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# REPORTER

Volume 12, Issue 4  
Winter 2017

## Los Amigos Park — Coming This Spring

Made possible through community support!

A \$3.9 million park grant awarded to the City in 2011 is taking shape. The funds allowed City staff, architects from RJM Design Group (RJM), and residents from the local neighborhood to design Los Amigos Park, scheduled to open in spring 2017.

The grant, part of Proposition 84, is administered through the Grants and Local Services division of the State Department of Parks and Recreation. One of the critical components in obtaining funding was selecting a site in a community that was underserved, and could be developed with sustainable features. Through a series of community meetings, plans formed to turn an approximately 3.5 acre vacant parcel on Madrone Avenue, just north of 9th Street, into a park with an emphasis on sustainability and reducing long-term maintenance costs.

Staff worked closely with RJM to refine the Conceptual Plan and site amenities. Some unique elements of Los Amigos Park are the

raccoon and coyote water misters that will give residents a cool respite on hot days. There will also be a dedicated outdoor fitness equipment area, thanks to a contribution from IEHP. Custom pedestrian bridges will help visitors cross over one of the many bioswales without disturbing the nature below. There will be plenty of opportunities for outdoor fun on the full basketball court and small skate spot designed to be a place to learn fundamental skills.

The heartbeat of the surrounding community is in every part of the park. Fourth and fifth grade students at Los Amigos Elementary crafted friendship-themed artwork for tiles that will be incorporated into art pieces that will be displayed on two stone walls that were part of the park's original structures. We encourage you to visit the City website and view the artwork created by our local kids. For more information on all of Rancho Cucamonga's parks, please visit [www.CityofRC.us/cityhall/cs/parks/default.asp](http://www.CityofRC.us/cityhall/cs/parks/default.asp).





## 2016 Founders Day Community Parade Award Winners

### Best Representation of Theme

- 1st - Urban Edge Dance Co. (entry #13)
- 2nd - Studio Elite Dance Team (entry #49)
- 3rd - Dance Terrific (entry #68)

### Most Spirited

- 1st - Power Play Youth Athletics (entry #30)
- 2nd - Girl Scouts of Greater Los Angeles Troop 4024, 15514, 15834, and 1274
- 3rd - City of Rancho Cucamonga T.R.A.C. Teen Recreation Program (entry # 66)

### Best Overall Float

- Girl Scout Troop 244 (entry #17)

### Most Participation

- Los Osos High School Regiment Band

### The Founders Award

- Caryn Cougar Chorus (entry #19)

The City of Rancho Cucamonga extends our sincerest thanks to those community members and visitors who attended this year's Founders Day Community Parade. We all enjoyed a variety of over 100 entries including school groups, Boy Scouts & Girl Scouts troops, dance groups, equestrian units and many others as we "Celebrated Fun & Games."

Now that the election is over... what's next for Council Districts? Visit [www.MyRC.life](http://www.MyRC.life) for an update.

## A More Fruitful Grapevine

The user experience for the Grapevine online brochure is about to get an exciting boost.

The City of Rancho Cucamonga is committed to creating a more robust interactive brochure that will make the registration experience as simple as possible and encourage more online readership.

Historically, the Grapevine's functionality has been limited to: downloading the full PDF; scrolling through its pages using the default viewer on a smart phone, tablet, or computer; or opening a new page in a web browser. Once viewers find a point of interest they must visit the registration site or RCpark.com to manually enter activity numbers, or click through various City webpages to find more information. Despite the interconnectedness of the two resources, RCpark.com was not capable of hosting the flash-based version of the interactive brochure.

After a thorough search of the best available options, the City selected a new digital publishing tool that offers the range of interactive functions needed to make the Grapevine as powerful and useful as possible. Calameo is an online publishing platform used to create digital versions of traditional paper publications like magazines and brochures. It is optimized for viewing on all screens, large and small, and compatible with Android and iPhone systems, as well as several popular desktop browsers.

City staff will leverage Calameo's functionality to improve marketing for classes, programs, and events, while also offering powerful tools for the user to simplify their interactive experience. Take a look at some of the features coming to the Grapevine:

- Some classes will link directly to Active NET. Simply click the activity number to begin registration.
- There will also be links throughout the brochure to various City web pages. Interested in entering your float in the Founders Day Parade? Click or tap the parade ad to directly access the entry form on RCpark.com. Want tickets to see "Stuart Little" at the Playhouse? Click or tap the ticket price to visit the ticket page on LFP.com.

