



**Twentynine Palms Chamber of Commerce  
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**TWENTYNINE PALMS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE HOLIDAY LIGHT PARADE DRAWS  
HUNDREDS**

A happy, holiday-infused crowd estimated at between 600 and 700 people were on hand at Luckie Park for the very successful 15<sup>th</sup> annual Holiday Light Parade, hosted by the Twentynine Palms Chamber of Commerce on Saturday, December 19, 2009, at 5:30 p.m.

The parade featured about 30 entries from local businesses, organizations and individuals, all lit up with holiday delights, with Santa Claus well represented. The parade route differed from years past; this year, the parade looped around Luckie Park and ended behind the Community Building on Joe Davis Drive.

Chamber of Commerce President Gary Daigneault was ecstatic over the tremendous participation and success of the event, saying, "We had made it a priority to revive this most unique Twentynine Palms tradition. The great turnout by local businesses and supporters, the displays by area non-profits at the Community Services Building, and the Action Council bonfire and entertainment made it all work very well."

Daigneault thanked the key volunteers and staff, saying, "Our events chairman Jim Shirley and Executive Director Rob Fleck worked tirelessly to make the Light Parade successful. I am especially grateful to Mel Berlin and Action Council for partnering with the Chamber to make this a truly community wide effort. It is events like this that give Twentynine Palms the unique sense of community that can not be found anywhere else."

In previous years, the parade was held on Adobe Road. Executive Director Rob Fleck said he was satisfied with this year's location. "I really liked being down at the park," he said. "It's more of a family-friendly atmosphere."

At the end of the Light Parade, the Action Council for 29 Palms hosted a bonfire and community carol sing-along at the Community Building. Various groups provided cookies, eggnog and hot cocoa free to all in attendance. The chilly temperatures and large attendance led to a shortage of hot cocoa, Fleck said.

The local Boy Scouts held an official Order of the Arrow lighting ceremony to light the bonfire. Those who wished to participate in a Zozobra ceremony were invited to write their worries and cares on a small piece of paper, which was placed in a box. When full, the box was ceremoniously cast into the fire to purge everyone of their ills before the holiday season.

The event also featured a live choral group leading Christmas carols.

"Next year's Light Parade will feature a few minor tweaks to aid with smoothly running the parade, but the location will stay basically the same," Fleck said.