

# DBC CONNECTION

DiamondBarCA.gov

Published Monthly by the City of Diamond Bar

## El Nino: Are You Ready?

While answers to the “when and how much rain” questions regarding El Nino remain largely unknown, what is evident to forecasters is that the weather pattern developing in the Pacific Ocean is very similar to that of the 1997-98 winter season.

That particular season brought heavy rainfall to Southern California which resulted in flooding, mudslides and other storm-related damage, some of which could have prevented through a few simple measures.

*If you haven't already, take a moment now to:*

### Inspect Your Property To Detect And Correct Deficiencies

- ✓ If you have areas around your home that are prone to flooding, have you fixed them or at least stockpiled on sand and sandbags to divert water away from your property? Free sand and sandbags are available at most L.A. County fire stations or purchased at home improvement stores.
- ✓ Have you stored or secured down patio furniture, garden tools or any other outdoor equipment that can be picked up by strong storm winds?

### Check Your Property's Drainage System

- ✓ Are your rain gutters properly fastened and clear of debris?
- ✓ If you have a drainage ditch, is it free of obstructions and functioning properly to direct rainwater runoff away from your property?

### Refresh Your Disaster Supplies Kit

- ✓ Does it have water (one gallon per person, per day) and food (long shelf-life and easy to make) for all the members of your family?
- ✓ Are your electronics working (flashlight, weather radio, cell phones) and do you have sufficient batteries?
- ✓ Does it include health and safety supplies, including a first aid kit, personal care items, clothing, footwear, and prescriptions for all family members, including pets?
- ✓ What other items can you include that will be helpful during a disaster: emergency contact information, multi-purpose tools, cash, maps, extra set of car and house keys?

### Give Your Car A Winter Checkup

- ✓ Are your wiper blades working and have you topped your wiper fluid?
- ✓ Do your tires still have adequate thread depth and are they properly inflated?
- ✓ Are your hoses and belts leak-free and your interior and exterior lights working?

As a reminder, during an emergency the City will use several methods to communicate important information or instructions to residents, businesses and the general public. These methods include a reverse 911 emergency notification system (Blackboard Connect), the City website [www.diamondbarca.gov](http://www.diamondbarca.gov), and its official Twitter page [www.twitter.com/diamondbarcity](http://www.twitter.com/diamondbarcity).

If you do not know if you are registered to receive emergency notifications from the City or if you have changed phone numbers, visit [www.diamondbarca.gov/emergencyalerts](http://www.diamondbarca.gov/emergencyalerts) to create a new account or update your existing one. If you do not have Internet access, you may call City Hall for assistance at 909.839.7000.

## Public Workshop: Parks And Recreation

A public workshop to assess residents' needs and interests with regard to Diamond Bar parks and recreational programs, services and facilities will be held on Thursday, January 21 at 7:00 p.m. at the Diamond Bar Center.

The comments and suggestions obtained during this workshop will be submitted to the County of Los Angeles to be taken into account as part of a Countywide Comprehensive Park and Recreation Needs Assessment it is currently working on.

Diamond Bar Center is located at 1600 Grand Avenue. Individuals who are unable to attend the workshop but would like to provide feedback may take a two-question online survey available at <http://lacountyparkneeds.org/survey>.



## Holiday Tree Collection

Residents still have time to recycle their live holiday tree at no cost. Both Waste Management and Valley Vista Services will continue its free curbside tree collection through Friday, January 8. Trees must be free of the stand, ornaments, tinsel and lights, and placed at the curb or designated collection point on the regularly-scheduled collection day. For more information, contact Waste Management at 800.266.7551 or Valley Vista Services at 800.442.6454.