As an added bonus, the City will save time and money creating the digital version of the brochure, as Calameo's editing dashboard is as easy to use as it is powerful. Staff will also be better equipped to produce a Grapevine that is exactly what residents want. Statistics like page views, downloads, average reading time, link clicks, shares, favorites, devices used, and views by time of day will help guide adjustments and enhancements.

Looking ahead, Calameo may help bring other City publications online in an interactive format. The Rancho Reporter, Economic Development's Community Profile publication, Silver Fox Newsletter, and the Lewis Family Playhouse Season Brochure are just some possibilities to consider for the future.





## Fire District Performance Praised by Insurance Rating Organization

Rancho Cucamonga is safer thanks to the efforts of our first responders.

A recent evaluation by the Insurance Services Office (ISO) found the Rancho Cucamonga Fire District performs with high service standards. Your local Fire District is committed to providing premier emergency and non-emergency services. Firefighters continuously train to hone their skills, find innovative ways to enhance services, and strive to make our community safer.

The ISO surveys fire departments across the country once every four years through a Public Protection Classification (PPC) Program that analyzes a community's structural firefighting system. The organization uses nationally recognized standards and criteria developed by the National Fire Protection Association and the American Water Works Association to evaluate emergency communications, water supply, staffing, equipment, and community risk reduction efforts. Since the last survey in 2012, the Rancho Cucamonga Fire District has improved from Class 3 to a Class 2 – one of only 1,164 in the country!

The ISO recently updated its survey by adding more emphasis on efforts to reduce the risk of fire in the community. With the support of the City Council and City Manager, the Fire District implemented a strong risk reduction program that helped make the difference in the improved PPC score. City leaders continue to support Prevention Bureau personnel's daily efforts to reduce risks, eliminate hazards, and prevent fires throughout the community.

Investments in firefighting, protection, prevention, preparedness, and community outreach also demonstrate a commitment to our business community. Communities with good PPC ratings benefit from substantially lower insurance rates for homeowners and businesses. By waiving permit and inspection fees and keeping insurance costs low, the Fire District helps businesses sustain operations, keeps people employed, and improves our City's economic health.

Good stewardship is also reflected in the improved score. Maximizing existing resources and regional cooperation with neighboring fire departments through automatic and mutual aid strengthens the Fire District's readiness. A robust training program helps prepare firefighters for the challenges they face now, as well as in the future, as manufacturing and development continuously evolves. Our partners at Cucamonga Valley Water District provide a Class 1 water system that also bolsters firefighting efforts.

According to the ISO, insurance loss data shows a direct relationship between excellent fire protection and low fire losses. Not only is the PPC program an effective tool for evaluating an organization's fire protection service system, but it is also a guide for fighting fires efficiently and effectively. The City congratulates the Fire District on an outstanding evaluation. For more information on local fire prevention efforts, please visit [www.RCFire.org](http://www.RCFire.org).

## Local Deputy Receives Award for Impressive Service

Non-profit organization Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) recognized Deputy Daniel Smith from the Rancho Cucamonga Police Department (RCPD) at its annual awards ceremony in September. The event honors law enforcement officers with a passion for reducing the amount of drivers on our roadways that are impaired by drugs and alcohol. Departments from across the state submit their year-end DUI arrest statistics and MADD recognizes the deputy with the highest number. This year, Deputy Smith made an impressive 483 arrests between January 1, 2015, and December 31, 2015.

Daniel is a dedicated deputy with more than fifteen years of experience in law enforcement. He began his career with the Rancho Cucamonga Police Department at the age of fourteen as a volunteer for the Explorer Post. "I made it a point to ride out with the deputies assigned to the Traffic Division when I was an Explorer because that is where I wanted to work," he says. Smith achieved his goal as a member of the RCPD Traffic Division in 2014 working weekend DUI enforcement. His enthusiastic demeanor and devotion to serving his community is infectious. "Daniel leads by example at the station, and his achievements should be celebrated," said Rancho Cucamonga Police Chief Danielle Boldt. When asked about why he is so passionate about DUI arrests, Smith said, "If I can prevent one DUI-related crash by making an arrest, I feel I have saved a life."

