

P-TOWN INFORMER

An Electronic Report to the Community

July 31, 2012

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PLACENTIA
California

"The People Are The City"

CITY WORKS TO IMPROVE FINANCES AND BUILD RESERVES

There has been a tremendous amount of media coverage in the past few weeks concerning cities in financial distress or facing the real possibility of having to declare bankruptcy due to their fiscal problems. In fact, three cities, Stockton, Mammoth Lakes and now San Bernardino, have declared bankruptcy and several other cities including Stanton, Compton, and Fairfield are considering it.

The Orange County Register recently published an article entitled "Cities Toe Edge of Fiscal Abyss" that compared the fiscal condition of Placentia to the City of Stanton. While the article is mostly factual and balanced, the City of Placentia is not quite on the edge of the fiscal abyss as the article implies. Unlike the City of Stanton, which has a \$2 Million structural deficit meaning their expenditures exceed available revenues, the City of Placentia has a balanced budget and spends within its means. This hasn't always been the case and the City was quite literally on the edge of the abyss with over \$4 Million in accrued debt and an annual structural deficit of about \$3 Million just a few years ago. Fortunately, through aggressive budget cuts, cost reduction measures, implementation of several revenue enhancements and the issuance of a working capital bond, the City has pulled itself back from the edge and even managed to generate a small operating reserve at the end of fiscal year 2010-11 -- the first time in nearly 10 years that the City actually ended a fiscal year with some money remaining in the budget. Although the City's \$500,000 reserve pales in comparison to the \$8 Million that Stanton has set aside in reserves, the fact that Placentia has any money in reserves after nearly a decade of deficit spending is truly a positive indication that the City is moving in the right direction.

While the City is not quite off the cliff leading to the abyss, thankfully we are no longer staring directly into it and our financial situation has improved so much that I can confidently tell you that the City is nowhere near bankruptcy. That said, much work remains to be done to fully restore the financial health of the City and remove us completely from the ledge leading to the abyss. Specifically, the City needs to continue growing its revenues through economic development and additional work is needed to find new and innovative ways to deliver public services at a reduced cost. Public employee pensions need to be reformed at the state level so individual cities, like Placentia, are not forced to directly negotiate pension reform with public employees and their union representatives. And finally, the State of California needs to stop tapping local revenues to solve their own budgetary problems.

These are undoubtedly difficult and challenging times for local government. Where some cities are now facing financial uncertainty and even the possibility of bankruptcy, Placentia has weathered the financial storm brought on by ONTRAC and the Great Recession. Today, the City is much stronger financially than it was just several years ago. The budget is now balanced and the City no longer spends more than it takes in. While the City appears to be moving in the right direction financially, we need to remain vigilant and watch our budget closely to avoid slipping backwards. Ultimately, as the economy improves so will the City's financial position. In turn, as the City's finances become more stable and our reserves grow, the City will be able to tackle more capital projects and work on the deferred maintenance issues throughout our community that we have been unable to get to due to the lack of funds.

This article was written by Troy L. Butzlaff, City Administrator for the City of Placentia.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

News Bits

- ◆ General Municipal Elections - November 6, 2012
- ◆ Tree Trimming Update
- ◆ National Night Out
- ◆ Safe Routes to School Funding
- ◆ 2012 City Residential Street Rehabilitation Project

Crime View

- ◆ New K-9 Officer
- ◆ Police Reports

Development Services

- ◆ New Retail Opportunities Coming to the Placentia Town Center
- ◆ Code Compliance Update
- ◆ New Business License

Meeting Notes

- ◆ City Council
- ◆ Planning Commission
- ◆ Recreation and Parks Commission
- ◆ Senior Advisory Commission
- ◆ Heritage Festival Committee



UPCOMING COMMUNITY CALENDAR

August 2	Thursday	Concerts in the Park at 6:30 p.m. at Tri City Park
August 3	Friday	Movies in the Park at 8:08 p.m. at Champions Sports Complex
August 6	Monday	Veterans Advisory Committee Meeting at 6:30 p.m. at City Hall
August 7	Tuesday	National Night Out at 5 p.m. at Placentia Town Center
August 7	Tuesday	Placentia City Council Meeting at 7 p.m. at City Hall



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NEWS BITS

General Municipal Elections - November 6, 2012

The City of Placentia consolidates its regular elections with state-wide elections held on the first Tuesday in November of even-numbered years. The next General Municipal Election for the City of Placentia will take place on November 6, 2012 for the purpose of filling three (3) seats on the City Council and one (1) City Treasurer position, each for a full term of four (4) years.

