

Animal Services Board



February 18, 2026
Town Hall
2121 Cross Timbers Road
Flower Mound, TX 75028

6:30 p.m.

AGENDA

A. CALL TO ORDER

B. PUBLIC COMMENT

The purpose of this item is to allow the public an opportunity to address the Board/Commission regarding any item on this agenda that is not a "Public Hearing." Issues regarding daily operational or administrative matters should first be dealt with by calling Town Hall at 972.874.6000 during business hours.

In accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act, the Board/Commission is restricted from discussing or acting on items not listed on the agenda.

To speak during public comment, fill out a comment form (PDF). Note:

- Limited to three (3) minutes, a tone will sound at 30 seconds left and when time has expired, and times may be adjusted by the Chair
- Direct comments to the Board/Commission
- State your name and the municipality where you reside

C. PRESENTATION

1. The Benefits of Owls in Our Community - David L. McCarty

D. CONSENT ITEM(S)

This part of the agenda consists of non-controversial, or "housekeeping" items required by law. Items may be removed from Consent by any Commissioner by making such request prior to a motion and vote.

1. - Consider approval of the minutes from October 29, 2025.

E. REGULAR ITEM(S)

1. - Staff Report
2. - Activity updates
 - "Hoo's in the Shelter" - Owl Houses
 - Building a Better Bat-mosphere - Bat Houses
3. - Sub-Committee Update
 - Christmas Parade Float

F. FUTURE AGENDA ITEM(S)

The purpose of this item is to allow the members an opportunity to bring forward items they wish to discuss at a future meeting.

G. COORDINATION OF CALENDARS

1. 1. May 27, 2026 - Wednesday
August 26, 2026 - Wednesday
October 27, 2026 - Tuesday
February 23, 2027 - Tuesday

H. ADJOURN

I do hereby certify that the notice of the above meeting for the Town of Flower Mound was posted at Town Hall, Town of Flower Mound, Texas, and on the Town's website in compliance with Chapter 551, Texas Government Code on February 5, 2026, by 4:00 p.m.

Christine Hastings, Staff Liaison

The Flower Mound Town Hall and Jody Smith Hall are wheelchair accessible. Requests for accommodation or interpretive services must be made 48 hours prior to this meeting by contacting Town Hall at 972.874.6000. Additional time limits will be provided for members of the public that need to address the Town Council through a translator.

Animal Services Board



October 29, 2025
Town Hall
2121 Cross Timbers Road
Flower Mound, TX 75028

6:30 p.m.

DRAFT MINUTES

A. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Soderberg called th meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. with the following members present:

Christine Hastings, Staff, Place 2
Kelly Furnas, Place 3
Beth Soderberg, Place 4
Laurie appelbaum, Place 5
Janvier Werner, Place 6
Carina Vanlaet, Place 7
Sean Lee, Alt. Place 8
Bruce Munro, Alt. Place 9

with the following member(s) absent:

Robyn Read, Veterinarian, Place 1

constituting a quorum with the following members of the Town Staff participating:

Christine Hastings, Board Liaison

B. ANNUAL ELECTION OF A CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR TO THE ANIMAL SERVICES BOARD

1. Election of Elizabeth Soderbert as Chair

ACTION: Kelly Furnas moved to approve B.1. as presented in the agenda caption. Christine Hastings seconded the motion.
AYES: Kelly Furnas, Christine Hastings, Laurie Appelbaum, Janvier Werner, Carina Vanlaet
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: None

RESULT: 5 : 0

2. Election of Kelly Furnas as Vice-Chair

ACTION: Laurie Appelbaum moved to approve B.2. as presented in the agenda caption. Janvier Werner seconded the motion.

AYES: Kelly Furnas, Christine Hastings, Laurie Appelbaum, Janvier Werner, Carina Vanlaet

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

RESULT: 5 : 0

C. PUBLIC COMMENT

The purpose of this item is to allow the public an opportunity to address the Board/Commission regarding any item on this agenda that is not a "Public Hearing." Issues regarding daily operational or administrative matters should first be dealt with by calling Town Hall at 972- 874-6000 during business hours. To speak to the Board/Commission during public comment, please fill out a comment form, which is located in the lobby of Town Hall.

In accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act, the Board/Commission is restricted from discussing or acting on items not listed on the agenda.

- Speakers are limited to 3 minutes; a tone will sound at 30 seconds left and when time has expired, and times may be adjusted by the Chair depending on the number of speakers.
- Speakers must address their comments to the Board/Commission.
- Please state your name and address when speaking.

No Public Comment

D. PRESENTATION

1. The Horrors of the Holidays for Your Pets -- Dr. Anthony Rusch

E. CONSENT ITEM(S)

This part of the agenda consists of non-controversial, or "housekeeping" items required by law. Items may be removed from Consent by any Commissioner by making such request prior to a motion and vote.

1. - Consider approval of the minutes from August 27, 2025 Animal Services Board Meeting.

ACTION: Laurie Appelbaum moved to approve E.1. as presented in the agenda caption. Kelly Furnas seconded the motion.

AYES: Kelly Furnas, Christine Hastings, Laurie Appelbaum, Janvier Werner, Carina Vanlaet

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None
RESULT: 5 : 0

F. REGULAR ITEM(S)

1. - Staff Report

Member Hastings welcomed the newest Board members. The content of the monthly report was reviewed and questions from the Board were addressed.

2. - Outreach Events

Christmas Parade - Float

Chair Soderberg discussed the idea of creating a float for the Christmas Parade. She reviewed some of the rules for entering a float with dates of registration and went over the supplies that were currently available. Chair Soderberg's goal for the float is to have board members be involved in its creation and to bring more awareness to the Flower Mound Animal Adoption Center. Members unanimously felt that there wasn't enough time to plan and put together a float for this year, but that it would be discussed early for next year's parade.

A motion was made to create a sub-committee to discuss and start planning for the development of a Float for the 2026 Town of Flower Mound's Christmas parade.

ACTION: Laurie Appelbaum moved to approve F.2. as presented in the agenda caption. Janvier Werner seconded the motion.

AYES: Kelly Furnas, Christine Hastings, Laurie Appelbaum, Janvier Werner, Carina Vanlaet

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

RESULT: 5 : 0

The following members make up the new Float Sub-Committee:

Member Laurie Appelbaum
Member Janvier Werner
Alt. Member Sean Lee

Member Hastings answered additional questions about future events, the board member's process to become volunteers, and volunteer duties at low-cost vaccination events.

G. FUTURE AGENDA ITEM(S)

The purpose of this item is to allow the members an opportunity to bring forward items they wish to discuss at a future meeting.

"Hoo's at the Shelter" - Owl box building
Bat house building

H. COORDINATION OF CALENDARS

1. February 24, 2026
May 26, 2026
August 25, 2026
October 27, 2026

Adjust May and August dates due to conflicts.

I. ADJOURN



ANIMAL SERVICES BOARD AGENDA E.1. REGULAR ITEM(S)

DATE: February 18, 2026
FROM:
ITEM: Staff Report

BACKGROUND:

BOARD REVIEW/CITIZEN FEEDBACK: N/A

ALTERNATIVES:

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A
N/A

LEGAL REVIEW: N/A

ATTACHMENTS:

1. October 2025 Monthly Report
2. November 2025 Monthly Report
3. December 2025 Monthly Report
4. January 2026 Monthly Report

DRAFT MOTION: N/A

MONTHLY REPORT

Oct-25
MONTH/YEAR

374
CALLS COMP.

ANIMALS IMPOUNDED

<u>48</u> DOGS	<u>20</u> CATS	<u>0</u> LIVESTOCK	<u>1 (Conure)</u> OTHER
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ANIMALS CLAIMED BY OWNER

<u>24</u> DOGS	<u>0</u> CATS	<u>0</u> LIVESTOCK	<u>1 (Conure)</u> OTHER
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ANIMALS OWNER RELEASED

