



# ROCKWALL CITY NOTES

A Monthly City Publication

December 2023

## World War II Veteran and Rockwall Resident Chosen as Grand Marshal of Kiwanis Christmas Parade

This Rockwall veteran of World War II and Korea has been around the world and seen a lot in his nearly 97 ½ years... but soon he'll get to do something he's never done before—lead a parade, which brings a smile to his face. A.J. Dailey has been named the Grand Marshal of the Rockwall Kiwanis Christmas Parade coming up on Saturday, December 2.

He's a character for sure; Dailey loves telling tales, most of which are true, he promises. He's authored four books since turning 90, and is already working on ideas for a fifth and sixth. With Patricia, his wife of 68 years ever by his side, he tells of his time in the U.S. Navy transporting soldiers to and from the frontlines in World War II, in both the Atlantic and the Pacific Oceans. He also served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War, and in the U.S. Navy Reserves in between.

Archie John Dailey was born in Georgia, and met his bride in Birmingham, Alabama. Then A.J. and Patricia had four sons and travelled from Germany, and across the southern United States from Alabama, Texas, Florida, Mississippi, and back to Texas to stay. Most of the Daileys' sons and their kids and grandkids live nearby, which is nice for keeping their large family together. When asked words of wisdom or advice on a happy, long life, he says he'll wait a few years to share his insight, "When I get to be 100, I'll tell you!"

Dailey's pretty sure he was the one captured on camera kissing a nurse he grabbed at the V-J Day parade and celebration in New York—you know that famous picture we've all seen... but it could've been that other guy that came forward, too—he'll let him have it. This time, he was undoubtedly the star of the parade as the Grand Marshal, leading the whole procession through Downtown Rockwall.



## Family Fun at the Daddy Daughter Dance

Every year, Rockwall families look forward to the annual Daddy Daughter Dance. The sellout event draws hundreds of smiling faces for an evening of dancing, festivities and fun. The magical dance is filled with princess dresses, hula hoops and loads of laughter.

The event takes place at the Hilton at the Harbor on Saturday, January 20 from 5-6:30 p.m. or 7:30-9 p.m. Just a few of the day's activities include family photos, refreshments—and lots of dancing. It's a long-standing tradition for some families, where memories are made for a lifetime. Tickets sell out quickly, and you must pre-register. Please visit [playrockwall.com](http://playrockwall.com) for more event details and ticket information.



## Happening Around Town

### Tuesday, December 26

*Christmas Tree Recycling Begins, Tuttle Sports Complex Parking Lot, (1600 Airport Rd.)*

### Saturday, January 20

*Daddy-Daughter Dance, Hilton at The Harbor, 5 p.m., 7:30 p.m. (pre-registration required)*

### Saturday, February 3

*Discounted Pet Shot Clinic, Harry Myers Community Center (807 East Washington St.) 10 a.m.-12 noon*

### Saturday, March 23

*Spring Eggstravaganza, The Harbor (2059 Summer Lee Dr.) 1-4 p.m.*

*For more information:  
Rockwall.com, PlayRockwall.com*

## Out and About in Rockwall

### Picking Up After Our Pets

It's an unsightly problem, difficult to talk about, but one that needs to be discussed. Many of us have pets... and they poo. When they "do," we need to clean it up. Picking up pet waste helps protect our water quality, and maintain a clean community and healthy environment. Here are some of the most important aspects of responsible pet ownership:

- Clean up after your pet on neighborhood walks or in the park
- Pick up the backyard regularly
- Dispose of waste in the garbage or flush it down the toilet



### Rockwall Unveils Educational Garden

The City of Rockwall Parks and Recreation Department has designed and installed a new landscape educational garden on the grounds at City Hall. Among the many attributes, this garden exhibit has state of the art high performance micro-rotor irrigation for water conservation efforts.

This exhibit also displays multiple examples of Smart-Scape and Earth-Kind landscaping plants, in addition to multiple examples of hardscapes. Due to water conservation efforts in recent years, Texans have been asked to be more mindful of what they plant. The hope is that more residents will choose grasses and plants that need less water.

The City Hall garden is an example of landscape that utilizes very little water. It features perennials, annuals, shrubs and ornamental trees that traditionally perform well in the North Texas area with little disease and insect pressure.



### Plan to Recycle Your Live Christmas Tree

If you're one of the tree purists who love to have a live Christmas tree to brighten your home, we have some information you may want to hear. Once the Christmas season comes to a close and you're ready to toss your live tree, please do so responsibly. The City of Rockwall has a program to recycle trees and use the mulch in public parks. Tree drop-off begins Tuesday, December 26, and runs through Monday, January 8. Be sure to remove all lights, ornaments and stands, and take your tree to the Tuttle Sports Complex parking lot located at 1600 Airport Road.

