

La Mirada Living

WINTER 2020

Season's Greetings

Holiday Tree Lighting Drive-Thru Event

Saturday, December 5 from 6 to 8 p.m.

Civic Center parking lot





Celebrate La Mirada's History

*This year marks La Mirada's
Diamond Anniversary!*

A New City Takes Shape

La Mirada was incorporated in 1960, and the City continued to develop in the following years. Several unincorporated areas surrounding La Mirada were annexed by 1965. Annexed areas included the neighborhoods near Windermere Park and La Pluma Elementary School and the industrial areas north of Artesia Boulevard.

After incorporation, the City had a population of approximately 23,000 residents, which continued to grow at a steady pace through the 1960's. By 1972, La Mirada had a population of approximately 40,860 residents. Demand for housing remained strong. During that time, families were able to purchase a home in La Mirada for a price ranging from \$15,000 to \$20,000.

La Mirada began cityhood with a standard form of municipal government, consisting of a five-member city council and a city administrator. La Mirada City Hall was completed and dedicated in 1970, just three days before the City's 10th anniversary. Since incorporation, 29 City Councilmembers have served La Mirada.

During the years following incorporation, La Mirada Regional Park and the Golf Course were developed, Fire Station No. 49 was relocated to its present location and the City partnered with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's for law enforcement services. Median landscapes were constructed in various areas of the city, including La Mirada Boulevard, Rosecrans Avenue, and Valley View Avenue. Schools were being built and the Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District was formed through a partnership between Norwalk and La Mirada schools.



By 1977, the La Mirada Theatre for the Performing Arts was built, and the Theatre held its grand opening featuring legendary performer Tony Bennett. The Theatre has remained a highly acclaimed venue since.

More than 130 years ago, Andrew McNally purchased 2,300 acres of property and named it La Mirada. Today, there are over 1,000 businesses, 11 parks, top-quality schools, countless clubs and organizations, and many houses of worship. The population today is about 50,000.

The City of La Mirada continues to provide a safe, attractive, and family-friendly community where residents can enjoy quality recreational programs, beautiful parks and well-maintained civic facilities.



I-5/ Valley View Avenue Project

The I-5/Valley View Avenue Project continues to make steady progress. Caltrans' construction of the I-5 widening through La Mirada is about 70 percent complete. A second southbound lane opened on the Valley View Avenue bridge in September. The second half of the bridge is set to be complete in mid-2022.

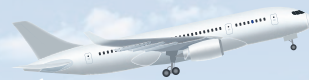
The Artesia Boulevard off ramp from southbound I-5 is closed and will remain closed for approximately one year to complete the next stage of construction. Traffic can exit at the recently completed Valley View Avenue off ramp.

Completion of the entire I-5/Valley View Avenue Project is expected in mid-2022. Updates on the project are available at My5LA.com or [@My5LA](https://twitter.com/My5LA).



Mental Support Services Available

Straight Talk Counseling is available to aid community members with a wide variety of mental health support services. If you are experiencing trauma, hopelessness or sadness, support is available via telecommunication. If you or a loved one are interested in participating in a support group or individual counseling, please contact Straight Talk at (562) 943-0195.



Passport Services Offered at City Hall

The La Mirada City Clerk's Office is designated as an authorized United States Passport Acceptance Facility. The services available for U.S. residents include forms for first time applicants and self-renewal by mail and lost/stolen passport information. Expedite processing service is also available for an additional fee.

Hours of operation are by appointment only Monday through Thursday, excluding holidays.

For additional information and details on processing times and pricing, visit cityoflamirada.org. To schedule an appointment, call (562) 943-0131.



Send a Letter to Santa

Let Santa know what's on your Christmas wish list! Santa will be sending personalized replies to all letters received by Wednesday, December 16. A special mailbox will be located at City Hall for letters to Santa. Letters may also be left for Santa during the Holiday Tree Lighting Drive-Thru Event on December 5. Please remember to include a return address, so Santa can write back.