<u>12</u> DOGS	<u>10</u> CATS	<u>0</u> LIVESTOCK	<u>0</u> OTHER
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ANIMALS ADOPTED

<u>15</u> DOGS	<u>27</u> CATS	<u>0</u> LIVESTOCK	<u>0</u> OTHER
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ANIMALS PICKED UP BY RESCUE GROUPS

<u>6</u> DOGS	<u>8</u> CATS	<u>0</u> LIVESTOCK	<u>0</u> OTHER
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ANIMALS EUTHANIZED

<u>4</u> DOGS	<u>1</u> CATS	<u>0</u> LIVESTOCK	<u>0</u> OTHER
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<u>4</u> TEMPERAMENT	<u>1</u> ILLNESS	<u>0</u> SPACE
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BITE REPORTS

<u>7</u> DOGS	<u>1</u> CATS	<u>0</u> LIVESTOCK	<u>3 (An vs An)</u> OTHER
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PRESENTATIONS

5

DONATIONS

\$440

MONTHLY REPORT

Nov-25
MONTH/YEAR

278
CALLS COMP.

ANIMALS IMPOUNDED

<u>31</u> DOGS	<u>26</u> CATS	<u>0</u> LIVESTOCK	<u>1 Rabbit/1 Chicken/1 Snake</u> OTHER
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ANIMALS CLAIMED BY OWNER

<u>12</u> DOGS	<u>3</u> CATS	<u>0</u> LIVESTOCK	<u>0</u> OTHER
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ANIMALS OWNER RELEASED

<u>13</u> DOGS	<u>9</u> CATS	<u>0</u> LIVESTOCK	<u>1 Chicken</u> OTHER
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ANIMALS ADOPTED

<u>8</u> DOGS	<u>19</u> CATS	<u>0</u> LIVESTOCK	<u>1 Chicken/1 Snake</u> OTHER
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ANIMALS PICKED UP BY RESCUE GROUPS

<u>3</u> DOGS	<u>1</u> CATS	<u>0</u> LIVESTOCK	<u>0</u> OTHER
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ANIMALS EUTHANIZED

<u>3</u> DOGS	<u>3</u> CATS	<u>0</u> LIVESTOCK	<u>1 Rabbit</u> OTHER
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<u>3 Cats/2 Dogs</u> TEMPERAMENT	<u>1 Rabbit/1 Dog</u> ILLNESS	<u>0</u> SPACE
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BITE REPORTS

<u>11</u> DOGS	<u>1</u> CATS	<u>0</u> LIVESTOCK	<u>1 An vs. An</u> OTHER
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PRESENTATIONS

4

DONATIONS

\$422

MONTHLY REPORT

Dec-25
MONTH/YEAR

292
CALLS COMP.

ANIMALS IMPOUNDED

40
DOGS

27
CATS

0
LIVESTOCK

2(1 Chix/1Rabbit)
OTHER

ANIMALS CLAIMED BY OWNER

21
DOGS

3
CATS

0
LIVESTOCK

1 Chix
OTHER

ANIMALS OWNER RELEASED

10
DOGS

12
CATS

0
LIVESTOCK

0
OTHER

ANIMALS ADOPTED

20
DOGS

17
CATS

0
LIVESTOCK

1 Rabbit
OTHER

ANIMALS PICKED UP BY RESCUE GROUPS

3
DOGS

0
CATS

0
LIVESTOCK

0
OTHER

ANIMALS EUTHANIZED

2
DOGS

4
CATS

0
LIVESTOCK

0
OTHER

5
TEMPERAMENT

1
ILLNESS

0
SPACE

BITE REPORTS

3
DOGS

4
CATS

0
LIVESTOCK

1
OTHER

PRESENTATIONS

6

DONATIONS

\$1,476

MONTHLY REPORT

Jan-26
MONTH/YEAR

221
CALLS COMP.

ANIMALS IMPOUNDED

<u>28</u> DOGS	<u>11</u> CATS	<u>0</u> LIVESTOCK	<u>1-Rooster</u> OTHER
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ANIMALS CLAIMED BY OWNER

