

Pups' playground reopens



La Palma Dog Park is back with a brand new play area that will make for a better experience for our four-legged friends and their owners.

The dog park closed in July to repair wear and tear to the small and large dog areas and make them more durable for the future.

The park has been such a hit that the grassy center of the big-dog area was worn out with all the running and ball chasing, creating a muddy mess in the rain or morning dew. Because of that, there were many days during the rainy season when the park had to be closed.

To make the play area better for all, we replaced the center grass area with decomposed granite that has worked well at Olive Hills Dog Park, which opened in east Anaheim a year ago.

Similar to a baseball warning track, decomposed granite is durable and requires little water or maintenance. Dogs will love it. And there is still plenty of grass ringing the decomposed granite center.

The park's small-dog area remains grass, as it doesn't see the same wear as the big-dog area. But it has been reseeded with a more rugged strain of grass. The renovations also included four new live oak trees and a drip irrigation system.

The durability also means that La Palma Dog Park won't have to be closed as often for wet weather or maintenance.

Now, big and small dogs alike can once again enjoy a fun day at the park. We thank everyone for their patience during this "ruff" time.

Fire recovery



Recovery continues for those impacted by Canyon Fire 2 in October.

Last month, the U.S. Small Business Administration came to the East Anaheim Gymnasium to help homeowners and businesses with disaster-related loans.

For those who had homes destroyed or damaged in the fire, SBA loans up to \$200,000 are available for rebuilding and repairs.

Homeowners and renters are eligible for up to \$40,000 to repair or replace destroyed or damaged personal property.

Interest rates can be as low as 1.75 percent for homeowners, 2.5 percent for nonprofits and 3.3 percent for businesses.

The deadline to apply is Dec. 11.

You can find out more by going to [SBA's disaster loan](#) site. You can also call (800) 659-2955 or email disastercustomerservice@sba.gov.

To be considered for disaster assistance, you must first register with the Federal Emergency Management Agency at disasterassistance.gov.

Earlier this week, Anaheim Fire & Rescue announced the causes of Canyon Fire 2 and the original Canyon Fire, which broke out in September.

The cause of the first Canyon Fire was determined to be accidental, the result of a road flare from a Caltrans sweeper train, a vehicle that helps clear our freeways of debris that can pose a hazard to drivers.

It is believed another vehicle hit the flare and sent it into a shrub alongside the Riverside (91) Freeway near Coal Canyon.

The cause of Canyon Fire 2 was determined to be a smoldering clump of scrub oak in the original burn area of Canyon Fire 1.

When strong Santa Ana winds hit on Oct. 9, an ember from the smoldering clump was carried about 60 feet and ignited previously unburned vegetation.

The fires show the danger our hillside communities face.

They're also a good reminder to sign up for the city's emergency alert system, Anaheim Alert. You can do so by going to Anaheimalert.net.

Should you ever have questions about a fire incident, we urge you to turn to Anaheim Fire & Rescue on Facebook and Twitter, or the city of Anaheim on those same social media channels.

That is where you'll find the most accurate, up-to-date information.

Should your home be in danger from fire, you'll see urgent messaging on our social media and text, phone and email alerts from Anaheim Alert.

You can learn about how to protect your home from wildfires at Anaheim Fire & Rescue's Wildfire Preparedness Community Fair on Nov. 18 at Fire Station 10, 8270 E. Monte Vista Road.

The event goes from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and will feature meet-and-greet with firefighters, demonstrations, disaster preparedness information, kids activities, food and giveaways. Find out more on the event's [Facebook page](#).

Celebrating kindness



Anaheim is marking World Kindness Day with a special screening of the movie “Wonder” and a series of events at the city’s libraries designed to instill the importance of being kind.

Next week, teachers, students, volunteers, nonprofits and others working to advance kindness will join city officials for a preview screening of “Wonder” at the Cinemark Century Stadium theaters next to Honda Center.

Based on The New York Times best-seller, “Wonder” tells the inspiring and heartwarming story of August “Auggie” Pullman, a fifth-grade boy with facial differences who enters a mainstream elementary school for the first time.

The film, from Lionsgate in association with Participant Media and Walden Media, stars Julia Roberts and Owen Wilson as Auggie’s parents and Jacob Tremblay as Auggie. The movie debuts across the country on Nov. 17.

The screening is part of Anaheim’s City of Kindness initiative, which promotes kindness as a way to build a stronger, more connected city.

Anaheim is joining with cities across the country in a #ChooseKind city initiative promoting kind acts around World Kindness Day on Nov. 13.

Anaheim Public Library branches are holding a series of events celebrating “Wonder” and its message of “choose kind” — short for “when given the choice between being right or being kind, choose kind.”

Librarians are reading from R.J. Palacio's book "Wonder" and showing the "Wonder" film trailer to elementary school students at Haskett Branch Library and the Ponderosa Joint-Use Library on Nov. 15 and 22.

You can find more by visiting Anaheim.net/library and clicking on "calendar."

Helping the homeless



Better Way Anaheim, a pilot program offering voluntary community service projects for those who are homeless, is set to start in the coming weeks.

The program will offer basic work experience as well as access to services to help end homelessness.

Love Anaheim, a nonprofit that brings together other nonprofits, faith-based groups, schools, businesses and other volunteers to work on community service projects, will run the program.

The group will work with Long Beach-based City Net, Anaheim's partner on homeless outreach, and others that are part of the Anaheim Homeless Collaborative, a collection of more than 100 groups working to address homelessness.

