

FEBRUARY 2011

# City Council Update



## Projects:

- Fox Block Temporary Parking Lot (**Engineering**): This project involves construction of a 61-stall parking lot on the northwest corner of Chapman and Pomona avenues. The design is complete, and the project is out to bid. Construction, with an estimated cost of \$300,000, is projected to begin in April.
- Expansion/Renovation (**Library**): Construction has moved to the main and mezzanine levels of the Main Library, with all shelving, furniture and fixtures removed so the interior can be reconfigured according to the new plans. The main entrance and those areas are currently closed to patrons, with services for adults and teens being offered at the Hunt Branch Library. Children's Services continues at both the Main Library and Hunt Branch. The expansion project is on target for substantial completion on June 10, and final completion July 10.
- Building Projects (**Community Development**): Permits for the following large projects were issued in January: Sonic Burger drive-thru, Fox Theater seismic retrofit, eight-unit apartment building on Nicklett Avenue, St. Jude site work for the North West Tower.
- Heritage Walk (**Community Development**): Phase III of the Heritage Walk Homes (Olson Company) is near completion, with final build-out is anticipated in mid-April.
- World Citrus (**Community Development**): Structures on World Citrus property have been demolished, and site clearance is under way.
- Community Preservation (**Community Development**): Officers continue to work in the GEMS area. Inspections of the Williamson and Euclid Proactive areas are approximately 75 percent complete. Proactive code enforcement efforts in the West Fullerton Proactive Area have been placed on hold until Feb. 15, due to the allocation of resources to the Williamson and Euclid Proactive Areas.
- Habitat for Humanity (**Community Development**): The final inspection has been conducted for the last five residences of the project. A Dedication Ceremony was held Jan. 8. A total of 11 residences have been constructed over a three year period.
- Downtown Core and Corridors Specific Plan and Program EIR (**Community Development**): The Request for Qualifications was released Jan. 31. Consultant teams have until March 14 to submit their Statement of Qualifications.
- Fullerton Community Center Groundbreaking (**Parks and Recreation**): Groundbreaking for the new \$28 million community center in Amerige Park is scheduled for March 1. The ceremony will

begin at 4 p.m. and take place in the area between the Senior Center and the Boys and Girls Club. The 45,000-square-foot community center will replace the existing Senior Multi-Service Center and the adjacent Boys and Girls Club building.

## *Programs:*

- **Water Savings (*Engineering*):** Following the City Manager's 2008 mandate for water consumption reduction, Water Engineering, Parks and Recreation, and Maintenance Services have actively worked together to reduce water usage at all City operated sites. The following savings were achieved:
  - Calendar year 2009: 35.5 million gallons (14 percent)
  - Calendar year 2010: 74.8 million gallons (30 percent)
- **Raytheon (*Engineering*):** Since 1995, Raytheon has been conducting investigative work related to soil and groundwater contamination at the former Raytheon property now the Amerige Heights Shopping Center. (See attached fact sheet with a brief history of Raytheon's project.) To date, 26 groundwater monitoring wells have been constructed as part of Raytheon's monitoring system, and two new monitoring wells are under construction. The first new well is in an industrial area near the corner of Raymer Avenue and Gilbert Street, and the second is in a residential area just south of Emery Park. At this last location, padded fencing has been installed as a sound barrier to limit construction noise. Note: groundwater contamination monitored by Raytheon does not impact the various sources of drinking water provided to Fullerton residents.
- **Community Policing and Crime Strategy project (*Police*):** In January the Police Department concluded its first six months of an expanded Community Policing and Crime Strategy partnership project. Designed to address crime trends as well as improve communication between the community and the department, this multi-pronged approach to community policing and problem solving has quickly galvanized crime reduction efforts. It places an importance on all Police divisions and City departments working collaboratively on community issues. Examples of this included projects with Habitat for Humanity residents, the Euclid Corridor project, Mercy House and training presented by the Community Development Department on crime prevention through environmental design. Since July, staff has been meeting monthly, placing an emphasis on analysis of crime data, expansion of our in-house crime tracking system, and an increased role for our Crime Analysis Unit. Policing sectors were created by the Watch Commanders to better respond to where most of the crime has been occurring and where most calls for service are generated. Initial focus was on responding to community issues spotlighting crime trends and offenders with a high recidivism rate. Additionally, Lieutenants now serve in geo-policing assignments resulting in better accountability for responding to calls within each of the six policing sectors. As staffing has allowed, we are also redeploying officers to smaller sector areas. An initial comparison of serious crime occurring in 2010 is encouraging. Overall, crime was down 7.9 percent for the six months of this project compared to the first six months of 2010. Significant reductions were in auto burglary, theft from vehicles and crimes of violence,.
- **First Responder Water Rescue Program (*Fire*):** The Department has kicked off its First Responder Water Rescue program. All Fire personnel will be trained in the use of specialized shore-based equipment and techniques to rescue people trapped in water hazards, such as flood control channels. This program is essential as shown by the storms in Fullerton and surrounding areas in December and January, when Fullerton Fire personnel rescued several citizens trapped in flood control channels.

