

Holiday Happenings

REC AND PARKS

All Aboard for Santa

Travel Town Museum in Griffith Park continues its miniature train ride to the North Pole.

For the sixth consecutive year, Travel Town Train Museum in Griffith Park is hosting a unique holiday event starring Santa Claus and thousands of dancing lights and beautiful music. On Dec. 1-2; 7-9; and every evening starting Dec. 13 through 23, families will be able to take a miniature train ride to visit Santa at his house at the North Pole.

Once they arrive they will visit with Santa, get a picture with him, if desired, then get back on the train to return home along a decorated and music filled track.

While waiting for Santa the kids and parents can visit with Rudolph and one of Santa's helper elves.

This event is operated by Travel Town Railroad in cooperation with Rec and Parks. It is a wonderful alternative to visits to the mall and is a perfect addition to a Holiday Evening in Griffith Park before or after the DWP's spec-

tacular Festival of Lights.

Starting at 5 p.m. on the evenings detailed below, families may enter the museum and board the miniature train ride at the decorated station. While waiting to board they will be entertained by a dazzling dancing light show and a special corner of the museum where snowmen live and it snows all the time!

Once aboard, they will travel past the decorated train barn and Santa's Workshop to arrive at the North Pole. There they will disembark and visit with Santa, Mrs. Claus, Rudolph and Erin the Elf. Digital photographs will be available for \$5. Families may take their own pictures if they wish. After they have finished their visit, guests will re-board the train and travel along the decorated quarter-mile of track back to the station. The Travel Town Museum Gift Shop will be open most evenings.

Travel Town Train to the North Pole

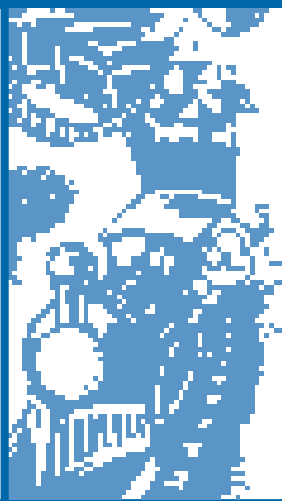
Dates: Dec. 1-2; 7-9; and nightly from Dec. 13 through 23 (weather permitting; trains do not operate in the rain)

Times: 5 until about 8 p.m.

Where: Travel Town Transportation Museum, 5200 Zoo Dr., Griffith Park

Cost: \$7 per person; infants under 18 months ride free. (Photos with Santa cost \$5 each.)

Information: (323) 662-9678



Banning's Victorian Christmas

Banning Residence presents its annual Victorian Christmas celebration.

The community is invited to welcome in the holiday season with the annual and festive Victorian Christmas celebration from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Dec. 6 and 7 at the Banning Museum, 401 East M St. in Wilmington. Admission for the event will be \$5 for adults and \$1 for children 12 and under. Please call the Banning Museum for further information about the event at (310) 548-7777 or visit us on the web www.banningmuseum.org

Much research has been done to ensure that the museum will reflect realism in decor and display a re-creation of a "Victorian Christmas: The Spirit of Giving." In addition to tours of the museum, visitors will enjoy free transport on a horse-drawn trolley between the museum and Drum Barracks Civil War Museum as well as specially planned old-fashioned activities. Visitors can enjoy the Stage Coach Barn for Victorian-style crafts, enjoy strolling Victorian entertainment and complementary cookies and hot cider and a visit from jolly St. Nick!

Lunch is available for purchase in the sunken patio. Visitors can browse through the Norris Museum Shop, which will be filled with gifts, ornaments and holiday decor.

The museum is a facility of Rec and Parks and is operated in cooperation with Friends of Banning Museum.



Banning Residence Museum offers visitors a Victorian Christmas experience.

DWP

Half a Million Holiday Lights, and Green Ones

DWP's annual Holiday Lights Festival in Griffith Park continues its green effort.

The DWP once again presents its holiday drive-through favorite, but now with greener options.