## Weekly Street Sweeping

Residents are reminded that city streets will continue to be swept on a weekly basis until the end of this month. The practice of switching from biweekly sweeping during the months of February to November to weekly sweeping in December and January is aimed at addressing the increase of wind-blown debris seen during winter months. Everyone is asked to do their part to ensure the City's street sweeping program operates as effectively as possible by keeping their cars off streets scheduled for sweeping. Signs indicating day and time of no parking due to sweeping are posted throughout town. A free magnet schedule noting street sweeping weeks is available for pick up at various community locations, including City Hall (21810 Copley Drive), Diamond Bar Library (21800 Copley Drive) and Diamond Bar Center (1600 Grand Avenue).

## Winter Snow Fest

Children (and children at heart) are invited to don their boots and mittens and dash to Pantera Park on Saturday, January 16 for good ol' fashioned fun in 100 tons of snow as part of the City's popular Winter Snow Fest.

From 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., event-goers will enjoy sledding down one of four snow hills or making snowballs and snowmen in a designated area. Additional activities include holiday arts and crafts, game booths, and photos with Flurry the Sledding Penguin.

Local nonprofits will be operating a number of food booths selling a variety of savory fares, drinks and snacks, while local schools and youth performance groups will be providing nonstop entertainment on stage.

Admission and snow play is free; the cost to play up to four games is \$1 and the cost for unlimited sledding is \$5. Only cash is accepted.

Pantera Park is located at 738 Pantera Drive. As a reminder, dogs (registered service animals excepted) and other pets are not allowed at this or any other City special event, unless otherwise noted. For more information, call 909.839.7000 or visit [www.diamondbarca.gov/wsf](http://www.diamondbarca.gov/wsf).

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# Bridal Show

## Diamond Bar Center

**Diamond Bar Center – one of the most sought-after wedding venues in the region – will again host several dozen wedding industry professionals when it holds its annual Bridal Show on Sunday, February 21.**

Brides- and grooms-to-be are invited to stop by the Center between 11:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. to check out a number of special displays and exhibits and talk with vendors about how to turn their dream wedding into a reality.

Admission is free for future brides and grooms and only \$5 for guests. Diamond Bar Center is located at 1600 Grand Avenue. Event pre-registration can be done by visiting [www.DiamondBarCenter.com](http://www.DiamondBarCenter.com), emailing [bridalshow@diamondbarca.gov](mailto:bridalshow@diamondbarca.gov) or calling 909.839.7065.

Wedding-related product or service providers interested in operating a booth at this Bridal Show are encouraged to call the number listed above as soon as possible. Limited space is available.

## DBSNAPSHOTS

### BRIGHT IDEA ...

The Copley Drive traffic signal pole is among the more than 40 poles around town now displaying new bright, highly reflective signs, following the City's recent completion of its biennial citywide inspection and maintenance of traffic signs. The routine inspection of traffic signs and replacement of those which are weather-worn or sun-faded is part of the City's efforts to maintain and improve road safety. New signs typically have a 10-year service life.



## Coyote Awareness Reminder

### Late January Marks the Start of the Mating Season for Coyotes

The highly adaptable nature of coyotes allows them to live in almost any habitat in California, including in a suburban environment like that of Diamond Bar where abundant natural space is part of the landscape and ample food, water and shelter is readily available.

If coyote sightings are common in your neighborhood or place of recreation, now is a good time to learn or re-familiarize yourself with the following simple strategies to safely and responsibly coexist with these wild members of the dog family:

- ◆ Make your property less hospitable for wild animals by removing shelter, water and food sources: thin ground level shrubbery that can serve as a den or hiding place, take down and store bird feeders, and promptly gather low-hanging fruit and collect any fallen pieces.
- ◆ Teach your children to learn how to identify coyote and know what to do if they come in contact with one.
- ◆ Keep a close watch on small pets, feed them indoors, supervise them while they are outdoors, and always walk dogs on a leash.
- ◆ Store refuse containers in your garage or another secure area until collection day.

