

## CITY HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

In observance of the following holidays, all City offices will be closed:

**Thursday, Nov. 28:** Thanksgiving Day

**Friday, Nov. 29:** Day after Thanksgiving

**Tuesday, Dec. 24:** Christmas Eve

**Wednesday, Dec. 25:** Christmas Day

## CITY COUNCIL

Lew White, Mayor  
Angie Gonzales-Sanchez, At-Large  
Brad Westmoreland, At-Large  
Juan Mendoza, District 1  
David Bryant, District 2  
Kara McGregor, District 3  
Jeffrey Michelson, District 4

The City Council holds its regular meetings on the first and third Tuesdays of each month.

The public is welcome and encouraged to attend. Detailed agendas are available at [www.lockhart-tx.org](http://www.lockhart-tx.org). Council meetings are also video streamed live and indexed at [www.lockhart-tx.org](http://www.lockhart-tx.org)

## CONTACT INFORMATION

**City Hall:** (512) 398-3461

**Animal Shelter:** (512) 376-3336  
\*after hours call (512) 398-4401

**Animal Control:** (512) 398-4401

**Public Works:** (512) 398-6452

**Library / Technology Center:**  
(512) 398-3223

**Utility Billing:** (512) 398-3461

**Electric Department:** (512) 398-6117

**Fire Department:** (512) 398-2321

**Municipal Court:** (512) 376-9469

**Police Department:** (512) 398-4401

**Water Department:** (512) 398-3615

**Physical Address:**  
City of Lockhart  
308 West San Antonio Street  
Lockhart, Texas 78644

Phone: (512) 398-3461  
Fax: (512) 398-5103

Website: [www.lockhart-tx.org](http://www.lockhart-tx.org)

Television: City Access Channel 10  
on Spectrum Cable

# Outdoor warning system test schedule to continue

The outdoor warning siren testing is now conducted every first Monday of the month at 1 p.m.

The new testing schedule took effect Oct. 1, 2019.

The sirens are automatically activated when the National Weather Service (NWS) issues a tornado warning.

Sirens will not be tested when severe weather has been forecasted or when a planned special event is being held. Canceled tests will not be rescheduled.

Software has been installed that enables unattended auto-activation of all sirens



when one or more of the outdoor warning sirens are included in a Tornado Warning polygon issued by the NWS.

The feature reduces the time to activation and provides alerts faster while freeing 9-1-1 dispatchers to perform other criti-

cal activities during emergency situations.

Residents who want to receive warnings while indoors or somewhere else where they may not hear the outdoor sirens are urged to sign up for notifications at [www.warncentraltexas.org](http://www.warncentraltexas.org).

# Don't be a Scrooge ... come celebrate like the Dickens

The Friends of the Dr. Eugene Clark Library, the City of Lockhart and the Lockhart Chamber of Commerce invite you to step into the enchanting world of Charles Dickens' 19th century England on Friday, Dec. 6 and Saturday, Dec. 7.

A Dickens Christmas in Lockhart transforms downtown into an enchanting Christmas of yesteryear. Enjoy two days of activities and entertainment in Historic Lockhart. Share the delight of children's laughter as magicians, jugglers, a Master Falconer, choirs, and musicians entertain as Father Christmas is on hand

to listen to holiday wishes throughout the day.

This year's event is dedicated to the memory of Dr. Donnie R. Wilson, who served



Donnie R. Wilson

Lockhart valiantly as a volunteer at the First United Methodist Church, the Caldwell County Christian Ministries Food Pantry, Habitat for Humanity, the Friends of the Dr.

Eugene Clark Library and many more organizations.

