



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### ***Downtown Oxnard Sparkles with Holly Trolley Light Tour***

***Three Nights Only – December 15, 16, 17***

Oxnard, CA -- Downtown Oxnard is all dressed up for the holidays, and the best way to see the lights and share in the festivities is aboard the open-top, double-decker "Downtown Holly Trolley Tour" on Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday, December 15, 16 & 17, 2009.

Tour highlights include the *Winter Fantasy Music & Light Show* at Plaza Park, Victorian décor inside Heritage Square houses, and *Christmas Tree Lane* in the Henry T. Oxnard Historic District, where residents decorate homes and lawns with grand holiday displays. The Holly Trolley departs from Centennial Plaza, Fifth & B Street, at 6:00 p.m., 7:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. nightly during its run. The cost of \$7 per person includes hot cocoa and cookies along the route. Children 5 and under are free. Space is limited; advance reservations are strongly encouraged by calling (805) 385-2706. Tour goers are encouraged to dine in downtown before taking the tour; those with dinner receipts receive a \$2 discount on their ticket.

"Downtown Oxnard is like one big, beautifully wrapped Christmas present," says Abel Magana, Executive Director of the Oxnard Downtown Management District (ODMD), the organization representing district property and business owners, which sponsors the annual tour and downtown decor. "Street lamps throughout the district are decorated with garland and bows, and thousands of twinkling lights. It's a beautiful time to enjoy the charming ambiance and dine in a favorite local restaurant or catch one of the big holiday movies at our Plaza Cinemas."

The Holly Trolley offers a light-hearted, narrated tour of Downtown Oxnard for all ages, beginning with a ride down "A" Street, one of the main streets in the downtown business



district. First stop is Heritage Square, where participants can experience the splendor of a Victorian Christmas. Hot cocoa and fresh-baked cookies will be served, and then it's back on the bus, and on to Christmas Tree Lane in the Henry T. Oxnard Historic District, where more than one hundred historic homes on "F" and "G" Street are decorated with lavish lawn displays and twinkling lights.

"Thousands of people come to downtown to see the holiday lights every season, especially on "F" and "G" Street in the Historic District," notes Gary Blum, ODMD Marketing Chair and resident of the District. "With the Holly Trolley, families and friends can leave the driving to someone else, and enjoy a guided tour of all the decorations in Downtown Oxnard."

For the last stop on the tour, the trolley returns to Plaza Park, where the historic 98 year old park bandstand (also known as the Pagoda) comes to life with a computer-generated music and light show comprised of Christmas songs, animated characters, holiday trees, strobe lighting and 30,000 multicolored lights.

In addition to the Holly Trolley Tours, Downtown Oxnard is also the place for a variety of holiday events and performances throughout December, including:

### **December 4, 2009**

#### **59<sup>h</sup> Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony**

Plaza Park, Fifth & "B" Streets, Downtown Oxnard

5:30 p.m. – Free admission

Holiday entertainment, the lighting of the city's tallest Christmas tree, and the arrival of Santa on his sleigh create a bright and festive kick-off to Oxnard's holiday season. The computer-generated Winter Fantasy Music & Light Show at the Plaza Park Pagoda debuts at this event and continues nightly during December.

### **December 4 – Jan 3, 2009**

#### **Annual Winter Fantasy Music & Light Show**

Plaza Park, Fifth and "B" Streets, Downtown Oxnard



5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. – show runs every 15 minutes

See the Plaza Park Pagoda like never before in this magical computer generated music and light show featuring Christmas songs, animated characters, holiday trees, strobe lighting and more than 27,000 multicolored lights. The city's historic bandstand is known as the Pagoda locally because of its Craftsman/Asian design popular in 1910 when it was built.

### **December 5, 2009**

#### **Oxnard Christmas Parade – “A Storybook Christmas”**

Route travels along “A” and “C” Streets, Downtown Oxnard

10:00 a.m. to noon – Free admission

Marching bands, decorated floats, dance troupes, equestrian entries and youth groups participate in the annual hometown holiday parade through the streets of Downtown Oxnard. Presented by the Oxnard Downtowners. Call (805) 385-7545 for more information.

### **December 5, 2009**

#### **Second Annual Oxnard Tamale Festival**

Plaza Park, Fifth and “B” Streets, Downtown Oxnard

8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. – Free admission

The Knights of Columbus Council #750 present the Second Annual Oxnard Tamale Festival on Saturday, December 5<sup>th</sup> during and after the Oxnard Christmas Parade. The festival will feature authentic home-style tamales, tamale making demonstrations, and entertainment. Call (805) 483-1750 for more information.

### **December 13 - 26, 2009**

#### **Christmas Tree Lane**

Henry T. Oxnard Historic District

F and G Streets, between Fifth and Palm, Downtown Oxnard

6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. - Free

Stroll or drive through the Henry T. Oxnard National Register Historic District where more than fifty early 20th century homes are decorated in holiday splendor with lavish lawn displays and twinkling lights. Call (805) 385-7545 for more information.

### **December 12 & 13, 2009**



## **Heritage Square Christmas Tours & Gingerbread House Contest**

Heritage Square, Seventh & "B" Streets, Downtown Oxnard

11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

\$10 adults/\$5 students /12 & under free

Cherished storybook tales and history are combined in this eclectic blend of interior tours and vignettes. A gingerbread house contest with prizes is included this year. Splendid Victorian-style decorations and costumed docents create an old-fashioned Christmas experience at historic Heritage Square in Downtown Oxnard. Actors and docents will present scenes or "vignettes" where movies meet history in a fun, eclectic blend. Visitors can tour late 19th and early 20th century houses, all decked out for the holidays, and hear tales of the families that lived in these homes 100 years ago. The Holiday Tours are presented by the Friends of Heritage Square. Call (805) 483-7960 for reservations.

**For more information on the Holly Trolley Tour and downtown holiday events:**

**[www.downtownoxnard.org](http://www.downtownoxnard.org)**

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OXNARD DOWNTOWN MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

326 South "B" Street, Oxnard, CA 93030 (805) 385-2705 [www.downtownoxnard.org](http://www.downtownoxnard.org)

A dynamic non-profit corporation dedicated to making downtown Oxnard a great place to live, work and play!