



CITY OF BALDWIN PARK

Department of Recreation & Community Services

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Officials prepare to seal city's history in time capsule

Special presentation slated for annual tree lighting event

BALDWIN PARK, Calif. (November 29, 2016) – Among the tradition of carolers and Santa at Baldwin Park's annual Tree Lighting ceremony, officials are preparing for something unique this year – and they'll literally seal it in order to capture the city's history.

This Thursday, December 1, residents are invited to attend Baldwin Park's Tree Lighting ceremony at the Esther Snyder Community Center gymnasium, 4100 Baldwin Park Blvd. In tow will be a special, two-part celebration that helps ring in the holidays and also closes off Baldwin Park's 60th anniversary year. Festivities, which begin at 6 p.m., are free and open to the public.

"It's going to be an event filled with that holiday spirit, and it also involves being part of a moment that will be marked in the history of the city," said April Nava, program coordinator for the Department of Recreation and Community Services.

Thursday's tree lighting ceremony is part of a long-standing custom for the Baldwin Park community. Nava added that, following tradition, student choirs from Sierra Vista and Baldwin Park high schools, as well as local senior citizens, will provide entertainment. Members of the Bright Star Academy Dancers team are also scheduled to perform before Santa arrives and city officials illuminate the city's 17-foot Douglas Fir Christmas tree.

However, as this is the city's diamond anniversary, organizers have added a special presentation: the official sealing of a time capsule that holds mementos of Baldwin Park's history.

Yuriko Ruizesparza, program supervisor, noted that various dated publications, historical maps, coins and other memorabilia have already been collected for the time capsule. The city has partnered with Baldwin Park Historical Society and local resident Robert Benbow, who have both

been instrumental in the process of approving items for the time capsule. Residents, local businesses, and school district officials are still invited to donate items, although the deadline for potential submissions is Thursday at 4 p.m.

Those who do not make submissions may still be included in Baldwin Park's history, however. Near the conclusion of Thursday's Tree Lighting celebration, eventgoers will be part of a large-group photo showcasing the Baldwin Park community. Event organizers said the photo is a recreation of a decades-old print featuring residents from the city's earliest days.

The sealed time capsule will be on display at Baldwin Park's Historical Society, 14403-B E. Pacific Ave., and is not slated to be opened until the city's centennial celebration in 2056.

The City of Baldwin Park is one of 88 cities located in Los Angeles County with a population of more than 75,000 residents. The award-winning Department of Recreation and Community Services provides year-round recreation activities and community services to residents of Baldwin Park and the surrounding communities. For more information, please contact the Department of Recreation and Community Services at (626) 813-5245, ext. 317.

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