presented by the Chorus and orchestra. Specialty selections such as "Gotta Buy This! Gotta Buy That!" and "Christmas Countdown" will be presented by the Chorus Girls and the Boys of the Chorus, respectively. The finale will feature the Chorus and orchestra performing an arrangement of "Various Themes on 'Fa-La-La!'" Tickets are \$8.00 for adults with free admission to all students and pre-schoolers. Tickets may be purchased at the door or placed in "will call" by contacting the Chorus office at 972-941-9600.

**Dec. 14** - Christmas Music Extravaganza - Get into the holiday spirit with a service that is filled with music! We will have a brass band, traditional music, contemporary music, bells, choirs and much, much more! Services are at 8:30 a.m., 9:45 a.m., and 11:05 a.m. Wylie United Methodist Church 1401 FM 1378, Wylie. wylieumc.org

**Dec. 11th** - Sachse High School Band Winter Concert at 7 p.m. in the SHS auditorium.

**Dec. 11th** - Santa Claus will be at the Sachse Library at 6:30 p.m. for Storytime with Santa. Join us for snacks, special Christmas stories and gifts from the Friends of the Library. For more info, please call the Library at (972)530-8966. 3815 Sachse Road, Suite C.

**Dec. 11th** - Teen Library Council Meeting at Smith Public Library 5 - 6 p.m. The Teen Library Council meets once a month to decide on teen programs, give feedback on the teen collection and discuss their favorite reads. All teens (6th-12th grade) are welcome! 800 Thomas Street, Wylie (972)442-7566.

**Dec. 13th** - Sachse's Country Christmas Parade. No registration required! Assemble in the parking lot of Hudson Middle School, 4400 Hudson Drive, no later than 8:30 a.m. ready to line up. Contact Denise Vice at (469)429-4771 for more info.

**Dec. 13th** - Cookies with Santa Claus is coming to City Hall from 10 - 11:30 a.m. We invite all Sachse children 10 years old and younger to drop by for a visit with Santa, share your wish list, and receive a special gift. Donate a canned good or other non-perishable food item and receive a raffle ticket for the prize drawings held throughout the event (you MUST BE PRESENT to win.) The food items are donated to the Sachse Fraternal Order of Police Food Drive.

**Dec. 13th** - Wylie Christmas Parade of Lights and Tree Lighting 6:30 p.m. on Ballard St., Downtown Wylie. Enjoy hot chocolate while watching Wylie's Parade of Lights followed by city officials illuminating the community Christmas tree. Santa rides into Old City Park atop the Wylie fire truck.

**Dec. 13th** - Auditions for the Children's Chorus of Collin County will be held at St. Andrew United Methodist Church, 5801 W. Plano Parkway, Plano, TX. Auditions are for children in grades 4-8 and may be scheduled by calling 972-941-9600. In June, 2009, the Chorus will participate in a New York City trip where they will sing at Carnegie Hall. For additional information regarding the Children's Chorus, visit us at www.childrenschorusofcollincounty.org.

**Dec. 21st** - Plano Symphony Orchestra's The Best of Home for the Holidays, 4:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. at St. Andrew United Methodist Church, 5801 West Plano Parkway, Plano. Reserved Seating tickets: \$10 - \$35. Add \$2 at the door. To order, call the Plano Symphony Orchestra Ticket Office at 972-473-7262, or visit www.plano-symphony.org to order tickets online. Plano's most popular holiday tradition, sold-out last season, takes you on a musical journey around the world. Enjoy holiday traditions from Germany, France and other countries including many of the popular carols and melodies of the season popular in the US that have their origins in other cultures. And, of course, the performance will feature your holiday favorites including the audience sing-a-long. Hector Guzman, your Orchestra and three outstanding choruses, the Plano Civic Chorus, the St. Andrew United Methodist Church Chancel Choir, and the Friendship-West Baptist Church Choir, are sure to get you in the spirit of the season!!

**Thru Dec. 31st** - Heard Museum Dinosaurs Alive! Life-Size Animatronic Dinosaurs - There are 12 life-size animatronic dinosaurs including 9 new dinosaurs as well as the return of the T-Rex and the Dilophosaurus which spits water. www.heard-museum.org or call (972)562-5566.

**Wylie's Rita and Truett Smith Library Story Time:** Join us for books, songs, flannel stories, rhymes and crafts. Big Kids Storytime at 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. for ages 3-5. Wee Read Storytime 10:00 a.m. for babies & toddlers. Nov. 5 - Shapes Everywhere, Nov. 12 - Yes Your Majesty, Nov. 19 - Lost and Found, Nov. 26 - Turkey Day Gobble Gobble, Dec. 3 - Let's Get Dressed, Dec. 17 - Santa is Coming. 800 Thomas Street, Wylie (972)442-7566.

**Every Wednesday** - Wylie Chamber of Commerce Business Card Exchange, Woodbridge Golf Course club house, 7400 Country Club Dr., Wylie. Join us to network and promote your business from 8 - 9 a.m. For more info call (972)442-2804 or visit www.wyliechamber.org. •

## SAVE THE DATE!

### March 28, 2009

**6th Annual BOOTS 'N BARBEQUE GALA  
at Southfork Ranch benefitting the  
WISD Education Foundation  
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at 972-429-3025  
for information.**



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Interested in Scouting? Visit [www.greatplainsbsa.org](http://www.greatplainsbsa.org) or [www.girlscoutsofnortheasttexas.org](http://www.girlscoutsofnortheasttexas.org) for info.

