



Wishing You and Your Family a Happy and Healthy Christmas and New Year!

From the entire Parks and Recreation Team, we wish you a Merry Christmas & Happy New Year. Your commitment and dedication to the NRH community and the support you give to Parks and Recreation makes our community a better place! We appreciate each one of you, and want to wish you and your family a joyous holiday. May the peace, love and joy of the season surround you and yours!

NRH Facility Holiday Closings—

NRH Parks and Recreation facilities will have closings and varied hours for the Christmas and New Year’s holidays. The list below provides a general overview. Please visit the facility websites for a complete listing.

- Richland Tennis Center Closed: December 24-25 and January 1.
- NRH Senior Center Closed: December 24-25 and January 1
- NRH Grand Hall Closed: December 24-25 and January 1
- NRH Centre Closed: December 24-25; Regular hours resume: December 26; Holiday Hours: December 31, 5 a.m.-3 p.m. and January 1, 5 a.m.-5:30 p.m. <https://www.nrhcentre.com/holiday-hours>

NRH Parks and Recreation Adopts Family for Christmas—Numerous departments within the City of North Richland Hills have long participated in the Christmas Providers Adopt-a Family Program each year to help give back to our own community. Each participating department is matched with an adopt-a family to help provide this family with a special holiday. The Parks and Recreation Department this year adopted a family of 7 and delivered both gifts and food donations on December 16. This is the spirit of the season that embodies the NRH team and we are so fortunate to be able to share and care for others in our community through this annual program. We love giving back to the community we serve!



Annual Parks and Recreation Awards—The NRH Parks and Recreation Department held its annual Awards Luncheon on December 11, 2024 to celebrate accomplishments for 2023-2024. Congratulations to the award recipients and all of the NRH Parks and Recreation staff for a great year!

- Employee of the Year – Bobby Reeves
- Employee of the Year – Julie Adkins
- Part-Time Employee of the Year – Bill Baker
- Part-Time Employee of the Year – Ashley Aguilar
- Part-Time Employee of the Year – Suzanne Tucker
- Part-Time Employee of the Year – Brandie Demchuk-Nealey
- Part-Time Employee of the Year – Diane O’Mara
- Heart of Service – Jennifer Mills
- Bravo Award – Kaycee Miller
- Bravo Award – Teddi Zonker
- Bravo Award – Matt Rohmer
- Bravo Award – Scott Pearce
- Bravo Award – Jason Fitzwater, Facilities
- Bravo Team Award: Fix it Blitz – Matt Johnston, Frank Perez, Matt Rohmer, Stephanie Johnston, Verenis Olivo, Tanner Arwine, Cynthia Rinehart, Scott Pearce, Cody Lewis, Chris Lamar, and Michel Salazar
- Bravo Team Award: Bedford-Eules Rd. Landscape Team – Rob Pershing, Frank Mercado, Cesar Barraza, Brian VanHouten, John Celis, Matt Rohmer, Chris Lamar, and Scott Pearce
- Bravo Team Award: Christmas Tree Lighting Planning Team – Chris Lamar, Michael Salazar, Mike Young, Jason Smith, Chance Rawlings, Paul Coutant, Tina Earle, Laura Seale, and Matt Johnston

Thank you to the NRH Mayor and City Council, Park and Recreation Board, and NRH City Management for all of their support, and to all of the NRH Parks and Recreation staff for their dedication and hard work for our NRH community.



NRH Holiday Lighting Along Hawk Displayed Through January 2—Take a stroll down Hawk Avenue to enjoy thousands of twinkling lights, the city’s 46-foot-tall Christmas Tree and other holiday scenery. The lights are displayed on Hawk Avenue between the NRH Library, 9015 Grand Ave. and the NRH Centre, 6000 Hawk Ave. through Thursday, January 2. The lights come on nightly at dusk, about 5:30 p.m. The area provides many opportunities for your holiday photos, so don’t forget your camera!



NRH Parks and Recreation Partners with Sky Elements for Holiday Drive In Drone Show—As a special gift for the community, we partnered with Sky Elements for a tonight, December 20 in the parking lot of the Birdville Fine Arts Complex. The free 20-minute visual spectacle will feature 2,500 drones! People are asked to bring a new unwrapped toy for the NRH Toy Drive, benefiting the Community Enrichment Center for needy families in our own community. Vehicles can enter the lot off Mid-Cities (across from Home Depot), city staff and volunteers will collect the new unwrapped toys upon entry,

and spectators can then park within the designated parking lot area. The parking lot will open at 5:00 p.m. with no entry to the parking lot permitted after 6:45pm or earlier if the north lot fills prior. Coffee and hot chocolate will be available for purchase from Limoges Coffee.