**Also of great importance is that you and your neighbors do not intentionally feed or attempt to tame coyotes as this causes them to lose their innate fear of humans, thereby increasing the potential for encounters and conflicts with people and pets.**

In the event you encounter an aggressive or fearless coyote, the Department of Fish and Wildlife suggest you take the following steps:

- ◆ Make sure you are standing up and pick up any small pets or young children who may be with you.
- ◆ Face the coyote and try to frighten it away by shouting loudly and waving your arms above your head to appear larger and menacing; do not stop until it has left. If it does not leave or starts walking toward you, throw rocks, sticks or other objects in its direction.
- ◆ Retreat by walking backward so that you do not turn your back on the coyote.

Report incidents of aggressive coyotes or conflicts to City Hall by calling 909.839.7010 or visiting [www.diamondbarca.gov/wildanimal](http://www.diamondbarca.gov/wildanimal).



## Senior Softball Sign-Ups

The Inter-City Senior Softball League is seeking adults age 50 and older to join a co-ed Diamond Bar Softball Team for the 2016 playing season. Practice begins in February, with games starting in April and continuing through September. Games are played weekdays in the mornings and last between an hour and an hour and a half. New players will either join an existing group or form a new one; teams are made up of 11 to 15 players, 3 of which must be women. For more information or to register, call the City's Recreation Services Division at 909.839.7073.

## Valentine's Day Dance

Cupid will be aiming his bow and arrow toward the Diamond Bar Center on Thursday, February 11 when the City hosts its annual Senior Valentine Dance from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. This event features dinner and dancing and is open to adults age 55 and older. Tickets are \$15 each and will be available for purchase until Friday, February 5. The Center is located at 1600 Grand Avenue. For more information, call 909.839.7068.

## Tax Assistance For Seniors

From February 3 to April 6, AARP representatives will be available at the Diamond Bar Center every Wednesday morning to assist Diamond Bar taxpayers age 55 and older with the preparation and filing of their 2015 income tax returns.

Appointments are required, and filers should bring with them copies of their previous year's tax returns as well as all other documents reflecting 2015 revenues and expenses.

Diamond Bar Center is located at 1600 Grand Avenue. For more information or to make an appointment, call the City's Recreation Services Division at 909.839.7070.

## DBSNAPSHOTS

### STATELY STATEMENT ...

A ten-foot tall entry monument sign that celebrates the city's ranch past through diamond shapes and weathering steel art elements depicting windmills and hills now stands at the city's entry point of Grand Avenue and Longview Drive. This sign as well as other landscape and hardscape treatments at this intersection and that of Grand Avenue and Diamond Bar Boulevard were completed late November as part of the federal-grant funded Grand Avenue Beautification Project. Aimed at promoting a positive and welcoming image for both residents and visitors, and creating a cohesive and distinctive sense of place for the city, plans call for these beautification efforts to form part of the City's citywide streetscape design standards for duplication in other key areas around town. Already these new streetscape standards were applied to improvements made at the intersection of Diamond Bar Boulevard and Brea Canyon Road as part of the new Willow Heights Housing Development. Next in line for beautification treatments is Golden Springs Drive at the intersections of Lemon Avenue and Diamond Bar Boulevard.



## DBSNAPSHOTS

### PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE PAST...

Accounts of the people, events and milestones that shaped the area's history and led to the city's incorporation now form part of a permanent exhibit installed in the first floor foyer of the Diamond Bar City Hall Building. This exhibit, installed in November 2015, consists of five informative panels and a mural timeline noting important events starting in the 1800s when Diamond Bar was part of an old Spanish land grant known as Rancho San Jose to 1989 when the City of Diamond Bar was founded and the first City Hall offices were established within the Gateway Corporate Center. City Hall is located at 21810 Copley Drive in Diamond Bar. The foyer is immediately accessible using the building's front doors and is open to the public Monday through Thursday from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.



## Volunteer Award Nominations Sought

Every year, as part of its annual Birthday Party festivities, the Diamond Bar City Council honors individuals for their dedication to volunteerism and desire to improve the lives of others.

