# Council Briefing

November 2006

## **Administrative Services**

#### Fiscal Services:

- Police alarm permits issued in October totaled 51, making the fiscal year to date total 190. Total number of active permits as of Oct. 31 is 4,511.
- Invoices billed in October totaled 506, at a valuation of \$539,508. Invoices billed for fiscal 2006-07 to date total 2,102, at a valuation of \$1,730,310.
- ➤ Delinquent notices in October totaled 43, at a valuation of \$402. Delinquent notices for fiscal 2006-07 to date total 184, at a valuation of \$1,110.
- ➤ The total number of general checks and direct deposits in October was 857 and 191, respectively, with a valuation of \$3,948,373. The total number of general checks and direct deposits for fiscal 2006-07 was 3,392 and 688, respectively, with a valuation of \$19,782,724.
- Purchasing: In October, the Division processed approximately 200 requisitions and saved \$1,567 through early payment discounts. Central Services made 147,361 copies and processed 12,616 pieces of mail.

#### Revenue:

- ➤ In October, 158 business registration certificates were issued. Of that total, 103 were for businesses in Fullerton and 55 were out of the city, but will be doing business here. Business tax collected for new registrants totaled \$10,315.
- ➤ A total of 208 businesses closed in October: 85 in the city and 123 out of the city.
- ➤ Business certificates renewed in October numbered 763, which totaled \$88,917 in business tax collected.

## Utility Services:

➤ In October, customer service staff answered 3,016 calls.

➤ Cash register transactions in October numbered 3,687 and totaled \$8,992,002. Transactions by payment method were: credit cards, 1,077; checks, 1,201; cash, 632; and direct deposits, 112.

## Community Development

Community Preservation: In October, the Division: received 233 complaints, and resolved 223; conducted 600 inspections; issued 135 first notices of violation and 28 citations; arranged for 43 large items (i.e., couches, appliances, etc.) to be hauled away by the disposal contractor; handled 10 requests for graffiti removal; arranged for the removal of two abandoned shopping carts; received 96 calls on the Complaint Hotline; and billed \$3,150 in revenue.

### Building Division:

- ➤ Inspection stops in October totaled 1,621 and resulted in 2,355 individual inspections. Average daily number of inspections was 118, and average daily workload was 14 inspections per inspector.
- ➤ In October, 255 plans (including 41 ancillary plans) were submitted for checking. Of that total, 115 plans were checked at the counter the same day. There were 1,894 visitors to the permit counter in October, and 634 permits and plan checks were issued. Total valuation of the permits was \$7,004,687.
- ➤ The new on-line appointment program is complete. It allows customers to make appointments and other inquiries on-line. Staff is working with IT on an E-Permit. Program that will allow applicants to obtain minor permits and pay fees on-line. Target for completion of this program is Dec. 15.
- > The foundation of the Providence parking structure is done. Steel framing of the three-story office building is 82 percent complete.
- > The foundation for the Anaheim Police Heliport at the Airport is complete.
- > All but two buildings in the MBK condo project at Amerige Heights have been finaled.

# Engineering

## Construction Management:

➤ Work is expected to be completed this month on the Sewer Replacement Project 2005-06 on Lemon Street, Rosslynn Avenue and State College Boulevard. The contractor, Garcia Juarez Construction Inc., has installed a new 8-inch main on Lemon between Chapman and Berkeley avenues, and on State College between Chapman and Commonwealth Avenue.

