

COVER STORIES

Lighted Boats To Decorate Petaluma Harbor

A flotilla of boats twinkling with holiday lights will parade up the Petaluma River to the Turning Basin adjacent to downtown Petaluma on Saturday, December 9. Individual boaters will join area yacht clubs to celebrate the holiday season by taking part in this traditional evening event. The parade begins at the Petaluma Marina at dusk and arrives in the Downtown Harbor against the darkening sky at

about 6:30 PM. Santa and Mrs. Claus, on the lead boat, will be greeted by carolers. The sparkling flotilla remains on view all evening, mooring all around the harbor -- from the Great Petaluma Mill at 2nd and B Streets along the north shore by Golden Eagle Center, the south docks by Basin Street Landing, and often the Weller Street docks to the east as well.

The Lighted Boat Parade has a 20-plus-year history of illuminating the river during

the holiday season. Volunteer members of the Petaluma Yacht Club organize the event. Petaluma Sea Scouts assist in docking the boats stern-in, so there's room for every participant and optimum viewing for visitors. The Coast Guard Auxiliary also assists, making this stunning holiday spectacle a community effort. For more information call the Petaluma Visitor Center at 707.769.0429.

Petaluma Victorians Deck Their Halls

Several turn-of-the-century parlours in private homes will be open for participants in the Petaluma Heritage Homes Holiday Parlour Tour on Sunday, December 10, from 6 to 9 PM. The self-guided "Holiday Parlour Tour" welcomes visitors into some of Petaluma's oldest and best-dressed homes to view vintage parlours decorated for the season. Costumed docents will greet visitors at each tour site with information on the home's architecture and history. Inside, guests are invited to visit only the parlours

-- but what an experience it is! Tickets are \$15 per person and include a tour map. They are for sale, beginning a few weeks prior to the event, at the Petaluma Historical Library and Museum, 20 Fourth Street in Petaluma. Tickets may also be purchased by mail. Send a check payable to "Heritage Homes" and a self-addressed, stamped, legal-size envelope to P. O. Box 2152, Petaluma, CA 94953-2152.

Heritage Homes of Petaluma has contributed thousands of dollars toward preservation and renovation with funds raised from the an-

nual "Heritage Homes Holiday Parlour Tour" and other special events. Proceeds are partly used to defray costs on architectural work and to purchase books on restoration, renovation and architecture for the Petaluma Library.

Visitors who like the Holiday Parlour Tour usually also enjoy the Annual Museum Benefit Victorian Tea, on December 3 at the Petaluma Historical Library & Museum. For Victorian Tea information, call 707.762.4247 or 707.778.4398 or visit petalumamuseum.com on the Internet.



Light Up A Life

Among the most beautiful and moving events of the season is "Light Up A Life", a community celebration of remembrance sponsored by Hospice of Petaluma and Memorial Hospice. At three separate locations in the area, on three consecutive nights, giant trees will be lit with bulbs purchased for \$10 each to symbolize the lives, hopes, and dreams of loved ones recently departed or currently in hospice care. A short ceremony and inspirational music accompany the lighting

of the trees.

Contributions go to provide compassionate end-of-life care for hospice patients and grief support for their family members.

Ceremonies will take place at Center Park in Petaluma (Petaluma Boulevard at B Street) on December 1 at 7 PM, in Railroad Square in Santa Rosa on December 2 at 6 PM, and at Star of the Valley in Oakmont on December 3 at 6 PM. Call Hospice of Petaluma at 707.778.6242 or Memorial Hospice at 707.568.1094 for details.

Petaluma Downtown Open House Is December 3

On Sunday, December 3, Petaluma's downtown merchants and antique stores will celebrate an "Olde-Fashioned Christmas" open house throughout the quaint and beautiful historic business district. Stores will be open from 11 AM to 5 PM and many will offer hot cider and holiday treats. Carolers will stroll the streets. Santa and Mrs. Claus will be available for pictures and Christmas secrets at Haus Fortuna, 2nd and C Streets in the new Theater District, and at Gallery

One, 209 Western Avenue. Horse and Wagon rides will be provided from Putnam Plaza. There'll be storytellers at Copperfield's Bookstore. Children can meet Budderball the Clown as she circulates among the shoppers.

As always, visitors can enjoy the many wonderful restaurants and cafes in the area and are sure to find unique and unusual presents for their friends and loved ones.

For details, call the Petaluma Downtown Association at 707.762.9348 or visit petalumadowntown.com.



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