Holiday Tree Lighting Drive-Thru Event

- Bring Toy and Food Donations -

The City will host a special Holiday Tree Lighting Drive-Thru Event on Saturday, December 5 from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Civic Center parking lot.


The event will begin with a tree lighting ceremony, which will be live streamed on the City's social media platforms. Participants attending the drive-thru event are encouraged to bring new, packaged, and unwrapped toys and food items to donate for local families in need.

Santa Claus will be waving to children along the festively decorated route. Children will also be able to drop-off letters to Santa. Craft kits and goodie bags will be given to all children to enjoy at home!

Call the Community Services Department at (562) 943-7277 for more information.

Virtual and socially distanced in-person
Recreation Activities
are available.



Please visit cityoflamirada.org for a list of available classes. 

After-school Club

The City of La Mirada offers an After-school Club at Gardenhill Park. The After-school Club provides children ages 6 to 12 the opportunity to enjoy fun activities such as outdoor games, arts and crafts, homework help and more, while remaining socially distanced.

After-school Club is available Monday through Friday from 2 to 5 p.m. The cost is \$30 per week. Children should bring a snack and water bottle for the day. Cloth face coverings are required to participate.

To register or for more information, please contact Community Services Department at (562) 943-7277 or visit cityoflamirada.org.



La Mirada Holiday Home Decorating Program

Get your holiday decorations out and start planning your festive holiday home display. La Mirada residents are encouraged to decorate their homes and help spread holiday cheer. Santa Claus will be canvassing the city this holiday season looking for the best decorated homes. Will your home be on his list?

Judging for the Holiday Home Decorating program will take place Tuesday, December 1 through Sunday, December 13. Every decorated home in La Mirada will be considered for recognition. No application is needed to participate in this program.

One winner and one honorable mention will be selected in each category. Winners will receive a certificate and yard sign. Winners will be announced on the City's website at cityoflamirada.org and photos of the winning homes will be posted on the City's social media.

To nominate a home for consideration or to receive additional information, contact Safety Education Officer Mary Cipres at (562) 902-2986 or mcipres@cityoflamirada.org before December 1.

For more information, call the La Mirada's Community Sheriff's Station at (562) 902-2960.



Neighborhood Slurry Seal Projects Maintain Streets

A neighborhood slurry seal project is nearly complete for neighborhoods located north of Imperial Highway. The project is part of an annual seven-year street maintenance program and also includes all public neighborhood streets in the area bounded by Santa Gertrudes Avenue, Foster Road, Ocaso Avenue and Imperial Highway.

Neighborhood streets bounded by La Mirada Boulevard, Imperial Highway, Ocaso Avenue and Foster Road are excluded from the slurry seal project, as this area will receive pavement rehabilitation through a separate project in early 2021.

Slurry sealing the pavement is an effective way of maintaining the street surface. The slurry seal coating provides a protective layer over the original pavement structure, which extends the useful life of the pavement. This project will continue to enhance La Mirada neighborhoods.



Traffic Signal Upgrades Improve Safety

Traffic signal upgrades were recently completed along Rosecrans Avenue. The intersections included Rosecrans Avenue at Biola Avenue, Figueras Road, Jalon Road, Adelfa Drive, Santa Gertrudes Avenue and Mercado Avenue.

Upgrades included the installation of additional signal heads, upsizing 8-inch signal heads to 12-inch signal heads, upgrading pedestrian signal heads and push buttons, replacing high-pressure sodium overhead safety lights with energy efficient LED overhead safety lights, installing new safety light poles and/or new mast arm poles to support new signal heads, and replacing overhead street name signs with high visibility, reflective street name signs.

Protected/permissive left-turn phases were installed at the intersections of Rosecrans Avenue at Biola Avenue, Figueras Road, Jalon Road and Adelfa Drive.



