

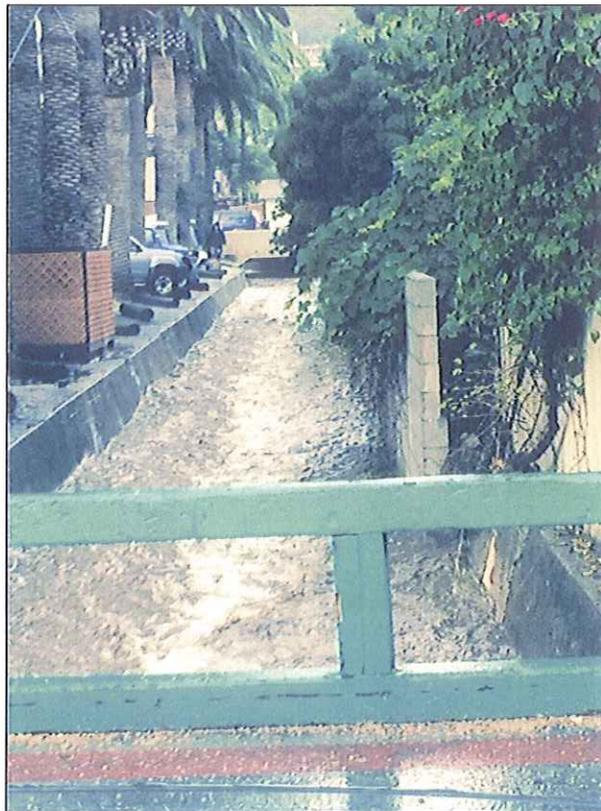


Avalon City Council Weekly Update 8-01-14

Public Safety Departments – Sunday’s Thunderstorm and Lightning Strikes:

At approximately 12:30 PM this past Sunday, Catalina Island suffered three direct lightening strikes which caused three corresponding small brush fires. The fires were located in the City of Avalon, as well as the County area of the island’s interior. The fires were addressed and extinguished by LA County Fire, Avalon Fire Department, and Avalon Baywatch. Heavy rains from the fire also caused minor flooding within Avalon. However, no damage was reported. The lightening strikes also caused intermittent power outages, as well as downed power lines on Airport Road near the Black Jack repeater tower. Southern California Edison and LA County Fire addressed the downed power lines. Access to Pebbly Beach Road, was temporarily restricted and gated out of concern for falling rocks. There was only one reported injury - an alleged lightening strike (or lightning “ricochet”). A 57 year old male was treated by Avalon Baywatch and Avalon Fire Department personnel. He was transported to the Catalina Island Medical where he was listed in stable condition, treated and released.

Below you’ll find a picture from Sunday supplied by Council Member MacGugan-Cassidy:



Public Works Department – Avalon Bay Water Quality:

Following Sunday's storm, the Public Works Department has been working hard on cleaning the beaches, and investigating the possible source of pollutants entering Avalon Bay through runoff. The weekly testing performed by the LA County Health Dept., showed high bacteria levels when these tests were performed on Tuesday. This was a direct result of the thunderstorm runoff issue and resulted in all City beaches being posted. Public Works crews made substantial attempts on cleaning the shore line, and investigating any possible problems which may have contributed to the failing tests. We found a small, but potential source at the Green Pier bathroom site (under the pier), which may have been leaking. We repaired that possible leak with internal snakes and chemicals to break down the calcium buildup. This may help our upcoming test this coming Tuesday, August 5. The County's re-tested on Thursday of this week, and the levels improved at 2 of the City's beaches, but as of today, there are 3 that are still posted.

Public Works Department – SCE/Henkels & McCoy Underground Utility Vault Project:

Permanent asphalt capping was conducted on Thursday this week as scheduled. Although the work was an obvious disruption to the public and surrounding businesses, we thank you for all of your patience and cooperation. The end result is a beautiful layer of new asphalt, across the areas that have been excavated and damaged by the underground utility vault construction project. The new asphalt blends in well with the existing roadway on Metropole. In approximately one month, the contractor is obligated to come back and slurry the newly placed asphalt roadway. This will add at least 10 years to the integrity of the roadway. We ask for your continued patience and cooperation while we conduct this activity to ensure a long lasting roadway in this area.

Public Works Department/Capital Improvement Projects - Fuel Dock:

The Improvement Project for the Fuel Dock is still in the design phase. However, progress is being made. Our contracted engineers have completed 90% of the structural drawings, and we are only waiting for two more agencies to approve the project plans. It is anticipated that these two agencies (Army Corp of Engineers and the State Water Resources Quality Board) will review and (hopefully) approve the designs by late August of this year. At that time, after reviews by City Staff, the project will be ready for public bidding. It is anticipated that this project could potentially start by year end 2014.

