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OC News

OCTA Agrees - No Tolls

STAFF REPORTS

Costa Mesa - Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) board members recently voted to add new lanes to the 405 Freeway, between Costa Mesa and Seal Beach. This section of the freeway is one of the busiest in the country. A new lane will be added in both

see Tolls Page 7

IE News

Tips for the Holiday Season

L.E.A.F.F. ORGANIZATION

Eastvale - With the holidays swiftly approaching, thefts and burglaries, as well as fire risks, are elevated. Help keep your loved ones safe this season by following these important tips:

Indoor House Safety

• Treat your Christmas tree like another houseplant. When you water your houseplants, check the water in your tree, and make sure

see Tips Page 5

"Vacation Hold" Burglars Plead Not Guilty

STAFF REPORTS

SGV - Eight people were arrested for their alleged involvement in a residential burglary ring that targeted Los Angeles Times subscribers, whose names were on stolen "Vacation Hold" lists.

The ring is accused of stealing an estimated \$1 million in electronics and other items in the burglaries that took place in Diamond Bar, Walnut, Hacienda

Heights, Chino Hills, West Covina, Arcadia, Pasadena, Santa Monica, Redlands and Ontario. The 14 burglaries occurred between December 2011 and November 2012. All suspects pleaded not guilty to charges.

All eight defendants, as follows, are charged with multiple counts of burglary, along with two counts each of conspiracy to commit a crime: Randal Joseph Whitmore, 44; Duane

Vantuinen, 52; Joshua Ray Box, 44; Lorraine Marlene Vasquez, 41; Cory Mulligan, 22; Brian Thomas Duran, 42; Margaret Mary Susan High, 29; and Edwin Lynn Valentine, 53.

The investigation began when Whitmore was stopped for a traffic violation on June 24, 2012. Police discovered stolen prop-

see Burglars Page 9

Walnut Council Corner: Proposed Six-Home Development

BY ARIEL CARMONA JR.

Walnut - The Walnut City Council held their regular meeting this past week. After hearing a testimony from a developer and from

neighbors opposing a proposed land subdivision, the council voted 5-0 to send the item back to city staff and for the city planning commission to review proposed amendments on the subdivision

of the existing property totaling more than five acres.

The bulk of the city council's

see Walnut Page 10

DB Council Recap: New Member Sworn In

BY RAYMOND MENDOZA

Diamond Bar - The Diamond Bar City Council met on December 3 at 6:30 p.m. for a post-election meeting, which gave the City a new Mayor, Mayor Pro Tem, and a new City Council member.

The first item of the evening was the swearing in of Nancy A. Lyons, new City Council mem-

ber. Ling-Ling Chang, Steve Tye, and Jack Tanaka were also re-elected for City Council. Council Member Chang was absent from the meeting and Public Financing Authority session.

Outgoing Mayor Pro Tem, Ron Everett, was congratulated and thanked for his years of service by a variety of public servants from the City and State.

"Although it's a sad occasion

for the City of Diamond Bar to say goodbye to Ron," said Jody Roberto, District Representative for Senator Bob Huff. "We want to thank you for all that you have done and for giving our City your heart."

Council Member Tye then nominated Carol Herrera as

see Member Page 9

New Additions For Chino Hills

STAFF REPORTS

Chino Hills - The City of Chino Hills recently completed the renovation of the Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) Fueling Station at the City Yard. Funding for the project was provided through two grants: \$87,500 from the Mobile Source Air Pollution Reduction Commit-

tee, and \$147,500 from South Coast Air Quality Management District.

This alternative fuel is both cost effective and beneficial to the environment because it reduces emissions. There are four CNG vehicles in the City of Chino's fleet, including the street sweeper, which works for the

City five days a week. This service can now reduce costs and become more efficient because they can refuel in Chino Hills.

Also new in the City of Chino Hills is E-Notification for those interested in the Open Space

see Additions Page 9

BUSINESS FEATURE

Comfort Suites "Your Home Away From Home"

STAFF REPORTS

La Puente - With a welcoming atmosphere, friendly service and a range of vacation and travel packages, Comfort Suites really is your home away

see Comfort Page 10



Comfort Suites, La Puente is located at 753 Glendora Avenue in La Puente and can be reached at (626) 330-0030. Check out their ad on page 7.

BUSINESS FEATURE

First Mortgage Corporation Can Help You With The American Dream

BY K.P. SANDER

SGV - Ever dream of owning your own home? With the high cost of houses, financing, and the current economy, you might be thinking this is a dream you could

see Mortgage Page 12



You can reach Gel Delos Santos at First Mortgage at (951) 206-1716 or email her at gdelossantos@firstmortgage.com. See her ad on page 3.

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Chino, CA 91710
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OUR LIFE

The Love Of Your Life

BY SARAH ARMJO

There are three things I love about recently becoming engaged to my future husband. The first is of course being able to constantly talk about my fiancé and our wedding plans together. The second is calling him my "fiancé" because I only get to call him this for six more months.

But the third thing I love about being engaged is hearing the stories of other people's weddings. Whenever I see someone I haven't seen in a while, the first thing they ask is how the wedding plans are coming. Of course, I tell them how things are coming along, but as soon as I finish answering their question, the other person almost always begins to tell me about their own wedding day.

It's truly amazing to hear about other people's wedding days. They tell me how much fun they

had, how quickly it came, how short they thought the day was, and even how many disasters they encountered. I've heard descriptions of small weddings, big weddings, simple weddings, and extravagant weddings.

But after every single wedding I've heard described to me, that person always has a smile on their face as they think back to the day they married the one they love. Then, as they picture that moment when they said "I do", they always say that they would do it all over again if they could. Seeing their expression always makes me smile because I know they probably haven't thought about their wedding day in a while.

I challenge you to take this day and think back to remember your wedding day, whether everything went wrong or whether it was perfect. Think back to remember how you felt when you saw that



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(800) 952-2792

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(909) 594-1737

Clearwater Bagel

20747 E. Amar Rd.

(909) 598-4332

Donut Tree

388 N. Lemon Ave.

(909) 595-5337

Daily Donuts

18766 Amar Rd.

(626) 913-1074

Farmer Insurance

378 N. Lemon Ave.

(909) 869-1077

Hair Perfect

20747 E. Amar Ave.

(909) 598-8394

Lemon Creek Cleaners

360 N. Lemon Ave.

(909) 594-7504

NY Pizzeria

364 N. Lemon Ave.

(909) 594-5000

Osuna's Mexican Food

18746 Amar Road

(626) 810-4101

Post Box Plus

382 N. Lemon Ave.

(909) 595-5924

Shane Chiropractic

20803 Valley Blvd #103

(909) 594-1153

Senior Center

21215 La Puente

(909) 598-6200

Starbucks

505-A A Grand Ave.

