

## Holidays come to town

●Magnolia Park kicks off the holiday season with strolling players and stores that remain open late to dispense food and drink.

By Ani Amirkhani

Ebenezer Scrooge strolled down Magnolia Boulevard on Friday night with his top hat and cane in hand and greeted children in his crackly voice.

Except Scrooge wasn't the grouch that he's known to be.

He stopped to tell jokes and asked children what they wanted for Christmas during the Holiday in the Park Celebration and Open House at Magnolia Park.



Magnolia Park celebrated its annual Holiday In The Park Friday with stores keeping their doors open to visitors and offering cookies, candy, drinks and Christmas carols.

Hundreds came out to join in on the longtime Burbank tradition that stretched along Magnolia Boulevard, between Pass Avenue and Buena Vista Street.

Restaurants and shops stayed open late to offer refreshments and small tokens. The event was sponsored by the Magnolia Park Property Based Business Improvement District.

Burbank native Rich French came to sample the pastries and hot chocolate at Porto's Bakery.

"There's a small-town atmosphere," French said, sipping on his chocolate drink. "It's good to come and reminisce about the way it use to be."

Porto's staff gave out free baked goods to patrons waiting in line to try the bakery's chocolate cookies, scones and other sweets.

The Victoria Rose antique store also got into the festive spirit with Popo the Clown.

Popo entertained a group of wide-eyed children with her magic tricks as pirates roamed around the store, stopping to pose for pictures.

The evening also included entertainment and music. Dancers from the Red Chair Children's Production Co. in Burbank performed snippets from The Nutcracker Ballet.

Jean Gomez's 8-year-old daughter, Clara, danced as Gomez eagerly watched her on stage. "We are having a great time so far," Gomez said, adding that it was his first time her daughter performed at the annual event.

• **ANI AMIRKHANIAN** covers education. She may be reached at (818) 637-3230 or by e-mail at [ani.amirkhani@latimes.com](mailto:ani.amirkhani@latimes.com).