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CITY OF LEMON GROVE NEWS

BUSY BUZZING IN LEMON GROVE



Beautifying the Best Climate on Earth one garden at a time, the Busy Bee Garden Co-op has become quite the buzz around town. The initiative has quickly grown from backyard passion project to community wide collaboration, education, and environmental stewardship. In the following article we take a closer look at how the Busy Bee's make a positive impact while cultivating the spirit of togetherness.

Chelsea Gastellum, a passionate advocate for urban agriculture and sustainability, founded the Co-op Inspired by her desire to foster a deeper connection between people and nature. Gastellum has created a space where residents can learn about organic gardening, sustainable practices, and of course, the bees.

What began as a modest garden hobby, has quickly grown into a cooperative effort, with dozens of volunteers, local families, and even schools getting involved. The Co-op now serves as an essential community gathering, where people of all ages come together to learn, share resources and knowledge, and work towards a common goal.

At the core of the Busy Bee Garden Co-op is a commitment to sustainability, education, and inclusivity. Through various organizational partnerships such as "the Wild Ones" and XERCES Society, the Busy Bee Garden Co-op offers hands-on learning experiences, teaching the next generation about the importance of agriculture and environmental responsibility.

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Illegal dumping is a pressing issue in Lemon Grove, impacting the environment, public health, and overall quality of life in the community. Despite ongoing efforts by city officials, the problem persists. Discarded furniture, debris, and waste found in alleys, vacant lots, and even along main streets.

This form of illegal waste disposal not only creates an eyesore but also poses a serious threat to the environment. Soil and water contamination and pests are very real concerns, which can contribute to public health risks. Moreover, the cost of cleanup is often passed on to taxpayers, straining city resources that could be allocated to community improvement projects.

To truly tackle illegal dumping, it's crucial for everyone to take responsibility and work together. Through collective action, Lemon Grove can reduce this issue and foster a healthier, more beautiful community for all.

The city encourages residents to report illegal dumping incidents and utilize services like the bulk item pickup to properly dispose of waste.

To report an illegal dump, please use our online portal at <https://forms.lemongrove.ca.gov/Report-an-Is-sue>



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LEMON GROVE AWARDED FOR BUDGET EXCELLENCE



The City of Lemon Grove is proud to announce that it has been honored with the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) for the 3rd consecutive year. This prestigious award not only recognizes the City's outstanding efforts in preparing its fiscal year 2024/25 budget book but also underscores its commitment to transparency and financial responsibility. The City had to satisfy nationally recognized guidelines for effective budget presentation to receive the budget award.

"This is a huge accomplishment for our finance team", commented Lydia Romero, City Manager. "The GFOA Award recognizes best practices in budget and policy transparency in the Annual Budget", added Romero. The GFOA, representing public finance officials across the United States and Canada, established the Distinguished Budget Presentation Awards program in 1984 to promote excellence in budgeting and acknowledge

governments that meet program criteria. There are over 1,800 participants, including governments, school districts, and special districts, in the Budget Awards Program. The most recent Budget Award recipients, along with their corresponding budget documents, are posted quarterly on GFOA's website.

BUSY BUZZING IN LEMON GROVE CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1.

A Vision for the Future

Gastellum's vision for the Busy Bee Garden Co-op is one of continued growth. She hopes to develop more educational resources as well as partnerships, and also envisions the Co-op becoming a model for other communities, demonstrating how small-scale, community-led initiatives can make a big difference in promoting sustainability and camaraderie. As the Co-op continues to thrive, it stands as a testament to what can be achieved when people come together with a shared vision. The Busy Bee Garden Co-op is more than just a garden; it is a living, breathing example of community resilience, environmental stewardship, and the power of collective action.

The Busy Bee Garden Co-op is an example of how one person's vision can spark a movement. Thanks to Chelsea Gastellum's leadership and the dedication of countless community members, the Co-op has is transforming your everyday ordinary plot of land into a vibrant, sustainable garden. It serves as a reminder that when people come together with a common goal, they can create lasting change in their communities.

In official recognition by the City Council, the Busy Bee Garden Co-op was honored with a proclamation for their tireless dedication to native bee and butterfly conservation while making pollinator conservation equitable for all community members in Lemon Grove.

For more on the Busy Bees, visit our YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/cityoflemongrove





It's that time of year!

On December 6, 2024, the 27th Annual Lemon Grove Community Bonfire is coming in hot to round out the holiday season and we're inviting you out for a night under the stars as we celebrate the community next to the fire. This event is our biggest and most anticipated celebration of the year where all are invited to enjoy live music, partake in family oriented activities, and connect with neighbors in a safe, warm and inviting setting at Treganza Heritage Park where family, friends, and neighbors can unite to enjoy an evening of festive activity, delicious treats, hot chocolate, and more. We welcome you to pop out and own the night as a part of tradition that continues to bring warmth and joy to our community.

Stay frosty, pack a blanket, and we hope to see you soon!

Date: 6 December 2024

Location: Treganza Heritage Park

HOLIDAY DRIVING SAFETY



As the holiday season brings more travel and festivities, staying focused on the road is paramount. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), distracted driving remains a leading cause of crashes, injuries, and fatalities. In 2021 alone, distracted driving claimed 3,522 lives.

With more people traveling to see loved ones, risks of distraction such as texting, talking on the phone, and adjusting navigation are significantly heightened. Texting while driving is especially dangerous, combining visual, manual, and cognitive distractions. Just five seconds of looking at a phone at 55 mph is like driving the length of a football field with your eyes closed.

The City urges everyone to stay alert and attentive, keeping distractions away during the holiday rush. As passengers, remind drivers to stay focused so everyone can enjoy a safe season of celebration.



SEE AN ISSUE? REPORT IT



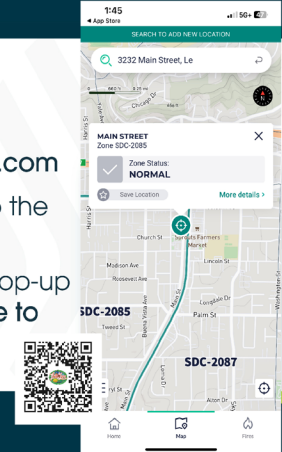
One key resource available to residents on the City website is the “Report an Issue” tool. This feature makes it easy for residents to report problems, share concerns, and contribute to improving the community.

Visit our website at <https://lemongrove.ca.gov/> to Report an Issue, today!

Be prepared **before** an emergency strikes.

Find Your Zone

- 1 Go to protect.genasys.com
- 2 Enter your address into the search bar
- 3 Find your zone in the pop-up window and **subscribe to alerts**



For more information visit protect.genasys.com

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