## Local Organizations

**Dyslexia Advocates of Wylie** (formerly PIRATES Dyslexia) is a Parent Support Group for parents of dyslexic children that meets bi-monthly at 7 - 8 p.m. at McMillan Jr. High, 1050 Park Blvd., Wylie, TX, 75098 Go to [www.dyslexiaadvocatesofwylie.com](http://www.dyslexiaadvocatesofwylie.com) for dates and more info.

**Exchange Club of Murphy** is a volunteer service organization for people who want to serve their community, develop leadership skills and enjoy new friendships. Programs include: Child Abuse Prevention, Americanism, Community Service and Youth Activities. We meet the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of every month from noon to 1 p.m., Pecan Hollow Golf Course Grill, 4501 East 14th Street, Plano. Contact: Debra Chiarello 214-641-9970.

**Friends of the Sachse Library** meets the 4th Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Sachse Library, 3815 Sachse Road. Contact the Sachse Public Library for more details, 972-530-8966.

**Garland Quilt Guild** meets the first Tuesday of each month at First Presbyterian Church, 930 West Avenue B, in Garland at 7:00 p.m. (except December) Located at the corner of 9th and Avenue B in Garland Texas. For more info visit [www.garlandquiltguild.org](http://www.garlandquiltguild.org) or contact Allison Ray at 972-941-0860 or [allisonray@gmail.com](mailto:allisonray@gmail.com).

**Genealogy Friends of Plano Libraries, Inc.** presents a Free Genealogy Seminar on the 3rd Saturday of each month from 10:15 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. at the W.O. Haggard Library Program Room, 2501 Coit Road, Plano. Public is welcome. For info visit [GenFriends@GenealogyFriends.org](http://GenFriends@GenealogyFriends.org), e-mail: [www.GenealogyFriends.org](http://www.GenealogyFriends.org), or call Jean Funk at 972-618-1580.

**In-Sync Exotics Wildlife Rescue & Educational Center** is a non-profit organization dedicated to the rescue of exotic felines. Visit [www.insyncexotics.com](http://www.insyncexotics.com) for more info. Open Saturdays and Sundays, 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. 972-442-6888.

**MOMS Club of Murphy/Sachse** is a non-profit support group for stay-at-home moms and their children. Activities include monthly meetings with guest speakers, play groups, park days, MOMS Night Out, field trips and more. We participate in service projects to benefit children in the community. Please contact [Murphy\\_sachse\\_moms@yahoo.com](mailto:Murphy_sachse_moms@yahoo.com) for further information.

**Moms & More** All caretakers, whether you are a Mom, Dad, Aunt, Uncle, Grandparent or Nanny are welcome. We accept members from Wylie and the surrounding communities and have many activities for children and their caretakers. We meet the 1st Thursday of the month. Contact Membership Chair, Shannon Morris: (972)461-0995 for info. [www.wyliemomsandmore.org](http://www.wyliemomsandmore.org).

**MOPS** of Sachse/Wylie/Murphy-Mothers of Preschoolers meet at Park Lake Church in Sachse on the 1st & 3rd Wednesdays (September-May) from 9:00-11:30 AM. Mothers with children from birth through kindergarten are invited. Childcare is included with semester MOPS dues. To RSVP or for more information please call Park Lake Church at (972) 414-0600, e-mail [mops@parklakechurch.com](mailto:mops@parklakechurch.com), or visit [www.mops.org](http://www.mops.org).

**Sachse Historical Society** meets the 3rd Saturday of the month, 9:30 a.m., Sachse Historical Museum, 3033 6th St. Museum is open for visitors every 2nd & 4th Saturday from 1 - 4 p.m., every Tuesday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and by appointment for visitors and tours, 972-495-1231.

**Sachse Lion's Club** meets the 3rd Monday of the month at Steak Kountry, 7010 Highway 78 at 6:30 p.m. We participate in fund raisers throughout the year that benefit several organizations including the Blind Leader Dog program and Air Challenge, a program that takes disabled children for airplane rides. We also support the Vision Impaired Olympics summer camp for kids. The Sachse Lions also assist with building Habitat for Humanity homes.

**Sachse Pet Pals** is a volunteer organization working with Sachse Animal Control to enhance adoption rates and help with pet medical expenses on a financial need basis. Contact Peggy Strong at 972-495-9645 for more info.

**Trinity Trail Preservation Association (TTPA)** is an all-volunteer equestrian organization that maintains the 9-mile long trail on the Corps of Engineers land along Lavon Lake. TTPA networks with other trail riders, sponsors trail rides and cookouts, hosts quarterly meetings with speakers on horse-related issues, holds family type activities such as scavenger hunts on horseback, fun poker rides and educational clinics. For info call Betty Van Houten at 214-864-4066, [www.trinitytrailriders.org](http://www.trinitytrailriders.org).

**Wylie Friends of the Library** meets the 3rd Thursday of each month, 6 p.m. at the Rita and Truett Smith Public Library, 800 Thomas, in the Bluebonnet Room, 972-442-7566.

**Wylie Lions Club** meets the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month at Taste of Home Restaurant at 302 N. Ballard Ave. at noon. Anyone interested in becoming a Lion is welcome to join the group for lunch. Call Ada Mooney for more info at 972-771-5551.

**Wylie Lions Club - Evening Branch** meets the 1st & 3rd Thursdays of the month at Taste of Home Restaurant at 302 N. Ballard Ave. at 6:30 p.m. Contact Carl Bodine at 469-951-4344 for info.

**Wylie Rotary Club** meets weekly on Thursday at 12 noon at Woodbridge Country Club. Contact Joe Helmberger at [joehelmberger@verizon.net](mailto:joehelmberger@verizon.net) for additional info.

