

City News

Published Monthly For Residents & Businesses in Diamond Bar

2011 Holiday Home Decorating Contest Winners

Following two competitive rounds of judging, three Diamond Bar homes decked out in their festive finest were selected the winners of the City 2011 Holiday Home Decorating Contest.

Now in its third year, the contest saw more than 60 homes vying for the top spot in the categories of "Best Holiday Spirit," "Best Lawn Display," and "Most Energy-Efficient." Judging was based on display creativity, curb appeal, and use of lighting.

And the winners are...

"Best Holiday Spirit" – The Ayad Family, 24100 Benfield Pl.



"Best Lawn Display" – The Saldana Family, 21104 E. Gerndal St.



"Most Energy-Efficient" – The Monk Family, 1041 Farel Ave.



Contest winners were presented with a 4-foot tall "Contest Winner" yard sign, and will be formally recognized during the regular City Council meeting of January 17.

Organized by the City's Environmental Services Division, the contest is aimed at recognizing Diamond Bar residents who enhance the spirit of the season in the community while making an effort to incorporate energy-efficient practices into their outdoor holiday trimmings by using at least one strand of LED lights.



Winter Snow Fest

Snow-padded hills, snow play areas, winter-themed activities, and fair food favorites will make for a good time on Saturday, January 14 when the City holds its annual Winter Snow Fest event at Pantera Park.

The event takes place from 10 am to 4 pm at Pantera Park, 738 Pantera Drive, and also includes holiday recitals by various community groups and a special appearance by Flurry the Sledding Penguin.

Admission and access to the snow play areas is free, however sledding, game and

craft areas are subject to a minimal fee - \$5.00 for unlimited sledding and \$1 to participate in four games/crafts. Free shuttle service to and from Pantera Park and the surrounding neighborhood will be available regularly throughout event hours.

Parents are encouraged to dress their children in closed-toed shoes and gloves. No outside sleds will be allowed. For more information, visit www.diamondbarca.gov/specialevents or call 909.830.7070.

Survey Respondents Vote Not In Favor of ZIP Consolidation

United States Post Office has advised the City that, as a result of the outcome of its recent survey, it will not be consolidating all Diamond Bar addresses into one 91765 ZIP Code.

The survey, prepared and sent out by USPS in October 2011 to the approximately 3,200 addresses within the 91789 ZIP Code area, returned a majority of votes in opposition of a consolidated ZIP Code.

Specifically, USPS saw a return of 1,935 surveys reflecting 978 votes not in favor, 786 votes in favor, 17 non-responses; and 154 indicating vacant addresses.

With votes in opposition of the consolidation outnumbering those in support, the USPS will

not be implementing any ZIP Code changes to the addresses that utilize the Walnut 91789 ZIP Code and receive mail delivery service from the Walnut Post Office.

More than 80 percent of Diamond Bar addresses use the 91765 ZIP Code, with the other percentage falling within the 91789 ZIP Code largely associated with Walnut addresses. Postal ZIP Codes are determined by the USPS for the purpose of staffing and mail delivery, regardless of municipal boundaries.

For more information, contact the City's Public Information Division at 909.839.7055 or info@diamondbarca.gov.

New Location for City Hall Offices

Located right across from the AQMD building

Effective Tuesday, January 3, 2012, City Hall will begin operating out of the second floor of the new Diamond Bar Civic Center located at 21810 Copley Drive.

An Open House to give members of the public an opportunity to tour City Hall will be held mid-February, with a Grand Opening and Building Dedication event planned for early fall when the County of Los Angeles completes the relocation of its Diamond Bar branch library to nearly 24,000 square feet of space on the first level of the two-story building.

City Hall's main phone number 909.839.7000 and business hours of 7:30 am to 5:30 pm Monday through Thursday, and 7:30 am to 4:30 pm on Fridays remain the same.

For more information about the relocation or the events, contact the City's Public Information Division at 909.839.7055 or visit

www.diamondbarca.gov/cityhallrelocation.

