Celebrate the Holiday Season at the Tree Lighting Ceremony

The City of Bellflower will bring holiday cheer to Downtown Bellflower when it hosts its Annual Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony on Friday, December 2nd beginning at 6:30 p.m. The Bellflower community is invited to join in the seasonal celebration at the free family event that will take place in Downtown Bellflower at Friendship Square located at 16615 Bellflower Blvd.

Santa Claus will make a special appearance to visit with children following a performance from the Bellflower High School and Mayfair High School Vocal Ensembles and the lighting of the community’s 70’ live Christmas tree.

A popular snow sledding area will return along with an expanded play area and smaller sled run that will be perfect for little ones. Children will have an opportunity to create a free holiday craft and participate in activities led by the Bellflower Recreation In Motion (B.R.I.M.) program.

For more info about holiday events call (562) 804-1424 ext. 2261.

Nominations Open For 2023 BRAVO Awards

The BRAVO Awards (Bellflower Recognizes Acts of Valor & Outstanding Service) honor individuals and employees who have demonstrated outstanding public service or acts of heroism related to public safety in Bellflower during the past year. Citizens, residents, Sheriff and Fire Department personnel, medical and security professionals are all eligible to be nominated.

Access the nomination form (link provided below) and nominate someone you feel has done something above and beyond: https://cityofbellflower.wufoo.com/forms/q1b2pnnx14bcmrj/

Nominations are accepted November 14, 2022 through January 5, 2023. Recipients of the 2023 BRAVO Awards will be honored at a special ceremony on Thursday, April 27, 2023.

Mark Your Calendar - City Hall Closed

December 22nd-23rd & 26th • Christmas & RDO Friday

December 30th & January 2, 2023 • New Year’s

Since both holidays fall on a Sunday, trash collection and street sweeping schedule does not change.
Bellflower Municipal Water is Now California American Water

In 2016, voters approved the City’s transition of water services to California American Water. After six years of cutting through red tape, the City is pleased to inform their water customers that California American Water began operations on November 1, 2022. It has been the City’s pleasure to provide water service to portions of the community.

California American Water has a long history of providing water service in communities neighboring Bellflower, and it brings an additional level of expertise called for in these complex times, along with the technology and wherewithal needed to provide clean, potable water.

An open house event will be held on Thursday, December 1st at Simms Park Auditorium (16614 S. Clark Ave.) from 5:30 p.m.- 7:30 p.m. For more information or questions, please call (619) 885-7031 or reach out via email at welcome@amwater.com.
Twenty-Four Local Entrepreneurs Complete Program and Prepare for Future Business

Asociación de Emprendedor@s and Heart Centered leadership Coaching & Consulting Group recognized 24 local entrepreneurs who graduated from the Emprendedor@s Program at the Bristol Auditorium on November 15, 2022.

Monica Robles, President and Founder of Asociación de Emprendedor@s, introduced elected officials and representatives from the City of Bellflower who addressed the graduates at the beginning of the ceremony. Among the guests were Mayor Pro-Term Sonny Santa Ines, Council Member Dan Koops, Council Member Raymond Y. Hamada, Council Member Victor A. Sanchez, and SBDC Center Advisor Claudia Shah.

At the graduation ceremony, the new emprendedor@s had the opportunity to share their elevator pitch and listen to the class speaker, Delia Dominguez, before starting the graduation processional. They received certificates from the City of Bellflower and Asociación de Emprendedor@s, as well as a 3-month free membership for this organization.

The graduates showcased their businesses, products and services at the Business Expo conducted during the second half of the event. The whole team of this non-profit organization was present to support the graduating class: Monica Robles, Andrea Ramos, Melba Parada and Natalia Garcia.

Some of the graduates have had a passion since childhood so it was easier to find their dream business. “When I was a kid, we didn’t have money so my dad gave me some bike parts and I would put it together. Flash Bikes is a project for now, but I want to have my own bike shop (...) and feel the satisfaction to see each person leaving my shop happy with something they’ll enjoy”, said Margarito Lopez, born in Jalisco, Mexico.