<u>16</u> DOGS	<u>1</u> CATS	<u>0</u> LIVESTOCK	<u>0</u> OTHER
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ANIMALS OWNER RELEASED

<u>9</u> DOGS	<u>4</u> CATS	<u>0</u> LIVESTOCK	<u>0</u> OTHER
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ANIMALS ADOPTED

<u>8</u> DOGS	<u>13</u> CATS	<u>0</u> LIVESTOCK	<u>0</u> OTHER
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ANIMALS PICKED UP BY RESCUE GROUPS

<u>2</u> DOGS	<u>1</u> CATS	<u>0</u> LIVESTOCK	<u>0</u> OTHER
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ANIMALS EUTHANIZED

<u>4</u> DOGS	<u>6</u> CATS	<u>0</u> LIVESTOCK	<u>0</u> OTHER
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<u>9</u> TEMPERAMENT	<u>1</u> ILLNESS	<u>0</u> SPACE
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BITE REPORTS

<u>11</u> DOGS	<u>2</u> CATS	<u>0</u> LIVESTOCK	<u>2-A vs A; 1-Coon</u> OTHER
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PRESENTATIONS

1

DONATIONS

\$205



ANIMAL SERVICES BOARD AGENDA E.2. REGULAR ITEM(S)

DATE: February 18, 2026

FROM:

ITEM: Activity updates
"Hoo's in the Shelter" - Owl Houses
Building a Better Bat-mosphere - Bat Houses

BACKGROUND:

BOARD REVIEW/CITIZEN FEEDBACK: N/A

ALTERNATIVES: N/A

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A
N/A

LEGAL REVIEW: N/A

ATTACHMENTS:

1. 2026 Activity List
2. Owl Bat

DRAFT MOTION: N/A

Activity List 2026

JANUARY

12th- Forest Vista Elementary School presentation / check \$283.65

24th- Volunteer Training Class – Cancelled (closed due to weather)

FEBUARY

7th- Volunteer Breakfast

14th- (date may change) Elementary School Valentines Project

28th- Library Cat Castle Building Event

Saturday, February 28 - 2:00pm - 3:30pm - Flower Mound Public Library - Community Program Room

Build your cat (or other small pet) the castle they deserve! In honor of National Cat Health Month, we'll also be collecting supplies for the cats at the Flower Mound Animal Adoption Center.

Donations for the Flower Mound Animal Services Adoption Center will be accepted during the month of February. Please visit Flower Mound Animal Services for information about which items are needed.

Cardboard and other building supplies for Cat Castles will be provided by the Library.

Kids and families are welcome! - Kids under 10 must be accompanied by an adult.

AGE GROUP: | Tweens | Teens | Preschool | Elementary School | All Ages |

MARCH

Month Long - Reading Room Program (13th -20th Spring Break for LISD)

3rd – Town Citizen Academy

21st- TCAP Event

27TH- Timber Creek Elementary (Career on Wheels)

28th- Easter Egg Scramble

APRIL

11th- Police Open House

MAY

Concert in the Park: 1, 8, 15, 22

2nd – PD: Bike with the Blue

JUNE

JULY

AUGUST

SEPTEMBER

Birthday PAW-TY

? Movies in the Park: 11, 18, 25

26 – Doggie Dive

OCTOBER

9th-10th Fall Fest

21st- Woof-O-Ween

NOVEMBER

7th - Veterans Day Event

12th- TCAP Event

DECEMBER

5th - Christmas Parade / Booth

5th - Christmas Float - ??

Owl Boxes

International Owl Awareness Day – August 4

Key Benefits of Owl Boxes

- **Natural Pest Control:** Owls eat vast numbers of rodents (mice, voles, gophers) and some insects, reducing damage to crops and gardens without poisons.
- **Habitat Provision:** Owls don't build their own nests; boxes provide essential, safe cavities, especially as natural nesting sites (like old woodpecker holes) become scarce due to habitat loss.
- **Wildlife Conservation:** Boxes support breeding and increase local owl populations, benefiting the entire ecosystem.
- **Safe Roosting:** They offer protection from predators and harsh winter weather, helping owls survive.
- **Low-Impact Management:** They're an eco-friendly alternative to rodenticides, protecting pets, other wildlife, and the environment from secondary poisoning.
- **Educational & Recreational Value:** Watching owls raise their young from a box provides unique entertainment and promotes wildlife appreciation.

