

A Quarterly Newsletter Of



City of Downey  
562-904-7102  
www.downeyca.org  
Summer 2009



## Smart Gardening Information Center

Since Downey has been in the forefront of providing composting information to its residents, we were invited by the County of Los Angeles to host one of the 20 new Countywide Smart Gardening Information Centers. The Information Center, located at Wilderness Park, 10999 Little Lake Road, consists of an informational display area complete with three compost bin displays and five instructional signs. A weatherproof box holds flyers with schedules for upcoming workshops.



The program is a creative environmental education and outreach effort to educate residents about Smart Gardening techniques, such as composting, grass recycling, water-wise gardening, and fire-

wise gardening. These techniques are simple and effective ways to reduce the amount of yard waste generated, while helping residents create and maintain healthy, beautiful, and drought-tolerant gardens and lawns.

## Roundup headed to Downey in August

Hazardous waste doesn't belong in recycling bins or trash cans. Hazardous waste, including household, garden, and automotive chemicals, as well as universal wastes like electronics and batteries, must be disposed at special facilities. Why?

Because if the chemicals inside these products leak into our water, spill onto our soil, or evaporate into our air, people, animals, and plants can suffer.

Household hazardous wastes, such as lawn and garden chemicals, automotive fluids, and cleaners, as well as universal waste, such as electronics, batteries, and fluorescent tubes, are accepted year-round at the L.A. County Roundups and the L.A. permanent collection centers. L.A. County Roundups are held weekly on Saturdays at various locations. **We will be having a Roundup in Downey on Saturday, August 29, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the L.A. County Office of Education, 9300 Imperial Highway (enter on Clark Avenue).**

You can also visit one of the nearby S.A.F.E. Collection Centers. These centers are open every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The nearest S.A.F.E. Centers are:

- Washington Boulevard S.A.F.E. Center, 2649 E. Washington Boulevard, Los Angeles
- Gaffey Street S.A.F.E. Center, 1400 N. Gaffey Street, San Pedro

For more information, call the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works hotline at 888-CLEAN-LA (888-253-2652) or the Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County at 800-238-0172. Or, visit <http://ladpw.org/epd/hhw/>.

## The Right Way to Throw Away

### Guidelines for Residential Curbside Collection

**Gray Trash Barrel:** Food waste, soiled toiletries/food containers, Styrofoam, waxed paper, cigarette butts, diapers, sponges, animal waste, palm fronds, cactus, ice plant, yucca, and small bulky items.

**Blue Recycling Barrel:** All plastic containers and items (even those without the chasing arrows), clear/brown/green glass, wine bottles, aluminum cans, metal cans, coat hangers, foil, empty aerosol containers, newspapers, clean cardboard, magazines, junk mail, tissue boxes, cardboard egg cartons, non-metallic wrapping paper, and shopping bags. – *Please, NO Styrofoam.*

**Green Greenwaste Barrel:** Grass clippings, weeds, leaves, hedge and bush clippings, and tree trimmings and

branches under 4 feet long and 4 inches in diameter. – *Please, NO bags, rocks, palm fronds, cactus, yucca, ice plant, fruit/vegetables, or animal waste.*

**Bulky Item Service:** Call CalMet's Customer Service department at 562-259-1239, ext. 244, one business day prior to your regular pickup to schedule a bulky item pickup when you have large items that do not fit into your trash barrel. Bulky items include electronics (TVs, computers, etc.), furniture, mattresses, appliances, toilets, water heaters, and bundled yard waste. Bulky item pickup is free to Downey residential customers and for a fee to commercial customers. – *Please, NO vehicle parts, air conditioning units, or hazardous waste.*

**For more information regarding trash and recycling services, please visit CalMet on the web at [www.calmet-services.com](http://www.calmet-services.com).**

## Gardening with Blue Workshop

Homeowners all over Southern California are saving money, water, and time by planting water-smart gardens. Learn their landscaping secrets by attending a free Gardening with Blue Workshop, offered exclusively to residents of the Central Basin Municipal Water District service area. The workshop will be held



on Thursday, August 13, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., at the Barbara J. Riley Community & Senior Center, 7810 Quill Drive, Downey.

California native plants and other drought-resistant species need very little water in order to thrive in our Mediterranean climate. Many of these plants bloom year-round, putting an end

to the need to replant at the beginning of each new season. Reducing the amount of non-native turf in your yard is an energy-efficient, water-wise way to increase your property's curb appeal and conserve our most precious natural resource.

Pre-registration is required for this event. Space is limited, so call Central Basin at 323-201-5580 to reserve your spot!



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# WHAT'S UP?

The Keep Downey Beautiful (KDB) committee members held their annual litter survey on Monday, March 9. Visually assessing the community is an essential part of the KDB planning process.

For the survey, the City is divided by council districts and is further divided into smaller areas within each council district. KDB committee members tour the City using a four-point scoring system to estimate the quantity of litter in the area. A score of 1 means "no litter," 2 is "slightly littered," 3 is "littered," and 4 indicates an "extremely littered" area.

This information is used to direct and evaluate KDB's litter abatement programs and to measure progress.

