

# City Administrator's Weekly Briefing

From: *Damien R. Arrula*

December 7, 2023



“Rich Heritage, Bright Future”

## ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT

### City Council Reorganization

The Placentia City Council held its annual reorganization meeting on Tuesday, December 5th. The new City Council for 2023-24 is as follows:

- Mayor Jeremy B. Yamaguchi
- Mayor Pro Tem Kevin Kirwin
- Councilmember Rhonda Shader
- Councilmember Ward L. Smith
- Councilmember Chad P. Wanke

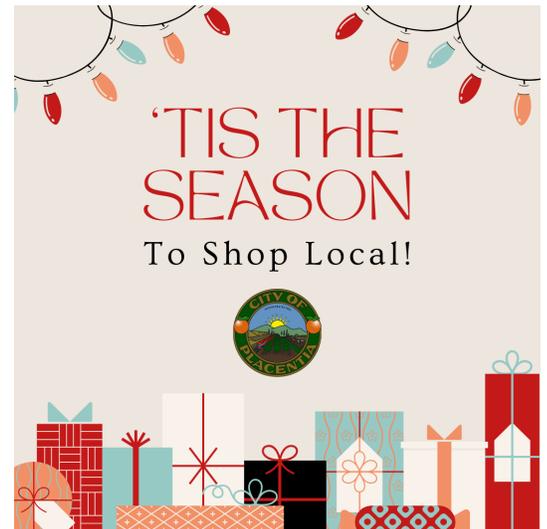
The next City Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 9th at 7:00 pm in the City Council Chambers at 401 E. Chapman Avenue. The City Council meetings are broadcast live on AT&T U-Verse (channel 99) and Spectrum (channel 3). Viewers can also view the City Council meeting live on the Internet or access past archived meetings.



### Shop Local for the Holidays

Tis the season! The holidays are well under way and as you shop for that perfect gift or for a place for family gatherings, remember to shop and/or dine locally here in Placentia. There are many advantages to supporting local retailers and businesses. When shopping locally, you support local jobs, assist in funding City services through sales tax, invest in our neighborhood retail centers and promote economic development.

Please don't forget the Farmers Market is also open every Tuesday evening starting at 3:00 pm at the Placentia Town Center, with special holiday crafts and accessories for the entire family. Enjoy the season and don't forget to shop locally at your favorite Placentia retailers!



### Upcoming Meetings and Events

12/7/23	Placentia Tamale Festival
12/18-1/2	Holiday Season Closure—City Facilities Closed
1/9/24	City Council Meeting
1/15/24	Martin Luther King Jr. Day—City Facilities Closed
1/20/24	Shred and E-Waste Event

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questions about this

Weekly Briefing, please email:

[CAWeekly@placentia.org](mailto:CAWeekly@placentia.org)



## ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT

### Stay Safe this Holiday Season

For many, the month of December is a time for decorating, traveling, cooking, and shopping. While we're spending time with loved ones, it's important to take steps to stay safe.

#### **Check the Weather Before You Travel**

Be sure to check the weather forecast before you travel to plan appropriately. If you see there is an approaching winter storm, stay off the roads. Having an emergency kit in your car can also help you be prepared for anything that might happen on the road. Your kit should include food and water, emergency winter road tools such as an ice scraper, shovel, gloves, blanket, emergency flares or reflectors, rock salt, a first aid kit, an extra windshield washer, and more.



#### **Consider Earthquake and Fire Safety When Decorating**

Flammable seasonal decorations, dry holiday trees, and increased time in the kitchen all contribute to an increase in home fires during the holiday season. Follow these tips to prevent home fires:

- Turn off holiday lights at night or when you leave the house.
- Don't overload extension cords.
- Keep candles away from flammable materials. Consider using flameless candles.
- Make sure to have working smoke alarms close to where anyone may be sleeping.
- Keep your holiday tree watered; don't let your tree dry out.
- Secure decorations so that they don't fall over or fall from above, potentially injuring others.

#### **Stay Alert When Online Shopping**

When you're shopping online for gifts, remember to be careful with personal information. Follow these cybersecurity tips when you shop:

- Do your online shopping at home, and make sure your wireless network is protected.
- Set strong passwords and change your password often.
- Shop online through trusted retailers to avoid getting scammed.
- Scammers may send fake emails that seem good to be true. Don't click on links!

#### **Check in on Your Mental Health**

The holidays can be filled with a lot of emotions that aren't always positive. You may be missing a loved one or a recent disaster could still be weighing on your family. In these difficult times, we can experience overwhelming feelings of sadness and loss, rather than feelings of joy and cheer.