- Work began in October on the Residential Street Reconstruction Project for fiscal 2005-07. The \$535,459 contract for the work was awarded to R.J. Noble Co. The project includes the following locations: 1000 block N. Woods Avenue, 1000 block N. Eastridge Knoll, 1000 block Westridge Knoll, 300 block N. Elizabeth Way, 1400 block N. Marelen Drive, 2300 block N. Camino Escondido, 2500 block Biscayne Place, 2600-2700 blocks Medford Place, 3000 block Greenview Place, and 2900 block Treeview Place. The project is to be completed in January.
- ➤ The \$2,599,449 contract for the Richman Park area street improvements was awarded to the R.J. Noble Co. The work includes general street reconstruction, new mid-block street construction, a landscaped median island on Valencia Drive, irrigation, new water main and storm drain installation, street lights, and an in-pavement illuminated crosswalk. The project is to be completed in March.
- ➤ Demolition of buildings at 412 W. Valencia Drive and 431 W. West Ave. is to be completed this month. Contractor is American Wrecking Inc., and the work includes demolition of existing buildings, asbestos abatement and lead removal.
- Work is to be completed this month on the upgrade to the Fullerton Museum Center's air conditioning system. California Building Evaluation and Construction Inc. began work at the end of July. The project includes removing the existing air conditioning/humidifier system units and electrical control systems.
- Work is expected to be completed this month on the SOCO District improvements. The project, which began in January, has included reconstruction of two alleys and adjacent parking areas.
- ➤ Erect-A-Tube, Inc., is building seven new hangars and a wash rack at the Airport. Work began in August and is to be completed by next July.
- Water System Management: Work is continuing on the Water Main System Replacement/Sewer and Street Improvements Project for fiscal 2005-06. In addition to a new water main on Wilshire Avenue, from Balcom to Raymond avenues, the contractor has installed pipes on Lemon Street, from Chapman to Grove avenues, and at Margarita and Dolores drives. The project is to be completed in January.

## Fire:

- Statistics: The Department responded to 848 requests for service in October, which was slightly higher than the October 2005 total of 839. Of those requests, 676 were medical aids, 40 were fire calls, six were hazardous materials incidents, and 54 were service calls. In addition, the Department responded on 93 automatic aid calls and received 109.
- Suppression:

- ➤ The Engine 5 "B" Shift crew of Captain/Paramedic Riley, Engineer/Paramedic Van Druten and Firefighters Morgan and Meacham received a standing ovation at UCI Base Hospital for a "great save" of a 23-year-old male stabbing victim Oct. 10. Doctors said the crew did an excellent assessment of a kidney laceration grade IV and internal bleeding including the heart, plus rapid treatment at the scene and transport. The patient was released from the hospital after five days.
- At 10:30 p.m. Oct. 12, Engine 5 "A" Shift was dispatched on a report of a "strong odor" at an apartment complex in the 1200 block of Deerpark Drive. On arrival at the second-story apartment of the person who made the report, Fire personnel noted a strong electrical odor. All appliances and outlets were checked and no problem was found; however, the crew noted odor was stronger outside the bedroom window, and on investigation of some attached garages, found one garage filled with heavy smoke and fire. After extinguishing the fire, the crew found a bottle with mild acid. On the bottle was a note that the contents would ignite on contact with combustible products. Firefighters contacted Police and the apartment manager was asked to open the apartment attached to the garage to check for fire and smoke extension. When the apartment was opened, the crew found a large marijuana growing operation. Narcotics detectives arrived and the apartment tenant was arrested when he returned home.
- At 6:56 a.m. Oct. 16, Engine 3 responded to a report of a hazardous materials spill at a business. Approximately 20-30 gallons of nickel sulfate solution had leaked over a secondary containment area into a rear alley and subsequently into the adjacent flood control channel for approximately 300 yards downstream. The business supervisor reported the spill had occurred earlier and that they were trying to clean it up. He said it was caused by a failed hose clamp on a storage tank. The Fire crew had the company's personnel build a containment dike on both ends and arrange for proper clean-up. Fire Battalion 1 made appropriate notifications, including the County Health Care Agency.
- At 2:40 p.m. Oct. 16, Engine 3 was dispatched on a report of a suspicious package at the train station. On arrival, the crew was asked by the Sheriff's Bomb Squad to stand by. It turned out the container was empty.
- ➤ Engine 2 and Truck 1 were called out on a multiple vehicle accident at 1 p.m. Oct. 23 at the corner of Malvern Avenue and N. Gilbert Street. Three vehicles, each with a single occupant, were involved. Two drivers were extricated from their vehicles by Fire crews, treated on scene and taken to UCI Trauma Center. One driver suffered minor injuries and was transported to a local hospital.
- ➤ Engines 1, 5 and 3 and Truck 1 were dispatched at 5:40 p.m. Oct. 23 on a mutual aid call to Brea for a chemical explosion/structure fire in the 300 block of E. Cypress Avenue.
- ➤ The Engine 6 "C" Shift crew of Capt. Wilder, Engineer Worthy and Firefighters Verburg and Maturino was dispatched at 3 a.m. Oct. 27 as part of a Strike Team to the Esperanza Fire. All returned safely Oct. 29.
- ➤ Engines 5 and 1 responded to a shooting in the 1400 block of N. Placentia Avenue Oct. 27. Fullerton Police had secured the scene prior to the crew's arrival. Two patients were

