

Valleywide treat: 450-ton train, 50,000 lights, Santa

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Antelope Valley residents will get a chance for a little early holiday cheer Saturday, including a visit from Santa and his friends, when the Metrolink's Holiday Toy Train Celebration rolls into town.

The train will make three stops during its 10th annual trip to the Valley: at 5 p.m. at the Lancaster Metrolink Station, 44812 Sierra Highway; at 6 p.m. at the Palmdale Transportation Center, 39000 Clock Tower Plaza Drive; and at 6:45 p.m. at the Vincent Grade/Acton Station, 730 West Sierra Highway.

The 10th annual Holiday Toy Train Celebration includes a 450-ton train decorated with more than 50,000 twinkling, animated light displays and a free stage show with Santa and his friends from the North Pole.

Residents are encouraged to bring new, unwrapped toys or sporting equipment as part of the Spark of Love Toy Drive. Local firefighters will be at each station to collect the toys for distribution to needy children across the Valley.

This year, Palmdale became a Metrolink "Santa's Buddy" sponsor by donating \$1,000 to the Toy Express Train.

Refreshments and live entertainment will be provided at the Palmdale stop by Palmdale High School's chamber singers.

For details on the Palmdale stop, call the Palmdale Transportation Center at (661) 267-5977; for details on the other two stops, visit metrolinktrains.com or call (800) 371-LINK (371-5465).