Be patient with yourself as you continue to heal. Try these strategies:

- To feel better in the long run, you may need to take time to grieve and cry. Do not push your feelings away or hide them.
- Recognize that others may respond to the situation differently.
- Be sure to get enough rest and sleep. Sleep can help to relieve stress.
- Spend time with family and friends during the holiday season. Do not isolate yourself.
- Acknowledge that you have been through a significant event, and it will take time to heal.

The City of Placentia wants to wish all our residents and community members a safe and happy holiday season.



## PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

### Recycle Your Holiday Tree

Real holiday trees will be accepted at your curb by Republic Services starting Tuesday, December 26, 2023, through Saturday, January 6, 2024. Be sure to take off all lights, ornaments, tinsel, and garlands, as well as the metal or plastic stand. Set the bare tree at the curb. If your tree is more than 6 feet tall, please cut it in half for safe and easy collection. No flocked trees will be accepted for recycling. If you don't take your tree down until after January 6, 2024, please cut it into pieces that will fit into your yard waste cart or dumpster with the lid closed. You can also recycle holiday wreaths and greenery in your yard waste cart or dumpster. The wreaths and greenery must also be bare, so please remove all wires, hooks, bows, and other decorations. Collected trees and greenery are turned into mulch, compost, and ground cover. If your family enjoys an artificial tree, pack it up for next year. If you no longer find a use for your artificial tree and it is still in good condition, consider donating it to a nearby organization or second-hand store. If you are discarding an artificial tree, wreath, or a flocked tree, please place it into the waste cart or dumpster, or schedule a bulky item pickup. Artificial trees, artificial wreaths, and flocked trees are not recyclable. Contact Republic Services at (714) 238-3300 for more information.



### Mark Your Calendar for the Shred and Electronic Waste Recycling Events

On Saturday, January 20, 2024, and Saturday, April 13, 2024, the City of Placentia will host Shred and Electronic Waste Collection events at the Civic Center parking lot, 401 E. Chapman Ave., from 8:00 a.m. to noon. These events are free for Placentia residents and businesses.

- **Shredding:** Please remove paper from three-ring binders. Paper clips, staples, rubber bands, and file folders are acceptable.
- **Electronics:** Most items that plug into an outlet and any items with a screen will be accepted for free, but there will be a fee for major household appliances. Automotive batteries, rechargeable tools, and electronics batteries will also be accepted, but smaller household batteries will not.

For questions, contact Public Works at (714) 993-8148 or [recycling@placentia.org](mailto:recycling@placentia.org). These events may be subject to change, so follow the City on social media and check the City's website.

### Spring Compost Giveaway Event

Republic Services and the City will host the annual compost giveaway event on Saturday, February 3, 2024, from 7:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. (or until compost runs out). The event will be held at Tri-City Park, 2301 N Kraemer Blvd, and is open to Placentia residents only (proof of residency required). Due to the popularity of this event, each participant is limited to 60 gallons of each material. Residents must bring their own containers; bags are not permitted. This event is a big "thank you" to Placentia residents for diverting yard waste from landfills! Composting is recycling organic materials into a useful soil product that can be used in gardens or on potted plants. It can save money and time and reduce your garden's watering and weeding needs. It also benefits the environment by recycling valuable organic resources and extending the life of our landfills. This compost is a rich, organic soil amendment that consists of composted, recycled green waste collected as part of the City's residential green waste recycling program. A new state-mandated organics recycling program is being developed that will require the community to recycle food scraps and yard waste. To learn more, visit [www.placentia.org/sb1383](http://www.placentia.org/sb1383). For more information, contact (714) 993-8123 or [cnquyen@placentia.org](mailto:cnquyen@placentia.org).



## PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

### Yorba Linda-Placentia Active Transportation Plan

The neighboring cities of Yorba Linda and Placentia along with the Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District (PYLUSD) are partnering to develop a comprehensive Active Transportation Plan (ATP). The ATP will incorporate needed pedestrian and bicycle improvements, Safe Routes to School (SRTS) plans, and an updated Master Plan of Trails (including equestrian trails). This bi-city ATP is needed to add and connect infrastructure for safer, more accessible walking, biking, and riding for school children, families, residents, and visitors.

Please share your thoughts on walking, bicycling, rolling, and horseback riding in Yorba Linda and Placentia and identify key destinations in the community. Share your feedback through our online map or join us at one of our upcoming community meetings in January 2024.



Learn more about the community meetings and the project, and provide your feedback on the interactive map before it closes on January 31, 2024, by visiting [www.virtualeventroom.com/yorba-linda-placentia-atp](http://www.virtualeventroom.com/yorba-linda-placentia-atp).