Get Your Copies

Here's a reminder that the City's latest Calendar and Services Guide and Street Sweeping Schedule

are now available for pickup at various locations throughout the community, including City Hall (21810 Copley Drive), Diamond Bar Library (1061 Grand Avenue), and Diamond Bar Center (1600 Grand Avenue).

If you haven't already, be sure to get your free copies before supplies are depleted.



Student Drop-Off Protocol

With this month marking the mid-way point in the 2011-12 school year, the Diamond Bar Sheriff's Special Projects Team reminds parents about the importance of following the traffic procedures established by local schools.

If you are a driver responsible for dropping off children at school, remember to be extra vigilant when driving within school zones and follow these simple practices:

- Leave home a few minutes earlier than usual; this could mean missing the school traffic altogether since congestion only lasts 20 to 25 minutes.
- Do not pick your own route and drop-off areas; it not only disrupts the normal traffic flow, but also creates an unsafe environment for children.
- Follow school staff directions and observe all traffic and parking signs; together these measures ensure the safe and efficient drop-off of students.
- Make sure your child is ready to quickly exit from the passenger side of your vehicle when you reach the unloading zone by having all books, lunches, and backpacks close at hand, not in the trunk or backseat. Also, extended goodbyes and good luck wishes should be given at home, not in the loading zone.



- Pull forward as much as possible in the unloading zones – three to four feet between cars is a good distance; this allows more parents to drop off their children at the same time. Loading zones should not be treated as parking areas; therefore drivers should never exit their vehicles. Whenever possible, parents should consider arranging carpools with neighbors, or walking children to school.

Relay for Life Seeks Your Support

This month, the Diamond Bar Relay for Life Committee is hosting a special kick-off rally to launch its fundraising efforts for 2012. The rally is taking place on Monday, January 23 at D'Antonio's Ristorante, 808 N. Diamond Bar Boulevard, and will give interested individuals a chance to join a walking/running team or sign up for a volunteer position.

Diamond Bar Relay for Life 2012 will take place May 19-20 at Lorbeer Middle School. For more information, visit www.relayforlife.org/diamondbarca or email Event Chairperson Hala Murad at halammurad@gmail.com. Relay for Life is the American Cancer Society's 24-hour signature annual event that raises funds for cancer research, prevention, education, early detection and patient services.



Congratulations 2011 Photo Contest Winners!



Diamond Bar Through My Lens Photo Contest 2011

For the fourth year in a row, a slew of residents exercised their shutter finger around town and entered their pictorial definition of Diamond Bar living into the City's annual community photo contest.

The 2011 contest received more than 250 entries and culminated on November 15 with the presentation of congratulatory certificates and cash prizes to the winners, which were:

Lien Hoang (Adult People), Gabriel Perez (Adult Pets & Adult Places), Rick Betancourt (Adult Nature), Tanna Way (Adult Black and White), Esther Chan (Youth People), Jordyn Rowland (Youth Pets), Christopher Rivas (Youth Places), Kitty Jia (Youth Nature) and Diana Dieu (Youth Black & White and Residents' Choice).

Honorable mentions went to:

Cheuck Wong (Adult People), Inez Gonzales (Youth People), Melissa Chang (Adult Pets), Ralph Hodges (Adult Pets), Vincent Mak (Adult Nature), Wei Song (Adult Nature), Raechel Way (Adult Nature), Ben Koyano (Youth Nature), June Grothe (Adult Places), Barbara Yoder (Adult Places), and Armando Pedroza (Adult Black & White).

Co-sponsored by the Diamond Bar Community Foundation, the "Diamond Bar Through My Lens" photo contest is open to all ages and aims to raise community pride while showcasing the photography talents of residents.

This year's contest will begin accepting entries on Monday, April 16. For more details or to view the winning entries, visit www.diamondbarca.gov/photocontest.

City Job Opportunities

There are currently three part-time employment opportunities within the City's Community Services Department – Community Services Specialist and Field Attendant I and II. Part-time positions do not include benefits and average 19 hours per week and no more than 1,000 hours in a 12-month period. The deadline to apply is January 16 for the Community Services Specialist position and January 30 for the Field Attendant positions. Additional details about these openings, including the employment application, are available at www.diamondbarca.gov/employment.