- located in the alley, each with a single gunshot wound to their lower abdominal area. Both patients were treated at the scene by Paramedics and transported to UCI.
- ➤ Engine 2 responded to Buena Park on a mutual aid call Oct. 28 for a second-alarm structure fire in the 6000 block of Western Avenue. The crew was assisted in the interior attack on the attic fire. No injuries were reported.
- ➤ Engine 5 was called out to a traffic accident Oct. 28 in which a car had been driven onto the median in the 3300 block of Yorba Linda Boulevard. The driver did not respond when asked to unlock the door, and a Fullerton Police Officer suffered minor lacerations when he attempted to break a window to help the driver. The Officer was treated at the scene by Paramedics and released. The driver was also treated and taken to the hospital.
- ➤ Engines 2 and 6 and Truck 1 responded to a residential fire in the 700 block of S. Lambert Street Oct. 29. On arrival crews found smoke and fire coming from a window and went into fast attack mode through the front door, which had to be forced open. Anaheim Engine 2 assisted by performing a primary search. A Fire Investigator was called to the scene and the Red Cross assisted the family.

#### Notable Activity:

- ➤ Training Capt. Tom Schultz was nominated as an "Orange County Overachiever" by his peers and, in addition, was selected to receive the "Firefighter of the Year" award for 2006 from among numerous other Orange County nominees. The award honors those Fire Service members who contribute to the betterment of their department and the citizens it serves, the Fire Service, and the citizens of Orange County. Capt. Schultz's accomplishments in education, training, organization, community involvement and emergency preparedness earned him this prestigious award.
- ➤ Twelve Fire personnel attended a 40-hour Confined Space Training class at North Net Training Center in Anaheim. This training plays an integral part in the formation of the city-wide Urban Search and Rescue team.
- ➤ The Department's Open House Oct. 14 was attended by more than 700 visitors. All exhibits, station tours and demonstrations were well received. The Department's Community Response Volunteers members were on hand to serve food and raised nearly \$200 for the emergency readiness program.
- ➤ Twenty-four citizens signed up for the third Community Response Volunteer training class that started Oct. 28. Fullerton employees or citizens interested in getting involved in the community's emergency preparedness may call 773-1316 for further information.

## **Human Resources**

• Liability Program: Four new claims were received in October and 11 claims were closed. A lawsuit alleging civil rights violations was served.

- Workers' Compensation Program: Six claims were filed in September.
- Recruitment: Staff recently completed recruitment for Information Systems Project/Programmer Manager. Additional positions open or soon to be opened are Events Specialist, Recreation Supervisor, Street Supervisor and Redevelopment Project Manager I/II.
- Employee Processing: Staff processed two regular and two non-regular promotions, five regular and nine non-regular new hires, and two regular and three non-regular separations in October.
- Health Fair: Attendance at the Employee Health Fair topped 242 employees, 170 of whom
  received flu shots. Also offered were cholesterol and glucose testing, body fat testing,
  pulmonary function screening, blood pressure screening, skin cancer screening by
  Councilman Dick Jones, and general health and insurance information.

