

City News

Published Monthly For Residents & Businesses in Diamond Bar

Home Decorating Contest Winners

Following a competitive round of judging held on the evening of December 16, three Diamond Bar homes decked out in their festive finest were selected the winners of the City's 2009 Holiday Decorating Contest.

With more than 50 homes vying for a top spot, the judging committee agreed that selecting the awardees was a pleasant yet challenging task.

The contest, organized by the City for the first time in 2009, is aimed at recognizing Diamond Bar residents who contribute holiday cheer while making an effort to incorporate energy-efficient practices into their outdoor holiday trimmings by using at least one strand of LED lights.

All three winners will be recognized further at the January 19 City Council meeting where they will be awarded a special certificate and \$150 worth of energy-efficient products tailored to meet their specific needs.

Pictured posing outside their winning home with the City-issued congratulatory lawn signs are:

The Gudvagen Family
450 N. Prospectors Road
"Best Holiday Spirit"



The Saldana Family
21104 E. Gerndal Street
"Best Lawn Display"

The Estrada Family
2005 Morning Canyon Rd.
"Most Energy Efficient"



Have You Visited the City Website Lately?

Available 24 hours a day, seven days a week

If it's been several weeks since you last visited the City website, you are in for a pleasant surprise next time you type www.cityofdiamondbar.com into your search engine.

Last month, the City launched an updated version of its website featuring a modern design, additional links, and better-organized information aimed at making your virtual connection to City Hall easier and more valuable.

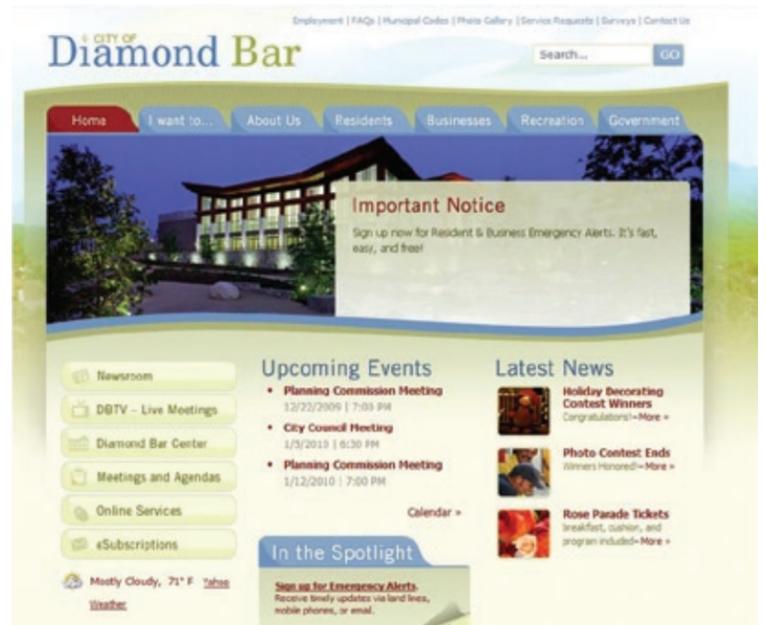
Among the new elements the website now includes an "I Want To" tab containing quick links to information about often-requested City services and programs; an "In the Spotlight" section highlighting the latest topics of interest, such as upcoming special events and roadwork projects; and a "Latest News" area displaying press releases sent to media outlets.

Also new to the website is a component that will make it easier for City staff to quickly post emergency-related information in a prominent location on the homepage, should a disaster arise. The information may include evacuation center locations, road closures, and other safety-related instructions.

Staff has plans to further expand the functionality of the website in the near future by adding a directory of all City's businesses, as well as an interactive and printable map of the City indicating the addresses and amenities of the City's nine parks.

Everyone is encouraged to visit the website and share their thoughts about the website by clicking on the "Surveys" link located at the top right corner and completing the "Let us know what you think" survey.

For more information about the website modifications, contact the City's Public Information Division at 909.839.7055 or by email at info@ci.diamond-bar.ca.us.



