

FREE *(or almost Free)* EVENTS In The Austin Metro Area

Last Updated: November 25, 2012

This newsletter is located at website: <http://CarlosSite.YolaSite.com/>
(Please notice, there is NO www prefix in the above link)

Click on the underlined links below for more info the events listed.

Nov. 30 – Dec. 1 (Friday – Saturday) DICKENS' CHRISTMAS IN LOCKHART, Free, A fun time is had by all who attend this grand annual event around the Downtown Square. Enjoy two days of activities, parade and free entertainment and a relaxed shopping experience in Lockhart. Lighted paraded on Friday at 7:30pm. Downtown Lockhart, Texas.

Every Friday & Saturday nights in December, South Park Meadows Shopping Center will host a Holiday Light & Music moments during the holiday season. Check website link above or call 877.258.5879 as details are *still in the works*. Last year they had laser light shows in harmony with Christmas music – it was great when I attended last year. Hope they do it again this year. Shows are held in the Grove Center of the South Park Meadows, 9300 IH-35 South, Austin, TX 78748

December, Click here for a list of holiday events going on by the City Of Austin Parks and Recreation Dept.

Dec. 1 (Saturday) CHUY'S CHRISTMAS PARADE, Free, 11am, Chuy's Christmas Parade features giant inflatable balloons, holiday floats, classic cars, marching bands and Santa. However, in addition to being great entertainment for those in attendance, Chuy's Christmas Parade also serves as a toy drive for needy children. **So Bring A Toy to Donate.** Parade starts at the State Capitol (11th & Congress), and moves south on Congress to Cesar Chavez (just north of the bridge).




Dec. 1 (Saturday) HOLIDAY BY THE TRACK, ELGIN, Free, 10am-dusk.

A day of shopping, visits with Santa, music, Auctions, Kids Art, and much more. Lighted parade begins at dusk. Main Street, Downtown, Elgin.

Dec. 1 (Saturday) HOLIDAY SING ALONG, Free (Cans of Food donations appreciated), 6pm-9pm,

a family-friendly event that begins with community caroling at the Capitol grounds led by John Aielli, host of the KUT 90.5 show Eklektikos. When the caroling ends, the holiday tree in front of the Capitol is lit and participants stroll down Congress Avenue where they find the street alive with music, art, shopping and more. Capitol Grounds, Austin, TX

Dec. 1 (Saturday) GIRLSTART DeSTEMber, Free, 11am-3pm,

Join Girlstart for a free, frosty DeSTEMber Fest Extravaganza. Explore snowflake chemistry, igloo engineering, gingerbread architecture and more hands-on fun. The whole family will discover the mysteries behind this magical time of year! DeSTEMber is FREE from 11am-3pm and then head to the Museum from 2pm-6pm for free admission.  Bob Bullock Museum, 1800 N. Congress Ave., Austin, TX [Girlstart](#) is an organization working with 1st thru 8th grade girls in getting them excited about science, technology, engineering and math.

Dec. 1 (Saturday) FAMILY STORY TIME, Free, 2pm,

Where will your imagination take you? Join us for Family Story Time on the 1st Saturday of each month, & on the 3rd Tuesday of each month, 2-5 year olds will enjoy a Story Time that is geared just for them with hands-on activities, stories, songs, games, & more! Bob Bullock Museum, 1800 N. Congress Avenue, Austin, TX.



Dec. 1 (Saturday) WIMBERLEY MARKET DAYS, Free, (\$5 parking),

7:00am-4:00pm, last date to shop here for the holidays. Featuring over 475 booths of everything you can think of. Listen to live music and shop to your heart's content. Wimberley Texas, at intersection RR12 & FM2325, turn on 2325 (toward Blanco) and proceed less than a mile.