(909) 598-4459

Diamond Bar City Hall

21201 La Puente Rd.

(909) 595-7543

Walnut Hills Optometry

18736 E. Amar Rd.

(909) 594-1153

Walnut Library

21155 La Puente Rd.

(909) 595-0757

Walnut Sheriff's Station

21695 Valley Blvd.

(626) 913-1715

Diamond Mail & Shipping

1249 S. Diamond Bar Blvd.

(909) 861-1290

It's A Grind

1223 S. Diamond Bar Blvd

(909) 396-0577

Lowe Chiropractic

1135 S. Grand Ave.

(909) 861-7350

Oak Tree Lanes Bowling

990 N. Diamond Bar Blvd.

(909) 360-3558

Taco Factory

1123 Grand Ave.

(909) 396-5373

Barro's Pizza

21000 Golden Springs

(909) 598-2871

Diamond Bar

Barro's Pizza

21000 Golden Springs

(909) 598-2871

Chopstix House

3938 Grand Ave.

(909) 393-8880

Crossroads Urgent Care

3110 Chino Ave Ste 150-B

(909) 630-7868

Planet Beach

13890 Peyton Dr # C

(909) 465-9911

Senior Baja

3908 Grand Ave. # A

(909) 902-5110

CHINO HILLS

Chino Hills Car Wash

Grand Ave/Peyton

(909) 464-8286

Chino Hills Pharmacy

2140 Grand Ave Ste 130

(909) 364-9244

Taco Factory

3938 Grand Ave.

(909) 390-3688

OUR LIFE

person at the end of the aisle.

Think back to all the reasons why you fell in love with that person in the first place, because you might've forgotten over the

years.

Take a moment and think back to remember the day you married the person you call "the love of your life."

Community Events And Meetings

STAFF REPORTS

UPCOMING EVENTS: Santa Makes House Calls In Walnut and surrounding areas

When: Now until Dec. 24 with visiting hours from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Cost: a 20-minute visit is \$65 and \$90 on Christmas Eve

Details: Special arrangements may be made for visits to neighboring communities, large groups and other dates on a case-by-case basis for an additional fee.

Reservations for Santa visits: call (909) 598-5605 or visit in person at the Community Services Office, 21701 Valley Blvd.

Holiday Pet Adoption Event

When: Dec. 14 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Where: Subaru of Puente Hills, 17801 E. Gale Ave., City of Industry CA 91748

Details: Choose from adoptable cats, dogs and even rabbits available at discounted prices on Saturday at the Subaru dealership in Puente Hills, thanks to the ASPCA, Subaru of Puente Hills and Los Angeles County Department of Animal Care and Control. Over 30 adoption-ready animals from Baldwin Park ACC will be present.

Contact: David Bloom, Public Information Officer, at (562) 728-4644

Dinner With Santa In Walnut

When: Dec. 14 from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Where: Walnut Senior Center

Cost: \$12 for adults and \$8 for children. Includes one professional family picture with Santa.

Details: Have a hearty and delicious dinner with Santa and enjoy games and winter activities. Don't forget your own camera as Santa will be posing pictures with all the children.

Contact: (909) 598-6200

Winter Wonderland and Snow Night

When: Dec. 14 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Where: Walnut Senior Center

Cost: \$8 per person

Details: After a magical dinner with Santa, enjoy a walk out to winter wonderland and enjoy sled rides, arts and crafts, a kiddie snow area, and fun and game vendors. Take advantage of the real snow in Walnut on this night.

Contact: Walnut Senior Center (909) 598-6200.

Community Holiday Dinner and Dance

When: Dec. 14 from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Where: Walnut Senior Center

Cost: \$12 per person and \$10 for Senior Club Members

Details: Live music, dinner by B.C. Continental, and door prizes. For ages 21 and older. Space is limited so register early.

Contact: Walnut Senior Center at (909) 598-6200.

Chino Youth Christmas Parade and Fair

When: Dec. 14 at 9 a.m.

Where: The parade will make its way from Monte Vista Avenue down Riverside Drive, concluding at Central and Chino Avenue in Chino.

Details: The Fair at the Civic Center will follow immediately thereafter with carnival rides, entertainment, vendors and food.

Contact: (909) 334-3258.

Santa Making House Calls In Chino Hills

When: Dec. 14, 15, 20, 21 and 22 (between 4 p.m. and 9 p.m.)

Cost: \$40 for parties of less than 20 people, and \$50 for parties of 20 and above.

Details: Visits are limited to 15 minutes and any special considerations are based upon Santa's availability.

Reservations: Contact (909) 364-2700 or visit Founders Recreation Center at 2000 Founders Drive in Chino Hills

Homeless Ministry in Pomona

When: Dec. 21 from 12 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Where: First Baptist Church, 601 N. Garey Ave., Pomona CA 91768

Details: Come serve the homeless and economically disadvantaged in Pomona. Volunteers meet in E202 (2nd floor) at 12:00 Noon for prayer / devotion, then

promptly at 12:30pm for orientation, clothing and hygiene kit distribution, devotion and a 2nd orientation prior to serving dinner to the homeless. Ministry ends by 4:30pm.

Donations: We currently we are in need of: Spanish BIG LETTER bibles, Large men's pants (size 46 to 48), Men's belts (all sizes), Blankets, Umbrellas, hats, scarves, and coats. This month we hold our annual toy drive and provide toys to the children of the homeless/economically disadvantaged. We are in need of sports toys such as footballs, baseballs, and board games for boys, or makeup, dolls and lotions for girls. Please bring donations on Dec. 21.

Contact: Steve Sable sdsable@earthlink.net.

FUTURE EVENTS:

Chino Winter Break Camp

When: Dec. 23 - 27 and Dec. 20 - Jan. 3 (no camp on Dec. 25 and Jan. 1)

Where: Monte Vista Park in Chino

Details: This camp offers arts, crafts, games and recreational activities for children grades 1 through 8.

Contact: (909) 334-3258

Winter Solstic

Featuring: St. Lorenzo Ruiz Choir, Walnut Valley Symphony Orchestra/Master Chorale, and Msgr. Joseph K. Brennan

When: Dec. 28 at 8 p.m.

Contact: www.walnutvalley-symphony.org/

Vote for the 2014 selection for Read Together Diamond Bar

When: Voting ends Jan. 5, 2014

Where to vote: Diamond Bar Library, located at 21800 Copley Drive, Diamond Bar

Details: Cast your vote for one of four finalists: Battle Hymn of the Tiger Mom by Amy Chua, One Gold Mountain by Lisa See, The Soloist by Steve Lopez and True Notebooks: A Writer's Year at Juvenile Hall by Mark Salzman.

