

City News

Published Monthly For Residents & Businesses in Diamond Bar

Funds Boost Local Street Improvements

When the City's Public Works Department learned that President Obama's American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) would make available \$2.57 billion specifically for California-based street and road projects, it moved swiftly to submit all the necessary reports to ensure Diamond Bar wasn't left out.

That attentiveness resulted in the City securing an ARRA grant totaling \$1.77 million and receiving a prompt authorization to proceed with its project.

The project, now underway, will rehabilitate close to 10 miles of major City arterial routes that were scheduled to receive a slurry seal or chip seal overlay within the next two years as part of the City's annual preventive street maintenance program.

Financing pre-planned projects maximizes the use of the ARRA grant by freeing other funds that can now be used to pay for other transportation-related projects throughout the City.

The arterials set for a makeover include portions of Diamond Bar Boulevard, Pathfinder Road, Lemon Avenue, Brea Canyon Cut-Off Road, Golden Springs Drive, and Brea Canyon Road.

Construction is taking place Monday through Friday between 7am and 5pm, and is expected to be completed before the end of December. For more information about this project, contact the City's Public Works Department at 909.839.7040.

Ceremony to Recognize Veterans



The efforts of Diamond Bar's veterans will again be commemorated during the City's annual Veterans Recognition Ceremony on Thursday, November 5 from 9 to 11 am at the Diamond Bar Center.

Everyone is welcome to attend the free ceremony featuring an awards presentation, patriotic entertainment, and continental breakfast, but reservations are required.

To make reservations or to request that you or a family member recently retired or discharged from the U.S. Armed Forces be included in the awards presentation, please call the City's Community Services Department at 909.839.7070.

Halloween Happenings For All!

"Double, double toil and trouble; fire burn and cauldron bubble..."

With Halloween drawing near, City staff is busily brewing up a variety of happenings that are sure to capture the attention of guys and ghouls of all ages. Here are the details:

Halloween Dinner and Dance

Halloween is just for kids... kids-at-heart, that is.

Adults 55 years of age and older are invited to don a costume and celebrate Halloween a few days earlier at the Diamond Bar Center on Wednesday, October 28 from 6 to 9 pm. A fun costume contest, dinner, dancing, and prizes will all be part of the City's popular Halloween Dinner Dance. Tickets to the event are \$15 per person, and costumes are optional.



Fall Fun Festival

The City's annual Fall Fun Festival will once again offer Diamond Bar's littlest ones a safe evening of "spook-tacular" fun at Heritage Park on Saturday, October 31 from 4:30 to 8:30 pm. The popular festival, recommended for children ages 2 to 8, features several



game areas with prizes and candy for participants, an arts and crafts zone, and a picture-taking opportunity. Admission to this event is \$5 per child and free for parents.

Hall of Horrors

When the door to Heritage Park Community Center creaks open on the evenings of Friday and Saturday, October 30th and 31st, only the bravest of souls will dare venture in.

For the 11th year in a row, the Center will transform into a Hall of Horrors to offer fright fans, 8 years of age and older, non-stop heart-stopping thrills as they make their way from one nightmarish scene to the next.

The self-guided tour through the Hall will be available from 6 to 9 pm and the admission fee is \$5 per person. Visit the City's website www.cityofdiamondbar.com to print a special 2-for-1 coupon good for one free ticket with the purchase of one ticket on the evening of Friday, the 30th.



Diamond Bar Center is located at 1600 Grand Avenue, and Heritage Park Community Center is located at 2900 S. Brea Canyon Road. For more information on any of these events, contact the City's Community Services Department at 909.839.7070.

See page 3 for useful Halloween safety tips and a "wicked cool" volunteering opportunity for Diamond Bar high school students.

Public Safety Survey

Diamond Bar residents feel their community is safe and are satisfied by the level of public safety services they receive.

That's according to a public safety survey recently administered by the Diamond Bar Sheriff's Team. Conducted by local Volunteers on Patrol this past summer, the survey is just one of the tools used by the Sheriff's team to measure the community's perceived level of safety and to learn of possible public safety areas that residents would like the team to focus on.

Working in pairs, the volunteers visited random homes and shopping centers along their routine patrol routes and polled residents in areas that included how safe they felt in their neighborhood, walking in the evenings, shopping in town, or visiting City facilities and parks.

Results revealed positive ratings among 600 respondents, with 99.8% rating Diamond Bar as a safe community, and 98.8% reporting they were satisfied with the level of service provided by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.

Other answers revealed 99.7 percent felt safe in their neighborhood, 98 percent felt safe walking in the evenings, 99.8 percent felt safe shopping in town, and 99 percent felt safe visiting City facilities and parks.

When asked to name the areas of public safety that they would like the Sheriff's Team to focus on, the majority of respondents cited traffic as a top concern.