Together, they'll identify potential candidates who would benefit from community service as a way of developing basic work experience.

Love Anaheim will conduct weekly community service outings of up to five hours each for the first two months and could expand to twice weekly outings after that.

Participants will clean up parks, paint trash cans or fire hydrants and work on other community projects.

Those taking part in Better Way Anaheim will work as volunteers and receive food and gift cards worth \$60 for each day of service.

They'll also have access to the Anaheim Homeless Collaborative with referrals to housing, healthcare, social services benefits, employment and other services designed to end homelessness.

Participants could come from the Bridges at Kraemer Place shelter in Anaheim and City Net's service center on the Santa Ana River Trail.

For the program, the city of Anaheim is contributing a surplus Dodge Caravan, formerly used by Anaheim Public Utilities.

The van, now wrapped in the Better Way Anaheim and Love Anaheim logos, will be used by a driver and helper to take up to five participants on community service outings.

Eventually, Better Way Anaheim could expand into a job-training and employment program as part of Anaheim's larger efforts to address homelessness.

For more on what Anaheim is doing to address homelessness, visit [Anaheim.net/homeless](https://anaheim.net/homeless).

Free ride



From work to happy hour to an Angels or Ducks game and weekend fun, there's a new — and free — way to get around Anaheim.

Anaheim Resort Transportation this month launched a free shuttle connecting downtown Anaheim, or Center City, and the Platinum Triangle. It's called the CtrCity-Platinum Triangle Line.

Those who work or live in Center City will be able to jump on the line to go to Honda Center or Angel Stadium, while those who live or work in the Platinum Triangle can hop aboard to get to the Anaheim Packing District, Center Street Promenade or the Muzeo Museum and Cultural Center.

The CtrCity/Platinum Triangle Line runs seven days a week, starting at Center Street Promenade and traveling to the Anaheim Regional Transportation Intermodal Center, or ARTIC.

Weekday routes run from 6 to 10 a.m. and from 4 to 7 p.m. Weekend routes run from 8:45 a.m. to noon and from 2:10 to 6:40 p.m.

The line's schedule is designed to allow travelers and commuters to connect with both incoming and outgoing Amtrak and Metrolink trains. It will also cater to events at Honda Center and Angel Stadium, with buses leaving ARTIC 30 minutes after the end of every event.

The line is thanks to a grant from the Orange County Transportation Authority and the Mobile Source Air Pollution Reduction Review Committee.

More information at RideART.org/CtrCity.

Anaheim honors veterans



Join us on Saturday, Nov. 11, as we recognize and honor those who have served in our nation's armed forces at the city's annual Veterans Day Ceremony.

Veterans, residents, families and all are welcome to join city leaders as we show appreciation for all who have served our country.

This year's guest speaker will be Col. Chandler S. Nelms, commanding officer of the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit, the adopted Marine Corps unit of the city of Anaheim.

A pilot, Nelms served in Pakistan and Iraq and is a decorated Marine who has dedicated his life to the service of our nation.

The ceremony also includes a presentation of colors by the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit, a cake-cutting ceremony to commemorate the Marine Corps 242nd anniversary and a musical performance by the Esperanza High School Concert Choir.

Marine veteran and award-winning broadcaster Ed Arnold will serve as the master of ceremonies at the event.

The Veterans Monument is adjacent to the Museo Museum and Cultural Center at 241 S. Anaheim Blvd.

Event details:

- **What:** Anaheim Veterans Day Ceremony
- **When:** Saturday, Nov. 11
- **Time:** 11 a.m.
- **Where:** Veterans Monument, downtown Anaheim
- **Address:** 241 S. Anaheim Blvd.
- **Free parking:** Center Street Promenade or City Hall, 200 S. Anaheim Blvd.

Be rain ready



Anaheim has seen its first rainfall of the season. And while we don't know how much rain we'll get this winter, it's always a good idea to be rain ready.

Here are things you can do now to prepare your home and family:

- Make a readiness checklist for your family, including your pets
- Determine if you need flood insurance
- Pick up sandbags
- Introduce yourself to your neighbors

Residents in the Canyon Fire 2 burn areas should take an extra look around their property this year. You may need to take additional steps to prevent debris or mud flowing down hillsides from ending up on your property.

Find helpful information at [Anaheim.net/BeRainReady](https://www.anaheim.net/BeRainReady).

We encourage you to tune into the city's [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) accounts for timely information. In fact, just this week we shared a video showing how to fill and stack sand bags.

Now is also a good time to sign up for Anaheim Alert to receive text or voice messages alerting you of important road closures, storm information and more.

Visit [AnaheimAlert.net](https://www.anaheimalert.net) to sign up.

Supporting our vets



That green light on the porch of your neighbor's house means more than you might think.

It's a bright reminder of the sacrifices many in our community make in service of our country. Families across the country will switch out one light in their home with a green light this November in honor of Veterans Day.

The Greenlight A Vet campaign is a national effort to recognize the men and women who serve in the military.

Anaheim Public Utilities has joined in on the campaign and is giving away free green light bulbs for those who want to show their support.

You can grab one at the annual Veterans Day Ceremony on Nov. 11 at 11 a.m. at the Anaheim Veterans Monument, 241 S. Anaheim Blvd.

For more on the Greenlight A Vet program visit [Greenlightavet.com](https://www.greenlightavet.com).