Contact: www.dblibraryfriends.org, or at the Diamond Bar Library website, <http://www.colapublib.org/libs/diamondbar/>.

WEEKLY EVENTS:

Bookstore Blowout

Where: Twice Sold Tale Bookstore located at the Walnut Library, La Puente Road, Walnut CA 91789

When: Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays from 1 p.m. to 8 p.m., Fridays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturdays 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Details: All books and media:

any four items for \$1. \$1 minimum purchase.

Contact: (909) 595-0757 or email the.walnut.library@mac.com

Resources for the Classroom Days at Basically BOOKS

When: second Tuesdays of every month.

Where: Basically BOOKS locations: at 23447 Golden Springs Road, Diamond Bar and at the Diamond Bar Library: 21800 Copley Drive, Diamond Bar.

Details: Books and education videos will be offered at special discounts for teachers at all levels. Teachers can sign up at either Basically BOOKS locations or email BasicallyBOOKS@aol.com to join these special teacher appreciate afternoons.

Free Acupuncture for veterans, active military, first responders

When: Every Tuesday at 5 p.m.

Where: 12598 Central Ave. Unit 113, Chino CA 91710.

Cost: Free

Contact: (909) 590-4183 or www.healingcirclecommunityacupuncture.com

Jack Newe's Farmers Market sponsored by SGV Regional Chamber of Commerce

When: Every Saturday from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Where: Mt. San Antonio College Campus, Parking Lot B, 1100 N. Grand Avenue, Walnut CA 91789

Cost: Admission and parking free

Features: seasonal organic produce, breads and cakes, olive oils, cheese and spreads, a variety of nursery plants, hand-crafted items and jewelry, and fresh-popped Kettle corn and grilled food plates.

Contact: (909) 869-0701

WALNUT MEETINGS:

City Council Meeting

When: 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m.

Where: Walnut Council Chambers in the new City Hall: 21201 La Puente Road, Walnut CA 91789

Planning Commission Meeting

When: 1st and 3rd Tuesdays at 7 p.m.

Where: Chino Hills City Council Chambers, 14000 City Center Drive, Chino Hills CA 91709

Planning Commission Meeting

When: 1st and 3rd Tuesdays at 7 p.m.

Where: Chino Hills City Council Chambers, 14000 City Center Drive, Chino Hills CA 91709

Public Works Commission

When: 1st Wednesdays of the month

Where: Chino Hills City Council Chambers, 14000 City Center Drive, Chino Hills CA 91709

Parks and Recreation Commission

When: 3rd Wednesdays of the month at 7 p.m.

Where: Chino Hills City Council Chambers, 14000 City Center Drive, Chino Hills CA 91709.

Industry Deputies Disarm Man Brandishing Knife At Pomona Courthouse

STAFF REPORTS

Pomona — Off-duty deputies from the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, Industry Station, who were leaving the Pomona Courthouse on December 2 after testifying on an unrelated case, witnessed a Hispanic male walking toward the entrance holding a butcher's knife.

Deputies Velasquez and Tien approached the highly agitated man, who reportedly yelled, "Are you guys going to take me back to prison? I need to go back to prison or I'll kill somebody!"

The deputies detained the man at gunpoint, and after several minutes were able to convince him to drop the knife and submit to handcuffs until the arrival of Pomona Police Department of

ing

When: 1st Wednesday of each month at 10 a.m.

Where: Walnut Council Chambers in the new City Hall: 21201 La Puente Road, Walnut CA 91789

Youth Advisory Commission Meeting

When: 2nd Monday of each month at 5 p.m.

Where: Walnut Council Chambers in the new City Hall: 21201 La Puente Road, Walnut CA 91789.

DIAMOND BAR MEETINGS:

City Council Meeting

When: 1st and 3rd Tuesday of every month at 6:30 p.m.

Where: Temporary relocation in the City Hall Windmill Community Room: 21810 Copley Drive, Diamond Bar CA 91765.

Planning Commission Meeting

When: 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of every month at 7 p.m.

Where: Diamond Bar City Hall, Windmill Community Room: 21810 Copley Drive, Diamond Bar CA 91765

Diamond Bar Lions Club Breakfast Meeting

When: 1st and 3rd Monday of every month from 7 a.m. to 8 a.m.

Where: Diamond Bar Golf Course: 22751 E. Golden Springs Drive, Diamond Bar CA 91765.

Contact info: (909) 861-0142.

Toastmaster Club Meeting

When: Every Monday from 12 p.m. to 12:45 p.m.

Where: Caltrans – Office of Bridge Design South 2, Conference Room: 21073 Pathfinder Road Suite 200, Diamond Bar CA 91765

Contact info: (714) 421-3701.

CHINO HILLS MEETINGS:

City Council Meeting

When: 2nd and 4th Tuesday of every month at 7 p.m.

Where: Chino Hills City Council Chambers, 14000 City Center Drive, Chino Hills CA 91709

Planning Commission Meeting

When: 1st and 3rd Tuesdays at 7 p.m.

Where: Chino Hills City Council Chambers, 14000 City Center Drive, Chino Hills CA 91709

Public Works Commission

When: 1st Wednesdays of the month

Where: Chino Hills City Council Chambers, 14000 City Center Drive, Chino Hills CA 91709.

Parks and Recreation Commission

When: 3rd Wednesdays of the month at 7 p.m.

Where: Chino Hills City Council Chambers, 14000 City Center Drive, Chino Hills CA 91709.

The man was later identified as Jeralme Gabe Cuevas, 29, a Pomona transient. Cuevas is on active parole and admitted to deputies that he was there, "Just to kill a cop".

Your Local School Updates

Oswalt Academy Named Distinguished School For Fifth Time

RUSD

Walnut – For the fifth consecutive year, Stanley G. Oswalt Academy is pleased to announce that it has been named an “Apple Distinguished School” for 2013-2014. Oswalt Academy was recognized for this achievement at the December 10th Rowland Unified School District Board of Education Meeting. Oswalt Academy, a K-8 International Baccalaureate® (IB) World School, joins a select class of

institutions that Apple is recognizing as exemplary learning environments.

“The Oswalt family is proud to receive the honor of Apple Distinguished School once again. The 1:1 laptop program has completely changed the way students learn and through the hard work of our teachers and students and integration of technology we are proud to say we have helped students grow into successful 21st century learners,” said Oswalt Principal Kevin

Despard.

Oswalt Academy has more than 500 one-to-one laptops in grades 5 – 8 that are parent funded and in use daily. The school has continued to expand its technology-infused learning in grades K-4 with the use of more than 200 iPod Touches in the classrooms. Academic achievement is evidenced by the school’s API score reaching 919 this year.

