

## **From the Desk of Bobbie Mitchell, Denton County Commissioner Pct. 3 – December 2017**

*Want to stay connected to Denton County? Watch for my column each month for updates and events happening in Precinct 3 and around the county.*

### ***Upcoming Community Holiday Events:***

#### **Hickory Creek Tree Lighting December 1**

Don't miss the Town of Hickory Creek Tree Lighting on Friday, December 1, at Hickory Creek Town Hall at 1075 Ronald Reagan Ave. from 6-8pm. Enjoy music, face painting, crafts, a petting zoo, and a visit from Santa! Event is FREE!

#### **Huffines Auto Dealerships Lewisville Christmas Parade December 2**

The Huffines Auto Dealerships Lewisville Christmas Parade returns to Old Town Lewisville this Saturday, December 2, at 12:30 p.m. The day starts at 8am with Breakfast with Santa and also includes the Motorcycle Toy Run, crafts, and entertainment by a Lynyrd Skynyrd tribute band. See web site for parade route and event schedule: <http://bit.ly/LVParade>

#### **Highland Village Santa Day December 2**

Every year, with the help of the Highland Village Firefighter's Association, Santa makes a visit to the Highland Village Fire Department so children can make their requests for Christmas. This year's visit is this Saturday, December 2, from 1-4pm.

Activities for the kids include bounce houses, coloring, writing letters to Santa, temporary tattoos and having pictures with Santa. Freshly popped popcorn, cookies and hot chocolate are always served. Children and adults are encouraged to attend this exciting event. Don't miss out!

In addition, every year Santa loves to partner with the Highland Village Fire Department during his week-long stay in Highland Village. He visits the fire station, then rides through the city each night between 6 and 8:30pm.

Visit the city's web site for Santa's route through the city the week of December 17:  
<http://www.highlandvillage.org/393/Santa-in-Highland-Village>

#### **Lake Dallas "Lighting up the Season" Event December 2**

Get into the holiday spirit with the City of Lake Dallas 2017 "Lighting up the Season" event this Saturday, December 2, from 5-7pm. Enjoy live performances by student and church choirs while indulging on cookies and hot chocolate.

But that's not all... Santa Claus is coming to town! Join the countdown, with Santa and the community, to light the big, beautiful tree. Be sure to bring your camera, as kids of all ages will get to meet Santa and give him their wish list.

The event is at Lake Dallas City Hall, at 212 Main Street in Lake Dallas, and admission is FREE! Check out their web site for additional event details and a schedule of events: <https://www.lakedallas.com/231/Lighting-Up-The-Season>

### **Town of Flower Mound Christmas Parade December 9**

Join the Town in celebrating its 28th annual Christmas Parade on Saturday, December 9, from 6-9pm. This year's theme will be "Christmas Around the World."

The nighttime parade will feature lighted floats parading down Spinks Road to Gerault Park. During the parade, the Flower Mound Summit Club will be accepting canned good donations along the parade route to benefit Christian Community Action.

The tree lighting ceremony is at Gerault Park and includes choir performances, pictures with Santa Claus, carriage rides, kids' activities, local vendors, food trucks, and much more. Dress warmly and bring the family to this fun, FREE event!

Click the link for more details, including parking and shuttle information, parade route, and the entertainment schedule: <https://www.flower-mound.com/1621/Christmas-Parade>

### **County Emergency Services Receives Homeland Security Grant**

Denton County Emergency Services was recently awarded a grant for \$173,515 through the 2017 Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP), to be used for projects that support the investments approved by the Department of Homeland Security.

Funding from this grant includes \$134,567, which will be used to purchase hardware, network switches etc. to be installed in the mobile Emergency Operations Center to enhance data and voice communications from mobile platforms by providing redundant high bandwidth pipelines, utilizing multiple cellular providers and bonding cellular providers together. This will assist Law Enforcement, Fire and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Computer Aided Dispatch Terminals, Radio Over Internet Protocol (IP) Technologies, Remote Camera Technologies, Geographic Information System (GIS) and access to the full spectrum of web traffic that aids in developing situational awareness.

Additional funding in the amount of \$38,948 is being requested for the Citizens Emergency Response Team (CERT) for the purchase of support equipment and supplies necessary to complete training and response to emergencies affecting Denton County and the region.

The purpose of the Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) is to support state and local efforts to prevent terrorism and other catastrophic events and to prepare the nation for the threats and hazards that pose the greatest risk to the security of the United States.

The HSGP provides funding to implement investments that build, sustain, and deliver the 31 core capabilities essential to achieving the nation's National Preparedness Goal. The building, sustainment, and delivery of these core capabilities are not exclusive to any single level of government, organization, or community, but rather, require the combined effort of the whole community.

### **Did You Know?**

Denton County has a new Juvenile Mental Health Court to serve the needs of children who are at risk of being removed from their homes due to mental health issues that result in behaviors that make them unmanageable in their home and/or community environments. This court serves post-adjudicated male and female juveniles between the ages of 10-17 diagnosed with mood disorder, psychosis, mania, anxiety, trauma (PTSD), anger issues, and ADHD, among others.

The program was established to bring intensive services to these children and to address the family issues that may be contributing factors to the dysfunction of the identified children. The goal of Denton County Juvenile Mental Health Court is to reduce delinquency, increase offender accountability, and rehabilitate juvenile offenders through a comprehensive, coordinated community-based juvenile probation system that involves the entire family dynamic.

The program has an integrated treatment and service approach in processing cases by utilizing a psychiatric evaluation, a psychological or behavioral health assessment, and a substance abuse screening, and uses a non-adversarial approach with participants by including prosecutors and defense attorneys, which will ensure due process rights and protection for the public.

The program, through intensive mental health treatment and services will provide opportunities for participants who are at risk for out of home placements to remain in the community and avoid further re-offending and additional court sanctions.

The program staff participates in interdisciplinary training and continuing education in order to promote effective program planning and services.

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*If you have any questions or comments, please let me hear from you. My email is [bobbie.mitchell@dentoncounty.com](mailto:bobbie.mitchell@dentoncounty.com) and my office number is 972-434-4780.*