

# City News

Published Monthly For Residents & Businesses in Diamond Bar



## Maintain a Proper Drainage System

Cold weather season is here, and the City would like to remind residents of the importance of surveying their properties to identify and correct problem areas in preparation for potential heavy rain.

All homeowners, but particularly those who live on hillsides, should be knowledgeable of the areas on their property where water and debris flow and collect, and plan diversions accordingly.

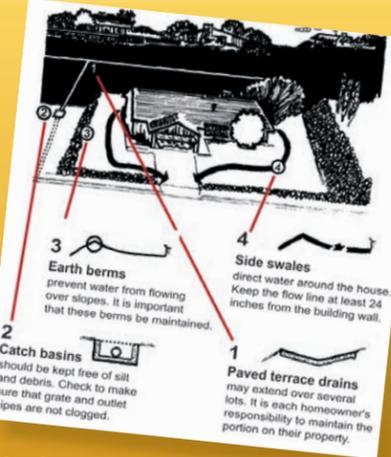
When implementing water diversion measures, also known as a drainage system, it is important that efforts to protect one's property do not result in diverting water onto a neighbor's property where it could cause damage.

Remember, maintaining a proper drainage system is every homeowner's responsibility; poorly maintained drainage systems can result in serious flood damages.

Routine inspection and maintenance of one's private drainage system should include ensuring all slopes drain properly; cleaning gutters and downspouts; and removing overgrown landscaping on or near drains along retaining walls.

Additional information, including warning signs of a possible slope failure, is available in the "Slope Maintenance and Erosion Control" section of the City website [www.CityofDiamondBar.com](http://www.CityofDiamondBar.com) by clicking "Government," "Public Works" and "Environmental Services." For more information, contact the City's Public Works Department at 909.839.7040.

**This diagram illustrates a property with several common drainage features in place. See page 2 for information on how to use sandbags and where to get them.**



City of Diamond Bar **Saturday November 6 10 am - 2 pm**  
**eco expo** Pantera Park 738 Pantera Drive  
 Learn how to reduce your carbon footprint

- free e-waste drop-off opportunity
- mulch bags
- LED holiday light strands and CFL light bulbs\*
- Arts and crafts for the kids
- Admission
- Giveaways

\*Supplies are limited. See website for more details.

Information: 909.839.7040  
[www.cityofdiamondbar.com](http://www.cityofdiamondbar.com)

## Free Emergency Alerts, Are You Signed Up?

When emergencies hit, it's the "unknown" that makes us uneasy.

Instinctively, we want to know "What happened?" "Am I affected?" "What's being done to return things back to "normal?" and "Is there anything I can do to ensure the safety of my family and property?"

If you live or work here in Diamond Bar, getting answers to those questions is as simple as registering a phone number or email address.

For over a year now, the City has had an emergency alert system in place designed to inform its residents and businesses about emergencies affecting Diamond Bar.

The system, known as Connect-CYT, is a high-speed notification system that gives City officials the ability to deliver pre-recorded emergency alerts to targeted geographic areas or the entire city, depending on the emergency-affected area.

Examples of times when the system could be utilized are fires, floods, earthquakes, chemical spills, or other incidents where rapid notification is of vital importance.

Individuals with unlisted numbers, those who have recently changed their phone number, or those who use a cell phone or Smart phone as their primary line



are strongly encouraged to visit the City's website [www.CityofDiamondBar.com](http://www.CityofDiamondBar.com) and click on the "Emergency Alerts" link to update their information.

Aside from emergency-related messages, subscribers should anticipate receiving occasional 30-second test messages as part of City's efforts to ensure the system is working properly.

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

## Behind the Headline...

Proactive and open communication with its residents and businesses is a responsibility the City takes very seriously. To achieve this, the City uses a variety of mediums, including this newsletter, its website, television channel, email alerts and newsletters, and most recently social media tools – Facebook and Twitter. The City also regularly turns to mainstream media to further disseminate messages through newspapers, radio, and television outlets.