The Apple Distinguished School designation is reserved

for schools like Oswalt that integrate Apple technology in education and showcase visionary leadership in creating successful 21st Century teaching and learning environments. Since initiating the Laptop for Learning program in 2008, Oswalt has transformed the school into a digital learning haven that has garnered remarkable results in closing the achievement gap in math and literacy. “We are also proud that our school has achieved a statewide rank of 10 out of 10.

The statewide rank compares an individual school’s API to all of the schools in its grade level statewide. This achievement has resulted in part due to the dynamic learning that is taking place utilizing technology for students 24/7,” said Despard.

Oswalt Academy is for students in grades K – 8, and is located at 19501 Shadow Oak Drive in Walnut. For more information, visit www.oswaltacademy.org or contact Principal Kevin Despard at (626) 810-4109.

Collegewood Elementary Sponsors Week of Giving

BY KELLI GILE

Walnut - Collegewood Elementary students and staff members donated special gifts to help families in need during the week of December 2.

Each grade level was assigned a theme and charity for annual holiday Week of Giving event.

Kindergarteners delivered new winter jackets for newborn to adult sizes in their classroom bins. First graders brought in new pajamas and books and second grade students donated cozy blankets.

Third grade students delivered non-perishable food items, fourth graders brought toiletries and clothing and fifth graders collected loose change and dollars for the fundraiser. Staff members dropped off donations

in the school office.

By the end of the week, bins in every classroom were brimming with the donations collected for the San Gabriel Valley Coalition for the Homeless Winter Shelter Program and several local families.

“The purpose of the Week of Giving is to teach the children the essence of giving back to their community and building empathy for those who are less fortunate,” said Principal Joan Perez.

“This wonderful week enables the students to learn more about the local need for charities and to really service their community and learn what that means and how it makes them feel inside to actually have that experience of doing for others,” she said.

Community Club member Diane Creyaufmiller has organized the event for the past several

years.

Her 4th grade son, Joseph, said she really likes to be a part of the holiday giving.

“It makes me feel really good to help the people on the streets,” Joseph said.

“Maybe we need to think about others and reaching out to others when we have so much. And that little things like this can really make a big impact,” first grade teacher Melani Garrett said.

Garrett said the children have a very basic concept of what being homeless or living in a shelter means.

She used a tiny pair of donated pink pajamas to help her students learn about it.

“Look at these - they are so cute! Can you imagine a little baby living in a shelter and her family doesn’t have a home?”

These pajamas will make them so happy!” she explained.

“I tried to give them a picture of something so simple that we take for granted,” she added.

“I think the whole Week of Giving teaches our children to appreciate what they have and to think of the needs’ of others,” Garrett said.

“The program gives students an opportunity to learn that not everybody has what is so normal to them.”

Creyaufmiller dropped off about 20 boxes of donated goods to the East San Gabriel



PHOTO COURTESY: KELLI GILE
Collegewood Elementary hosted a Week of Giving to help families in need during the week. Principal Joan Perez is shown with students Joseph Creyaufmiller, Christopher Khiang and Maya Soto.

Chaparral Students Explore Computer Science Careers

WVUSD

Diamond Bar— Chaparral Middle School students had an opportunity to explore computer programming during the Hour of Code held December 9 and 10.

Over 10,000 students throughout the United States joined the Hour of Code during the 2013 Computer Science Education Week, December 9-15.

The new event is geared at generating awareness and meaningful exposure to the world of computer science.

“Every Chaparral student received an introductory one-hour lesson and a chance to try coding during their math classes,” Math and Technology Teacher Denise Loera said.

“Today, we are all surrounded by technology. Commerce, communication, entertainment and more, we all rely on computers. Yet, very few of us know how they actually work,” according to the code.org website.

“Computer science education is an increasingly important foundation for success, and everybody can benefit from learning the basics,” Loera added.

Chaparral 6th -8th grade students logged in a total of

1,297 hours of coding during the event.

“The Hour of Code was tremendous. It was well received by staff and students alike. Mrs. Loera and our Math Department got behind the idea to do this and our kids ran with it. This is a perfect example of what happens when teachers challenge their students with creative activities that motivate them to go outside of what they already know,” said Principal Ron Thibodeaux.

Chaparral students used Netbooks, HP Desktops, and Chromebooks as they worked through different levels of introductory programming.

The Hour of Code allowed students to program codes designed for students by engineers at Google, Microsoft, Twitter, Facebook, Khan Academy and others. The students were able to use Light-Bot, CodeAvengers, Scratch-Angry Birds and Khan Academy.

All of the math teachers at Chaparral worked as a team to launch a successful Hour of Code in their classes. The educators previewed and then practiced their own coding skills before presenting it to students.

“Coding teaches them to think and collaborate,” she 7th

grade math teacher Loera.

Students were immediately engaged in Loera’s math class as they logged in and began working on the level one coding patterns.

“There’s this little light bulb code button that lights up the blue squares. I just feel like it really challenges you because it’s all about putting yourself in the robot’s position,” said student Jeffrey Ortega. “It tells you how many moves we have and how many boxes we have to light,” he explained.

“We’re opening up the opportunity for them to be curious.” Loera said.

The students also learned that careers in computer science are among the highest paid college degrees and computer-programming jobs are growing at two times the national average. However, there is a shortage of coders, according to Loera.

In just an hour, some of the students said that they could see a future career in coding.

The students also found out they could practice coding at home and they were encouraged to share this coding experience with their families.

Loera also advises an after-school Coding Club that meets each Thursday. The members served as student advisors during the Hour of Code.

There are approximately 20 students in regular attendance for the Coding Club, yet only three are females.

“To me, that goes parallel with the worldwide published data. There are not enough programmers going into this field and there

are certainly not enough females. One of the Microsoft founders announced that there is a shortage of computer programmers, predominately females. And although the universities are offering these courses, it is unfortunate that they’re not filling up,” Loera said.

Beauty And The Beast

South Pointe Middle School Choir and Drama Departments presented Beauty and the Beast Jr. on December 4-7.

Shown below are Jordan Parra and Katelyn Contreras as the lead roles, along with Brenda Xiao as the role of Luminaire.

Julia Prudencio, Brandon Tanjuaquio and Ruby Hernandez were also featured in the lead roles among the 55 students that appeared in the production.



PHOTO COURTESY: TYLER WADSWORTH

Holiday Shopping – Who's On Your List?

By KIMBERLEY SANDER

SGV – The holidays are coming, and along with the regular stress of planning, decorating, dinners, families, parties, and spending budgets,

comes that age-old question, "What do I buy everyone this year?"

Look no further than your Weekly News! We have a list of terrific possibilities right here, right now. Check out these options to com-

plete your holiday purchases for those on your Naughty and Nice list.

Also make sure to use Post Box Plus to package your gifts! See their ad on the right.