**Wylie Wisecrackers**, a Toastmasters club serving Wylie, Sachse, Murphy, and Lavon, meets every Wednesday from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. at Napoli's Pizza & Restaurant, 701 N. Hwy 78. All are welcome. Members practice effective public speaking techniques, gain valuable leadership experience, and, thus, gain personal confidence. Contact Katie Shockley at [katie-shockleydtm@yahoo.com](mailto:katie-shockleydtm@yahoo.com) or 469-757-0952. [www.wylie.freetoasthost.com](http://www.wylie.freetoasthost.com)

**Wylie Women's League** Meets the 1st Thursday of each month. Contact Stacey Daniel at 469-964-7425 or [daniel21@verizon.net](mailto:daniel21@verizon.net) for more info. •

### Tell me about it.....

To submit your special event to the Jan/Feb community calendar send an e-mail to [theconnection.anne@mac.com](mailto:theconnection.anne@mac.com) no later than December 15th. Please include contact name, date(s), time(s), location, a publishable phone number, e-mail and/or web site for information. Only events that are open to the public (no "members only" events) are eligible, as space permits. THANKS!

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# Holiday Memories To Warm Your Heart

by Jan Doleh of Sachse

**T**he holiday season gives us an opportunity to bring family and friends together as we celebrate, enjoy special meals together, and continue traditions such as exchanging gifts. Looking back at memorable holiday moments reminds us of how special these times are. Here are a few heartwarming memories shared by local city leaders.



“When I first moved to Murphy back in 1997 it was a quaint small country town. There was the “old” part of town and the newer section, which I moved into, the Timbers. I quickly learned how small Murphy really was when I saw one of the two police officers we had employed here drive down my street at least once an hour, if not more. We had no grocery store or restaurants. We drove to Plano for everything. My family and I quickly made friends around town. I got involved in Crime Watch and got to know a lot of my neighbors. My son had just turned two when we first moved here and he had a huge fascination with firefighters and police officers, so we stopped by the Police and Fire Departments a lot. He loved to sit in their equipment and of course turn on the sirens. Needless to say, they all were absolute heroes to us.

We soon learned that the Christmas Holiday season was very special in Murphy and we so looked forward to it every year. The celebration started when Murphy had its Holiday Parade which included every City of Murphy vehicle that we had, which weren’t many. We had Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts in decorated trailers. Fire Chief Palomba and Police Chief Garwacki were in their cars and other cars followed. The highlight was always Santa in the fire engine. On the day of the parade my son would get dressed up in his junior firefighter gear with his Santa hat on. He made “Murphy Police and Fire Rocks!” posters and stood in front of our house eagerly awaiting the parade to pass. We could hear the sirens coming from City Hall. When they finally turned the corner onto our street, he would jump up and down and the look on his face was priceless! The parade participants threw candy and my son would collect it in his Santa Hat. The greatest thing about the parade back then was that it went down every street! My son figured out that he could watch it go by a million times if we just kept turning the corner or cutting through between houses. The sirens would go on forever. It was actually pretty funny.

After the parade, we’d pack it up and head to the old City Hall where we’d have crafts for the kids in the old gym. We’d hang out with friends, eat cookies and hot chocolate provided by volunteers and of course sit on Santa’s lap for a picture.

The holiday season in Murphy hasn’t changed that much since we moved here. I’d love to see the parade come back (I don’t think every street will ever be possible again), but we still have the Tree Lighting Celebration and Santa. It’s a great opportunity to gather together as neighbors for some fun times and wonderful memories.”

Roxanne Bogdan

Deputy Mayor Pro Tem, Murphy, Texas

“I can remember one Christmas in Sachse that was different from the rest. A winter back in the early 1980s, we had a long lasting freeze and ice storm during December and January. Everything ground to a halt because it was too cold to go outside. Lots of people lost electricity during that time and cities in our area were crippled by the freeze.

When Christmas came, the bad winter was in full force. Normally our family gathers at our house on Christmas day for a big lunch, then everyone goes on to the movie or other planned activities. But this particular Christmas, we were completely housebound by the weather.

So, we put a big fire in the fireplace, pulled out the projector, and had a day of watching home movies and slides. There were probably thirty or forty of us: my wife and children, her parents, my parents, some of her aunts and uncles, and close friends. When I look back, that Christmas was our most memorable because of the time we spent together. Families need more of that togetherness today.”

Charles Smith

Sachse Mayor Pro-Tem

Owner, Charles Smith & Sons Funeral Home

“We are transplants to Texas and have the tradition of inviting friends, who also have no local family, to our home for Thanksgiving and Christmas. The groups are usually large and have consisted of pretty much the same people every year. We have become very close over the last 20+ years.

The Christmas of 1990 we invited a family of recent immigrants from the Ukraine to join us. The Soviet Union was in the process of collapse and this family was from the group of earliest immigrants who had been allowed to cross Turkey’s borders. From there they went to Italy for a year and finally reached their destination country, which for this family was the United States. Bella, the husband’s mother, spoke no English but was a wonderful hand in the kitchen, as you can imagine. We had one memorable moment when Bella and I were working together cleaning vegetables at the sink. I accidentally sprayed water in Bella’s face. I was very embarrassed and I apologized profusely. We all laughed, and there was no language barrier between us, only warmth and shared happiness.”

