

DECEMBER 2024



HOUSTON CITY COUNCIL MEMBER AT-LARGE, POSITION 3



THE CARTER CHRONICLES

Friends,

Wait, hold up—**what month is it again?** Has anyone double-checked that it is really December, and that 2025 is just around the corner? I am still trying to wrap my head around the whole "millennium" thing. Are the clocks and calendars all working, or did we somehow skip ahead in time without noticing? Time sure marches on...

As this year winds down, I want to take a moment to send my warmest holiday wishes to you and yours. Whether you're celebrating with family, friends, or enjoying some quiet time on your own, **I hope this season brings you warmth, peace, and a little bit of magic.** Let's all take a moment to appreciate the joy and connection that make this time of year so special. I'd also like to express my deepest gratitude to those serving our country away from their families this holiday season—your dedication and sacrifice mean the world. Thank you for being part of this journey with me and allowing me the privilege of serving our great Houston. I'm excited and optimistic about what the year ahead holds. Wishing y'all a bright and cheerful holiday season!

Onward and upward,

A handwritten signature in red ink that reads "Twila D. Carter".

Council Member Twila Carter
At-Large Position 3

The song playing in my mind....**"If there were no presents waiting on Santa's sleigh, What would I wish for Christmas? And if Frosty, the Snowman were melting away, I would pray for hope, and unity on Christmas day"** ~Whitney Houston

Join us at City Hall – we're here to assist you!



Happy Holidays

I'M OK ARE YOU OK?





National Wreaths Across America Day

Join the more than two million volunteers and supporters who will gather to Remember, Honor and Teach

Saturday, December 14 at 11:00 AM

**Houston National Cemetery 10410 Veterans Memorial Drive
Houston, Texas 77038**



Help us honor the over 90,000 men and women laid to rest at the Houston National Cemetery with a remembrance wreath.







Join these upcoming events to:

- Connect with Veteran-seeking recruiters,
- Get feedback on your resume,
- Potentially reduce your job search from months to minutes!



Central Region Virtual Career Fair for Veterans

 Tuesday, December 10, 2024

 11 AM - 3 PM Central

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12



Veteran Get Hired Workshop

Thursday, December 12

12:000 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. ET

Put your best foot forward at your next job interview by attending the G.I. Jobs' Get Hired Workshop. Attendees can access insider knowledge from experts on getting noticed by recruiters and hiring managers, translating military experience on a resume, and how to explain the value of your military experience in an interview.





Join Us at City Hall!

Mayor John Whitmire and Reliant kick-off the holidays:

Reliant Lights Mayor's Holiday Spectacular!

Celebrate 105 years of live music, dance performances, the lighting of the holiday tree, and other festive activities for all ages.