Business	Gift Certificate Idea	See Page
Alamo Car Wash	Any Car or Truck Owner, Car Wash/Oil Changes	2
CBS Carpet Cleaning	Start the New Year With Clean Carpets	11
Fancy Cuts	Men's and Women's Full Service Hair Salon	11
Gift Baskets By Rita	Perfect for Family, Friends or Business Associates	11
Koki's Bouncers & Party Supply	December or January Birthdays Coming?	9
Lowe Chiropractic Yoga	Fitness Lovers, New Year's Resolutions	5
Massage Envy	Give the Gift of Relaxation	7
Peterson Auto Repair Center	Someone's Car In Need of Repair?	10
Pruners Garden Restoration	Restore Your Gardens to Beautify Your Home	9
Roman Construction	Update Your Home With New Paint	10
Sarah Marie's Creations	Cakes, Crafts, Jewelry and Other Creations	11
Sophie's Wags to Whiskers	Pet Salon and Boutique for the Pet Lover	10
Spa Care Repair Specialists	Pool in Need of Repair? Be Ready For Summer	9
The Book Rack	Any Book Lovers On Your List?	11
The Whole Enchilada	Receive \$5 Enchilada Bucks for every \$25 Gift Card	12
Vida Health Clinic	New Year, New You – Lose Weight and Look Great	7
Vision Arts	Artist/Graphic Designer, Celebrity Portraits	11

Hot Dog Pops in Diamond Bar Closed?

STAFF REPORTS

Diamond Bar – Hot Dog Pops, located at 808 N. Diamond Bar Blvd., had their door closed and lights off during operation hours last month, leaving customers pondering if they closed for good.

In a prior interview, co-owner Kevin Halm said that Hot Dog Pops may close their doors for financial reasons. Now that their doors are closed, lights are off,

and business phone is disconnected, it appears they have in fact closed. However, the owner was unavailable to answer questions before press time.

The restaurant opened in December 2012 to bring diversity into Diamond Bar eateries and to provide a good hangout place for people of all ages.

They not only offered 11 combinations of hot dog toppings to choose from, but also served breakfast favorites, 29 different

types of sandwiches, six different types of burgers, more than 150 kinds of soda pops, 20 kinds of root beers and 40 different regular and microbrew bottled beers and wines.

Hot Dog Pops also did a great job in serving the community and was awarded New Business of the Month by the City of Diamond Bar in July.

If Hot Dog Pops doesn't relocate and is closed for good, this is a reminder to make sure

Safety tips for the holiday season

TIPS from page 1

and check for any dead branches, and remove them.

• Keep your tree away from electrical sources and outlets. This includes fireplaces and burning candles.

• Before hanging lights on the house or tree, inspect the lights for rips and tears and bulbs that may be burned out or broken.

• Make sure your tree is suitable for your house. A 10-foot

tree should not go in a room with a 9-foot ceiling, and so forth.

• Make sure your tree is safe, secure and upright to prevent it from falling on children, pets or guests.

• Keep pets away from lights and trees. Animals, especially young ones, like to chew on cords, which can cause an electrical shock and even spark a fire.

• When you are not at home, leave blinds and curtains closed so that your tree and gifts are not

on display for curious criminals. When you are home at night, it is okay to open blinds and "display" your tree.

• Boxes from the big ticket purchases like plasma TVs, X-Boxes, Play Stations, etc., should not be thrown in the outside trash container as they draw attention to what is inside your house. Instead, flatten boxes and throw them away at work or in a local dumpster.

• Retrieve mail and packages immediately. Do not allow them

to sit on doorsteps or in the mailbox as thieves regularly break into mailboxes and steal packages right off the porch.

Shopping Safety

While out shopping, be aware of your surroundings and never shop alone. Keep an eye out for suspicious persons or people that appear to be "watching" you. If at all possible, shop during the day and try and only go to one store. If you need to shop multiple stores, check your purchases into the store's bag-check instead of leaving them in your trunk. Thieves will often watch shoppers as they go from store to store, drop items off at their car, and return to shopping. Once you have left your car, especially at night, they break into your car and grab your pur-

chases. If you must put things in your trunk, try to at least cover purchases with blankets or other items to make it more difficult for thieves to grab and go.

Personal Safety

When you attend holiday parties and other celebrations, make sure you designate a responsible driver or call a taxi or a friend if you drink too much. Also be aware of your surroundings and your neighborhood. If something looks out of place or is questionable, call the police. According to L.E.A.F.F. President, Rigo Arrellano, local law enforcement would rather you call them than not. You never know when your suspicion could catch a criminal or save a life. In other words, don't just talk about it, be about it.

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we shop and eat at our local businesses in order to keep them in business. Make sure to check out the holiday shopping guide above as a directory for your easy holiday shopping.

A list of businesses and their services are made available in order to shop locally this holiday season, so we won't have to report of any other businesses closing!

chases. If you must put things in your trunk, try to at least cover purchases with blankets or other items to make it more difficult for thieves to grab and go.

Personal Safety

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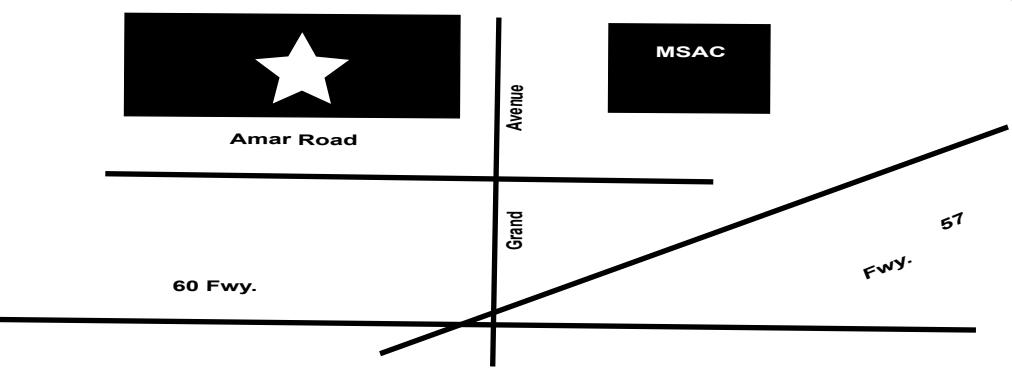
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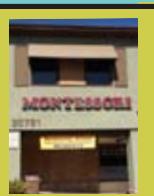


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50% Cleaners	444-1111
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Bin Bin Konjac	594-2832
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Clearwater Bagels	598-4332
Dollar Tree	468-4850
East West Bank	869-7232
Electric Beach Tanning	839-1992
Elixixr Cycles	595-6116
GNC Vitamins	869-7272
Hub Café	595-4545
International School of Montessori	594-8172
Krazy Noodle Thai BBQ	595-3034
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Skyline Dental / Harvey Chen, DDS	595-1800
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"999 For Kids" Program's Annual Holiday Celebration

STAFF REPORTS

Whittier - Personnel from the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department and Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services held their annual holiday celebration this week to bring festive cheer to victims of child abuse.

