



Avalon City Council Weekly Update 10-31-14

Recreation Department - Oktoberfest on the Beach. *Prost!*



The Inaugural Oktoberfest, held last Saturday, October 25th on South Beach, was a rousing success! The event was sponsored by the City of Avalon, along with the Avalon Lions Club and Catalina Island Women's Forum. With a crowd of over 400 participants, the City is pleased with the first year's turn out. The event featured an oompah-pah band playing traditional German tunes, and included twenty-two participating breweries pouring Oktoberfest brews and seasonal varieties, such as pecan pie porters and pumpkin head ales into the commemorative mugs each ticketholder received. The breweries donated 100% of the beer, and were organized through Catalina Beverage and Wine Warehouse, both of whom lent their expertise to the event.

Another event highlight was the great food, which matched the beach-meets-Bavaria theme. Jack Tucey and El Galleon brought the traditional German flavor with bratwurst, sauerkraut and kielbasa; Steve Bray and Steve's Steakhouse grilled up chicken schnitzel and pork tenderloin on a bed of rice; and Caleb Lins with his crew at the Lobster Trap served the best of our local waters: fresh ceviche, poke, smoked local blue marlin and coconut shrimp. No participant left hungry, and these generous restaurant owners deserve a round of applause for their donation to the event! A silent auction was held during the event, which helped raise an additional \$2000. Taste of Catalina Food Tours sponsored the Silent Auction, and assisted in gathering local prizes and forming packages that offered something for everyone.

While the adults were entertained, their children were having just as much fun at the make-your-own paper lederhosen booth, a German paper hat-making booth, a pretzel necklace booth, and Rootbeerfest (complete with five varieties of root beer, as well as vanilla ice cream for floats). When all was said and done, the event netted over \$3000 to put back to local Avalon non-profit charitable organizations. It is our vision that the event will continue to grow and support more and more organizations in the coming years. Mark your calendar for next year's Oktoberfest which is scheduled for Saturday, October 24, 2015.

Recreation Department - Catalina Island Triathlon

This Saturday, November 1 is the annual Catalina Island Triathlon, hosted by the Catalina Island Chamber of Commerce and produced by Spectrum Sports. This event will happen rain or shine (c'mon rain!) and road closure information is provided below:

Dear Avalon Residents,

Please be aware that this Saturday, November 1st, is the Catalina Island Triathlon. In order to keep athletes safe, some roads in Avalon will be closed for a brief period on Saturday morning. In addition, a parking ban will be in effect on CLARISSA between BEACON and CRESCENT from 7am to 11am. Please see below for details on the road closures.

Road Closures:

Pebble Beach Road: From the Mole to Wigley Rd. CLOSED from 9am to 10:20am

Wigley Road: From Pebble Beach Rd. to Clemente. CLOSED from 9am to 10:20am

Clemente: From Wigley Rd. to Beacon. CLOSED from 9am to 10:20am.

Beacon: From Clemente to Clarissa. CLOSED from 9am to 10:20am

Clarissa: From Beacon to Crescent: ONE LANE only.

Pebble Beach Road: Crescent to the Mole. ONE LANE only.

The race schedule is as follows:

Triathlon: start time is 9am. The swim portion of the triathlon begins on the north side of Green Pier with the bike portion continuing on to Crescent Ave. Estimated finish time is 12pm on Sunset Ave.

We are sorry for any inconvenience and we thank you for your understanding. We appreciate your support of your Catalina Island Chamber of Commerce. For more information including maps and times, please visit www.catalinaislandtriathlon.com.

Sincerely,
Catalina Island Chamber of Commerce
310 510-1520





City Manager's Office – Meeting with the Coastal Commission

The City Manager and the Public Works Director joined the Santa Catalina Island Company for an important meeting with Coastal Commission representatives on Wednesday of this week regarding the status of proposed emergency repairs at and around the boat yard at Pebble Beach. It was a productive meeting, though the process ahead will be lengthy and filled with detailed reporting requirements. Both the City and SCICo are optimistic that important short-term repairs will be able to be addressed through an emergency permit, though the Coastal Commission representatives were non-committal as to the approval of this. We will keep you posted as to the status of the permitting – and the anticipated repair work – that SCICo hopes to embark upon (SCICo owns the land at this location) in order to protect this crucial area of town from anticipated winter storms and wave surges.

