

City News

Published Monthly For Residents & Businesses in Diamond Bar

Free Business Assistance



If your goals for 2009 include starting up a business or bettering your existing business, here's a bit of good news.

The Regional Chamber of Commerce – San Gabriel Valley and the Mt. SAC Small Business Development Center (SBDC) are again teaming up to offer Diamond Bar businesses free counseling, training, and education.

On Thursday, February 19, emerging entrepreneurs are encouraged to take advantage of a free workshop that aims to help individuals answer the question "What business should I start?" The workshop will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Regional Chamber of Commerce Office, 21845 Copley Drive, Suite 1170.

Free general business counseling on an appointment basis is also available at this location on the last Tuesday of every month between 8:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Whether you own or manage a business, or are simply contemplating the idea of opening a business, the Chamber invites you to come learn about such things as how to access Capitol, develop a business plan, learn about cost effective marketing, or create a succession plan.

Services are available in English, Spanish, Chinese, and Mandarin. For additional information or to make an appointment, call the Chamber office at 909.860.1904 or visit its website at www.regionalchambersgv.com.

Presentation Highlights Extended Tours



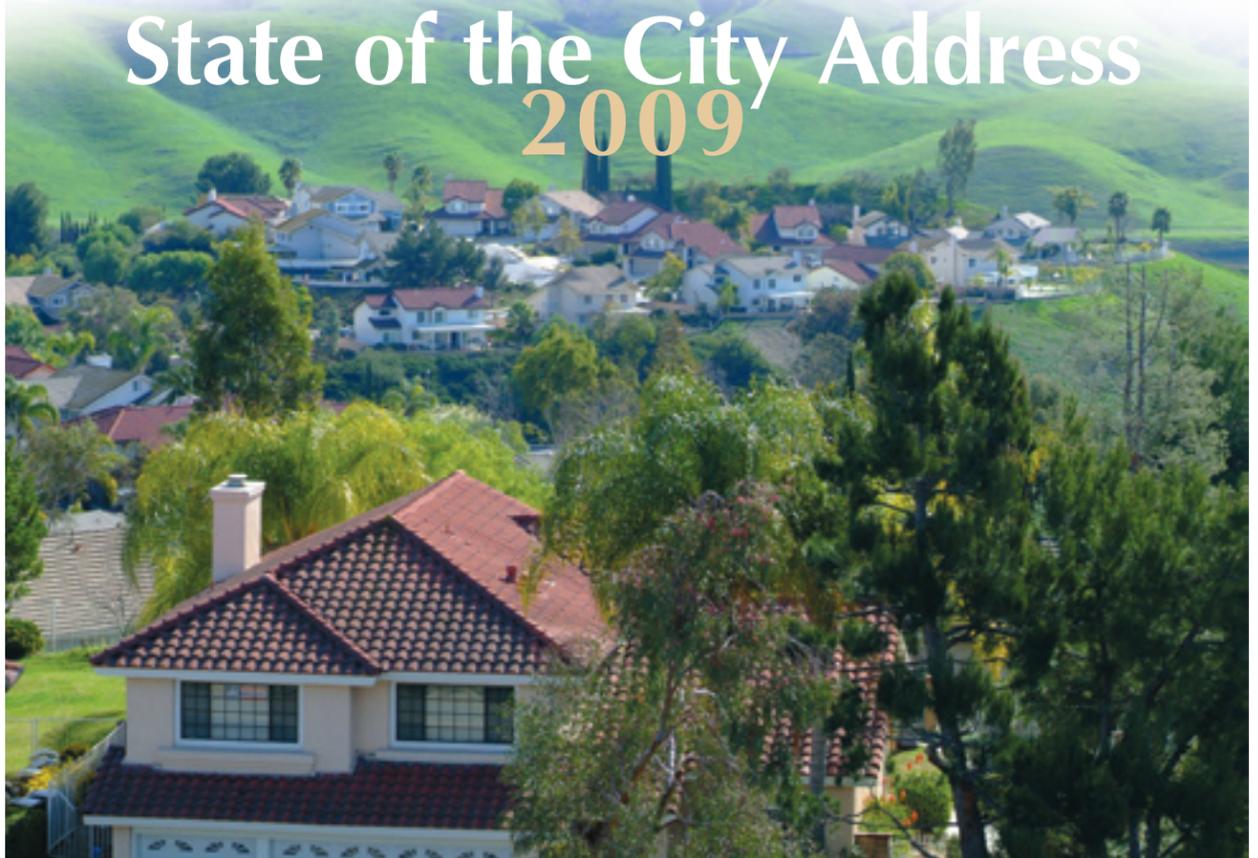
Thanks to a special partnership with a group travel agency, excursion choices for adults, 55 and older, have been expanded to include trips longer than a day.