The mission of MADD is "to end drunk driving, help fight drugged driving, support the victims of these violent crimes, and prevent underage drinking." For more information on how you can help, visit [www.madd.org](http://www.madd.org). For more information on local law enforcement efforts, please visit the Rancho Cucamonga Police Department website at [www.RCPolice.org](http://www.RCPolice.org).





## Rancho Cucamonga Celebrates the Return of International Walk to School Day

Hundreds of local students, parents, teachers, and community members walked and biked to school during International Walk to School Day on Wednesday, October 5, 2016. The Healthy RC Safe Routes to School Program joins schools around the world each year to celebrate safety and fitness, and spread the message about keeping kids safe on their way to school.

This year, Healthy RC partnered with Cucamonga Middle School to encourage students and their families to lace up their sneakers and walk, or strap on their bicycle helmets and pedal to school instead of riding in a car. Teachers and parents, along with local elected officials, school administrators, City staff members, firefighters, and law enforcement personnel led "walking school buses" from designated meeting locations to the school. To cap off the festivities, a school assembly celebrated this year's poster contest winners and emphasized the messages of fitness and safety. The Healthy RC Safe Routes to School Program even raffled off bicycles to a few lucky students.

The Healthy RC Kids Safe Routes to School Program is a comprehensive approach to bicycle and pedestrian safety that enables and encourages all children to walk and bicycle to school. Walk to School events work to create safer routes for walking and bicycling, and emphasize the importance of issues like increasing physical activity among children, pedestrian safety, traffic congestion, concern for the environment, and building connections between families, schools, and the broader community.

If you are interested in joining an existing program, creating a new program in your school, or would like additional information, please visit [www.HealthyRC.com](http://www.HealthyRC.com).



## Healthy RC Dining Welcomes New Restaurants

It's now even easier to stay on track when eating out in Rancho Cucamonga.

Healthy RC is pleased to welcome three new restaurants to the Healthy RC Dining program, bringing the total number of participating restaurants to more than 20.

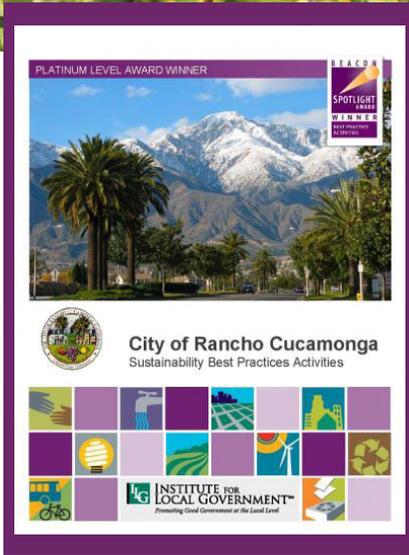
**Chop Stop** is nutritious, delicious, and fast! You can fully customize your own Chop, soup, or wrap using over 40 delicious ingredients, or try one of the fantastic in-house recipes. Think of Chop Stop as social networking for food. All kinds of fresh ingredients and flavors combine for a sum that is even tastier than its individual parts. Best of all, everything is pre-chopped so meals are as fast as they are healthy. Visit Chop Stop at 11144 E Foothill Boulevard #120, Rancho Cucamonga.

**Double Play Pizza** is a family owned company offering natural food options with the freshest ingredients. A deep commitment to high quality products and the community remain the key ingredients to Double Play Pizza's success. The menu unites Italian Flavor with Lebanese Flatbread in a variety of vegetarian, beef, and chicken items served with special Mediterranean spices. Flatbreads, salads, and soups are just a few items from their healthier menu. Come experience the flavor at 10431 Lemon Avenue, Suite F, Alta Loma.

**Tropical Smoothie Cafe** believes there is no better way to make a great meal than with quality natural ingredients. Delicious smoothies, wraps, salads, snacks, and catering are some of the healthy, fresh options available for all ages. Tropical Smoothie Café is guided by one simple belief: when you eat better, you feel better; and when you feel better, all is better. Its mission is to inspire a healthier lifestyle by serving amazing food and smoothies with a bit of tropical fun. Stop in for a taste at 12799 Foothill Boulevard, Suite A, Rancho Cucamonga.

