



2000 Hwy 78 N, Wylie, Texas 75098  
[www.wylietexas.gov](http://www.wylietexas.gov)

## City of Wylie Public Information Office

# EDITORIAL

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### **Wylie Arts Festival, Christmas Parade and Tree Lighting**

The City of Wylie, the Public Arts Advisory Board, Garnet Hill Rehabilitation and Skilled Care, and Methodist Richardson Medical Center are proud to present the Wylie Arts Festival, December 3, from 10 am to 8 pm, in downtown Wylie's historic Olde City Park. Shop for fine art and handmade crafts at more than 90 vendors; listen to the sounds of the season; and enjoy festive foods. Admission is free.

#### **Parade & Tree Lighting**

The tradition continues at 5:30 pm with the Festival of Lights Christmas Parade sponsored by First Baptist Wylie and the Downtown Merchants Association. Top off the evening with the annual Tree Lighting Ceremony at 7 pm featuring Mayor Eric Hogue's reading of *The Night Before Christmas* and music by The Daughters of Higher Mark. This thirty member, all female choir, will lift their voices and usher in the Christmas season.

#### **90 Arts & Craft Vendors**

The Wylie Arts Festival is the perfect opportunity to make a dent in your Christmas list or simply treat yourself. Stroll through the art and craft trails in Olde City Park and shop from more than 90 vendors hand-picked by the Arts committee to ensure a diverse, unique selection of quality handmade fine art and craft items. From jewelry to home décor to clothing to paintings to gift items you will not find anywhere else, there is definitely something for everyone. And if that's not enough, stop by and discover the many shops in downtown Wylie lining Ballard Avenue.

#### **Festive Foods**

Historic downtown will be filled with more than just the sights and sounds of the holidays on December 3, the smell of festive food will be in the air. Choose from your favorite fair foods including funnel cake, kettle corn, turkey legs, corn dogs, tater twisters, sausage on a stick, and funnel fries. Or savor the brisket sandwiches, catfish, quesadillas, jambalaya, tacos, beans and rice, baked potatoes and more. Desserts? You will have to stop by and check out the selection.

#### **Sounds of the Season**

The children's area will feature one of the largest selections of inflatables in the area including bounce houses, slides, and obstacle courses. The Wylie FFA will provide a petting zoo and pony rides. Storytimes will be scheduled throughout the day hosted by the Smith Public Library. Sit down on a bale of hay or blanket and enjoy puppets, activities and storytelling. Kids can also make sand art, have their face painted, or interact with the roaming magician.

#### **Community Art**

One of the more unique and much anticipated activities at this year's festival is the 5 foot by 18 foot Community Canvas. Kids of all ages will have the opportunity, under the supervision of an artist, to help create a masterpiece. This unique, colorful, community art piece will be hung in the Wylie Recreation Center for all to see. Art work by Wylie Independent School District students created with the theme "Light Up The Arts", will also be on display.

## **Performances**

Throughout the day elementary school choirs, dance groups and local musicians will be performing on stage in Olde City Park. Kids singing Christmas carols, or three year olds dancing to “Rocking Around the Christmas Tree” will bring a smile to anyone’s face. New to this year’s event are roaming vocal and instrumental musicians performing at various times and locations throughout the park.

For more details on the Wylie Arts Festival go to [www.wylietexas.gov](http://www.wylietexas.gov).

## **Feature Box:**

Featured Artist Laurel White Drennan

When Laurel heard that the Arts Advisory Board was looking for submissions to represent the Arts Festival and be featured on the t-shirts, she jumped at the chance. Laurel says she is always looking for ways to challenge herself creatively, and the festival theme, “Light UP The Arts” was the perfect opportunity.

Laurel started her art career as a sculptor, moved into old-school sign painting and then focused on residential murals . She currently works as a full-time air brush artist for Graffixx Inc., a company in Tyler, TX, that creates school graphics and murals. Laurel’s murals can be found throughout the state of Texas.

Laurel says she does not specialize in any particular medium and loves colored pencils, paint, pastels, crayons and marker equally... anything that makes her become creative.