

Volunteers from Firefighters Local Union 372 did the heavy lifting when they picked up the displays at the warehouse and, with the assistance of a forklift that they rented, put them on flatbed trucks and transported them from their warehouse to Daisy Avenue. Local construction company, Power Nex, donated the forklift and manpower to reposition all the displays. Maria ensured that they were put in their proper locations. "It took about 18 hours to transport, place and position all of the displays, we really appreciate everything they did for us," said Maria.

Saturday morning found volunteers setting up the displays. People:

- Measured and marked where fence stakes and individual displays were to be installed;
- Used sledge hammers to pound the more than 300 fence stakes and 75 wooden, staked figurines into the ground;
- Unrolled and installed about 1/2 mile of wire fencing so that each display could be secured;
- Washed each of the wooden figurines and shined the windows of City Hall, the Old School House, the Bank, the 1950's Theatre, the Church; and more,
- Tied more than 800 red bows on the fencing.

Workers from Power Nex were up in the cherry picker placing the Christmas lights on four of the lane trees. Lunch time gave folks a break as they met new neighbors and enjoyed pizza donated by Buono's Pizza, the locals' favorite place. "Host houses" graciously assisted by supplying water for cleaning and coffee for the chilled volunteers.

Work continued on Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday to finish the fencing and place the 250 or so flood lights to shine brightly on the displays so that the splendor of Christmas Tree Lane was ready for visitors come Parade night.

The Board thanks all the volunteers on Saturday, and we'd especially like to express our deepest gratitude to the dedicated Christmas Tree Lane Committee volunteers who worked so hard during the past nine months: Vernon Rudd, Delores Almendarez, Gerald Storey, Bill Norvell, Victoria Reynafarje, Victoria Andrews, Charleen Ortega, Jason Norvell, Richard Slaughter, Rosie and Frank Kozlowski, Jim Trout and Jim Sollenbarger. Every one who visits Christmas Tree Lane will notice their great work.

And, we have to thank the long-time sponsors who have given money, written letters asking for contributions in support of CTL, or donated goods and services for this year and in the past. It's a long list so I'll just name a few: Ed Van of Vanco Properties, The Grand Prix Association, Supervisor Don Knabe, Long Beach Police Officers Association, former Long Beach Mayors Kell and O'Neill and Mayor Bob Foster, Keesal, Young and Logan, Pacific Hospital, The Queen Mary Foundation, Senator Alan Lowenthal, Universal Care, City of Long Beach Parks, Recreation & Marine, Assemblymember Karnette, the Port of Long Beach and several Wrigley residents. "This year, your sponsor money went to an especially good cause. Without the first phase of the electrical system upgrade, we would have no lights on the displays and four trees," said Maria. Next year, we will have to raise enough money to complete the electrical work.

The Parade is on December 8 beginning at 5:00 pm on Daisy Avenue between Hill Street and Pacific Coast Highway. Daisy Avenue Christmas Tree Lane is lit up for viewing every night thereafter until December 26. Two special event nights and visits by Santa will take place at 20th Street and Daisy Avenue on:

- Sunday, Dec. 9, 6:30 - 9:00 pm, International Children's Choir; Forklorico Izamna and the Apple Creek Cloggers;
- Saturday, Dec. 15, 7:00 - 8:00 pm, traditional Christmas Caroling for all; and
- Santa will make appearances on Sunday, December 9, and Friday Saturday, and Sunday, December 14, 15, and 16, 7:00 - 8:00 pm.

Merry Christmas and a Peaceful New Year!

Jill Hill, President

Maria Norwell, Vice President

Joan Greenwood, Secretary

Nancy Risch, Treasurer

Joan Pizzato, Parliamentarian

Timothy Risch, Sergeant-at-Arms

Jim Trout, Historian