



## Claus ready to ride in 38th Annual Christmas Parade



Claus

NORTH POLE (okay, it's really Plano)—Seventeen stents and quadruple-bypass heart surgery will not stop Santa Claus from making his rounds this Christmas. His spirits are high, his belly is wide, and he's ready to ride in the 38th Annual Plano Children's Christmas Parade. Themed "The Music and Magic of Christmas" and presented by the Plano Early Lions Club, the parade is Saturday, December 11.

The news leaked when we asked Santa (okay, Plano resident Howard Yonce) what he wanted for Christmas. "I'd like three to four days to play golf," he told us. "Last Saturday was the first time I've played in years."

"Why, Santa? Is it too cold to play at the North Pole?" we inquired.

"I had a quadruple bypass in April," Santa revealed. "I've had heart disease for many years and this year on Easter I was having breathing problems in my Sunday school class (Santa teaches third-grade Sunday School), and when the lesson was over, I went and got help."

Doctors told Santa that after 17 stents, they couldn't give him more and that it was time for surgery. "It was a glorious experience," said Santa. "It was very positive. Now, I do two to three miles every morning on the treadmill and life is wonderful. God has blessed me unbelievably."

Then, Santa put us on hold to take another call. When he returned, he chuckled a merry "ho, ho, ho" and said, "Sorry, that was one of my elves about candy canes. We have been scurrying to get more."

"You know why Santa hands out candy canes?" he asked. "To remind everybody of Jesus' birthday. The candy cane is shaped as a J for Jesus. He was the first gift." Santa added, "that's why we give gifts at Christmas. Santa makes the rounds every year to remind everyone you're supposed to give to others. Christmas is all about teaching others to give."

Last year, the elves gave Santa a bicycle for Christmas, and we're pretty sure this year they'll work their magic and give him that much deserved retreat to the golf course.

### Parade theme set to be "The Music and Magic of Christmas"

In the meantime, look for Santa and Mrs. Claus in the parade. This is their 20th year to ride in the parade and Santa calls it "a labor of love." "We always have a ball! Seeing those kids' faces light up...their eyes get so big. It's magic."

The Plano Children's Christmas Parade:

"The Music and Magic of Christmas" will kick off at 9 a.m. at Vines High School and travel north on Independence Parkway to Parkhaven Drive. It will then turn east on Parkhaven and end at Plano Senior High School on Park Boulevard. Sponsors include the City of Plano, Atomic Design & Consulting, Assured Self Storage, NBC Channel 5 DFW, and others.

Left: With gold-rimmed glasses and a beard as white as snow, **Howard Yonce** is Santa in the Plano Children's Christmas Parade.

Profile photo/Brit Mott

### Stack o' Jacks

Plates piled high of Hungry Jack pancakes will fill appetites at the all-you-can-eat pancake breakfast the morning of the Plano Children's Christmas Parade. The First United Methodist Men and volunteers will be serving stacks from 6:30-11 a.m. inside Vines High School Cafeteria. The breakfast, which includes sausage and a beverage, is \$5 for adults and \$4 for children under 12.



For more information about the parade, visit [planotxchristmasparade.com](http://planotxchristmasparade.com).

# Enchanted events around this holiday



dickens downtown

Profile photo/Mike Newman

## Dickens Downtown

A special mailbox is installed in the park near the Interurban Railway Museum for children who would like to write a letter to Santa. The letters will be delivered to Santa when he arrives at **Dickens Downtown** Friday, December 3.

Dickens Downtown, hosted by the City of Plano, is from 6–10 p.m. in Haggard Park. Festivities will include carolers, carriage rides, and mini train rides for children. Local entertainment will include the Children's Chorus of Collin County, First Baptist Church Choir, the Chinese Alliance Church children's choir, and Sounding Brass Ensemble, in addition to Hunters Glen Baptist Church Hand Bells, the Plano Community Band, 15th Street Singers, and the Younger Generation chorus.

Santa will visit with children at his house from 6:30–9 p.m., and the annual Tree Lighting Ceremony will light up the night at 7 p.m. Don't miss out on this holiday tradition!

*Note: J Place between 14th and 15th streets will be closed to traffic at 2 p.m. on December 3. At 4 p.m., 15th Street will be closed from Avenue H to Avenue K to allow for merchants to set up booths.*



**Beau Beaudrie** invites guests to Journey to the Manger December 10–11. Profile photo/SPLC

times, complete with bakers, weavers, potters, candy makers, and other merchants. Six outdoor scenes will depict the major events leading up to Christ's birth. Drama scenes begin every 10 minutes from 7–9 p.m. on Friday, December 10, and from 6–9 p.m. on Saturday, December 11, rain or shine. "Journey to the Manger" is free and open to the public. Visit [stpaulplano.org](http://stpaulplano.org).

## Journey to the Manger

Over 100 members of St. Paul Lutheran Church will participate in a lively nativity drama December 10–11. The 20th annual **Journey to the Manger** features a marketplace in the little town of Bethlehem, as it would have been in Biblical

## Drive-thru nativity

First United Methodist Church of Plano welcomes everyone to attend the **Journey to Bethlehem**, a drive-thru nativity on Saturday, December 4 from 5:30–7:30 p.m.

Live actors and animals will help bring the Christmas story to life! The church is located on the corner of Parker Road & Spring Creek Parkway. Visit [firstmeth-odistplano.org](http://firstmeth-odistplano.org).



Profile photo/FUMC

## Menorah Celebration

Chabad of Plano presents a **Community Menorah Lighting** at 6:15 p.m. on Thursday, December 2 at The Shops at Willow Bend (first floor near Macy's). Share the message of the Festival of Lights and enjoy music, games, and a menorah contest for kids for a chance to win a Shops at Willow Bend gift card. The contest is divided into two age groups:

3–8 and 9–13. Participants must bring their homemade menorah to the mall by 6 p.m. Do not include your name on it. For more information, call 972.596.8270 or visit [chabadplano.org](http://chabadplano.org).