## FIRE AND LIFE SAFETY DEPARTMENT

### Holiday Tree Safety

This holiday season, we want to remind you that keeping your tree hydrated is the best defense against holiday tree fires. Filling the water reservoir daily and ensuring the water level stays above the bottom of the trunk will help keep your tree hydrated. Signs of a tree in distress include dry trunk bark, shedding or dry needles, and a dull overall color.

We also want to remind you to keep all heat sources away from your holiday tree. This includes air ducts, fireplaces, and space heaters. Daily examination of extension cords and lighting will reduce the likelihood of a frayed wire going unnoticed. Remember to plug your holiday decorations directly into an outlet or other UL-listed device so you can safely enjoy everything this holiday season has to offer!

## POLICE DEPARTMENT

### JUSA TOPSoccer Celebration

This past weekend, we were pleased to be invited to join JUSA (Junior United Soccer Association) to celebrate the AMAZING TOPSoccer athletes for another incredible season of hard work and fun. Throughout the year, our Officers enjoy playing soccer, attending events with these outstanding players, and watching their progress from one season to another. We are looking forward to another exciting season next year! Way to go, Top Dogs!





## COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

### Placentia Tamale Festival 2023

The City of Placentia is pleased to announce the 29th annual Tamale Festival to be held tonight, December 7th in Old Town Placentia on the 100 and 200 blocks of Santa Fe Ave and the 200 block of Bradford Ave, from 4:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. The event will feature live entertainment, food and tamale vendors, non-profit booths, business booths, a beer garden, pictures with Santa Claus, a Holiday Tree Lighting, and a kids games area. Additionally, a free event shuttle will be available throughout the evening to and from nearby off-site parking locations. For more information about the event, please contact the Community Services Department at (714) 993-8232 or visit [www.placentiatamalefestival.org](http://www.placentiatamalefestival.org).



### Holiday Tree Lighting Event

On Thursday, November 30th, the City hosted the annual Holiday Tree Lighting event at the Civic Center Plaza. The event featured performances by the Musical Theatre University, a brief reading of the Christmas Story and blessing by Deacon Bob Alvarado, the lighting of the Menorah by the Chabad Beth Meir Hachohen, a snow play area, holiday crafts, hot chocolate and coffee sponsored by Golden State Coffee Roasters, tasty treats, photos with Santa Claus, and the lighting of the Holiday Tree. The Holiday Tree will be lit every evening throughout the Holiday Season. For more information on City events, please contact the Community Services Department at (714) 993-8232.



### Holiday Toy Drive

The Community Services Department, Fire and Life Safety Department, Police Department, and the Placentia Library are hosting a Holiday Toy Drive. Donations of toys are being accepted now through December 13th. Gifts will be distributed to families in need in Placentia and surrounding communities. For those interested in donating, please drop off a new, unwrapped toy for children ages 0-18 at one of the locations listed on the flyer. To view the flyer, please [click here](#). For more information, contact the Neighborhood Services Office at (714) 986-2333.



## COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

### Koch Park Phase II Improvements

The City is excited to announce that Phase II of the playground renovation at Koch Park is underway! The playground is expected to be completed in January 2024. In following the Parks Initiative Plan, Phase II of the playground renovation will add to the first responders park theme by highlighting the Placentia Police and Public Works Departments. The playground will feature a custom design incorporating shades, a police tower, new slides, a police car spring rider, a backhoe digger, a dump truck, and an excavator! The City Council approved the Placentia Parks Initiative Plan on June 1, 2021, a comprehensive master list of park and building projects. Projects were prioritized by safety, age of equipment, and funding sources. City park renovation projects are either funded through State Grants, Development Impact Fees, or Measure U funding. The City's goal is to have every City park playground renovated within 2 to 5 years. City parks will also have new amenities such as picnic tables, barbecues, benches, water fountains, and trash/recycling receptacles for residents to enjoy! For more information on the Placentia Parks Initiative Plan, please contact the Community Services Department at (714) 993-8232.



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## DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT

### Ace Hardware Construction Update

The City is pleased to announce that construction is underway at Westlake Ace Hardware, which will be the City's first large-scale hardware store!

Ace Hardware received approval on November 30, 2023, to establish a store at the 24,000-square-foot space located at 1257 E. Yorba Linda Boulevard in the Rose Linda Shopping Center. Plans include two weeks of interior demolition, followed by a full buildout of the interior. The existing storefront will be renovated with new paint, facade material, lighting, and signage. Additionally, there will be a dedicated garden center along the front of the store with a 1,995-square-foot outdoor retail sales area.