How They Work

- **Cavity Nesters:** Boxes cater to cavity-nesting owls like Barn Owls, Screech Owls, and Barred Owls.
- **Integrated Approach:** Owl boxes work best when used alongside other pest management strategies, not as a complete solution on their own.
- **Species-Specific Design:** Boxes must be built to the correct size and design for the target owl species for maximum success.

Community Event names – Examples

Whoooo's in the Shelter?	Wings & Wags Workshop	Build for the Birds
Wildlife Wings Workshop	Project Pawsitive Nesting	Hoot, Build & Adopt

Bat Boxes

International Bat Appreciation Day: April 17

Bat Appreciation Week – October 24-31, 2026

Key benefits of Bat Boxes:

- **Pest Control:** Bats are voracious insect eaters, consuming vast numbers of moths, beetles, and mosquitoes, reducing the need for chemical pesticides.
- **Habitat Loss Mitigation:** They offer a much-needed substitute for lost natural roosts in trees or caves, especially for maternity colonies.
- **Bat Conservation:** Provide a safe refuge from threats like White-Nose Syndrome and allow slow-growing populations to raise young.
- **Ecosystem Health:** Support local biodiversity by maintaining healthy insect populations and providing nutrient-rich guano (droppings) as fertilizer.
- **Reduced Human Conflict:** By offering alternatives, they help keep bats out of homes and buildings, reducing human-bat contact.
- **Wildlife Viewing:** Allow people to observe bats up close in a non-intrusive way, fostering appreciation for these animals.

Important considerations for installation:

- **Design:** Multi-chambered boxes with proper ventilation and insulation are best to provide suitable microclimates.
- **Placement:** Install high off the ground (10-12+ feet) with a clear flight path, facing different directions if using multiple boxes.
- **Safety:** Ensure boxes are free from chemicals, parasites, and don't overheat, as proper design is crucial for success.

Community Event names – Examples

Bats, Barks, and Box Building

Wings & Whiskers Workshop

Safe Havens Initiative

Crafts for Critters: Bat Box Bash

Bats & Paws

Homes for All: A Shelter & Wildlife Partnership



**ANIMAL SERVICES BOARD
AGENDA E.3.
REGULAR ITEM(S)**

DATE: February 18, 2026
FROM:
ITEM: Sub-Committee Update
Christmas Parade Float

BACKGROUND:

BOARD REVIEW/CITIZEN FEEDBACK: N/A

ALTERNATIVES: N/A

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A
N/A

LEGAL REVIEW: N/A

ATTACHMENTS:

1. 2025 Parade Information Packet

DRAFT MOTION: N/A



Town of Flower Mound 2025 Christmas Parade of Lights Official Acceptance Letter

Congratulations! Your entry has been received and officially accepted to participate in the Town of Flower Mound's 2025 Christmas Parade of Lights. It is extremely important that you read all of the enclosed materials in this packet for the safety and success of all participants.

- The parade starts at 6 p.m. *at night* on Saturday, December 6, 2025.
- Staging occurs between 4:30 – 5 p.m. at Bakersfield Park. Entry into the staging area is from Duncan Lane, off of FM 3040. See attached map.
- The official parade begins at the corner of Spinks Road and Garden Ridge Blvd. and will end at Gerault Road, nearest the Community Activity Center main entrance.
- Parade floats have the option to U-turn at Gerault/Sweetwater Road to return to Bakersfield Park OR continue driving North on Gerault if they do not plan to attend the Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony.
- Lighted floats, trailers, trucks, and oversized vehicles will be inspected.
- Entry numbers are given out at the Parade Participant Informational Meeting.
- Due to safety concerns for both parade participants and spectators, candy or other swag **cannot** be thrown from any float or vehicle. Only walking participants – not spotters – are allowed to toss candy to parade spectators.
- Roads affected by the parade route are scheduled to begin closure from 3 p.m. until the conclusion of the parade. This includes the entrances/exits to Heritage Park.
- There is no inclement weather alternate date.

