

# OXNARD NEWS IN BRIEF



## POST-ELECTION CEREMONY

Oxnard welcomes newly elected officials at swearing-in ceremony



The Oxnard community welcomed three new leaders and two re-elected incumbents during a special swearing-in ceremony Tuesday, Dec. 6, 2016, at the City Council chambers.

Oscar Madrigal is the newest addition to the Oxnard City Council. The high school Spanish teacher will serve the next four years on the city council after winning an extremely tight race. He replaces outgoing Councilmember Dorina Padilla.

Michelle Ascencion is the new city clerk who worked for eight years as a city clerk in Ventura County prior to being elected. She will serve a four-year term, replacing Daniel Martinez.

Phillip Molina, the new city treasurer, has 25 years of experience as a finance director and treasurer. He will also serve a four-year term.

Mayor Tim Flynn was re-elected to the City Council's top spot and will serve another two-year term, and Councilman MacDonald will retain his seat for another four years.

## Outgoing City officials bid farewell



After 24 years of service to the Oxnard community, Daniel Martinez made his final public statement as city clerk. "I have to thank my family, loved ones and friends," said Martinez. "I especially would like to thank the staff because I couldn't do my work without the hard dedication and efforts of the staff here within the city. I really appreciate that." Martinez also thanked voters for trusting and voting for him several times throughout his career.

Outgoing Councilmember Dorina Padilla bid adieu to the Oxnard community after completing her first term in office. "You provided me with the opportunity to do one of the hardest things I've had to do in my life, and that was to provide the city with a vision for its future," said Padilla. "I tried to do so in a way that was objective and rational and that always put the residents as the number one priority." She also thanked the city council, city administration and staff. She expressed gratitude for family and friends who supported her during her time on the council.

View the video of the Dec. 6 council meeting on the City's website at [www.oxnard.org/city-council-meetings](http://www.oxnard.org/city-council-meetings).



## PUBLIC NOTICES

### Revised schedule for NRG Energy application released

The California Energy Commission released a revised schedule for the NRG Oxnard Energy Center, LLC application for a 262-megawatt (MW) natural-gas-fired powered generation facility, the Puente Power Project (P3).

The project is proposed at 393 N. Harbor Blvd. in the City of Oxnard. Highlights for the Energy Commission's revised P3 schedule include:

- **Dec. 8, 2016:** Final Staff Assessment (FSA) published
- **Jan. 13, 2017:** Parties file opening testimony
- **Jan. 20, 2017:** Parties file rebuttal testimony
- **Feb. 6, 2017 (week of):** Evidentiary hearings
- **May 2017:** Energy Commission final decision

Information concerning the status of the project, as well as notices and other relevant documents, are available on the Energy Commission's website at [www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/puente](http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/puente).

### Smoking ordinance goes into effect Dec. 20, 2016

Ordinance No. 2908 regulating smoking at indoor and outdoor areas will go into effect Tuesday, Dec. 20, 2016.

The new regulations prohibit smoking (including vaping) of any type of combustible substance in/at:

- Dining areas
- Public events
- Recreational areas
- Service areas
- Inside all facilities owned, leased or controlled by the City of Oxnard
- Within a reasonable distance (25 feet) from any area where smoking is prohibited



The smoking ordinance also requires any owner, operator, manager or other person in control of a non-smoking area to post "No Smoking" or "Smoke-free" signs in a conspicuous place at each:

- Point of ingress to the non-smoking area, and
- in at least one other conspicuous point within the area.

The signs are required to have letters of no less than 1 inch in height and include the international "No Smoking" symbol, which consists of a pictorial representation of a burning cigarette enclosed in a red circle with a red bar across it.

Read the complete details in the news release at [www.oxnard.org/smokingordinance](http://www.oxnard.org/smokingordinance).

### Winter warming shelter open for 2016-17 season, donations and volunteers needed



The West Ventura County Regional Winter Warming Shelter (WWS) is open seven days a week from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. at the Oxnard National Guard Armory, 351 S. K St. It is anticipated that the shelter will remain open through March 2017, pending additional funding.

The cost to operate and staff the shelter is \$80,000 per month. To date, the cities of Oxnard and Ventura have committed \$69,000 and \$73,000 respectively, and the Ventura County Board of Supervisors authorized \$120,000 to help defray the costs of operating the shelter. At least \$80,000 in additional



resources are needed to keep the shelter open through March 2017.