Picture-Perfect

More than 150 residents enthusiastically took on the challenge to capture the essence of Diamond Bar with their photo camera as part of the City's 2nd annual "Diamond Bar Through My Lens" community photo contest. And last month, the top entrants were invited to attend the December 15 City Council meeting for some well-deserved kudos.

Friends and family members were on hand at the meeting to share in the occasion as award recipients were presented with a certificate from City Council and a representative from the local Assemblyman's office, as well as cash prize, courtesy of the Diamond Bar Community Foundation.

Go to the City website www.cityofdiamondbar.com and click on "Community Photo Contest" in the "Residents" Tab to view all the winning entries, many of which made it to the pages of this year's Calendar & Services Guide.



Proudly displaying the certificates received from the Diamond Bar City Council and the local Assemblyman's office are contest winners (top, from left) Jeannie Gutierrez, Keith Man Chan, Lynn Liu, Doug Corbett, W. Michael Harman, Yul San Juan, and (bottom, from left) Matthew Chan, Farris Amayreh, Diana Mar, Freddie Peng, Allysn Reginaldo. Not photographed were Sharon Hodges and Sam Hsieh.

Winter Snow Fest

The forecast calls for snow in Diamond Bar later this month...

...80 tons of real snow good for riding sleds down three 25-foot long slides or making snowmen and snow angels in designated play areas.

It's all part of the City's highly-anticipated annual Winter Snow Fest set to take place on Saturday, January 16 from 10 am to 4 pm at Pantera Park, 738 Pantera Drive.

Event-goers will also enjoy winter-themed presentations by school and community groups, a



special visit from Flurry the Sledding Penguin, and a variety of prepared goods available for purchase.

Admission to the event and access to the snow play

areas is free, however sledding, game and craft areas are subject to a minimal fee.

Special \$5.00 wristbands to ride the sleds unlimitedly and \$1.00 tickets to participate in up to 4 games/crafts will be available for purchase at the event.

Parents are encouraged to dress their children in closed-toed shoes and gloves. No outside sleds will be allowed.

Free shuttle service to and from Pantera Park and the surrounding neighborhood will be available regularly throughout event hours.

For more information, visit the City website www.cityofdiamondbar.com or call the Community Services Department at 909.830.7070.

Hazardous & E-Waste Roundup



If the holidays brought you new electronics, next month you'll have an opportunity to properly dispose of the older items you no longer want.

The City is holding its annual free Household Hazardous Waste & E-Waste Round-Up on Saturday, February 21, from 9 am to 3 pm at the Gateway Corporate Center on the 1300 block of Bridge Gate Drive.

Co-sponsored by the City and Los Angeles County, the round-up is designed to collect unwanted household and electronic items that are not allowed in the regular trash, such as computers, television sets, batteries, expired medicine, paint, and pesticides.

For more information or a complete list of what you can and cannot bring, call 800.238.0173. For details about the event, call the City's Environmental Services Division at 909.839.7035.

Curbside Holiday Tree Collection

Residents still have time to recycle their live holiday tree at no cost. The City's trash hauler, Waste Management will continue its free curbside tree collection through Friday, January 15. Trees must be stripped of ornaments and stand, and placed at the curb on the regularly-scheduled collection day. Trees over six feet in length must be cut in half. For more information, contact Waste Management at 909.599.1274 or the City's Public Works Department at 909.839.7040.

CITY HALL ONLINE

24 HOURS a DAY, 7 DAYS a WEEK
WWW.CITYOFDIAMONDBAR.COM

Accessing the Online Request System

Whether you want to report a pothole or burned-out streetlight, obtain an update on a construction project in your neighborhood, or simply provide feedback on services provided by City staff, "At your Service," the City's Online Request System is an easy and convenient format to use 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

All requests, inquiries, or comments received via the system are forwarded to the appropriate City Department, and users can even track the status of requests online or request to be notified by email or phone once the message has been addressed.

To access "At Your Service," click on the link "Service Requests" on the top right corner of the City website www.cityofdiamondbar.com.