On Dec. 8, the Sheriff's Training Center in Whittier was transformed into Santa's Village complete with Santa's Toy Shop, where the children made stuffed animals, decorated cookies, rode a merry-go-round, played in real snow and got their picture taken with Santa.

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department and the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services created the "999 for kids" Program over 25 years ago, accord-

ing to the LA County Sheriff's Department. Their mission was to assist physically and mentally challenged children who were victims of the most severe cases of child abuse, neglect and domestic violence, which still exists to this day.

During the annual year-end holiday party, approximately 800 of the program's children are greeted by members of the Sheriff's Department where they received toys, McDonald's Happy Meals, and participated in entertainment activities including train rides, inflatable jumpers, and face painting.

For more information about this event, contact Public Information Officer Nicole Nishida at (323) 810-1973, Sergeant William E. Jaeger at (562) 946-7810 or Sheriff's Headquarters Bureau at (323) 267-4800.

Crime Recap

STAFF REPORTS

This week in crime includes a crash in industry leaving two youths critically injured, two men injured in another car crash, and 15 arrests for a \$1 million burglary.

On Dec. 9, two teenagers were sent to the hospital in critical condition after their car careened into a utility pole and burst into flames. The accident occurred on Valley Blvd. just east of Nogales Street, according to the LA County Sheriff's Station. The driver, an unidentified male, was driving at a high rate of speed when he lost control and struck a pole, causing the car to flip and burst into flames. The passenger, also an unidentified male, was ejected from the vehicle and onto the railroad tracks. Both males were in critical condition and sent to UC Irvine Medical Center in Orange, according to the LA County Sheriff's Department.

On Dec. 10, another car accident occurred when a vehicle drove off an embankment and rolled over. The driver and passenger, who were identified as two males, were found by

officers when they arrived at the scene. The result of their injuries was not released, but the driver showed signs of being under the influence, according to the Walnut Sheriff's Station.

On Dec. 12, Industry Sheriff's detectives made 15 arrests in conjunction with a recent burglary. The arrests were made in relation to an ongoing investigation into a burglary that happened in a La Habra home on Nov. 23. The home in question was hosting a large party. However, unbeknownst to the owner, multiple attendees had stolen items from, and vandalized the man's home. Investigators undertook the investigation and in the span of a couple of weeks, issued multiple searches and arrest warrants throughout La Habra and Whittier. Investigators finally found the stolen items which included electronics, clothes, antiques such as knight helmets and shields, and even a stuffed leopard. 15 arrests were made in total, which included a young adult male identified as Nickolas Koontz, 18, and 14 unnamed juveniles on suspicion of burglary and trespassing.

No tolls for new 405 lanes

TOLLS from page 1

the north and south directions, with hopes of easing some of the traffic.

Originally, three proposals were up for discussion to fund the building of these lanes. The most controversial was the idea of building toll lanes. Many were opposed as it would cost citizens up to \$10 a day to travel the same roads they have already been traveling. Assemblyman Mansoor even threatened to introduce legislation to block the toll lanes if the plan went through.

With over 350,000 vehicles using this stretch of the freeway,

the need for additional lanes is crucial to easing congestion. After a long and heated debate, OCTA board members voted 11 - 4 to add a single lane in both directions from Euclid Street to the 605 Freeway, and to drop the proposal for toll roads. However, OCTA Director, Todd Spitzer, warned that the toll road idea may be revisited at a later time.

The \$1.3 billion additional lane project will be paid for by Measure M, which will add a half-cent tax approved by voters for transportation.

Construction is expected to begin in 2015, with the environmental impact report expected to be completed this summer.



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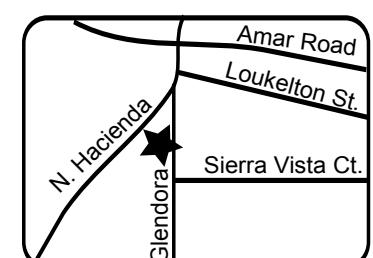
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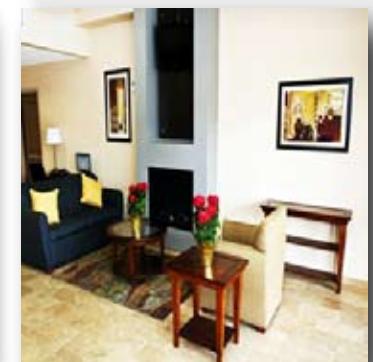
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Straight Talk With Danice

DEAR DR. DANICE,

I'm a secretary at a busy law firm. I take dozens of calls throughout the day. When I get home from work I need time to unwind. I live alone and I love it. I see my boyfriend once during the week at night, once for lunch, and most every weekend. This is more than enough for me. I have a few close friends who I visit when I have time. My problem is



that people are always complaining that I don't answer my phone. They are right. I hate to talk on the phone in my personal life. I have made it clear that I prefer text or e mail for casual communications. I do not want to be tied up talking on the phone; I do enough of that at work. Short, sweet, and to the point is what I'm looking for if I take, or make, a phone call. People don't respect this about me so I simply don't take their calls anymore. I respond using text or e mail. It bothers me that people think I'm rude. I don't impose on anyone or force them to do things they don't want to do, so why are my friends

and family so irritated with me?

Lee L.

Dear Lee,

Sounds like you're a loner by nature and that's perfectly fine, but maybe you should take a few steps to help people understand you better. People often get irritated when they can't get their loved ones to behave in a way that is most comfortable or pleasing for them. If your friends and family enjoy long phone conversations but you don't, they probably feel they aren't getting their needs met in the relationship, so they complain. The dangerous thing about taking this stance with someone like you, who really craves alone time, is that you will probably let them go

if they make the relationship too difficult. I'm sure you would be hurt to lose a friend or have your family member angry with you, but you realize that you honestly need your alone time, probably just to survive the type of job you have. If someone loves you they will accept you for who you are, and sometimes you need to be accepted for who you're not, as well. Don't make yourself miserable by living your life to please others. It sounds like you are at peace with your general nature and weekly agenda, so don't over-think this. Always try to be polite, but ignore the complaints and be true to yourself. To do otherwise will just cause you to be bitter and resentful.