The DWP Light Festival returns to Griffith Park through Dec. 30. Last year, the DWP switched to energy-efficient LED bulbs, saving energy. Plus, the DWP now offers walking-only nights, plus a bicycle night. And parking shuttles will be available.

The 13th annual DWP Griffith Park Holiday Light Festival runs along a one-mile segment of Crystal Springs Drive and has become a holiday tradition that attracts more than half million visitors each year.

This festival symbolizes DWP's proud history and shared legacy of service to the people of the City. It is also made possible through the generous support of the Los Angeles Visitors and Convention Bureau (LA Inc.), Transportation, the Zoo, Airports, Autry National Center, Automobile Club of Southern California and CalTrans.

To demonstrate the DWP's continuing commitment to a "greener" LA, the Holiday Light Festival will be a pedestrian only and "vehicle free" event through Dec. 7. Visitors may park at the L.A. Zoo parking lot or the parking lots on the south side of the festival near the Merry-Go-Round, or the lots near the pony rides. Parking will be on a first-come, first-served basis. Walkers are encouraged to wear comfortable shoes and to dress warmly to walk the full one-mile route each way. It is also recommended that walkers have outerwear, as it can get chilly.

Walking Only Nights: The festival is "going green" and introducing "walking only" nights through Dec. 7. The festival route will be closed to vehicles on these nights. Visitors will be able to park at the L.A. Zoo parking lot. Guests can exit Zoo Drive off of the Golden State 5 Freeway north and park in the L.A. Zoo lot. You will be adjacent to the walking route. There are no shuttles on the L.A. Zoo side of the festival route.

Additional parking is available on the south side of the festival off of Los Feliz Boulevard. Guests can enter on Los Feliz Boulevard and

Crystal Springs Drive. Parking is available at the Pony Ride, as well as the lots near the Merry-Go-Round. Visitors who park on the south side of the festival route will be able to take shuttle buses to the walking entrance of the festival. The shuttles will make stops at all of the parking lots on the south side of the festival. Shuttle stop signs will be posted. The DWP encourages visitors to the "walking only" nights to wear warm clothes and comfortable shoes, as the entire festival route is one-mile in length one-way and it can get chilly in the park. It is estimated that a "walking only" visit will take guests about 90 minutes, so visitors are encouraged to come early for parking and to enjoy the full festival. It is advised to not arrive later than 8:30 p.m., as it might be difficult to view the entire festival by walking prior to the 10 p.m. closing.

Mini-Fair: To celebrate the festival's "vehicle free" nights, there will be an educational mini fair area Dec. 5-7 for all to enjoy, featuring information on family activities and healthy nutrition, as well as some tasty treats.

The traditional route of driving, walking and shuttles will run Dec. 8 through 30. The shuttle buses will be available weekends and Dec. 12-30. Walkers on these days will enjoy the walking path. Both options are accessible from the Los Angeles Zoo parking lot.

Traditional Festival Experience: The Light Festival will be open Dec. 8 through 30 from 5 to 10 p.m. in its traditional format. Visitors can drive through the festival, entering at Los Feliz Boulevard and Crystal Springs Drive, or guests can walk the festival on the walking path. Guests who would like to walk the festival, may park at the L.A. Zoo parking lot.

Spark of Love Toy Drive: This is the season to share. Please help make the holiday a little brighter for a needy child. Donate a new, unwrapped toy for the Los Angeles Fire Department's annual Spark of Love Toy Drive. Bins and a crew are available to receive your donation at the festival entrance.

13th Annual DWP Holiday Light Festival

When: Through Dec. 30

Time: 5-10 p.m. nightly

Walking-Only Nights: Through Dec. 7

Family Fun Mini-Fair: Dec. 5-7 (booths, displays, mini-treats)

Traditional Festival: Dec. 8-30 (vehicles and walking on walking path)

Address: Griffith Park, 4730 Crystal Springs Dr., Los Angeles

General Information: (323) 913-4688, ext. 9.

Admission: Free.

Shuttle (Zoo Parking Lot): Thanks to Transportation, a shuttle bus will depart continuously Dec. 12-30.