Nominations Sought for Outstanding Community Volunteers

The City is now accepting nominations for its 2012 Outstanding Volunteer Service Award Program. Residents are invited to nominate a family member, friend, neighbor, or work colleague who makes a difference in the Diamond Bar community through his or her service to a nonprofit organization or other worthy cause. Chosen volunteers will be acknowledged with a special certificate from the Diamond Bar City Council and local elected officials during the City's 23rd annual Birthday Party set for April 16. For more details about the program or to submit your nomination online, visit www.diamondbarca.gov/volunteerrecognition.

Senior Softball Team Now Recruiting

Sports enthusiasts age 50 and older are invited to join a Diamond Bar softball team that forms part of the well-established Inter-City Senior Softball League.

There are currently 12 teams comprising men and women players in their 50s through 70s. League rules call for each team to be made up of 9 to 11 players, of which a minimum of 3 must be women.

Practice games commence in March, with season games played April through September; they start at either 9 am or 10 am and last approximately an hour and a half. For more information, call 909.839.7034.



Free Tax Preparation Assistance for Seniors

Tax season is almost here and the City is once again partnering with the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) to assist adults 55 years of age and older with the preparation of their income tax returns. The free service will be available at the Diamond Bar Center (1600 Grand Avenue) every Wednesday from 8 am to 11:30 am starting February 1 through April 11.

Appointments are required, and tax filers should bring with them copies of their previous year's returns, and all other documents reflecting income and expenses for 2011. For more information, call the City's Recreation Services Division at 909.839.7070.

STAR Program Steers Students in the Right Direction

Observe, for just a few moments, Sheriff's Deputy Kim Whitlow interacting with a classroom of elementary-age students and it will be more than apparent that she found her true calling.

The 32-year member of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department has spent the last 18 years teaching the Success Through Awareness & Resistance (STAR) program to students in grades 4th through 6th.

Even after teaching the same program for nearly two decades, there's still excitement in Deputy Whitlow's voice when she shares stories about the students she's positively influenced through the STAR program.

One of those stories was that of two former STAR program participants, now in their teenage years and working at a local McDonald's restaurant. The teenagers greeted Deputy Whitlow and told her that they remembered her sharing that her first job as a teenager was at McDonald's, and that they were following in her footsteps.

"It makes me feel good to leave an impression with a lot of young people," Deputy Whitlow says. "I love seeing so many of them grow up and come back to share how my lessons helped guide them on the right path."

It's Tuesday morning, and Deputy Whitlow is at Evergreen Elementary School in Mrs. Sally Choi-Hwang's 4th grade classroom teaching a STAR lesson titled "Go Boosters and Busters."

She reminds her students the meaning of "boosters," and "busters." A "booster" is someone who is encouraging, supportive, and helps you achieve your goals," Deputy Whitlow explains. "A "buster" is the exact opposite – it's someone who doesn't help you, but rather sidetracks you from achieving your goals" she adds.



In an animated fashion that captures everyone's attention and at times stirs up laughter she recounts how her mom served as her booster when she was first learning to ride a bicycle.

She explains that rather than speaking to her harshly when she took a fall, her mom kindly tended to her scraped knee and nudged her to continue practicing until she learned to ride on her own.

She continues her lesson by calling for volunteers to help with role-playing, and a couple dozen eager arms shoot high in the air.

To give as many students as possible the chance to play a part, Deputy Whitlow organizes several brief scenarios. And even those students who opted to stay in their seats participated by pointing out whom of their classmates were

playing the part of "boosters" and whom were assuming the role of "busters."

