



## Avalon City Council Weekly Update 5-30-14

### Avalon Fire Department (AFD) – Three Incidents from Memorial Day Weekend:

Three significant incidents occurred over this past Memorial Day holiday weekend and may serve as reminders for all of us:

1. A structure fire on an outdoor 2<sup>nd</sup> floor balcony occurred when smoldering charcoal briquettes ignited flammable materials stored nearby. Charcoal briquettes retain heat and can smoldering for exceptionally long periods of time. Combustible materials should always be stored well clear of any heat source. Quick response by AFD and LACoFD prevented the fire from extending into the structure and aggressive protection measures limited damage to the residents' belongings inside the dwelling.
2. A vehicle fire occurred on a road in the interior of the island, but fortunately it did not extend into the brush. AFD units staffed up in the event that LACoFD requested or required additional resources. The driver was able to position the vehicle in a wide part of the road when it became disabled, and this effort, in conjunction with very little wind prevented the fire from extending beyond the road into the brush.
3. A visitor to the island was involved in an accident on Avalon Canyon Rd. where he departed his electric bicycle at a high rate of speed, striking his head on a rock that can only be described as "knife edge". This individual was wearing a helmet that certainly saved his life. The helmet was completely destroyed by the accident, and the individual suffered serious head injuries that required an immediate helicopter evacuation from the island. He remains in the hospital, but is expected to recover...helmets save lives.

### Public Works Department / Capital Improvement Projects:

1. Lower Terrace Road Project: The contractor is currently installing the concrete drainage channel, and will next start on the new asphalt roadway construction. Tuesday's City Council meeting features a proposed change order for City Council consideration for a new set of stairs in the footprint of the former staircase. Project completion is still anticipated for the end of June 2014.
2. Southern California Edison Underground Utility Vaults Project: The upper Metropole vault has now been set, with new power lines feeding the vault. Backfill efforts will continue, and it is estimated that new asphalt paving will be completed by mid-June 2014.
3. The "new" (to the City) vector truck recently authorized by the City Council will be on the island and ready for deployment within two weeks.

### Planning Department – Proposed New Vons Project:

Vons has submitted their proposed site plan for review in concept at the June 18<sup>th</sup> Planning Commission meeting. Requisite mailings will be sent to all property owners within 300 feet of the proposed site, and Public Notice for the meeting will be published within the *Catalina Islander*.

### Finance Department

The process of identifying corrections and reclassifying FY13-14 revenues and expenses into the proper accounts and governmental funds is underway. Once the City is caught up, the Finance Department may initiate a routine cycle of reporting out to the City Departments, as well as the City Council. Finance staff realizes how important this is, and is working additional hours, including weekends, to complete the project quickly.

### Planning Department – various Santa Catalina Island Company (SCICo) Projects:

1. SCICo has advised that they will be meeting with Chuck Posner of the Coastal Commission next week to discuss their Golf Course project. They do not anticipate starting the project this summer, so the course will remain open for the time being. At this time, SCICo believes that it is likely for them to start this project in the Fall.
2. SCICo has advised that they have received approval from the Los Angeles County Health Department for their coffee shop/"grab and go" food stand in the Arcade. At this point, they will complete the renovations with an anticipated open date of mid to late June 2014
3. Descanso Beach will be utilizing a food truck as a kitchen for this summer. The food truck is self-contained, and regulated by the Los Angeles County Health Department. The truck needs to dispose of their grey water, and are working with Dave Clary of Environ Strategies to determine the best method.

### Planning Department – Latitude 33 Project:

The City has been advised that there is no longer a proposed second story for the Latitude 33 Project on Crescent Avenue, and therefore the project is now proceeding as an interior remodel.

### Recreation Department – Catalina Film Festival:

The Recreation Department met last week with Ron Truppa of the Catalina Film Festival to see how the City of Avalon can best support their event. They will be following up with us soon once their events get further finalized. The Catalina Film Festival will be taking place September 24-28, 2014.

### Recreation Department – Catalina Island Classic Downhill Skate Event Debrief:

The Catalina Island Classic Downhill Skate event debrief was held this last Tuesday. Those attending included: City Staff (Recreation, Public Works and the Fire Department) as well as the Chamber of Commerce, CIVR, Avalon Sheriff's Station, Monica Seals, and representatives from Riviera Skateboards. Everyone was pleased with the success of the 2014 event, and planning is underway for next year's event, which is slated for May 2-3, 2015.

Recreation Department – Youth Athletic League Skate Event:

The Recreation Department, along with Catalina C.H.O.I.C.E.S. supported the Sheriff's Department in a skate event at the Skate Park on Thursday, 5/28/14 as part of their Youth Athletic League (YAL). The event was a great success, and will most likely morph into a weekly organized open skate time through YAL.

Below you'll find a picture of one enthusiastic participant:



City Manager's Office - State Water Resources Control Board's Beach Water Quality Workgroup:

After the success of the first Avalon Bay Water Quality Symposium on Friday May 16th, the City was encouraged to attend the State Water Resources Control Board's Beach Water Quality Workgroup on Wednesday of last week. The City participated along with 40 representatives from varying regulatory agencies, cities, counties, non-profits and private industry gathering to discuss the very issues we are dealing with in Avalon's harbor. The levels of experience and expertise were impressive, and it highlighted the fact that we are not the only community facing this complex issue. Avalon was invited to present at one of the upcoming quarterly meetings regarding our progress, especially with the excitement of the Annual Beach Report Card put out by Heal the Bay on Thursday May 22nd taking Avalon off the Beach Bummer List.

City Manager's Office – PARSAC Board Meeting:

On Wednesday and Thursday of this week, I was in Sacramento participating in meetings with PARSAC, the City's third party general liability/workers' compensation pool administrator. One of the more informative meetings I participated in was with the workers' compensation claims administrators. I will be working closely with PARSAC representatives in the next few weeks in an effort to modify some of our existing practices and procedures such that our employees work in a safer manner thereby reducing our workers' compensation exposure.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Ben Harvey  
City Manager  
City of Avalon

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