And on Wednesday, February 25, travel enthusiasts will get a sneak peek at upcoming extended getaway opportunities during a presentation by Premiere World Discovery.

The free presentation will be held at the Diamond Bar Center from 5 to 6:30pm and consist of a slide show highlighting all 2009 trips with an opportunity for questions and answers at the end.

The Diamond Bar Center is located at 1600 Grand Avenue. For more information about upcoming tips or the presentation, call the Recreation Office at 909.839.7070.

State of the City Address 2009



Diamond Bar residents and business owners are invited to learn about the City's accomplishments in 2008 and challenges and goals for the upcoming year during the annual State of the City address set for Thursday, March 12, from 5 to 7 p.m.

New this year, the address will feature a special one-hour Open House to give the community an opportunity to obtain information on current and upcoming City happenings directly from City staff. Staff from the Regional Chamber of Commerce – SGV will also be on hand to discuss its free support and assistance services for local businesses.

The State of the City address will be held at the Diamond Bar Center, 1600 Grand Avenue. The Open House starts at 5 p.m., followed by a presentation by City Officials at 6:30 p.m.

There is no admission fee and reservations are not required. The address will be taped for later broadcast on DBTV3, the City's cable television channel, and the City's website at www.cityofdiamondbar.com.

For more information, contact the Public Information Office at 909.839.7055.

City's Financial Report Online

The City of Diamond Bar's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the last fiscal year, which ended June 30, 2008, is now available on the City's website www.cityofdiamondbar.com.

The CAFR, produced by the Finance Department since 1994, is a supplement to the City's annual budget and includes such items as an independent auditor's report, a narrative overview and analysis of the City's financial activities, a list and description of the City's governmental funds, and a trend schedule showing how the City's overall financial health has changed over time.

The report is organized in three sections: Introductory; Financial; and Statistical. It is audited



by outside auditors and reviewed by the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA), a nonprofit professional association serving approximately 17,000 government finance professionals.

For the past 13 consecutive years, the GFOA has recognized the City's Finance Department with a Certificate of Achievement for producing

efficiently-organized, easy-to-read financial reports. The certificate is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting.

Individuals without Internet access may also stop by City Hall during business hours to view a copy of the report, available at the front desk.

Published by the City of Diamond Bar, City News contains information on City issues, policies, events, and programs. It is published and mailed monthly to all residences and businesses in Diamond Bar. For more information, contact the Public Information Division at 909.839.7056.

Elected Officials

Mayor.....Ron Everett
Mayor Pro Tem.....Carol Herrera
Council Member.....Wen Chang
Council Member.....Jack Tanaka
Council Member.....Steve Tye
City Manager.....James DeStefano



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info@ci.diamond-bar.ca.us

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Keeping Green

Prevent Storm Water Pollution

Winter rain may bring much-needed water to the area but it also poses a serious health hazard through storm water pollution, which transforms our beaches into giant dumping grounds.

During rainfall, waste that includes litter, automotive fluids, construction debris, fertilizer, and pet droppings left on our lawns, parking lots and streets, are washed into storm drains.

Storm drains are designed to prevent flooding by carrying water away from developed areas. However, this water is not filtered or treated, and eventually flows into our rivers and oceans.