Other graduates have already been working in the field but through the program they learned that by “making it official,” they can take advantage of all the funding programs available for small businesses. “I came to this country with my mom when I was 9 years old to have a better life. In fact, my mom told me about Emprendedor@s Program. I buy old cars, fix them and sell them, but I always had the dream to work with luxury cars. Now I got the confidence to take the next step. I just got my first Maserati and I feel my business is taking off!”, said Carlos Quintana from Quintana’s Services.

Some of the new entrepreneurs learned about the program at a hard time in their lives. “I had just been widowed, didn’t know anybody (...) Thank God I found out about Emprendedor@s Program and it filled me with hope and gave me a new will to live and start my new business”, said Rosa Fraire, whose business “Entorno Urbano. Remodelación y Mantenimiento” is like a “rebirth” for her.

This program also targets entrepreneurs that want to grow their businesses. That’s the case of Cesar Alonzo, Chef and Founder of “Megachelada The Ceviche Spot”, who offers his products at different locations in Los Angeles County and also does home delivery. “My inspiration was the moment I realized I can be the leader of my own destiny,” said Alonzo.

Bellflower residents registered in the Emprendedor@s Program for different reasons. Rosa Benavides was looking for something to help her sister start a business for herself, but she didn’t want to enroll. So, Benavides enrolled with the hopes of learning something new. “I was hesitant because the program was offered in Spanish and my native language is English (...) It was a challenge to think in English and write my emotions down in Spanish. It was a personal growth as well as a professional one. Now I know that I have the personal qualities of patience, perseverance and intelligence that will enable me to succeed at achieving my goal of opening a storefront in the City of Bellflower.” Benavides is the founder of La Paloma Blanca, which offers charcuterie boards and spreads for all occasions.

To learn more about Asociación de Emprendedor@s follow them on social media or visit https://www.asociaciondeemprendedores.org/
December is Read a New Book Month and the library staff is ready to help you find a new book to enjoy. LA County Library will be launching the Winter Reading Club beginning Dec 15, 2022 and running through January 15, 2023. The club will be exclusively online and participants are challenged to read 400 minutes during the month-long program for prizes and opportunity drawings. Winter Reading Club is open to all ages.

Brakensiek Library will provide a variety of activity kits for all ages available to pick up while supplies last.

**ECommerce: From Hobby to Online Business**  
**Virtual Program**  
Wed. Dec 14, 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Want to take your hobby to the next level? Join LA County’s Office of Small Business to learn about popular online platforms pros & cons, permitting & licensing, and resources available. For adults.

**Work Ready: Library Resources for Job-Seekers**  
**Virtual Program**  
Tue. Dec 20, 11:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

Free resume review, test prep, expert job matching, skills training, and so much more is at your fingertips. Learn about BrainFuse JobNow, Learning Express and other free resources the library offers. For adults.

To see the full list of upcoming events: https://lacountylibrary.org/virtual-programming/

Los Angeles County Supervisor Janice Hahn presented a $500,000 check to the City of Bellflower for the New Hope Temporary Shelter on November 30, 2022. New Hope is a 50-bed shelter that provides interim housing and services to individuals experiencing homelessness in the City of Bellflower. The Los Angeles County grant will assist in funding the ongoing operations at New Hope. For more info www.bellflower.org
Enroll This Spring 2023

Certificate of Completion

The Noncredit Entrepreneurship classes are tailored to help students build on the basics of starting or expanding a small business. These classes will prepare students in a broad range of knowledge in several business related areas such as goal setting, technology, clear and effective written and oral communication, collaboration skills, and business resources.

For Registration and More Details (Complete the Interest Form)

Scan QR Code

Program Contact (562) 467-5098
AdultEd@cerritos.edu