



CITY OF BALDWIN PARK

Department of Recreation & Community Services

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Traditional parade returns for city's anniversary

Baldwin Park continues commemoration for diamond celebration

BALDWIN PARK, Calif. (November 1, 2016) – School groups, marching bands and other guests will take to one of Baldwin Park's main streets Saturday as the city resurrects its parade.

Becky Othmer, who helps with local Girl Scouts Troop 6414, could not be more excited for the return of a parade and celebration in this community. Othmer's group, which includes local elementary school students, will be participating in the Baldwin Park anniversary parade this weekend.

"I think a lot of them are excited because they've never it," Othmer said of her troop. "Most of them don't remember it happening [in Baldwin Park]."

Baldwin Park's parade and carnival, themed "Celebrating a Diamond Community," will begin at 9:45 a.m. Saturday and will conclude at Morgan Park, 4100 Baldwin Park Blvd., with a special awards ceremony. Organizers are calling on residents and local community members to line up along Baldwin Park Boulevard between Olive Street and Ramona Boulevard to cheer on their favorite group, float or band participating in the parade.

According to organizers, it has been about six years since this city featured a community parade. The anniversary parade used to be part of an annual celebration slated the first weekend of November. However, operation costs have kept efforts limited, according to Maria Moreno, one of the parade coordinators. Since the city is commemorating the 60th anniversary of its incorporation this year, resurrecting the community parade was a top priority for city officials.

This year's parade will feature Emmy Award winner Marla Tellez as grand marshal of the event. Tellez, who is a morning news anchor with FOX 11, has also contributed to the network's program, "Good Day L.A." The journalist has interviewed numerous high-ranking politicians and celebrities, as well as covered the highly publicized Scott Peterson Trial.

Moreno noted that an estimated 81 entries – including marching bands, dignitaries, community groups, businesses and floats – will help make up the Baldwin Park diamond anniversary parade. Organizers hope this weekend's festivities will provide an opportunity for residents to celebrate their community and also support fellow residents and local groups.

Othmer, who is a band director at Holland Middle School, hopes the city will consider maintaining the parade tradition for years to come. Although her own students will not be participating in this weekend's event, Othmer believes parades are "a great thing for the community," and, especially in this era, for the city of Baldwin Park.

"Everything seems like it's getting uplifted in the city, so why not bring in other groups and other bands from other cities?" she added.

In addition to the community parade, Baldwin Park's diamond celebration will be complemented with a carnival beginning Thursday and concluding Sunday. The carnival – an annual staple for the city's anniversary celebration – will feature various mechanical rides, games and food booths for the entire family. It is open from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. on Thursday and Friday, and again from 1 p.m. to 11 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday.

Organizers noted that admission to the carnival is free, although ticket costs for each ride or vendor will vary. There will also be an opening night special of only \$1 per ride, available and valid only on Thursday.

For more information, call (626) 813-5245 or visit www.baldwinpark.org.

About Baldwin Park

The City of Baldwin Park Department of Recreation and Community Services provides year-round recreation activities and community services to residents of Baldwin Park and surrounding communities. For additional information, please contact the Department of Recreation and Community Services at (626) 813-5245.

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