

POWAY Today



A Quarterly Municipal Newsletter for the Residents of Poway, California

Fall 2012

City Adopts Annual Budget Following Loss of Redevelopment Agency

Budget Highlights

The City of Poway adopted its annual budget in June, which will govern the City's financial activities from July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013. This year's budget was developed with the primary goal of maintaining current programs and levels of service. However, with the recent loss of the Poway Redevelopment Agency, the City faces new financial challenges. This year's budget was the first in thirty years without redevelopment as a funding source for its capital improvement projects, street maintenance, and other necessary public facility improvements. Redevelopment also shared a portion of the City's administrative overhead costs. As a result of this loss, the City was forced to make strategic cuts after the State Legislature ended redevelopment, including staff layoffs, and eliminating vacant positions.

With the most recent workforce reductions, the City will save over \$1 million dollars this year. Also in 2012, the City Council completed its employee pension reform goals. All employees now pay the full employee share of pension costs. Furthermore, the City implemented a reduced benefit pension plan for newly hired employees which will generate budget savings in future years. Contributions by employees now save the City over one-half million dollars a year in pension costs.

The total budget for the new fiscal year is \$71.9 million,

including General Fund expenditures of \$35.3 million. The budget includes the normal funding for maintaining City streets, storm water programs, and community services. To balance the budget, the Council has authorized the limited use of reserves, if necessary, to maintain the programs and services that Poway residents have come to enjoy. Thanks to the foresight and discipline of previous Councils, budget surpluses from past years were set aside in an Economic Uncertainty Fund. The use of the Economic Uncertainty Fund gives the City time to understand the full effect of the elimination of the Redevelopment Agency. This additional time is necessary to ensure a sustainable budget going forward.

Water and Sewer Rates

For the third year in a row, the City's cost to purchase untreated water is projected to go up. The City was able to absorb cost increases from the Metropolitan Water District and San Diego County Water Authority for the past two years, but that cannot continue. A rate increase for the City's water users may be necessary in 2013, and the City is planning a public workshop to discuss it. If a water rate increase is recommended, the City will conduct a Proposition 218 public hearing sometime in the fall, as required by State law. On the other hand, the City has been able to reduce its sewer rates for the past two years.

Organizational Goals

The City's work plan for 2012-2013 includes:

- ✓ Advocating for the protection of local revenues and local land use decisions from continuing state intervention.
- ✓ Winding down the former Redevelopment Agency's activities, including managing the sale of assets of the former agency.
- ✓ Taking aggressive steps to educate the community on the dangers associated with prescription and street drugs.

Costs are currently being evaluated to determine if sewer rates can be held steady in 2013. Sewer rates will be discussed at the same time as water rates.

Many cities in California and the nation are struggling today to meet financial challenges. The City of Poway is fortunate to have leadership who made, and are continuing to make, tough decisions to cut costs, reexamine priorities, and use reserves judiciously when necessary to preserve essential programs.

The City encourages its residents to review the City Budget, which is available for review:

- Online at www.poway.org, or
- In the City Clerk's Office

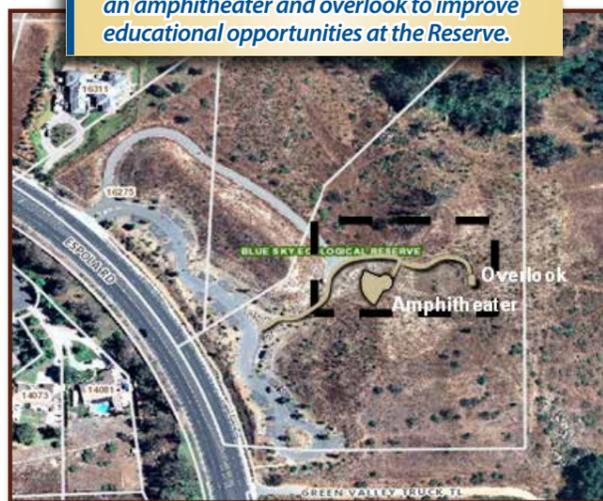
Something new in the Blue Sky Ecological Reserve

The Blue Sky Ecological Reserve (Blue Sky) is located on the bend of Espola Road north of the Green Valley Truck Trail. Blue Sky is a special place that contains a 700-acre natural canyon and is rich in animal and plant life. Most of the Reserve is owned by the California Department of Fish and Game and managed by the City of Poway. Each year over 40,000 people visit Blue Sky. During the year, more than 50 volunteers host a variety of engaging nature education programs and hikes, and talk about the unique types of plants and animals that live in the canyon.

