



Avalon City Council Weekly Update 7-11-14

Fire Department – 4th of July Holiday:

Through the extended July 4th weekend the combined Avalon Fire, Los Angeles County Fire and Baywatch Avalon responded to more than 40 calls for service including 6 helicopter medevacs. Several of the calls were very serious in nature, but had positive outcomes.

Fire Department/Recreation Department/Recreation Department – 2015 4th of July Fireworks:

The Fire Department, Recreation Department and City Manager's Office are working with the Chamber of Commerce on next year's fireworks show. Items of concern include fireworks storage and the location for where the fireworks are staged. We are hopeful that we may move to a float or barge solution, as is used at Two Harbors. Both the City and the Chamber are optimistic and encouraged that we will determine an approach that will allow for a great show (again) next year, with some enhanced safety measures.

Harbor Department – Mooring Occupancy:

Mooring occupancy in Avalon, Descanso and Hamilton Cove on July 4, 2014 was 466 boats on the 363 moorings. Some fun mooring stats: We have 280 moorings inside Avalon which had 383 boats on them including 247 boats with reservations. Contained within in the 247 reservations inside Avalon were 164 mooring owners. We have 83 moorings between Descanso and Hamilton which had 33 reservations including 15 mooring owners. All in all the 4th of July weekend was a big success in the harbor!

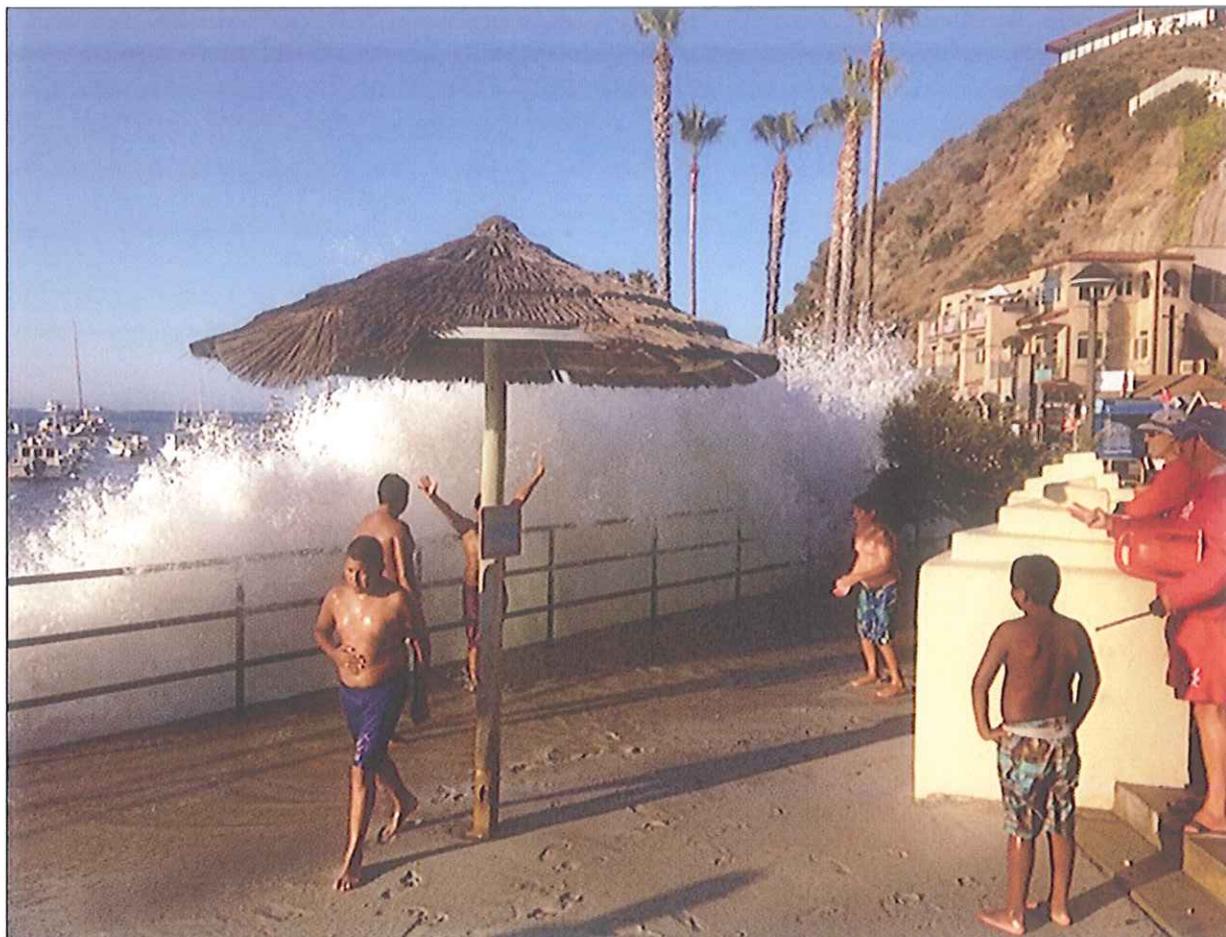
Harbor Department – New Administrative Assistant:

Cheryl Allison started training as the Harbor Department Administrative Assistant on July 8th. With the knowledgeable guidance of Kate Olsen, we hope to have Cheryl up to speed and ready to take over for Kate within about 4 weeks.