The City urges you to do your part in reducing storm water pollution by following some simple and sensible practices that include:

- Clean up after your pets
- Don't over water or over fertilize your lawn
- Dispose of used automotive fluids, paints, and other household chemicals properly
- Sweep your driveway and sidewalk; do not hose it down into the street
- Control soil erosion on your property by stabilizing erosion-prone areas
- When making home repairs, take cautionary steps to prevent construction materials, like sawdust, concrete, or paint from running off into the gutter

To learn more about storm water pollution prevention, visit the LA County website at www.ladpw.org/PRG/StormWater/ or contact Public Works at 909.839.7040.

Hazardous & E-Waste Roundup

Residents will have the opportunity to get rid of unwanted household and electronic items that cannot be disposed of in the regular trash during the City's annual Household Hazardous Waste & E-Waste Round-Up on Saturday, February 21.

From 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., items will be accepted at no cost on the 1300 block of Bridge Drive in the Gateway Corporate Center.

The free event, co-sponsored by the City and Los Angeles County, gives Los Angeles County residents the opportunity to properly dispose of waste that is considered toxic, flammable, or corrosive. Examples of acceptable waste include paint, turpentine, motor oil, pesticides, batteries, expired medicine, computers, and television sets. Commercial waste will not be accepted.

Residents are asked to bring hazardous waste items in a sturdy box, preferably in their original labeled containers.

For more information or a complete list of what you can and cannot bring, visit www.888cleanla.com or call 800.238.0173. For details about the event, call the City's Environmental Services Division at 909.839.7038.



Retail Center Gets a Facelift

A local retail center started off the new year sporting an updated look.

Sunset Plaza, located on Diamond Bar Boulevard, recently received a number of renovations, including new landscaping, painting, paving, and signage, paid for by the owner of the center.

The 30,000 square foot retail center is currently home to businesses that include a bagel shop, an insurance agency, a chiropractor/acupuncture office, and several nail, hair and skin care facilities.

Next time you are in the area, stop by and pay them a visit.

Beware of Property Tax Scams

Los Angeles County homeowners are being advised to be on the alert for scam artists offering to file property assessment reduction forms for a fee.

The form, known as Decline-In-Value form, can be filed online at no cost via the Assessor's website www.assessor.lacounty.gov or in person at one of the Assessor's District Offices.

However, the last date to appeal the assessed value of one's property as shown on the 2008-09 tax bill was December 31, 2008.

The scam artists pose as private companies offering their services to pursue a reduction in property taxes by form of deceptive mailers that could be mistaken for government notices. The companies charge hundreds of dollars to file a reduction on behalf of the property owner.

The Los Angeles County Assessor calls this a "legal but sophisticated scam that takes advantage of homeowners who don't understand his office will do a reassessment on its own."

"The notices mislead property owners into thinking they must pay at least \$100 to apply for a review of their assessed value, when my office does it automatically and at no cost," said the County Assessor.

For the 2009 review of home value assessments, the County Assessor's staff plans to look at all homes and condos sold as early as 2002. The agency anticipates completing the review in June.

While it is the right of homeowners to file a decline-in-value application requesting a review of market conditions, the County Assessor urges homeowners to wait until June when the results of the review will be mailed. If a letter is not received or if the owner is not satisfied with the results, then a Decline-In-Value application can be submitted.

If you or someone you know has received an illegal solicitation, the Assessor asks that you contact the Los Angeles County Department of Consumer Affairs by phone at 800.973.3370. A complaint form is also available on its website www.dca.lacounty.gov.