In 2002, the Poway City Council approved conceptual improvements for City property, located adjacent to Blue Sky, including an educational/interpretive center, an outdoor amphitheater, a 75-space parking lot, outdoor biological exhibits, and walkways. The first phase of the project that included construction of the parking lot, bus shelter, and landscaping has been completed. The City recently amended the plan to relocate and reduce the size of the amphitheater and will build it with funds received by the Blue Sky Community Foundation. The Blue Sky Community Foundation was established to raise funds for the project and raised over \$110,000. The amphitheater will be located north of the parking lot, with access from a connecting trail. The amphitheater's design consists of five terraced rows of seats facing a 20-foot diameter circular stage and will accommodate up to 150 people. For those wishing a better view of the Reserve, a secondary overlook pad is also proposed. This overlook is located an additional 150 feet east of the amphitheater and provides a closer, expanded view into the Reserve.

Construction of the amphitheater will start in late September and is anticipated to be complete by early December. This new outdoor space will provide a venue for City staff, docents, and guests to present nature education programs that inform City residents, school children, and visitors from around the world about the types of wildlife and native vegetation found within the Blue Sky Reserve. Come visit Blue Sky for a hike or sign your group up for a tour and see the new amphitheater in December!

Using funds raised by the Blue Sky Community Foundation, the City will build an amphitheater and overlook to improve educational opportunities at the Reserve.



Shop Poway And Make A Difference In Your Community

Sales taxes account for 33% of the City's revenues

Spending dollars locally brings measurable value to the community. When you make a purchase in Poway, a portion of your sales tax dollars go to help fund essential City services such as fire protection, law enforcement, emergency medical response, and parks and recreation.



General Municipal Election - November 6, 2012

VOTING INFORMATION

The City of Poway is scheduled to conduct a General Municipal Election on November 6, 2012, for the purpose of electing two (2) Members of the City Council, in addition to a number of other offices including statewide and presidential.

WHERE DO I GO TO VOTE?

Your polling location is printed on the back of your sample ballot pamphlet. You can also visit the Registrar of Voters website at www.sdvote.com or call (858) 565-5800 approximately 3 weeks before the election to determine your polling location.

This Issue:

Vehicle Burglary

Take simple steps to prevent your vehicle from being burglarized. **pg. 2**



New Cardio-Hike Trail Opens

Get your heart rate up with this 4-mile trail created with the help of volunteers. **pg. 2**

Rainy Season Flood Preparation

Get prepared for potential flooding this season. **pg. 15**



Recycling for Maximum Results

Your blue bin now accepts styrofoam containers.

pg. 16



UNLOCKED VEHICLES – A CRIMINAL'S DELIGHT

It's 10 p.m. – Do you know where your car is?



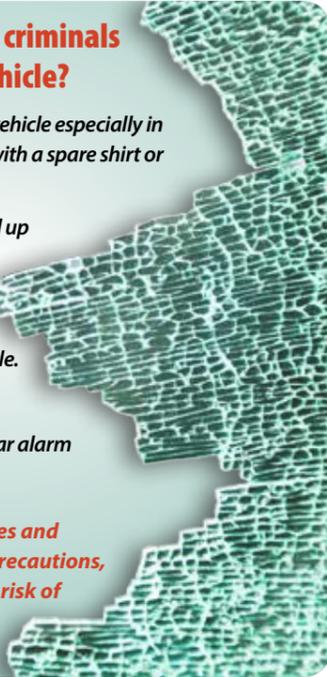
Vehicle burglary calls have increased in Poway recently. Although Poway enjoys a relatively low crime rate compared to other communities and the national average, the prevalence of auto burglaries is a challenge for both the Sheriff's Department and the residents of Poway.

According to the Poway Sheriff's Station's Crime Prevention Unit, many vehicle burglaries are crimes of opportunity. When a deputy arrives to take a report of a missing or vandalized vehicle, more times than not, the vehicle owner explains that the vehicle was not locked, which allowed the suspect access by just lifting the door handle. Locking the doors of your vehicle every time you walk away, will help prevent a typical, opportunistic suspect from targeting your vehicle and your personal belongings inside of it.

