

Christmas in Guthrie

Step back in time for an old-fashioned Territorial Christmas

By **Ryan Horton**
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Guests are invited to step back in time this holiday season in the charming historic town of Guthrie.

Guthrie is one of the largest Historic Preservation Districts in the nation, and the Territorial Christmas Celebration is one of a kind thanks to the unique Victorian architecture, festivities and decorations.

During the celebration, the town steps back in

time to the 19th century with residents, business owners, and visitors dressing in Victorian-era attire for the month-long celebration.

For over 35 years, Guthrie has been putting on the old-fashioned Christmas celebration reminiscent of the Oklahoma's territorial period.

In 1985 a group of civic-minded merchants and citizens crafted a holiday event in historic downtown Guthrie to celebrate the Christmas season as it was in 1889

during the early days of the Oklahoma Territory.

That event quickly grew into what is now the Victorian Walk and has become a must-do tradition for families from all over the world.

Major events are set for Nov. 26, Dec. 3 and Dec. 10.

Opening day is Nov. 26 with a small business sidewalk sale from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. a lighted Christmas parade follows at 6 p.m.

Dec. 3 is a chance tour some of the town's historic homes.

On Dec. 3 and 10 the town hosts Victorian Walk Nights from noon to 9 p.m.

Guthrie was established in 1887 as a railroad station called Deer Creek on the Southern Kansas Railway. The community was later renamed after John Guthrie. After the Land Run of 1889, thousands settled in the area and the community boomed into the capital of the new Territory of Oklahoma.

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Victorian era dress is encouraged at Guthrie's annual celebration. PROVIDED PHOTO

Home for the Holidays

Tuttle's Christmas tradition continues Thursday, December 1

By **Jayson Knight**
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Tuttle's Home for the Holidays will be held the first Thursday in December, which will be Thursday, December 1 from 5:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. near Tuttle City Hall, located at 221 West Main Street in Tuttle.

City of Tuttle staff have searched for the best day to hold the festival.

According to Amber Riley, with the City of Tuttle, Home for the Holidays will feature "Santa, the Parade of

Lights, tree lighting, food trucks, vendors, game booths, some of the characters that children love, petting zoos, carriage rides, axe throwing, live entertainment from school kids, and most of the businesses in the downtown area will be open for shopping, and then some of those businesses will also have their own attractions. I know that the library will have Star Wars characters, and the tag office will welcome the Ghostbusters. Those are the ones who have

confirmed with me so far, but there will probably be a couple more.

"Usually, the National Guard will either bring out their rock wall or they have a jousting thing, but I am pretty sure that they've committed to the rock wall this year."

The city used to host Santa Claus inside Tuttle City Hall, but participation outgrew the building. Last year, Tuttle Christian Church hosted Santa, and the city is happy to have TCC helping out, since the

attraction does require staffing so that things run smoothly.

"The Christian Church was fantastic," Riley said of the church's efforts at last year's festival. "They literally set everything up for us, and controlled the line. It freed up city people to do other things. It was a good deal having it at the church. They were very, very helpful. They were real cool, and it's a bigger space. City Hall is just not big enough, it's really not."

One thing that makes

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The City of Tuttle will host Home for the Holidays Thursday, December 1. FILE PHOTO BY JAYSON KNIGHT