Foreclosure Prevention Assistance

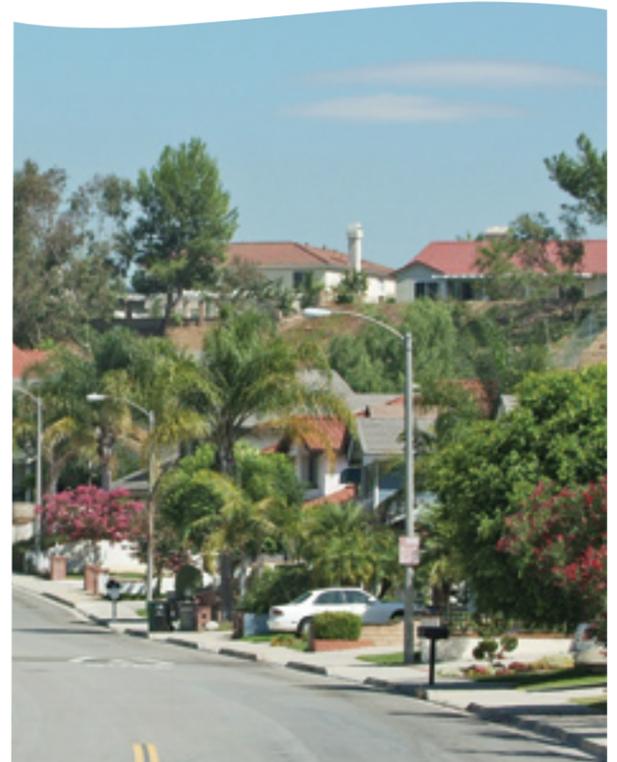
With home mortgage foreclosure rates on the rise nationwide, the City would like to remind homeowners of a mortgage foreclosure prevention program offered by the County of Los Angeles Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA).

The comprehensive program, available at no cost to all Los Angeles County residents, is aimed at helping homeowners save their homes from foreclosure through counseling, loan modification assistance, and fraud investigations.

Individuals concerned about foreclosure either because of the type of mortgage they have or because they are no longer able to afford their mortgage payment are urged to act fast.

As part of counseling services, the DCA meets with the homeowner and assesses his/her financial situation to determine whether a loan modification is feasible. In addition, the DCA, provides budget counseling, works with the lender to temporarily stop pending foreclosures until an action plan is developed and, and counsels homeowners on options available to keep their home.

For more information on the DCA's mortgage foreclosure prevention services, visit its website at www.lacountydca.com or call 800.593.8222.



Lycoming Street to be Restored

This coming spring, a heavily traversed street will undergo rehabilitation as part of the City's ongoing commitment to maintain Diamond Bar roadways in a safe, serviceable condition for motorists.

The much-needed improvements will be made to almost a mile of Lycoming Street, from Lemon Avenue to the east City limits, and are estimated to cost nearly a million dollars. Much of the cost will be covered by Proposition 1B state transportation bond funds.

The need for the repairs was ranked as a high priority by the City's Pavement Management System, and was placed on the City's Capital Improvement Project List for Fiscal Year 07-08.

The System, used by the City since the early 1990s, is designed to assist with the prioritizing of major street improvements needed. To achieve this, the computerized system rates the condition of the city's roadways based on data gathered from a survey of streets, maintenance history, and traffic uses.

Using this system helps ensure that the integrity and service life of Diamond Bar streets is maintained the best way possible and in the most cost-effective manner.

It is anticipated the project will be completed this summer. For information about the project or the City's Pavement Management System, contact the Public Works Department at 909.839.7040 or email to publicworks@ci.diamond-bar.ca.us.

Safer Route to School

Neil Armstrong Elementary will soon join the growing list of Diamond Bar schools with nearby accessible sidewalks.

Later this month, the City will complete an \$86,000 curb ramp project that will see the creation or modification of 27 curb ramps at the corners of Beaverhead Drive, Clearview Crest Drive, Rock River Road, and Cottonwood Cove Drive.

The new or upgraded ramps will be compliant with current Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards for accessibility, which requires the landing area to have a detectable surface mat that alerts pedestrians with visual impairments that they are about to enter a roadway.

Curb ramp projects in areas where schools are located are made a priority because of high pedestrian traffic volumes, and are funded with Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) monies.

CDBG is a federal program that provides annual grants on a formula basis to entitled urban and rural cities to be used for various community and economic development programs. The grant amount the City receives varies every year.

The City has used CDBG funds to complete ADA retrofit projects, install new sidewalks, finance the Home Improvement Program, and augment the budgets of nonprofits that serve Diamond Bar youth and seniors.

For more information about curb ramp projects, call the City's Public Works Department at 909.839.7040.



