



# Holiday Happenings



## CLUB STORE

### Donate Your Toys

When you come to the Club Store for your refund check or to buy holiday gifts, bring a toy for the needy.

This year, more than ever, your generosity is really needed to help children in the City celebrate the holidays. So consider joining in the Club's annual Toy Drive.

As part of the Club Angels program, the annual Club Toy Drive, is accepting your toys for those in need.

When you come down to the Club Store to pick up your refund check or to buy great Club holiday gifts, why not bring a toy to donate? We'll place it under the Club Christmas Tree, which is new this year.



You can fill the bottom of the new Club Christmas Tree, when you donate an unwrapped toy to the Club's Toy Drive. Won't you help this great cause?

Toys collected through Friday, Dec. 11 will be given to the Central Cities Police Boosters Toy Drive. Toys after that date will be donated by the Club to another cause.

Please bring toys that are unwrapped.

This is the seventh year that the Club has offered a toy drive. Last year, more than 100 toys were donated. With your help, the Club hopes to collect even more.

Won't you help this great cause? The Club thanks you in advance for your generosity.

## REC AND PARKS

### Christmas of a Bygone Era

Banning, Drum Barracks Museums in Wilmington recall the holidays of yesteryear.

The community is invited to welcome in the holiday season by traveling back in time at two Rec and Parks museums in the Wilmington – the Banning Residence Museum, and the Drum Barracks Museum, the City's only surviving Civil War-era military structure.

#### ■ Banning Museum

Due to construction, the Banning Museum's annual Victorian Christmas celebration has been canceled this year. However, the museum will be open for regular visitors, and will be decorated in its annual Victorian Christmas style.

Much research has been done to ensure that the museum will reflect realism in decor and display a re-creation of "A Southern California Christmas."

#### ■ Drum Barracks Civil War Museum

You are invited to tour the beautifully decorated museum and experience the holiday as it was celebrated in the Civil War era.

"A Civil War Christmas" is scheduled for 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Dec. 5 and 6. Guests can travel in the height of style on the popular horse-drawn, holiday-red trolley. Music will fill the rooms of the Drum Barracks with joyous sounds, and bell ringing will occur. An encampment will be set up on the museum grounds -- visit the camp, and learn how Civil War soldiers and their families celebrated the holidays. Arts and crafts of the era will be taught during the weekend, including the decorating of a Soldier's Christmas tree. Admission to Drum Barracks is free for this special event.

### Banning Museum Victorian Christmas

**Dates:** Throughout November and December:

Tues. – Thurs.: 12:30, 1:30 and 2:30 p.m.;  
Sat. – Sun.: 12:30, 1:30, 2:30 and 3:30 p.m.

Closed Christmas Day

**Tickets:** \$5 (suggested donation; \$1 for children)

**Address:** 401 E. M St., Wilmington, 90744

**Information:** (310) 548-7777 or [www.thebanningmuseum.org](http://www.thebanningmuseum.org)

### Drum Barracks Civil War Christmas

**Dates:** Special event: Dec. 5-6

Regular hours Tues.-Thurs., and Sat.-Sun.

Closed Christmas Day.

**Tickets:** Free for special event (tickets for regular tours: \$5 suggested donation)

**Address:** 1052 Banning Blvd., Wilmington, 90744

**Information:** (310) 548-7509 or [www.drumbarracks.org](http://www.drumbarracks.org)

## DWP

### Holiday Lights Festival

DWP's annual Holiday Lights Festival in Griffith Park begins later, in December.

#### 14th Annual DWP Holiday Light Festival

**When:** Dec. 3 - 30

(traditional drive-through Dec. 18 - 30)

**Preview Bike Night:** Dec. 3.

**Vehicle-Free Nights:** Dec. 4 - 17.

**Family Fun Mini-Fair:** Dec. 11-13.

**Hours:** 5 to 10 p.m. every night.

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

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

**Admission:** Free.



The DWP once again presents its holiday drive-through favorite, with green initiatives including vehicle-free nights and LED bulbs, but a shorter schedule.

