

City News

Published Monthly For Residents & Businesses in Diamond Bar

New Look, For City Website

A fresh new look, an improved navigation bar, and several new features will be part of the City's updated website, scheduled to go live later this month.

The website www.cityofdiamondbar.com is considered one of the City's strongest communication tools and has grown considerably in content and function since its last update in 2004, prompting the need for the renovation.

Aside from its modern design, the revamped website has retained popular sections from the previous one while gaining new useful components, such as the "I Want To" tab on the homepage that provides a quick link to information about the most requested City services and programs.

Other new features on the homepage include a section that will highlight up to three upcoming City or community events, an "In the Spotlight" space that will display links to the most popular projects of the moment, and an area that will show visitors the latest City media releases at a glance.

In the event of an emergency, the homepage is now equipped to display an "Emergency Alert" bar to link visitors to the most up-to-date information, including evacuation center locations, street closures, and any other related safety instructions.

The organization of information and links has also been improved in the website's internal pages, making it easier to visitors to quickly locate the topics that most interest them. The functionality of the City's Department pages was enhanced with new sections that enable visitors to view calendar and news release items pertinent to the department, all from the same page.

In line with City Council's goal for Fiscal Year 2009- 2010 to increase the collection of data to gauge community interest and opinion of City projects and programs, the new website will also feature an expanded choice of customer service surveys.

Future plans for the website include adding an interactive and printable map indicating the locations and amenities of the City's nine parks, and developing a directory of all of the City's

For more information about the website, contact the City's Public Information Office at 909.839.7055.



New! City Hall On-Line

Beginning with this edition, City News will now feature a section dubbed "City Hall Online." The new section, aimed at promoting the various features, services, and tools available through the City's website, will cover a new topic each month. Turn to page 2 to read about "How to process some of the most-commonly-requested City services."



Green-minded residents with a festive spirit are invited to participate in the City's inaugural Holiday Decorating Contest!

The contest is free to enter and first place winners in the categories of "Best Holiday Spirit," "Best Lawn Display," and "Most Energy Efficient" will be awarded a congratulatory lawn display sign and an energy-efficient gift basket valued at \$150.

Since the contest is aimed at recognizing Diamond Bar residents who incorporate energy-efficient practices into their outdoor holiday trimmings, all participating homes must use at least one strand of LED lights, regardless of the category it's entered in.

Those interested in participating can register

electronically or download a copy of the entry form by visiting the City's website www.cityofdiamondbar.com and clicking on the "Residents" tab. Forms are also available for pick up at City Hall (21825 Copley Drive) and at the Diamond Bar Center (1600 Grand Avenue).

Entry forms are due back to City Hall no later than Friday, December 11 before 4:30 pm, and those residents participating are asked to keep their holiday displays lit between 7 pm and 10 pm on Wednesday, December 16 for the purpose of judging.

For more information, call the City's Community Services Department at 909.839.7070.

LED Holiday Light Exchange

Holiday spirit displays in Diamond Bar will make less of an impact on the environment this season, thanks to the City's one-time Holiday Light Exchange taking place Saturday, November 14 from 10am to 2pm at City Hall.

The Exchange event will give residents the unique opportunity to swap up to two used holiday light strings for two multi-colored LED light strings, each holding 50 bulbs and stretching 16 feet, at no cost.

LED lights use up to 90 percent less energy than standard lights, last about 100,000 hours, and are cool to the touch making them less of a fire hazard.

Also at the exchange event, attendees will have a chance to meet representatives from Southern California Edison and So Cal Gas and learn about their energy efficiency rebate programs. Waste Management, the city's waste hauler, will be on hand to collect and properly dispose of the used incandescent lights.

Due to limited supplies, the free strands of new LED lights are limited to two per household and participants must bring a valid California ID or copy of a recent utility bill to show proof of residency. Distribution will be handled on a first-come, first-serve basis.

The LED lights, purchased from a local hardware store, are being financed with funds from the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant, secured by the City earlier this year through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

For more information, call Management Analyst Patrick Gallegos at 909.839.7035.

Alert System Provides Timely Information

Residents are reminded that they are now able to sign up for the City's newly implemented emergency alert system, which transmits messages to land lines, mobile phones, and email accounts.

Should the City learn of an imminent or potential threat to the community's health and safety, it will use the system as another measure to provide timely and accurate information about the threat and any necessary instructions.

