

Holidays In Your Hometown

Pull out and keep this section for information and ideas on how to enjoy the holiday season in Santa Clara.

Holiday tree lighting ceremony is December 5



Feel the spirit of an old-fashioned holiday season! The City of Santa Clara will celebrate its annual "Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony" on Friday, Dec. 5 at the corner of Civic Center Drive and Lincoln Street. Festivities begin at 6 p.m.

This year's merrymaking will be a celebration of lights and music, complete with cookies and kettle-corn as well as hamburgers and hot dogs. The evening also includes a very special guest who will arrive on a red fire engine! Everyone in the community is invited to attend and to show the holiday spirit by bringing a canned food donation for Second Harvest Food Bank. Call (408) 615-3170 for further information.

Look for Teddy at top of tree



Surrounded by 1,000 colored lights, Teddy the bear will once again be perched on top of the Santa Clara holiday tree watching the community celebrate and bring in the New Year.

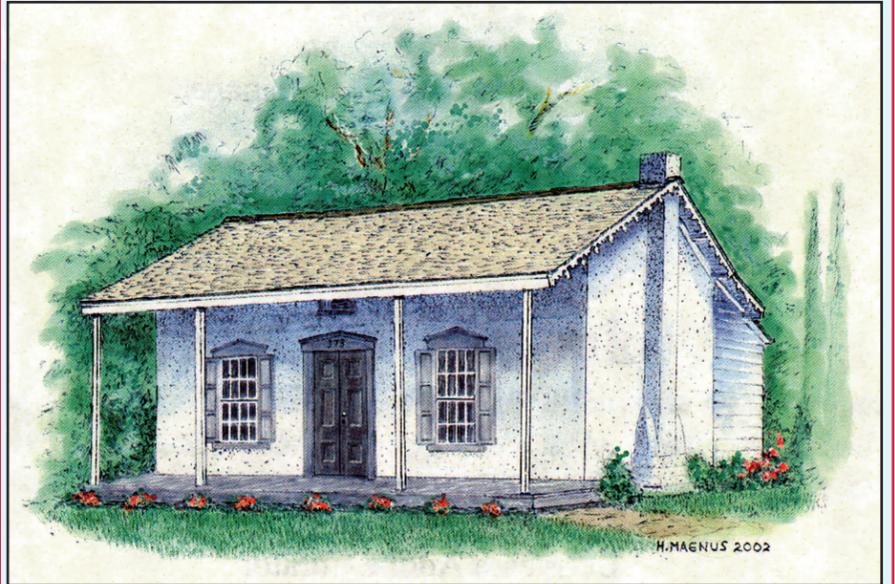
Teddy was once the beloved toy of Alice Dixon Hillis (pictured left) whose father was the utilities superintendent for the City. When Alice was just one year old, Mr. Dixon "borrowed" her bear to serve as an ornament on top of the tree he had just cut down in the Santa Cruz Mountains for City Hall.

Teddy has spent December on the Santa Clara tree ever since.

Over the years, Teddy the bear got a little bare. Employees of the Electric Department tried a mini-face lift with duct tape and silver spray paint, but Teddy continued to show his age. In 1987, Teddy underwent more drastic surgery in the hands of Evelyn Carmichael, the wife of then Parks & Recreation Director Earl Carmichael. She refurbished Teddy with a furry tan cloth that closely resembles the way toy bears looked in 1911. At the time, the daughter of another City employee, Wendy Taylor, donated a raincoat and boots to help Teddy stay dry during winter storms.

(Continued on page C)

Historic Home Holiday Tour



The always-delightful Historic Home Holiday Tour is scheduled for Dec. 5 and 6. Among the private homes on this year's tour are a circa 1915 Vernacular Cottage, a Historic Farmhouse and a Period Revival. The public building on the tour will be the Berryessa Adobe (pictured above), a City museum on Jefferson Street originally built in the 1840s by Juan Christostomo Galindo. It was later sold to a member of the Berryessa family.

The nonprofit Santa Clara Arts & Historical Consortium will serve refreshments and hold an opportunity drawing during the tour as a fundraiser for that organization.

Tickets for the annual Santa Clara Historic Home Tour will go on sale in October with a discounted price of \$20 available if purchased by Oct. 31. Order tickets by mail or on the tour's website:

sc-hometour.com/tickets.html. Mail order forms will be available during October at the Central Park, Mission, and Northside libraries. Mail order ticket requests should be sent to: Historic Home Tour 2014, c/o Harris-Lass House Museum, P.O. Box 3311, Santa Clara, CA 95055-3311.