La Mirada Gymnasium HVAC Improvements

Construction is currently underway for the addition of an air conditioning system for the gymnasium court area. This will provide a more comfortable experience for those visiting the gymnasium to participate in or enjoy watching the wide array of activities and sports offered at the facility.

The air conditioning project is expected to be completed by January 2021. The facility is presently closed due to construction and COVID-19 restrictions. It will be opened following completion of the work and approval by the County Department of Public Health.

Thanksgiving Trash and Street Sweeping Schedule

Modifications will be made to the trash and street sweeping schedule due to the Thanksgiving holiday observed on Thursday, November 26.

The days for trash pick-up will change. Thursday pick-up will be moved to Friday, November 27 and Friday pick-up will be moved to Saturday, November 28.

Street sweeping will not be provided on November 26 or 27.

For additional information, contact the Public Works Department at (562) 902-2385.

Code Enforcement Keeps Neighborhoods Attractive

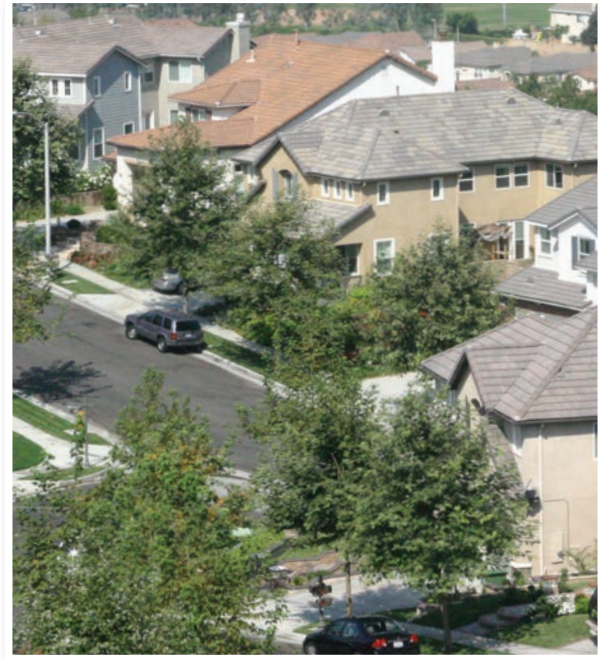
La Mirada's attractive and well-maintained community is attributable in large part due to caring residents and the high standards set in the City's Municipal Code.

The City's Code Enforcement staff works cooperatively with residents and business owners to achieve voluntary compliance of issues and keep La Mirada an attractive community. Only in the most extreme situations are fines issued and often as a result of repeated noncompliance.

Some of the violations addressed by Code Enforcement include unpermitted construction, expired business licenses, illegal dumping, inoperable vehicles, parking issues, illegal signage, unhealthy or unsecured swimming pools, and substandard property maintenance.

"Code Enforcement staff responds to concerns and complaints from the community," says Senior Code Enforcement Specialist Diana Ruedas. "We also enforce the City's Municipal Code in a proactive manner."

Code Enforcement has a major impact on property values and the aesthetics of the community. To report a potential violation in your area, contact the City's Code Enforcement Division at (562) 943-0131.



Thanksgiving Fire Safety Tips

The Public Safety Team reminds residents to be careful when preparing their holiday meals this upcoming Thanksgiving, as nearly 50 percent of all house fires start in the kitchen.

To ensure all residents enjoy a happy and safe holiday, the following safety tips are good to keep in mind:

- Start your holiday cooking with a clean stove and oven. Make sure any grease or food spills are cleaned to lessen the chance of a flare-up.
- Keep kitchen clutter and loose clothing away from stove burners.
- Turn pot handles in toward the rear of the stove, out of the reach of children.
- Never leave cooking food unattended.
- If the contents in a pot or pan catch fire, do not touch or try to move the pot or pan as you may spread the fire or burn yourself.
- Never use water on a grease fire; extinguish the flames with a fire extinguisher, metal lid or larger pot.
- If you are burned, do not use ice, butter or other such substances on the burn. Ice can damage the skin, and butter or other substances can trap the heat inside. Instead, cool the burn off under a steady stream of cool tap water and then seek medical assistance, if necessary.
- Make sure smoke detectors in the home are functioning and keep an ABC-rated home fire extinguisher in the kitchen.