Saturday, December 7

6 - 8 pm

Hermann Square at City Hall

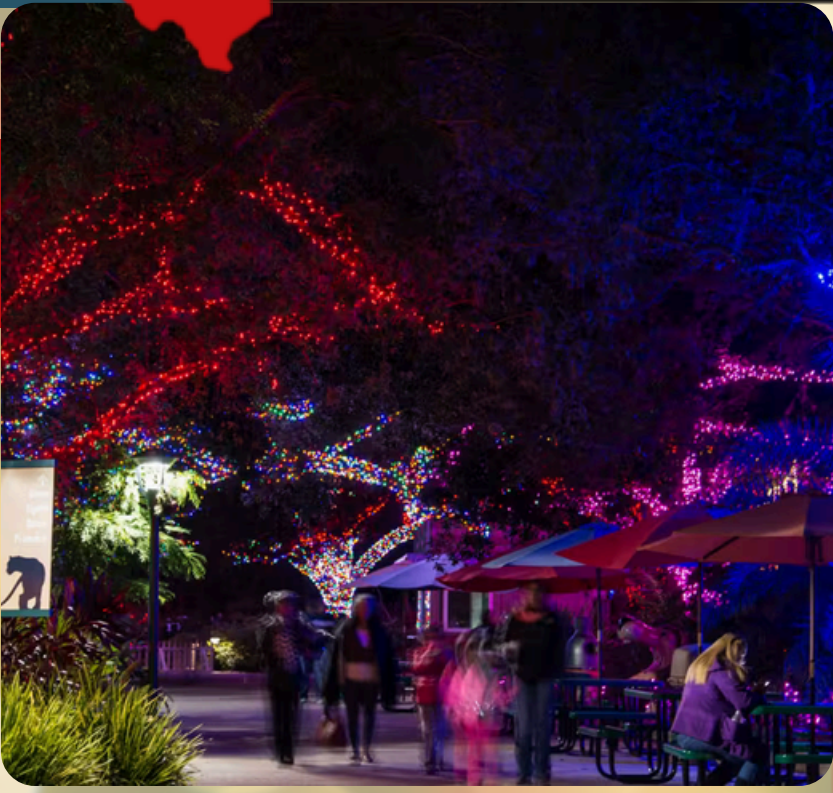


<https://www.houstontx.gov/council/3>





**Zoo Lights is happening now through
January 5, 2025
5:30-10:30 pm
Last entry at 9:30 pm**



We're thrilled to share new dazzling light displays, including our Whimsical Wildlife Tree at the end of Reflection Pool, our immersive Twinkle Trail sponsored by TC Energy in African Forest, Geo Prism Safari sponsored by PNC Bank, and more colorful displays.



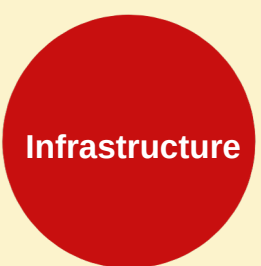
Help save animals in the wild and recycle your old or broken holiday string lights at the Zoo's main entrance until January 5, 2025.



**VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED**

**VOLUNTEER
HERE**

- [Kids Meals](#)
- [Sunshine Kids](#)
- [Candlelighters](#)
- [Houston Food Bank](#)
- [Star of Hope](#)
- [Medical Bridges](#)



NEWS YOU CAN USE

HOLIDAY SHOPPING SAFETY TIPS

DON'T BE A VICTIM, PROTECT YOURSELF!

- ✓ Lock your vehicle
- ✓ Hide packages in the trunk
- ✓ Be aware of your surroundings
- ✓ Don't leave electronics in plain sight
- ✓ Do not carry large sums of cash
- ✓ Park in a lighted area/attended lot
- ✓ Tell security if you see any suspicious persons and/or activities



\$10,000 CADET SALARY INCREASE

**NOW HIRING
APPLY NOW**

**+ \$5000 ONE-TIME INCENTIVE UPON
GRADUATION FROM THE HPD ACADEMY**



**City Hall Annex, 900 Bagby 1st Floor, Houston, Texas 77002-1562
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1562 Houston, TX 77251**

HOUSTON HAPPENINGS



DISCOVERY GREEN®

Glide beneath the glittering lights of downtown Houston. Discover the holiday magic on Green Mountain Energy Ice all month long.



**Pet Photos with Santa & Mrs. Claus
Bring your furry four-legged friends
to Discovery Green
December 7th
12-3 pm**

**Gather for an evening of music at
Carols on the Green with Houston
Grand Opera.
December 14
7pm**



<https://www.houstontx.gov/council/3>





written by:
Chef Willie Holmes



Cookies & Cream Cheesecake

Shonda Rhimes once said "Cheesecake will always taste like love" and I couldn't agree more. Cheesecake is the perfect dessert to take to any Holiday party this year.

Directions:

Ingredients:

Spring Form Pan
(6) Bricks of Cream Cheese, Soft
(4) Eggs
(2) cups of Sugar
(1/2) cup of sour cream
(1/4) cup of flour
(1/2) cup of heavy cream
1Tbs Vanilla Xtract
(1) cup of crushed oreos
Fresh Strawberries
Whole Oreos

crust:

(2) cups of crushed oreos
(1/2) stick of melted butter
(1/2) cup of sugar
1tsp Cinnamon

STEP 1: Form Crust: In Med bowl, combine all crust ingredients. Once combined, line dough inside spring form Pan. Bake at 350 for 10 mins. Remove and let cool.

STEP 2: In mixing bowl, combine Cream Cheese and Sugar. Mix until incorporated. Add in eggs, 1 at a time. Mix until incorporated.