If you know someone who fits this description, you are encouraged to nominate them for the City's Outstanding Volunteer Awards Program. The deadline for nominations is Friday, March 11; an online form is available at [www.diamondbarca.gov/ovan](http://www.diamondbarca.gov/ovan).

Several candidates will be selected from the nominee pool and presented with special certificates from the Diamond Bar City Council and other local elected officials during the City's 27th Annual Birthday Party, which is set for Saturday, April 16.

For more information, contact the City's Community Services Department at 909.839.7060.

## DBSNAPSHOTS

### STRIKING A BALANCE ...

Mulch ground cover and more than 7,000 ornamental and drought-resistant plants and have replaced the grass that previously filled the 6.4 mile stretch of Diamond Bar Boulevard. This turf conversion project, which included installing a drip and bubbler water distribution system that can be expanded to accommodate additional plants as needed, was completed last month and paid for with a half-million dollar grant from the Metropolitan Water District. It is aimed at reducing waste use as required by the mandatory statewide water restrictions while improving the aesthetic appeal of one of the city's key arterials. In an effort to maximize grant dollars, the City opted to plant one-gallon size containers of plants – Little John bottlebrush, society garlic, carpet roses, and deer grass – that will take between one and two growing seasons to become completely established and mature enough to produce blooms.



# School Happenings

Story contribution by the Pomona Unified School District

## Pantera Elementary Students Explore English-Mandarin Language in New Immersion Program

One class of Pantera Elementary kindergartners is learning to read, write and communicate effectively in both English and Mandarin through the introduction of Pomona Unified's latest dual-language immersion (DLI) program.

The new program, which launched this school year, is in addition to Spanish-English DLI programs at Montvue and Westmont elementary schools.

"At this age, children are able to learn a foreign language much easier than they would if they were older," said Pantera teacher Jie

Gao, who has been teaching students how to say and read numbers and take classroom directions through song, dance and hand movements.

Each program follows a 50:50 model, where 50 percent of instruction occurs in the target language of Mandarin or Spanish and 50 percent of instruction is in English. The class comprises native English speakers and native Mandarin or Spanish speakers, enabling both sets of students to interact and learn new vocabulary skills.

"This program presents our students with a unique opportunity to speak multiple languages both inside and beyond the walls of a traditional classroom," said Pantera Principal Todd Riffell. "Students' education will be enhanced because of the cultural awareness, acceptance and rich language that is shared and exchanged between students enrolled in these classrooms."

Students enrolled in the DLI program have the opportunity to earn a State Seal of Biliteracy on their high school diplomas. The programs were expanded as part of the District's 2015-18 Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP).

"Pomona's dual-language program embraces and acknowledges the rich cultural diversity of our community," Superintendent Richard Martinez said. "By the time students reach the sixth-grade, they will have spent seven academic years immersed in bilingual, bicultural and biliterate studies, which will prove invaluable as they continue their education."

For more information, visit [www.pusd.org/DLI](http://www.pusd.org/DLI).



Pantera Elementary kindergartners participate in the dual-language immersion program

Story contribution by the Walnut Valley Unified School District

## Making the Grade ... Walnut Valley Receives A+

Walnut Valley Unified School District has once again been recognized as a premier school district in the state and nation in the newest Niche rankings, receiving an A+ grade.

The "2016 Best Public School District in America" report issued recently provides a comprehensive assessment of the overall experience of a school district.

Walnut Valley ranked #149 in the United States out of more than 12,000 school districts.

At the time of calculations, 12,153 districts across the country were measured on key factors including strength of academics, health and safety, student culture and diversity, sports and fitness, extracurricular and activities, school resources, quality of student life, as well as student and parent reviews for overall excellence of the district.

Additionally, Walnut Valley is ranked among only 33 school districts in the state to receive an A+ grade and overall rank of #14, out of more than 1,000 California school districts.

The report also lists Walnut Valley as the 4th highest ranked school district in California with enrollment greater than 12,000, just behind Palo Alto, Pleasanton, and Irvine.