# Library

- Board of Trustees: All five members of the Board attended the mandated training workshops on AB 1234 (Ethics). A special Board meeting was held Oct. 19 to provide feedback to LPA, Inc., the consultants on the Main Library space planning study. Members of the Library Management Team, the Foundation and the Friends of the Library also participated in the discussion.
- Library Foundation: Len Beck submitted his resignation from the Foundation Board, and Dee Stopper and Joan Mears were elected new members. The fall newsletter was mailed in early October to Foundation contributors. The Foundation voted not to hold meetings in November and December; instead a holiday social will be held at the home of President Terry Brick on Dec. 4. Election of 2007 officers will precede the social.
- Friends of the Library: The Friends held a drawing for tickets to its Nov. 5 program featuring Huell Howser as the Main Library's Osborne Auditorium is limited to seating for 300. This event combines the Friends' annual membership program with the celebration of the Library's Centennial. There will be a brief meeting to elect 2007 officers prior to Howser's presentation.
- LAFCO Update: The Orange County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) approved Resolution 06-34 on the Buena Park Library District Reorganization at its Oct. 11 meeting. A protest hearing is scheduled for 9 a.m. Nov. 11. Essentially, the resolution updates the service map for the Buena Park Library District and the Fullerton Public Library so they coincide with existing city boundaries. The change in boundaries will result in an additional \$54,000 to the City of Fullerton in property taxes in fiscal 2007-08.

Library Director Recruitment: The Human Resources Department is soliciting applications for the position of Library Director. A job brochure, supplemental questionnaire and City application are available on the City's website. The deadline for applications is Nov. 9. The last work day for the Library Director Al Milo is Dec. 22. A retirement reception for al is planned for 7 p.m. Dec. 15 at the Main Library.

## **Maintenance Services**

#### Administration:

- ➤ The Department received 1,134 service requests in October, completing 729 (64 percent) in the month. Of the 36 emergency requests received, 18 (50 percent) were completed within one day. Building and Facilities received the most requests, 474, or 41.8 percent of the total.
- ➤ The analysis team completed the Street Division audit in October and forwarded it to the Department Director and City Manager. Since early September, the team has worked on an audit of the Landscape Division's staffing and service levels. The audit is nearing completion and a draft will be sent to the Landscape Superintendent for comments.
- ➤ Support staff received 1,456 calls in October, an average of 73 per workday, or 36 for each of our two primary customer service personnel.

#### Facilities:

- ➤ The Graffiti Crews removed 41,465 square feet of graffiti from 312 sites in October, bringing the year-to-date totals to 204,435 square feet of graffiti removed from 1,369 sites.
- > The Custodial staff completed 15 inspections of City facilities in October.
- Replacement of the carpet and tile flooring in the Senior Center is finished.
- ➤ The Division is replacing the Main Library's security alarm system.

#### Landscape:

- ➤ West Coast Arborists, the City's contract tree-trimming company, performed the following services July 1-Oct. 31: trimmed 3,137 trees; removed 178 trees and stumps; planted eight trees; and responded to 454 service requests.
- ➤ The Division received 26 reports of beehives and swarms and eradicated 21 hives in October.
- ➤ Fire ants were sighted at four locations in Olive Park in the course of October divisional park inspections.

- Crews have completed installation of a 20-foot swing gate and additional vehicle barriers to secure the large open area at Fullerton Recreational Riders arena.
- ➤ Over-seeding of the soccer field and parking lot turf areas has been completed at Bastanchury Park.
- A bi-monthly mowing schedule was initiated in October. Mowing crews will now be performing additional tot lot inspection and maintenance on the alternate week.
- > Crews performed trail grading at Horse Alley in preparation for potential rainfall and erosion.
- > Richman Park soccer field is closed for renovation through December.
- ➤ The Division received 58 service requests in October, of which 52 were completed. The remaining six are scheduled for completion.
- Water: In October the Division produced 938,869,240 gallons of water. Of that amount 34.86 percent 327,282,000 gallons was pumped from wells and 65.14 percent 611,587,240 gallons was purchased from the MWD.
- Sewer: In October, the Division: responded on two City sewer overflows; hydrojetted 15.58 miles of sewer mains; treated 14,430 linear feet of main; treated 122 laterals; inspected 79 food service establishments; conducted 13 lateral CCTV inspections; inspected 19,988 linear feet of sewer main using the CCTV; approved seven Lifeline and 15 Large Lot applications; and received 52 sewer fee calls and 58 service requests.
- Equipment: The Division performed 97 PM inspections, one smog certificate and two diesel smoke certifications in October
- Street: In October, crews: cleaned 4,033 miles of streets, seven roadway spills, 205,471 linear feet of sidewalk, 624 drains and 24,806 linear feet of channel; used 30 tons of asphalt for Water Division digouts and 81 tons for patching; made 44 asphalt sidewalk repairs; installed, fabricated and cleaned 328 signs; applied 305 gallons of paint; and ground eight sidewalks.