The Healthy RC Dining program is a voluntary program for restaurants throughout the City that offer healthy options for adults and children using guidelines created by the City with the assistance of a registered dietitian. Current data shows that Americans eat one-third of their meals outside of the home, and two-thirds of adults and one-third of children are overweight or obese. Local numbers echo these statistics. Taking all these factors into consideration, the City is proud to partner with, and recognize, local restaurants that promote healthy options when residents dine out. Be sure to check our website at [www.HealthyRC.com](http://www.HealthyRC.com) next time you feel like dining out, and consider a participating local restaurant enrolled in our Healthy RC Dining program.

Restaurants that choose to participate, and meet program requirements, receive recognition at a City Council meeting and promotion on the City's website and mobile application RC2GO. Participating restaurants also receive Healthy RC Dining branded items such as window decals to identify that the restaurant offers healthy dining options, table tents to feature healthy choices, menu stickers to highlight healthy menu items, and activity place mats and crayons for children featuring healthy eating tips. These items are offered at no cost as part of participation in the Healthy RC Dining Program. Please contact Healthy RC at (909) 477-2700, or visit us online at [www.HealthyRC.com](http://www.HealthyRC.com) to participate.



# Rancho Cucamonga Receives Platinum Award for Sustainability

A noteworthy accomplishment in pursuit of a healthier, more sustainable future.

The City of Rancho Cucamonga received a Platinum Level Beacon Spotlight Award for Sustainability Best Practices from the Institute for Local Government (ILG).

The ILG Beacon Program recognizes California cities and counties that promote sustainability, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, save energy, and adopt policies and programs to address climate change. The Platinum Level is the highest level of achievement for Sustainability Best Practices and Rancho Cucamonga received this recognition for its robust and active programs in all categories. The City previously received Gold Level recognition in 2013 and Silver Level recognition in 2012.

Three cities in San Bernardino County participate in the Beacon Program and Rancho Cucamonga was the only city in the Inland Empire to be recognized this year. The award was recently presented at the League of California Cities Annual Conference in Long Beach. "The Institute of Local Government is delighted to have the City of Rancho Cucamonga participate in the Beacon Program and be recognized this year at the platinum level," said Martin Gonzales, Executive Director for the Institute of Local Government. "We're looking forward to celebrating Rancho Cucamonga's leadership, and sharing its best practices with other cities and counties around the State."

The City's most recent sustainability efforts include completion of the SolarRC Expansion Project, including 1.8 megawatts of solar powered systems at five City facilities. Rancho Cucamonga was also recently designated as a "Cool California City" for lowering greenhouse gas emissions during a statewide six-month challenge and updating its green purchasing ordinance. The City is also in the process of developing its first Sustainable Community Action Plan and joining the San Bernardino Regional Energy Partnership.

Rancho Cucamonga Mayor L. Dennis Michael states, "Being a recipient of a platinum level Beacon Spotlight Award is an accomplishment we are proud of and it reflects our forward-thinking approach to sustainability."

The City's participation in the Beacon Program aligns with the Healthy RC initiative, which strives towards a healthy and sustainable Rancho Cucamonga by adopting policies and implementing programs and strategies that advance health and environmental sustainability in the community. For more information please contact Deborah Allen, Management Aide-Sustainability, at (909) 477-2700 ext. 2047, or by email at Deborah.Allen@CityofRC.us. For more information on green initiatives, energy efficiency, and solar programs, please visit [www.HealthyRC.com](http://www.HealthyRC.com).