However, perhaps due to space limitations or their deadline-driven nature, newspapers sometimes publish incomplete stories with sensationalized headings resulting in articles that are successful in generating additional attention from other media outlets, but unsuccessful in delivering a balanced story to its readers. As an example, an article regarding the City's enforcement of ordinances related to the upkeep of properties, such as that of inoperative vehicles, was recently published in a local newspaper.

The article erroneously implied that the City's code enforcement procedure consisted of only two steps: citation followed by arrest.

If the article had been balanced, readers would have learned that the procedure includes the issuance of three courtesy notices that each give the property owner ample time to correct the City Code violation with no fine to pay. Only after continued disregard of these three notices are Civil Citations and associated fines sent to the property owner via Certified Mail, offering an opportunity for him or her to contest the citation during an optional administrative hearing, and if necessary, also request a fine waiver based on proof of financial hardship.

And that it is only after the fourth Civil Citation is issued with the City Code violation still uncorrected, that the case is forwarded to the City Prosecutor's Office for enforcement, as allowed by State law. It should also be noted that at any point in the process, the property owner is given the opportunity to bring the violation into compliance and have the case dismissed without penalty or fine.

The goal of the City's code enforcement efforts is compliance, not to generate revenue since fines are very rarely levied or collected, nor is it intended to punish property owners. Having and enforcing the Municipal Code benefits the community as a whole by minimizing public health threats, and ensuring safer, more attractive neighborhoods, and benefits individual homeowners by preserving the value of their investment.

While the City can appreciate that the timely delivery of news is of great importance; accuracy, objectivity and balance are just as, if not more, important.

The latest information on City programs, procedures, and services is readily available on the City website [www.CityofDiamondBar.com](http://www.CityofDiamondBar.com). If you still have questions, don't hesitate to call 909.839.7055, email [publicinfo@ci.diamond-bar.ca.us](mailto:publicinfo@ci.diamond-bar.ca.us) or complete an online survey available at the top right corner of the City's website homepage.



## Shop Diamond Bar - the Cab Ride is On Us!

While making your list and checking it twice this holiday season, remember that shopping in town saves you time and gas, and helps fund valuable City services. That's because one percent of the sales tax amount of every purchase made within city limits goes into the City's General Fund, which is used to pay for law enforcement services, park and community facility maintenance, and improvements to our local streets and roads.

And between Friday, November 26 and Sunday, January 2, residents 18 years of age and older will be able to take advantage of free cab rides from their home to a

Diamond Bar shopping center and back home, as part of the City's annual Holiday Diamond Ride program. The program, financed through the City's Proposition A Transit Tax Fund, is aimed at making shopping a little easier for residents while supporting local businesses and boosting sales tax revenues.

Proof of Diamond Bar residency (driver license or utility bill) will be required to use the Holiday Diamond Ride Program. For more information or to set up a ride, call 800.578.6555.



## Beware of FOG, It Could be Lurking in Your Pipes

**Question:** What do you do with fat, oil, or grease (FOG) left over after frying bacon or sautéing veggies?

If the answer is “Pour it down the drain,” you may be contributing to a future sewer backup.

The City’s Environmental Services Division reminds residents that even the smallest amount of fat, oil and grease (FOG) poured down the drain or garbage disposal will solidify when it cools down and stick to the insides of sewer pipes.

Over time, the debris build-up will obstruct water flow that lead to backups into homes and businesses, or overflows onto streets and private properties.

Common FOG found in kitchens include cooking oils, salad dressings and sandwich spreads; meat juices and fat; cheese and butter.

