



City of EL MONTE

E-NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2010

City Manager's Message



As the year comes to an end, and we all prepare for our Christmas and other holiday festivities, on behalf of the City Council and City staff, we would like to first and foremost wish you all a very safe and Merry Holiday Season!

We also wish to thank all who attended our 39th Annual Holiday House, coordinated by the El Monte Parks, Recreation and Community Services and the Public Works Department. It was a spectacular event for kids and families, filled with much holiday cheer. It is the highlight of our holiday season!

We also hope to see you at our upcoming holiday events, highlighted in this e-newsletter, especially the El Monte/South El Monte Chamber of Commerce Annual Teddy Bear Mixer to be held on Wednesday, December 15 at the El Monte Community Center.

It has been a wonderful year for the City of El Monte, and your contributions continue to make this City a fine community for all of our families. And I wish to thank you for your active participation in City events.

Again, we wish you all a very happy and safe Holiday Season, and look forward to the exciting opportunities the New Year will bring!

Thank you,
René Bobadilla, P.E., City Manager

City of El Monte Kicks off the Christmas Season with 39th Annual Holiday House

The Christmas season was officially kicked off with the City of El Monte Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department's 39th Annual Holiday House on Saturday, December 4. The El Monte Community Center and Arceo Park radiated with Christmas cheer as there were more than 8,000 guests who attended the event throughout the day.

The Community Center, a sight to behold, was lined with glistening Christmas trees and holiday decorations all around. The stage was also decorated with Christmas trees and wrapped presents as if to replicate the North Pole. Santa Claus and his elves were on hand to greet children and take photos as they whispered their wishes

CITY COUNCIL

André Quintero
Mayor

Patricia A. Wallach
Mayor Pro Tem

Juventino "J" Gomez
Councilman

Emily Ishigaki
Councilwoman

Norma Macias
Councilwoman

Henry Velasco
City Treasurer

Lorene Gutierrez
City Clerk

(626) 580-2001

www.elmonteca.gov

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Winter Shelter for the Homeless

DATE & TIME:

Open Every Night December 1, 2010 through March 15, 2011, from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m.

Shelter Phone: (626) 252-9060

Info Line: Call 211 or
1 (800) 339-6993

2010 Recycling Contest & Fundraising Opportunity

DATE & TIME:

November 1 - December 13; all receipts must be received by December 13

LOCATION:

Send receipts to:

for Christmas morning.



The spectacular event also captivated many of our community families who enjoyed the various artisans and vendors who sold holiday crafts and delicious food at Arceo Park. Thousands of children awaited their turn to ride the bob sleds in Tamar's Winter Wonderland. The snow creation is named after Tamar Chavdarian, a beautiful young Recreation Leader who lost her battle with cancer at the age of 24. It is the City's privilege to celebrate in her honor.

In addition to the bob sled rides, the joyous Christmas atmosphere was overflowing with activities for kids including a moon bounce, arts & crafts, train rides, characters, music, free bicycle drawing, and the first 200 children to visit received a free holiday stocking, compliments of Councilwoman Emily Ishigaki.

The Holiday House also serves as a fundraiser to many El Monte non-profit organizations including the Arroyo High School Cheer Team Menudo Breakfast, the El Monte High School Spirit Groups Carne Asada Lunch, and the El Monte Pee Wee Cheerleaders Spaghetti Dinner. The El Monte Council of PTA hosted the Pie & Coffee Social, and El Monte Business & Professional Women sponsored the Snack Bar. Sponsors of the Arts and Crafts Circle included the Wayne C. Clayton Foundation, Olivares, Gallagher and Padilla, and Longo Toyota-Scion-Lexus.

The Community Services Department wishes to extend a special thanks to Councilwoman Emily Ishigaki and Valley Vista Services for being the primary sponsors of Holiday House and keeping the magic alive!

El Monte Police Department Shares Tips for Family Public Safety

As the holidays come and go, and as we spend time catching up with family and friends, we must always remain cognizant of everyone's, including our own, personal safety.

Emergency preparedness begins in the home, and it begins with you. While the kids

Susan Contreras
City of El Monte - Environmental
Services Division
11333 Valley Blvd.
El Monte, CA 91731

For more information, call Susan
Contreras at (626) 580-2058

Kranz Intermediate School Annual Menudo Breakfast and Toy Giveaway

DATE & TIME:
Saturday, December 11
8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

LOCATION:
Kranz Intermediate School
12460 Fineview Street
El Monte, CA 91731

Metro San Gabriel Valley Service Council

DATE & TIME:
Second Monday of Every Month
5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

LOCATION:
Council Chambers, City Hall
11333 Valley Blvd.
El Monte, CA 91731
For more information: visit website at
metro.net

Parent Support Group, Hope House for the Multiple- Handicapped

DATE & TIME:
Second Tuesday of Every Month
7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

LOCATION:
Hope House
4215 N. Peck Road
El Monte, CA 91732

For more information contact Jamie
Ruiz (626) 443-1313 or
jruiz@hopehouse.org

Thomas Safran & Associates "Cherrylee Gardens" Senior Housing Community Open House

DATE & TIME:
Wednesday, December 15
12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

LOCATION:
11620 Cherrylee Drive
El Monte, CA 91731

El Monte/South El Monte Chamber of Commerce Annual Teddy Bear Mixer

DATE & TIME:
Wednesday, December 15

are home from school and everyone is together, there is no better time to talk with each other and to develop an emergency plan, as a family.