Individuals with unlisted numbers, those who have recently changed their phone number, or those who use a mobile phone as their primary line are strongly encouraged to visit the City's website www.cityofdiamondbar.com and click on the "Emergency Alerts" link to update their information.

Since the system is geographically-based, street addresses are needed when signing up so that the system can determine which individuals to notify during neighborhood-specific emergencies.

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.

The cost of maintaining the emergency alert system is approximately \$39,000 a year and is funded through the City's Emergency Preparedness budget.

For more details about the emergency alert system, visit the City's website or call the City's Public Information Office at 909.839.7055.

Businesses of the Month

And the winner is...



New Business of the Month

Happy Doggie Spa

365 S Diamond Bar Blvd

909.396.4500

Hours:

Tuesday – Saturday 9am to 6pm



Business of the Month

Travelers Insurance

Vehicle, personal, business insurance

21688 Gateway Center Drive

909.612.3000

Hours: Monday - Friday 8am to 5pm

CITY HALL ONLINE

24 HOURS a Day, 7 Days a Week
WWW.CITYOFDIAMONDBAR.COM

How to process some of the most-commonly-requested City services....

It's easy to request routine maintenance services via the City's website. Whether a pothole needs repair or a parkway tree needs trimming, simply click on "Service Request" and select the type of service you need. Requests are automatically routed to the appropriate City department. You can request to be notified by email, fax, or by phone when the request is completed, or even track the progress of the request online at any time.

Holiday Happenings!



Holiday spirit will fill the Diamond Bar Center on Saturday, December 5, when the City holds its annual Candy Cane Craft Fair from 10am to 4pm. More than 60 vendors are set to display and sell a wide variety of hand-made goods, including lotions and soaps,

knitted items, jewelry, and holiday décor. Keepsake photo packages with Santa will also be available for \$10. The Diamond Bar Center is located at 1600 Grand Avenue. For more information, contact Community Services Coordinator Andee Tarazon at 909.839.7067.

Shop - The Cab Ride Is On Us! Local

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.

From Friday, November 27 to Friday, January 1, 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 about the program, call 909.839.7045. To set up a ride, call 800.578.6555.



Holiday Safety Tips

If your holiday plans include travel, the Walnut/ Diamond Bar Sheriff's Station has a few tips to help ensure the safety of your home and possessions while you are away:

- Lock your doors and windows.
- Store your valuables, such as money or jewelry, in a safe deposit box at the bank.
- Request that your newspaper and mail delivery be put on hold while you are away.
- If possible, install outdoor lighting with motion sensors, or use timers with random on/off times for indoor lighting.
- Do not leave messages on your answering machine or voicemail informing callers that you are out of town.
- Ask a friend or neighbor to place your refuse and recycling bins by the curb the night before your scheduled collection day and returned back to their regular spot after collection.
- Contact the Diamond Bar/Walnut Sheriff's Station at 909.595.2264 to request that your home be placed on a "Vacation Security Check" list for extra patrol by trained personnel, at no cost.

Holiday Gala Fundraiser

Tickets are still available for purchase to the Diamond Bar Community Foundation's annual Holiday Gala scheduled for Saturday, November 14. The gala themed "The Stars of Diamond Bar," will be held at the Diamond Bar Center, 1600 Grand Avenue, from 6 – 10pm. Tickets are \$100 each, \$175 per couple or \$850 for a table of 10. For more information, contact Jody Roberto at jodyroberto@yahoo.com or 909.860.6088.

Holiday Toy Drive

Once again, City Hall will serve as a drop-off point for the Los Angeles County Fire Department annual Spark of Love toy drive. Beginning November 20, residents are invited to stop by and drop off new, unwrapped toys that will later be distributed to local qualifying families. For more information about the drive, call the Fire Department at 323.881.2411 or visit its website at www.fire.lacounty.gov.

City Welcomes a New Neighborhood

The City welcomed a new neighborhood into Diamond Bar last month.

Known as the Crestline Drive/Diamond Canyon neighborhood, the area is located at the southeast side of Brea Canyon Cutoff and Pathfinder Road, and has an estimated population of 500.

Prompted by requests from the neighborhood's residents to become part of Diamond Bar, the City initiated the annexation process in 2007 with the County of Los Angeles' Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO).