The event's festivities include:

- Dickens Night Parade at 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 6.
- Home Tours from 1-5 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 7. Advance tickets are \$12 and may be purchased from the Lockhart Chamber of Commerce, First Lockhart National Bank or from any Beta Sigma Phi member.
- The lighting of the Yule Log at 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 7

# Community chatter ...

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



Mayor Lew White, City Manager Steven Lewis, Councilmember Jeffry Michelson and Lockhart EDC director Mike Kamerlander joined Greater San Marcos Partnership Vice President of Economic Development Jason Giulietti and Visionary Fiber Technologies CEO John Kinzer at VFT’s grand opening in November.

## New director, grant program highlight economic development activity

This past June, the City of Lockhart hired a new Director of Economic Development, Mike Kamerlander.

Mike spent six years with the Greater San Marcos Partnership and was involved with numerous projects in the Lockhart area during his tenure there including Fashion Glass and Mirror and Visionary Fiber Technologies. Most recently, he served as the Executive Director of the Bastrop Economic Development Corporation.

In September, the Lockhart EDC announced the relocation of Promogo from Austin. Promogo is an IT startup company focused on creating data from promotional activities for the consumer package goods industry. Their technology revolutionizes an industry by providing data to drive a more targeted marketing campaign that is not available to

companies today. They started in Lockhart with 5 employees and are already growing thanks to the workforce from the area including Texas State University. LEDC is working to make Promogo the first of many companies like them to consider somewhere other than Austin.

Finally, LEDC budgeted \$50,000 towards a facade and life safety matching grant program for building owners in the central commercial district of Lockhart. The hope is that building owners and businesses can take advantage of the program by receiving assistance for improvements like new awnings, fire suppression systems, planters, store fronts, etc. The Business Improvement and Growth (BIG) Grant program is active now and LEDC is prepared to help companies and building owners through the process. Contact the LEDC with any questions.

## Light Up Lockhart provides epilogue to Dickens Christmas celebration

The weekend that unofficially kicks off the holiday season in Lockhart doesn’t end with the lighting of the Yule log on Main Street.

This year, the lighting of the tree will take place on the Caldwell County courthouse lawn at 6 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 8.



Crafts and pictures with Santa will begin at 3:30 p.m. and will continue until the tree lighting at 6 p.m.

Light Up Lockhart is a community supported endeavor or to raise funds for the improvement of holiday light displays in Lockhart.

### Upcoming events

Nov. 28	Thanksgiving Day (City offices closed)
Nov. 29	Day after Thanksgiving (City offices closed)
Dec. 6	Dickens Christmas Lighted Parade
Dec. 7	Dickens at the Library
Dec. 8	Light up Lockhart
Dec. 24	Christmas Eve (City offices closed)
Dec. 25	Christmas Day (City offices closed)
Jan. 1	New Year’s Day (City offices closed)

### Holiday garbage collection

Regular Collection	Holiday Collection
Thurs., Nov. 28	Fri., Nov. 29
Fri., Nov. 29	Sat. Nov. 30
Tues., Dec. 24	Tues., Dec. 24
Thurs., Dec. 26	Fri., Dec. 27
Fri., Dec. 27	Sat., Dec. 28
Thurs., Jan. 2	Fri., Jan. 3
Fri., Jan. 3	Sat., Jan. 4

## LPA’s ‘Blue Santa’ keeps sledding

The Lockhart Police Association is gearing up again this year for its annual Blue Santa Program. Last year, the LPA was able to help more than 200 children enjoy a Christmas morning with presents under the tree.

The LPA is excited once again to help out as many children as it can with your help.

LPA will accept monetary donations (any amount,

large or small) or any new and unwrapped gifts for boys and girls from infant to 12 years of age.

“Like” the LPA on Facebook to keep up with any and all upcoming events to help with fundraising and toy donations.

You can also contact Lt. Jesse Bell, Sgt. Jacob Garza or Officer Stephen Parra for donations and information. Call 512-398-4401.



Briefly ...

Want to unclutter your mailbox? Go paperless

If you're interested in seeing one less bill in your mailbox, the City of Lockhart has you covered.

Effective Dec. 1, your utility department will be capable of going "green." The City now has the capability of emailing utility bills to customers for their convenience as well as reducing waste and providing a paperless billing option.