Thank you to Birdville ISD for the location and parking, NRH Mayor & City Council, NRH Park and Recreation Board, our NRH City Management and NRH PD and Fire for all of their support with the event. Also, thank you to NRH Parks and Recreation Staff for coordinating the event and the toy collection and drop off!



Disc Golf Course at Cross Timbers Park Completed—The 9-hole disc golf course installed at Cross Timbers Park was completed this week. The course was designed by a former Disc Golf World Champion and members of the community have already enjoyed using the course. The project construction began and was completed all in the week before Christmas. Signage had some production delays and will be installed after the new year.

NRH2O Family Water Park—Big things are happening at NRH2O during the offseason in preparation for an amazing 2025 season. Construction for the newest thrill attraction, Nitro Blast, is blasting off! The construction company is working hard in a variety of areas including on-site preparations with plumbing, electrical, and repairs on any existing structures we were able to use. ProSlide Technology has sent their team of experts to start putting the slide pieces together as well as excepting each piece as they go. We are looking forward to seeing slide pieces being installed after the new year!



NRH Cultural Arts—

Swinging in 2025 with Texas Jazz Allstars on Thursday, January 2 at 7 p.m.

Enjoy a free, live concert featuring the best young musicians in North Texas on Thursday, January 2, 2025 at 7 PM in the Grand Hall at the NRH Centre, 6000 Hawk Avenue. Since 2010, the Texas Jazz Allstars (TeJAS) have entertained the community while providing the area's top student musicians a place to hone their chops with other "all stars Join us in the warm comfort of the Grand Hall at NRH Centre, 6000 Hawk Ave., for an evening of your favorite music from the 1940's -today. This event is free, but reservations are required. <https://bit.ly/Swingingin25Jazz>





Spring Gardening Seminar—Join Common Ground NRH Community Garden and area gardening experts for a free Spring Gardening Seminar on **Saturday, Feb. 15** from 9 a.m. to noon at the Grand Hall at NRH Centre, 6000 Hawk Ave. This event will include gardening lectures, light refreshments and door prizes. No registration is necessary.

Festival of Trees Competition—Congratulations to Snow Heights Elementary on winning the 2024 Festival of Trees sponsored by the NRH Centre and North Richland Hills Parks and Recreation Department. They will receive a \$500 fitness and wellness grant from the NRH Centre. Ten NRH Elementary Schools participated in the event where teachers and students decorated a Christmas Tree inside the NRH Centre. Each participating school will receive a \$100 grant as well. People voted for their favorite tree online and over 3,600 votes were cast. Great job to all the schools and Congratulations again to Snow Heights Elementary!



NRH Centre Youth Recreation Programs—This has been the season of Art Elf camp, and seasonal games, celebrations and activities in dance, gymnastics and our pre-K program. Families learned how to decorate holiday cookies in the Terrace. A very special thanks to the NRH Library and Police department for working with our pre-k programs! Looking forward to 2025.

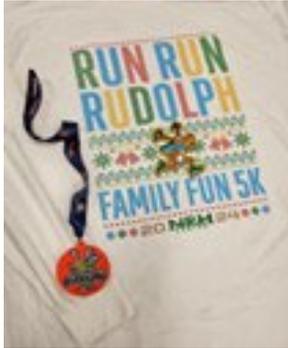


NRH Aquatics—On Friday, December 13, NRH Centre Aquatics hosted a Splash Flix event with a showing of Dr. Seuss How the Grinch Stole Christmas (2000). There were several activities for guests to participate in before the movie began, and popcorn and hot chocolate were served throughout the event. We had an attendance of almost 80 guests!

Swim lesson sessions that begin in January 2025 opened for early registration to returning participants on Monday, December 17, and to the public on Wednesday, December 18. Almost 50% of available spots have already been filled, with 107 students registered and 11 classes already full!