The DWP Light Festival returns to Griffith Park beginning Dec. 3, and runs through Dec. 30.

The 14th 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.

Visitors may park at the L.A. Zoo parking lot. 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.

■ **Preview Bike Night:** The festival's opening night, Dec. 3, is reserved for guests on bicycles. The festival is open from 5 to 10 p.m. Parking is at the L.A. Zoo parking lot.

■ **A 'Vehicle-Free' Celebration:** The festival's

"vehicle-free" nights are scheduled for Dec. 4 through Dec. 17, from 5 to 10 p.m. During this time, visitors may walk through the festival on a walking path, or ride their bikes. Walkers are advised to dress accordingly, and to arrive at the event no later than 8:30 p.m., as the event closes at 10 p.m.

Parking is available at the L.A. Zoo parking lot; parking will not be available at the satellite lots on the south side of the park.

■ **Family Fun Mini-Fair:** On Dec. 11-13, there will be a Family Fun Mini-Fair.

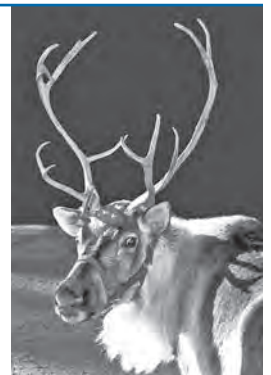
■ **Traditional Festival Experience:** The Light Festival will be open Dec. 18-30 in its traditional format. Visitors can drive through the festival, entering at Los Feliz Boulevard and Crystal Springs Drive, or guests can walk the festival on the walking path. Guests who would like to walk the festival, may park at the L.A. Zoo parking lot.

Shuttle service will also be available during this time. Shuttle users may park at the LA Zoo parking lot.

## ZOO

### Romping With The Reindeer

Zoo trots out the 'reindeer' for holiday family fun.



From Thanksgiving to Jan. 3, reindeer appear at the LA Zoo during its annual Reindeer Romp.

Kids of all ages can get close to these beautiful creatures, talk to the reindeer keepers and make their own pair of reindeer antlers to take home with them.

The rest of the zoo will be open, too, so visitors can watch as other animals get their holiday treats during the weekends.

This yearly tradition delights young and old. Guests can visit live reindeer, as well as enjoy hands-on arts and craft activities for children of all ages. Visitors can also enjoy entertainment, shopping and more.

Reindeer Romp runs Nov. 26 through Jan. 3 during daily zoo hours. Closed on Christmas Day.

### L.A. Zoo Reindeer Romp

**When:** Nov. 26 – Jan. 3

**Time:** 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

**Admission:** Free with regular zoo admission; photos with Santa extra.

**Information:** [www.lazoo.org](http://www.lazoo.org)



# Holiday Happenings



## REC AND PARKS

### It's Great to Skate

*Downtown on Ice* celebrates 12th season.



Central City's traditional holiday favorite, *Downtown on Ice*, returns for its 12th season, starting Nov. 29 and running through Jan. 18.

*Downtown on Ice* features the City's largest outdoor ice-skating rink with the lowest admission cost, producers say.

The facility boasts a medley of free events including a holiday concert series, a Winter Holiday Festival, championship skating exhibitions, and more. New this year are special "Mommie and Me Stroller Skate" sessions on select Tuesdays.

Celebrating its 12th season for skating under the sun and stars at picturesque Pershing Square, 532 South Olive, the facility is open every day Nov. 19 through Jan. 18.

Framed by towering skyscrapers and stunning historical landmarks, the spacious rink and event are sponsored by Rec and Parks, and Councilmember Jan Perry, Club Member.

Centrally located in the heart of downtown, the facility is easily accessible by car, bus or Metro. A partnership with Metro and Metrolink allows riders to receive a \$1 skating session discount by showing a coupon available on all mass transit lines. The convenient stop at Pershing

Square Station makes getting there easy. Underground discount parking is available with validation. For more info and a detailed session schedule go to [www.laparks.org](http://www.laparks.org) and click to Pershing Square or call (213) 847-4970.



Past years at *Downtown on Ice*.