## Parks And Recreation

- Capital Improvements:
  - > Staff forwarded an approved trail layout, plant palette and signage recommendations to RJM Design Group and directed RJM to move forward with completion of the trail, landscape and irrigation plans for Laguna Lake. Signage improvements could take longer to develop and could be installed after the completion of the other improvements.

- Deadline for Richman Park project bids is Nov. 16.
- ➤ The fall Adopt-A-Park session began in October and 22 non-profit groups are participating. The fall session runs 12 weeks.
- ➤ The Lions Field RFP was placed on hold in order to expand the scope of work, including a full-size synthetic turf playing field and an 80-yard practice field. Other improvements could include replacement of the clubhouse, new restroom facilities, and parking improvements. Staff will work with Hirsch and Associates to revise the Lions Field Master Plan to reflect the new direction.
- ➤ Plans for the Fullerton Sports Complex playground shade structure were returned from plan check with corrections. Staff will work with Shade Structures Inc. to have the canopy installed in winter 2007.

#### Senior Multi-Service Center:

- ➤ The Center, a host site for the yearly state-sponsored homeowners and renter's assistance/rebate program, has assisted approximately 140 persons with their claim forms this year.
- ➤ New classes in September included "It's Your Money," a community service education program; "Staying Mentally Sharp," a continuing education program sponsored by North Orange County Community College District; and intermediate bridge lessons. September's health lecture for women, sponsored by the YWCA and Anaheim Memorial Medical Center, drew 28 participants.
- ➤ The Center held "Western Day" Sept. 15, with a special program sponsored by Feedback Foundation's TLC dining program. A band performed, and a western-style meal was served to nearly 150 guests.

## Maple Community Center:

- ➤ The Center hosted two Family Fun Saturdays in September. The first event's activities included a bike safety course, a coloring contest, and a drawing for a new bicycle. The second event featured a "Hispanic Heritage Festival" and drew families from the Maple, Richman and Garnet neighborhoods. Food, games and folklorico dance performances entertained the 234 residents who attended.
- ➤ The Sea Horse Soccer Club started its weekly soccer clinics at Lemon Park. Ten children are currently enrolled.

## Richman Community Center:

➤ The after-school program sponsored by the YMCA has 38 children enrolled. The program provides homework assistance, healthy snacks, field trips, outdoor activities, and quest speakers.

- ➤ The Valencia Taskforce met with Orange County Supervisor Lou Correa, who answered questions regarding immigration reform and safety, and offered his views on the EVENSTART federal program.
- ➤ The PACE (Parent and Child Education)/ESL program has 30 parents enrolled and 13 children in the day care. The program is a collaboration between the City, Fullerton School District and the North Orange County Community College District. Program goals are to help parents improve their literacy or basic educational skills, and to help them become partners in educating their children.
- ➤ The "Active Kids" program has entered its second year of addressing childhood obesity. The Cal State Fullerton program engages children in physical activity, offers education on healthy eating habits, and encourages children to develop positive relationships with their peers. A total of 25 children are enrolled.

#### Garnet Community Center:

- ➤ Neighborhood parents participated in a leadership training activity in September. The training, provided by the County Human Relations Commission, was designed to help participants explore their talents, abilities and experience to make their community better.
- A meeting was held in September to inform potential volunteers on programs in which they can help. Twenty prospective volunteers learned about after-school activities, homework assistance, tutoring and other programs taking place at the center.
- ➤ The After-school programs began in September for children and teens. Average daily attendance was 50 children under 12, and 25 teens.
- Tiny Tots: Twenty-four children are enrolled in the Imagination Station program at Independence Park. They joined 23 continuing students who were not old enough to begin kindergarten this year. All eight morning sessions are filling quickly. The afternoon class enrollment is increasing, as well.
- Youth Programs: The PACE program at Richman Community Center began in September. Staff organizes and implements infant/toddler activities in collaboration with the Fullerton School District and the North Orange County Community College District for parents talking ESL classes at the center.