The Sheriff's team gave a special presentation during the regular September 15 Diamond Bar City Council meeting where it presented the results of the survey as well as the latest incident report showing a 14.6 percent drop in serious crime when comparing data from the first and second quarters of 2008 and 2009.



Business of the Month

And the winner is...



September Business of the Month

Thai Harmony Cafe

1345 S Diamond Bar Blvd # J

909.860.0011

Hours: Mon-Sun 10 am – 11 pm

(located near the Diamond Bar Post Office)

Change Time, Check Alarm

Here's a reminder that this year's one-hour setback happens Sunday, November 1. Among the appliances that may need to be manually changed are car and alarm clocks, stoves and microwave ovens, answering machines, and automatic timer lights. As a good rule of thumb, you should also replace the batteries in your smoke/carbon monoxide alarms. If your alarm is older than five years, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission recommends that you replace it to ensure its effectiveness.

City's Finance Department Receives Coveted Award

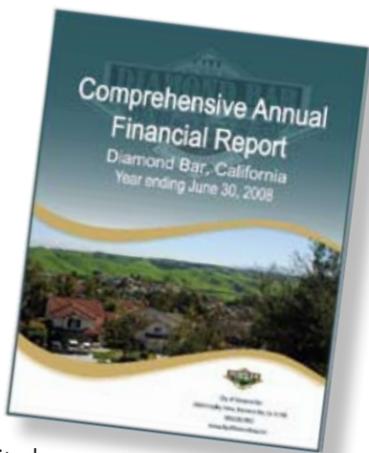
For the 14th consecutive year, the City's Finance Department has garnered a certificate of achievement from the Government Financial Officers Association of the United States.

Finance staff earned the coveted certificate, the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting, for having produced an efficiently-organized, easy-to-read Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2008.

The CAFR, produced by the Finance Department since 1995 at the conclusion of every fiscal year, serves as 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 GFOA is a nonprofit professional association serving approximately 17,000 government finance professionals.

A copy of the City's CAFR is available for viewing in person at City Hall, 21825 Copley Drive, during business hours or online at www.cityofdiamondbar.com.



Camp Connects Girls With Science



Shortly after returning home, Taylor and Riva made a special presentation regarding their Tech Trek experiences to members of the Diamond Bar/Walnut AAUW during its monthly meeting.

Living in a college dorm. Catching a large expectant lobster. Separating DNA strands. Creating a short educational video using a Mac computer. Meeting women professionals in the science and technology fields. Those are just some of the exciting activities two 12-year-old Diamond Bar residents participated in this summer, thanks to a scholarship from the Diamond Bar-Walnut branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW).

Taylor Raymundo, an 8th grader at Chaparral Middle School, and Riva Yeo, an 8th grader at South Pointe Middle School, were selected for the scholarship based on teacher recommendations for their potential in math and science studies, academic habits and character, a written essay, and panel-style interview.

Tech Trek, as the one-week camp is known, was established by AAUW over 10 years ago to give girls in the 7th grade the opportunity to further their interest in science, math, or technology in a fun and nurturing atmosphere.

Chaperoned by adult women mentors, Taylor and Riva and other girl Tech Trek campers spent a week in a UC San Diego campus dorm and participated in classes, mini-labs, experiments, and off-campus field trips led by credentialed women teachers and women currently engaged professionally in science, math, and technology fields.

Taylor and Riva each got to take home the projects they created during camp as well as a keepsake DVD with clips of all the activities they participated in while in Tech Trek.

AAUW is a national organization that supports equity for women and girls and encourages lifelong education. Membership is open to anyone with a degree from an accredited college or university. For more information on the organization, call 909.861.4822 or visit its website at www.aauw.org.

Community Room Renovations Planned

The Diamond Bar Friends of the Library's vision of a renovated community room is set to materialize. Efforts to improve the 921 square-foot community room in the Diamond Bar Library are estimated to cost more than \$100,000, and will be jointly funded by the Friends, the County of Los Angeles, and the City of Diamond Bar.

During its regular September 2 meeting, the Diamond Bar City Council voted to allocate up to \$40,000 from the City's General Fund to cover the costs for the replacement of outdated audio/visual system components, which include four ceiling speakers, a microphone, and video projector.

The Friends have pledged \$41,000 to pay for new carpeting, wall paint, and tack board, while the County has agreed to cover costs for potential asbestos abatement and replacement of doors, ceiling tiles and other minor fixtures such as switch plate covers and heating vents.

Located near the entrance of the Library, the community room is used for various activities that include arts and crafts classes, movie and book sales, and children's story time. The renovations are expected to begin later this month.

For more information about this project or to make a donation, you can visit the Friends' website at www.dblibraryfriends.org, call 909. 595.9954, or email info@dbllibraryfriends.org.