This process, which involved several community meetings, public hearings, and a public lighting

assessment vote, was successfully completed and approved by LAFCO at its regular October 14 meeting.

Because of their proximity, residents of the Crestline Drive/Diamond Canyon neighborhood have always considered Diamond Bar their home; the annexation makes it official.

City staff is in the process of a planning a special event to welcome the "new" residents and give them an opportunity to become even more familiarized with the many services and opportunities available in Diamond Bar.



New Irrigation System to Conserve Water, Save City Money

When the City completes its installation of a new centralized irrigation control system later this fall, it will be swiftly on its way to becoming more environmentally-friendly and saving close to \$100,000 annually in water costs.

The system, which will centralize the city's 88 irrigation controllers, will allow the City to keep its public landscaped areas green and thriving using technology that utilizes local weather station data and computerized information about plant types to set the irrigation schedule.

It will also feature sensors to detect abnormal water flow, self-diagnose, shut off controllers when necessary, and electronically notify staff of the location and type of the failure, such as a stuck valve or broken head.

Bob Rose, the City's Community Services Director, pointed out that the ability for staff to manage all the

irrigation controllers from an office computer will save the City time, effort, money, and overall result in a better maintained system

"Until now, a City employee would have to go out and manually inspect and adjust the City's 88 water controllers," Mr. Rose said. "The system's feature to self-detect malfunctions and automatically interrupt itself until the issue is corrected will prevent overwatering and runoff issues."

Installation of the system will cost about \$576,000 and be partially funded by a \$166,000 grant from Metropolitan Water District and a \$41,700 grant from the Walnut Valley Water District. The remainder of the funds is being covered by the City's General Fund.

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

Park Facility to Receive ADA Upgrades

As part of its continuous efforts to increase accessibility to all City facilities, the Diamond Bar City Council recently approved a project to bring Sycamore Canyon Park into compliance with ADA standards.

The \$280,000 project, now underway, involves making several upgrades to the Park's 2,000 square-foot building, including constructing a new restroom and retrofitting two existing ones, expanding office and storage spaces, and installing new accessible drinking fountains.

Funded by state grant monies and Quimby Development Fees, the upgrades are being completed in accordance with the recommendations in the City's Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Transition Plan first developed in 1992 to address architectural access barriers within or around City buildings and facilities.

In addition to regularly surveying City buildings and facilities and updating its Transition Plan, staff also evaluates local roadways and sidewalks to ensure they remain accessible to individuals with disabilities and up to par with the latest ADA requirements.

The Sycamore Canyon Park building and restrooms will be closed to the public during the renovation period, which is expected to go through early January 2010, however the tot lot, ball field, and picnic shelter will remain open.

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

Sycamore Canyon Park Trail – Phase III

Popular Trail Transformation is Moving Ahead

Last month, the City entered into Phase III of a project to improve the Sycamore Canyon Park trail by constructing a concrete staircase with handrails near the Diamond Bar Boulevard trailhead, widening and adding decomposed granite to the trail path, and replacing the existing chain link fence alongside the trail with split-rail fencing.

Financing for the \$297,000 project is being paid for with a \$136,000 federal grant from the Land & Water Conservation Fund, a \$71,000 Safe Neighborhood Parks Proposition grant from Fourth District Supervisor Don Knabe, and \$65,000 in City Park Development Funds.

The fourth and final phase of the project, currently in design, will create an additional decomposed granite path spanning a third of a mile, a new heavy-duty steel exercise equipment station, and a new viewpoint with benches and informational signage.

The trail and trailhead will be closed during the construction period, which is scheduled to go through the middle of December 2009.

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



Ask City Hall

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

Q: The sidewalk in front of my house is constantly a target for pet waste. Isn't it against City law for pet owners to walk their dogs and leave their waste uncollected? What can I do about it?

A: Yes, failing to pick up and properly dispose of pet waste in Diamond Bar public areas is unsightly, unsanitary, and a violation of the City's Municipal Code, Section 6.00.090. The ordinance applies to all recreational areas and public spaces in the city, including public right-of-ways. When taking their dog for a walk in a public area, residents are required to clean up any litter left by their pets. If caught, repeated offenders may be cited and/or fined by the City's Neighborhood Code Enforcement Division. To report violators, call 909.839.7030. Responsible pet ownership on everyone's part will keep our city looking clean and prevent the spread of diseases caused by bacteria and parasites found in pet waste.