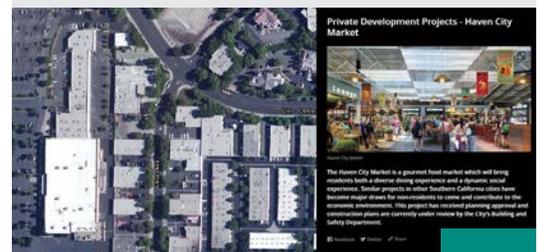
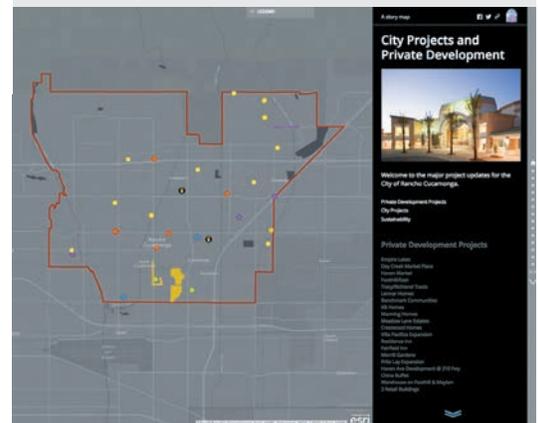


# Development Updates in a Few Clicks

Residents often express curiosity regarding local development, but don't always know exactly where or how to access such information. City staff take pride in the level of effort put forth to provide residents with not only answers to their questions, but also self-service resources that invite them to actively participate in the development of their community. The latest addition to this effort is a new interactive map detailing public and private development projects currently in progress throughout the City.

The map identifies approved projects, and sorts them into one of three categories: City projects, private development, or sustainability. Residents can explore changes from both street- and community-level perspectives. When you pass a construction site and wonder what is taking shape, the information may only be a few clicks away. The map is an excellent resource for residents seeking more information about the growth in the community, and for developers trying to determine the level of forward progress in Rancho Cucamonga.

This exciting new tool is the result of a collaborative effort between the City's Planning Department and the Department of Innovation and Technology. Updates are posted on a monthly basis, so make sure and visit regularly to stay current. To view the map, please visit [www.CityofRC.us/CityProjects](http://www.CityofRC.us/CityProjects).





## Keep the Neighborhood Clean on Windy Days

Seasonal Santa Ana winds can cause problems with the collection of trash and recyclables. Strong gusts frequently tip containers over causing spillage. Materials are then strewn throughout streets and neighborhoods. You can help keep your neighborhood clean on windy days with these easy steps:

### Bag and tie trash before placing in barrels:

This makes cleanup efforts easier should the barrel(s) tip over.

### Avoid placing trash and recycling out on windy days:

If possible, do not set your trash or recyclables out for collection on windy days. Bag any excessive trash and recyclables that will not fit in your barrel, and the waste hauler will collect all accumulated bags along with your containers on your next scheduled collection day.



## Keep Your Home Healthy and Safe from Hazardous Waste

Just a cautionary few steps can make a big difference.

Keep your home healthy and safe by properly disposing of household hazardous waste. Items like leftover paint, used motor oil, unused household cleaners, and old electronics can cause extremely unhealthy conditions when thrown into the regular trash. Storing unused portions of these items in your home or garage can also be hazardous to your family and pets. Instead, take advantage of the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility.

The collection facility is located at 8794 Lion Street between Hellman and Vineyard off of 9th Street. Stop in on Saturdays, except holiday weekends, from 8:00 a.m. to noon, and safely dispose of harmful items. The facility only accepts waste from residents of Rancho Cucamonga or San Bernardino County. Loads are limited to 15 gallons or 125 pounds of waste per trip, in containers no larger than 5 gallons. **Business waste is not accepted.**

**The collection facility will be closed on November 26, December 24, and December 31, 2016.** Please note: it is illegal to abandon hazardous substances outside the facility when it is closed. Call the Environmental Programs Info Line at (909) 919-2635 for a complete list of acceptable items, transportation guidelines, and complete holiday closure information.

Residents can also use any of the other participating household hazardous waste collection facilities in the county. Days and hours of operations vary. For details, call (800) OILYCAT (800-645-9228), or visit [www.sbcfire.org](http://www.sbcfire.org) and click on "Household Hazardous Waste."



## End the Holidays on a Green Note: Recycle Your Holiday Waste

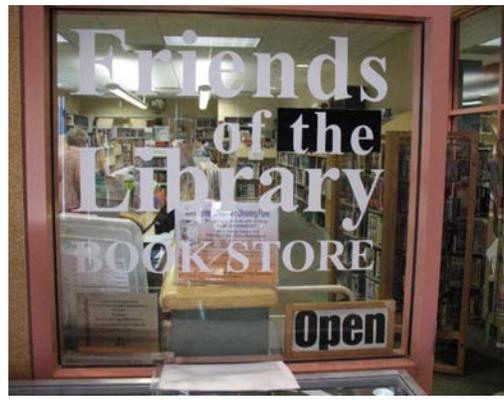
Give the planet a belated holiday present.