Here are the results for this year:

- District 1 – 1.9
- District 2 – 1.8
- District 3 – 1.3
- District 4 – 1.5

The KDB committee members thought that, overall, the City looked clean. The areas where there were measurable amounts of litter were near multi-unit dwellings and areas that are heavily traveled transition points in the City.

## Beautiful is Good.

**One simple call can help keep Downey beautiful!**

- Abandoned Shopping Carts  
800-252-4613
- Graffiti Removal  
562-923-4484
- Illegal Dumping  
562-904-1161
- Household Hazardous Waste Disposal  
888-CLEAN-LA

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This newsletter is partially funded by a grant from the California Integrated Waste Management Board.

Partially funded by the City of Downey Public Works Department

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Please recycle this publication after you have read it!

This newsletter is partially funded by a grant from the California Department of Conservation, Division of Recycling.



# Street Sweeping & Trash Collection Schedule

Observed Holidays	City Hall Closed	Sweeping	Trash
Independence Day	Friday, July 3	Yes	Yes
Labor Day	Monday, September 7	No	No
Veterans' Day	Wednesday, November 11	Yes	Yes
Thanksgiving Day	Thursday, November 26	No	No
Day after Thanksgiving	Friday, November 27	No	Yes
Christmas Eve	Thursday, December 24	Yes	Yes
Christmas Day	Friday, December 25	No	No
New Year's Day 2010	Friday, January 1, 2010	No	No

### Street Sweeping

When there is no street sweeping, it will **not be made up**. Streets are always swept on the posted day.

### Trash Collection

When there is no trash collection, it will **be made up**. Trash will be collected the day after the normal collection day for the remainder of the week. For example, Friday's trash will be collected on Saturday.

### Please Note

On a few of the holidays, the schedule

causes trash collection to be on the same day as street sweeping for the remainder of the week. During these times, we request that the trash barrels be placed up on the curb so as not to hinder the street sweeper.

### Questions?

Trash Collection: CalMet, 562-259-1239

Street Sweeping: Utilities Division, 562-904-1452

Parking Enforcement: Police Department, 562-904-2342



# Mulch Giveaway

As required in the Solid Waste Services Agreement, CalMet Services provided a Mulch Giveaway event for residents on Saturday, April 18. Vehicles lined up from 9 a.m. to noon to receive up to 32 gallons of free mulch for their gardens. The event was held in the parking lot of the former Albertson's Market at 8320 Firestone Boulevard. CalMet distributed a total of 22,000 pounds of mulch.



# Join us for summer cleanups!

Each month, except August, we hold one Saturday morning cleanup. Volunteers meet and spend an hour picking up litter and trash for proper disposal. At the end of the cleanup, we have an area of our community that we can all be proud of.

Join us from 9 to 10 a.m. for these upcoming cleanups:

- July 18 – Greenline Parking Lot, Lakewood Boulevard and Gardendale
- September 19 – Heal the Bay Cleanup, Rio San Gabriel Riverbed – Meet in north parking lot, off of Pico Vista.

Volunteers will be assigned to clean up areas around each of these sites. Youth are welcome, but anyone under the age of 14 must be accompanied by an adult. All cleanups are sponsored by the Stonewood Center.

# Ridding your home of pests

Following the rainy season, warmer weather favors an increase in the populations of mosquitoes, rodents, and bees. Downey residents may contact the following agencies for information or assistance with infestations of these unwanted pests:

**Bees:** There are no government agencies that provide bee control services on private property in the City of Downey. Residents should refer to the local Yellow Pages under "Pest Control" to find a licensed pest control company. If a bee swarm or hive is located on the street, sidewalk, or other public property, please notify the City of Downey Maintenance Services Division at 562-904-7194. For more information about bees, please contact the Los Angeles County Agricultural Commissioner/Weights and Measures office at 11012 S. Garfield Avenue, South Gate at 562-940-8916, or visit their website at <http://acwm.co.la.ca.us/>.

**Mosquitoes:** Downey residents are advised to maintain pools and spas, avoid overwatering flower beds and

lawns, and eliminate sources of standing water on their properties. For information and assistance with mosquito control, contact the Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District, located at 12545 Florence Avenue in Santa Fe Springs, at 562-944-9656, or visit their website at [www.glacvcd.org](http://www.glacvcd.org).

**Rodents:** The City of Downey no longer provides free rodent control products. Homeowners may pick up a bag containing six packets of rodent poison from the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services, Environmental Health Division, located at 12440 Imperial Highway, Suite 515 in Norwalk. Homeowners will be allowed one bag every six months and may be required to show valid picture ID. Please call 562-345-6830 for more information. Homeowners can also request a free rodent survey/inspection of their property by Vector Management Inspectors by calling the Administrative Headquarters in Baldwin Park at 626-430-5450. For more information, please visit their website at <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/eh/pests.htm>.



# Recycle your used motor oil!

For locations of certified used motor oil and filter collection centers, visit [www.888CleanLA.com](http://www.888CleanLA.com) or <http://earth911.com>, or call 888-CLEAN-LA (888-253-2652) or 800-CLEANUP (800-253-2687).



**Redeem the value of your California Refund Value (CRV) bottles and cans!**  
For more information, including redemption locations, visit [www.bottlesandcans.com](http://www.bottlesandcans.com).