Karen Reed

President, Sachse Historical Society

“One Christmas my uncle sent me on a scavenger hunt throughout the house for my present. I had so much fun and laughed the whole time, reading each clue and trying to find my gift! Of course, the present was in the room that I began the search and it was wonderful. When I found the gift, delighted does not really explain how I felt. It was a gospel music album by my favorite singer, Elvis Presley. I LOVED IT and I also loved the search!”

Dolores Greenwald

Director of Library Services, Sachse Public Library

“One of my fondest memories of the Christmas holidays was the year I took my wife, Tammie, to meet my extended family for a big family Christmas dinner. It was December 1986 and we had been engaged for two months. It was the first time my fiancé would be meeting all of my aunts, uncles and cousins.

After all of the meeting and greeting we sat down for a big dinner of turkey, dressing and all the fixings at my aunt’s house. Everyone wanted to talk with Tammie and find out about her, how we met, and how I asked her to marry me. They wanted to know details about the upcoming wedding and where we planned to go on our honeymoon.

As the day was coming to a close and we were about to make the three hour drive back to Tammie’s parents’ house, my aunt ran upstairs to get something she had for both of us. I can still remember it like it was yesterday. All of my other aunts, uncles and cousins gathered with us around the staircase, and I thought to myself, what is going on?

Finally my aunt walked back down the stairs with a package wrapped in wedding paper. She explained that before my grandmother had passed away, two years earlier, she had told my aunt to get this item and save it until I became engaged. She was to give me and my fiancé this gift, which was the same type of gift she had given to each of her grandchildren (I was the youngest grandson and the last to get married).

Inside was a lace tablecloth to be used for special occasions. My grandmother had known she was dying and wanted to insure that she had treated all of her grandchildren fairly and with love. Today, 22 years later, Granny Hogue’s lace tablecloth is still brought out for every Thanksgiving and Christmas in our home. Her love for her family is still felt and seen in that lace tablecloth.”

Eric Hogue

Mayor, Wylie, Texas

“My favorite holiday memory is on the second Saturday of each December. On this date the City of Sachse hosts Cookies with Santa at City Hall. Several Council Members and their spouses participate to make it a special morning for the kids. Santa arrives on the fire truck with lights flashing and sirens blaring. The look on the children’s faces is priceless when the truck pulls up to the building.

The kids visit with Santa, get a gift, have refreshments, enjoy story time, play games, and enter a raffle for a special prize. To enter the raffle each child brings a canned good for a needy family.

This is truly a fun community event and all have a good time! The City of Sachse has hosted this event for the past 15 years.”

Mike J. Felix

Mayor, Sachse, Texas •



**A**s the crisp air of autumn blows cool the sizzle of the summer sun and leaves begin to fall to the ground creating blankets of copper and yellow, we can feel the holiday season approaching. The moment we get that first whiff of burning wood escaping from neighborhood chimneys we are catapulted to thoughts of the impending hustle that's looming with the mere flip of a calendar page. October's end brings goblins and ghosts that chase the days to Thanksgiving and the familiar and fragrant aromas of turkeys and pumpkin pies baking in our kitchens.

We've yet to fully digest Thanksgiving's bounty before we're preparing for the arrival of Santa and hoping for a little snow in Texas. Boxes packed with ornaments and lights are retrieved from attics or the dark recesses of closets we've not entered in a year. Holiday decorations are removed from bubble wrap and ornaments made by our children from Christmas's past are gazed upon as priceless works of art and then hung with great care on the tree. They seem as fragile as our memories. Wreaths are hung, lights strung, homes decorated, greeting cards and gift wraps chosen and trips to the mall are strategically planned and then executed.

by Kathleen Noble of Wylie

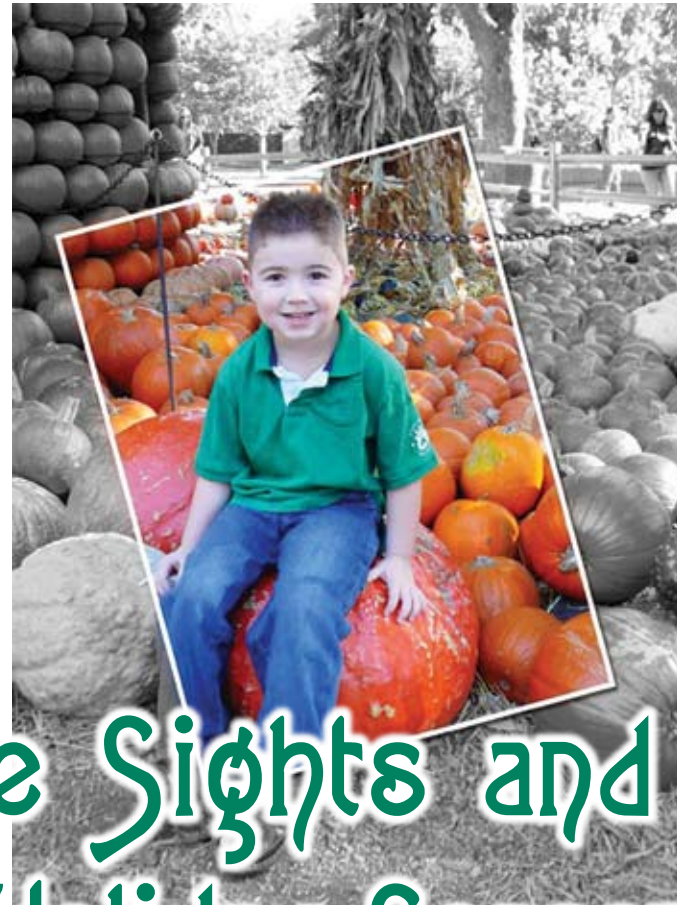
# Experience the Sights and Sounds of the Holiday Season

Before full bellies make you lazy and those gifts are torn open, why not take advantage of a few of the following events that are sure to bring out the holiday cheer in all of us.