Outstanding Volunteer Award Program

We all know at least one individual who consistently volunteers his or her time or talent to improve the lives of others, without seeking or expecting compensation.

Maybe it's a neighbor who is always available to lend a hand, a teacher who goes beyond his or her scope of duties to ensure you succeed in school, a business owner who supports community fundraising efforts, or a classmate who is always willing to help you work through a difficult homework assignment.

Now through mid March, you can show that individual how much you appreciate them by nominating them for the City's Outstanding Volunteer Award.

Organized in conjunction with the City's annual Birthday Party every April, the award program honors deserving adults and youth for their good deeds or community service with a special award from the City Council and a mention in the City's monthly newsletter.

Hard-copy applications will be made available next month, but you can submit nominations online by visiting the City website www.cityofdiamondbar.com and clicking on "Survey" in the top right corner and completing the "Outstanding Volunteer" form.

For further information about the award program, contact the City's Community Services Department at 909.839.7060.

Free Business Counseling

The Regional Chamber of Commerce – San Gabriel Valley has good news for Diamond Bar business owners and aspiring entrepreneurs.

Whether you are looking to start up a business or better your existing one, the Chamber invites you to take advantage of free counseling sessions available on an appointment basis the fourth Tuesday of every month between 9 am and 12 noon.

Sessions are offered at the new Chamber office, located at 19720 E. Walnut Drive South, Suite 201 in the City of Walnut.

For additional information or to make an appointment, call the Chamber representative Garry Rivera at 909.869.0701 or visit www.regionalchambersgv.com.



Home Improvement Loans Available

If your home needs a little fixing up, but you can't afford the repair costs, the City's Home Improvement Program may be able to help.

The program, designed to preserve and enhance the City's single-family residential neighborhoods, makes grants and loans available to eligible homeowners to help finance a wide range of home improvements and repairs.

Examples of allowable projects include abatement of code violations; accessibility modifications; water heater replacements; asbestos testing and eradication; roof repairs and replacements; and work to electrical and plumbing systems.

To qualify, homes must be owner-occupied, single-family detached dwellings within Diamond Bar, and the homeowner's gross income must be in the low or moderate income brackets.

For more details or to obtain an application, visit the City's website www.cityofdiamondbar.com and click on "Home Improvement Program" in the "I Want To" tab, or call the Community Development Division at 909.839.7030.

Beat the Winter Blues...

Enroll in a winter class

Residents should have received the new Winter 2010 issue of the City's Community Recreation Guide offering more than 100 different activities available in and around town through February. Activities include classes varying in length from 4 to 12 weeks; one-day special events, seminars, and outings; extended trips; as well as ongoing

services and activities for seniors. Copies of the popular guide are available at all City facilities, and can be downloaded via the City website www.cityofdiamondbar.com by clicking on "Community Recreation Guide" found in the blue "Recreation" tab.

Valentine's Dance for Seniors

Roses are red, violets are blue...if you're 55 or older, here's a special invitation just for you. Dress up in red and join your friends at the Diamond Bar Center on Thursday, February 5 from 6 to 9 pm for dinner and dancing during the City's annual Senior Valentine Dance. The Center is located at 1600 Grand Avenue, and event tickets (\$15 each) will be available for purchase up until noon on the day of the event. For more information, please call 909.839.7068.



U.S. Census Bureau Now Hiring

Though Census 2010 is still several months away, hundreds of temporary part-time workers are currently being recruited to assist with the official population count as census takers.

Retirees, veterans, and other individuals who enjoy talking to people and are fluent in English and either Chinese or Korean are encouraged to apply.

Census takers work in their own community, and are responsible for locating households, explaining the purpose of the census, conducting brief personal interviews, helping neighbors complete their 2010 Census questionnaire, and recording responses on paper.

The work schedule includes evening and weekend hours, and the pay rate is \$16.50 an hour plus reimbursement for authorized work-related expenses, such as mileage.