The Niche rankings focus on a well-rounded educational experience for all kids.

"It's nice to see these kinds of reports that inform the public, and most importantly our school community, of the wonderful educational experiences that are happening in Walnut Valley schools every day!" said Superintendent Dr. Robert Taylor.

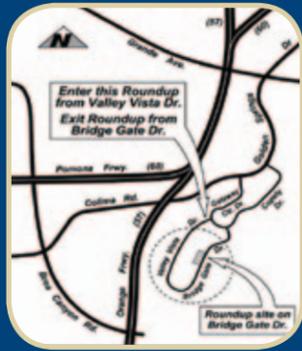
"Thank you and congratulations to our teachers, classified and support personnel, and administrators!"



Evergreen Elementary fifth grade robotics teams are part of the Project Lead The Way Launch, a new program implemented last year.

# Drive-Through HHW Collection

Next month brings an opportunity for residents to dispose of unwanted household chemicals, electronics and other hazardous waste that cannot be thrown out in the regular household trash when Los Angeles County's mobile Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Collection program stops in Diamond Bar on Saturday, February 13.



This drive-through collection, co-sponsored by the County of Los Angeles Sanitation District and Department of Public Works, takes place from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on the 1300 block of Bridge Gate Drive near Kaiser Permanente Diamond Bar Medical Offices within the Gateway Corporate Center.

To participate, simply place the items you wish to discard in the trunk of your car so that event staff can easily and quickly retrieve them. Eligible items include motor oil, antifreeze and other car fluids, pesticides and herbicides, computer and television sets, Sharps or used needles, household car batteries, as well as expired pharmaceuticals. Items not accepted include waste from businesses, tires, explosives, and white goods such as washers, stoves, refrigerators or air conditioners. There is a limit of 15 gallons or 125 pounds per vehicle.

For more information, call the Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County at 800.238.0172.

## Check Before You Burn

If your home has a fireplace, here's a reminder that the South Coast Air Quality Management District's annual Check Before You Burn program is in effect through the end of February.

A component of the AQMD's Healthy Hearths initiative, the Check Before You Burn program prohibits residential wood burning on days when air pollution is forecast to be unhealthy.

Households above an elevation of 3,000 feet; wood-burning devices that are a household's sole source of heat; low-income households; properties where there is no existing infrastructure for natural gas service within 150 feet of the property line; and ceremonial fires are exempted from the wood-burning curtailment program.

For more information, visit [www.healthyhearths.org](http://www.healthyhearths.org). You may also call AQMD's 24-hour Check Before you Burn toll-free information line 866.966.3293 or sign up receive email notifications when a mandatory no-burn alert has been issued for your neighborhood by visiting [www.aqmd.enviroflash.info](http://www.aqmd.enviroflash.info).

## Get The Most Out Of Your Waste Collection Service

If you're only getting your trash, green waste and recycling bins serviced every week, then you are losing out on special waste collections and extra services you are entitled to and paying for, regardless of whether or not you use them.

These services include free doorstep or curbside pickups of waste that either does not fit or belong in your regular bins or is banned from landfill disposal because of its hazardous properties.

Examples of waste that meets this criteria are oversized or overweight appliances or furniture, electronics, paint, automotive fluids, household cleaners and batteries, garden products, and syringes.

Extra services include two anytime and two end-of-the-year excess trash pickups, dilapidated cart replacements, free second carts for recyclables and green waste, and rate discounts for seniors and persons with disabilities.

Also, Waste Management account holders who are physically unable to wheel out their bins may request that waste collection staff retrieve the bins and return them to their original location after emptying their contents.

Information about these free services can be obtained by calling your respective waste collection agency – Waste Management at 800.266.7551 or Valley Vista Services at 800.442.6454.