You will receive a notice in your monthly billing, giving you the option to opt in and provide a valid email address to send future bills to their inbox.

Besides waste management and customer convenience; this option will also help the City cut costs on postage, paper, and employee handling time.

Interested in participating? Contact utilities customer services at 512-398-3461.

The time to secure lower sewage rates is now

You probably usually think of December as a month for celebrating the holidays, and January and February as the months that you get back on track after the holiday festivities are over and done with.

But December, January and February symbolize more than that: a chance to influence what your sewage rate will be for the next 12 months.

Residential customers are charged a fixed sewage rate, which is determined by taking the average of a customer's water consumption during these three months. This becomes their sewage rate for the next 12-month billing period of April-March.

The cycle repeats each December.

Are you 65 or over? You could save \$6.50 a month

The City of Lockhart offers a senior citizen discount to residential customers who are 65 years of age and older.

The \$6.50 discount applies to monthly refuse (garbage) fees. The discount is allowed only on services that are in your name and you pay directly to the City of Lockhart.

Senior citizens who own more than one residence or have rental property or other accounts in their name can only claim the discount for the dwelling in which they live.

If you would like to claim a senior citizen discount, please contact utilities customer services by contacting staff at (512)398-3461 or visit us in person at Lockhart City Hall, 308 W. San Antonio Street in Lockhart.

Want to see photos of Lockhart events?



Did you know the City of Lockhart has a Facebook page? Search for "City of Lockhart" on Facebook to see more photos like these of city-sponsored events!

HOLIDAY SAFETY REMINDERS

The holiday season is upon us, and the Lockhart Police Department would like to remind all citizens to keep valuables secure and out of sight.

Please remember to lock your car doors as well as your residence when you aren't at home. And please don't drink and drive.

From all of us at the Lockhart Police Department, we want to wish you a safe, happy holiday season!



Lockhart Fire Rescue offers safe decorating tips

1. Inspect electrical decorations for damage before use. Cracked or damaged sockets, loose or bare wires, and loose connections can start a fire.
2. Do not overload electrical outlets. Overloaded outlets are a common cause of holiday fires.
3. Use battery operated candles. According to the NFPA, candles start almost half of all home decoration fires.
4. Keep combustibles at least 3 feet from heat sources.
5. Protect cords from damage. To avoid shock or fire hazards, cords should never be pinched by furniture, forced into small spaces such as doors and windows, placed under rugs, located near heat sources, or attached by nails or staples.
6. Stay in the kitchen when something is cooking.
7. Turn off and unplug decorations and extinguish candles and fires when going to sleep or leaving the house. Unattended candles are the cause of one in five home candle fires. Half of home fire deaths occur between the hours of 11 p.m. and 7 a.m.



# Conservation tips for winter 2019

**Holiday Recycling:** As we enter the holiday season, keep the following tips in mind (these tips are also helpful when shopping for birthdays or other special occasions):

- Take reusable cloth bags for holiday gift shopping.
- Save or recycle used wrapping paper and gift bags; sometimes just putting a big bow on the gift can take the place of wrapping paper.
- Many battery sales occur during the holiday season. Consider buying rechargeable batteries to accompany your electronic gifts and include a battery charger as well. Rechargeable batteries reduce the amount of potentially harmful materials thrown away, and can save money in the long run.

**Holiday Suggestions:**

- Turn off or unplug holiday lights during the day. Doing so will not only save energy, but will also help lights last longer.
- Wash and reuse empty holiday glass, plastic jars, and other similar containers that would otherwise get thrown away. These containers can be reused in a variety of ways, such as for leftovers.

**Window A/C Units** can allow cool air to sneak through the cracks. During winter, you most likely won't be using your window A/C unit so consider removing it from your window or purchase a quality tarp to cover the outside of the unit to reduce drafts.