How do you discourage criminals from targeting your vehicle?

- Do not leave property in the vehicle especially in plain view (covering a purse with a spare shirt or towel doesn't fool anyone).
- Always lock the doors and roll up the windows.
- Park vehicles in the garage vs. the driveway – avoid parking on the street if possible.
- Park in well-lit areas.
- Don't assume that having a car alarm will keep thieves away.

By working with Poway deputies and detectives and taking simple precautions, our community can reduce the risk of vehicle burglaries.



You never know when it's time to Go

An Evacuation Checklist will help you leave quickly

When community evacuations become necessary, the City of Poway will provide information to the public through the media as well as its website. In some circumstances, other warning methods such as telephone calls using Reverse 911; Poway Neighborhood Emergency Corps (www.powaynec.com); Community Emergency Response Team (CERT); and Reserve Senior Volunteer Patrol are also used. There may be circumstances under which you and your family feel threatened or endangered and you need to leave your home, school, or workplace to avoid these situations.

If you are asked to evacuate due to an emergency, use the following list of items as a suggestion of what to take with you, along with your emergency supply kit.



HELP NEEDED TO STOP COPPER THEFT



The price of scrap copper has more than tripled since 2009, when copper was valued at \$1.25 a pound. The value is now up to nearly \$4.00 a pound at many salvage yards, making copper wire theft a nation-wide epidemic.

In Poway, copper thieves have stepped up their efforts, targeting street and park lights and costing the City close to \$50,000 last year. Thieves appear to be familiar with the electronics of street lights, having avoided being shocked while removing wire.

While law enforcement works hard to prevent this type of crime, the public is asked to be alert and report any suspicious activity around City streetlights, in City parks or around City

facilities, especially at night when City workers are unlikely to be performing work on lights.

If you see suspicious activity around City light poles, try to get vehicle description, license plate numbers, and descriptions of people involved and call Sheriff's Dispatch at (858) 565-5200, 24-hours a day. For your safety, do not confront anyone you suspect of stealing wire.

Suspicious activity includes:

- People lingering around, pulling wire or appearing to work on City light poles. Thieves could be dressed as utility workers.
- Large trucks around City light poles, especially if the trucks don't display corporate emblems.

YOU, YOUR KIDS, AND THE SOCIAL HOST ORDINANCE

How Things Can Get Out Of Hand

Your kids have finally reached the age when you feel comfortable letting them host a small party at your home. The kids don't want you around to "supervise," so you agree to stay upstairs during the party. You discuss the house rules and then agree to allow them to invite some friends over for a party. Your kids are responsible, and they've never given you reason to believe they wouldn't follow your rules. They invite over a small group of friends and let them know that "Mom and Dad have agreed to stay upstairs during the party." The first party goes arrive and you sequester yourselves upstairs. After a short period of time, a few uninvited friends drop by, phone calls are made, word spreads that your kids are having a party without parental supervision. Uninvited guests begin dropping by one or two at a time, friends are calling friends who are calling more friends, people begin showing up with alcohol, and you finally realize the party downstairs is pretty loud and that your kids are trying to manage an extremely large group of parties. You discover that a lot more people you and your kids don't really know well, or at all, are now in your house. Your refrigerator that was stocked with wine and beer is being guzzled by the guests. You get control of the group and everyone starts leaving your house.

They're walking, riding, and driving away from your home after having spent the

evening consuming alcoholic beverages. Deputies begin stopping impaired drivers and pedestrians. When asked where they were drinking, they readily admit that the party was at your house.

How did things get out of hand? Will you, as the homeowner, be held accountable? Here is some information that you should be aware of:

- Poway's Municipal Code (PMC) defines a "Social Host" as a person who permits or allows a gathering where one or more minors consume one or more alcoholic beverages on property owned or controlled by the person. (9.54 PMC)
- Hosts are subject to criminal charges under sections 9.54.020 and 9.54.030 PMC with statutory penalty assessments and cost recovery.
- You could also be subject to civil liability.

It's your home, your community, and your responsibility. Be sure that when you have a party at your residence, you are involved and aware of what is happening with your guests. Take all reasonable steps to prevent consumption of alcohol by minors. Everyone can still have a good time while avoiding the unfortunate incidents that typically result from underage drinking of alcohol.