The Town has instituted a **mandatory** Parade Participant Informational Meeting. Representatives from Parks & Recreation, Police, and Fire Departments will present further instructions, additional safety information, and answer any questions you may have. Only one representative from your group need attend, but that person **must be someone who will participate in the parade with your entry during the actual event.** It is recommended that all members of leadership for your entry attend the meeting to make life easier on your group as a whole.

Parade Participant Informational Meeting
Wednesday, December 3, at 7 p.m.
Community Activity Center Multipurpose Room (1200 Gerault Road)

If there is a conflict making it impossible for you or another representative of your group to attend, you will need to arrange an alternate meeting time. Please contact me as soon as possible for availability:

Jill Deramus, Special Events Manager
972.874.6292
specialevents@flowermound.gov

GENERAL PARADE INFORMATION

The Town of Flower Mound would like to thank you and your group for participating in this year's Christmas Parade of Lights. We have a wide variety of service organizations, youth groups, churches, schools, and businesses participating. While you're decorating your lighted float or vehicle and deciding on what type of costumes/clothing for your group, please remember: this is a night-time Christmas Parade, and our theme for 2025 is "**Characters of Christmas.**" These two things should be the driving force in your decorations – LOTS of lights and memorable personalities! Proudly display the name of your group, church, business, school, etc. for all to see. The parade will be broadcast LIVE on FMTV and rebroadcast throughout the holiday season.

CANNED FOOD DRIVE

In lieu of an entry fee, we ask each group to donate a minimum of one non-perishable food item for each person participating in the parade. These items will help Christian Community Action (CCA) stock their food banks for the upcoming holiday season to support thousands of our neighbors in our own community. Please bring as many items as your group can collect and drop them off at the Community Activity Center before or after the parade.

PARADE SAFETY

Although a night-time parade is fun for everyone involved, we cannot risk someone being accidentally injured. If everyone uses common sense, good judgement, and takes things slowly, we can reduce the possibility of accidents occurring. Here are additional requirements:

- As the contact for your parade entry, you are responsible for the safety of every person within your group. You are also responsible for the safe operation of any vehicles your group may use, as well as the behavior of your group members for as long as they are in the parade staging area and route.
- All groups containing children must have adequate adult supervision during staging and the entirety of the parade.
- Marching Groups
 - Again, if the group contains children, there must be enough adults present to keep contact with every child. Adults must lead the group, and adults must bring up the rear of the group with constant monitoring of all children at all times.
 - If your marching group has a vehicle, the vehicle must follow the group.
 - If the group has more than one vehicle, one vehicle must be in front and one vehicle must be in the rear with the walkers in the middle.
- Cars, Trucks, Trailers, Floats, and/or Oversized Vehicles
 - There should be two adults in the cab of every vehicle.
 - The passenger's primary responsibility is to monitor the persons in the back of the vehicle or on the float and advise the driver should any problems occur.
 - The driver's primary responsibility is to pay close attention to the parade entry directly in front of their vehicle and to the spectators along the

route. The parade entry in front could come to an abrupt stop at any time and children could dart into the street from the sides of the road at any time. The driver must be alert to these possibilities at all times.

- For the safety of our community's children and all participants, you must provide four or more spotters per entry. That's a minimum of one spotter per entry "corner." All spotters must wear some type of reflective safety vest while walking. Standard cars without trailers or floats are exempt from this requirement.
- If there are children in the back of a truck or on a trailer or float, there must be enough adults with them to be able to safely control every child.
- Parade floats with hay, paper streamers, or any other potentially flammable decorations **must have a minimum of one fire extinguisher** affixed to the trailer. **Floats will be inspected prior to official line up.**
- Generators used on floats should be separated from the area carrying passengers, located in the rear bed of the towing vehicle/pick-up.
- No containers carrying flammables are allowed on a float or trailer transporting people.
- No fireworks or sparklers are allowed under any circumstances.
- Due to safety concerns for both parade participants and spectators, candy cannot be thrown from a float or vehicle. Only participants that are walking – **not spotters** – will be allowed to toss candy to parade spectators.

