



Newsletter

DECEMBER 2023

Driving Safely This Holiday Season

Calendar

DATE	EVENT	TIME
12/11	City Council Meeting and Reorganization	5:30 p.m.
12/12	Farmers Market	2:00 p.m.*
12/13	Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting	11:00 a.m.*
12/13	Architectural Meeting	6:30 p.m.*
12/19	Farmers Market	2:00 p.m.*
12/20	Equestrian Services Committee	6:45 p.m.*

City Hall will be closed for the Winter Holiday from Monday, December 25th through Monday, January 1st, reopening on Tuesday, January 2nd.

* Hidden Hills Community Center (24549 Long Valley Road)
Non asterisk meetings held at City Hall, 6165 Spring Valley Road

City Council

Mayor	Steve Freedland
Mayor Pro Tem	Eniko Gold
Council Member	Larry G. Weber
Council Member	Laura McCorkindale
Council Member	Joe Loggia

City Staff

Acting City Manager	Marcella Marlowe, Ph.D.
City Clerk	Deana L. Gonzalez, CMC
Accounting Specialist	Theresa Hernandez
Administrative Analyst	Aaron Williams
City Attorney	Roxanne Diaz
Special Counsel	Larry Wiener
City Engineer	Dirk Lovett
Building Official	Greg Robinson
Building Inspector	Steve O'Hara
Emergency Services Coordinator	Mike Woodard



It's the time of year for holiday gatherings, children are home from school, and teens may be learning how to drive in the neighborhood while they're on winter break. The City reminds residents and guests to continue to be extra vigilant when driving in the community, especially around children and horses. It's crucial to resist the temptations of distracted driving, especially with the allure of all the festive decorations within Hidden Hills, it's easy to lose concentration. Maintaining focus on the road is paramount.

Keep electronic devices stowed away, and if you need to check a shopping list, only do so when your vehicle is safely parked. This precaution not only ensures your safety but also contributes to a more secure driving environment for everyone on the road.

Stay vigilant, adhere to speed limits, and exercise patience, especially in crowded areas. By embracing a cautious and considerate approach to driving during the holiday season, we can collectively contribute to safer roads and ensure that the joy of the festivities extends to all aspects of our celebrations.

If you happen to see a vehicle driving dangerously in Hidden Hills, please report the incident to staff@hiddenhillscity.org. Please include the license plate, description of violation, date, and location.

JANUARY CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Instead of the regularly scheduled second Monday of the month, January's City Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 9th, instead of Monday, January 8th. As always, the meeting will begin at 5:30 p.m. and can be watched on Channel 3 (Charter/Spectrum Cable) or web streamed via the City's website.

Christmas Tree Recycling

It's that time of year again!

This year you can recycle your Christmas tree one of two ways:

1. Place in green waste cart or next to cart for pick-up on your regular pick-up day any time between December 26th and January 12th. Any tree taller than 6 ft. must be cut in half. Nothing longer than 4 feet.

2. Place in the designated drop-off bin at either the Community Center or the upper parking lot of City Hall between December 26th and January 12th.

Please be sure to remove all plastic containers, metal stands and bars, ornaments, and tinsel, or the trees cannot be recycled. Flocked trees, or trees coated with a fire retardant, are accepted.



Safety Proofing Your Home For The Holidays

Amidst the joyous chaos of holiday preparations, the safety of our homes often takes a back seat. However, creating a secure haven for festivities is just as crucial as the decorative accents that fill our spaces. This season, embark on a journey of safety proofing your home to mitigate risks and guarantee a worry-free holiday season.

1. Inspect electrical decorations for damage before use.

Cracked or damaged sockets, loose or bare wires, and loose connections may cause a serious shock or start a fire.

2. Do not overload electrical outlets.

Overloaded electrical outlets and faulty wires are a common cause of holiday fires. Avoid overloading outlets and plug only one high-wattage into each outlet at a time.

3. Never connect more than three strings of incandescent lights.

More than three strands may not only blow a fuse, but can also cause a fire.

4. Keep trees fresh by watering them daily.

Dry trees are a serious fire hazard.

5. Use battery-operated candles.

Candles start almost half of home decoration fires.