Here are several simple measures to help keep FOG out of our sewer pipes:

- **Do not dump cooking oil, fat, or grease into the kitchen sink.** Using hot water and soap to wash it down the drain will not help because it will cool and harden in your pipes. Instead, pour used grease into a sealable container, let it solidify, and dispose in the trash.
- **Before washing your dishes, scrape remaining grease and food scraps into the trash bin,** even if you have a garbage disposal.
- **Do not soak greasy pans or containers;** instead wipe it out with a paper towel before washing them.
- **Use cat litter or other absorbent material to soak up large grease spills** and then dispose in the trash.

For more information on FOG, call the City’s Environmental Services Division at 909.839.7035.

## Gas Pipeline Safety Information Available

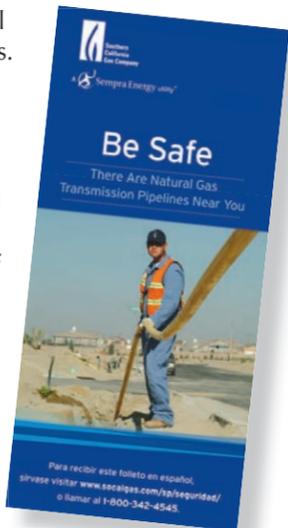
The recent natural gas pipeline explosion in Northern California left many individuals concerned about the location and safety of local natural gas transmission pipelines.

In response to these concerns, So Cal Gas last month sent out an informational safety brochure to its residential and business customers within one-eighth mile of one of its pipelines.

This brochure includes information on how to prevent, spot, and respond to a natural gas leak; the types of above-ground markers used to identify the location of transmission lines along major pipeline routes, and the importance of calling 811 before beginning any type of digging.

So Cal Gas also placed transmission pipeline information included in the U.S. Department of Transportation Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration’s online database on its website [www.SocalGas.com](http://www.SocalGas.com).

Pipeline Safety brochures for both residential customers and excavators/contractors are available for viewing and downloading at [www.socalgas.com/safety/brochures.html](http://www.socalgas.com/safety/brochures.html). The “Gas Transmission and High Pressure Distribution Pipeline Interactive Map” is available at [www.socalgas.com/safety/mapintro.html](http://www.socalgas.com/safety/mapintro.html).



## The Proper Use of Sandbags

When properly used, sandbags are a simple and effective way to redirect water and debris flows away from properties. However, it’s important to keep in mind that sandbags are for low-flow protection (maximum of two feet), that they don’t guarantee a water tight seal, and that they deteriorate when exposed for several months to continued wetting and drying.

### How to form an effective sandbag wall:

1. Fill sandbags half-full with sand or soil and fold the tops down.
2. Place them on their folded top, tightly against one another, lengthwise and parallel to the direction of water flow.
3. When stacking sandbags, stagger the second and subsequent layer of bags, similar to the pattern of bricks on a wall.

Instructional information for the use of sandbags is available at most fire stations.

### Where to get sandbags and sand:

As usual, free sand and sandbags are available at most County of Los Angeles fire stations including Diamond Bar fire stations 119 (20480 Pathfinder Road), and 121 (346 Armitos Road).

As a reminder, households are limited to 25 sandbags and residents are required to fill their own sandbags; a shovel is recommended.

Should the fire station be unstaffed at the time you visit, the following options are suggested:



- Wait for fire station personnel to return to quarters;
  - Go to the next closest fire station; or
  - Purchase sandbags/sand at any local retailer
- For more information call Fire Station 119 at 909.598.4290 or Fire Station 121 at 909.396.0164.

## FREE Advertising for Nonprofits

Diamond Bar schools and nonprofits are encouraged to submit details about events, calls for members or volunteers, and fundraisers to the City’s Public Information Division for free promotion on DBtv, the City Channel.

To have information promoted on DBtv, nonprofits simply need to complete a slide request form and return it to City Hall a minimum of four weeks prior to the event or meeting date.

DBtv can be found on Time Warner Cable Channel 3 and Verizon FiOS Television Channel 47. The slide request form is available on the City website [www.CityofDiamondBar.com](http://www.CityofDiamondBar.com) or by calling 909.839.7056.