ENTRY JUDGING & FILMING

Your entry is assigned an identification number. It will be given to you at the mandatory Parade Participant Informational Meeting. This number is for identification purposes only and does not correlate with your position in the parade line-up. It is the only information the parade judges and FMTV commentators have regarding your entry, so you must:

- Display it on both the LEFT and RIGHT side of your vehicle, float, or marching group
- Construct your ID number a minimum of 24" tall x 24" wide.
- Contrast it enough so that it can be clearly read from as far as 50' away.
- Display your ID number on all vehicles or floats comprising your entry if there are multiples.
- Display your number on something obvious at the beginning of your group if you are a marching group. Examples include signs, banners, etc.

A panel of judges are stationed on Spinks Road. Each entry is scored on a scale of 1-10 in the following criteria, for a maximum score of 50:

Creativity
Design and Theme Adherence
Use of Lights and Visual Impact
Craftsmanship and Effort
Overall Effect

In the event a judge has a relative, close friend, or personal interest in an entry, the judge will not be allowed to score that particular entry. We will use an average of the remaining judge's scores.

AWARDS

There are six (6) categories of entries: Youth Group Float, Business Float, Non-Profit Float, Marching Group, Automobile Group, and Miscellaneous Group. Plaques are awarded to one winner and one runner-up in each category. The winners and runners-up will be notified by phone or email and will also be listed on www.flowermound.gov/parade.

PARKING, DROP-OFF, AND ASSEMBLY

Parking and drop-off are available at the staging area in the North lot of the Bakersfield complex. Carpooling is encouraged. A float assembly area is also available in the South lot for last-minute preparations. A Parks employee will direct you to different locations upon arrival.

LINE-UP

- Entries are lined up in the order they arrive to the staging area.
- Line-up begins at 4:30 p.m.
- Entries must arrive at Bakersfield Park no later than 5 p.m.
- Entries with more than one vehicle must arrive at the same time to line-up together.
- Trucks, trailers, floats, and/or oversized vehicles will be inspected.
 - Four or more spotters per parade entry will be required.
- Parade staff and police officers will direct your group when it is time to proceed onto Spinks Road. Please use the restroom before your group is moved.
- NOTE: the only reserved positions in the parade are for specific groups such as Town officials, emergency equipment, and Santa Claus.

THE PARADE ROUTE

After staging, the parade will crossover the Spinks/Garden Ridge intersection and travel west in the westbound lanes. The parade will turn right onto Gerault and head north past the CAC. Pedestrian barricades will be in the roadway on both sides of the street. Floats, performances, and entries will move between those barricades. Please be on alert for children darting into the road in front of your vehicle or group to grab candy. Maintain a space of no less than 50 feet or 10 seconds from the group or vehicle in front of yours at all times. Remember: the parade could come to an abrupt stop at any time. If you should have mechanical problems with your vehicle or float, please move immediately and as close as possible to the curb with the fewest spectators alongside it. This should allow the parade to continue around you.

END OF THE PARADE

The parade will end on Gerault and Sweetwater. All entries will be required to cross the intersection at Sweetwater. Entries that wish to unload riders may do so after crossing over at Sweetwater by getting in the far right lane. If your entry doesn't need to disband, you may continue on Gerault and exit the parade route. Walking groups are welcome to exit the parade route at the CAC. Please follow the instructions of parade officials and police officers directing traffic. We must keep the parade moving, but as safely as possible, to avoid backing up on Spinks/Gerault. If you are directed out of line by a parade official or police officer, please

comply immediately.