#### Tennis Center:

- > September was a great month, with the cooler weather helping to make it the busiest September ever.
- ➤ The Juniors program started its fall session with 130 students, and the Orange County Juniors Tournament, which begins Nov. 21, was added to the list of tournaments.

- ➤ The Center was a satellite site for the Orange County Designated Tournament, hosting more than 1,100 of the best junior tennis players in Southern California.
- ➤ Rosary High School's Girls' Tennis Team is enjoying a good start to its season, as are seven USTA and five adult women's teams.
- Youth Sports: Most of the City and school fields are at full capacity. Little League and Softball are halfway into the winter season. Fullerton Rangers Youth Soccer is bursting at the seams with well over 2,000 participants. Pop Warner Football is having a successful season, with a couple of teams going undefeated. Fullerton Youth Rugby recently played a team from New Zealand. Rugby's season officially begins in December.
- Classes: Fall registration is well under way, with more than 1,250 residents participating in classes, with 20 percent using the ClassEConnect website to sign up.

#### Outdoor Recreation:

- ➤ The morning trail hikes are off to a great start. The first class filled immediately, requiring addition of a second class. More than 30 residents are participating in the sixweek class which focuses on some of the City's most popular trails.
- ➤ The Oct. 19 "Fullerton News Tribune" featured an article on the hiking programs, focusing on the Haunted Hike at Brea Dam. The hike was a success, with 450 persons attending.
- > The new fishing classes have had moderate attendance, but are expected to pick up again in the spring and summer.

#### Cultural and Events:

- ➤ Fullerton Market ended its 2006 season Oct. 19. As expected, attendance picked up the last few weeks of the season. The last market also was the annual "Okto-BOO-fest" celebration which included a raffle for a Fender Telecaster. Phyllis Fender drew the winning ticket, which belonged to a Fullerton native and member of the Museum! Overall, Fullerton Market and Museum's Beer Garden saw an increase in attendance and sales over the past year, making this one of its most successful seasons!
- ➤ The Museum's Haunted Fullerton Walking Tours have proven very popular in and outside of Fullerton, especially now that the Fox Theatre is one of the tour stops. All tours were sold out by the beginning of October. By popular demand, an additional tour was added for Nov. 15. Each tour allows for approximately 20 participants to walk the streets of Downtown Fullerton with a Museum guide and a psychic. The very positive feedback and word of mouth have contributed to the tours selling out very early in the season.
- The Museum's new exhibit, "Golden States of Grace: Prayers of the Disinherited," which opened Sept. 30, has received very favorable reviews in the "Los Angeles Times" and the "Register." A KCET film crew visited the Museum to document the exhibit for a feature on the show "Life and Times." The exhibit has been attended by classes from Fullerton

- College. A new exhibit, "Fender after Fender: G&L Guitars in the 1980s," has opened in the small Focus on Fullerton Foyer Gallery.
- ➤ Public and teacher programs for "Golden States of Grace" have been going well. Artist Rick Nahmias presented a public program on the exhibit Oct. 14. On Oct. 17, the Museum hosted an all-day workshop for educators from Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino and San Joaquin counties who are studying the history of religion in America. The group is part of a regional grant for the study of American history funded by the U.S. Dept. of Education.
- On Oct. 26 the Museum launched its "Golden States of Grace" Speakers' Series with a discussion of Islam. Guest speakers were Lucky Altman Lynch of the National Conference for Community and Justice, and Aviva Hasan from the Muslim Public Relations Council.

