



Avalon City Council Weekly Update

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Sheriff - Public Safety Meeting

We appreciate those of you who took time out of your busy holiday schedules to attend the Public Safety meeting at City Hall on December 29th. For those that were unable to attend, we shared information regarding Active Shooter incidents, Domestic and Foreign Terrorism, and the importance of reporting suspicious person(s) or activity. If anyone would like more information on these topics, please contact Deputy Doug DeCesare at Avalon Sheriff's Station.

Sheriff - Thank You

All of the personnel assigned to Avalon Sheriff's Station would like to thank everyone for the support we have received throughout the year. We are proud to serve this community and would like to extend our warmest wishes to all for a safe and happy holiday season.

Sheriff - Traffic Safety Announcement

In the last two years, we have seen a significant increase in arrests for driving under the influence of alcohol. Due to the threat to public safety caused by drunk drivers, we take this crime seriously and will take the appropriate action upon identifying an offender. We have also provided countless people with a ride home prior to them getting behind the wheel. Remember the wheel can pertain to a boat, a golf cart, a full-size vehicle or even a bicycle. Help keep our community safe, please don't drink and drive.

Avalon Fire Weekly Significant Items Summary:

Year End Statistics:

With the year end, our call stats were on par with previous years. Additionally, our call averages with respect to Fire vs. EMS are on par with national averages.

2014

Total Calls = 1006

Fire = 378

EMS = 628

2015

Total Calls = 986

Fire = 310

EMS = 676

Safety Testing:

As mandated by OSHA, the Avalon Fire Department conducted its annual SCBA respirator face piece fit testing this past Tuesday. This annual requirement ensures all persons utilizing a respirator protection face piece have a correctly fitting mask.

Rain:

No significant or reportable problems occurred during this week's series of storms that required a Fire/Rescue/EMS response.

Finance - ACIA

This week, the City received \$1,524,000 from the State to reimburse the obligations of the Successor Agency of the Avalon Community Improvement Agency, which includes this year's fencing project along Pebbly Beach Road and a portion of the construction for the new museum steps.

City Manager's Office - Election 2016

- Four seats are open for the April 12, 2016 Election: 1 Mayor seat, 2 City Councilmember seats, and 1 City Treasurer seat.
- As of Friday, Jan. 8th, nine individuals have pulled papers to run in the election: 3 people for Mayor, 5 people for City Council, and 1 person for Treasurer.
- Individuals have until 5 pm next Friday, January 15 to file their papers to become a candidate.
- The last day to register to vote for this election is Monday, March 28.
- The last day for registered voters to request a Vote By Mail ballot is Tuesday, April 5.
- The first draft Sample Ballot was submitted this week to Martin Chapman, the City's election consultants.

City Manager's Office - Community Services Director

Advertisement began this week for the open position of Community Services Director. The position is advertised in the local papers, on the websites of organizations the City of Avalon belongs to in the industry (MMASC, CalOPPs, CPRS, STMA), and sent to cities across California for recruitment. More information regarding the position and how to apply can be found on www.cityofavalon.com.

City Manager's Office - Air Show Cancellation

The City of Avalon was notified this week that the Catalina Air Show (previously scheduled for October 8, 2016) will not be proceeding this year due to lack of financial sponsorship. The date is no longer being held for the event and is open to any other organizers wishing to hold a special event in Avalon that weekend.

Public Works - Storm Preparations

Major winter storm / El Niño preparedness was conducted this week by the Public Works Department:

- Sandbags and other BMP materials (i.e. erosion control barriers) were staged and distributed to local residents and business ahead of the heavy rain this past week.
- Multiple sinkholes on Pebbly Beach Road were repaired this week as a result of erosion caused by the recent heavy rains. These sinkholes were minor in nature and were able to be repaired in-house.
- City crews trimmed several trees on City property as a safety measure for the public in anticipation of high winds. Thanks goes out to the public and business community for their patience during restricted pedestrian access while this necessary tree trimming was being conducted.
- Public Works cleared many storm channels prior to and during the rains to ensure back-ups were minimal.
- While some of the work completed will hold for months (such as tree-trimming), the bulk of the work conducted is ongoing and will continue throughout the rainy season to maintain safe City storm channels, streets, and beaches.