Tickets may also be purchased at City Lights Espresso, 1171 Homestead Rd. in Santa Clara, or at Antiques Colony, 1881 West San Carlos St. in San Jose.

Beginning Nov. 1, ticket prices will be: \$30 general admission, \$25 Seniors (60+) or Children (6-12). No children under the age of 5 will be admitted. If still available the days of the tour, all tickets will be \$35 at the door.

The Board of the Harris-Lass House Museum co-sponsors the tour with the Old Quad Residents' Association. Proceeds benefit historic preservation projects and nonprofit groups in Santa Clara.

For more information, call the Harris-Lass House Museum message line at (408) 249-7905, view the Home Tour website at: sc-hometour.com, or email: hometour@harrislass.org.

An evening with Santa



Santa Claus is making a special trip to Santa Clara's Community Recreation Center on Thursday, Dec. 18, to spend the evening with families. Activities are designed for children ages 3-7, but children ages 0-7 may attend. The visits will be from 6-6:45 p.m. and 7-7:45 p.m. and will feature festive crafts, holiday stories told by Santa Clara Library staff, holiday songs, yummy refreshments and a keepsake photo with Santa. Children must be accompanied by an adult, with a minimum of one adult per family.

Pre-registration is required, and each family member, one year of age and older, must register. Children under one year are free. Tickets are \$5 for residents and \$6 for non-residents. To register, go to SantaClaraCA.gov and select "Activities and Classes" or call (408) 615-3140.



Holiday Events in Santa Clara

Holiday Craft Faire

Saturday, Nov. 15

Crafters get ready to take part in the Senior Center's Annual Holiday Craft Fair. Talented artisans are encouraged to apply. Applications will be available at the Senior Center and online at www.santaclaraca.gov beginning Sept. 2. Spots fill quickly and are assigned by staff on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information contact the Senior Center at (408) 615-3170. Don't delay. This year's fair will be held on Saturday, Nov. 15, from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Holiday Craft Fair at the Library

Saturday, Dec. 6

Find one-of-a-kind gifts at a Holiday Craft Fair scheduled for 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 6, at Santa Clara Central Park Library. Local vendors will offer all types of handcrafted items, holiday jewelry, cards and other great gifts. Craftspeople who would like to have a table can pick up an application at the Santa Clara City Library Foundation and Friends office on the second floor of the Library, 2635 Homestead Rd. Cost is \$25 per table, space is limited and vendors will be juried. Proceeds benefit Library programs. For information, call (408) 615-2988.

Gingerbread houses, holiday cards are created in children's craft classes



Two holiday craft classes for children will be offered by the Parks & Recreation Department in December.

Gingerbread houses will be assembled and decorated in one class. All ingredients are provided — everything from graham crackers to royal icing, gumdrops, candy canes and more. It's going to be a yummy time! Cost is \$27 for residents and \$34 for non-residents. Two classes are offered on Thursday, Dec. 11: a parent & child class 1-2 p.m. for children age 5-12 and a child only class 4-5 p.m. for ages 7-12.

In the Hand Painted Holiday Cards class, children will make a unique gift for someone special using acrylic or watercolor paint. Classes meet Saturdays, Dec. 6 and 13. A class for children ages 6-7 is offered at 9:15-10:15 a.m. and a class for children 9-13 is offered at 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Pre-registration is required for both classes. For more information visit SantaClaraCA.gov or call (408) 615-3140.

Holiday Train

Saturday, Dec. 6

Caltrain's festively decorated Holiday Train will return to the Santa Clara Depot, carrying Santa and Mrs. Claus, the Salvation Army band, and carolers to lead the community in singing Christmas music. Also on board will be members of the U.S. Marine Corps