This Will Get Your Heart Pumping!

Trail Construction Complete on Poway's First Cardio-Hike

The City of Poway's Trails Division recently joined with volunteers from Poway's Temple Adat Shalom to implement the City's first official "Cardio-Hike". The hike is four miles round trip and overlaps the City's Pomerado Trail. Begin the hike at Marker 1 approximately 200 feet east on the Pomerado Trail just southeast of the intersection of Pomerado Road and Bernardo Heights Parkway. This is the first of nine markers, placed every quarter mile and easily identified by their unique red and white color scheme (unlike the traditional brown signage found on trails throughout the City-wide system). From Marker 1, you will continue east, then southeast along the Pomerado Trail. The first mile of the hike consists of mild changes in

elevation as the trail meanders smoothly along the base of the foothills to the southeast, then transitions into a much more aggressive climb to the east as you begin mile number two. The second half of your second mile rewards you with a series of gentler ups and downs. This last half-mile is conquered quickly as it runs in a nearly straight line, east to west, and is heavily lined with a large thicket of shade trees. Mile two is the east end of the Cardio-Hike. Here you have the choice of turning around to repeat the two-mile return trek heading west, or perhaps arrange for a friend to pick you up near the 15000 block of Midland Road off of Del Poniente Road. Either way, enjoy the hike!



Flood Safety Are You Prepared?

The rainy season begins in October, bringing the possibility of flooding in Poway. The City provides free, unfilled sandbags and loose sand to residents for use during severe winter storms. These supplies can be picked up on Garden Road (across from Garden Road School), Midland Road (across from Old Poway Park Train Barn), and Lake Poway Road (at the first parking lot on the right approaching the lake). Stay safe this season and remember to approach standing water on roads with caution. As little as six inches of water can reach the bottom of most cars and cause stalling or loss of control. To report flooding, call the Public Works Department at 858-668-4700 (during business hours) or 858-668-4751 (after hours).

Maintenance of drainage facilities and natural creeks is very important because any obstructions to flow can contribute to flooding, stream bank erosion, and property damage for yourself and your neighbors. Obstructions can also result in the accumulation of debris and cause sedimentation build-up increasing the chance of a creek to overflow. It is important to know that individual property owners, and not the City, are responsible for the maintenance of creeks or private drainage facilities located on private property. Permits may be required to perform maintenance within natural creeks. Routine maintenance of natural creeks that may not require permits could include the removal of fallen trees, yard waste that has been dumped into creeks, stockpiled wood or other material, grass clippings, leaves and other debris,



and the trimming or pruning of dense vegetation. It is also recommended that property owners inspect, clean, and repair rain gutters, roof tops, and yard drains, and take care of any problems noticed during last year's rains. If you are unsure whether a particular facility or creek is City-maintained, or if you have any questions regarding the maintenance of drainage facilities, contact the City's Development Services Department at (858) 668-4600.

The City of Poway participates in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). The NFIP makes flood insurance available to everyone, even for properties which have previously flooded. Flood insurance is mandatory in certain situations; however, even if it is not required for your property, you can still talk to your insurance agent about purchasing a flood insurance policy if you are concerned about the possibility of flood damage.

Most alterations to structures or land require permits from the City. If the proposed work is located in a mapped floodplain, a floodplain development permit is required. You may visit the City of Poway Development Services Department for assistance in determining if your property is located in a mapped floodplain.

Flood maps and additional flood protection information are available at both City Hall and the Poway Public Library. For copies of elevation certificates on buildings built in the floodplain since 1995, call the Development Services Department at (858) 668-4656 or (858) 668-4600.



Unfilled sandbags and sand are provided by the City of Poway for FREE to help residents prepare for heavy rains and flooding.

“Natural” Storm Water Pollutants: Bacteria and Sediment

The most common pollution problems found in Poway's waterways are “natural” substances. Bacteria and sediment occur naturally in creeks and streams but become serious pollutants when human activity increases their levels.

Bacteria

Bacteria, viruses, and other organisms can cause flu-like illnesses, skin rashes, and other infections. They can come from failing septic systems, sewage spills, trash, pet waste, rotting plant material, and other sources.