Westlake Ace Hardware is a 117-year-old company with 15 stores in California. Their parent company, Ace Hardware, has 343 locations in California and more than 5,600 locally-owned stores in all 50 states and 70 countries. The company prides itself on being a positive community member and adheres to the "Ace Helpful Promise" to provide customers with reliable customer service, helpful advice, and products.



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The City of Placentia looks forward to Ace Hardware opening sometime during the first quarter of 2024. Ace Hardware joins Audi of North OC and the forthcoming Circle of Friends Veterinary Hospital as new businesses at E. Yorba Linda Boulevard and N. Rose Drive. For more information, contact Development Services at (714) 993-8124.



## POLICE DEPARTMENT

### Holiday Crime Safety Tips

With the holidays upon us, the Placentia Police Department wanted to provide some tips to prevent and avoid becoming a victim of crime as you enjoy the season and all its activities. Remember, if you see something, say something. For immediate, emergency assistance, call 911. For non-emergency matters, call (714) 993-8164. If you are not sure, call 911 and let our Dispatcher's decide where to route your call. We wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season!

A graphic titled "HOLIDAY CRIME PREVENTION TIPS" with a light blue background, snowflakes, and a Christmas tree. It contains three sections of tips: Shopping at Home & Stores, If Away on Vacation or Traveling, and Celebrate Responsibly. It also includes the Placentia Police Department seal and the text "HAVE A SAFE AND HAPPY HOLIDAY".

### HOLIDAY CRIME PREVENTION TIPS

#### SHOPPING AT HOME & STORES

- While shopping, be aware of your surroundings and park in well lit areas
- Never carry large amounts of cash, pay with checks or credit cards
- Deter pickpockets/purse-snatchers: Don't overburden yourself with packages, carry your purse close to your body, not dangling by straps, or in your cart, and ALWAYS keep it closed. Carry wallets in an inside coat pocket or front pants pocket
- Conduct ATM transactions in safe locations during daytime hours
- Use the Placentia PD SAFE EXCHANGE ZONE, located in front of the police station, to meet online buyers or sellers and conduct transactions
- Do not leave valuables or purchases in plain view inside your vehicle and ALWAYS LOCK YOUR CAR
- Do not display gifts near windows in your home
- Install a home security system
- Only shop online with companies you know and trust
- Use credit cards, not debit cards to pay for online transactions
- Do not open emails from unknown senders
- Never provide personal information in response to an unsolicited email
- Protect your devices with up-to-date anti-virus software
- Destroy boxes or conceal them before leaving them for garbage collection
- Check I.D.'s of any solicitors, delivery people who come to your door
- REPORT SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY TO LAW ENFORCEMENT

#### IF AWAY ON VACATION OR TRAVELING

- Ask neighbors to keep an eye on your home, and park in the driveway occasionally
- Stop newspaper and mail deliveries
- Ask someone trusted to retrieve packages delivered to your home, or have them delivered to alternate locations/lockers
- Never hide a spare key outside
- Get automatic timers for lights
- Share vacation info on social media AFTER you return
- Check your bank accounts frequently to spot suspicious activity

#### CELEBRATE RESPONSIBLY

- DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE
- Use a designated driver, public transportation, or ride services

**HAVE A SAFE AND HAPPY HOLIDAY**

The seal of the Placentia Police Department, featuring a shield with a scale of justice, a sword, and the words "PLACENTIA POLICE" and "ESTABLISHED 1926".

## EXTERNAL COMMUNICATION

### Placentia Library District Weekly Summary

Placentia Library District

# WINTER READING PROGRAM

December 1, 2023 - January 13, 2024

[placentialibrary.beanstack.org](https://placentialibrary.beanstack.org) or the **Beanstack App**

Who doesn't enjoy snuggling up with a good book when it's cold outside? The more you read, the more chances you have to win. Take a little bit of time out of your busy holiday schedule to relax, have fun, learn and read! All ages!

## Age 0-13

For every 60 minutes you read (or are read to), you'll earn the chance to win one of our fabulous Kids Grand Prizes. Paper logs are available at the Information Desk for you to track your reading at home!

- Nintendo Switch Lite
- Super-Fun Marble Run
- Cosmic Space Projector
- Young Scientist Microscope Set
- Butterfly Fairy Night-Light Kit

## Age 14+

For each book you read, you earn a chance at one of our exciting Teen and Adult Grand Prizes.

- Baker's Gift Basket
- Cozy Up Gift Basket
- Bluetooth Headphones



Search for books, view our program calendar and more on our website!  
Visit [placentialibrary.org](https://placentialibrary.org)