



Diwali Celebration Recap

On November 18th, approximately 75 people gathered in the Brisbane Library's Courtyard and Community Room for its first-ever Diwali Celebration. Diwali, also known as Deepavali, is a significant and joyous festival celebrated by millions of people across the world, primarily by Hindus. The "spirit of Diwali" encompasses several key elements:



- **Light Over Darkness:** Diwali symbolizes the triumph of light over darkness and good over evil. People adorn their surroundings with lamps, candles, and lights to dispel ignorance with wisdom.
- **Family and Togetherness:** It's a time for families, friends, and community to unite, engage in rituals, exchange gifts, and enjoy meals... all reinforcing the spirit of togetherness.
- **Renewal and New Beginnings:** Marking the Hindu New Year, Diwali inspires cleaning, home renovations, fresh starts, and shedding negativity.
- **Charity, Sharing, and Gratitude:** Giving to the less fortunate is encouraged, fostering selflessness and compassion.

Thanks to community members Ranjani and Jyotsna, along with June who reached out to the City about aspiring to host a community event, plans were quickly underway with the City's IDEA Committee and Brisbane Library. This partnership enabled participants to experience henna artistry, dance performances such as Westmoor high school senior Lavanya's Indian classical dance, Kathak, an ancient art form she has been practicing for almost 8 years, youth and adult dance workshops with another Brisbane resident, Swetha, and delectable Indian cuisine provided by the City's IDEA Committee by way of revenues generated via the City's online merch store, brisbaneca.org/betsy/!

In closing, "Diwali" means "festival of lights" – don't miss another Festival of Lights event, happening on **Sunday, December 3rd from 5:30pm – 8pm!**

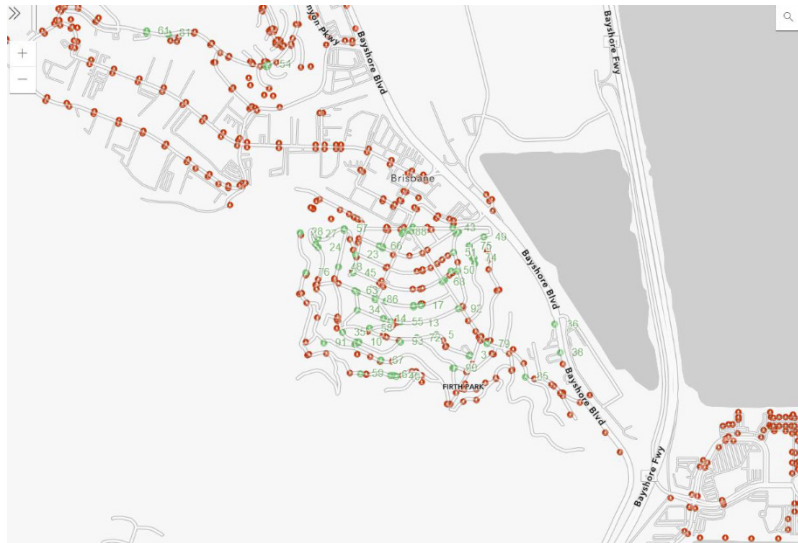


Shop the new
Brisbane Merch
Store, BETSY!



SCAN HERE

Adopt-a-Storm-Drain Program



Brisbane is seeking volunteers to help keep Brisbane and the Bay free of litter and debris. Help keep storm drains clear to help manage stormwater and to minimize flooding. The City of Brisbane thanks the volunteers who have already adopted a drain (green dots). For more information, please visit brisbaneca.org/adoptadrain or email Assistant Engineer Matthew Lee at mlee@brisbaneca.org for any questions.

Veterans Flag-Raising Recap



Thank you to all who joined us on the morning of November 10th for the annual Veterans Flag-Raising Event in the Community Park, led by former Mayor and Brisbane City Councilmember, W. Clarke Conway. At the event, he highlighted the late Dan Sorrentino, who never missed this ceremony. Dan was proud of his military service; he served in the Air Force from 1967 - 1971 (and the Reserve until '73), which was during the Vietnam War. Dan was never stationed in Vietnam, or near any fighting, and therefore was always quick to pay his respects and show his appreciation for those that did.

The City of Brisbane wants to give special thanks to Herman Reiss who opened the event with a prayer for our Veterans, Randy Breault, Lieutenant Colonel, USMC, Retired for administering the two-part present arms drill command, and Lafi Faletoese-Ma'u for beautifully leading us in singing the National Anthem as the U.S. flag was raised. See you next year in the Park!