City of Diamond Bar  
21810 Copley Drive ♦ Diamond Bar, CA 91765-4178  
909.839.7000 ♦ 909.861.3117 Fax  
[www.DiamondBarCA.gov](http://www.DiamondBarCA.gov) ♦ [PublicInfo@DiamondBarCA.gov](mailto:PublicInfo@DiamondBarCA.gov)

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### Elected Officials

**Mayor**..... Nancy A. Lyons  
**Mayor Pro Tem**..... Jimmy Lin  
**Council Member**..... Carol Herrera  
**Council Member**..... Ruth Low  
**Council Member**..... Steve Tye  
**City Manager**..... James DeStefano

### Postal Customer

Published by the City of Diamond Bar, DBCONNECTION contains information on City issues, policies, events, and programs. It is published and mailed monthly to all residences and businesses in Diamond Bar. Every effort is made to ensure that the information printed in this publication is correct. If you find typographical errors or become aware of any inaccuracies, please let us know by calling 909.839.7056.



## Find it Fast Phone Directory



City Services	909.839.7000	School Districts:	
City Council	909.839.7010	Pomona Unified	909.397.4700
Building & Safety	909.839.7020	Walnut Valley Unified	909.595.1261
City Clerk's Office	909.839.7010		
City Manager's Office	909.839.7010	<b>Utilities:</b>	
Community Development	909.839.7030	So Cal Edison (electric)	800.611.1911
Community Services	909.839.7060	So Cal Gas (gas)	877.238.0092
Facility Reservations	909.839.7070	Time Warner (cable TV)	888.892.2253
Finance	909.839.7050	Verizon (telephone)	800.483.5000
Human Resources	909.839.7018	Walnut Valley Water	909.595.7554
Library	909.861.4978	Waste Disposal:	
Neighborhood Improvement	909.839.7030	Valley Vista (businesses)	800.442.6454
Planning	909.839.7030	Waste Management (residents)	909.599.1274
Post Office	909.860.2469	<b>Public Safety:</b>	
Public Information Office	909.839.7055	Animal Control	909.623.9777
Public Safety Services	909.839.7076	Fire (LA County)*	909.629.9671
Public Works/Engineering	909.839.7040	Police (LA Co. Sheriff)*	909.595.2264
Recreation Services	909.839.7070	Vector Control	562.944.9656
Senior Services	909.839.7068	<b>24-Hour Hotlines:</b>	
Transit Information	909.839.7045	Building Inspection	909.839.7027
Voter Registration	562.462.2748	Employment Opportunities	909.348.8300
		Field/Weather	909.348.8310
<b>Business Information:</b>		Graffiti Removal	800.794.7384
Business Licenses	909.839.7030		
Chamber of Commerce	626.810.8476		

\*For emergencies, dial 9-1-1

## January 2016

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1 New Year's Day (City offices closed)	2 Street Sweeping
3	4 Street Sweeping	5 Street Sweeping	6 Street Sweeping	7 Street Sweeping	8 Street Sweeping	9
10	11 Street Sweeping	12 Street Sweeping	13 Street Sweeping	14 Street Sweeping	15 Street Sweeping	16 Winter Snow Fest (details on page 1)
17	18 Street Sweeping	19 Street Sweeping	20 Street Sweeping	21 Street Sweeping	22 Street Sweeping	23
24	25 Street Sweeping	26 Street Sweeping	27 Street Sweeping	28 Street Sweeping	29 Street Sweeping	30
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### Calendar Key

- City Council Meeting\* - starts at 6:30 pm
- Planning Commission Meeting\* - starts at 7 pm
- Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting\* - starts at 7 pm
- Traffic & Transportation Commission Meeting\* - starts at 7 pm

Street Sweeping is taking place somewhere within the city; see neighborhood signage for your street's designated day and time.

\*City Council meetings take place at the AQMD/Government Center (21865 Copley Drive), while City Commission meetings are held at Diamond Bar City Hall (21810 Copley Drive). Additional event and meeting details are available at [DiamondBarCa.gov/eventcalendar](http://DiamondBarCa.gov/eventcalendar)

