

NOVEMBER 2011

City Council Update



Projects:

■ Maintenance Yard Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) Fueling Facility (**Engineering**): Most of the perimeter walls and half of the structural sections of the shelter are complete. Underground utility connections and conduits have been completed for off-site work, and on-site utility lines should be completed this month. The CNG equipment is scheduled for delivery in January, and installation should be completed in February.

■ Commonwealth Avenue Reconstruction – Magnolia Avenue to West City Limit (**Engineering**): Council awarded this \$561,000 contract to All American Asphalt, Inc. in June. The work includes removing 14 inches of asphalt, placing aggregate base and asphalt, lining and striping. Project completion occurs this month.

■ Lions Field (**Engineering**): The Lions Field sports park facilities renovation project has won the 2011 American Public Works Association Building Excellence Sharing Tomorrow (APWA BEST) award under the Recreation and Athletic Facilities category for a city with a population of 100,001-200,000.

■ Library Expansion (**Engineering and Library**): The Main Library Expansion and Renovation project has won the 2011 American Public Works Association Building Excellence Sharing Tomorrow (APWA BEST) award under the Buildings category for a city with a population of 100,001-200,000.

■ Major Projects under Construction (**Community Development**):

• 555 N. Commonwealth (University House) – A large mixed-use development at the corner of Chapman and Commonwealth avenues planned to pour the “podium” deck Nov. 7. The housing will be constructed on this deck.

• 150 W. Santa Fe – The parking structure is continuing on schedule.

• 340 W. Commonwealth (Community Center) – Work is now being done on the second masonry lift.

• 101 Valencia Mesa (St. Jude Medical Center) – Demolition of the parking structure is complete.

■ Court Action (**Community Development**): 136 -138 Malvern – The Code Enforcement and Building divisions met with the court-appointed receiver at the site Nov. 4 to review required repairs.

■ CAPER (**Community Development**): The 2010-2011 Consolidated Action Plan Evaluation and Performance Report (CAPER) has been submitted to the U.S. Department of HUD. The required annual document reports accomplishments of the federal Community Development Block Grant and HOME funds. During the last fiscal year, the City reported 19 housing

rehabilitation projects and 54 households who were assisted through the tenant-based rental assistance program. Twenty-four AIDS victims were assisted through the food program, and 260 seniors were served under various programs. Youth and homeless programs served more than 1,600 clients each. The CAPER also reported that one 16-unit apartment complex was rehabilitated and the units are currently being filled, while a second facility with 16 units was purchased and will be rehabilitated this fiscal year. Both facilities offer units at an affordable rent range.

Programs:

■Automated Meter Reading Pilot Program (**Engineering**): Beginning in January 2012, the Fullerton Water Utility will implement an automated meter reading pilot program. In the program 25-50 water meters will be installed throughout the city. These meters will be equipped with technology enabling on-demand reads and low-flow indicators leading to possible leak detection. They will also provide customers with a friendly web interface with which to manage their water budget. Presently, the City dispatches reading staff to read meters either monthly or bi-monthly. With the new technology, the meters would not need to be read physically. The pilot program will run for six months, and the equipment will be provided to the City at no cost.

■Celebration of Orange County's Rich Heritage (**Library**): More than 875 adults and children attended 19 programs in October during the annual "Fullerton Reads" program. The programs were designed to focus on local history. The Library staff was thrilled to have so many of our patrons attend these programs.

■E-Books (**Library**): The Fullerton Public Library is now able to offer its patrons best-selling and classic audio books and eBooks 24/7 from the Library's website, <http://fullerton.lib.overdrive.com>. Patrons can now browse the Library's collection, check an item out with their library card, and download to a PC, Mac®, and many mobile devices. Books can be enjoyed immediately or transferred to a variety of devices, including iPod, Sony Reader, Kindle, and many others. Since launching the service on Oct. 19, the Library has had 224 checkouts and a total of 154 unique patrons using the service. As this was written, 45 people were waiting for an eBook to be returned so they can check it out! Thanks go to the Fullerton Public Library Foundation for funding this service.

■Street Division Audit (**Maintenance Services**): Maintenance Services' audit team is about half-way through its audit of the Street Division's asphalt operations. The audit's purpose is to ensure the City is using its pavement maintenance resources as efficiently and effectively as possible. The audit report will include a comparison of the City's costs and productivity with other agencies and the private sector. The team should complete the report before the end of the calendar year.

Month in Review:

■**Redevelopment and Economic Development:** The department's section on the City website had 1,018 hits in October.

■**Redevelopment and Economic Development:** Current unemployment rates on the national, state, county and local levels are as follows: U.S. – 9.1 percent, California – 11.4, Orange County – 8.6, and Fullerton – 10.1 percent. This data was provided by the Orange County Workforce Investment Board.

■ **Fire:** In October, the Department had 1,038 requests for service, up from the 1,028 requests in October 2010. Of the 1,038 requests, 756 were for emergency medical aid, 37 were for fires, nine were hazardous materials incidents, and 70 were service calls. Of the medical aid requests, 471 required advanced life support response and 285 required basic life support response. In addition, the Department responded on 103 automatic aid calls, and received 129 automatic aid responses in return.

■ **Parks and Recreation:** The 2011 Fullerton Market season, which ended Oct. 27, was very successful. It maintained a full roster of vendors and held a “wait list” all season.

■ **Parks and Recreation:** The Fullerton Museum Center’s current main gallery exhibit, “Frida Kahlo: Through the Lens of Nickolas Muray,” has attracted many school groups for docent tours, including groups from La Vista High School, Golden Hill Elementary School, and Fullerton Union High School. The Fullerton Museum’s always popular “Haunted Fullerton Walking Tours,” which ended Nov. 3, have been at capacity for the season.

■ **Community Development:** In October, the Department: conducted 217 plan checks; issued 383 building permits; conducted 1,929 building inspections; visited 910 building sites; received 141 code enforcement complaints; handled 602 active code enforcement cases; conducted 755 code enforcement inspections; and closed 152 Code Enforcement complaints.