Nomination papers are currently available in the City Clerk's Office. The nomination papers are available through Friday, August 10, at 5:00 p.m. During this period, individuals may obtain, circulate and file nomination papers. Placentia Citizens interested in obtaining/pulling nomination papers are invited to visit the Placentia City Clerk's Office, located at 401 E. Chapman Avenue, during the nomination period identified above. Appointments are encouraged, but are not necessary. Once you decide to pull out nomination papers, the Deputy City Clerk will be available to explain the election process in greater detail. Your meeting with the Deputy City Clerk will take approximately 30 to 45 minutes. If you wish to schedule an appointment, please contact the City Clerk's Office at (714) 993-8231.

To register to vote you must be a United States citizen, at least 18 years of age on or before the date of the next election, and not in prison or on parole for a felony conviction.

To vote in an election you must register to vote at least 15 days prior to the election date. You may pick up a Voter Registration Form in person at City Hall, public libraries, city and county offices, California Department of Motor Vehicles offices, and at U.S. Post offices. Mailing instructions are located on the form. Voter registration forms are also available on the Secretary of State website at www.sos.ca.gov and the Orange County Registrar of Voters website at www.ocvote.com. Voter registrations are filed by county; make sure to re-register every time you move, change your name, or change your political party choice.

Be sure to check the website for updated information at www.placentia.org/vote. For additional information, please contact the City Clerk's Office at (714) 993-8231.

Safe Routes to School Funding

The City has learned that its application to Caltrans for Safe Routes to School funding has been selected.



The City will receive \$409,000 in State funding to install signs, pavement markings, and pedestrian countdown heads near City schools; develop School Route Plans; and implement an encouragement and enforcement program. Caltrans received a total of 336 applications and selected 139 projects for funding in the current funding cycle.

2012 City Residential Street Rehabilitation Project

In 2011, the City of Placentia completed a critical Pavement Management Program study. This study analyzed the condition of the City's street network. All streets were assigned a numerical score known as the Pavement Condition Index. Based on the results, the City hired an engineering firm to conduct a design analysis of the entire residential street system. Based on the final design and available funding, the City will begin the construction and rehabilitation of 41% of the City's residential roadways this year. This includes approximately 35 miles of residential roadways, 83 new ADA compliant curb ramps, 4,670 tons of slurry, 94,300 square yards of chip seal, and 24,100 tons of AC paving. The project will begin on Monday, August 6, 2012.

Funding sources for this project include the 2011 Gas Tax Bond, Proposition 1B, Measure M1, and Measure M2. For more information, please call the Project Engineer, David Sloan at (714) 533-3050. For additional information, please visit www.placentia.org/streetrehab.



Tree Trimming Update

The trimming of all residential streets in the City is underway and will be completed within the next 40 to 60 days. Neighborhoods that are part of the 2012 Residential Street Rehabilitation Project are being trimmed first and will be completed before July 31st.

National Night Out

Join the Placentia Police Department and Neighborhood Watch for an evening of fun activities and resources that promote awareness, safety, and neighborhood unity in celebration of "National Night Out." This free event will take place on Tuesday, August 7 at the Placentia Town Center at Yorba Linda Blvd. and Kraemer Blvd. from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. Members of the Police Department and other Public Safety agencies will be on hand to answer any questions you may have.



National Night Out is designed to enhance prevention awareness, generate support for prevention programs, highlight neighborhood collaboration and spirit, and strengthen community partnerships. For additional information about this event, please call (714) 993-8211.



July 31, 2012

Volume 2, Issue 1



CRIME VIEW

New K-9 Officer

Field Training Officer Michael Williams has been chosen to be the newest K-9 officer for the Police Department. Officer Williams will be paired with a German Shepherd named "Habo." Williams and Habo will begin training together this month.