Did you know that approximately 80 percent of your holiday trash is recyclable? Send the season out in green style by cleaning up with the environment in mind.

Gift boxes, wrapping paper, greeting cards, and cardboard packaging are all items that you can dispose of in your recycling barrel. Gather your excess holiday trash and recyclables in bags and place them alongside your containers on your regular collection day. Burrtec Waste Industries will collect excess holiday trash and recyclables from December 26, 2016, through January 15, 2017.



Burrtec will also collect and recycle your Christmas tree. Just place your tree at the curb on your regular collection day from December 26, 2016, through January 15, 2017. Please be sure to remove all ornaments, lights, and metal stands, and cut your tree in half if it is more than six feet tall.



## Friends of the Library Seeks Volunteers

Start a new chapter of community service in Rancho Cucamonga's libraries.

Support Rancho Cucamonga's libraries and join the Friends of the Library. This group of volunteers provides support that is invaluable to the wonderful programs offered at both the Archibald Library and the Paul A. Biane Library.

The Friends raise funds by selling items at two bookstores. One is a "superstore" located at the Archibald Library and the other is a boutique located at the Paul A. Biane Library. Both offer ever-changing inventories of items like previously read books and magazines, pens, pencils, erasers, blank CDs and DVDs, and greeting cards. Since 1994, the Friends have raised over \$1.85 million dollars and are quickly approaching the \$2 million mark. Every dollar from every purchase is essential to the Adult Literacy and Back to Basics tutoring programs, the Summer Reading Program, and many other library events and services.

Become a Friend of the Library and contribute directly to the betterment of the community. You can join by volunteering for a minimum of three hours per week, or by purchasing a personal membership. Volunteers serve in many different roles at the bookstores and perform a variety of duties including customer service, sorting, pricing, training, and scheduling. Those looking to help without joining can donate gently used books and magazines to the bookstores. For more information, or to join, please visit [www.CityofRC.us/cityhall/lib/support/friends.asp](http://www.CityofRC.us/cityhall/lib/support/friends.asp).

## Night Skies are Getting Brighter in Rancho Cucamonga

Cities around the Inland Empire are slowly replacing the yellow glow of traditional High Pressure Sodium (HPS) streetlights with whiter, brighter, and more energy-efficient Light Emitting Diode (LED) fixtures. The City of Rancho Cucamonga began converting some of its existing HPS streetlights to LEDs in Street Lighting District (SLD) 8 in the first quarter of 2013, and has since retrofitted almost 500 streetlights. The new fixtures have several benefits including significant energy and cost savings, increased nighttime visibility, and an extended lifespan that greatly reduces maintenance costs.

City-owned Rancho Cucamonga Municipal Utility will begin a pilot project to retrofit fixtures on Day Creek Boulevard (south of Foothill Boulevard) and Jack Benny Drive with new LED lights in November 2016. The project will feature a total of 14 new LED fixtures from seven different manufacturers and give the public the opportunity to see the different types of LED streetlight technologies available. All manufacturers included are among the leaders in the field of LED streetlights, and approved by the Design Lights Consortium (DLC).

During the nine to twelve months of the pilot project, members of the public will have the opportunity to provide comments and feedback. The information collected will help the City select the type of LED technology and the fixtures that best suit the community's needs. The City will take ownership of its more than 15,000 streetlights from SCE in 2017 and looks forward to executing these improvements.



HPS streetlights



LED streetlights

## Spark of Love Toy Drive

The Rancho Cucamonga Library is excited to present the eighth annual Spark of Love Toy Drive Storytime! This year's event will take place on Saturday, December 10th, at 11:00 a.m. at the Archibald Library.