## **Police**

#### Patrol:

- Officer Gary Sirin followed a LoJack signal into the north limits of Anaheim. When he located the stolen vehicle, two suspects were still inside. The vehicle and suspects were turned over to the Anaheim Police.
- A citizen called to report a tagging vandalism at the bus bench in front of City Hall. Responding on the call, Officer Hazel Perez found an 18-year-old and arrested him for vandalism and possession of drug paraphernalia. The suspect admitted to the crime.
- Officers Paul Irish and Roger Tonon responded to a report of a strong-armed robbery of a street vendor. Three suspects had taken the victim's cash after punching him several times in the face. The victim identified the suspects as people who lived in the area. Officers Irish and Tonon conducted a search and located two of the three suspects in a nearby alley. The suspects were positively identified by the victim.
- ➤ The two motor officers assigned to the Reduction Aggressive Impaired Driver Team made three DUI and one narcotics arrest in the downtown. They also issued three Municipal Code citations. Downtown traffic enforcement issued 23 pedestrian citations.
- A daylight residential burglary occurred Oct. 31 on Richman Knoll. Four suspects entered the home. The resident was in a room at the back of the home and called 911. The suspects fled on foot. Officers captured one on Green Acre Drive, one just outside the residence, and the remaining two on Domingo Way. Two of the suspects were adults and two were juveniles, and all were from the Compton area. The CHP helicopter provided invaluable assistance by locating the suspects and directing ground troops to them. The generosity of the CHP in making its helicopter available for searches at no charge underscores the value of our Airport to the community.

# Redevelopment & Economic Development

- Amerige Court: Public comments to the Draft Environmental Impact Report were due Sept. 21. Staff is working with the environmental consultant to prepare responses to the comments, which will be included as part of staff's presentation on the project to the Council/Agency Nov. 21.
- Transportation Center Master Plan: The second in a series of community workshops regarding the Master Plan is scheduled for Nov. 9. The workshop will be held at the Fullerton Senior Center and will begin at 6 p.m. The third workshop will be on Dec. 14.
- Richman/Valencia/West Neighborhood: Escrow has closed on the "Lechman Properties" (442, 448, 454, 460 and 466 West Ave. and 530 Richman Ave.). The Draft Relocation Plan is out for public comment, and is due back Nov. 21.
- Mayor's Blue Ribbon Committee: The Council approved the Report of the Mayor's Blue Ribbon Committee on Economic Development Oct. 17. The report contained several policy recommendations related to the City's economic development program that will be further reviewed and presented to the Council/Agency for action at a later date. One of the "short-term" recommendations was that the City should join the Orange County Business Council, the County's leading voice for business advocacy and economic research. Staff is scheduled to meet with OCBC representatives early this month, and will bring the item to Council for action Nov. 21.
- Commercial Rehabilitation Loan: Staff met with the new owner of the former pawn shop at 112/114 W. Commonwealth Ave. to discuss a loan request under the Commercial Rehabilitation Loan Program. The site contains a 7,000-squre-foot (+/-) building that can be subdivided for multiple tenants. The preliminary plan calls for the owner to occupy the portion of the building that fronts Commonwealth for her dress shop (The Dresser), which is now located in the 200 block of N. Harbor Boulevard. Tenants for the remainder of the site are to be determined. The request is slated to come to the Agency in December.
- 13<sup>th</sup> Annual "Best of Orange County" List: Each year the "Orange County Register" prints its "Best of Orange County" list, a snapshot of the county's best options for shopping, eating, entertainment, recreation, etc. Readers were asked to identify their favorites in more than 130 different categories. Fullerton was well represented in the list as it scored high among readers in several categories, including "Best Live Theater" (3<sup>rd</sup> Place, Fullerton Civic Light Opera), "Best Place for a Picnic" ("Hidden Gem," Craig Regional Park), "Best Hospital" (2<sup>nd</sup> Place, St. Jude Medical Center), "Best Place to Work (2<sup>nd</sup> Place, St. Jude Medical Center), "Best College/University" (2<sup>nd</sup> Place, CSUF, with Fullerton College making the list as a "Hidden Gem"), and "Best Downtown" (2<sup>nd</sup> Place...we demand a recount!). Several Fullerton businesses also made the list across several categories, including Angelo's and Vinci's, The Cellar, Mulberry Street Ristorante, Stubrik's Steakhouse, Summit House, Salon Lujon, Robbins Bros. Jewelers, Jax Bicycle Center, Lavenders Flowers and Gifts, and the Dresser.