

Everyone's ready for Christmas and the events have already started! For those who want to wait a little, there's dinner & mystery theater, stargazing and quilt shows. Others enjoy the Victorian Christmas Tea, Festival of Lights & shopping!

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## BACKROADS NEWSLETTER

November 2013 Volume 26

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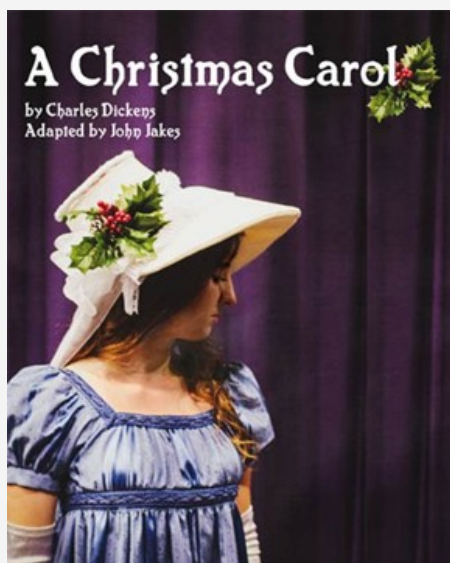
Howdy Friends & Partners,

It's not even Thanksgiving yet but I can't help it! I'm thinking of Christmas! The bright sparkling lights, the tinsel, glorious colors, the egg nog, the turkey...dressing..potatoes...pumpkin pie...yum. Now I'm ready for Thanksgiving.

You'll find a lot of others are gearing up for Christmas too. If you're not quite ready for that yet, then try the Murder Mystery Dinner at Lake Jackson Historical Museum or the Dinner Theater in Columbus. Also look at stargazing in Blanco or a tour of homes and the Airing of the Quilts in Smithville.

Everyone else is decking the halls! Holiday Homes, Victorian Christmas Tea, Festival of Lights and shopping. Merry Thanksgiving!

See you on the Trail



## [A Christmas Carol in Clute](#)

### Performances

November 29, 30, December 1, 6, 7 & 8

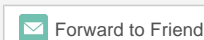
*In the Large Theater* at the Center for the Arts & Sciences

**Director** Craig Fritz **Producer** Mary Meyers

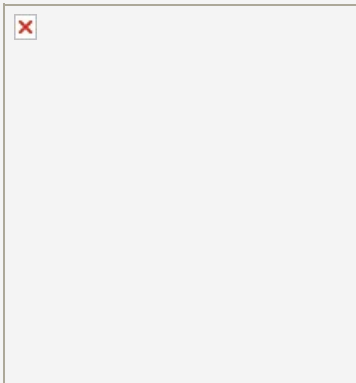


[Download PDF Calendar for November 2013](#)

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This family holiday favorite by Charles Dickens, adapted by John Jakes goes beyond other adaptations with a unique dramatic concept: At the opening curtain, Charles Dickens himself is introduced to the audience, ready to present one of the famed platform readings of his stories that packed auditoriums in Europe and America. The familiar story unfolds behind him, and soon Dickens is weaving in and out of the action with short passages of rich narrative never heard in other versions.



### [Market Days in Angleton](#)

The City of Angleton is looking forward to the November 23/24 Market at The Brazoria County Fairgrounds! This Market will be the biggest to date with over 160 vendors in three buildings, a large covered pavilion and all along the walking paths. Tourism and Special Events Coordinator Martha Eighme felt strongly that Market Days' would have a great economic impact for Angleton, but the rapid growth has been fantastic. "With this being only the 3<sup>rd</sup> year, it is overwhelming that we are full and have a waiting list for vendors." Eighme has already begun the growth plan for the next Market which will be held in March. Join the City of Angleton for this diverse shopping experience and knock out your Christmas list in one weekend! "Like" Angleton Market Days on Facebook and stay up to date on featured vendors and upcoming events. Visit [angleton.tx.us](http://angleton.tx.us)



### [Bastrop Holiday Homes Tour](#)

**Dec. 14, 2013, noon to 5 p.m.**

**Save the date...**and join us on the Bastrop County Historical Society's annual Holiday Homes Tour. For five hours on Saturday, December 14th, Bastrop will throw open the doors on its annual **Holiday Homes Tour**, a central event of Bastrop's four-day "**Lost Pines Christmas**" weekend.