**Pipes that are not insulated** can cause you to use more hot water. Insulating pipes can help keep water warm as it travels from the water heater. It can also help decrease the chance of pipes freezing, which can be disastrous. Check to see if your pipes are warm to the touch. If so, consider adding insulation. You can get pre-slit pipe foam at most hardware stores. Cut it to size and fasten in place with duct tape.

**Insulate Your Water Heater**

**Tank:** Insulating your water heater tank is fairly simple and inexpensive, and it will pay for itself in about a year. You can find pre-cut jackets or blankets available for around \$10 - \$20. Choose one with an insulating value of at least R-8. You can probably install an insulating pre-cut jacket or blanket on your electric water heater tank yourself. Read and follow the directions carefully. Leave the thermostat access panel(s) uncovered. Don't set the thermostat above 130°F on elec-



There's no telling what Clark Griswold's power bill looked like in January, but it would have been a lot higher had he forgotten to turn his holiday lights off during the day.

### Christmas tree recycling

As the holiday season comes to a close, the City of Lockhart will offer residents Christmas tree recycling (live trees only), at no charge. To have your live tree recycled, simply place the tree with no ornaments, lights, tinsel, nails, screws, or tree bases curbside and call Lockhart Public Works at (512) 398-6452 to arrange for collection. For more information, please contact Lockhart Public Works at (512) 398- 6452 or City Hall at (512) 398-3461.

tric water heaters with an insulating jacket or blanket—the wiring may over heat. The installation of insulating blankets or jackets on gas and oil-filter water heater tanks is more difficult than those for electric water heater tanks. It's best to have a qualified plumbing and heating contractor add the insulation. If you want to install it yourself, read and follow the directions very carefully.

**Cooking Meals at Home**

can help heat your home. When you stick a meal in the oven, you're not just heating the food. You're also adding a bit of heat to the rest of your house. Your oven is not a perfect insulator—some of the heat does escape. When you pull out the food, the heat from the oven slowly dissipates into your house.

**Dishes:** Scrape, don't rinse, off large food pieces and bones. Soaking or pre-washing is

generally only recommended in cases of burned or dried on food. Air dry dishes instead of using your dishwasher's drying cycle, consider propping the door open slightly so the dishes will dry faster. Wash only full loads of dishes.

**Weatherize Windows:** Windows provide a view to the outside, day lighting, ventilation, and solar heating in the winter. Unfortunately, they can also account for 10% to 25% of your heating bill. You can use a heavy-duty, clear plastic sheet on a frame or tape clear plastic to the inside of windows during the winter months. The plastic must be sealed tightly to the frame to help reduce infiltration. Open curtains on your south-facing windows during the day to allow sunlight to naturally heat your home, and close them at night to reduce the chill you may feel from cold windows. Quilted curtains cover drafty windows, making your room feel warmer at a lower temperature. Add caulking around window seals.

**Laundry Water Usage:** Wash only full loads. Match the load setting with the amount of laundry to be washed if you must wash partial loads. Use the shortest wash cycle for lightly soiled loads as it uses less water than other cycles.

**Bathroom Water Usage:** Don't use your toilet as a trash can for paper and facial tissues. Use only as much water as you really need. Take shorter showers instead of a bath—a water-efficient showerhead often uses less water than a bath. Bathing uses the most hot water in the average household.

**Bundle Up Your Home:** Hidden gaps and cracks in a home can add up to as much airflow as an open window. The more heat that escapes, the more cold air enters, causing your system to work harder and use more energy. Home Sealing can improve your home's efficiency. Start by sealing air leaks and adding insulation, pay special attention to your attic and basement, where the biggest gaps and cracks are often found.

*Conservation tips provided by the courtesy of the U.S. Department of Energy, EPA, Tx Water Development Board, and the City of Lockhart.*

*For more information, please contact City Hall at (512) 398-3461 or visit us on the web at [www.lockhart-tx.org](http://www.lockhart-tx.org).*