We salute you, Veterans!

DID YOU KNOW?

Brisbane is now an Age-Friendly City!

The City received this designation from AARP in June 2023. The City of Brisbane wants to hear from you! We're looking for residents to take part in our Age-Friendly Survey. Join us at one of the following events to take the survey in person or complete it online on your own.

Complete the survey online!
brisbaneca.org/aarp

There are additional hardcopies of the survey available at City Hall, the Sunrise Room and the Library. The survey will be open through the end of 2023. For more information on how to get involved, contact Nicole Houghton at (415) 508-2144 or nhoughton@brisbaneca.org.



Upcoming Age-Friendly Survey Events & Activities

- 11/21 - Senior Surf @ Library*
- 11/28 - Farmers Market @ Community Park
- 11/30 - Drop In Sewing @ Library
- 12/3 - Festival of Lights @ Community Park
- 12/6 - Design & Build @ Sunrise Room
- 12/7 - Farmers Market @ Community Park
- 12/9 - BDW Craft Fair @ Mission Blue
- 12/14 - Water Aerobics @ Community Pool
- 12/17 - Lion's Senior Holiday Luncheon
- 12/18 - Water Aerobics @ Community Pool
- 12/28 - Farmers Market @ Community Park

*Advance registration required at smcl.org.



Brisbane City Calendar – December 2023

The City's **Meals for Seniors Lunch Program** takes place **Mondays** from **12-12:45pm** outside the Senior Sunrise Room (2 Visitacion Ave.) for drive-thru/walk-up pickup. In-person **Senior Lunch** is every **Wednesday at 11:30am** at the Community Center.

Brisbane's Youth Advisory Committee hosts **Teen Tech Support for Seniors** every Wednesday from 4-5pm in the Senior Sunrise Room.

The **Brisbane Farmers' Market** takes place on **Thursdays** from **2-6pm** in the Community Park (5 Old County Road, Brisbane). California Green Business, The Daisy Refillery, will return on 12/21. Cousins Maine Lobster returns to Brisbane on 12/14!

See brisbaneca.org/calendar for more information on all the above and the following items.

Meeting Agendas may be viewed online at brisbaneca.org/meetings at least 24 hours prior to a Special Meeting, and at least 72 hours prior to a Regular Meeting.

03, Sunday, 5:30-8pm

Festival of Lights | brisbaneca.org/FOL

05, Tuesday, 7:30pm

Special Planning Commission Meeting, B

06, Wednesday, 6:30pm

Complete Streets Safety Committee Meeting, B

09, Saturday, 7:30pm

BDW's Holiday Arts & Crafts Fair | brisbaneca.org/BDWFair

13, Wednesday, 6:30pm

Open Space & Ecology Committee Meeting, B

14, Thursday, 7:30pm

Special City Council Meeting, B

22-25, Friday-Monday

City Hall closed in observance of Christmas

29-01, Friday-Monday

City Hall closed in observance of New Year's

B = Broadcast live on Comcast Ch. 27 and YouTube

City Hall Walk-In Service Hours – 5 days/week: M, T, Th: 9am – 4pm, W: 9am-7pm, F: 9am – 12pm. Please see all services that can be conducted online at brisbaneca.org/online-services.

Have an article suggestion for the STAR? If so, they need to be submitted by the 15th of the month for the **following** month's issue. Contact Asst. to the City Manager Caroline Cheung at ccheung@brisbaneca.org or (415) 508-2157 for any inquiries, as well as for any feedback on the STAR.

The 22nd Annual

ARTISTS' EVENING OF SHARING

Saturday 7:30PM
Feb 3, 2024
Mission Blue Center

Join us for an inspiring showcase of local artists, musicians, performers, filmmakers, and writers.
Free admission & all ages welcome!

Calling all Brisbane Artists: If you are interested in showcasing your talent at this event, apply by Friday, 12/29. Contact Beth at beth@bethgrossman.com & visit brisbaneca.org/AES2024 for more information.

The CRC Invites you to:

The Annual Holiday Food and Gift Distribution!