STEP 3: Add in Vanilla and Sour Cream and mix. Next, sprinkle flour over batter to form a thin layer. Pour in heavy cream and add in the crushed Oreos. Mix all ingredients one final time until it's all incorporated. (Do Not Over Mix)



STEP 4: Fill Batter in pan over the crust.

STEP 5: Bake Cheesecake at 300 degrees for 2hrs. ((For Best Results, bake cheesecake inside a water bath))

STEP 6: Remove from oven and let cool down.

STEP 7: Garnish with Fresh Strawberries & Whole Oreos and Enjoy.

CARTER'S Cooking Corner

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TOP NEWS

Recipe of the Month: Texas Style Cheesecake

Food as Christmas Presents,
Is That A Thing?

Featured Chef of the Month:
Chef Hemu Basu



Featured Chef of the Month

Introducing: Chef Hemu (43)

Hometown: Katy, Tx.

Culinary Style: Multi-Award
Winning Sculpted Cake Artist

Achievements:

-Food Network Champion
-Netflix "Is It Cake?" Finalist
-2020 BGA "Houstons Cake
Artist of the Year"

Favorite Thing to Cook: Indian
Meals like Chicken Curry and
Chicken Samosas.

Favorite Thing to Bake:
Chocolate Cake with Hazelnuts

3 Words To Describe Chef Hemu:
Talkative, Social, &
"A Peoples Person"

Gifting Food as Presents Makes a Perfect Holiday Surprise!

As the holidays approach, gifting can become a hassle. Luckily, we have a cost effective solution that will help ease the stress of the holidays. Gourmet foods are becoming a well-received and all-around perfect gift. From gourmet pasta to fine wine.

What better way to show your love for someone-with food.

The trick to giving food as a present is simple. All you do is take your every day item and purchase a gourmet version of it. From everyday pantry items like syrup, hot sauce, cooking oils & spices. Whatever item you choose to gift, as long as it comes from the heart, you'll be just fine.



Business Information:

Hemu Sweet
Sensations, LLC.
(346) 772-8367
Follow @
Hemu_Sweet
Sensations





HPD (Non-Emergency).....	713.884.3131
Airport System.....	281.233.3000
Animal Control (BARC).....	713.229.7300
Anti-Gang Office.....	832.393.0931
Area Agency on Aging.....	832.393.4401
Citizens' Assistance.....	832.393.0955
City Secretary.....	832.393.1100
Dept. of Neighborhoods.....	832.393.1038
Health & Human Services.....	832.393.5169
Mayor's Office	832.393.1000
Municipal Courts	713.837.0311
Parks Department	832.395.7000
Permitting Center	832.394.9000
Public Works & Engineering	832.395.2511
Solid Waste Management	713.956.6589
HCDAO Victims Services.....	713.274.0250
LGBT Switchboard 24-hour Helpline.....	713.529.3211
Anti-Defamation League.....	713.627.3490
The Montrose Center.....	713.529.0037
Texas Family and Protective Services.....	800.252.5400
Power Outages.....	713.207.2222



Public Session Speakers
Tuesdays - 1:30pm Houston City Hall
901 Bagby Street, 2nd Floor
and join us for
City Council Meeting
Wednesdays - 9:00am



DISTRICT COUNCIL MEMBERS

- District A** - Amy Peck 832.393.3010
- District B** - Tarsha Jackson 832.393.3009
- District C** - Abbie Kamin 832.393.3004
- District D** - Carolyn Evans-Shabazz 832.393.3001
- District E** - Fred Flickinger 832.393.3008
- District F** - Tiffany Thomas 832.393.3002
- District G** - Mary Nan Huffman 832.393.3007
- District H** - Mario Castillo 832.393.3003
- District I** - Joaquin Martinez 832.393.3011
- District J** - Edward Pollard 832.393.3015
- District K** - Martha Castex-Tatum 832.393.3016



At-Large 3 Team

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Senior Citizens Resources

Housing Resources for Seniors

www.hud.gov/states/texas/homeownership/seniors

Texas Veterans Legal Assistance Project

www.tlsc.org/veterans

Social Security

www.ssa.gov

Service for Caregivers

https://www.hhs.texas.gov/services/health/support-caregivers

Texas Driver License

https://www.dps.texas.gov/section/driver-license/drivers-age-79-or-older

AARP

www.aarp.org

Texas Health and Human Services

800-458-9858

