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DECEMBER

CITY OF SAN ANTONIO CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2013

1
IN THE CHRISTMAS MOOD TOO!
Open House and Craft Bazaar. Purchase unique holiday gifts. 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Free. Commander's House Adult and Senior Center, 645 S. Main. Call (210) 207-3010 for details.

1 - 4
MARIACHI VARGAS EXTRAVAGANZA
Representatives from Mariachi Vargas Extravaganza will perform and discuss the rich history of the music at Forest Hills, Igo, Carver and Westfall Library branches. Free.Visit mysapl.org for location dates and times or call (210) 207-2500 for details.

3, 10, 17, 24, 31
DOWNTOWN TUESDAY
Tuesday is the new Friday! Free parking in City-operated parking lots, garages and meters every Tuesday from 5 p.m. to 2 a.m. Enjoy Downtown Tuesday specials at participating restaurants. Call (210) 207-3677 for details or visit Downtowntuesday.com. Exclusions: Free parking is not available at the Alamodome or the Houston Street Garage, 240 E. Houston, on Majestic Theatre show nights.

3 - 20
OPEN POP-UP SHOPS
This holiday season, come downtown to shop for friends and family or even walk away with a gift for yourself! OPEN will host an array of retailers along East Houston Street. The vision of OPEN is to activate underutilized and vacant downtown properties by introducing new creative, dynamic, temporary shops. Every Tuesday, 4 -9p.m. and every Saturday, 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Contact Veronica Gonzalez at (210) 207-4080 or visit SanAntonio.gov/ccdo/NewsAndEvents/Events for details.

3
URBAN DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP
Join the Office of Historic Preservation and Center City Development Office to discuss Strategic Investment and Adaptive Reuse in our central city. Guest speaker Don Rypkema is a real estate and economic development consultant specializing in community development, center city revitalization and adaptive reuse of historic structures. 6 p.m. 231 E. Houston St. Contact Cory Edwards at (210) 207-1496 for details.

4 - 22
FORD HOLIDAY BOAT CAROLING
More than 185 school, church, company, and civic choral groups ring in the holidays by singing traditional carols on river barges. 6:30 - 9:30 p.m. on the River Walk. Free. Call (210) 227-4262 or visit TheSanAntonioRiverwalk.com for details.

6 - 22
FORD FIESTA DE LAS LUMINARIAS
Experience the holiday serenity of the River Walk as you stroll along the lush banks of the San Antonio River guided by more than 6,000 luminarias. Warmly-glowing candles in sand-filled bags line the walkways to symbolically mark the "lighting of the way" for the Holy Family. 7 - 10 p.m. on the River Walk. Call (210) 227-4262 or visit TheSanAntonioRiverwalk.com for details.

6, 13, 20
TRAVIS PARK HOLIDAY MARKET
Seasonal music and entertainment, arts and crafts, and much more! 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. in Travis Park, 301 E. Travis. Free. Contact Tonya Baum at (210) 207-7819 or Tonya.Baum@SanAntonio.gov for details.

7
SAN ANTONIO LIVING HISTORY PRESENTATIONS – BATTLE OF BEJAR
The San Antonio Living History Association re-enacts the storming of San Antonio de Bejar (now city of San Antonio, Texas) by Texian and native Tejano volunteers who laid siege and drove out the Mexican garrison from the town of Bejar and the Alamo fortress in December 1835. Free. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. at La Villita's Maverick Plaza, Plaza Nacional & Villita St. Call (210) 273-1730 or visit SanAntonioLivingHistory.com for details.

7
ALAMO HERITAGE INTERPRETATION – FIRST SATURDAY AT THE ALAMO
First Saturday is an inter-active living history event that is designed to give visitors a glimpse of life at the time of early Texas. Live demonstrations, living history and history talks. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. at the Alamo, 300 Alamo Plaza. Free. Call (210) 225-1391 or visit TheAlamo.org for details.

7
PHIL HARDBERGER PARK FIRST SATURDAY PROGRAM - DINOSAUR GEORGE
George Blasing speaks to all ages about dinosaurs. Phil Hardberger Park West, 8400 N.W. Military Hwy., Urban Ecology Center Gathering Hall, 9-11 a.m. A donation of $3 per person or $5 per family is suggested. Call (210) 207-3106 or (210) 207-3284 for details.

