



# News Release

**Contact:** Raul Mendez, City Manager

**November 22, 2019**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Hughson Christmas Festival Kicks-Off December, More Holiday Events To Follow**

Saturday, December 7, 2019 is the date of the annual Hughson Christmas Festival (3:30pm – 7:00pm in Downtown Hughson). The Hughson Chamber of Commerce, with the help of many local sponsors and partners, will kick-off the month with another of its signature events. Festive decoration contests will be held for local businesses that will also provide holiday specials during the festival. Walking Christmas Carolers will be in Downtown Hughson so come enjoy the holiday cheer as you visit local shops (including the Hughson Historical Museum) and restaurants. Santa's Workshop for Kids will be at Hughson Senior Community Center (2307 4<sup>th</sup> Street) from 3:30pm to 5:30pm and will include holiday cookie decorating, letters to Santa, free pictures with Santa (sponsored by local photographer Snaps by Mac) and a Christmas Movie (sponsored by Samaritan Village) with popcorn and more. The popular Christmas Lighted Parade will begin promptly at 5:30pm at the Hughson Sports and Fitness Complex (north on Thomas Taylor Drive and west on Fox Road) and conclude in Downtown Hughson (south on Third Street and east on Hughson Avenue). The festivities will continue after the parade with the Tree Lighting Ceremony and free Hot Cocoa and Cookies (sponsored by the United Samaritans Foundation). For more information, visit the Hughson Chamber of Commerce website at [www.hughsonchamber.org](http://www.hughsonchamber.org) or the Chamber's Facebook page.

**Operation Santa Claus** – The Hughson Fire Protection District Volunteer Association will run "Operation Santa Claus" in the City of Hughson again this year to bring delight to local children and families. Held over designated days (December 7 (at the Christmas Lighted Parade), 8, 15, 20, 21 & 22, 2019), Kris Kringle, on top of a shiny red HFPD fire engine and with his reindeers and elves, will make his journey through the City—spreading cheer and handing out candy cane treats to all. Residents are typically out in anticipation of the visit hosting neighborhood block parties, roasting marshmallows, drinking hot cocoa, and in some cases making fresh tamales. For more information, visit the Hughson Fire Protection District website at [www.hughsonfire.com](http://www.hughsonfire.com).

**Light Up The Town** – The Citizens for a Healthy Community and the City of Hughson are again partnering with the Hughson Fire Protection District Volunteer Association "Operation Santa Claus" to complete a special mission this year. On the evenings of "Operation Santa Claus," officials will be on hand to recognize ten residences that went beyond the call of duty to decorate their homes for the

holiday season. Festive certificates and awards will be presented to those residents to celebrate their exemplary work to “Light Up The Town.” The Citizens for a Healthy Community encourages all to participate in this program that is growing in popularity.

**Community Christmas Basket Program** – The Hughson Community Project 2019 Christmas Basket Program will continue the tradition of providing food, clothing, toys, and other necessities to needy children and adults. Each year, the Hughson community comes together with hundreds of volunteers and donors to make Christmas possible for all. Last year, over 363 local families received toys, clothes and other gifts as a perfect example of the true meaning Christmas.

Here is the schedule for the Community Christmas Basket Program:

**November 1<sup>st</sup> – December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019** – Christmas Basket applications made available at public schools, churches, and United Samaritans Foundation, 2413 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, during regular business hours.

**December 16<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019** – Preparation of baskets. St. Anthony’s Catholic Church, Hughes Hall, Corner of Fox Road and Euclid Avenue, Hughson, 9:00am – 8:00pm.

**December 21<sup>st</sup>, 2019** – Christmas Basket deliveries. 9:00am – Noon.

Volunteer: collect goods, pack baskets, wrap gifts and deliver Christmas Baskets.

Donate: canned goods, non-perishable food items, toys (new and unwrapped), toiletries, school supplies, gift cards for teens or monetary donations to purchase fresh/canned food items.

If you have questions, or need further information, please call the Hughson Community Project at (209) 581-6225

**Ugly Christmas Sweater Day** – The staff at the City of Hughson (7018 Pine Street), Hughson Family Resource Center (6940 Hughson Ave), Hughson Unified School District (6815 Hughson Ave), and the Bank of West (6800 Hughson Avenue) invite you to visit their offices to see the “Ugly Christmas Sweater Day” on full display in Hughson on December 20, 2019 (National Ugly Christmas Sweater Day). The City of Hughson invites other local business offices in Hughson to participate by “sporting” your “ugliest” holiday attire. For rules on the contest, please visit the City’s Facebook page in the upcoming weeks.

The City of Hughson appreciates residents and partners each year demonstrating their compassion and good will during the holiday season. Season’s greetings to all!

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