## Sachse Parks and Recreation Holiday Events

November 27, 8 a.m. - Sachse High School Turkey Trot  
December 2, 5:30 - 7 p.m. - Christmas Tree Lighting  
December 13, 9 a.m. - Country Christmas Parade  
Visit [www.cityofsachse.com/parks/brochure%20fall08.pdf](http://www.cityofsachse.com/parks/brochure%20fall08.pdf) for the full list of Sachse community events.

There's nothing new about starting the season on the run but how about starting this one running for a cause. Benefit Sachse High School's 2011 graduating class activity fund by entering the 1 or 3K Turkey Trot. Contact SHS for more information. City of Sachse Parks and Recreation department is offering numerous ways to bring in the holiday: dances, hayrides, movies, costume contests, cookies with Santa and special holiday stories for the little ones being read at the Sachse Library are just a few. There are plenty of ideas for the adults too.



Zachary Magner at the Dallas Arboretum.

Photo courtesy of Stephanie Hallmark

## Wylie Christmas Parade of Lights and Tree Lighting

December 13, 6:30 p.m.  
Olde City Park - Ballard St., Downtown Wylie

Enjoy hot chocolate while watching Wylie's Parade of Lights followed by city officials illuminating the community Christmas tree. Santa rides into Old City Park atop the Wylie fire truck.

## Wylie Women's League Tour of Homes

December 6, 4 - 6:30 p.m.  
Begin the season with the Wylie Women's League Tour of Homes. See historical homes decorated in full holiday regalia. Contact Stacy Daniel 469-964-7425 for details.

## City of Murphy Tree Lighting Ceremony

December 4, 5 - 7 p.m.  
City of Murphy Municipal Complex  
206 N. Murphy Rd., Murphy - 972-468-4000

Bring the family out to celebrate the Murphy City tree lighting with a petting zoo, picture's with Santa and hot chocolate.

Continued ~

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### Dallas Arboretum Holiday Happenings

8617 Garland Road, Dallas

214-515-6500 - [www.dallasarboretum.org](http://www.dallasarboretum.org)

The Dallas Arboretum offers numerous seasonal events. Take in the crisp scent of autumn while you enjoy delicate tea sandwiches, a variety of fine teas and dessert at the The DeGolyer Garden Café, Harvest Tea Event at 2 p.m., Wed.-Sun., thru Nov. 23. Be sure to see the amazing collection of nativities during the Holidays at the Arboretum Nov. 24 - Dec. 31.

### Neiman Marcus Adolphus Children's Christmas Parade

December 6, 10 a.m.

Adolphus Hotel - 1321 Commerce Street, Dallas

Enjoy marching bands, magnificent floats, acrobats and a visit from Santa in this annual Dallas parade tradition. Reserved bleacher seating is available by calling 214-456-8360. For information on Breakfast with Santa, call 214-456-8383.

### Highland Park Holiday Events

December 4, Twilight

Highland Park, 214-521-4161

Holiday in Highland Park offers a variety of events sure to enchant even the family Scrooge. Begin with the lighting of the 140 year old pecan tree and come back later for the dazzling light display at Armstrong and Preston Rd. The light show has been a Highland Park tradition for 40 years.

### 'Neath the Wreath Holiday Gift Market

November 6 - 8, 7-10 p.m.,

Plano Centre 2000 E. Springcreek Pkwy., Plano

[www.neaththewreath.com](http://www.neaththewreath.com)

Shop until you drop at the 2008 Holiday Gift 'Neath the Wreath Shopping Extravaganza. Items from 100+ merchants will be on display while you sip signature cocktails or relax in the lounge with a plate of hors d'oeuvres. Tickets will be available at select Tom Thumb stores.

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403 S. Hwy 78 - Wylie (Next to Sonic) **972-429-4488**

### City of Plano Parks & Recreation 30th Annual Christmas Crafts Fair

November 22, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

November 23, Noon - 5 p.m.

Plano Centre - 2000 E. Springcreek Pkwy., Plano

[www.planoparks.org](http://www.planoparks.org) - 972-941-7250

This craft show is the place to purchase holiday decorations for your home including handmade tree skirts, ornaments,



Photo by Anne Hiney

Wylie's Parade of Lights and Christmas Tree lighting are two of the many festive activities that your family can enjoy during the holiday season.

wreaths and jewelry along with hand-painted decorations and personalized holiday items. This event will definitely bring out your Holiday spirit and it's free!

### Frisco's Christmas on the Square

November 28 - January 6

[www.friscosquare.com](http://www.friscosquare.com)

This unique Christmas light display in the Frisco Square features 70,000 Christmas lights synchronized to holiday music. Each weekend evening in December, this one of a kind event also hosts outdoor movies, carriage rides, train rides, balloon artists and a number of other activities. Santa arrives Dec. 6.

### Southfork Ranch Holiday Party Share

December 3, 10:30 a.m.

South Fork Ranch, 3700 Hogge

Road, Parker

972-442-7800

Senior citizen groups are invited to enjoy a traditional turkey and dressing lunch with all the trimmings in the Ewing Ballroom. Groups from local churches, senior centers and the Red Hat Society, among others, will be sharing food, festivities and fellow-

ship. Take a tour of the Ewing mansion and more. Cost is \$23, reservations and tables are available before Nov. 20.