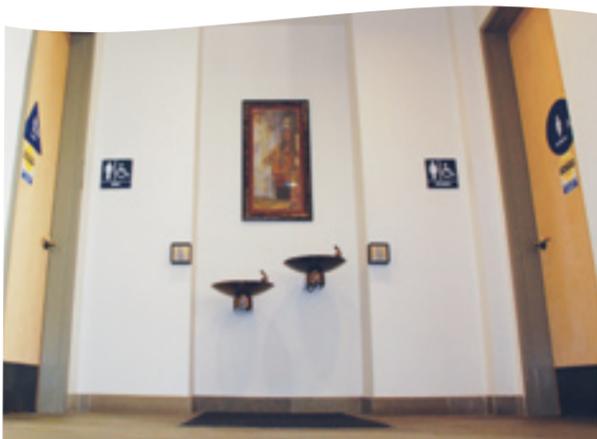
Free Tax Assistance for Seniors

Tax season is here and the City's Senior Services Division is once again offering individuals, 55 years of age and older, free assistance in completing federal and state income tax returns.

Now through April 1, AARP tax counselors will be available every Wednesday from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon at the Diamond Bar Center, 1600 Grand Avenue, to assist interested individuals on an appointment basis.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, call the City's Recreation Services Division at 909.839.7070.

ADA Friendly...



Individuals with mobility or dexterity impairments visiting the Diamond Bar Center will be pleased to learn that the site's four restrooms are now equipped with automatic door operators. Installed last month and funded with Community Development Block Grant dollars, the operators allow for the doors to open with ease by pressing the switch built into the wall or by turning the door handle. Once open, the operator keeps the door open long enough for a person using a walker or wheelchair to get through.

A Feng Shui Valentine's Day

Librarian Josh Murray invites adults to bring their Valentine to the Diamond Bar Library on Saturday, February 14 for a special discussion on Feng Shui's role in love and relationships. The discussion led by Master Jenny Liu starts at 2pm, and is being presented free of charge. For more information, contact the Library, 1061 South Grand Avenue, at 909.861.4978.



Ask City Hall

Answers to commonly asked questions about City services, codes, and other matters pertaining to living and working in Diamond Bar.

Q: What can I do about my neighbor's barking dog?

A: Dogs bark for a number of reasons that aren't always justifiable, and it is the owner's responsibility to correct this behavior.

Diamond Bar City Ordinance Sec. 6.00.100 makes it unlawful for the owner or keeper of any animal to allow frequent or continuing noise, such as barking, whining, or howling.

The City contracts with the Inland Valley Humane Society to provide animal care and control services, which include enforcement of this ordinance.

It is recommended that you first try to politely resolve the issue with your neighbor. However, if that doesn't work, you should contact IVHS at 909.623.9777 for further assistance.

Voice Your Opinion, Share Your Ideas



There is a new way to ask City staff a question, make suggestions for new programs, or offer opinions on how to improve current services.

Available on the City website is a recently-posted feedback form that allows Diamond Bar residents and business owners to send a question or comment on the topic of their choice.

Questions obtained via the form will be directed to the appropriate department or agency and feedback will be used to help the City measure its performance and improve services in the future.

The brief survey titled "Let us know what you think" asks only for a name, email address, and comment. To access it, visit www.cityofdiamondbar.com and click on the "Take a survey" link listed under "In the spotlight" in the grey menu.

For more information about the survey, contact the City's Public Information Division at 909.839.7055.

Snapshots Around The Community

Find it Fast Phone Directory

City Services	909.839.7000
City Council	909.839.7010
Building & Safety	909.839.7020
City Clerk's Office	909.839.7010
City Manager's Office	909.839.7010
Community Development	909.839.7030
Community Services	909.839.7060
Facility Reservations	909.839.7070
Finance	909.839.7050
Human Resources	909.839.7015
Library	909.861.4978
Neighborhood Improvement	909.839.7030
Planning	909.839.7030
Post Office	909.860.2469
Public Information Office	909.839.7055
Public Safety Services	909.839.7075
Public Works/Engineering	909.839.7040
Recreation Services	909.839.7070
Senior Services	909.839.7068
Transit Information	909.839.7045
Voter Registration	562.462.2748

Business Information:	
Business Licenses	909.839.7030
Chamber of Commerce	909.860.1904