Dec. 1 (Saturday) FREE ADMISSION, MUSEUM, Free, 2pm-6pm,

The Bob Bullock Museum offers free admission to the Museum Exhibits from 2-6 pm on the 1st Saturday of each month. Bob Bullock Museum, 1800 N. Congress Ave., Austin, TX



Dec. 2 (Sunday) ZILKER TREE LIGHTING, *Free*, 6:00pm, Over 150



feet tall, the Zilker Tree will be the center of the free festivities, which include a path of multi-colored twinkle lights, live music performances and holiday entertainment for the whole family. Join us for the tree lighting ceremony at 6:00 pm. December 3-31, 6 pm - 12 midnight, tree will be on display nightly. REMINDER - December 15-23 the area roads will be closed as thousands visit the [Trail](#)

[of Lights](#). If you are planning to visit the Holiday Tree itself, make sure to plan around those nights! [Click here for Trail of Light parking info](#). Zilker Park, Austin, TX

Dec. 7 (Friday) CHRISTMAS FAMILY NIGHT, *Free*, 6:30pm, downtown

historic Round Rock is decorated with small wooden houses which "house" various free games and activities. Including live music, candle-making, carriage rides, game booths, Frosty the Snowman, Santa Claus and more. Children need to bring their "wish lists" for Santa Claus (Polaroid pictures with Santa available for a small fee). Enjoy *Free* hot dogs, popcorn, hot chocolate, refreshments, activities & snacks. Free parking is available in City Hall parking garage. Event held at Downtown Round Rock, HWY 620/Main Street & Mays Intersection, Round Rock, TX 78664 [Downtown Festival layout map](#)

Dec 8 (Saturday) SANTA'S WORKSHOP, CEDAR PARK, *Free*, 6:30pm-

9:00pm. On this magical night, join us in the tradition of lighting the tree. Over 50,000 lights illuminate the largest Live Oak Tree in Cedar Park. Santa's Workshop will kick off immediately following the tree lighting ceremony. Enjoy live music, carriage rides, games & prizes, food concessions, and arts & crafts projects sponsored by H-E-B. You can have your photo taken with Santa for \$3 and in a snow globe for \$3. Bring the whole family for what promises to be a festive evening. Heritage Oak Park, 875 Quest Parkway, Cedar Park, TX



Dec. 8 (Saturday) LEGO CHRISTMAS ORNAMENT BUILDING CONTEST, *Free*, Drop off your entry between Dec 1 & Dec 8 by noon! There will be 1st & 2nd place prizes for each age group & 1 Grand Prize! See website for details and more info. Kaleidoscope Toys, 1601 S IH35 Ste 325, Round Rock, TX 78664 ([map](#))

Dec. 8-9 (Sat & Sun) LUMINATIONS, *Free (with 2-cans of food items)*, 6pm-9pm. You're invited to enjoy gardens lighted with more than 3,000 luminaries and 5,000 twinkle lights and to listen to music of the season. There will be hot chocolate and yummy food and drinks for sale, plus children's activities and numerous music acts throughout both evenings



from local performers and area schools. Kids can get a hug from Frosty the Snowman, make paper snowflakes in the Visitors Gallery or practice coloring in the Little House. Be sure to bring a camera to take photos, and consider making a holiday wreath or other decorations from recycled materials with the Teenage Eco Warriors. Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, 4801 La Crosse Avenue, Austin, TX 78739

Dec. 12-20 TRAIL OF LIGHTS, BUDA, *Free*, 6pm-10pm, Stroll through Historic Stagecoach Park and enjoy the light displays provided by area Businesses, organizations, and churches. Park at Cablea's and ride the free shuttle buses over to the park. Free Admission. Food and beverages sold. Historic Stagecoach Park, 880 Main St, Buda, TX 78610



Dev. 14 (Friday) HOLIDAYS AT HERITAGE PARK, *Free*, 6pm-9pm, Revisit Christmas Days from the past. Holidays at Heritage Park offers choirs, hot chocolate and cookies, children's arts and crafts, a hay ride and free pictures with Santa. Bring the family and start a new holiday tradition! Heritage Park, 901 Old Austin Hutto Road, Pflugerville, TX

Dec. 14 (Friday) CHRISTMAS CONCERT, ROUND ROCK, *Free*, 7:30pm, the Williamson County Symphony Orchestra will put on their Christmas concert at St. John Vianney Catholic Church of Round Rock (3201 Sunrise Rd, Round Rock, TX 78665). I personally have attended some of their previous concerts and have really enjoyed myself. They are great.