Each year, the Library highlights the holiday giving season with this family-friendly program. Collection bins will be available for donations of new, unwrapped toys and sports equipment. The fun will also include games, crafts, stories, and special guests - the Rancho Cucamonga Fire Department and the Caryn Elementary Show Choir. Come sing carols, play games, and embrace the spirit of the season. Bring your friends and family and remember to bring a toy to help give kids in need a brighter holiday.

Can't make it this year? You can still be part of the magic! The Library will start accepting donations in late November and all gifts will be distributed to families in Rancho Cucamonga. For more information, stop by the Library or visit the website at [www.rcpl.lib.ca.us](http://www.rcpl.lib.ca.us). Storytimes will also take place at the Paul A. Biane Library at Victoria Gardens on Saturday, December 10th at 2:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. The Rancho Cucamonga Library sends everyone in our community best wishes for a happy holiday season.





## Kitten Nursery Recognized for Innovative Rescue Efforts

At the recent League of California Cities Conference, the Rancho Cucamonga Animal Care and Adoption Center was presented with the prestigious Helen Putnam Award for the innovative Kitten Nursery program.

Each year, the Animal Center receives nearly 1,000 underage kittens from 1 day old to 8 weeks old that need around the clock care. Finding foster homes for the most fragile of babies is difficult. With help from donors and community volunteers, the Animal Center opened a 24-hour neonatal kitten nursery. This labor of love brought the community together for a great cause and saved the lives of many kittens. Volunteers ages 12 and over bottle fed, cleaned and provided general care for the kittens until they were old enough for adoption, which improved the adoption rate for cats by over 6%. Due to the success, the nursery will open again April through October and is expected to care for more than 1,000 underage kittens.

Additional funding and volunteers are needed to continue this life saving work. Please consider donating, volunteering, or becoming a foster parent. Visit [www.RCpets.info](http://www.RCpets.info) to donate or for additional information.



RANCHO CUCAMONGA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
in partnership with  
THE CITY OF RANCHO CUCAMONGA  
will be hosting the

### 2017 State of the City

RANCHO CUCAMONGA  
commUNITY

### SAVE THE DATE

February 23, 2017

5:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Victoria Gardens Cultural Center - Lewis Family Playhouse  
12505 Cultural Center Dr., Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91739



HONORABLE MAYOR **L. DENNIS MICHAEL**  
will be addressing the community to reflect on the city's accomplishments of the past year and to review plans and vision for the future.

**TO SECURE YOUR SPONSORSHIP**  
PLEASE CONTACT  
THE RANCHO CUCAMONGA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
909.987.1012 • [RANCHOCHAMBER.ORG](http://RANCHOCHAMBER.ORG)

## Bridal Expo Returns to Victoria Gardens Cultural Center

All things old, new, borrowed, and blue are waiting for you!

Say 'I Do' to the Victoria Gardens Cultural Center's fourth annual Down the Aisle... Wedding Style Bridal Expo.

What a joy it is to receive the marriage proposal that will unite you and your partner for the rest of your lives. There's often a toast, warm fuzzy feelings, and then – anxiety sets in. "I have to buy a dress, set a date, find a venue, invite all our relatives, and pay for their meal?" Don't worry. Help is just around the corner. Calm your anxieties at the Down the Aisle... Wedding Style Bridal Expo on Sunday, February 19th, from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Stroll through a transformed Victoria Gardens Cultural Center glittering with wedding magic. Sip a mimosa while you meet the area's top wedding and event professionals. Gain inspiration at the couture fashion show and do some hands-on planning with delicious samples of hors d'oeuvres and desserts. Check off every item on your nuptial checklist from DJ's and desserts, to florists and photographers, and everything in between. You can even get messy digging through desserts in our famous Cake Dive. This is more than just a wedding expo; it's a fun-filled opportunity to create memories with your fiancé, family, and closest friends.

The activities and giveaways are seemingly endless during this five-hour event. There will be more than \$8,000 in prizes to be won. All guests are encouraged to participate and make this a day the entire bridal party will always cherish. Brides who pre-register online before February 12th are FREE, and guests are only \$10. Entrance the day of the event is \$10 for all attendees. Come see your wedding "pins" and "likes" come to life at the best bridal expo event of the year! For more information, and to register, please visit [www.vgculturalcenter.com/bridalexpo](http://www.vgculturalcenter.com/bridalexpo).