Free Homework Help

Breezing through tough homework assignments is possible – all you need is a County of Los Angeles Public Library card and Internet connection.

Thanks to a special contract between the County Library and a web-based tutoring company called Tutor.com, library card holders in grades 4 through 12, as well as those taking introductory college courses, can get free and immediate help from qualified tutors in math, science, social studies, and English via the internet.

Live Homework Help is available every day from 1 pm to midnight and can be accessed from any internet-connected computer by visiting www.librarytutor.org.

Students and tutors can review specific homework questions or subject-specific concepts using features that include controlled chat, an interactive white board, and shared Web browsing.

Tutors are certified teachers, college professors, professional tutors, or graduate school students from across the county. They have all passed a background check and comprehensive training program.

For more information, call the Diamond Bar Library at 909.861.4978.

Halloween Safety Tips

Dressing up and trick-or-treating makes Halloween a highly-anticipated holiday for most children, but for most parents it can be a source of concern. The Los Angeles County Fire Department recommends the following safety tips to help make Halloween a treat for children and adults alike:

Costumes

- Ensure that your child's costume is flame-retardant to diminish danger near potential fire hazards such as jack-o-lanterns.
- Keep costumes short and make sure that the shoes fit well to prevent tripping and falling.
- Use make-up instead of a mask which can obstruct your child's vision, and affix reflective tape on dark-colored costumes.

Hey Teens!

Here's your chance to put your "killer" painting or decorating skills to good use!

The City is looking for local students with a volunteer "spirit" to serve in various capacities during the City's popular Hall of Horrors on Friday and Saturday, October 30th and 31st.

But you must be of high school age and either live in Diamond Bar or attend Diamond Bar or Diamond Ranch high schools. School identifications will be requested.

If you meet the requirements, a spot awaits you at the mandatory volunteer orientation meeting on Monday, October 19 starting at 6 pm at the Heritage Community Center located at 2900 Brea Canyon Road. Event details and volunteer roles will be discussed, and waiver forms will be handed out.

For more information, call the City's Recreation Coordinator Andee Tarazon at 909.839.7067.

Trick-or-treating

- A parent or responsible adult should accompany young children while trick-or-treating, and older children going out alone should go in groups and stop only at familiar homes with outside lights on.
- Trick-or-treaters or their escorts should carry at least one flashlight and cell phone.

Returning home with treats

- Remind your children not to eat any of their treats until you have had a chance to inspect them. You can help keep your child's candy cravings at bay by preparing a meal or snack for them before heading out.
- Once at home, examine your child's treat bag and discard any opened candies or treats that are not in their original wrappers.

By following these tips, you can help ensure your children have a fun and safe Halloween.

Be Aware of Your Speed

That's the friendly reminder that the Diamond Bar Sheriff's Team is sending motorists with its recent deployment of a new RADAR speed display trailer.

Implementation of the trailer is part of the continuing efforts taken by the City and its Sheriff's Team to help ensure the safety of pedestrians and preserve the quality of life in the community.

In addition to alerting motorists of their speed, the trailer also helps Sheriff's deputies determine the need for RADAR gun enforcement by recording the time, date, and speed of oncoming vehicles and converting it into easy-to-read graphs.

The RADAR speed display trailer is regularly relocated from one residential street based on a log of locations where speeding concerns have been reported.

If you would like your street to be considered for speed monitoring, contact the City's Public Works Department at 909.839.7040.



The 7-by-4-foot trailer can read the speed of an approaching vehicle from a distance of over 400 feet away.

Preventing Rainy Season Disasters

With the rainy season approaching, the City would like to urge residents to prepare now and protect their property against possible flood or mudslide damage.

The following steps should be included in every drainage system inspection:

- Make sure all slopes drain properly and are cleared of any debris.
- Check drains along retaining walls and remove overgrown landscaping if necessary.
- Examine the solidity of any earth berms (top edges of slopes which keep water from flowing over the slope) on the property.
- Measure side swales (natural drainage paths directing water around a structure); they must be at least 24 inches from any walls.

During unusually heavy rainfall, even a properly managed drainage system may not prevent the possibility of damage. If you note one or more of the following warning signs of a possible slope

failure, you should have your property inspected by a licensed private civil/structural or geotechnical engineer as soon as possible:

- Standing water near the top or bottom of the slope.
- Earth movement (bulges, or excess soil accumulating at the bottom of the slope).
- Excess soil and/or debris resting in drainage channels or culverts.
- Tilting of walls or fences on or near the slope.
- Water flowing or seeping out of the slope or at the bottom of the slope.
- Cracks or slumping of ground near the top or bottom of the slope.
- Broken irrigation lines above or on the slope.

Properly designed drainage systems and regular preventative maintenance assist in the prevention of slope failures and flooding. For more information, call the City's Public Works Department at 909.839.7040.