For more fire prevention tips, visit the Los Angeles County Fire Department's website at fire.lacounty.gov.

Specialized Team Suppresses Crime in La Mirada

The Public Safety Team is committed to keeping La Mirada among the safest cities in the region by addressing criminal activity. La Mirada's Special Assignment Officers (SAO) Team serves a key role in the mission to prevent and suppress crime, as well as nuisance issues in the community.

Comprised of four Deputies and a Sergeant from the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, this specialized team does not respond to regular calls for service. The team targets specific problems impacting the community and patrols during various times to be most effective.

The SAO Team addresses and resolves specific community concerns such as gang and drug activity, conducts crime suppression operations, and develops long-term solutions using various community resources. The team suppresses criminal activity through directed patrol and enforcement, the service of search warrants and probation-related searches and gathering intelligence.

During the month of September, the Norwalk Sheriff's Station, which patrols the areas of Norwalk, La Mirada, and unincorporated Whittier, made several key arrests which resulted in numerous weapons taken off the streets from criminals who were not allowed to possess them. The La Mirada SAO Team was responsible for confiscating several of them.

"Through the ongoing efforts of this specialized team, numerous key arrests are being made to keep residents safe," says Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Sergeant Oscar Rodriguez. "La Mirada's SAO Team addresses the specific needs and concerns voiced by residents in the city."

Residents are encouraged to help the SAO Team by reporting crimes and suspicious activity to the La Mirada Community Sheriff's Station at (562) 902-2960.

For period of August 11 through October 27, 2020

- Recognized former Public Safety Commissioner Amy Day for her dedicated service to the community.
- Recognized Measure I Citizen's Oversight Board Members Hal Malkin, Philip Massey, David Morfin, Lee Olsen, and Scott Watkins for their dedicated service.
- Appointed Jack Miranda to the Planning Commission.
- Reappointed Yvonne Chen, Carol Jin, Hyunjun Kim, Emma Spirescu and Sarah Usmani and appointed Natalia Zuniga to the La Mirada Youth Council.
- Recognized City employee Emily Benavidez for her years of service.
- Presented a proclamation recognizing the 65th Anniversary of Cerritos College and commemorating September 17 as Cerritos College Day.
- Proclaimed October 3, 2020 as Relay for Life Day.
- Proclaimed the week of October 23 through October 30, 2020 as Red Ribbon Week.
- Received and filed the City Investment Reports for the months ending July and August 2020.
- Received and filed the City's Monthly Treasurer Report for the period ending July and August 2020.
- Approved a Transfer Agreement with the Los Angeles County Flood Control District establishing terms and conditions for the disbursement of Safe, Clean Water Program funds.
- Approved Amendment No. 2 to the Memorandum of Understanding with the Los Angeles Gateway Region Integrated Region Water Management Joint Powers Authority for the administration and cost sharing to prepare a Watershed Management Program and Coordinated Integrated Monitoring Program.
- Approved Relay for Life events in the Civic Center parking lot.
- Approved a temporary suspension of City facility maintenance fees for La Mirada Athletic Council member organizations.
- Approved plans and specifications for Alondra Boulevard pavement rehabilitation from Valley View Avenue to Mottley Drive and a joint participation agreement with the City of Buena Park.
- Awarded a contract to R.J. Noble for pavement rehabilitation of Alondra Boulevard from Valley View Avenue to Mottley Drive.
- Approved an on-call professional planning services agreement for a five-year term with Willdan Engineering and Interwest Consulting Group, Inc.
- Approved the Small Business Relief Program.
- Approved plans and specifications for Phase 6A Residential Street Rehabilitation.
- Awarded a contract to Doug Martin Contracting Company, Inc. for neighborhood slurry seal.
- Awarded a contract to Sunseri's for La Mirada Theatre for the Performing Arts concessionaire services.
- Established temporary regulations to permit outdoor commercial operations for designated commercial businesses.
- Issued a Notice of Completion to Safety Network Traffic Signs, Inc. for the street name sign replacement program.
- Amended an agreement for on-call professional/technical services with Michael Baker International Inc. for professional engineering design services for Telegraph Road at Wicker Drive-Hutchins Drive traffic signal.
- Issued a Notice of Completion to International Line Builders, Inc. for the Rosecrans Avenue corridor traffic signal upgrades.
- Reviewed and discussed the proposed OC Loop bikeway project.
- Reviewed and discussed proposed community events for fall 2020.
- Reviewed and discussed Phantom Projects funding request for Fiscal Year 2020-21.
- Reviewed and discussed McCoy-Rigby Entertainment's proposal for theatrical programming in spring and summer 2021.
- Adopted Resolution No. 20-25 approving the application for transit and transportation funds for Fiscal Year 2020-21.
- Adopted Resolution No. 20-26 affirming Executive Order No. 20-02, of the Director of Emergency Services establishing the Emergency Temporary Outdoor Commercial Program (ETOCP).
- Adopted Resolution 20-27 supporting California's Proposition 20 on the November 2020 ballot.
- Adopted Resolution No. 20-28 approving the City's participation in the Los Angeles Urban County Permanent Local Housing Allocation Program - First-Time Homebuyer Program.
- Adopted Resolution No. 20-30 approving the vacating and abandoning of a certain utility easement located at 15300 Desman Road.
- Adopted Resolution No. 20-31 approving the grant and conveyance of an easement to Suburban Water Systems for water pipes and appurtenances located within the La Mirada Civic Center parking lot.
- Adopted Resolution No. 20-32 approving a subeasement agreement with Suburban Water Systems for the maintenance, repair and replacement of water pipes and appurtenances within Civic Center Drive.