Enjoy your days,
Danice Akiyoshi ND

Danice Akiyoshi is a Naturopathic Doctor and the head of Candid Coaching Service. She has a great passion for alternative healing and has over 20 years of experience in this field. She provides a form of energy psychology called The Emotion Code, where she helps people literally get rid of their emotional baggage. She also offers personal coaching services relating to all types of issues and concerns. This is a letter she received from an anonymous reader. To send a question to Danice, email her at straighttalk@candidcoachingservices.com. You can also visit her website at www.candidcoachingservices.com.

Depression And The Holidays

BY NANCY STOOPS

Did you know that suicide rates are among the highest during the holidays? This may sound very strange to some of you, but it is true. Believe it or not this isn't a wonderful time of year for everybody. I remember, as a little girl thinking how anybody could be sad this time of year. Now that I'm grown up and work as a therapist, I understand this concept much better.



The holidays seem to make us vulnerable and open our eyes to things that are painful for us. This time of year, we seem to become very sentimental and want to be close to our family and friends. This is a great idea in theory, but what if you have alienated them or maybe they have passed away. This could make your holiday feel like a very lonely time. It makes it worse when you see other families and friends gather together.

Are you feeling without purpose this holiday season? This may be the cause of your depression this time of year. There are so very many places you could go and donate some time. There

are many people that are sick or just plain less fortunate than we are. You could really make a difference for an individual, a family, or an animal and fight off the depression as well.

Whatever may be causing your depression during this holiday season, decide to do something about it. Don't sit around and feel sorry for yourself this year, life is just too short. Call an old friend, make up with a family member, help the less fortunate, or whatever else it takes to get through this holiday. My point is, this year learn to help yourself, and you will give you, the greatest gift you have ever received!

This article was written by Nancy Stoops M.A., M.F.T. Nancy is a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist. She has a private practice in Diamond Bar and is currently accepting new clients; she is also a motivational speaker who can inspire your employees or group members. Nancy runs free family support groups, a group on loss for seniors, and groups on how to manage anger. For more information about any of these services feel free to contact her at (626) 935-3818 or (909) 229-0727. You may e-mail Nancy at stoopsshester@earthlink.net. You may purchase Nancy's new book Live Heal and Grow at www.RoseDogBookstore.com or at Amazon.com.

This article was written by Nancy Stoops M.A., M.F.T. Nancy is a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist. Nancy is now accepting new clients. She also works as a motivational speaker. Nancy runs free family support groups, a group on loss for seniors, and groups for teens and can handle many court mandated needs. For more information about any of these services feel free to contact her at (626) 935-3818 or (909) 229-0727. You may e-mail Nancy at stoopsshester@earthlink.net. You may purchase Nancy's new book Live Heal and Grow at www.RoseDogBookstore.com or at Amazon.com.

Wonderful Words

BY MARK HOPPER

One of the things I love about the Christmas season are the songs and carols that fill the air. Shopping malls and radio stations play Christmas Carols from mid-November until Christmas day!



Most of us can recognize the tunes to many familiar carols, but how many of us really know the words? The message in the music is amazing.

For example, look at the words that are in the Christmas Carol, "Hark The Hearld Angels Sing". The first stanza reads:

"Hark the Harald Angels Sing, Glory to the new born King."

"Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled".

The words were penned by Charles Wesley, one of the founders of the Methodist Church in England. The tune was composed by Felix Mendelssohn.

Look again at the words. "Peace on earth". Something we all long for and something that is rarely seen. It seems like our world is filled with strife, turmoil and threats of terrorism.

Remember that the Wise Men

King". They came from the east to the little town of Bethlehem to see a young child named Jesus.

When Wesley writes "God and sinners reconciled", he is referring to the goal of reuniting man with God through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus.

The Bible says that all of us

are sinners and that our sin separates us from God (Isaiah 59:2 / Romans 3:23 / 6:23). And, the Bible also says that Jesus died on the cross and rose again to bring us back into a relationship with God (Romans 5:8 / 1 Peter 3:18).

It is interesting to see how much of the Bible story is sum-

marized in one stanza of a simple Christmas carol!

I hope you will listen more carefully to the words of the Christmas Carols that you hear on the radio, and shopping mall this season. Read the words more closely as you sing them at church during the Christmas

season. Christmas Carols really are filled with wonderful words!

Pastor Mark Hopper

Evangelical Free Church of Diamond Bar 3255 South Diamond Bar Blvd (909) 594-7604 Sunday Services: 9:00 & 10:45 AM Christmas Eve: 4:00 & 6:00 PM web site: www.efreelb.org.

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DB council recap: new council member sworn in

MEMBER from page 1

Mayor, which was affirmed by outgoing Mayor Tanaka. Herrera then nominated and affirmed Tye as Mayor Pro Tem for Diamond Bar City Council before a brief recess.

After public comments, the City Council announced the schedule of future events which included the Holiday Diamond Ride, which runs through January 1; the 2013 Holiday Home Decorating Contest on December 18; a holiday tree curbside collection program from December 26 through January 10; and various Diamond Bar City meetings.

The City Council then unanimously approved all items on the consent calendar, which included the minutes for the November 19 City Council meeting; the September 26 Parks and Recreation

Commission meeting; the October 10 Traffic and Transportation Commission meeting; ratification of the check register from November 14 through 27, totaling \$1,673,684.76; the Treasurer's statement for October 2013 and revised Treasurer's Statements for June, July, August, and September 2013; approval of application to be recertified as Tree City USA; approval of Contract Amendment No. 4 with KOA Corporation for on-call traffic engineering services for \$20,000; and the approval of the Notice of Completion for Residential Area 1B.

Lyons abstained from voting on the approval of minutes, but voted to approve the rest of the items.

For Council consideration items, City Manager James DeStefano and staff recommended that the Council continue discussions for the Willow

Heights Development on December 17, citing more information and research needed to approve the development. Many Diamond Bar residents have voiced their concerns at previous City Council meetings, citing safety problems concerning the covering of a storm drain in the proposed development area.

Council members approved to continue discussions for Item 8.1 on December 17 concerning Willow Heights vesting of tentative tract Map No. 72295, development review and tree permit.

Item 8.2, concerning the first reading of Ordinance No. 14 (2013) amending Division 5 of Chapter 8.12 relating to standard urban storm water mitigation plan requirements, was also approved by Council members, closing out the Council consideration items.

The Public Financing Authority then began its session

by first approving the minutes for December 4, 2012 and the Treasurer's Statement from November 1, 2012 through October 31, 2013.

Council Member Tanaka was then elected as Chairman for the Public Financing Authority,

which was affirmed by Herrera, with Council member Tye being elected as Vice Chair. City Council comments closed out the meeting's items.

The Diamond Bar City Council was officially adjourned at 8:52 p.m.



Connected Hearts
AN AROUSING LOVE STORY
Danice Akiyoshi

Connected Hearts had just enough angry frustration to keep me biting my lip and just enough sexy to keep those 50 Shades of Grey fans interested without overdoing it.
Book Reviewer - G.S.