NRH Fitness—The Wellness team is excited to introduce new and engaging classes for 2025! We will kick off January with a Wellness Reset, Yoga for Military, Yoga and Clay for tweens and teens, services from our new massage therapist, and Candlelight Yoga. Looking ahead to spring, we're thrilled to offer unique experiences like Astronomy Yoga and a Forest Bathing class—a therapeutic practice focused on connecting with nature. We're excited to announce that we are currently hiring an additional therapeutic massage therapist and a registered dietitian to expand our wellness offerings. Additionally, we're eagerly anticipating the arrival of new fitness equipment, including cable machines and treadmills, to enhance our members workout experience.

NRH Centre Athletics—NRH Centre Athletics has been wrapping up Softball leagues and completed fall Pickleball and Volleyball leagues. Leagues will resume on January 7, 2025, for Volleyball and January 8, 2025, for Pickleball. The Annual Run Run Rudolph 5K benefitting the NRH WS365 water safety program was held on December 7 and had a record-breaking 458 participants! Thank you to everyone who attended the event. We are excited to see what next year will bring!



Grand Hall—The Grand Hall wrapped up a bustling holiday season, hosting **26 events** throughout the month of December. From celebrations to community gatherings, it's been a season to remember!

FY24/25 Financial Highlights

- **Total FY2024/2025 Adopted Revenue Goal:** \$447,500
- **Revenue for 24/25 to Date:** \$128,321.96 (28.7% of budget)

We are kicking off the new year in full swing with 18 scheduled events in January and some exciting community events, including "**Swinging in 2025**" featuring a performance by the **Texas Jazz Allstars**. Thank you for your continued support of the Grand Hall. We look forward to another fantastic year of events and celebrations!

Richland Tennis Center—Richland Tennis Center is coming off a great year in 2024. Typically, the last event is the Toys for Tennis tournament, but unfortunately the weather did not cooperate. However, our generous patrons came through and delivered their unwrapped toys to be donated to the NRH Community Enrichment Center anyway. Winter adult in-house leagues start December 30 and run through February 27. The adult winter USTA leagues for men and women kicked off December 13 and will continue through end of March. RTC junior programs will resume on January 3 continuing through February 27. January 25-26 RTC will host our next UTR.

Park Maintenance and Operations—The holiday season is in full swing and staff have been busy on a variety of tasks. While some regular maintenance tasks slow down this time of year, park operations staff take advantage of this time to perform projects that set the team up for success when spring arrives. Christmas light setup was completed and the tree lighting took place without a hitch and showcased the best Christmas light set up to-date. Lights will begin to come down on January 2 and the process will take about a week to get everything stored correctly for next year. Landscape staff have been busy performing fall landscape renovations in medians, rights-of-ways, City Hall, the NRH Centre, and NRH20. Irrigation crews began some drainage and erosion improvements at NRH20 to prepare for the upcoming season. The Park Maintenance and Operations team is rarely photographed, they are elusive in the field, but we paused to celebrate them and recognize their daily efforts 365 days a year. Thank you to this incredible team!



NRH Senior Center— The NRH Senior Center Team has been very busy throughout November and December. There were 78 in attendance for Jessica Browning of the NRH Police Department presentation over Scam Awareness on Friday, November 8. Operation: Cup of Joe, monthly veterans’ program, fell on “Veterans Day”, Monday, November 11. 151 Coffee



donated coffee for the activity

and Rosa’s breakfast burritos were served to our Veterans in attendance. Later we transported 22 for the Veteran’s Day program at City Hall. The Thanksgiving Luncheon was provided by Encompass Health. The Center was able to add 81 additional spots for this event over the 150-general attendance with funds from the 2023 Garage Sale. This enabled us to provide a turkey and dressing lunch for a total of 231 senior center members for November. The Senior Center held the Annual Volunteer Appreciation Holiday Party on Thursday, December 12. Over 70 volunteers and guests took



part in the Holiday Edition of Wheel of Fortune, Christmas Carol Bingo, a light dinner and fellowship. On Friday, December 13 the first Caroling Caravan took off to visit and sing at NRH City Hall, Encompass Health, Green Valley Health Care, Atria at Hometown and NRH Library. We had 32 seniors spreading holiday cheer and goodwill throughout the community.



If you have any questions, or for more information, please contact 817-427-6620. May this season bring joy and light to you and your families. Thank you for serving the NRH Community and for being Parks and Recreation champions throughout the year. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! - Your NRH Parks and Recreation Department