La Mirada City Council
John Lewis, Mayor
Ed Eng, Mayor Pro Tem
Steve De Ruse, Councilmember
Anthony Otero, Councilmember
Andrew Sarega, Councilmember

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Celebrate the New Year Safely

The Public Safety Team reminds residents to celebrate the New Year safely. To enjoy a safe holiday, keep in mind the following:

- Gunfire is prohibited.
- Fireworks, including "safe and sane" fireworks, may not be discharged.
- Public drinking of alcoholic beverages and public intoxication are prohibited.
- Streets may not be blocked to accommodate large gatherings.
- If you drink, don't drive!

The Public Safety Team will be taking a zero-tolerance approach to ensure the safety of residents. For additional information, contact the La Mirada Community Sheriff's Station at (562) 902-2960.

LA MIRADA TRANSIT

La Mirada Transit Makes Traveling Easier

La Mirada Transit is a curb-to-curb shared ride transportation service that continues to offer service to the general public. The City contracts with MV Transportation, Inc. to provide affordable transit services to and from local grocery stores, pharmacies, parks, and other locations within La Mirada city limits. Transit services are also offered to Westridge Plaza in La Habra, convenient connections to other transit systems, including Metrolink and up to one mile outside La Mirada city limits for medical appointments. La Mirada Transit operations remain in place with normal hours of operation. Request for service are taken on a first-come, first-served basis. When requesting rides, allow adequate time to reach your destination. Transit service operates as a shared ride and makes frequent stops.

Reservations may be requested up to one day before your desired appointment and up to five days in advance if your trip is a medical appointment. Due to COVID-19, subscriptions are temporarily suspended.

The California Department of Public Health issued an updated Public Health Order in June, which requires the public to wear a face covering and maintain social distancing while waiting for or riding on public transportation, to help reduce the spread of COVID-19.

Additional transit information, including fare prices is available at cityoflamirada.org or by calling (562) 943-6776 or (714) 943-6776.