How to Register:

Brisbane Residents

When: Starting October 23rd, 2023

Where: 1486 Huntington Ave. #100 South San Francisco, CA
94080

In Person: Monday 8am-12pm & Tuesday/Thursday 12pm-4pm

Via Phone/Email: Monday-Friday 8AM-4PM

crc@ymcasf.org & 650-276-4101 ext. 4

Requirements to Register: Please bring your IDs, proof of address, and birth certificate/or school registration/or ID card of minors in household

Day of the event:

- Monday Nov 20th, 2023 10AM-2PM - Fernekes Building 781 Tennis Dr. SSF
- Tuesday Dec 19th, 2023 3PM-5PM - Brisbane City Hall 50 Park Pl. Brisbane



DRIVE THRU



City Manager Recruitment Update

In late October, the City Council selected a new recruitment firm, Teri Black and Company, LLC. The recruitment is expected to open in December and has a close date of January 21, 2024. You can find more information at tbcrecruiting.com. City Manager Clay Holstine has served in this position for the past 25 years and is the longest-serving City Manager in the history of San Mateo County! In order for the transition to be as smooth as possible, CM Holstine will continue with the City on a contract basis through next spring. It is expected that his successor will start sometime in Spring 2024.



Brisbane Village Helping Hands Celebrates Achievements

When Carol “Karuna” Forest picked up a prescription at the Kaiser pharmacy in South San Francisco for Carol Pizarro, it was an ordinary request fulfilled by Brisbane Village Helping Hands, a volunteer nonprofit devoted to helping Brisbane seniors. But it was also a very important milestone, marking the 1,000th time the organization has helped a Brisbane senior in need.

For the small town of Brisbane, that’s a remarkable feat, considering that BVHH was only launched in 2016 and a pandemic temporarily put BVHH volunteers on hold from being able to offer assistance during lockdown.

“I feel very proud of what we've built and what we've been able to accomplish,” Nancy Colman, BVHH president, told volunteers during a pizza party at Mama Mia’s to thank volunteers for their hard work. “And I really appreciate being able to work with all of you!”



BVHH could not have done it alone: It’s had strong support from the City of Brisbane and the Brisbane Lions Club, which have both offered monetary assistance. Private residents including Jamesanne Dunn have also been benefactors. Thanks to such support, the organization has been able to waive its annual dues since the beginning of the pandemic.

Unlike other village organizations, BVHH runs on a shoestring

budget with no paid staff; Board members check the phone line (donated by the City) daily for messages, and post the requests to the organization’s vetted volunteers, who can “click” on a button to accept them. Requests might include transportation to doctor appointments, tech help, friendly visits, or running errands. Donations pay for insurance, the Ridescheduler App and website, and social events to build community. The mission of BVHH is to help senior citizens remain in their homes and live independently – and decrease isolation. BVHH has 55 members and 54 volunteers. Many are both members and volunteers.

“The Village has helped me with so many things including picking up medications, hanging my curtains, assisting me with my computer and helping when I was recuperating from surgery,” said Penny O’Connor. “They are a great organization.”

To learn more about BVHH – or to become a member or volunteer – you can contact the Village by calling 415-508-2185, send an email to brisbanevillagehelpinghands@gmail.com or visit the website, brisbanevillage.org.

YMCA & BRISBANE PD'S
Holiday
FOOD AND TOY DRIVE

Accepting Donations of nonperishable food and unwrapped toys from
NOVEMBER 1 - DECEMBER 15

Drop-off Locations: Brisbane City Hall
50 Park Place
Brisbane Police Dept.
147 Valley Drive



Brisbane Library Calendar – December 2023

SPECIAL EVENTS

Friday, December 1 at 3:30pm - Upcycled Board Games

Upcycle old board game pieces to create your own board game! You set the rules of the game and make your own board out of cardstock. Supplies will be provided and you're welcome to bring your own old board game pieces to upcycle.

Wednesday, December 6 at 1:30pm - Teen DJ Workshop With DJ Yuka Yu

Whether you're a DJ or beginner, learn from International DJ Yuka Yu. She brings her talent and skills learned at the London Sound Academy. We'll go over how to use Rekordbox to prepare your playlists and mix harmonically. For grades 6-12. Registration required at brisbaneca.org/smc1

Wednesday, December 6 at 1:30pm - 3D Paper Stars

Learn how to fold an eight-pointed 3D paper star that can be hung from a tree or in an entry way of your home.

Friday, December 08 at 1:30pm - Tie-Dye Tote Bags

Decorate tote bags into fun tie-dye patterns create out of sharpies and rubbing alcohol. We'll also discuss the science behind this tie-dye method.

Saturday, December 9 at 2:00pm - Glowforge Laser Cutter Showcase

Join us for our Glowforge laser cutter showcase where participants will get to be hands and will be treated to a demonstration of the machine!

