



Holiday Entertainment Guide



Holiday Stroll Down the Avenue



The holidays have arrived and what a perfect time to shop, dine and unwind during North Mississippi Avenue's Second Thursday Music Walk on Dec. 8.

Shop the many merchants who will be opened late during the event and dine from the many restaurants that line this historic district. Participants can also unwind to some

great and diverse music and enjoy the other activities during this festive night.

Other participating merchants will be holding their own events such as music, open houses, and art exhibits.

Holiday Calendar

Portland Symphonic Choir -- Wintersong, a festive holiday concert will usher in the holiday spirit. From traditional Christmas carols to sing along with, to diverse displays of Hanukkah, Kwanzaa and Norse mythology, will be performed. Performance opens on Friday, Dec. 16 at 8 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 18 at 2 p.m. at St. Mary's Cathedral on Northwest 17th and Davis Street. For more information, call 503-223-1217.

The Nutcraker -- The Oregon Ballet presents The Nutcraker, already in its third year of its exclusive West Coast displays. Performances at Keller Auditorium are Friday, Dec. 9 through Sunday, Dec. 24. Times vary depending on the date. For more information, call 503-222-5538.

Zoo Lights -- The Oregon Zoo comes alive with its 18th annual Zoo Lights holiday festival from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. nightly during December, except Dec. 24 and Dec. 25. Nearly one million lights illuminate life-sized animal silhouettes, trees, buildings, walkways and the zoon train. For information, call 503-226-1561 or visit www.oregonzoo.org.

Bazaar and Bake Sale -- SCRAP



holds a holiday sale with homemade goodies on Saturday, Dec. 10 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. at 3901A N. Williams Ave. Call Joanna or Teri at 503-294-0769.

Holiday Serenade -- The Portland Gay Men's Chorus presents Holiday Serenade that delivers classic

themes in music. Experience the soul of various cultures and sounds, with special appearance by Diane Syrcle in This Christmastide, as recorded on the Holiday Serenade CD. For more information, call 503-226-2588 or www.pdxgmc.org.

Drive Through Light Show -- The

Portland International Raceway features the largest drive-through light show "12 Days of Christmas" featuring 40 animated scenes. Each car enjoys a special audio of holiday music and greetings while on tour. Showings are Sundays through Thursdays from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. and Fridays and Saturdays from 5 p.m. to 11 p.m.



Ornamental Affair -- Portland Art Center presents Ornamental Affair, a holiday fundraising party on Saturday, Dec. 17 from 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. at the center's new location, 32 N.W. Fifth Ave. Artists are donating handmade ornaments to be sold on the night of the party with proceeds benefiting the non-profit arts group. Admission is \$5 with ornament and \$7 without.

Seasonal Gift that Grows

This holiday season honor your friends and family with a gift that grows and plant a tree in their honor.

Friends of Trees' Natural Area Commemorative Trees cost \$25 per seedling native tree or \$50 for a grove of six seedling native trees. When you purchase your gift tree, Friends of Trees will send an acknowledgment card to the person receiving the gift. Both you and the gift recipient will be invited to

plant the tree or grove at Friends of Trees' annual commemorative planting on Sunday, Feb. 12.

The non-profit organization inspires community stewardship by bringing people in the Portland-Vancouver area together to plant, care for and learn about city trees.

For more information, call Friends of Trees at 503-282-8846, extension 17 or visit www.friendsoftrees.org.

Linda's Maid Service

Residential-Offices

Holiday Specials
Windows, Carpet, General
and Extensive Cleaning



Linda J. Scott Owner
Insured - Bonded

give me a call at 503-249-0081

10% Off Coupon

"Cleanliness is next to Godliness"

Advice on Christmas Tree Buying, Upkeep

A freshly cut, well-watered Christmas tree is a safe Christmas tree. So when shopping for a cut tree, the Oregon State University Extension Service recommends the following three methods to tell if a cut tree is fresh.

Take a needle off the tree and hold it between your thumb and forefinger, bend the needle. If the

needle snaps crisply, the tree is fresh. If the needle is flexible, the tree is dry and may not last through the holidays.

Take a look at the bark on the twigs. If the bark is wrinkled, the tree is dry. Shake the tree, if many needles fall out, look for another tree.

After buying a tree and getting it

home, saw a quarter-inch off the bottom of the trunk to expose fresh tissue that will readily absorb water. Immerse the cut end in a bucket of water and keep the tree in water until it is time to bring it into the house.

"The most important thing you can do for your holiday tree is to keep it supplied with water," said

Ross Penhallegon, a horticulturist with the OSU Extension Service. "Buy a stand with a large reservoir, because in the first few days, the tree will take up quarts of water."

As long as the tree continues to take up water, it should look good for three or four weeks. If it dries out, it can be unsafe and a fire hazard.



ONLY IN DOWNTOWN

CAN YOU CELEBRATE THE NEW YEAR.
ALL MONTH LONG.

WHERE TO PARK SMARTLY



The celebrating starts New Year's Eve amidst downtown Portland's 594 restaurants and bars (not to mention 72 hotels, many of which host parties). And the fun just keeps rolling through January as Chinatown celebrates the Chinese New Year. Find out how you can extend your holiday season at www.myportlandonline.com

DOWNTOWN PORTLAND

A Truly Unique Experience

WHAT TO DO

Christmas Ships Parade
Willamette River
Now through 12/21

Portland Spirit Cinnamon Bear Cruise
Salmon Street Springs
Tom McCall Waterfront Park
Now through 12/24

Winter Solstice Market
Portland Farmer's Market
12/17

15th Annual Champagne Ball
Portland Hilton & Executive Tower
12/31

Chinese New Year Celebration
Year of the Dog
Portland Classical Chinese Garden
1/29 - 2/12