

children laughing...
people passing...
meeting smile after smile

it's christmastime in the city

Sights and Sounds of Christmas

"Sights and Sounds of Christmas" will wrap up with the **36th Annual Plano Children's Christmas Parade** on Saturday, December 6. "I hope that everyone comes out. This parade is always a fun time for all," said Ken Gleason, Lion's Club member and chair of the event.

Sponsored by NBC5 and hosted by the Plano Early Lions Club, the parade will begin at Plano Senior High School on Independence Parkway at Park Boulevard and move north to Spring Creek Parkway and Roundrock ending at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church.

Before the parade, head to the Plano Senior High School cafeteria for the **All-You-Can-Eat Pancake Feed**.

The First United Methodist Men and volunteers will be serving a hot meal, orange juice, milk, and coffee beginning at 6:30 a.m. Proceeds will benefit the Plano Santas Christmas Program, which provides food for 600 families for one month. Leftover food will go to the North Texas Food Bank.

For more information, call Ken Gleason at 972.985.8260 or visit planotx.christmasparade.com.

Lantern Light warms up the holiday season

Heritage Farmstead Museum presents two full days of Lantern Light festivities. On Friday, December 5 from 5–9 p.m. and Saturday, December 6 from 3–9 p.m., "**Tinsel Toys and all that Jazz**" will offer mule-drawn wagon rides and turn-of-the-century crafts and games, along with master blacksmith **Kelly Kring** and the **North Forty Storytellers**.

Guests can tour a decorated historic Victorian

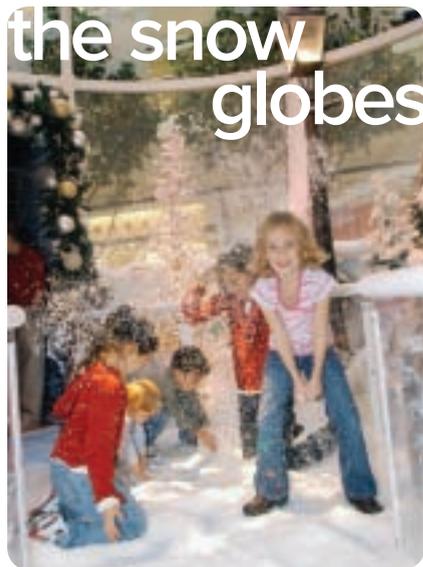


School spirit "reigns" at the Annual Plano Children's Christmas Parade

A roundup of holiday events sure to inspire every member of the family

home and enjoy entertainment by the **E-Flat Porch Band** on Friday and the **Jed Marum Band** on Saturday. Refreshments will be provided by Starbucks.

Admission is \$8 for adults and \$5 for seniors and children under 5. Present a new unwrapped toy and receive one ticket for a free wagon ride. All toys collected will be donated to the Collin County Children's Advocacy Center. The Heritage Farmstead Museum is located at 1900 West 15th St. in Plano. [Visit heritagefarmstead.org](http://www.visitheritagefarmstead.org).



Shoppers stop in their tracks for The Polar Express

Since their debut four years ago at **The Shops at Willow Bend, The Snow Globes** have become a must-see family tradition, and this year's theme does not disappoint. Visitors can experience **The Polar Express** train with multi-sensory sights and sounds.

A train tunnel archway entrance leads to a 20-foot globe that greets

visitors with magical falling snow, life-sized sculptures of characters from the film, and the soft light of The Polar Express as it crosses the threshold into the North Pole. A walk-through 28-foot holiday tree features an interactive train engine room with realistic rumbling and movement effects. Three 6-foot snow globes, some with interactive elements, include three-dimensional scenes from the movie. Call 972.202.4900 or visit [shopwillowbend.com](http://www.shopwillowbend.com).

Holiday Vendor Show

If Mom's happy, everybody's happy, so be sure to please Mom this holiday and attend the **Holiday Vendor Show** hosted by the **Mothers and Others Group of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church**. More than 30 vendors will fill the Faith Formation Center (3100 W. Spring Creek Pkwy.) in Plano on Friday, December 12 from 9 a.m.–1 p.m. and Saturday, December 13 from 8:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. Visit [setonmothersandothers.org](http://www.setonmothersandothers.org).

Festival Service of Lessons and Carols

Lord of Life Lutheran Church's Sunday, December 14 service will include readings interspersed with popular traditional carols that originated at Truro Cathedral in England in the 1880s. The choir will be accompanied by strings, brass, and the organ. Enjoy seasonal music of Vivaldi and Bach, as well as choral chant settings of the "O antiphons," a medieval liturgical text describing the attributes of Christ. Lord of Life Lutheran Church is located at 3601 W. 15th St. in Plano. Call 972.867.5588 or visit [lol-plano.org](http://www.lol-plano.org).

BIZ: BYTES

What's on your shopping list?

It's the giving season, so we thought it would be fun to see what people like to give family and friends for the holidays and special occasions. They came up with some great ideas, so get your shopping list ready.

Shay Sampson, designer, IBB Design Furniture

Showroom: When I really want to "wow" a friend or client, my favorite gift to give is a fabulous fabric or faux fur custom throw. Throws are so versatile. Use them on a coffee table, draped over a chair or sofa, or at the foot of a bed. [ibbdesign.com](http://www.ibbdesign.com)

Kathi Rupp, owner, Holidaze and Gifts:

A Pandora bracelet. It's the hottest bracelet right now and the ladies love them! There is a charm for every personality and style. It can be casual or dressy and you can change the charms to coordinate with your attire. [holidazeandgifts.com](http://www.holidazeandgifts.com)

Deepak Madhav, managing partner, Preston Bend Dental:

Recently I have been sending Amazon.com gift certificates. Many of our friends and family live in different places. I e-mail the gift certificates directly to them. I know they will find something they like, and my goal is that they have something that makes them happy. [prestonbenddental.com](http://www.prestonbenddental.com)

Peter Odza, owner, Beauty Store and Salon:

My favorite gift to give for the holidays is luxurious bath and body fragrances. I also enjoy giving wonderfully scented candles. Gift certificates also make great stocking stuffers. [beautystoreandsalon.com](http://www.beautystoreandsalon.com)