Tuesday, December 12 at 1:00pm - Senior Surf: Computer Security Basics

In this introductory class on Computer Security Basics, you'll embark on a journey to safeguard your digital world. Registration required at brisbaneca.org/smc1

Tuesday, December 12 at 3:30pm - Perler Beads

Make cool designs using fusible beads. Grab a pattern for inspiration or create something all new.

Wednesday, December 13 at 2:30pm - Popsicle Stick Bird Feeders

Build a colorful bird feeder out of popsicle sticks and hot glue. Take it home with a small supply of bird seeds.

Friday, December 15 at 3:30pm - Paper Marbling

Mindfully create a mesmerizing marbling effect on cardstock

inspired by the art of Suminagashi, which means "floating ink" in Japanese. Registration required at brisbaneca.org/smc1

Wednesday, December 20 at 3:30pm - Wood Ornaments

These wood slice ornaments can be a fun and creative DIY project for the holidays. They also make thoughtful gifts or festive additions to your own decor. Feel free to experiment with different designs, colors, and techniques to make them uniquely yours!

Friday, December 22 at 3:30pm - Board Game Day

Relax after school with a board game! We'll set out games and snacks for students to kick off their Winter Break fun!

Tuesday, December 26 at 3:30pm - Paws for Tales

Do you have a reluctant reader? Sign your child up for a 10-minute session to practice reading with a therapy dog at the library. We'd like to thank our partners for making this possible: Pet Assisted Therapy teams and their handlers from the Peninsula Humane Society & SPCA's Paws for Tales program. Registration is required, and space is limited, so register early at brisbaneca.org/smc1

Tuesday, December 26 at 6pm - Telescope Moon Viewing

Join us for an evening of sky watching. We will be using the libraries new telescopes to look up at the last full moon of 2023. This evening of sky gazing is suitable for patrons aged 6+ (with guardian supervision) and will have a five minute limit viewing time per patron. Hot tea and cocoa will be provided. Please note, program may be cancelled in the event of inclement weather.

Thursday, December 28 at 11:30am - Noon Year's Storytime Celebration with Peter Rabbit

Join us for a very special Noon Year's storytime party with songs and stories, craft activities, and more! Celebrate with fun and simple snacks as we countdown to the New Year (midday style!) with our special guest, Peter Rabbit.

Keep an eye out for more fun events that we're planning to bring to Brisbane Library at smcl.org!

RECURRING EVENTS

Mondays from 12:00pm-1:00pm & Thursdays from 6:30pm-7:30pm - Tech Tutors

Tech Tutors is a service to help troubleshoot your technology issues through a personal one on one appointment. Participants will sit down with a staff member who will walk you through a resolution. To book your one-hour appointment, please visit: smcl.libcal.com/appointments/techtutors

Mondays at 6:30pm – Yoga

Interested in learning how to do yoga or already have a practice, and want to join others in your community? Please bring your own towel or mat. Space is limited. Register at brisbaneca.org/smc1

Tuesdays at 11:30am – Family Storytime & Little Explorers

Come along on an imaginary adventure for Family Storytime. Hear stories, sing songs, and learn wiggles that the whole family can enjoy together, from toddlers to grown-ups. At Stay and Play, Little Explorers create, play and learn together with their grown-ups. Please note that we won't have storytime on December 26.

Wednesdays at 6pm – Tai Chi

Learn about the Chen-style Taijiquan (Tai Chi) form, Silk-reeling Exercises and Wuji Qigong. Chen-style Taijiquan is widely acknowledged as the ancestor of all other styles of Taijiquan.

Thursdays at 11:30am - Baby Bounce and Rhyme Time

Bring your bouncing baby to our weekly playtime, full of nursery rhymes and songs you can do together to stimulate your baby's development. Ideal for newborns up to 18 months old.

Thursdays at 2:30pm - Drop-In Sewing

Complete your sewing project at the library! We have sewing machines and materials ready and available for you to use. Please bring your own fabric. This program is for adults and teens who are familiar with using sewing machines. Minimal instructions will be given.

POWER UP AFTERNOONS

Join us for Power Up Afternoons! Take a study break to relax with free-form art or experience hands-on STEAM activities.

Mondays at 3:30pm – Maker Monday

Discover what you can make using our library maker tools. Sometimes techy, sometimes crafty, always fun!