Public Works/ Capital Improvements - Trip and Fall Program

The ongoing Trip and Fall Program revealed more areas of concern this week that require action to maintain safe pedestrian access to City walkways. A particular area of focus currently is the walkway between the Mole and downtown, where Public Works has continued the process of leveling areas of concern.

Public Works/ Capital Improvements - South Beach Sinkholes

During the period between Christmas and New Years, Public Works and local contractors worked to seal up additional sinkholes behind the concrete seawall along South Beach, which has been affected by years of degradation and erosion. The repairs are expected to withstand further erosion conditions expected this winter and spring.

Rec. Dept - New Hire for Youth Programs

With the Recreation Dept. currently in transition, we have chosen to hire Carlos Martinez as a part time Recreation Leader to run the Flag Football on Sundays. He will be in charge of running the games, helping the coaches and officials and making the day fun and run smoothly. He will be under the supervision of Interim Recreation Coordinator David Hart. You might know Carlos from all his volunteer work with youth programs through the City, School and has worked with the youth in ICES. He works throughout the week as an Instructional Aide at Avalon Schools. He is familiar with our youth, the kids love him, he is the oldest brother of 7 kids, and he speaks Spanish. If you get a chance to say welcome, please do.



Rec. Dept - Youth programs

January starts several Youth Programs that are City planned or in conjunction with the City. Flag Football starts this Sunday and will go till Feb. 28th. Over 70 kids from grades 3-8 will be participating. Kick it up Dance Class Starts on Jan 13th at Tremont Hall. We are expecting 40-50 kids to participate. Kids At Play with Sean Brannock will start on Jan 19th, also at held Tremont Hall.

Rec. Dept - Update Tremont Hall

Over the past two weeks Public Works employees, Phil Hernandez along with the help of Robert Tracy made some renovations to Tremont Hall. They replaced 5 doors; both kitchens, both bathrooms, and the front door. They put up working blinds on all windows. Took out the broken mirrors cleaned out the area of the mirrors, giving Tremont extra 2+ feet width of room. We have portable glasses mirrors for classes that need them. They also patched broken floorboards. Phil built an updated locking system for the back double doors. Tremont Hall is a heavily utilized facility and we will continue to maintain and update the space to ensure this space can continue to be available.



Planning Dept. - Proposed Vons Store

The Santa Catalina Island Company (SCICo) has submitted a Tentative Parcel Map to establish the actual parcel(s) on which the proposed store would be constructed. The map originally submitted by SCICo for Planning Commission review and approval needed to be revised in order to fully comply with the applicable development standards. At SCICo's request, consideration of the map has been continued to the Commission's January meeting in order to allow for the map to be revised as needed.

In the interim, Vons' consultants were recently at the site of the proposed new store obtaining soil samples essential to preparing the soils report that must be submitted prior to the issuance of grading or building permits. Their consultants were also identifying any site issues in preparation for the kick off of their construction drawings. City staff continues to work closely with Vons and SCICo to ensure the project's conditions of approval are met.

Planning Dept. - Descanso Hillside Project

At their last meeting, the Planning Commission approved a Local Coastal Development Permit to allow for the removal of approximately 200 cubic yards of soil/rock from a 5,300 square foot portion of the undeveloped hillside directly across Saint Catherine Way from Catherine's Terrace at the Descanso Beach Club. The existing cut slope, which is nearly 20 feet in height at a gradient of at least 60 degrees, would be scaled back by removing up to 11 feet of soil/rock from the face of the existing slope. The inside shoulder of the roadway would be widened up to 8 feet in width and a slough wall would be placed about 2 feet from the toe of the finished slope to mitigate against potential sloughing and slaking due to weathering. The project will improve traffic circulation and safety, particularly for emergency response and other larger vehicles, by eliminating the existing blind curve at this location. As an added benefit, the project will also eliminate the ponding of storm water that occasionally occurs on the roadway shoulder at this location. It is anticipated that, once underway, the project will take approximately one month to complete, weather permitting.



Respectfully Submitted,
The Avalon City Staff



photo credit John Talsky