Completion of a 30-minute test that measures skills required to carry out census taker job duties is required as part of job application process.

The local Census Bureau office, located on Pipeline Avenue in Chino Hills, encourages interested individuals to visit the "Applications Materials" sections on the Census Bureau website www.2010.census.gov/2010censusjobs to take the Census Practice Test prior to beginning the application process.

Additional details are available on the Census website, or can be obtained by calling the local office at 909.438.2498.

2010 State of the City

Submit your questions in advance of the event

If you are interested in learning about the City's overall financial condition, the accomplishments met last year, and the service and economic development goals for the coming year, you are encouraged to attend the annual State of the City address scheduled for Thursday, March 4.

The address will be held at the Diamond Bar Center, located at 1600 Grand Avenue, starting at 6:30 pm, but doors will open at 6 pm for refreshments and appetizers. Admission is free and open to the public, however reservations are suggested.

New this year, individuals planning on attending the event may visit the City website www.cityofdiamondbar.com and click on "State of the City" in the "Residents" tab to submit questions or topics they would like have included in the address. The deadline to submit comments is Friday, February 5.

For more information or to make a reservation, contact the Public Information Office at 909.839.7059 or email info@ci.diamond-bar.ca.us and reference "State of the City" in the subject line.

Before You Head to a Big-box Bookstore...

Do our library a favor and pay the Friends' a visit

The Friends of the Diamond Bar Library's operate Basically Books, a nonprofit bookstore stocked with a variety of quality, gently-used books priced as low as 25 cents for paperbacks and 50 cents for hard backs.



Basically Books is staffed by volunteers, and proceeds from book sales assist the Friends' efforts to preserve and strengthen the Diamond Bar Library by providing financial support for special programs and services not available through the Library's budget.

Basically Books is located near the intersection of Diamond Bar Boulevard and Brea Canyon Road, behind the Shell station. Store hours are Monday, Wednesday and Thursday 11 am to 5 pm, Tuesday 1 pm to 7 pm, Friday, 11 am to 7 pm, and Saturday 10 am to 3 pm. For further information or to become a Friends member, call 909.594.9954.

Grant to Improve Accessibility Near Schools

Two more elementaries will soon join the growing list of Diamond Bar schools with nearby accessible sidewalks.

Early this month, the City will initiate a construction project that will see the creation or modification of more than 50 curb ramps in the vicinity of Castle Rock and Evergreen Springs elementary schools.

Designed to comply with current Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards for accessibility, the new or upgraded ramps will feature landing areas with detectable surface mats that alert pedestrians with visual impairments that they are about to enter a roadway.



The project at Castle Rock Elementary School is being funded through the City's annual allocation of Community Development Block Grant funds, while the project at Evergreen Springs Elementary School is being financed with the special, one-time Community Development Block Grant – Recovery allotment secured by the City last fall through President Obama's American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

Both projects are set to get underway on January 4 and be completed by mid March. For more information, visit the City website www.cityofdiamondbar.com or call the Public Works Department at 909.839.7040.

Drive Safely...Watch Your Speedometer

If you feel speeding is an issue in your neighborhood, you are not alone.

Residents consistently rank speeding as a top traffic safety concern. What may come as a surprise, however, is that local traffic surveys often reveal that it is the residents themselves contributing to the speeding issue.

The Diamond Bar/Walnut Sheriff's Station reminds motorists that all residential streets within City limits are regulated at 25 miles per hour, and provides the following tips to avoid speeding:

- Make a conscious effort to slow down
- Check your speedometer frequently
- Be aware of the speed limit wherever you are
- Always keep a safe distance between your vehicle and the one in front of you

By monitoring our driving habits and complying with speed limits, we can help ensure Diamond Bar remains a safe, pedestrian-friendly community.



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've noticed that a lot of houses in my neighborhood are still displaying holiday lights. Isn't that against the City's Municipal Code?

A: Yes, the City's Municipal Code states that exterior holiday lights and decorations must be removed no later than January 15.