### Richardson's Santa's Village

Dates to be announced, 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

411 W. Arapaho, Richardson City Hall/Civic Center Complex

[www.cor.net/SantasVillage.aspx?id=4124](http://www.cor.net/SantasVillage.aspx?id=4124)

A heart-warming event for the young and young at heart.... where all of the sights and sounds of the holiday season can be enjoyed! There are a variety of dwellings that offer different activities: everything from taking a picture with Santa, to visiting with Mrs. Claus, to making an ornament, to writing a letter to Santa. Santa arrives every night on a fire truck at 6:00 p.m. sharp!!

### Christmas on the Downtown Garland Square

December 4, 5:30 - 9:30 p.m.

[www.christmasonthesquare.com](http://www.christmasonthesquare.com) or 972-205-2749

Santa Claus will be on hand to help light up the square in this Garland Power & Light Avenue of Lights that can be enjoyed while you ride along in a horse-drawn carriage. Christmas music will be provided by the Garland Independent School District bands and choirs plus a Christmas Bazaar.

### Heritage Guild 2008 Holiday Tour of Homes

December 7, Noon - 5 p.m.

Chestnut Square Historic Village, McKinney

972-562-8790 or [www.chestnutsquare.org](http://www.chestnutsquare.org)

The first weekend of December has been The Heritage Guild Holiday Tour of Homes since 1973! Several homes and historic structures are decorated for Christmas and opened for tour.

### A Dickens of a Christmas in McKinney

November 28 - 30

Downtown McKinney

[www.dickensofachristmasfestival.com](http://www.dickensofachristmasfestival.com)

Downtown McKinney takes on the characterizes of an old time Victorian Christmas, in the 28th annual, award-winning holiday event featuring live reindeer, carriage rides, strolling carolers and over 100 downtown merchants in Victorian costume.

Don't forget to check with area churches for special holiday events. Consider donating time to those less fortunate or choose a star from your community's Reach for a Star or Angel Tree campaigns and brighten the holiday for a child in need. Remember those that influence your life, or better your days, that they may have no one to share the season. Keep the true meaning of Christmas close at heart.

Ordinarily it is customary to close with the end; in this case it seems more appropriate to close with the beginning that's sure to arrive with the New Year. •

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## Don't Unwrap Disaster This Holiday Season

A few simple safety tips for you and your family

By Elizabeth Fagan, M.D.

**D**id you know the holiday season is a time when many people are prone to accidents? During November and December of each year, hospital emergency rooms across the country treat about 10,000 patients who have been injured by falls, cuts, shocks and burns related to holiday decorating. That's why it's important to be cautious when stringing holiday lights, trimming the Christmas tree, lighting candles, or preparing the family feast.

Here are some simple safety tips:

- *Unstable shoes and rolling chairs spell disaster when it's time to hang holiday lights and decorations around your house. Rely on sturdy ladders and rubber-soled shoes to get the job done safely. One of the most common accidents: elderly guests tripping over toys or falling down the stairs. So be sure to keep your stairs and rooms clear of any clutter!*
- *Hosting a family gathering or holiday party? Child-proof your home beforehand. Lit candles and low-hanging ornaments are potential hazards to young children. Many people don't realize that antique and foreign-made ornaments are likely to have lead-based paint, which can be dangerous if a young child chews on them. Since visitors like grandma may bring medications into your home, you also need to keep pill bottles out of reach and close the caps tightly.*
- *Always check for freshness when picking out a live tree and look for the "fire resistant" label for artificial trees. When setting up the tree, place it away from fireplaces, radiators or portable heaters and do not block doorways. Be sure to use a sturdy stand and keep it filled with water so the tree doesn't dry out.*
- *Turkey fryers are potentially dangerous. Make sure you use the fryer outdoors and that you don't overfill it with oil. The turkey should be completely thawed and dry before*



*dunking it into the oil so the oil doesn't spill and splatter. Never leave a fryer unattended, make sure it has a stable base and keep a fire extinguisher handy. Allow the oil to cool completely before disposing. Believe it or not, the oil stays hot enough to burn several hours after you turn off the fryer!*

- *Holiday feasts are a treat for the taste buds but can be harmful if food isn't cared for properly. Perishable buffet items should not sit at room temperature for more than two hours. If you are planning a long evening, place cold dishes in an ice bath and hot items in chafing dishes.*
- *If the temperature drops below freezing, ice can present a hazard for the whole family. Ice on the sidewalk is as dangerous as ice on the streets. Ensure all family members wear heavy rubber-soled shoes and use caution when walking on or near icy patches.*

Take the time to share these safety tips with your family, so all of you can enjoy your holiday traditions – without making a trip to the emergency room. •

*Elizabeth Fagan, M.D., completed her medical training at the University of Oklahoma and her residency at Orlando Regional Medical Center. Dr. Fagan, board certified in emergency medicine, serves as Medical Director of Richardson Regional Medical Center's Emergency Department at both the Campbell Campus and the Bush/Renner Campus. The new Emergency Department located at George Bush Turnpike and Renner Road is open 24/7 and can treat adults and children and all types of injuries as well as cardiac, orthopedic, and pediatric emergencies. In addition to 18 emergency care beds, a four-bed observation unit is available for overnight care. For a physician referral, please call (972) 4 DR LINE.*



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## Holiday Performances

Celebrate the season while supporting our young performers

by Marcia Coker of Wylie ISD

**P**repare to be entertained as many secondary fine arts students in the Wylie Independent School District begin rehearsals for the festive holiday season. November and December are filled with opportunities to hear wonderful bands and choirs and to see great theater. It is also an opportunity to support the young people of the community as they practice their arts. Again this school year, Wylie ISD students are already taking honors at regional and area competitions against other area school districts. Wylie ISD fine arts students have a history of excellence and trophy cases filled with evidences of their spectacular performance skills.