Here are some ways you can prevent bacteria pollution in our streams:

- Deposit trash in the proper receptacles
- Pick up after your pets
- Eliminate overwatering and overspray from your irrigation system
- Maintain your septic system and private sewage pipes
- Keep animals and animal waste (manure and bedding) away from drainage ways
- Sweep up yard clippings and trash

Sediment

Excess sediment or dirt in the water can smother aquatic life, clog fish gills, and cut off light to underwater plants. It can also block waterways and cause flooding. Excess sediment is the result of erosion from disturbed areas carried and dispersed into creeks and streams.

There are some ways you can help prevent sediment pollution:

- Properly install silt fencing, fiber rolls, and other protective devices during grading and landscaping
- Replant or use mulch to cover bare ground
- Perform weed removal by mowing rather than disking

Even if your property is not near a stream, you can help prevent water pollution. Remember, what goes into our storm drains and drainage ditches flows untreated into our creeks, lakes, and ocean.

If you would like more information on preventing water pollution, please contact the Development Services Department at (858) 668-4668 or visit the City's website at www.poway.org.



Bacteria in wastewater runoff can cause illness, rash and infection.

Valle Verde Road – Traffic Calming

The City has recently completed the Valle Verde Traffic Calming and Solera Way Sidewalk Capital Improvement Project. Solera Way, located between Valle Verde Road and Tannin Drive, is the main access to Chaparral Elementary School and had no sidewalk for the most part prior to this project. This project installed a new sidewalk along the north side of Solera Way, allowing students to walk safely from Valle Verde Road to Tannin Drive on their way to and from the school. In addition, the project also included the installation of two landscaped medians on Valle Verde Road north of Solera Way, and two electronic signs to alert drivers of their current speed along Valle Verde Road. Prior to this project, the City installed four way stop signs at the intersection of Solera Way and Valle Verde Road.

The total project construction cost was approximately \$350,000, which was funded by a combination of City funds and a “Safe Routes to School” grant through the State of California. The City's contractor worked efficiently to install the new improvements, allowing students a chance to enjoy the new sidewalk before the end of the 2012 school year.



Where There's Smoke... (There May Be A Sewer Leak)

The City's annual Smoke Testing Program resumes this summer to help the City locate unknown sewer connections, leaks, or areas that could be causing problems. Water leaking into the sewer from ground-water or other sources can cost ratepayers tens of thousands of dollars each year in wasted sewer treatment.

This standard industry practice pushes smoke into a sewer line through a manhole. For homes and businesses properly connected to the sewer, smoke exits from vent pipes on roofs. The smoke will not enter a building unless there is defective plumbing or dry drain traps.

The smoke that is used is non-toxic, leaves no residue, creates no fire hazard, and has no effect on plants or animals. The smoke has a distinctive odor, though not unpleasant. Visible smoke and odor last only a few minutes where there is adequate ventilation. Although this smoke is nontoxic, it is recommended that anyone with respiratory difficulties not remain indoors during the testing.

Before smoke testing starts in your neighborhood, you will receive a notification letter about three weeks in advance and a door-hanger about two days before testing begins. To prepare your home, flush all toilets and pour a gallon of water into sinks, drains, tubs, and showers that do not get regular use. This ensures a water seal to keep smoke out. Smoke may enter a house if plumbing fixtures are dry or improperly installed or if vents are not working properly.

If smoke or odor enters a home, then gases and sewer system odor can also enter. This can be unpleasant and a health hazard. If this occurs at your property during smoke testing, please call (858) 668-4719 immediately.

For more information, call (858) 668-4719 or visit poway.org/sewer.



During smoke testing, it is normal to see smoke venting from plumbing systems through rooftop vents.

Blue Bin Update

Recycling For Maximum Results

To make the most of blue bin recycling and reduce the amount of waste that goes into the gray trash container, here is a quick recap of what goes where. Follow these tips and trash day will be as easy as one- two-three!

New this year, EDCO is accepting polystyrene (Styrofoam™) identified with the number 6. These are the pieces that are generally used as packing material but even polystyrene used for food can be recycled as long as it is clean. Since Styrofoam peanuts are made from a variety of materials including starch, they are not recyclable through the EDCO recycling bin. You can check with local postal shipping stores to see if they will accept packing peanuts for recycling. You can also call "The Peanut Hotline" at (800) 828-2214 to find the nearest recycling opportunity.