December 4 - DIY Snow Globes

December 11 – Sphero Battle Bots

December 18 - DIY Ornaments

Tuesdays & Wednesdays at 3:30pm – Maker Exploration

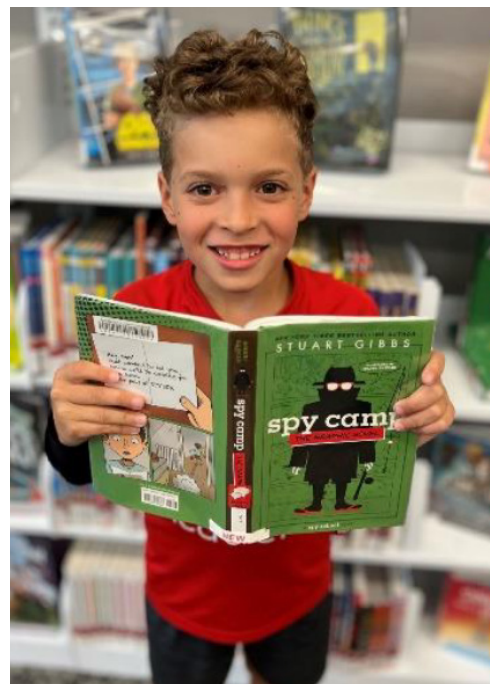
During this two-hour block, come and explore the equipment in the makerspace!

Thursdays at 3:30pm - Lego Club

Join us every Thursday for LEGOs and creativity!

The Brisbane Library will be closed on Sunday, December 24, 2023 - Monday, December 25, 2023 for Christmas, as well as Sunday, December 31, 2023 - Monday, January 1, 2024 for New Year's.

Congratulations to the Library's Summer Learning Challenge Scholarship Winner, Oliver Manyak-Pritsker!



Oliver Manyak-Pritsker is the Brisbane Library's 2023 Summer Learning Challenge Scholarship Winner. This was Oliver's second year entering the Library's Summer Learning Challenge, and his fourth year being in a book club with his classmates (they started in 1st grade, and are now in 4th). Every month, the group reads a book and discusses it with a moderator. Oliver's favorite book to date from the reading club is *The Million Dollar Shot* by Dan Gutman. Oliver liked this book because it's about basketball, one of his favorite sports. Imagine Oliver's excitement when he heard he'd won this year's Challenge...with the reward being a \$1,000 college scholarship! **Congratulations, Oliver! Keep reading.** Info for next year's Challenge will be released on June 1st at smc1.org.

Get Letters to Santa in by December 8

DON'T FORGET



In mid-November, Public Works helped set out the Letters to Santa mailbox, located outside of Midtown Market. Write Santa a letter by December 8th if you'd like to receive a response back...from the North Pole, of course.



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Preparing for Tomorrow

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LIFELINE

HOLIDAY STARS ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE CHAMBER! ✦

Place your order for 2,3,4,5, 6 or 8 ft Stars!

✦ This tradition is made possible due to the generosity of Golden State Lumber, Brisbane Hardware & Supply, and Star Maker Bob Wilson with support from Alison Wilson. To place an order for pick up (after Thanksgiving), please email: madison@brisbanechamber.org

Stars help us raise funds for our college scholarship program and we ask that you consider donating (no one will be turned away) ✦

Suggested Donation

2ft-\$10 5ft-\$25

3ft-\$15 6ft-\$30

4ft-\$20 8ft-\$40



Photo By Dan Ryan

PICTURES WITH SANTA

@ BDW's HOLIDAY ARTS & CRAFTS FAIR

Come meet Santa Claus and take a picture!
Supporting Silverspot Cooperative Nursery School

**SATURDAY,
DECEMBER 9, 2023**
11:00AM - 4:00PM
475 MISSION BLUE DRIVE
BRISBANE, CA

\$25 Digital Photo/Sitting Fee
PRE-REGISTER USING THE QR CODE
WALK-UPS WELCOME

LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR SCHOOL & COMMUNITY
WWW.SILVERSPOTCOOP.ORG

BDW's Thirteenth Annual

Holiday Arts & Crafts Fair

Featuring a huge assortment of wonderful handmade items by over 30 local artists and craftspersons!

Homemade and locally-sourced sweets & treats
Beverages • Free admission & free parking!

**Saturday • December 9
11am - 4pm**

MISSION BLUE CENTER
475 Mission Blue Drive • Brisbane
(Just south of SF on 101)

For more information and artist links,
visit BDWHolidayFair on Facebook