School Districts:	
Pomona Unified	909.397.4700
Walnut Valley Unified	909.595.1261

Utilities:	
So Cal Edison (electric)	800.611.1911
So Cal Gas (gas)	800.427.2200
Time Warner (cable TV)	888.892.2253
Verizon (telephone)	800.483.5000
Walnut Valley Water	909.595.7554
Waste Disposal:	
Valley Vista (businesses)	800.442.6454
Waste Management (residents)	909.599.1274

Public Safety:	
Animal Control	909.623.9777
Fire (LA County)*	909.629.9671
Police (LA Co. Sheriff)*	909.595.2264
Vector Control	562.944.9656

24-Hour Hotlines:	
Building Inspection Hotline	909.839.7027
Graffiti Hotline	800.794.7384
Job Hotline	909.612.4636 x 1410

*For emergencies, dial 9-1-1

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
-  Transit Late Night - City Hall open until 7 pm
-  Presidents' Day - City offices closed
-  Daylight Saving - set clocks forward

February 2009

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3 	4	5	6	7
8	9	10 	11	12 	13	14 
15	16 	17 	18	19	20	21
22	23	24 	25 	26 	27	28

On The Court...

Rackets in hand, this group of tennis aficionados were photographed last month during the first week of practices as part of their enrollment in the City's Beginning Junior Tennis class. Held at the Ronald Reagan Park Tennis Courts, the four-week class aims to teach enrollees the basics of the game as well as valuable hand-eye coordination. Photographed are instructors Yoshiki Hisamoto and Eric Sandoval with students (from left, top row) Roxy Mika Pham, 10, Jason Park, 10, Tiffany Fung, 10, Abel Chen, 8, Joanna Zhang, 9, Brian Slack, 7, (from left, bottom row) Christopher Pham, 8, Misaki Inokuchi, 8, and Amanda Hsieh, 9.



Clay Creativity...

With just the right amount self-hardening clay and imagination, a colorful array of carving tools and paint, and a hand from teacher Rochelle Breckenridge, Quinn and Grace McKittrick are on their way to creating fun works of art. The McKittrick's are enrolled in the City's Sculpture Creations class offered at the Diamond Bar Center on Thursday evenings. The 6-week class gives children the opportunity to create and decorate a variety of take-home projects, including an animal, a face, flower, and landscape. For more class information on this and other art classes, refer to page 12 of the Winter Recreation Guide.

Performance Perfection...

The award-winning Diamond Bar High School Performing Arts Academy presented its second annual showcase on December 14 at The Delight Club in Chino. The program featured talented actors, singers, dancers, and musicians the Performing Arts Department and Performing Arts Academy. Pictured are members of the Marquis Show Choir who sang highlights from the Winter Winds Christmas concert during the Showcase finale. Diamond Bar High Performing Arts programs are among the best in the State, earning countless awards, and breaking records for honor group participation. The Brahma Foundation sponsored the event with all proceeds benefitting the Performing Arts Academy.



Prize Photo...

Congratulations were recently in order for Fengyu Shu who entered the City's inaugural Diamond Bar Through My Lens photo contest with the picture shown here, and came out the Grand Prize winner. Mr. Shu and the other individuals whose photos placed First and Second were recognized by City officials and staff during the December 16 City Council meeting. Along with certificates, second place winners also received \$25, first place winners \$100, and the grand prize winner \$250. All the entries which emerged as winners are now being featured on the City website and cable channel, DBTV3. Those photos which took First Place are also featured in the annual Calendar & Services Guide. The contest, co-sponsored by the City and the Diamond Bar Community Foundation, received over 150 entries. Many thanks to everyone who participated! Visit www.cityofdiamondbar.com to view the winning photos and get details on next year's contest.

March 2009

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3 	4	5	6	7
8 	9	10 	11	12  State of the City <small>see page 1 for event details</small>	13	14
15	16	17 	18	19	20	21
22	23	24 	25	26 	27	28
29	30	31 				

*All meetings take place at the AQMD/Government Center, 21865 Copley Drive. Additional event and meeting details are available at www.cityofdiamondbar.com.