**Step across the threshold into Bastrop's remarkable past and into some of its most remarkable structures.**

For more than 40 years, the tour has showcased Bastrop's storied past. This year's tour is no exception — a unique celebration of a common legacy.

Settlers were drawn to the Texas frontier, leading to the establishment of Bastrop, and Texas itself. Six tour sites, each in full holiday dress, from the 1851 Wilbarger House to the 1895 Bastrop



**Murder Mystery Dinner – November 9th, 6:30pm at the Lake Jackson Historical Museum.** The evening will feature a catered dinner by On The River and a live performance of a "Rehearsal for Murder" by T.K. Kinney and directed by Cindy Gernand. For more information about any of these events and programs please visit us at [www.lakejacksonmuseum.org](http://www.lakejacksonmuseum.org) or call 979-297-1570.

[Angleton, TX](#)

[Bartlett, TX](#)

[Bastrop, TX](#)

[Bastrop County, TX](#)

[Bay City, TX](#)

[Bellville, TX](#)

[Belton, TX](#)

[Blanco, TX](#)

[Bowie, TX](#)

[Bridgeport, TX](#)

[Brenham, TX](#)

[Brownfield, TX](#)

[Brownwood, TX](#)

[Burton, TX](#)



**Port Aransas – November 6 - 27**

[Birding on the Boardwalk](#) -

Weekly guided birding tours are offered free of charge on Wednesdays at 9:00 a.m. at Leonabelle Turnbull Birding Center – 361-749-5919 or email, [info@portaransas.org](mailto:info@portaransas.org).

[Cameron, TX](#)

[Canton, TX](#)

[Clute, TX](#)

[Columbus, TX](#)

[Comfort, TX](#)

[Cuero, TX](#)

[Diboll, TX](#)

[Dimmit County](#)

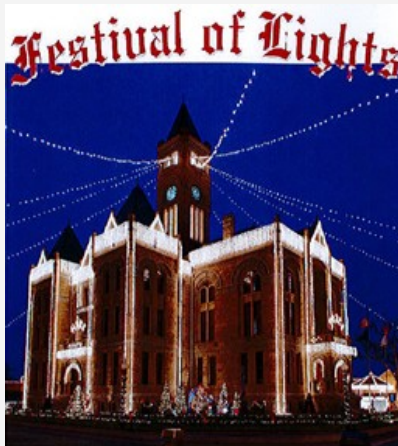
Christian Church, portray chapters of that history.

The tour is self-guided, allowing visitors to see each of the six sites at their own pace. Docents will be on hand at each site to point out key features, to recount the site's history and to answer questions. Tickets are \$15; children under 12 are admitted free, on sale at the Museum thru December 14, or at each tour site.

For more information, visit

[http://www.bastropcountyhistoricalsociety.com/holiday\\_homes\\_tour#!holiday-homes-tour/c1jpm](http://www.bastropcountyhistoricalsociety.com/holiday_homes_tour#!holiday-homes-tour/c1jpm)

or contact the Bastrop County Historical Society at 512-303-0057 or [barbara@bchs1832.org](mailto:barbara@bchs1832.org)



*Photo Contributed by Andrew Porras of Austin*

## Festival of Lights in Hallettsville, Nov 30-Dec 1

A visionary wish and an imaginative dream inspired the Festival of Lights in Hallettsville. Determination made it an inspirational reality. In September 1996 a small group decided to inquire if the community would support their visions of a Christmas celebration involving the community, churches, city and county governments. Their quest received overwhelming anticipation. Therefore the Festival of Lights committee set forth their mission statement: Celebrate with us our Past and enjoy our Present so that you might catch a glimpse of our Future, while we feel the peace, envision the hope, celebrate the joy and share the love of Christmas. The Festival of Lights is about celebrating the big holidays on the calendar and the little holidays of the heart.