## Change your Clock, Change your Batteries

Sunday, November 7, is the day we “fall back” an hour to end Daylight Saving Time. The City joins the Los Angeles County Fire Department in urging residents to use the hour regained to change the batteries in all the household items you rely on during an emergency. These items include smoke alarms, carbon monoxide alarms, battery-powered flashlights and weather radios.

## November City Office Closures

City offices will be closed Wednesday, November 11 in observance of Veterans’ Day and Thursday and Friday, November 25 - 26 in observance of Thanksgiving. Street sweeping is not affected by either holiday; however refuse pickup will be delayed 1 day on Thanksgiving.

## Candy Cane CRAFT FAIR

*An extravaganza of handmade items perfect for gift-giving!*

Several dozen local handcrafters are poised to set up shop in the Diamond Bar Center ballroom as part of the City’s annual Candy Cane Craft Fair. The popular fair, now in its 5th year, will take place from 9 am to 2 pm on Saturday, December 4. Items available for viewing and purchasing this year include knitted items, jewelry, and holiday décor.

Keepsake photo packages with Santa for a nominal fee and free supervised holiday-themed crafts and activities to entertain little ones will also be available. Admission is free and open to the public.

The Diamond Bar Center is located at 1600 Grand Avenue. For more information, contact the City’s Recreational Services Division at 909.839.7070.

## CITY HALL ONLINE

24 hours a day, 7 days a week  
[www.CityofDiamondBar.com](http://www.CityofDiamondBar.com)

### “Take a Survey” Webpage

One of the links on the top right corner of the City’s website homepage is titled “Surveys.” Clicking on this link will take you to a page featuring surveys on a variety of topics.

Some surveys are changed out periodically, while others such as the “Let Us Know What You Think” survey are there on a permanent basis.

This survey option is just one of the communication tools the City uses to obtain feedback from its residents and businesses.

## Tennis Anyone? Lessons for All Ages and Skill Levels!

Among the recreational opportunities the City is serving up this season are tennis lessons for individuals of various ages and skill levels.

Lessons include "Small Group Tennis Clinics" for ages 7 to 17. Participants will be grouped with other players based on skill level and age. Instruction will range from simple rules and procedures to more complex game strategies depending on skill level.

Experienced tennis players can enroll into the "Advanced Junior Tennis Academy." This lesson is for players ages 8 to 17 who have successfully attained all 3 Beginning Junior Academy patches. The focus of this clinic is to give experienced players a chance to engage in "Match Play" against each other in an organized setting.



Also offered is "Tournament Tennis Academy" for players age 10 and older who are on a high school varsity team, have a Southern California Ranking or NTRP rating of 3.5 or above, or who have won a satellite tournament.

Lessons take place at the Ronald Reagan Park tennis courts, 2201 S. Peaceful Hills Road in Diamond Bar. The cost for each 4-week lesson varies depending on the number of days per week a player wishes to take lessons. New lessons begin every month.

More details about the tennis classes are listed on page 9 of the City's fall Community Recreation Guide, available for pickup at City Hall, Diamond Bar Center, and the Diamond Bar Library. An electronic version is also available at [www.CityofDiamondBar.com](http://www.CityofDiamondBar.com).

## Holiday Toy Drives

Toy drives aimed at benefiting local qualifying families during the holidays are set to get underway this month.

Diamond Bar City Hall (21825 Copley Drive), Diamond Bar Center (1600 Grand Avenue), and Heritage Park Community Center (2900 S. Brea Canyon Road) will all serve as collection points for the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve's *Toys for Tots* drive from November 1 through December 7, while the L.A. County Fire Department will have collection boxes for its *Spark of Love* drive available at all fire stations between November 29 and December 20. Toys can be for either boys or girls age newborn through 17, but must be new and unwrapped.

