

**Overview of the history of the Park Cities Fourth of July Parade**  
**By Kirk Dooley**  
**May 18, 2023**

Back in the 1950s Highland Park had a parade that went from the HP Town Hall to the HP Village while University Park had some single block parades throughout the neighborhood. In the early 1960s the Park Cities Jaycees started the first joint parade between the two towns. The route began at HP Town Hall and went up Preston Road to University and on to Goar Park at the UP City Hall.

When the Jaycees stepped away from the parade in 1970, Bill and Mary Katherine took over and kept the event alive.

Over the next 48 years a series of volunteers chaired the event.

1970-72 – Bill and Mary Katherine Maddox  
1973-74 - Doug and Peggy Sumner  
1975-79 - Peter and Frances Chantillis  
1980 - Eugene and Pat Andrews  
1981-82 - Bob & Barbara Hancock  
1983 - Pat & Phyllis Houston  
1984-88 - Kit & Aileene Collins  
1989-93 - Paul & Iris Gleiser  
1994-98. - Kirk and Charlotte Dooley

When Charlotte and I chaired the event, I oversaw the parade and Charlotte oversaw the picnic at Goar Park. There were speeches; then the crowd went home. Realtor Ellen Terry asked if she could offer lemonade we told her it had to be free and she had to have enough for 2,000 people. She agreed. She set up a tent and gave away cold lemonade. We thought that was expensive until we noticed 2,000 people walking around with cups that said, "Ellen Terry Realtors" and a massive marketing opportunity was born. By the time we retired, there were many tents with all sorts for free items for around 5,000 folks.

Charlotte oversaw this huge operation while toting around our toddler daughter. We knew another baby would put us over the line the next year, so in 1999 we turned the event over to the Park Cities Exchange Club, which had 20 members (compared to the two of us). Four years later that group turned it over to the Park Cities Rotary Club and after 20 years its members are keeping it going strong.

Thank you for your leadership ... and all the Rotary Club volunteers for their hard work with the parade and the picnic each year.

Because of you and your members, July 4th is truly the best day of the year in the Park Cities.

Kirk