City Manager's Office – Annual Catalina Island Chamber Marketing Planning Conference

Mayor Pro Tem Olsen and Council Member Cassidy, along with the City Manager, the Harbormaster and Cheryl Allison, Harbor Department Administrative Assistant, attended Thursday's annual Catalina Island Chamber of Commerce Marketing Planning Conference held in San Pedro. Results from the prior year, as well as strategies for the coming year, were discussed and vetted. Wayne Griffin, the outgoing Chamber President & CEO, and Jim Luttjohann, the incoming Chamber President & CEO were present.

City Manager's Office – Alternative Fuel Vehicle Tests

The City is continuing to explore alternative options to fossil fuel for its vehicle fleet, and this week we test drove a GEM eM1400, a battery electric vehicle (BEV). Currently vehicles are being tested to replace the Code Enforcement vehicle, but considerations for the John Deer used at Joe Machado Field, and the two gasoline-powered Club Cars used for Public Works and the Harbor Department are also being looked at largely due to the fact that these vehicles do not pass the noise ordinance. The City is committed to leading the way in improving the quality of life regarding vehicle noise, as well finding opportunities for vehicle owners by exploring and creating options. The GEM so far seems to perform better than other electric vehicles tested, and could be a viable alternative to fossil fuel-powered autoettes, especially for commercial uses, which require larger hauling capabilities and a reasonable battery range.

Perhaps you saw the GEM being (quietly) test-driven around town this week? Here it is:



Public Works Department – Salt Water Line Breaks & Repairs

Due to our salt water system's age and corrosive nature, we routinely are forced to excavate the streets and make specific repairs. One such incident occurred this week on Sumner. An old repair off the main line failed and started leaking. The PWD monitored the leak for a day or two to make sure which facility was the cause of the water seepage. When the exact location was finally determined, we were able to make the excavation and repair on Thursday of this week. Fortunately, the salt water shut-down was minimal, considering the magnitude of the work involved, as our forces were able to turn the salt water back on after only 3 hours.

Public Works Department (PWD) – Tree Removal and Trip & Fall Hazard Repairs

Tree removals and trip hazards are still being attended to on Metropole. The concrete replacement of sidewalks and hardscape will be started next week when roots are pruned and removals are completed. We again would like to thank the public for their continued cooperation and understanding while this work is performed.

Public Works Department – Concrete Replacements – Curb & Gutters

There are several areas within the city limits where old concrete has broken, and/or is cracked. The PWD is working on these repairs on an as-needed basis. Currently, at the corner of Beacon and Sumner, the curb has cracked and fallen off. This area is being reconstructed, and in so doing, a wheel chair ramp will be added.

Public Works Department/Capital Improvements- Sewer Lateral Inspection Program

Our forces are continuing to video, test, and inspect the interior of existing sewer mainlines and laterals. Several suspect areas have been investigated and repaired. However, many more are being evaluated for a determination of the requisite future repairs. As a reminder, according to our Avalon Municipal Code (AMC) and in accordance with the City's Cease & Desist Order, any sale or major remodel of any structure must have a sewer lateral inspection performed by a licensed certified contractor. We appreciate the cooperation of the realtors and homeowners who have been helpful by notifying us, supplying information, and their positive understanding of this requirement.



Harbor Department - Float Storage

Harbor Rescue 2 towed the Pier End Float and two Fuel Dock Floats to Long Beach this last week where they have been hauled out of the water for winter storage since the Pebbly Beach Boat Yard is unable to store floats after Hurricane Marie.

Harbor Department – Kate Olsen’s Last Day

Kate Olsen has officially retired as the Harbor Department Administrative Assistant after assisting thousands of boaters for the last 8 years. Her time in the near future will be spent helping Holly and Ben with her 4 grandchildren. Her warm smile and friendly demeanor will be missed by all!