Below are a list of things which you and your family can do together to help ensure a safe holiday, and an even better New Year for you and your family:

- Begin with a home inspection. Look for hazards such as loose wires, weak or unstable boards, and other potential fire or accident risks. Fix what you can and establish a time table to make your home "hazard free."
- Next, put together first aid and supply kits for each of your family members. Store ample water, medications, and non perishable foods that could be accessed in the event that everyday services become unavailable.
- Make plans for temporary and if necessary, long term housing. Make sure that you have the supplies (sleeping bags, blankets) to make the transition as sustainable as possible.
- Keep important documents (birth certificates, ID cards) and some cash readily available as banks and other institutions may be closed for an extended period. Keep photographs of family members available in the event of separation.
- Lastly, establish a communication "tree" which assigns each person, a specific list of persons with whom they should relay information to. A designated meeting point is suggested in any emergency situation. This would allow for family and friends to gather, regroup, and establish their next course of action.

Finally, El Monte residents can refer to the City of El Monte's website (www.elmonteca.gov) to obtain additional emergency preparedness information. They can also contact Sergeant Richard Luna of the El Monte Police Department, at (626) 580-2100, with any questions or concerns.

El Monte Aquatics Center Now Offers Winter Lessons

5:30 p.m.

LOCATION:

El Monte Community Center
3130 N. Tyler Ave
El Monte, CA 91731

56th Annual Miss Friendly El Monte/South El Monte "I Love the 80's" Pageant

DATE & TIME:

Saturday, December 18
5:00 p.m.

LOCATION:

South El Monte Senior Center
1556 Central Avenue
South El Monte, CA 91733

El Monte Police Department Community Relations Office Christmas Basket Giveaway

DATE & TIME:

Thursday, December 23
9:00 a.m.

LOCATION:

3540 Lexington Avenue
El Monte, CA 91731
(south side of Valley Mall parking lot and north side of El Monte School District)

Electronic Waste, Newspapers and Household Items Collection Event, Sponsored by Madrid Middle School Service Club and the City of El Monte

DATE & TIME:

Saturday, January 8, 2011
8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

LOCATION:

Madrid Middle School
3300 Gilman Road
El Monte, CA 91732

American Cancer Society Relay for Life of El Monte/South El Monte

DATE & TIME:

Committee Meeting:

Tuesday, January 11, 2011 at 7:00

p.m.; **Volunteer Social:**

Wednesday, January 12, 2011 at 6:00

p.m.;

Event Date:

April 30 to May 1, 2011

LOCATION:

Moose Lodge
4249 N. Peck Road
El Monte, CA 91731

All are welcomed to attend both meetings!

The City of El Monte's Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department is pleased to announce its offering of Winter Swim Lessons at The El Monte Aquatic Center. A variety of classes will be offered for all ages, including Parent and Me lessons for children 6 months to 6 years old, and beginning, intermediate, and advance lessons for various age groups from 4 years old to adult.



Two sessions will be offered, one beginning January 24, 2011 to February 17, 2011, and the second beginning February 22, 2011 to March 21, 2011. A Saturday session is available as well beginning January 29, 2011 to March 26, 2011.

Winter Class Registration will be held Saturday, January 15, 2011 at the El Monte Aquatic Center. El Monte Resident Registration is from 9:00

a.m. to 10:30 a.m., and all interested residents must have identification and utility bill

in registering parties name with El Monte address. Open Registration is from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Open registration continues Tuesday, January 18 through Friday, January 21, 2011 from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

For more detailed information including other year-round programs, and class schedule and times, please visit www.elmonteacquatics.com or call (626) 580-2213.

City of El Monte Receives CalHome Grant Funding

On October 26, the State of California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) awarded a one million dollar grant to the City of El Monte to administer a Mortgage Assistance Program and Owner-Occupied Rehabilitation Program. The Mortgage Assistance Program will provide up to \$65,000 in mortgage assistance to help low-income households purchase their first home.

The Owner-Occupied Rehabilitation Program will help low income El Monte homeowners repair their homes to ensure that they continue provide a healthy and safe living environment for its occupants. Both programs should be available to the public by February 2011.

To find out more information about these programs or get an application, please go to the City's website at www.elmonteca.gov or call the El Monte Housing Division at (626) 580-2078.

Congratulations to the Community Development Department on the success of their efforts to secure these important grant funds for our community!

Los Angeles County Launches Winter

City of El Monte Quarterly Town Hall Meeting

DATE & TIME:

Thursday, January 20, 2011
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

LOCATION:

Cherrylee Elementary School
5025 Buffington Road
El Monte, CA 91731

2011 El Monte Homeless Count

DATE & TIME:

Tuesday, January 25, 2011
8:00 p.m. - 2:00 a.m.

LOCATION:

Jack Crippen Multipurpose Senior Center
3120 Tyler Avenue
El Monte, CA 91731
Looking for Volunteers! If interested, please call (626) 580-2001

Free Foreclosure Prevention Workshop, Sponsored by the City of El Monte and Neighborhood Legal Services

DATE & TIME:

Saturday, January 29, 2011
9:00 a.m.

LOCATION:

Jack Crippen Multipurpose Senior Center
3120 N. Tyler Avenue
El Monte, CA 91731

If you would like to promote an upcoming event on our calendar, please email llopez@elmonteca.gov.

Shelter Program in El Monte

December 1, 2010 was the launch date for Los Angeles County's annual Winter Shelter Program. Selected community non-profit organizations provide temporary nightly shelter to homeless persons in LA County from December 1st- March 15th, 2011.

People in need of overnight shelter can go directly to one of the listed pick-up locations for free transportation to the shelter. Most shelters open at 6:00 p.m. and provide a dinner, a light meal in the morning and a bagged lunch. For more information, visit www.elmonteca.gov or www.lahsa.org or call the Winter Shelter Hotline: 1-800-548-6047