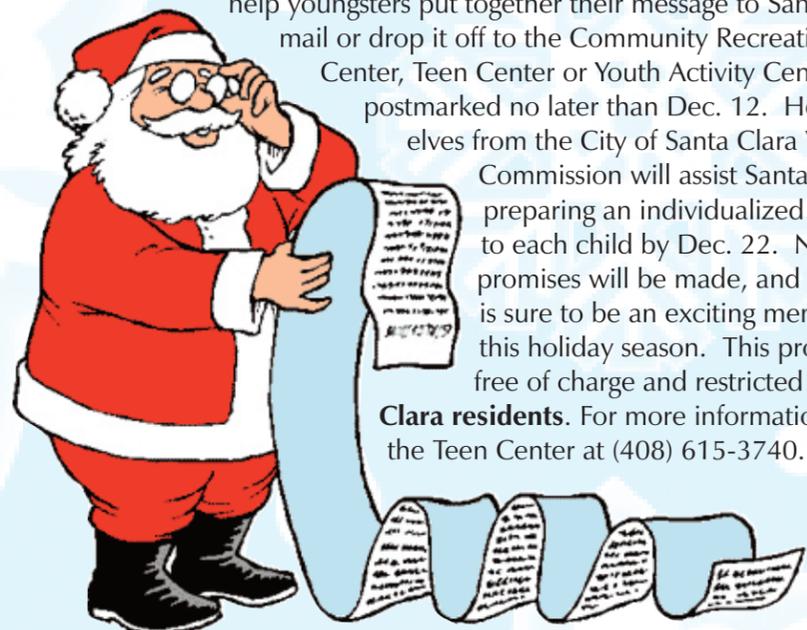
Reserve collecting new toys for its annual Toys for Tots drive. The train's arrival time will be announced later this fall. That same evening, the South Bay Historical Railroad Society will open the depot for visitors. Two model train displays will be operating and refreshments served. The Holiday Train is sponsored by Silicon Valley Community Foundation. For details, check the website holiday-train.org.

Holiday Jingle Jam for preschoolers

Singer/guitarist Sean Mendelson will be the star of a holiday "Jingle Jam" for children ages 1-4 with festive dancing, holiday songs, moving, jamming and having fun! The classes will be held Wednesday, December 10 at the Walter E. Schmidt Youth Activity Center, at 9:30 and 10:30 a.m.; at Lick Mill Park on Wednesday, Dec. 10, at 5:15 p.m. and 6:10 p.m.; on Monday, Dec. 15 at the Walter E. Schmidt Youth Activity Center, at 9:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. One adult may attend with two registered participants. Fee is \$33 per child for residents and \$41 for non-residents. To register visit SantaClaraCA.gov and for information call (408) 615-3760.

Santa is ready to write letters to Santa Clara children

Children who live in the City of Santa Clara can have a special treat this holiday season – a personal letter from Santa! Parents or other adults can help youngsters put together their message to Santa, and



mail or drop it off to the Community Recreation Center, Teen Center or Youth Activity Center, postmarked no later than Dec. 12. Helpful

elves from the City of Santa Clara Youth Commission will assist Santa Claus in preparing an individualized response to each child by Dec. 22. No promises will be made, and the letter is sure to be an exciting memory for this holiday season. This program is free of charge and restricted to **Santa Clara residents**. For more information, call the Teen Center at (408) 615-3740.

Chorale holiday concert honors historic event

In December of 1914, German and English soldiers on the front lines of World War I set aside their weapons to sing carols in a historic impromptu truce. On the 100th anniversary of this demonstration of humanity through music, the Santa Clara Chorale will perform the carols sung at the event interspersed with readings from letters written by contemporary soldiers and seasonal choral pieces.

Two performances are scheduled for Friday, Dec. 12 at 8 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 14 at 4 p.m. in Mission Santa Clara. For ticket information, visit scc.org/concerts or call (408) 883-4722.

Nutcracker Ballet takes the stage

The Santa Clara Ballet will present its 41st annual full-length ballet production of the holiday classic "The Nutcracker" on Saturday, Dec. 13 and Sunday, Dec. 14. All performances will be at the Santa Clara Convention Center, 5001 Great America Parkway. Curtain time for this performance is 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. on Saturday, and 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. on Sunday. Tickets range from \$25 to \$35.

The company engages professional guest artists in lead roles while providing opportunities for semi- and pre-professional dancers, children and adults, to perform in a professional environment. Open auditions for dancers of all levels and ages will be held on Sunday, Sept. 7. For more information on the auditions, visit santaclaraballet.com/2014-NUT-AuditionForm-June2014.pdf

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Events (Continued from previous page)



Classes are available for all ages throughout the year at the Santa Clara Ballet School. For information, contact info@santaclaraballet.com, call (408) 865-9780 or visit santaclaraballet.org.

Breakfast with Santa on Dec. 13



Santa Claus and his elves will take a break during their busy time of getting ready for Christmas to come and have breakfast with Santa Clara children on Saturday, Dec. 13. The event is scheduled for 9-11 a.m. at the Santa Clara Senior Center, 1303 Fremont St.