6. Keep combustibles at least three feet from heat sources.

A heat source that was too close to the decoration was a factor in half of home fires that began with decorations.

7. Protect cords from damage.

To avoid shock or fire hazards, cords should never be pinched by furniture, forced into small spaces such as doors and windows, placed under rugs, located near heat sources, or attached by nails or staples.

8. Stay in the kitchen when something is cooking.

Unattended cooking equipment is the leading cause of home cooking fires.

9. Turn off, unplug, and extinguish all decorations when going to sleep or leaving the house.

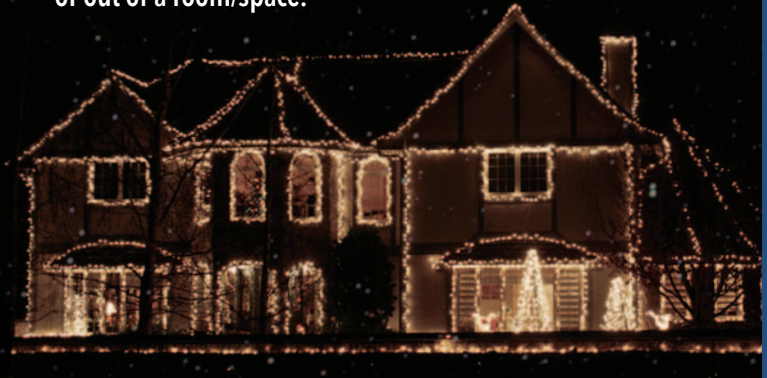
Unattended candles are the cause of one in five home candle fires. Half of home fire deaths occur between the hours of 11pm and 7am.

And finally, for gifts that include a Lithium Ion Battery...

10. Practice Safe Charging

Fires caused by lithium-ion batteries have increased dramatically in recent years. These rechargeable batteries are found in electric bikes and scooters, cars, laptops, tablets, phones and common household devices.

- NEVER overcharge or leave battery charging overnight.
- NEVER charge a battery or device under your pillow, on your bed, or near a couch.
- NEVER leave e-bikes or e-scooters unattended while charging.
- NEVER plug into a power strip that's not surge protected or overload an outlet.
- NEVER charge them in an area that blocks your primary way in or out of a room/space.



CITY COUNCIL REORGANIZATION

At their regularly scheduled meeting on Monday December 11, the City Council will vote to select the Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem for 2024. The City Council Reorganization can be viewed by logging into the City's Zoom telecast, watching on Channel 3 (Charter/Spectrum,) or livestreamed via the City website: www.hiddenhillscity.org.



AWAY FOR THE HOLIDAYS? SCHEDULE A VACATION CHECK

If you will be traveling this holiday season, you can schedule a vacation check with the Sheriff's Department. Sheriff's Deputies will stop by your house several times while you are gone. To schedule a vacation check, call City Hall at 818-888-9281.



CONCERNS OR ISSUES WITH YOUR TRASH PICKUP AND SERVICE?

The City's trash hauler provides a dedicated Concierge for all your service inquiries.

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WM Education & Outreach
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Sheriff's Blotter

October 2023

Holiday Shopping Safety Tips

To help residents enjoy a crime-free holiday shopping season, the Sheriff's Department shares the following tips.

- When out shopping, stay vigilant and avoid shopping alone. Park in a well-lit area.
- Do not leave packages in plain view in your vehicle. Lock your vehicle and place all your merchandise in the trunk.
- Be cautious of strangers approaching you for any reason. Many thieves will use different methods to distract you with the intention of taking your money or merchandise.
- Keep an eye on your credit cards at all times. A common tactic of fraudsters employed by a legitimate company is to take the card you present as payment, swipe it through the legitimate payment system, and then swipe it again through their own collection device.
- Limit use of free Wi-Fi. Don't use free wireless networks, such as those in coffee shops, when you shop online. Fraudulent Wi-Fi hotspots are too easy to set up and are often disguised to look like legitimate services offered by reputable companies. Criminals use these fraudulent sites to capture your data or install malware on your device. Waiting until you have a secure connection at home or using data from your own personal cellular plan is a good way to eliminate this type of operation.