7
HANDMADE AND HOMEGROWN SALE
Buy handmade and homegrown gifts for family and friends. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Free. Lions Field Adult and Senior Center, 2809 Broadway. Call (210) 207-5380 for details.

7 - 8
DOG DAYS – HAPPY HOWLIDAYS!
Bring your favorite four-legged buddy (on a leash, please) for a holiday walk in the Garden. $5 donation per dog benefits Animal Defense League, Humane Society, Animal Care Services, and San Antonio Botanical Garden. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Call (210) 207-3250 or visit SAbot.org for details.

10
DOWNTOWN HOLIDAY LIGHTS GO!
Historic SA Guided Running and Walking Tours. Get in the Holiday spirit with a guided tour led by the Office of Historic Preservation. Enjoy the colorful lights downtown during the Mayor's Light Up Downtown Holiday Contest, and visit historic downtown sites. Runners and walkers of all skill levels are welcome. St. Mary's Street Garage, 400 N. St. Mary's. $15 per person, includes a t-shirt. Call (210) 207-0066 or visit SanAntonio.gov/Historic for details.

11
MEET THE AUTHOR: ITO ROMO
Ito Romo was born and raised on the border in Laredo, Texas. His recent work, dubbed "Chicano Gothic" and "Chicano Noir," shows the dark and gritty life along Interstate 35 through South Texas. 6:30 p.m. FREE. Central Library, 600 Soledad. Call (210) 207-2500 for details.

12
MAYOR'S LIGHT UP DOWNTOWN HOLIDAY CONTEST
Buildings throughout the downtown area will be illuminated to compete for awards and distinction in several categories. Residents will have the chance to vote for their favorite displays. Call (210) 207-8998 for details, or visit LightUpDowntownSA.com. Online voting is from Nov. 29 - Dec. 12.

12 - 13
HOLLY DAZE ROCK!
Take Note band seasonal performances. Get into the holiday spirit with a rockin' performance. 7 p.m. Free. Arneson River Theater in La Villita. Call (210) 207-3132 for details.

13 - 15
HOLIDAY ARTS & CRAFTS SHOW
Enjoy a stroll along the picturesque River Walk, talk to vendors about their unique handmade merchandise and take home an item that will enhance your home, wardrobe or garden. 5 p.m. Free. Call (210) 227-4262 or visit TheSanAntonioRiverwalk.com for details.

14
SAN ANTONIO AND THE USAF IN THE SPACE AGE
United States Air Force historian Rudy Purificato returns to host a special viewing of the USAF's documentary series "The Story of Brooks," highlighting San Antonio's role in space exploration and manned space flight. 10:30 a.m. Free. Central Library, 600 Soledad. Call (210) 207-2500 for details.

14
SECOND SATURDAY PROGRAM - A BATTY CHRISTMAS!
Learn the life history of bats and where to see them. Holiday crafts and hot chocolate are all part of the fun! 10 a.m. - noon. Suggested donations of $3 per person or $5 per family. Eisenhower Park, 19399 N.W. Military Hwy. Call (210) 207-5320 to reserve your spot.

14
SWIM WITH THE ELVES
Youth 12 and under. Santa's workshop and Santa's elves will greet guests at the first-of-its-kind holiday event hosted by the Parks and Recreation Department at the San Antonio Natatorium, 1430 W. Cesar Chavez. Noon - 2 p.m. Free. The event includes the opportunity to swim in the Natatorium's heated pool. Call (210) 207-3299 for details.

23 - Jan. 1
CITY HOLIDAYS - WINTER BREAK
City Hall and most municipal offices will be closed Dec. 23 – Jan. 1. Public safety and emergency services will remain in operation. There is no recycling, garbage and organics collection on Dec. 25 and Jan. 1. Residents who would normally have pick-up on those dates, will have it on Dec. 26 and Jan. 2. For more information on holiday services, call 3-1-1 or visit sanantonio.gov.

26, 27, 30, 31
PARKS AND RECREATION HOLIDAY CAMPS
A variety of active games, crafts, sports and winter themed activities will keep children active and entertained during the Parks and Recreation Department's Holiday Camps. The camps, for youth ages 6 to 14, are held at 15 Parks and Recreation Community Centers. 7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. $3 per participant per day and includes lunch and a snack. Call (210) 207-3000 for details.

28
ALAMO BOWL PEP RALLY
This Pep Rally is one of the most exciting events of Alamo Bowl Week. 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. at La Villita's Arneson River Theatre, 418 Villita St. Free. Call (210) 226-269 or visit AlamoBowl.com for details.