For more information about *Spark of Love*, visit [www.fire.lacounty.gov](http://www.fire.lacounty.gov) or call 323.881.2411. Details about *Toys for Tots* are available by visiting [www.toysfortots.org](http://www.toysfortots.org) or calling 909.869.0701.



## Tiny Tots Mini-Camp



Children ages 3 to 5 years old will have a special opportunity to celebrate winter when they attend the City's Tiny Tots Holiday Camp.

The popular camp will be held Monday, November 29 through Friday, December 17 at both Heritage Park (2900 Brea Canyon Road) and Pantera Park (738 Pantera Drive) in Diamond Bar. It will feature a variety of winter-themed activities, including art projects, stories, games, music, and a special visit by a North Pole friend.

Children age 3 meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 am to 12:30 pm while those age 4 and 5 meet Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 9 am to 12:30 pm. The cost for the three-week camp is \$84 for children age 3, and \$126 for those age 4 and 5.

Early registration is recommended, as class size is limited and slots fill quickly. For more information or to register, call the City's Recreation Services Division at 909.839.7070 or stop by the Diamond Bar Center (1600 Grand Avenue in Diamond Bar) during business hours.



## Ask City Hall

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

**Q:** I'm interested in teaching a class in Diamond Bar. How can I become a contract class instructor?

**A:** The City prides itself in offering residents a diverse selection of classes, and welcomes new class ideas that will further expand recreation choices in Diamond Bar. There are several opportunities throughout the year for individuals to submit a proposal to teach a class during one of the City's quarterly recreation programs.

When reviewing proposals, the City takes care to select those which propose classes that show promise of appealing to its intended audience and that are not currently offered. This helps ensure that classes do not have to be canceled due to low registration.

The next proposal due date is December 8, 2010 for the spring 2011 session running March 26 through June 17, 2010. The proposal form and other instructor application material is available for download on the City website

[www.CityofDiamondBar.com](http://www.CityofDiamondBar.com) or can be requested by mail by contacting Recreation Coordinator April Batson at 909.839.7072 or [april.batson@ci.diamond-bar.ca.us](mailto:april.batson@ci.diamond-bar.ca.us).

As a reminder, all individuals conducting business within city limits are required to have a business license (available at City Hall for only \$10 a year).

## "Indy Adventure" Dance for Pre-Teens

DB 4Youth "In Action" is calling 6th, 7th, 8th graders to join them at the Diamond Bar Center on from 7-10 pm on Friday, November 12. That's when it will be holding a special dance titled "Indy Adventure."

All 6th, 7th and 8th graders in Diamond Bar regardless of the school they attend are invited to participant. Event fliers with mandatory parent permission forms are available at the Diamond Bar Center, City Hall and all Diamond Bar middle school offices.

The entrance fee is \$5, with optional photos, glow sticks, and snacks available for purchase.

Diamond Bar Center is located at 1600 S. Grand Avenue. For more information or to assist with event planning, contact Recreation Specialist Alison Meyers at 909.839.7024.

## Holiday Shopping Safety Tips

The City joins the Diamond Bar/Walnut Sheriff's Station in encouraging residents to take the following precautions while shopping for the upcoming holiday season:

### IN PERSON

**Shop early.** Shopping near closing time means fewer people are present.

**Avoid carrying cash.** If possible, carry only your identification card, personal checks, or credit/debit cards to pay for purchases.

**Keep your packages light.** Ask the store's package pick-up to hold your purchased items or place them in the trunk of your vehicle.

**Remain vigilant.** Have your car keys ready in hand before leaving the store, and stay alert to your surroundings.



### ONLINE

**Protect your computer.** Ensure the latest anti-virus software is installed and properly running before shopping online.

**Shop with reputable merchants.** Shop only with Internet merchants you know and trust and always print and save the confirmation page when completing an online purchase.

**Be wary of unsolicited mail.** If you receive an unsolicited email from an Internet merchant, don't click on the links within it. Instead, locate the merchant's

Web site address through a reputable search engine.