### Downtown on Ice

**When:** Nov. 19 through Jan. 18.

**Where:** Pershing Square, downtown at 532 S. Olive St., across from the Millennium Biltmore Hotel.

**Admission:** One-hour session: \$6. Skate rental: \$2.

**Hours:** Open every day. General schedule: Monday – Thursday, noon – 10 p.m. Friday-Sunday, 10 a.m. – 10 p.m. Special Extended Holiday Hours: 10 a.m. – 10 p.m. Dec. 18, through Jan. 10.

**Special hours** apply on Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Years Day and Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

**Transportation:** Easily accessible by bus or rail, exit at Pershing Square Station. Metro and Metrolink allows riders to receive a \$1 skating session discount by showing a coupon available on all mass transit lines. Pershing Square offers underground parking at a discount with ice skating validation.

**Free Winter Concert Series:** Friday nights, 8 – 10 p.m. Classic rock 'n' roll. Saturdays: Youth Fun Series, 1 – 3 p.m. Sunday Family Series, 2 – 4 p.m. (Weekday afternoon concerts during extended holiday hours.) Check Website for updates.

**Free Winter Holiday Festival:** Snow party for sledding and romping, Christmas tree decorating, "make and take" children's crafts, Community youth performances, photo mementos, and more. Rink is available for holiday skating (admission required). Dec. 12-13, noon to 8 p.m.

**Mommie and Me Stroller Skate Sessions:** Moms and babies can share outdoor fun, 10 to 11 a.m. Tuesdays, Dec. 1, Dec. 8, Dec. 15, and Jan. 12. (Moms skate and push babies in their strollers on the ice.)

**Iced Tea:** Wednesdays through Sundays, 2 to 5 p.m., the Millennium Biltmore's Rendezvous Court celebrates the season with the Biltmore Angel's Tea, a memorable event for the entire family. Just across the street, families can skate together at the picturesque holiday rink amid the towering skyscrapers.

**Information:** Pershing Square Hotline, (213) 847-4970, or [www.laparks.org](http://www.laparks.org) (click on Pershing Square).

## REC AND PARKS

### All Aboard for Santa

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

#### Travel Town Train Ride to Visit Santa

**Dates:** Nov. 28-29; Dec. 4-6; 11-13; and nightly from Dec. 16 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, [www.traveltownrailroad.com](http://www.traveltownrailroad.com)



For the seventh consecutive year, Travel Town Train Museum's Travel Town Railroad in Griffith Park is hosting a unique holiday event starring Santa Claus and thousands of dancing lights and beautiful music. On Nov. 28-29, and then again Dec. 4-6; 11-13; and every evening starting Dec. 16 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 annual Festival of Lights.

Starting at 5 p.m., 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.

## THE CITY

### Hollywood Christmas Parade

City's holiday parade reverts back to old-school name – the Hollywood Christmas Parade.

The Hollywood Christmas Parade, sponsored by the City, is scheduled for 6 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 29, in Hollywood.

The parade, in operation for more than 80 years, had been known by that name for decades, but when it looked likely to die three years ago. But the City – notably Councilmembers Eric Garcetti and Tom LaBonge, Club Member – took charge and continued the parade. The name was then changed to Santa's Hollywood Parade.

But everything old is new again, and the name has reverted back to the Hollywood Christmas Parade.

"Last year's parade was a great success, and the 2009 event should be even better," Garcetti and LaBonge wrote in a statement. "We look forward to your support and participation."

The parade will feature entertainers, celebrities, marching bands, floats, equestrian units, food and some reserved grandstand seats, which cost \$35. General admission is free.

The parade starts on Hollywood Boulevard at Orange Street. The U-shaped route follows east to Vine Street, south to Sunset Boulevard and west back to Orange.

#### The Hollywood Christmas Parade

**When:** 6 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 29

**Where:** Hollywood, starting at Hollywood Boulevard and Orange Street. See route, above.

**Cost:** Free; grandstand reserved seating is available for \$35.

**Information:** (866) PARADE-1, or [www.thehollywoodchristmasparade.com](http://www.thehollywoodchristmasparade.com)