Finance Department – Successor Agency Accounting

Today, the Interim Chief Financial Officer met with the ACIA Successor Agency attorney as well as the consultants involved with Successor accounting to discuss the overall reconciliation of the Successor Agency cash balance, agreement of financial activity back to the City’s records and the strategy to recoup the deficit that resulted due to an improper calculation of monies that were sent to the Department of Finance two years ago.

Finance Department - CalPERS Annual Training

The Interim Chief Financial Officer attended the annual three-day CalPERS Retirement System training seminar in Riverside, California this week. Classes attended included Membership Eligibility, Compensation and Payroll Reporting, GASB 68 New Pension Accounting Standards Update, CalPERS 101 Introductory class, Business Rules & Compliance – Most Common Audit Findings, OPEB and CEBRT Trust review and Employer Review Start to Finish. Each year CalPERS performs a risk assessment on each of the 3,000+ agency members in order to determine the 90+ agencies that will be audited each year. It was revealed that Avalon has never been selected due to low risk assessments, but CalPERS plans to select Avalon sometime in the next 12-24 months because CalPERS wants to meet with all member agencies. The information that was learned in the classes will be shared with staff to prepare them for the eventual audit and eliminate common findings noted amongst our peers.

Planning Department/Grants Administration – Letter of Support for Water Study

The City of Avalon submitted a letter to the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation, in support of the Catalina Island Conservancy's waterSMART Basin Study Proposal. The purpose of the basin study is to identify a consensus-based integrated island water management and supply plan for Catalina Island that is adopted by the island's primary stakeholders. Benefits of the basin study may include development of infrastructure options that can serve as adaptation strategies to manage climate change impacts, focusing on optimizing the well-fields, reservoir systems and furthering development of indirect potable reuse. The proposal is in the process of being finalized for submission to the Bureau of Reclamation and the City's letter of support (along with letters from state and federal representatives) will be an important factor during scoring at the Bureau's next review cycle.

Planning Department – FEMA Floodplain Development Guidelines

We were audited by Regional Water Quality Control Board staff this week for compliance with FEMA floodplain development guidelines. Out of 59 properties that are post FIRM and paying flood insurance, we only needed to follow up on three properties. We have identified one property owner than may be paying for more insurance than they need. We will be working with the RWQCB staff to assist this owner. We also received some encouraging news that may help us address the inaccuracies in the current flood plain maps.

Fire Department – Training

This week Avalon Fire Department Captains Alegria, Meffert and Long Completed Blue Card Training, an on-line curriculum for incident commanders. This 50 hour training provides a comprehensive overview and skill set for incident management. It also meets the administrative requirements for qualification as a National Incident Management System (NIMS) Type 4/5 Incident Commander. This training required a significant commitment to successfully complete and training such as this continues to strengthen and prepare the Avalon Fire Department. Congratulations to all three Captains on this significant accomplishment.

Chief Administrative Officer/City Clerk – Alternate Planning Commissioner

A Public Notice will be in this week's paper for an Alternate Planning Commissioner. Application deadline is November 12 and the appointment will be made at the November 18 City Council meeting.

Chief Administrative Officer/City Clerk – Vehicle Hearing

Vehicle Clerk Dudley Morand has published that on Friday, November 7, 2014 there will be a Vehicle Hearing from 12:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. It is open to the public.

Chief Administrative Officer/City Clerk- Landfill

Per their contract, Avalon Environmental is continuing their efforts to install a new baler at the Landfill which will extend the life of the landfill until 2033.

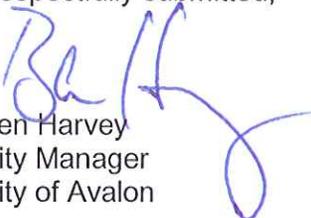
Chief Administrative Officer/City Clerk- Customer Service Training

A memo went out to all City employees this week regarding Customer Service Training on November 18 and 19. Sign ups for all employees are in the Finance Office. Training is required for all 59 full time employees and highly recommended for the City's 71 part time employees.

Chief Administrative Officer/City Clerk – Budget Study Session

Two Budget Study Sessions have taken place and they have been informative with discussion on proposed capital improvement projects and initiatives. The next session has tentatively been set for Monday, November 10, 2014 at noon.

Respectfully submitted,


Ben Harvey
City Manager
City of Avalon

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