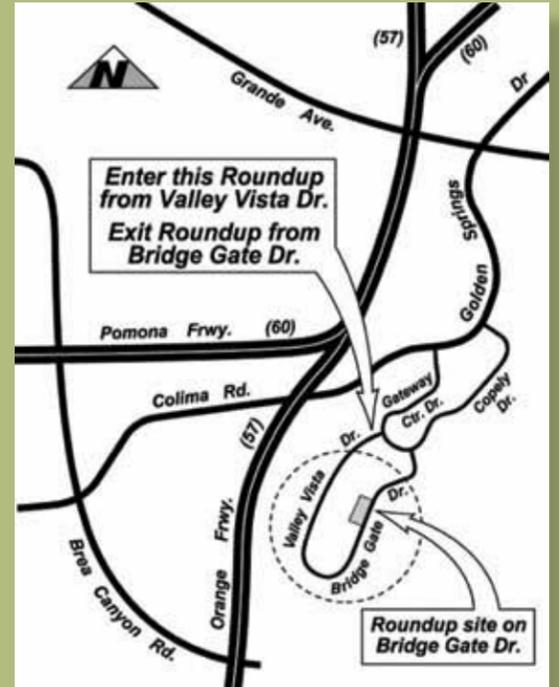
On this occasion, the goal of the STAR lesson was to teach children the importance of choosing friends wisely by recognizing when someone is being of benefit or detriment to achieving one's goals.

Other other areas include how to build self-esteem, resist peer pressure, avoid conflicts and violence, cope with stressful situations, set and meet goals, and even how to make healthful eating choices. A total of eight lessons are covered and culminate with a year-end assembly that includes a fun game of Friendly Feud where students compete for prizes by demonstrating what they've learned through their participation in the STAR program.

In 2011, Deputy Whitlow was named STAR Deputy of the Year by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.

Free HHW/ E-Waste Collection

Saturday, February 18, is the date of the next free HHW / E-Waste Collection set to take place from 9 am to 3 pm on the 1300 block of Bridge Gate Drive in Diamond Bar.



Co-sponsored by the City and the County of Los Angeles, the collection event is open to the residential public and accepts unwanted household electronics and chemicals that cannot be disposed of in the regular trash.

Examples of items accepted include automotive fluids, paint, pesticides, prescriptions, household and car batteries, TVs, mercury thermometers or thermostats, and used Sharps (in a sturdy box labeled "SHARPS"). Items not accepted include explosives, ammunition, radioactive materials, tires, business waste, and white goods (stoves, fridges, etc.).

If participating, keep in mind the following:

- ✓ It is illegal to transport more than 15 gallons or 125 pounds of hazardous waste in your personal vehicle.
- ✓ Items for disposal should be packed in a sturdy box, preferably in their original, labeled containers.
- ✓ Because of permitting requirements and the volume of people that utilize the program, be prepared to leave your containers; items such as gasoline cans will not be returned.

For more information, contact the City's Environmental Services Division at 909.839.7035 or greendb@diamondbarca.gov.

Median Modification Project

This month, a project gets underway to reconstruct a portion of the southbound raised median at the intersection of Diamond Bar Boulevard and Clear Creek Canyon. The work involves narrowing the median width to allow the left-turn pocket to shift and the line-of-sight to improve for northbound and southbound vehicles making left-turns from Diamond Bar Boulevard into Clear Creek Canyon. It is anticipated that the project will be completed by early February.



Free Sandbags at Fire Stations

Free sand and sandbags are available at all Los Angeles County fire stations. There is a 25-bag limit per household; and a shovel is recommended to bag sand since sites are self-service.

Here in Diamond Bar, the fire stations with available supplies are fire stations 119 (20480 Pathfinder Road) and 121 (346 Armitos Road).

For more information to confirm availability of supplies before visiting, call Fire Station 119 at 909.598.4290 or Fire Station 121 at 909.396.0164.



SCE Warns of Cold Weather Dangers

Southern California Edison (SCE) reminds readers that cold weather often brings with it safety risks, many of which can be avoided if proper caution is taken.

Downed Power Lines. High on this list of potential winter-related dangers are downed power lines as a result of strong winds. Even if they appear not to be live, downed power lines should be treated as if they are energized. The rule is not to touch, move or go near any kind of downed or hanging line but rather immediately call 911 and inform the operator that it is an electrical emergency.