Romance Author
www.DaniceAkiyoshi.com
BOOK RELEASE

"Vacation hold" burglars plead not guilty

BURGLARS from page 1

erty and Los Angeles Times Vacation Hold lists inside the vehicle. The lists gave the suspected burglars the names and addresses, as well as the dates that the subscribers would be out of town and suspending paper deliveries.

The suspects are in custody with bail amounts ranging from \$1.6 million to \$2.6 million. They were expected in court on December 10 for their

pre-trial hearing at Pomona Superior Court. According to the District Attorney's Office, if

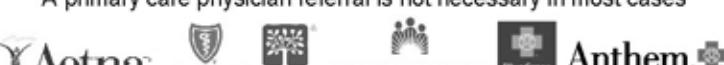
convicted of all charges, each one faces at least 20 years in state prison.



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New additions for Chino Hills

ADDITIONS from page 1

Encroachment Enforcement Program. For residents who have been following the City Council discussions, they may now sign up to receive an E-Notify message when specific items have been placed on the agenda for public meeting discussion or if there is an update on the topic. Visit www.chinohills.org/Enoti

fyOpenSpace to subscribe. For assistance with this process, call (909) 364-2618.

Finally, the new Community Center in Chino Hills is nearing completion, with the opening date anticipated in early 2014.

Initially approved for a \$4 million budget, costs have reportedly sky-rocketed to upwards of \$8 million. The additional funding has been provided by the City, through the community facilities

and lighting and landscape district reserves.

Despite increased costs, the Community Center will be a welcome addition to Chino Hills. When completed, the 17,000 square foot building, beautiful outdoor park and gazebo, upgraded parking, patio and walkways will provide endless opportunities for events and programs central to citizens of the City and surrounding areas.

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COMFORT from page 1

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Visitors can enjoy a wide range of activities and a prime central location to top businesses and conference facilities. La Puente Comfort Suites is located near The Irwindale Speedway, Industry Hills Expo Center, Raging Waters, Huntington Library and much more!

With a three-star rating from AAA, Comfort Suite's staff ensures that guests are always satisfied with their stay at their hotel.

AAA is one of the most widely respected information sources for travelers throughout the United States and recommends hotels on a 1 - 4 scale.

One thing guests will not find at Comfort Suites is a hotel room, as all rooms are suites. One of the great things about Comfort Suites is that you can stay in one of their suites for the price of a regular room.

Some of the amenities that guests will find at Comfort Suites

in La Puente are free Wi-Fi, cable/satellite TV, a flat screen/plasma TV, a fitness center and a 100% smoke free hotel. Every guest will also receive a hot breakfast every morning.

While staying at Comfort Suites, visitors of every age and interest will find a whole list of fun things to do, as La Puente is in the center of many fun activities. So whether you're into theme parks, racing, hiking, history tours, or shopping, you'll find plenty of things to do at attractions near La Puente.

Comfort Suites also offers specials throughout the year and is now offering 10% off with their ad on page 7 in the Weekly News.

Prospective customers can also view photos of the La Puente hotel by visiting www.industryhillshotel.com to get a glimpse of what Comfort Suites has to offer.

Comfort Suites, La Puente, is located at 753 Glendora Avenue, La Puente, CA 91744 and can be reached at (626) 330-0030. Check out their ad on page 7.

Walnut Council Corner: proposed six-home development

WALNUT from page 1

latest meeting on Dec. 11 was dedicated to a public hearing on the appeal of the planning commission's approval of a recent request to subdivide two existing lots into six on a property located west of Silver Valley Trail and southeast of Cantel Place within the rural overlay zoning districts of the City.

Key to neighboring property owners' opposition to the proposed subdivision is the preservation of the woodlands, the protection of existing Black Oak trees, and alleged insufficient buffering between the new street and the existing residential properties on Cofer Court.

According to data provided by the City, it was noted by the Planning Commission at their Nov. 6 meeting that all of the proposed lots would be accessed from a newly constructed street (Sunny Brook Trail) that would run perpendicular to Silver Valley Trail.

Resident Carol Coy, a 27-year resident whose property lies adjacent to the proposed subdivision, said she believed the community development department erred in recommending approval and the City Planning Commission. She said the commission should not have approved the tentative tract map.

"The developer was supposed to be required to demonstrate that it was legally feasible to build on the proposed sub-divided sites before approval and this was not done," said Coy, adding that the City of Walnut, oak and walnut tree preservation ordinance, and city code require the preservation of all healthy oak and walnut trees, unless compelling reasons exist justifying the removal of the trees.

Coy said the ordinance was adopted in order to preserve Walnut's remaining heritage trees.

Neighbors said the subdivision includes at least three walnut trees, including 10 Southern Californian Oak trees subject to the ordinance.

"By its design, it cannot be built without removing or relocating some and maybe most of these trees, trees must be removed due to the current access road location, grading and driveway design," said Coy.

"The developer did not provide any reason for this design," she added.

Coy also said other developers in Walnut were required to provide adequate and appropriate buffers between their projects and existing zones. "If a Trail or other buffer is not added along the south boundary, the wall included by the planning commission would be acceptable."

Walnut resident Richard Worth told the council he retained the services of an Alhambra based engineer to propose amendments to the proposal from developer Handaja Harijanto.

Harijanto said he believed at least one of the trees was damaged by recent fires and said he was frustrated by the ongoing

process, urging the council to approve the Planning Commission's decision. "We have so many options, we've been discussing for many years," said Harijanto, who was praised by the council for making many existing concessions to appease residents' concerns.

"It takes at least 80 years to grow a mature Black Walnut tree and only four foot and under saplings transplant well. These are mature trees, since our city was named after Walnut trees, the developer should be required to incorporate the trees into the development plan, not just mow over them," said resident Linda Wolford.

City Attorney Michael Montgomery said the council had little choice but to send the issue back to the planning commission due to state regulations.

"You gotta send it back. These are not minor adjustments, these are grade elevations, changes to the street, prohibition against

tree removals, these are major, and staff has to look at it first. We don't even know of the proposed amendments are legal under our code."

"The state legislature said the planning commission has the primary responsibility to approve subdivisions, the only reason the council is involved is if there's a right to appeal, but the decision making body is the planning commission," said Montgomery.

In other council actions, the council approved an emergency ordinance to amend its municipal code dealing with its building codes so that they would comply with county and state mandated updates, and they approved a 1.33 percent rate increase for solid waste collection effective in the new year.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Walnut City Council is scheduled for Wednesday, Jan. 8 at 7 p.m. in the Council Chambers at 21201 La Puente Road.

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MORTGAGE from page 1

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Sincerely, Al & Dorene M.

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