Monetary donations can be sent to the Downtown Ventura Organization, P.O. Box 1414, Ventura, Calif. 93002. The non-profit organization is the fiscal agent for the regional consortium operating the shelter. Online contributions can be made at [www.downtownventura.org](http://www.downtownventura.org). For more information about making a donation, call (805) 641-1090.

Community members interested in volunteering must attend a volunteer training session. The first session is scheduled from 5-7:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 12, 2016, at the Mission Church, 2875 Elba St. in Ventura, Calif. Dates and times of future training sessions will be posted to the City's website at [www.oxnard.org/housing-wintershelter](http://www.oxnard.org/housing-wintershelter).

For more information about the West Ventura County Regional Winter Warming Shelter, contact Karl Lawson, Oxnard Housing Department, at (805) 385-8095, or Peter Brown, City of Ventura, at (805) 658-4707.

### **New assistant city manager begins duties Dec. 19, 2016**

Jesus Nava will oversee the Finance, Human Resources and Information Technology departments. He will also be responsible for the oversight of the Public Information Office division of the City Manager's Office and the Cultural and Community Services Department, which includes the Library, Recreation and Community Services, Performing Arts and Convention Center and CarnegieArt Museum.



## **PAST EVENTS**

### **Oxnard Tamale Festival a big hit, draws estimated 8,000 people**



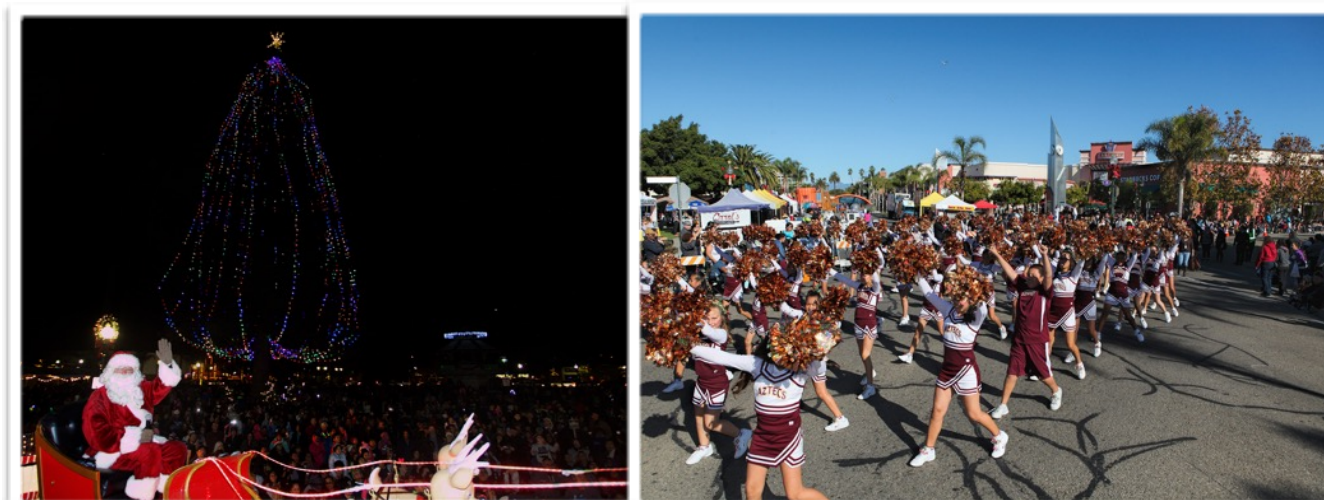
The 9th annual Tamale Festival drew an estimated 8,000 people who enjoyed tamales, cumbia dancing, adventures in the kids zone and live entertainment by Lazer Broadcasting Corp and featured groups In Stone, Sound Effect, Zon Candela, Banda Costado and La Sonora Explosiva on Saturday, Dec. 3, 2016. Stay tuned for photos and videos from the event.

### Best Tamales Contest Winners

- BG's Cafe: Best savory
- Casa Lopez: Best sweet
- Veronica Garcia: Best overall

Dance partners Esmeralda of Texas and Gerardo of Tlaxcala, Mexico, were crowned the cumbia champions, voted first place by the festival crowd for their fancy footwork.