Ask City Hall

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

Q: My neighbors and I have noticed a lot of stray shopping carts in our neighborhood. Isn't it illegal to take carts from retail stores and is there anything we can do about it?

A: Yes. Shopping carts are private property and provided to shoppers as a customer service; removing them from their respective store parking lot is illegal.

Also, carts left on sidewalks or streets create visual blight and pose hazards to motorists, pedestrians, and bicyclists. This makes them a violation of 12.04.140 of the City's Municipal Code that prohibits encroachment within public streets and sidewalks.

Personnel from the City's Neighborhood Improvement Division regularly patrol city streets for health, safety, and aesthetic concerns that, if ignored, could lead to neighborhood decay.

When it comes to abandoned shopping carts, the Division calls the store the cart belongs to, and informs the manager about the cart(s) and the location. You and your neighbors can do the same.

Following are phone numbers to some of the major retail establishments in the area. Be sure to ask for the manager.

Target 747 Grand Ave. 909.610.2149

Ralphs 1180 Diamond Bar Blvd. 909.860.6999

Big Lots 1139 Diamond Bar Blvd. 909.396.7775

Kmart 249 Diamond Bar Blvd 909.861.7741

World Market 21080 Golden Springs Dr.
909.839.1121

H-Mart 2825 Diamond Bar Blvd. 909.839.0300

You can reach the Neighborhood Improvement Division by phone at 909.839.7030 or by email at neighborhoodimp@ci.diamond-bar.ca.us.

Impound Release Fee Adjustment

Following recommendations from City staff, the Diamond Bar City Council last month approved a new \$100 fee for the release of stored and impounded vehicles within City limits.

The previous \$60 fee, which had remained unchanged since 1992, did not accurately reflect the current administrative costs related to the processing, storage, and release of such vehicles.

Vehicles subject to the impound fee include those abandoned, posing a hazard, with an expired registration or more than five outstanding parking citations, as well as those operated by unlicensed drivers.

Fees are not imposed on recovered stolen vehicles or those stored as a result of a traffic accident.

The task of storing and impounding vehicles is handled by the Diamond Bar/Walnut Sheriff's Station as part of the City's annual public safety services contract.

Even with the increase, the new fee remains well below the average fee imposed by several neighboring jurisdictions.



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www.cityofdiamondbar.com
info@ci.diamond-bar.ca.us

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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

Postal Customer

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

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.

Snapshots Around The Community

Staying the Course...

The parking lot of Calvary Chapel recently doubled as a driver training ground for more than 30 local Sheriff's personnel. Organized and led by Sergeant Mark Saldecke, the officers went through several hours of classroom instruction, course drills, and on-road practice as part of a driver training refresher course aimed at updating them on the latest Code laws and keeping their road skills sharp. Members of all ranks from the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department who drive a car in the line of duty are required to participate in the training every two years.



Goal-driven Goats...

Unbeknownst to this herd of 350 mixed-breed goats, it is doing much more than wandering the hillside and feeding on shrubbery. It is actually carrying out the important task of ridding a 50-acre site of flammable brush. For the first time in its history, the City recently employed the goats as an environmentally-friendly and cost-effective alternative to clearing brush in the open space property located in the southwestern portion of Diamond Bar. It is estimated it will take the herd a total of six weeks to clear the area, with hand crews from the L.A. County Fire Department coming in soon after to complete brush clearing closer to the property lines. The goats, which are scheduled to work until late October, are being protected from predators by a herder, and an electrically-charged enclosure.



Fire Focus...

More than 160 seniors from the Diamond Bar Senior Club sat attentive as Battalion Chief Ed Gandara and other personnel from the local Fire Station 120 went over the importance of taking an active role in reducing flammable foliage in and around properties. Earlier this year, the Los Angeles County Fire Department introduced its new Wildfire Action Plan titled Ready! Set! Go! If you have not obtained your very own copy of the plan, stop by City Hall or visit the City's website www.cityofdiamondbar.com and locate the "Fire Services" link found in the "Public Safety" button by clicking on the "For Residents" tab.



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
- Hall of Horrors - 6- 9 p.m. at Heritage Park details on page 1
- Fall Fun Festival - 4:30 - 8:30 p.m. at Heritage Park details on page 2

October 2009

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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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	29	30	31

November 2009

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1 <small>Daylight Saving Time Ends</small>	2	3 <small>Election Day Check www.vote.net for details & polling locations</small>	4	5 <small>Veterans Recognition Ceremony 9-11 am at Diamond Bar Center</small>	6	7
8	9	10	11 <small>Veterans Day City Offices Closed</small>	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26 <small>Thanksgiving Day City Offices Closed</small>	27 <small>City Offices Closed</small>	28
29	30					

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