



# Avalon City Council Weekly Update 12-04-15

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## **Finance Department - Annual Audit**

The City's audit firm, DavisFarr, completed its field work of the annual audit for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015. Management met with the auditors just before the completion and they reported that all went well. The staff was knowledgeable and prepared, everything was in order, there were no major issues, and there was notable improvement from the prior year's audit. The auditors will continue to review documents from their main office for the next two weeks. The audited financial statements are scheduled to be completed before the end of this month and to be presented to the City Council in January 2016. Thanks to the leadership of the City's Interim Chief Financial Officer, Chris Woidzik, and effort of the Finance Department staff, this will be the earliest the audited financial reports have been published in ten years. The City's new Finance Director, Robert Mescher, and the Finance Department staff will ensure that all of the City's financial reporting will continue to be published timely.

## **Planning Dept. - Ebus Purchase Update**

The purchase of the three new all-electric Ebus transit vehicles is complete. The City mechanics inspected the final two buses last week. The bus purchase is being funded through the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Authority's competitive grant program for alternative fuel transit vehicles. The new vehicles even come with their own electronic tablet which contain all the specifications and design features (so not only are we saving fossil fuel, we are saving trees)! The first Metro payment toward the purchase in the amount of \$350,000 was received by the City today.

## **Fire Dept.- Christmas Tree Safety**

Christmas Tree Fire Safety Tips:

Your beautifully decorated Christmas tree can also be a deadly fire hazard. Fire departments responded to an average of 230 home fires caused by Christmas trees each year from 2007-2011. The result was a yearly average of six deaths, 22 injuries and \$18.3 million in property damage, the NFPA reported. Here is a list of holiday fire safety tips from NFPA and FEMA's U.S. Fire Administration:

- 1) When choosing a tree, look for one that is fresh and has green needles that don't fall out. Brownish needles mean the tree is dried out and more prone to catch fire.
- 2) Water your tree daily to prevent it from drying out.
- 3) Check the manufacturer's labels to ensure you use only lights and decorations that are flame-retardant. Look for a nationally recognized testing laboratory, such as Underwriters Laboratories.
- 4) Check holiday lights for frayed wires or excessive wear.
- 5) Don't connect more than three strands of mini-string sets and a maximum of 50 bulbs for screw-in bulbs.
- 6) Keep your tree at least 3 feet away from any heat source, such as a fireplace, radiator, candles or lights.
- 7) Make sure your tree is not blocking an exit. In case there is a fire, you want a way to get out.
- 8) Always turn off lights on a tree before going to bed or leaving your home.
- 9) Get rid of a tree when its needles start dropping. It means the tree is drying out.
- 10) Check that your smoke alarm is working properly.

## **Fire - Run, Hide, Fight**

Please see the below link to the Run, Hide, Fight video on how to survive an active shooter event.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5VcSwejU2D0>

## **Capital Improvements - New Fuel Dock Update**

The construction of our new Fuel Dock Pier has started and is proceeding. However, we hit a little snag this week when we were informed that there exists some old asbestos in the stucco of the buildings on top of the deck.

Therefore, special certified contractors need to be called in to properly handle and dispose of the asbestos materials. Staff feels that this work could be accomplished within three weeks, thus creating a 3-week delay to the project completion date. However, we are hopeful to start the process as soon as possible.

Please note that there are no "air-born" issues related to this new development. When the demolition begins, the proper equipment and materials will be used in order to not adversely affect surrounding habitat.

## **Public Works - Salt Water System Repairs**

We are continuing with the repairs on the saltwater lines above the Catholic Church by Sol Vista and Canyon Terrace areas.

Unfortunately as we continue to excavate, we run into more damaged fittings and piping. However, we seem to have turned the corner as the right parts have been delivered and we are in the process of finishing up this repair in the near future.

## **Public Works - South Beach Seawall Repairs**

This week we have continued reinforcing the seawall at South Beach where the ocean tides and surges have created sinkholes on the upper beach side of the wall.

This is a slow process as the ocean tides dictate our working hours. It is almost impossible to complete this work if the tides change and the ocean is not friendly. We will keep optimistic and hope that these repairs can be completed by the end of next week.

## **Public Works - Leroy is Lost, Again**

The Leroy The Cat statue, which was returned to the City of Avalon just this year after being stolen and missing for a decade, has once again been taken. The Avalon Sheriff Station has been notified, and the community who remembers the real Leroy, as well as everyone who was just getting to know the statue Leroy, are hopeful for his speedy return home.



### **IT - Weekly Update, Update**

In continuing the City's effort to streamline processes for efficiency staff worked with our IT consultant Beyond Software Solutions to develop a more automated weekly update reporting system. Taking advantage of our Intranet site established this year, staff can submit their update through the Announcement tab thus eliminating the hunting through emails and copy/paste/re-format. The who process saves everyone time, and will help encourage staff to continue to share their efforts and successes.

### **All Departments - Work Party**

In a little staff bonding effort, Wednesday night was a volunteer work party at City Hall to get ready for the Holiday Season. You can see how productive staff, and their children, are even after hours. A big thanks also goes out to Marisa Brown who continued to put of the finishing touches throughout the week, as well as to the Public Works staff for getting downtown festive with lights and decorations.



**Submitted Respectfully,**

City of Avalon Staff