Dec. 15 (Saturday) SNOW DAY !, *Free*, Noon-4pm, It's guaranteed to snow at the Hill Country Galleria on December 15th from 12pm-4pm. Join us as we play in the snow, build snow men, make snow angels, you get the idea! Hill Country Galleria, 12700 Hill Country Blvd, Bee Cave, TX



Dec. 15 (Saturday) CHRISTMAS CONCERT, CEDAR PARK, *Free*, 7:30pm, the Williamson County Symphony Orchestra will put on their Christmas concert at St Margaret Mary Catholic Church of Cedar Park (1101 W. New Hope Drive Cedar Park, TX 78613). I personally have attended some of their previous concerts and have really enjoyed myself. They are great.


Dec. 15 (Saturday) FESTIVAL OF CAROLS, *Free*, 2pm-3pm, The Festival of Carols is a great way for families to celebrate the holidays. The festival will showcase the talents of local elementary choirs singing holiday songs. Come listen to the yuletide music, while enjoying refreshments, kids' crafts and activities and the opportunity to take a holiday family portrait in the historic house. French Legation Museum, 802 San Marcos St., Austin, TX 78702 512.472.8180



Dec. 16-23 TRAIL OF LIGHTS, AUSTIN, *Free (\$10 Parking)*, 6:30pm-10pm. After a two-year absence, the Austin Trail of Lights returns. Adding new attractions and experiences to expand this uniquely Austin event. [Click Here](#) for a schedule of events at the Trail of Lights. [Click Here](#) if you want to make a donation before attending so you can get free shuttle rides and 10% off merchandise. [Click here](#) for Trail of Lights Parking info and Shuttle Service info and Fees. Event held at Zilker Park, Austin, TX



Trivia Info: Read in the newspaper recently that smoke alarms are available *Free* of charge by calling the smoke alarm hot line at 512-974-0299.



LOTS of FREE ITEMS & SAVINGS at <http://www.savingwithshellie.com/>
Sign up for her newsletter and get savings emailed to you every day. She is a LOCAL PERSON out of AUSTIN and sends out savings and free items local to central Texas

Free Kids Workshops, 1st Saturdays of the month, Free, hands-on workshops designed for children ages 5 – 12 at all The Home Depot stores between 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Workshops teach children do-it-yourself skills, tool safety and instill a sense of pride and accomplishment. All kids get to keep their craft and receive a FREE Kids Workshop Apron, commemorative pin and certificate of achievement.

Year-Round, Music in the Parks, Free, 1pm-6pm, The City of Austin's Music Division and Parks Department bring you Music in the Parks, a year-long concert series that features free, live and diverse concerts set in various parks throughout Austin. Performances are free and appropriate for the whole family. All are welcome and invited to attend. Click on link above for details or visit <http://www.AustinTexas.Gov/Department/Music-Parks> to get the info of bands playing, where playing and when.

Visit this website <http://www.freefuninaustin.com> to see another website with listings of top Family FREE events going on in the Austin Area for the week.

Visit this website <http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/library/news.htm> to see a listing of various events going on at numerous Austin Libraries.

Visit this website <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/calendar/> to see a listing of various events going on at Texas State Parks throughout the state.

[CLICK HERE To See A Listing Of Other Interesting Links That May Be Of Use To You](#) or visit this weblink:
<http://CarlosSite.yolasite.com/interesting-links.php>

Thoughts...

Why do drugstores make the sick walk all the way to the back of the store to get their prescriptions while healthy people can buy cigarettes at the front?

Why do banks leave vault doors open and then chain the pens to the counters?

A computer once beat me at chess, but it was no match for me at kick boxing.

Few women admit their age. Few men act theirs.

"The secret to staying young is to live honestly, eat slowly, and lie about your age." (Lucille Ball)

I believe no matter how hard you try, you cannot baptize a cat. (Jeff Foxworthy)

You know why it's hard to solve a redneck murder? It's because the DNA's are all the same and there are no dental records. (Jeff Foxworthy)

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