30
2013 VALERO ALAMO BOWL
Teams to be announced at a later date. 5:45 p.m. at the Alamodome, 100 Montana Street. Call (210) 226-2695 or visit AlamoBowl.com for details.

31
NEW YEAR'S EVE CELEBRATE SAN ANTONIO!
Celebrate San Antonio! features music, food and entertainment for the whole family. Fireworks Extravaganza showcases the Tower of the Americas. 6 p.m. - midnight in Hemisfair Park, 434 S Alamo St. Free. Call (210) 212-8423 or visit SAParksFoundation.org for details.

In the Spotlight

enrollsa

THE NEW HEALTH CARE LAW - CALLED THE PATIENT PROTECTION AND AFFORDABLE CARE ACT OR "AFFORDABLE CARE ACT" FOR SHORT— IT WAS PASSED IN 2010. THE LAW ENSURES THAT MORE AMERICANS HAVE ACCESS TO QUALITY, AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE. STARTING IN 2014, MOST PEOPLE WILL BE REQUIRED TO HAVE HEALTH INSURANCE. COVERAGE CAN BE THROUGH YOUR EMPLOYER, AN INSURANCE COMPANY, A GOVERNMENT PROGRAM, SUCH AS MEDICAID OR MEDICARE, OR INSURANCE BOUGHT IN THE HEALTH INSURANCE MARKETPLACE. SIGN UP BETWEEN NOW AND MARCH 31, 2014. CALL 1 (800) 318-2596 OR VISIT HEALTHCARE.GOV FOR DETAILS.

CITY OF SAN ANTONIO MLK MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. COMMISSION

27TH ANNIVERSARY MLK COMMEMORATIVE MARCH - JOIN THE CITY OF SAN ANTONIO AND THE SAN ANTONIO MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. COMMISSION IN HONORING DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. WITH THE 27TH ANNUAL COMMEMORATIVE CELEBRATION. THROUGHOUT THE MONTH OF JANUARY, THE MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. COMMISSION WILL HOST AND SUPPORT VARIOUS EVENTS THAT ARE AIMED AT REMEMBERING AND CONTINUING DR. KING'S LEGACY. YOU CAN GIVE BACK TO YOUR COMMUNITY THROUGH THE MLK DAY OF SERVICE; HEAR FROM SOME OF THE COUNTRY'S MOST INFLUENTIAL INDIVIDUALS SUCH AS MICHAEL ERIC DYSON, JULIANNE MALVEAUX, REV. DR. JAMAL HARRISON, RICHARD TRUMKA, MAYOR FRANK D. JACKSON, REV. CARL ROHLFS AND PARTICIPATE IN ONE OF THE LARGEST MLK,JR. MARCHES IN THE UNITED STATES. THE MARCH IS JANUARY 20 AND STARTS AT 10 A.M. AT THE DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. ACADEMY, FOLLOWING THE PRE-MARCH WORSHIP SERVICE, AND ENDS AT PITTMAN-SULLIVAN PARK, 1101 IOWA ST. FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT SANANTONIO.GOV/MLK.

SAVolunteers

SA VOLUNTEERS - THE CITY OF SAN ANTONIO OFFERS MEANINGFUL AND FULFILLING VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES TO USE YOUR SKILLS AND TALENTS IN ORDER TO BENEFIT OUR COMMUNITY. THIS VOLUNTEER PROGRAM IS COMMITTED TO ENCOURAGING COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION AND THE COMPREHENSIVE COORDINATION OF VOLUNTEERS TO ENHANCE CITY SERVICES. THROUGHOUT THE CITY, VOLUNTEERS WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO ASSIST WITH SPECIAL EVENTS, ANIMAL CARE, GARDENING, GRAFFITI ABATEMENT, LIBRARY SERVICES AND MUCH MORE. VOLUNTEERS ARE ESSENTIAL BECAUSE THEY PROVIDE THE CITY WITH HELP AND SUPPORT IN VARIOUS ASPECTS OF SERVICES PROVIDED FOR THE COMMUNITY. WE COULD NOT HOLD UP THE HIGH STANDARDS OF THESE SERVICES WITHOUT VOLUNTEERS LIKE YOU! FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL (210) 207-8178 OR VISIT SANANTONIO.GOV.