### **Thousands flock to Oxnard tree lighting, Christmas parade for holiday cheer**



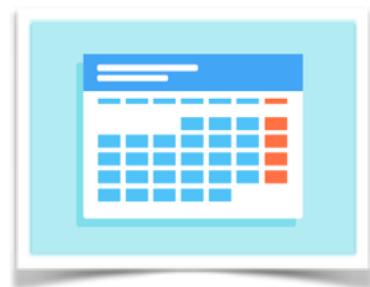
Families flocked to Plaza Park on Friday, Dec. 2, 2016, for the 66th annual tree lighting celebration for holiday performances, complimentary refreshments and an appearance by Santa, Mrs. Claus and Santa's elves before the tallest tree in the county was lit!

Following the tree lighting, the annual winter fantasy music and light show began. Oxnard's historic Pagoda became a high-tech experience in a spectacular computer-orchestrated show featuring over 30,000 flashing colored lights, holiday music, animated characters and lit trees.

On Dec. 3, 2016, an estimated 20,000 people lined the streets of Oxnard to watch colorful marching bands, equestrian units, local school groups, spirited floats and Santa in the Oxnard Christmas parade.

Stay tuned for photos and videos from the event.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**



Click [here](#) to view a calendar of upcoming holiday events in Oxnard, including:

- Winter fantasy music and light show
- Christmas Tree Lane light displays
- Holly trolley tours and makers market
- Sip, taste, tour on Christmas Tree Lane
- Heritage Square holiday tours, gingerbread house contest



## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

### Oxnard Police Department launches community conversations



On Nov. 28, 2016, the Oxnard Police Department held the first in a series of community conversations at Bethel Oxnard African Methodist Episcopal Church.

Police Chief Whitney and members of the command team met with nearly 40 members of the congregation to discuss the mission and vision of the Police Department and to answer questions.

The aim of the community conversations is to bring together local community members in a comfortable and informal setting so they can get to know Police Department personnel and discuss their concerns.

The Police Department would love to meet you and your community. If you have a group of at least six people, the Police Department can set up a conversation at your home, school or church.

To start a conversation with the Oxnard Police Department, contact Melissa Valdez, community affairs manager, at [melissa.valdez@oxnard.org](mailto:melissa.valdez@oxnard.org) or (805) 342-8292.

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

### Hundreds flock to grand opening of fifty150brand™ in downtown Oxnard



George Lopez fans lined the streets of downtown Oxnard on Sunday, Dec. 4, 2016, to attend the grand opening of the famous actor-comedian's new clothing store fifty150brand™.

Attendees were greeted with complimentary cheeseburgers courtesy of Tomas Café and gourmet cupcakes by Sassy Sweets & Eats. Lopez gave a special shout-out to several other supporters who contributed to the event including BG's Café, Fresh and Fabulous and 106.3 SPIN-FM. Fans witnessed firsthand the overwhelming support from downtown businesses, community groups, and media that attended the event.

Because of the large crowd, many fans feared they would not have the chance to meet Lopez, take photos and get his autograph. Sources stated that Lopez was gracious and personally assured the crowd that he would not leave until he visited with everyone.

City of Oxnard officials were at the event to welcome Lopez to the community, including Mayor Tim Flynn who presented Lopez with a certificate of congratulations and Mayor Pro Tem Carmen Ramirez. Additionally Economic Development Director Kymberly Horner, Oxnard Downtown Improvement District Executive Director Abel Magana and Chairman Juan Gonzalez, Citizens for a Better Oxnard were also in attendance.

"It was one of the best things to happen to Downtown in recent memories," said Abel Magana. "It's just the latest sign of new investments and activity in our city and in downtown. We're seeing a lot of great new development," he said.

#### **Fifty150brand™ toy drive**

Fifty150brand™ store owner and manager Robert Quiroz was instrumental in planning the grand opening event. And his contribution toward downtown continues as Fifty150brand™ moves forward with a Christmas Toy Drive for the less fortunate children in the City of Oxnard.

Fifty150brand™ has already purchased 300 toys and is encouraging the community to donate and deliver new, unwrapped toys now through Thursday, Dec. 22 to the Fifty150brand™ store from 4-8 p.m. Monday through Friday and from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. during weekends.

Quiroz hopes the community will contribute another 1,000 toys to be distributed to children from 3-6 p.m. Friday, Dec. 23. If you or your organization is interested in helping or donating, please email Robert Quiroz at [robertq101@yahoo.com](mailto:robertq101@yahoo.com).