

HOMETOWN CHRISTMAS LIGHTED PARADE FAQ's

PARADE ENTRANTS

What is the timing for the parade?

The parade will begin **promptly** at 7 p.m., and it usually finishes at about 8:30 p.m.

Staging for the parade begins at 5 p.m. Parade entries and participants need to be in line no later than 6:15 p.m. All entries staging at the Civic Center will move to Hwy. 35 in right lane beginning at 6:30 p.m. In order to start the parade on-time ALL FLOATS MUST be in line no later than 6:15 p.m.

STAGING – 2 LOCATIONS

EMERGENCY VEHICLES, FLOATS AND CARS

is at the Bay City Civic Center (2017th Street). Lion's Club Members and Parks Crew will be on hand to direct you to your staging location.

Parade vehicles will enter on the west side (Happy Bay) of the Civic Center, drive behind the building and you will be directed to your spot on the east side of the building (old Dairy Queen side).

WALKING, BANDS, CHEER AND DANCE GROUPS

is at the Bay City Library (1100 7th Street). Lion's Club Members and Parks Crew will be on hand to direct you to your staging location.

A map of entry line up and road closures will be sent out the week before and posted on the City's website (under Parks and Recreation events) and on the Parks and Recreation's Facebook page.

ROAD CLOSURES & STAGING AREA

Beginning at 5 p.m., Hwy 35 to 6th Street on Avenue A will be closed off for drop-off exit only. Moore Avenue from Hwy. 35 to 6th Street will be closed except for parade entry vehicles.

NO personal vehicles will be allowed into the staging area behind the Library or to the east of the Civic Center.

Please let your participants know this.

WHERE CAN PARADE PARTICIPANTS PARK?

Civic Center

Participants riding on entries can park on the west side of the Civic Center. Parking signs will be posted.

Library

Parking at the Library is limited to the Stuart Lynn and Bay City Gas Company parking lots.

NO PARKING (except entry vehicles) will be allowed in the staging area.

We will have Lion's Club Members and Parks Crew members on hand to direct them to their entry.

WHERE CAN PARADE PARTICIPANTS BE DROPPED OFF AT?

Civic Center

Participants can be dropped off in the front parking lot of the Civic Center.

Library

To drop off walking groups, bands, cheer and dance participants you will enter the Library off Hwy. 35 and exit onto Avenue A.

We will have Lion's Club Members and Parks Crew members on hand to direct them to their entry.

WHAT SHOULD I DO WITH MY PARADE NUMBER?

We will e-mail the parade numbers on Monday before the parade to the main point of contact.

PLEASE share that number with everyone in your entry.

Also, print out the parade number we send and tape it to the **LEFT FRONT** of your float or the **DRIVERS SIDE** windshield. This will greatly speed up the arrival process.

PARADE START TIME

The HomeTown Christmas Parade begins promptly at 7 p.m.

JUDGING

Judging will be on the south side of the courthouse. Please be prepared to start your performance as soon as you reach the judging area. You will have 45 seconds for your performance. If you need us to play your music, it needs to be to us at parks-rec@baycitytx.gov no later than Tuesday, November 25th at 5 p.m. It can be sent as an mp3 with the song.

HOW DO I KNOW IF I WON AN AWARD?

Winners will be announced on the Bay City Parks and Recreation's Facebook page on Saturday, December 6th. Winners will also be contacted via e-mail and will be posted on the city website's.

The parade award ceremony will be at 3:30 p.m. on Wednesday, December 10th at the USO Building located at 2105 Avenue M. Any awards not picked up on Wednesday will be able to be picked up after Wednesday at the Parks and Recreation Office (1209 10th Street) Monday – Friday from 8 a.m. – 12 noon and 1 – 5 p.m.

WHAT DO I NEED TO KNOW ABOUT PARADE SAFETY?

Drive slowly and watch carefully for children who may dart into the street. Appropriate items should **ONLY** be handed to spectators from walkers and golfcarts.

Adult supervision for younger children in the parade is required.

WHAT CAN I HAND OUT TO PARADE SPECTATORS?

Candy is allowed and may only be handed from walkers and golf carts but not from elevated floats or boats. Other appropriate items, such as fans,

flowers, and gift certificates, are permitted, as well. No political or "issue" propaganda may be used prior or during the parade. Some items are not appropriate to toss into crowds as they may cause injury. Please select your handouts appropriately.

WILL THERE BE REFRESHMENTS?

Refreshments will **NOT** be available at the staging grounds. Please bring water or snacks for your participants.

WILL THERE BE TOILETS AVAILABLE DURING STAGING?

Portable toilets will be available at both staging areas.

WHAT HAPPENS AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE PARADE?

The official end of the parade is at the Bay City Fire Department, the corner of Avenue I and 6th.

All parade drivers must continue to the intersection of 6th Street and Avenue I and turn right on Avenue I to offload your participants.

PARADE END/PARENT PICK UP

The parade ends at the Bay City Police Department parking area. Please be prepared to walk and perform until the end.

Parent pick up will be at the Bay City Police Department Parking Lot.

WHAT HAPPENS IN THE EVENT OF BAD WEATHER?

The parade will be cancelled in the event of heavy rain, thunder or lightning. A postponement date of Friday, December 5th has been set.

PARADE RULES

-  Candy and promotions may be handed out.
-  Add as many lights as you can to your entry!
-  Be respectful of others.
-  Time limit for judged performances – 45 seconds
-  Entries may not include a character dressed as Santa Claus
-  **HAVE FUN** and take lots of photos!

- Tag us - #HomeTownChristmasBC
- 🎄 Tag us on Facebook to show off your parade entry - @BCPAR

PLEASE SEE THE PARKS AND RECREATION'S FACEBOOK PAGE AND WEBSITE FOR THE ONLY SOURCE OF CURRENT AND ACCURATE INFORMATION ABOUT THE HOMETOWN CHRISTMAS LIGHTED PARADE.

PARADE SPECTATORS

WHAT DO PARADE SPECTATORS NEED TO KNOW?

FOR SAFETY, PARENTS SHOULD REMAIN VIGILANT IN KEEPING THEIR CHILDREN OFF THE PARADE ROUTE STREETS.

The parade begins at 7 p.m. sharp.

Entries travel east on Hwy. 35 beginning at Avenue B to Hwy. 60 and turn left, it then travels to 6th Street and turns left and ends at Avenue I. At the corners of Hwy. 35 and Hwy. 60 and Hwy. 60 and 6th Street spectators need to leave ample room for the large parade entries to turn. Please do not stand in the street in those areas.

Viewers are encouraged to arrive early.

HOW DO I GET MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE PARADE?

Please email parks-rec@baycitytx.gov or dial us up at 979-323-1660.

WILL THERE BE A VIEWING LOCATION RESERVED FOR DISABLED SPECTATORS?

Limited handicap parking is available at the Courthouse. Please display your handicap license or tag. Disabled persons can proceed to the seating area next to the judging area.

WILL THERE BE REFRESHMENTS SOLD?

no

CAN I SELL LIGHT WANDS, TOYS, ETC., DURING THE LIGHTED PARADE?

Only vendors that have obtained a vendors permit from the Bay City Parks and Recreation office will be allowed to sell any items during the parade.

All vendors will be responsible for any trash from their items sold along the parade route.

Any vendor without a permit will be asked to leave the parade route by the Bay City Police Department.

WILL THERE BE TOILETS AVAILABLE DURING STAGING?

Portable toilets will be available only at the corner of 6th Street and Avenue G.