Many of the upcoming programs are free to the public and the students love a large crowd. Mark your calendars now and check with your local school nearer to the date of the event if times are not available. Share the joy of the holidays with many of the talented and special young people of your community. It can put a smile on your face!



Madison George, Amy Dunlap, Ashlee Patten, Stephany Heath & Audra Smith

### November

**1** Wylie High School Band at Centennial Marching Festival – Frisco Memorial Stadium

**6-8** Wylie High School Black Box Players – Wylie H.S. Black Box Theatre, 7:30 p.m. (5:00 p.m. on Friday)

**7** Wylie High School Band performs at the football game vs. Allen – Eagle Stadium, 7:30 p.m.

**14-15** McMillan Junior High School Theatre – “Everyman/Everywoman” – MJHS Cafeteria, 7:00 p.m.

**18** Wylie East High School Choir Concert – Wylie East Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.

Photo courtesy of WISD

### December

**2** Burnett Junior High School and Harrison Intermediate School Choirs Holiday Concert – Wylie East Auditorium

**4-5** Wylie East High School Theatre – “The American Car: The American Dream” – Wylie East Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.

**6** Wylie High School Choir Holiday Concert and Dinner – Wylie H.S. Cafeteria, 7:00 p.m. – One hundred percent of all proceeds benefit scholarship fund for Choir seniors – any questions contact Patrick Newcomb at 972-429-3117

**9** McMillan Junior High School Bands Winter Concert – Wylie East Auditorium, 7:00 p.m.

**11** Cooper Junior High School and Draper Intermediate School Bands Winter Concert – Wylie H.S. Auditorium

**11-12** Cooper Junior High School Theatre – “A Christmas Carol” – Cooper JHS Cafeteria, 7:00 p.m.

**12** Wylie High School Theatre – “Evening at the Improv” – Wylie H.S. Black Box Theatre, 7:30 p.m.

**13** Wylie High School Band at Wylie Chamber of Commerce Christmas Parade of Lights



Liz Atwater is Jean Farrell and Ben Gifford plays Henry Farrell in the Wylie H.S. production of Emma's Child.

**15** Burnett Junior High School Bands Winter Concert – Wylie East Auditorium, 7:00 p.m.

**15** Cooper Junior High and Draper Intermediate School Choirs Holiday Concert – Wylie H.S. Auditorium, 7:00 p.m.

**16** Wylie H.S./Wylie East H.S. Band Winter Concert – Wylie East Auditorium, 7:00 p.m.

**16** McMillan Junior High School and Davis Intermediate School Choirs Holiday Concert – Wylie H.S. Auditorium, 7:00 p.m. •

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## Happy Holiday Pets

Take special care of our furry family members

by Sharon Jones of Guardian Pet Sitters

This is a wonderful time of year! The holidays bring us time with family and friends, enjoying great food and exchanging gifts. It is a time of hustle and bustle, holiday programs, shopping for gifts, going to wonderful parties and the young waiting for the big day when Santa will bring them the special toy.

This is a time for us to remember the wonderful animals that share our lives and bring us joy. Pets can enjoy the holidays if we are careful to not let their curiosity or their sense of smell get them in trouble. We can show our love and thankfulness for the part they play in our lives by giving the gifts that say "I care".

Some gifts can be bought; you might want to replace the worn-out and frayed collar and leash, get a new name tag, new food or water bowls and this would be a good time to throw out the old litter box and get a brand new one. What about buying a new orthopedic mattress bed for your older pet or replacing the bird's rusting cage with a roomier clean one. What about a new kitty condo? We don't want to forget new toys for them to play with that will entertain and give them exercise.

Then there are gifts that we can not buy: scheduling time during this busy season to spend with your animal friend, finding moments in your busy schedule to take the dog for a walk or playing with the cat.

During this time of year we also have the responsibility of protecting them from the many pet-hazards that can be found. The holidays can be stressful for our pets with all the changes in the home and routine. Here are some steps to make sure your pet is happy and secure during this time, eliminating added stress and giving you enjoyment with your pet.

- Be sure there is a quiet room for the shy animals to retreat to as they can get stressed with the hustle and bustle of holiday guests.
- Before you light those candles, remember that some produce fumes that can be harmful to birds. A wagging tail or a jumping cat can easily knock over a burning candle on a table. NEVER leave a burning candle unattended.

- The simmering pots or decorative bowls might find a curious pet checking it out and they could burn themselves or ingest the liquid.
- Batteries (loose and in packages) should be kept away as they contain corrosives that can cause ulceration in your animal's mouth, tongue and gastrointestinal tract if bitten or swallowed.
- The Christmas tree is a target as the pet might want to chew on the branches (pine needles can be toxic) or climb into the tree causing it to fall over. For "live" trees, they might drink the water that contains commercial preservatives or bacteria which can cause vomiting and worse.
- Electrical cords, glass ornaments, ribbons and holly berries can have dangerous side effects if your cat or dog chews or consumes them.
- **DON'T USE TINSEL!** It can cut your pet's intestines. It can also wad up and cause blockage requiring stomach surgery for your canine or feline.
- Holly, Poinsettia, Chrysanthemums, Amaryllis, Periwinkle, and Mistletoe can be toxic to your pet.
- Don't "treat" the pet from the table – it could lead to indigestion, upset tummies or loose bowels. Ask guests to refrain from giving treats, too.
- Alcoholic drinks can cause death, especially in smaller animals.
- Chocolate contains caffeine and theobromine which can cause serious problems for your pets.
- Bones from turkeys, chicken, pork, fish and beef ribs can puncture your pet's throat, stomach or intestines.