The variety of wonderful holiday events include: Mr & Mrs Santa's visit, Market Days, Ornament Contest, Lighting Extravaganza, Santa's Kiddie Parade, Lighted Christmas Parade and Pageant.

We hope your visit to the Festival of Lights will remind you that Christmas is a time when our thoughts turn to the special people Christ brought into our lives and as we remember our hearts are filled with love.



## **Great Days at Washington on the Brazos, Historic Site and Fanthorp Inn**

**Nov. 16-17: Republic of Texas Militia Muster – A Living History Encampment**

The local militia offered not only protection for the colonists, but also an excuse for a social gathering. Join re-enactors

[Elgin, TX](#)  
[Emory, TX](#)  
[Ennis, TX](#)



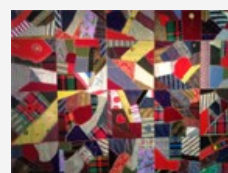
## Smithville Cottage Helps our Furry Friends at Christmas

During the months of November and December the Smithville Cottage donates a portion of their profits to the Bastrop County Animal Shelter. Over the past year the shelter has gone through some very challenging times. With the help of it's leadership and individuals in Bastrop, Elgin and Smithville the shelter is making huge strides. Guests at the Smithville Cottage are encouraged to leave pet food and toys under the Christmas tree and leave a donation for the Shelter. All food, toys and money is given to Shelter for the animals who may not have a home this holiday season.

[Giddings, TX](#)  
[Gonzales, TX](#)

[Hallettsville, TX](#)  
[Hamilton, TX](#)  
[Henderson, TX](#)  
[Honey Grove TX](#)  
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[Jefferson, TX](#)  
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[Lee County Fair,](#)  
[Giddings](#)  
[Lexington, TX](#)  
[Livingston Polk County](#)  
[Luling, TX](#)



**Airing of the Quilts is a**



and interpreters as they recreate a typical militia muster as would have been seen in the Republic. The encampment is open on Saturday, November 16 from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and on Sunday, November 17 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m..

**Nov. 17: 19<sup>th</sup> Century Superstitions and Old Wives' Tales**

Bad luck, omens, weird coincidences, superstitions and old wives' tales still add some color to our lives; a lot of them are laughed off as nonsense, but there are some that seem to be, at least in part, legitimate. In the 1800's superstitions and old wives' tales held much more sway over society. We'll look at some these tales and try to see why they held power over the people.

**Nov 30: Twilight Firelight**

Holiday time is family time at Fanthorp Inn State Historic Site where the holiday season is celebrated with a journey back to the 1850s. The Inn will be open for a special Twilight Firelight holiday event. Visitors will enjoy the ambiance of the candlelit Inn, period music, stagecoach rides, chuck wagon cooking, carol singing and a host of living history characters.

For detailed information, call 936-878-2214 or 888-273-6426 or visit [www.birthplaceoftexas.com](http://www.birthplaceoftexas.com)



**Victorian Christmas Tea and Flower Show on Tap in Brenham**

The Bluebonnet Garden Club is hosting a Victorian Christmas Tea and Flower Show Friday, November 22, from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Ross-Carroll-Bennett house located at 515 East Main Street in Brenham.

Both the Bennett house and the Giddings Wilkin house will be lavishly decorated for the holidays by Garden Club members. The Ross-Carroll-Bennett house, a Victorian built of cypress wood cut to look like stone blocks, will be decorated in Victorian style and the Giddings Wilkin house in the 1840s time period in which it was constructed.

The tea, a come-and-go light lunch similar to a high tea menu, will be catered by Design II and served throughout the day. Tickets are \$20 and also include tours of the Giddings Stone Mansion and the Brooks House. All four houses are part of the annual Heritage Homes Tour & Trunk Show on Nov. 23-24.

Reservations must be made by Nov. 8; tickets may be purchased at the Chamber of Commerce office or the Washington County Visitor Center, or from any Bluebonnet Garden Club member.

For more information, e-mail [charlottelaroches56@gmail.com](mailto:charlottelaroches56@gmail.com).