WEATHER

Since this is a Christmas Parade of Lights, it should be assumed that weather might not be ideal. The parade will not be canceled for normal winter weather conditions. In the event of cold temperatures, drizzle, light rain, light snow or sleet, the parade will most likely proceed as planned. The parade will only be canceled for dangerous weather, such as heavy snow, ice, heavy rain, or treacherous driving conditions.

The final decision may not be made until one hour prior to start time due to the unpredictability of Texas weather. Please be patient and do not reach out to us. We will post on Facebook, Instagram, and our official website, www.flowermound.gov/parade IF the parade is canceled. If you do not see a cancellation notice on these communication platforms, we are moving forward with the show!

In the event of inclement weather, the parade will be canceled with no make-up date.

PARADE RULES & REGULATIONS

1. The Parade Committee reserves the right to limit the number of entries in any category and to reject/refuse any entry. All entries will be evaluated for acceptance based upon entertainment value, connection to the "Characters of Christmas," compliance with parade rules, and suitability for the entire family.
2. Entry deadline for all categories is Friday, November 28. Applications received after this date may/may not be given consideration.
3. Line-up will begin at 4:30 p.m. The parade will start on Spinks Road.
4. Entry into the staging area will be on Duncan Road off of FM 3040 and onto the Bakersfield Park parking lot.
5. This section of Spinks Road will be completely closed until the conclusion of the parade.
6. Parade units must keep moving during the parade at all times, unless directed to stop by a police officer or parade official. Any performance groups must perform along the route as the parade moves. There are no grandstands or designated performance zones.
7. Maintain a space no less fifty (50) feet or ten (10) seconds between you and the parade unit in front of you.
8. All units must reflect a "Characters of Christmas" Theme.
9. All youth entries must have adequate adult supervision.
10. The use or possession of alcoholic beverages any time before, during, and after the parade is strictly prohibited. Smoking or vaping during the parade is also prohibited.

9. Any parade participant/entry with animals MUST make arrangements to have all animal droppings "scooped" immediately. Proper disposal is the responsibility of the entrant.
10. **Santa Claus will be in the parade! Therefore, Santa and/or Mrs. Claus may not appear with any other entry – your entry will be removed from the line-up if you do not adhere to this rule.**
11. Due to safety concerns for both parade participants and spectators, candy or other swag cannot be thrown from a float or vehicle. Do not toss candy at the start of the parade. Only walking participants will be allowed to toss candy to parade spectators.
12. Parade entries are required to immediately clean up and properly dispose of any trash generated by their participation in the staging area, parade route, and disbanding area.
13. Judging of floats, marching groups, and other entries will be conducted on Spinks Road. Plaques will be awarded for the winner and one runner-up in each category. All winners will be notified by phone or email, as well as listed on our official website. The categories are:
 - Youth Group Float
 - Business Float
 - Non-Profit Float
 - Marching Group
 - Automobile Group
 - Miscellaneous Group
14. Definition of all entry categories:
 - Youth Group Float** – Any float entry by the Boy Scouts, Schools, Campfire Girls, etc.
 - Business Float** – Any float entry by a for profit organization
 - Non-Profit Float** – Any float entry by Summit Club, Rotary, Women of Flower Mound, etc.
 - Marching Group** – Any walking groups representing civic, special interest, drill team, etc.
 - Automobile Group** – All automobiles must be decorated as well as the occupants
 - Miscellaneous Group** – Municipalities, horses, etc.
15. The use of sirens and air horns is limited to emergency response units only.
16. Motorized vehicles in the parade must meet all requirements to be operated on public streets. Drivers must be properly licensed to operate each vehicle.
17. The parade will end on Gerault Road/Sweetwater and will be directed by police and parade officials.

18. In the event of inclement weather conditions on parade day, a decision regarding the occurrence or cancellation of the parade will be made no later than one hour before the parade start time and will be posted on all official Flower Mound digital communications. If nothing is posted within a few minutes after 5 p.m., the parade is on.

Violation of any of these rules and regulations may result in disqualification, removal from the parade, and the possibility of ineligibility for future participation in the parade.