- Family Read Aloud (**Library**): In response to requests from patrons, the Library has started an evening program for school-age children. The new program, "Family Read Aloud," targets first-through third-grade children and their families. The program is designed to introduce emerging readers to the various sections of the Children's Library, and includes books, puppet stories, crafts, and activities. The new program is presented at 6:30 p.m. Mondays.
- Development Services Efficiency Improvements (**Community Development**): On Jan. 31, the Development Services Counter (Planning Division) implemented an Application Worksheet to be completed by customers with new plan checks. The purpose of the worksheet is two-fold. The first goal is to ensure that the complete scope of work and permits needed is understood by all parties, and sufficient contact information is provided for ease of subsequent communication and transmittal of plan check corrections. Secondly, by using the completed application, Permit Technicians will be able enter the information into the permit system (Tidemark) in an efficient and expeditious manner. The applications are available in the Community Development lobby and on the City's website for customers to fill out in advance.
- Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP) (**Community Development**): The sixth quarter reporting period has ended for the HPRP program. Ninety-one households (200 persons) were served by the Homelessness Prevention Program as of Dec. 21. In addition, 21 households (43 persons) were served by the Rapid Re-Housing Program. To date, nearly 60 percent of the funds allocated to the City have been committed or expended.
- Exhibit Preview (**Parks and Recreation**): "Before Fullerton: The Prehistory of North Orange County" is the title of the new exhibit opening at the Fullerton Museum Center Feb. 12. Fossils, archeological artifacts, and historic maps and documents reveal the little-known story of the land we call home. The exhibit will run May 8.
- OC Music Awards iPod Listening Wall (**Parks and Recreation**): Come listen to the OC Music award nominees at the Museum Center. There will be 12 iPod Nanos on display inside the Leo Fender Gallery, each containing one song and image from each of the nominated artists for the 2011 OC Music Awards. Video screens will accompany the listening wall, playing local music videos and award highlights. The exhibit opens Feb. 24, and will run through May 8.

## *Month in Review:*

- **Fire:** The Department responded to 1,002 requests for service in January. Of that number, 752 requests were medical aid calls, 87 were automatic aid responses, 29 were fires, 6 were hazardous materials incidents, and 56 were service calls. Of the 752 medical aid calls, 512 required advanced life support and 240 required basic life support. In addition, the Department received 141 automatic aid responses.
- **Library:** The Library circulated 793,937 items to the public during the 2010 calendar year and was visited by 450,588 patrons. These numbers were achieved in spite of the construction that has been going on at the Main Library since June.
- **Community Development:** In January, the Department: issued 354 building permits; conducted 1,003 building inspections; received 316 code enforcement complaints; had 681 active code enforcement cases; closed 187 code enforcement complaints; and conducted 842 code enforcement inspections.