Besides contributing to blight, keeping holiday lights installed for an extended period of time creates the potential for a fire hazard because of their temporary-use nature.

The City's Neighborhood Improvement Division is now assertively searching out homes still displaying electrical decorations.

Homeowners found not to be in compliance will be issued a courtesy notice to correct the violation within 10 days. Failing to remove the lights within the allotted time frame can result in a \$100 fine.

Questions regarding this code should be directed to the Neighborhood Improvement Division at 909.839.7030.

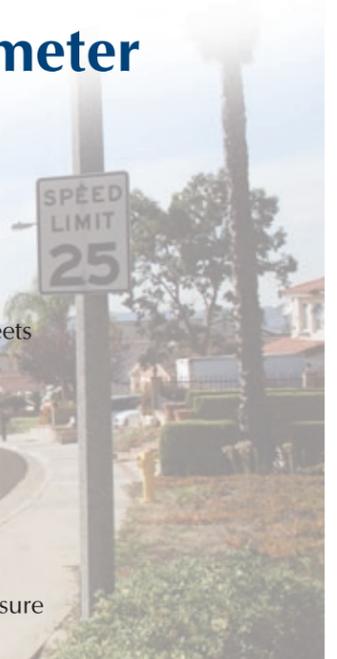


Free Tax Assistance for Seniors

Tax season is almost here and the Diamond Bar Center is once again offering individuals, 55 years of age and older, free assistance in completing federal and state income tax returns.

Beginning February 3, AARP tax counselors will be available every Wednesday from 8:00 am to 12 noon at the Center, 1600 Grand Avenue, to assist interested individuals on an appointment basis.

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





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

Business Information:	
Business Licenses	909.839.7030
Chamber of Commerce	909.860.1904

School Districts:	
Pomona Unified	909.397.4700
Walnut Valley Unified	909.595.1261

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

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

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

*For emergencies, dial 9-1-1

Calendar Key

- City Council Meeting* - starts at 6:30 pm
- Planning Commission Meeting* - starts at 7 pm
- Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting* - starts at 7 pm
- Traffic & Transportation Commission Meeting* - starts at 7 pm
- Transit Late Night - City Hall open until 7 pm

January 2010

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

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

Elves' Workshop...

While adults browsed the more than 60 vendor booths featuring hand-crafted items at the City's annual Candy Cane Craft Fair on December 13, a handful of staff from the City's Recreation Services Division donned friendly elf hats and entertained little ones with holiday-themed crafts and activities. Missed the event? Visit the City website www.cityofdiamondbar.com and click on the "Photo Gallery" link located at the top right corner of the website to view a few of the photos taken that day.



Holiday Cheer...

Aspiring cheerleaders – Chloe, Ashley, Claire, and Celin – ushered in the holiday season with a special performance at the Diamond Bar Center on December 2 that highlighted the moves they learned while enrolled in the contract class "Ready, Set Cheer," as part of the City's annual Contract Class Showcase. The youth cheer class, offered by contract instructor DB Lil Miss Spirit, is available this winter from January 16 through February 13. See page 9 of the City's 2010 Winter Recreation Guide for more details on this and other classes.

Thinking Green...

Over 200 residents took advantage of the City's one-time Holiday Light Exchange last November to swap their used traditional incandescent light strands for a pair of free LED light strands. While at the exchange, they also had a chance to learn about the energy efficiency rebate programs offered by Southern California Edison and So Cal Gas. The LED lights, purchased from a local hardware store, were 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.

Food for thought: If the 452 strands of lights given out at the event were lit 5 hours every day over a 30-day period, it is estimated that only 1,808 watts of energy were used. Compared to the 135,600 watts



incandescent lights of matching quantity would have burned during the same period of time, a combined \$2,000 were saved on electricity costs.*

*Based on the national average cost of \$9.81 per kWh

February 2010

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2 	3	4	5	6
7	8	9 	10	11 	12	13
14	15 President's Day City Offices Closed	16 	17	18	19	20
21	22	23 	24 	25 	26	27
28						

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