Following a tasty breakfast provided by the Santa Clara High School Athletic Boosters, children

will have the opportunity to pose for a photograph with Santa and create unique holiday crafts. The breakfast includes pancakes, sausage, coffee, milk and orange juice.

Children must be accompanied by an adult, with a minimum of one adult per family. The cost is \$14 for residents and \$18 for non-residents. Pre-registration is required, and each family member, including children under one year old, must register online at SantaClaraCA.gov or call (408) 615-3140.

Teddy (Continued from page A)



Teddy (pictured in 1962) was rescued and refurbished in 1987.

Life was pretty good for Teddy until the winter storms of 1998 when City crews were so busy keeping power on for local homes and businesses that Teddy had an extended stay in the tree. Birds destroyed the yellow rain gear to get to Teddy's fur for their nests. Again, Evelyn Carmichael came to the rescue and gave Teddy a makeover that brought him back to his original charming look.



The City stopped cutting down trees for the holiday display in 1970, so Teddy's December home has been the same 70-foot Colorado blue spruce for more than four decades. Last year, due to failing health of the tree, a new home was needed for Teddy. An 18-foot incense cedar tree was planted in 2013 and Teddy will sit among its branches again this year.

Prevent holiday tree fires



House fires ignited by Christmas trees, both real and artificial, cause an average of 25 civilian deaths and \$13 million in direct property damage in the U.S. every year. Christmas tree fires are not frequent occurrences, but when they happen, they are likely to be serious.

The Santa Clara Fire Department recommends these simple, life-saving steps you can take to greatly reduce your chances of becoming a holiday fire casualty.

Selecting a tree

- ❖ Needles on fresh trees should be green and hard to pull back from the branches, and the needles should not break if the tree has been freshly cut.
- ❖ The trunk should be sticky to the touch.
- ❖ Old trees can be identified by bouncing the tree trunk on the ground. If many needles fall off, the tree has been cut for too long, has probably dried out, and is a fire hazard.

Caring for your tree

- ❖ Do not place your tree close to a heat source, including a fireplace or heat vent. The heat will dry out the tree, causing it to be more easily ignited by heat, flame or sparks.
- ❖ Do not put your live tree up too early or leave it up for longer than two weeks.
- ❖ Keep the tree stand filled with water at all times.

Disposing of your tree:

- ❖ Never put tree branches or needles in a fireplace or wood-burning stove.
- ❖ When the tree becomes dry, discard it promptly.
- ❖ The best way to dispose of your tree is to take advantage of the City's tree recycling program.

Other holiday fire prevention tips:

- ❖ Inspect holiday lights each year for frayed wires, bare spots, gaps in the insulation, broken or cracked sockets, and excessive kinking or wear before putting them up.
- ❖ Use only holiday lighting that is approved by a testing laboratory such as Underwriters Laboratory (UL).
- ❖ Do not link more than three light strands, unless the directions indicate it is safe to do so.
- ❖ Make sure to periodically check the wires — they should not be warm to the touch.
- ❖ Do not leave holiday lights on unattended.
- ❖ Candles can be dangerous. If you do use them, make sure they are in stable holders and place them where they cannot be easily knocked down.
- ❖ Never leave candles burning unattended.
- ❖ Never put lit candles on a tree.
- ❖ Do not go near a holiday tree with an open flame — candles, lighters or matches.



Holiday crime prevention tips

Unfortunately, the holidays present many opportunities for burglars, muggers and pickpockets. The following tips for a safer holiday season are provided by the Santa Clara Police Department. Take extra care during the holidays, but don't forget this good advice all year long!



Shopping Safety

- Lock packages in the trunk.
- Don't overload yourself with packages.
- If you must shop in the evening, shop with a friend.
- Park in well-lighted areas, as close as possible to store entrances.
- Be particularly aware of persons in the parking lot, especially near your car.
- Lock your car and make sure the windows are closed.
- Carry only the charge cards you will need. Don't carry or flash large amounts of cash.
- Carry your purse next to your body with the purse flap against you.
- Men should carry their wallets in front or inside pockets.
- Be aware of your surroundings and the people around you. Don't allow your attention to become distracted from your purse or packages.
- Teach children to go to a store clerk or security guard and ask for help if you become separated in a store or shopping mall.
- Don't hesitate to notify store security if you see suspicious activity.
- If you have to wait for a ride, wait in a busy, well-lighted place.
- If you are a victim of a crime, report it to police immediately.