**yearly event held on  
Historic Downtown  
Main Street in**

**Smithville, November 9th.** Dozens of quilts are displayed on Main Street and in town. Stroll down Main Street and watch the quilts gently blowing in the breeze. Event is from 10 am to 5 pm. Some quilts on display will be for sale. There is also a quilt raffle "Stars and Stripes", a 56'x56" quilt. For more information contact Jan at 512-237-2323 or visit Facebook Airing of the Quilts Smithville, Texas

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[Nocona, TX](#)  
[Onalaska, TX](#)  
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**Fall into Smithville at the  
Annual Tour of Homes on**

Saturday, Nov 9 from noon to 4pm. There will be 5 beautiful homes and one historic church. Tickets are \$10. They are available at the Smithville Chamber of Commerce and many local business or can be purchased at one of the participating homes or church during the tour. Children under 12 are free. For further information, please email [smithvillehometour@gmail.com](mailto:smithvillehometour@gmail.com).



### Dickens Christmas in Smithville

Join the Smithville Area Chamber of Commerce for a spirited kick-off to the holiday season with our 23rd Annual Festival of Lights celebration! This year's theme is "Dickens Christmas".

On Saturday, December 7th, Smithville's Main Street area is transformed into a classic Dickens Style winter wonderland featuring a holiday market, a Kidsfest area, holiday-themed games and contests, live music, and a food court filled with delicious offerings throughout the day. Come early for the 5K Fun Run featuring the Smithville Gingerbread Man. Stay late for the famous nighttime lighted parade featuring Santa himself! At the conclusion of the parade, stick around for an outdoor theatrical performance.

Experience a small town holiday extravaganza like no other! For more information, call 512-237-2313 or visit our website at [www.smithvilletx.org](http://www.smithvilletx.org).

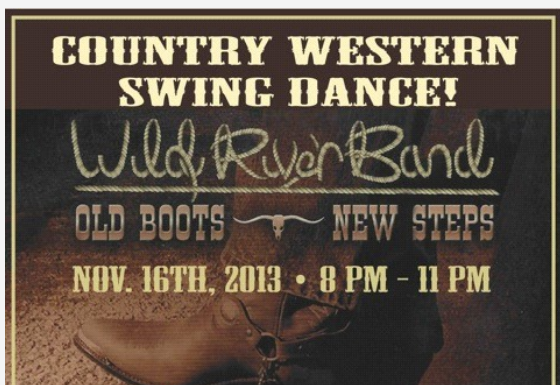


### The Stafford Opera House Dinner Theater in Columbus

The Stafford Opera House Dinner Theater in Columbus presents the Dixie Swim Club on Saturday November 16, 2013.

Five southern women, whose friendships began many years ago on their college swim team, set aside a long weekend every August to recharge those relationships. Free from husbands, kids and jobs, they meet at the same beach cottage on North Carolina's Outer Banks to catch up, laugh and meddle in each other's lives. Tickets are \$35.00 each. Dinner and social hour are included.

Call The Stafford Opera House for more information: 979-732-5135



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[Spoiled Doves of Texas](#)

[Taylor, TX](#)  
[Texas Word](#)  
[Wrangler Book Fest](#)  
[Wharton, TX](#)  
[The Village Bakery](#)



### **Come join Blanco on Saturday November 9**

for an educational and fun filled evening in the park learning about astronomy and watching the stars and planets through a variety of telescopes. Meet at the Park Pavilion at 6:00pm.

Volunteer astronomers will be on hand to help with telescopes and explain the wonders of Blanco's night time sky. If you need red cellophane for your flashlights Friends of the Park volunteers will be there to help you. You can join the Hill Country Alliance's Night Sky Co-Op to fight light pollution and help preserve Hill Country's starry skies.

The event is free with a day permit into Blanco State Park, \$4 for those 13 and older, free for those 12 and under, and for Texas State Park Pass Holders.



**Holiday Country Arts and Crafts Show on Sunday November 10, 2013 from 9am-4pm in Schulenburg.**



Free admission, live music and delicious food cooked and served by Tower 3 Bakery & Cafe and Backroads. Located at the Schulenburg KC Hall on 405 South Street, off of Highway 77. For more information call 979-743-4514.

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