Harbor Department – The Surge:

Avalon experienced extreme surge and south swell conditions caused by the storm system originating off the coast of Mexico from Sunday 7/6 through Wednesday 7/9. On Sunday, the fuel dock pier lost at least two pilings and one of the two fuel dock floats will require to be hauled out of the water to be re-wired after the ramp sheared off the vapor proof electrical supply to the fuel pumps. Charlie Behrschmidt has been in contact with Fernando at BBK to supply the necessary information for BBK to file an emergency work permit to the Coastal Commission. On Sunday, the Harbor crew was kept busy assisting vessels in the surge condition along with lowering the ramps and releasing the pier end float, the rescue dock at the Casino along with disconnecting the pump out float. The pier end float and pump out float were able to be re-installed on Tuesday morning as the surge was starting to subside. Cruise ship shoreboat tendering operations were forced to use Float 5 on Monday due to the surge conditions.

Here's a picture of some waves on Crescent Avenue that resulted from the surge (thanks to Joe Kalla of the Catalina Island Conservancy):



Finance Department – Financial Statements on the City's website:

We have added the Fiscal Year 2011-12 and 2010-11 City financial statements to the City's website and we will be adding each successive year thereafter. Other financial reports are being evaluated for potential addition as well.

Finance Department – Chamber Statistical Data:

I am pleased to report that after a two year hiatus, The Chamber of Commerce statistical data has been prepared, and is being reviewed internally, making some minor tweaks. We have scheduled a meeting next week with Wayne Griffin, President of the Chamber, to review the data before we formally release it.

Finance Department – Efficiencies and Cost Saving Measures:

We have changed our procedures on how we handle payroll processing to cut down on costs, free up time and make the process more efficient. The first change is that we are encouraging all employees to utilize direct deposit instead of receiving a manual paycheck. We already have some converts who readily admitted that they always meant to get around to it. Secondly, we have eliminated the option of issuing a secondary paycheck for payment of such things as overtime hours. Published studies have shown that it costs \$5+ to process a manual paycheck

whereas it costs \$1-\$2 for direct deposit. The City will realize both a hard dollar savings as well as employee time savings in not having to generate and account for all that paper. Employees benefit in the following ways, too:

- No issues with lost or damaged paychecks;
- No making a trip to the bank or ATM or leaving work to do so;
- The money is deposited to your bank account on pay day (in the early morning hours);
- Banks can and do typically place holds on deposited checks of up to three days until they clear, but this is not the case with direct deposit; and
- Using direct deposit allows you to spread your paycheck into as many as nine different bank accounts.

Public Works Department – Lower Terrace Road: Final job walk was completed. The contract has one Punch List item to correct (handrail on the stairs). It is now anticipated “Project Completion” documents will be processed on this coming Monday, July 14.

Public Works Department – Metropole Underground Utility Vault Project: Henkels & McCoy (SCE Subcontractor) will commence paving next week (with conditions imposed by the City, naturally).

Public Works Department - Schedule: All employees are now on the 5/8 (traditional) schedule, with additional resources deployed on and around the weekends.

City Manager’s Office – City Hall Staff and Code Enforcement Work Schedules:

Denise and I are working (separately) with our City Hall and Code Enforcement staff to develop revised work schedules. We have asked for proposals from the employees to provide better coverage on Fridays and Mondays (City Hall), and greater schedule variety (Code Enforcement). We will be working on a collaborative solution, and hope to let you know of the plan by the end of next week.

City Manager’s Office – Open Gov

City staff is in the process of creating an on-line “visual” financial data environment with Open Gov. The link, which will be on our city website, will allow the user to view the City’s prior year financials and budget in graph format. Open Gov, our partner in providing this transparent environment, offers the most intuitive way to share financial data with the community. The community will not only see trends but where revenues derive from, how the funds are distributed, and the goods and services provided for the community. We will be updating you on the roll out date within the next month!

City Manager's Office – Mobile Source Air Pollution Reduction Review Committee:

Last week staff attended one of the six Mobile Source Air Pollution Reduction Review Committee (MSRC) workshops held at the METRO building in Los Angeles. The purpose of the MSRC is to fund clean transportation projects, specifically in the greater Los Angeles and Orange County areas. Made up of representatives from many agencies in the area, the purpose of these workshops was to identify potential projects the MSRC can invest in for their next two year funding cycle. With approximately \$30 million generated from annual vehicle registration fees, the workshop was a great opportunity to hear what other communities, agencies and organizations are pursuing, or would like to pursue, to help manage their area's air quality. While Avalon sits outside of most areas of influence, and historically falls off the radar for these types of funding as we do not have a large market or impact on the Los Angeles basin, Avalon does have the marketability, with almost one million visitors a year enjoying our community. As we continue to explore opportunities to engage off island agencies we hope to generate more interest and opportunities for our island community.

Recreation Department – Joe Machado Field Concession Stand:

On July 2, 2014 the Notice of Completion was filed with Los Angeles County for the Joe Machado Concession Stand. Retention held on the project will be released to the contractor 35 days following the NOC filing.

Recreation Department – 4th of July Parade:

The City ended up with 15 WWII Veterans participating as Grand Marshals in the 4th of July Parade. Many have called City Hall this past week to express their thanks to the City for honoring them.

Recreation Department – Falconry Program/Nuisance Bird Abatement:

The contract documents are being finalized for the "restart" of the Falcon/Nuisance Bird Abatement program. Additional monthly funding through a public-private partnership is being gathered in order to get the program back underway before the busy season gets too far along. We will have more to report on this next week as the developments are progressing quickly, but we currently have pledges for monthly donations for a 12 month period from: City of Avalon, Catalina Island Chamber of Commerce, Roy Rose, Bluewater Avalon, and the Hotel Metropole & Marketplace.

Recreation Department – Summer Programming:

We had the largest Movie on the Beach crowd to date last Monday, with over 550 people gathering to watch "Frozen". Movies on the Beach are a partnership between CHOICES & the City of Avalon, with the summer movies sponsored this year by Lions Club. The next movie will be Monday, July 21.

Respectfully submitted,



Ben Harvey
City Manager
City of Avalon

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