In an effort to ensure our parks are kept clean and enjoyable, all City parks are equipped with dispensers stocked with complimentary bags for collecting animal waste.

Need Sandbags?

With the rainy season upon us, the Los Angeles County Fire Department reminds residents that, when placed properly, sandbags are an easy and effective way to prevent flood water from flowing onto properties or into homes.

While supplies last, residents may stop by any county fire station to obtain up to 25 free sandbags and proper use instructions.

Individuals planning on obtaining sandbags should be prepared to fill their own bags and, if necessary, wait for personnel to return from the field or visit another fire station.

For more information, call or visit Fire Station 119 (20480 Pathfinder Road) at 909.598.4290 or Fire Station 121 (346 Armitos Road) at 909.396.0164.

Hey Teens, Here's a Special Invitation Just For You!

When Friday the 13th rolls around this month, teens are invited to head over to the Diamond Bar Center for a special dance organized by the City's teen group, DB4Youth "In Action."

The dance, open to all Diamond Bar residents in the 6th, 7th, and 8th grade, will take place from 7 to 10pm and reflect a "superstitions" theme. The entrance fee is \$5, with optional photos, glow sticks, and snacks available for purchase.

Event fliers with parent permission forms are available at the Diamond Bar Center.

City Hall is located at 21825 Copley Drive, while the Diamond Bar Center is located at 1600 Grand Avenue. For more information or to assist with event planning, contact Recreation Coordinator Alison Meyers at 909.839.7024.



21825 Copley Drive
Diamond Bar, CA 91765-4178
909.839.7000 ♦ 909.861.3117 Fax
www.cityofdiamondbar.com
info@ci.diamond-bar.ca.us

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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

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

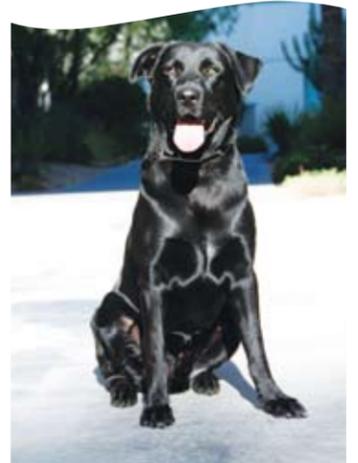


Smooth Road Ahead...

Traffic is once again flowing on Lycoming Street following completion of a major reconstruction project last month. The road, one of the busiest in the city, according to the City's latest traffic study, received several improvements, including close to a mile of new pavement, as well as upgraded curb ramps and curb gutters. Project costs totaling nearly \$1 million were financed in most part by Proposition 1B State transportation bond funds.

On The Nose...

At a simple glance, he may appear to be your typical black Lab, but he's anything but. Sixteen-month old "Deputy Bullet" is the newest member of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department's Arson & Explosive Detail team. Upon joining the team in April, he underwent an intensive 10-week training to refine his innately keen sense of smell to detect chemical odors found in more than a dozen different types of explosives. Deputy Bullet's duties include performing pre-arranged bomb and arson sweeps of locations where dignitaries are expected, such as official funeral ceremonies and special forums. The average service life of an arson & bomb dog is 7 to 8 years, before they retire to a life of leisure.



In Remembrance...

A portion of the 57 Freeway now serves as a permanent tribute to the late former Diamond Bar Mayor Bob Zirbes following the recent installation of a sign in his memory. Mr. Zirbes, who served on the Diamond Bar City Council for over five years including one term as Mayor, died of cancer in February 2007. The memorial project was the result of the passing of a measure (ACR 82) introduced by Senator Bob Huff while in the Assembly as well as financial contributions from private donors that included the Diamond Bar Community Foundation. The Mayor Bob Zirbes Memorial Highway extends along both the south-bound and north-bound lanes of the 57 Freeway from Pathfinder Road to the southern Diamond Bar city limit.

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

November 2009

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

December 2009

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1 	2	3	4	5 Candy Cane Craft Fair Details Page 2
6	7	8 	9	10 	11 Holiday Home Decorating Contest Deadline Details Page 1	12
13	14	15 	16 Holiday Decorating Contest Judging 7-10pm Details on Page 1	17 	18	19
20	21	22 	23	24 Christmas Holiday City Offices Closed	25 Christmas Holiday City Offices Closed	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.