Everything that can be recycled should be put into the recycle bin. This includes all plastics with the numbers 1 through 7. These plastics include everything from kitty litter buckets to plastic toys to cottage cheese containers. Plastic lawn furniture? Sure, toss it in! The list of acceptable items is long and can be found on the City of Poway: What Goes Where web page located under the Public Works Department. You'll also find links to EDCO with additional information about recycling, including a video.

If what you learn creates more recycling at your home, additional blue bins can be ordered free of charge from EDCO at (858) 748-7769.

Helping Hands Make A Big Difference

Volunteers Hard Work Is Appreciated



Every spring, local volunteer groups step forward to help the City accomplish community projects. A few of the parks and trails projects performed this year illustrate the many reasons Poway is such a special place to live.

Beginning in mid-March, a break in the rainy weather was a window of opportunity for a dozen Staples Inc. employees to work on a new section of fencing. Located just north of Old Poway Park's Train Barn, volunteers applied stain to match the existing fence and the characteristic rustic surroundings.

A couple of weekends later, a dozen volunteers from the Sabre Springs Ward of the Latter Day

Saints Church (LDS) spent their Saturday placing truckloads of sand along a difficult section of the Arbolitos Sports Park. This sand is necessary to keep the native vegetation from encroaching onto the recently installed sports turf, and is certain to create a much more appealing surface for our soon-to-be sideline spectators.

In mid-April, despite challenging weather conditions, hundreds of volunteers participated in Poway Spirit Day 2012. This group successfully applied hundreds of yards of mulch onto the difficult to reach east slope of the Arbolitos Sports Park and made a significant dent in the mulch piles located just west of the Park and Ride at Twin Peaks

and Community Road.

Spring's large-scale volunteer events concluded in grand fashion as an estimated 600 volunteers from the Poway Stake of the LDS Church placed 250 yards of mulch and 30 tons of base material in six different areas throughout the City. Later that day, volunteers from Poway's Temple Adat Shalom installed trail posts along a two-mile stretch of the Pomerado Trail to create the City's first "Cardio-Hike" trail.

Thanks to these dedicated volunteers and the hundreds of others, Poway's regionally recognized parks and trail system are certain to remain a source of local pride!

POWAY FIRE DEPARTMENT OPEN HOUSE

The Poway Firefighter's Association and the City of Poway invite residents and visitors to Poway's 27th annual Fire Department Open House on Saturday, October 6, 2012, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. The event will be held at Poway's Fire Training Tower which is located at 12335 Crosthwaite Circle in the Poway Business Park.

This year's theme is Have 2 Ways Out. The reality of fire is that when it strikes, your home could be engulfed in smoke and flames in just a few minutes. It is important to have a home fire escape plan that prepares your family to think fast and get out quickly when the smoke alarm sounds. If you make a plan and practice it, even if one first escape route is blocked by smoke or flames, everyone knows that there are two ways out!

Other Open House activities include:

1. Tours of the Fire Training Tower.
2. Fire clowns from the City of Santee Fire Department.
3. The Kid's Safety House where children experience and learn fire- and burn-prevention methods.
4. Vehicle-extrication, roof-ventilation, and aerial-ladder-truck-operation demonstrations.
5. Spray a fire hose at a target.
6. A hot dog booth, with proceeds going to the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

Nothing is more important than the safety of your family, so bring the whole family to this fun and educational event. For more information, contact Michelle Clark at the Poway Fire Department at (858) 668-4460.



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Summer Concert in the Park Series

August 5 & 12, 5:30-7:00 pm | Lake Poway, Old Poway Park

Teen Catfish-O-Rama

August 17, 3:00-9:30 pm | Lake Poway

Movie in the Park Series

August 18, September 1, Sunset | Community Park

Rendezvous in Poway

September 15, 10:00 am-4:00 pm | Old Poway Park
September 16, 10:00 am-2:00 pm | Old Poway Park

Poway Days Heritage Parade

September 8, 9:00am | Poway Road

Once Upon a Hallowe'en

October 28, 5:30-8:30 pm | Old Poway Park

Christmas in the Park

December 8, 3:30-8:30pm | Old Poway Park

Winterfest

December 14, 4:00-9:00pm & December 15, 1:00-9:00pm | Community Park



Lake Poway Fall Color

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