**Read the fine print.** Check the merchants' refund and privacy policies and don't provide your Social Security number, birth date, or mother's maiden name.

## Diamond Bar Community Foundation Holiday Gala Fundraiser

Tickets are still available for purchase to the Diamond Bar Community Foundation's annual Holiday Gala scheduled for Saturday, November 13. The 7th annual event will be held at the Diamond Bar Center, 1600 Grand Avenue, from 6 - 11pm. Event proceeds benefit art, culture, and recreation programs within Diamond Bar.

Ticket prices and other event-related information is available online at [www.theDBCF.org](http://www.theDBCF.org) or by phone at 909.860.6088.

# Find it Fast Phone Directory

<b>City Services</b>	<b>909.839.7000</b>
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
<b>Business Information:</b>	
Business Licenses	909.839.7030
Chamber of Commerce	909.869.0701
<b>School Districts:</b>	
Pomona Unified	909.397.4700
Walnut Valley Unified	909.595.1261
<b>Utilities:</b>	
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
<b>Public Safety:</b>	
Animal Control	909.623.9777
Fire (LA County)*	909.629.9671
Police (LA Co. Sheriff)*	909.595.2264
Vector Control	562.944.9656
<b>24-Hour Hotlines:</b>	
Building Inspection Hotline	909.839.7027
Graffiti Hotline	800.794.7384
Job Hotline	909.612.4636 x 1410

\*For emergencies, dial 9-1-1



21825 Copley Drive  
Diamond Bar, CA 91765-4178  
909.839.7000 ♦ 909.861.3117 Fax  
[www.CityofDiamondBar.com](http://www.CityofDiamondBar.com)  
[info@ci.diamond-bar.ca.us](mailto:info@ci.diamond-bar.ca.us)

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### Elected Officials

**Mayor**..... Carol Herrera  
**Mayor Pro Tem** ..... Steve Tye  
**Council Member** ..... Ling-Ling Chang  
**Council Member** ..... Ron Everett  
**Council Member** ..... Jack Tanaka  
**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



### HAPPY MEDIAN...

Last month saw the completion of a construction project that created a new raised landscaped median on Pathfinder Road between the intersection of South Brea Canyon Road/Fern Hollow Drive and the Northbound State Route 57 on and off ramps. This new median replaces the former pavement markers (Texas Dots) and is aimed at eliminating unsafe and illegal left-turn access from driveways located on the south side of Pathfinder Road. Another plus to the project was the installation of pipes that will carry reclaimed water for irrigation of the median when the option is made available by the local water district in the near future.

### TRAVEL PREVIEW...

Last month, travel enthusiasts viewed PowerPoint presentation previews of some of the trips that will be available in 2011 through the City's Senior Extended Excursion program. The presentations held at the Diamond Bar Center gave attendees a glimpse of the top sights and places of interest in New Orleans, Costa Rica, Australia, Israel, Egypt, and Amsterdam. More information about the extended trips available to adults age 55 and older is available in the current and upcoming City community recreation guides or by calling the City's Senior Services Division at 909.839.7068.



### 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
- Street Sweeping Week
- Echo Expo - 10 am-2 pm at Pantera Park  
Details on Page 1
- Veterans' Recognition Ceremony - 8 - 10 am at the Diamond Bar Center

## BE EMERGENCY READY

**FIND US** on Facebook & Twitter **REGISTER/UPDATE** your phone, cell phone, or email for Emergency Alerts [www.CityofDiamondBar.com](http://www.CityofDiamondBar.com)

**Emergency in Progress:**  
**LOG ON** [www.CityofDiamondBar.com](http://www.CityofDiamondBar.com)  
**TUNE IN** to Ch. 3 (Time Warner)/Ch. 47 (Verizon FiOS)

### November 2010

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	29	30				

### December 2010

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	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](http://www.CityofDiamondBar.com).