Generators. If you or a family member uses a generator, place it outdoors and plug individual appliances directly into the generator, using a heavy-duty extension cord. Connecting generators directly to household circuits creates "backfeed," which is dangerous to repair crews.

Heating Equipment. Do not use any equipment inside that is designed for outdoor heating or outdoor cooking. Such equipment can emit carbon monoxide and other toxic gases.

Outages. If driving, watch for traffic signals that may be out and treat those intersections as you would four-way stops. If at home, shut-off electronic equipment that was operating when the power went out as well as major electric appliances; this will help stabilize the electric system when power is restored. Also, use flashlights for lighting during a power outage; do not use candles because they may pose a significant fire hazard.

In the event of a cold-weather emergency, SCE recommends you visit its website www.sce.com or official Twitter page www.twitter.com/socaledison to obtain the most up-to-date information about any power outages or lines down. You can also call 800.611.1911.

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	909.839.7018
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	909.839.7076
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	909.869.0701
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
*For emergencies, dial 9-1-1	



City of Diamond Bar
21810 Copley Drive ♦ Diamond Bar, CA 91765-4178
909.839.7000 ♦ 909.861.3117 Fax
www.DiamondBarCA.gov ♦ info@DiamondBarCA.gov

Presorted Standard
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit #3339
Chino, CA

Elected Officials

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

Postal Customer

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. 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.



Snapshots Around The Community

NAUGHTY OR NICE?... Definitely nice! A week before the big day, Abby Dodds was part of the lucky bunch that, as part of the City's annual Tiny Tots Holiday Camp program, got a chance to squeeze in a final Christmas wish during a one-to-one with Santa and Mrs. Claus. The individual photos with the merry pair perfectly completed the handcrafted holiday frames the children had created as part of their camping experience. Tiny Tots, the City's popular 11-week enrichment program for children ages 3 to 5, is aimed at encouraging intellectual, physical, and social growth for a positive transition into kindergarten. Activities include story time, music, art, and play time in a safe, fun recreational setting. A new 11-week session gets underway on January 3. For registration information, call the City's Recreation Services Division at 909.839.7070. Photographed teaming up to help spread holiday cheer are City staff members Giselle Sepe and Brad Montano.



RECYCLING RESPONSIBLY... Several hundred residents took advantage of the opportunity to safely get rid of unwanted electronic waste, have confidential documents securely shredded, and take home free mulch as part of a special environment-themed event hosted by the City this past November in support of national America Recycles Day. In total, 19 tons of electronic waste that included TV and computer monitors was recycled, 4.5 tons of unwanted paper was shredded, and 10 tons of mulch (provided by Waste Management) was given away. Special thanks goes to the members of the City-sponsored teen club DB4Youth and Mt. SAC Honors Fraternity Alpha Gamma Sigma for their volunteering efforts which helped make this event a success.

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

BE EMERGENCY READY

FIND US on Facebook & Twitter
REGISTER/UPDATE your phone, cell phone, or email for Emergency Alerts
www.DiamondBarCa.gov
Emergency in Progress:
LOG ON www.DiamondBarCa.gov
TUNE IN to Ch. 3 (Time Warner)/Ch. 47 (Verizon FiOS)

Curbside Holiday Tree Collection

Residents still have time to recycle their live holiday tree at no cost. The City's waste hauler, Waste Management will continue its free curbside tree collection through Friday, January 13. Trees must be stripped of ornaments and stand, and placed at the curb on the regularly-scheduled collection day. For more information, contact Waste Management at 800.266.7551.

January 2012

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1 New Year's Day	2 New Year's Day Observed City Offices Closed	3 	4	5	6	7
8	9 	10 	11	12 	13	14 Winter Snow Fest Details on Page 1
15	16 	17 	18	19	20	21
22	23 	24 	25	26 	27	28
29	30 	31 				

February 2012

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 President's Day City Offices Closed	21 	22	23 	24	25
26	27 	28 	29			



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