If you suspect that your pet has gotten into a poisonous substance call your veterinarian or the APCC's emergency hotline 1-888-4-ANI-Help immediately.

With your busy schedule you can also reduce your stress by hiring a pet sitter to come in to feed, play with or walk the dog, or care for an elderly or special-needs pet (diabetic) with medicine or insulin shots. This will reduce your stress and enable you to attend holiday functions with "peace of mind" that your pets are being provided the care you want them to have. •

Sharon Jones, owner of Guardian Pet Sitters since 1992, is passionate about helping people enjoy their pets by keeping them safe, healthy and happy. To learn more, contact her at 972-625-5272 or visit her website at [www.guardianpetsitters.com](http://www.guardianpetsitters.com).

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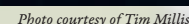
## The Connection • 25



Tim Millis - Executive Director of the NFL Referees Association

by Scot Harrison the Voice of the Wylie Pirates

"You're on the college program and you are bringing in all of those calories then you quit and you're still bringing them in," says Millis with a chuckle. "I kind of got into it to continue



And it all happens in Millis' office in Wylie, Texas. And you thought Wylie was a football town before! •

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## How to Become a Millionaire

### Five Simple Steps

from Jal Dennis of the Jal Dennis Group

*Becoming a millionaire isn’t all that difficult and there are countless ways to achieve that milestone. Some people do it through real estate, others start their own business, while some simply get lucky. What’s even more interesting is that you don’t have to be wealthy to begin with nor do you have to earn six figures to reach this goal.*

*I know some people who earn well over \$100,000 and all they have to show for it is a large mortgage payment and a fancy car. Anyone can become a millionaire and there are five things you need to do to have the best shot of making that a reality.*

#### 1 Earn Income.

Clearly, the more money you make the faster you get there, but that doesn’t mean someone with an average income can’t obtain millionaire status. The current median income in this country ranges between \$35,000-\$60,000, depending on where you live. If married, you have the benefit of dual incomes. The wonderful thing about dual incomes is that your income may double, but your expenses typically don’t.

If you earn an income that is below the average, all is not lost. You can do something about it. A negative attitude about your job or your earning potential won’t change anything. Be proactive and improve your situation. It is your life, so take control and realize that things don’t change overnight. It may take a few years of slow growth before you reach your goal, but you can do it if you try.

#### 2 Live Within Your Means.

If you spend all or more money than you make you’ll never be a millionaire. This doesn’t mean you have to live a miserable and miserly lifestyle, but you simply need to live reasonably. Start by purchasing a home that you can comfortably afford and drive vehicles that suit your lifestyle without straining your budget. You don’t have to make

\$75,000 a year, drive a 1992 Civic Hatchback, and live in a dump, but throwing your money at a 4,000 square foot home in a gated community with luxury cars or SUV’s that cost as much as one year of your salary won’t help you become a millionaire. Some may argue that an expensive home and real estate in general is a good way to become a millionaire, but I will touch on that later.

#### 3 Save Money.

This isn’t rocket science but if you earn a reasonable income and you live within your means, guess what, you will probably have money left over to save. The problem most people have is they put savings last, as an afterthought. People pay bills, buy things and then whatever is leftover they try to save. That is the wrong way to save. I’m sure you’ve heard it before, but pay yourself first. Whether it is \$100 a month or \$1,000 a month, think of the savings as a bill that needs to be paid and do it regularly. If you are unable to save money you will find that your only wealth is in the form of material things.

#### 4 Invest Wisely.

Now that you are saving money, you need to invest it wisely. Sticking it under the mattress isn’t going to help you reach your goals any faster. You don’t have to read the Wall Street Journal or watch CNBC everyday while actively managing your portfolio in order to be a good investor. Some of the best investment advice is to simply buy and hold and to buy low and sell high.

It is also important to remember that real estate is part of your investment picture, but it shouldn’t be all of it. Too many people stake almost everything they have into a primary residence and expect it to appreciate in value. Just like any investment, generally speaking, over time you will make money. There isn’t

much debate about that, but relying heavily on real estate is no different than if you rely on one stock to fund your retirement.

#### 5 Stick With Your Plan.

If you have done the previous four items the only thing left to do is to continue doing it and stick to the plan. As far as income is concerned, always be on the lookout for ways to increase your earnings, whether it is through climbing the ladder at your current job, finding work elsewhere, or maybe even starting a business on the side. Increased income will mean you can save even more, provided you aren’t foolishly spending the additional money. As that additional money gets tucked away into savings or

Continued ~

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It Isn't Hard to Do if You Work at It

Unfortunately, most people are looking for a way to get rich quick or to capitalize on the next big thing. It is true that some people have made their wealth through playing the real estate market, while others have done so by investing in a few stocks that exploded, but this is the exception and not the norm. If the above list seems overly simplistic, that's good. There are no secrets to becoming a millionaire and almost anyone has the chance to make it happen. The process is simple:

1. Make money
2. Don't spend all of your money
3. Save some money
4. Invest that money
5. Repeat

Certainly, there are many factors in play that can make this easier or more difficult for different people. This is simply the process that you can use in order to reach that goal, whether it is in 5 years or 50, if you follow a few basic steps, you can do it! •

*This article was supplied by Jal Dennis, an Independent Financial Advisor, located at 205 S. Ballard Avenue, Wylie, Texas. Jal can be reached at 972-429-0603.*

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