	CURRENT MONTH	YTD 2023	YTD 2022	CHANGE
Homicide	0	0	0	0
Rape	0	0	0	0
Robbery				
Armed	0	0	0	0
Strong-arm	0	0	0	0
Assault	0	1	1	0
Burglary				
Residential	0	1	4	-3
Business	0	0	0	0
Garage/Out Bldg.	0	0	0	0
Vehicle (locked)	0	0	1	-1
Theft				
Grand (\$950+)	0	2	3	-1
Petty	0	0	0	0
Vehicle (unlocked)	0	0	0	0
Grand Theft Vehicle	0	0	0	0
Arson	0	0	0	0
Domestic Violence / Felony	0	0	0	0
Domestic Violence / Misdemeanor	0	1	2	-1
Trespassing Calls for Service	1	21	30	-9

Noteworthy Incidents:

There were no noteworthy incidents in the month of October.

All residents are encouraged to remain alert and to report any and all suspicious activity directly to the Sheriff's Department by calling 911 or 818-878-1808.

Delivery and Package Theft Prevention

With so many online orders being delivered this season, residents are encouraged to follow these theft prevention tips from the Los Angeles Sheriff Department to keep your parcels safe:

- Buy online and pick up in store whenever possible.
- Have your packages delivered to your office or to a neighbor who is usually home.
- Have your package sent to an Amazon Locker and collect the package there when it's convenient for you.
- Ask the shipper to hold your package at their facility. Most of them offer this service.
- Track deliveries online. Many offer a text notification to your cell phone when a package has been delivered.
- Request a signature confirmation of delivery.
- Provide delivery instructions and ask that packages be delivered to the front door and not dropped at curbside.

If you discover that your packages have been stolen, contact the Lost Hills Sheriff's Station at 818-878-1808. If you see a crime in progress, call 911 and DO NOT approach the suspect(s).



City Council UPDATES

At their meeting on November 13th, the City Council adopted the State's latest ADU legislation, revised the municipal code authorizing City Staff to administratively process lot line adjustments and minor accommodations, and approved the purchase of new audio equipment for the Council Chambers.

At the November 22nd special meeting, the City Council approved Marcella Marlowe as the new Acting City Manager until the end of the year when she will assume the role as Interim City Manager.

The next City Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 9th.

Bright Ideas For Dark Walks

With no street lights in Hidden Hills and daylight savings in effect, it can be quite dark in the City at night. To make sure you're visible to other pedestrians and motorists when walking, jogging, or riding your bicycle at night, please follow these safety guidelines:

1. Wear Reflective Clothing

Visibility is paramount when walking in the dark. Equip yourself with reflective clothing or accessories to ensure that you are easily spotted by others. Hi-visibility jackets, pants, and shoes with reflective material are must-haves when you walk at night. The more reflective gear you have, the better. At the very least, wear bright colors such as neons or whites.

2. Walk Against Traffic

Walk against traffic if you're in the street. If possible, walk on the parkways. It is much more difficult for drivers to see you at night. By walking against traffic, you can see what is coming in advance and allow yourself time to react. You also place yourself in the driver's headlights so they can see you better.

3. Carry A Flashlight Or Wear A Headlamp

Having a flashlight helps you see your surroundings when walking at night and allows others to see you. While a flashlight will do, a good headlamp will free your hands during exercise and provides a steady beam of light in your direction of travel.

4. Bring A Friend Or Your Dog

Bringing a friend will not only be more enjoyable, it will also be safer. A walking partner helps make you more visible and provides backup in case of injury. Animals sense approaching pedestrians before you can and will also help you be seen by others. Make sure your pet is visible, too!

5. Avoid Distractions

Take extra precautions and always be alert when walking in or crossing the street. Keep your head up, looking for hazards 10-15 feet in front of you. Avoid distractions that can cause you to lose focus. Looking at your phone or even listening to music should be avoided at night so you can be more aware of your surroundings and react when needed.

The beauty of the night doesn't have to overshadow the importance of personal safety. By following these safety guidelines, you can ensure your nighttime stroll will remain a safe and enjoyable experience.



HOLIDAY CLOSURE

In observance of the Holiday Season Beginning on Monday, December 25, 2023 through Monday, January 1, 2024, City Hall and the Building & Safety Department will be closed and there will be no inspections. HAVE A SAFE AND WONDERFUL HOLIDAY!