City Attorney's Office – Hermosa Hotel Lawsuit:

The City Attorney's office has informed us that the lawsuit brought by the Hermosa Hotel against the City was **dismissed** in its entirety by a federal court judge this week!

Finance Department - Chamber Statistical Revenue and Visitor Count Data Schedule:

Last week met with individual City Council members as well as Wayne Griffin from the Chamber to discuss tourist revenue and visitor count data. Revenues are up and the schedules will be produced monthly hereafter.

Finance Department - Gross Receipts Letter:

This week we mailed a letter to the business owners subject to the Admissions Tax and Harbor Use Fee explaining the change in the ordinance, as well as providing a copy of the ordinance, and some examples with which to help them compute the amount due to the City. Contact information for them to reach staff in the Finance Department was also provided if they had any questions.

Finance Department - FY2013-14 Financial Statements:

We've evaluated where we are with respect to the FY2013-14 activity and have set a target date of having all of the year's activity recorded by the end of August. This will include the quarterly Treasurer's reports, fund financial statements and beginning fund balances with which the FY2014-15 Budget is dependent on. With the FY2013-14 recorded activity projection, we are reaching out to our auditors to see who quickly we may be able to schedule time with them.

City Attorney's Office/City Manager's Office/Grants Administration – Federal Water Funding:

On Thursday, City staff participated in a conference call with staff members from Senator Barbara Boxer, Senator Feinstein and Congressman Lowenthal's office where the City's needs pertaining to funding for water infrastructure were discussed. The meeting, which was organized by the City Attorney's Washington D.C. office, lasted about an hour and covered the City's need for funding for both water and waste water projects. We have tentatively scheduled a follow-up meeting in early September, after Congress returns from its summer vacation and after the staff members have researched federal funding opportunities for the City. As a reminder, Congressman Lowenthal will be here in Avalon next week and will be meeting with the City Council in a special meeting called just before Tuesday's regularly scheduled City Council meeting.

Planning Department – Demolition @ 206 Descanso:

Bryan Zuppiger, our Certified Building Official, is working with the owner of 206 Descanso and SCE to shut off utilities in anticipation of demolition of the structure at 206 Descanso scheduled to commence in the next two weeks.

Planning Department – Proposed Catalina Island Conservancy Trailhead Project:

We are expecting to complete internal review of the proposed Catalina Island Conservancy Trailhead project application by this coming Monday.

Planning Department/Grants Administration - Metro and Gateway Cities Staff Visit:

Los Angeles County Metro staff and Karen Heit (Gateway Cities Council of Governments) will be convening a meeting with City staff in Avalon next Friday, August 8. The purpose of the meeting will be to review the City's current and future transportation needs. Focus will also be placed on potential bicycle and pedestrian projects and upcoming funding opportunities.

Recreation Department – “Harbor Polo”:

The City of Avalon is thrilled to bring the exciting game of water polo to Avalon Harbor. The court is now located in Avalon Bay at South Beach and is available for open recreation use seven days per week. Water polo balls are available for use from Brown's Bikes for a deposit, and the space has already seen non-stop use! Adult warm-ups will be held Wednesdays at 5:30 PM, with a scrimmage game set for 6 PM. All levels welcomed, including new players; just show up ready to play! Youth classes/scrimmages coming soon... below you'll find a picture of this cool new Avalon feature:



Recreation Department – AMCOM Softball Tournament:

AMCOM Softball Tournament returns to the Island Saturday, August 2, 2014. Although their intent was to bring over 6-10 teams to play in the annual tournament, their organizer says the economic upswing hasn't been seen yet by their teams, and they are returning with just three teams this year. The Recreation Department is working with local adult softball leagues to try to field 1-2 additional local teams to play in the tournament tomorrow, which is scheduled at Joe Machado Field 10 am-4 pm.

Recreation Department/Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department – Men's Soccer League:

The Recreation Department and Avalon Sheriff Department will be working together to calm the heated atmosphere at the weekly Men's Soccer League Tuesday nights at Joe Machado Field. Last Tuesday, a member of the crowd provoked and initiated a fist-fight with a player in the street following the game. Sheriff's deputies were called, and the situation deescalated quickly. The Sheriff's Department has agreed to monitor the situation and provide a presence at the upcoming game to ensure the league can continue in a safe manner. Aside from the crowd, league play has seen no incidents and has been great competition!

Fire Department – Remote Dispatch Center Exercise:

Early morning, this past Sunday July 27th, The Avalon Sheriff Station needed to be cleared out for approximately 4 hours while a contractor performed work in the station and specifically the dispatch area. This event allowed for the training opportunity to set up a remote dispatch center in the Courthouse. All radio frequencies, 911 calls and a business lines were operational at that location and a secondary location was also able to be implemented at Avalon Fire had some unforeseen problem arisen. The transition from and back again to the dispatch center went very smooth and worked as planned.

Respectfully submitted,



Ben Harvey
City Manager
City of Avalon

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