Home Safety

- Be extra cautious about locking doors and windows when you leave the house, even if you will only be gone for a minute.
- Don't put large displays of holiday gifts in view of your windows or doors.
- When going on trips or out for evenings, use automatic timers to turn indoor lights on and off to make it appear you are home.
- Immediately after the holidays, mark new gifts with your California Driver's License or ID number. Engravers are available at the Central Park Library for check out.
- Don't advertise what gifts you received by putting the boxes curbside on trash day. Break the boxes down before placing curbside, or take them to a recycling center yourself.

Traveling

- Use automatic timers for lights in your home.
- Stop mail and newspaper delivery.
- Ask neighbors to look after your home.
- Don't tell the world that your home will be empty by posting vacation plans on Facebook, Twitter or other social networking websites.

Recycle your holiday tree

The holiday season's final tradition is putting the tree out for curbside recycling. This year, trees will be picked up on your regular solid waste collection day during the week of Jan. 5-9, 2015. Here's what to do:

- Remove all ornaments, tinsel, nails, and the stand. **Flocked trees cannot be recycled;** Place the tree curbside and they will be collected and disposed of as garbage.
- Residents with Clean Green service can place the stripped tree next to the solid waste cart setouts at the curb on your regular collection day.
- Residents who don't have Clean Green service can set out their holiday trees on the nearest public street for pickup on the assigned single family home garbage/recycling collection days. Call (408) 615-3080 to find out assigned garbage/recycling days in particular areas.
- Trees may also be recycled after Jan. 9 by cutting up the tree and placing the pieces in the Clean Green cart. For more information on holiday tree recycling, call (408) 615-3080.



Nominate bright lights for Holiday Decorations Contest



Nominations for the annual Holiday Outdoor Decorations Contest will be accepted from Nov. 24 through Dec. 5. Decorate the exterior of your home or business in cheerful, colorful holiday décor and talk to your neighbors about doing the same. Nominate yourself, your neighbor, or one of the brightly lit homes or businesses you've seen around the City.

Nominations for best outdoor decorations in four categories (residential, business, neighborhood, and best tree) will be evaluated by a team of judges on Tuesday, Dec. 9. Winners will be announced Dec. 11 and posted on the City's website SantaClaraCA.gov along with the full list of entrants in convenient driving order. Winners will be acknowledged at a City Council meeting in early Jan. 2015.

For more information, contact the City Manager's Office at (408) 615-2210.

Excess holiday waste a problem?

Holidays bring friends, families, parties and get-togethers – and sometimes more trash than your garbage cart can handle. Santa Clara residents may set out as many as four additional 30-gallon plastic garbage bags (limit two bags per week) on their regular solid waste collection day from Dec. 26 through Jan. 8, 2015 at no extra charge.

At any other time during the year, for a nominal cost, additional 30-gallon plastic bags of garbage tied with "extra bag" tags may be placed at the curb for pickup on your regular solid waste collection day.

Extra bag tags can be purchased for \$4.00 each at the Cashier's Counter in the Finance Department at City Hall, 1500 Warburton Ave., between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Tags may be ordered by mail also. Send a self-addressed, stamped envelope and a check (payable to "City of Santa Clara") to the Utility Services Division, Finance Department, 1500 Warburton Ave., Santa Clara, CA 95050. Indicate the number of tags to be purchased and make the check payable for the exact amount of \$4.00 per tag.

Residential customers with front-load dumpsters are eligible for one additional collection per year free of charge. Call Mission Trail Waste Systems at (408) 727-5365 to make an appointment for the extra collection. Questions? Call (408) 615-3080.

Wrap up your hometown

For unique gift ideas that showcase your pride in Santa Clara, visit the City Store at the Chamber of Commerce, 1850 Warburton Ave. Gift items include mugs, golf accessories, canvas tote bags, license plate frames, and more.

The Santa Clara Arts & Historical Consortium can provide prints from the photographs in its historic photo collection, which includes the City of Santa Clara's historic photographs. An 8 by 10 inch photograph costs only \$20. For larger sizes, request quotes. Copies of about 150 of these photographs are hanging in the corridors of City Hall, in Save Mart supermarket at 2610 El Camino Real, and in Kaiser Hospital. The complete collection can be viewed and orders placed on most Sundays from 1 to 4 p.m., at the Headen-Inman House, 1509 Warburton Ave.

Show your care about the environment, as well as the individual, by giving Energy Star power-efficient electronics such as audio and video equipment, speakers, TVs, cordless phones, computer equipment and compact fluorescent light bulbs. More gift ideas can be found at siliconvalleypower.com/plugins, and you can learn more about power savings at EnergyStar.gov.