Police Reports

July 9, 2012

At approximately 9 a.m., the Police Department learned that the Orange County Sheriff's Department was investigating a suspicious package in the flood control channel on Lakeview just south of Orangethorpe. The area was secured, and the Orange County Sheriff's Department's (OCSD) Bomb Squad responded to render the devices safe. The devices turned out to be grenades and blasting caps. The Bomb Squad took the devices and destroyed them on scene. OCSD is continuing the investigation since the flood control channel falls under their jurisdiction.

1000 Block of Lawanda Place

Staff participated in a special detail unit, and discovered an illegal/unpermitted conversion of garage as well as unpermitted electrical installed. Both of these were being utilized for an illegal marijuana growing facility. During a second warrant search, staff discovered a possible unpermitted room addition. On July 12, 2012 Special Enforcement Detail (SED) served a search warrant at two locations in the 1000 block of Lawanda. Inside the home, detectives seized between 400-500 marijuana plants being cultivated with sophisticated growing apparatus. The street value for the plants is estimated at \$100,000 - \$200,000. The investigation is continuing.

July 11th

A beer run was reported at the Ralph's market in the 700 block of N. Rose. The suspect entered a Chevy Tahoe that was waiting in the parking lot. As the Tahoe was speeding out of the parking lot, it lost control and struck two parked cars near the Carl's Jr. The driver fled the scene southbound on Rose Dr. A citizen followed the vehicle and called the Police Department. Officers located the vehicle and the driver was taken into custody.

July 13th

Officer Anderson and K9 Falkon were requested by La Habra Police Department for a canine search of a suspect wanted for a gang-related stabbing. La Habra PD believed the suspect was hiding in a drainage canal in a residential area. As Anderson and Falkon conducted their search, they flushed out the suspect who was hiding under a pigeon coop. The suspect scaled an adjacent fence and was taken into custody.



DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

New Retail Opportunities Coming to the Placentia Town Center

Two new retail opportunities are coming to the Placentia Town Center. Marshalls, which offers current-season, brand-name and designer



goods for men, women, teens and kids at great prices everyday will fill the recently vacated Office Max

location. Marshalls brings to Placentia a great brand name store with a strong potential for retail growth and attraction.

Taking over four smaller vacant units between the CVS and Marshalls will be Fresh and Easy. Fresh and Easy is termed a neighborhood market and will provide Placentia residents an affordable option for all of their grocery needs. The store will be designed through the use of energy efficient LED lighting and efficient refrigeration units. Fresh and Easy will construct tenant improvements to combine the four vacant units into an efficient and welcoming space for Placentia residents.



Both of these retail stores have begun the development plan process and residents will soon start to see changes to the Placentia Town Center. The grand openings for these retail stores are anticipated for Fall 2012. The City welcomes these two new retail stores and continues to seek additional economic opportunities for commercial establishments.

Code Compliance Transition to Police Service Officers

Code Compliance Officers are currently in transition to Police Service Officers (PSO). With this transition, Police Service Officers will be able to work on office related duties and as a result, sworn Police Officers will have more time for patrolling and investigative work. Police Service Officers have been fitted for uniforms and have been assigned Field Training Officers during the training period. Training has consisted of report writing on short crimes, traffic accidents, radio training, and general policies/procedures. Police Service Officers have been closing out existing code compliance cases during calls for service and have been conducting patrol checks as time allows.

New Business License Issued

Business Name	Address
Auction Express Title Service	1279 Imperial



July 31, 2012

Volume 2, Issue 1



MEETING NOTES

The following is an annotated summary of key actions taken by the City Council and various City Commissions/Committees. For additional details including the full agenda for the City Council and Commissions, please visit the City's website at www.placentia.org. Live and recorded City Council meetings or individual agenda items can be viewed [here](#).

City Council

The City Council met on Tuesday, July 17th, and took action on the following items:

- ◆ Approved the Response to the Orange County Jury Report regarding the dissolution of Redevelopment Agencies.
- ◆ Awarded the Contract for Transient Occupancy Tax Compliance Audits.
- ◆ Awarded the Contract for Business License Tax Compliance Audit.
- ◆ Approved the Cooperative Agreement for Project No. 174-46009 between the City of Placentia, City of Fullerton, and the City of Yorba Linda for the Bastanchury Road Traffic Light Synchronization Program Project.
- ◆ A Public Hearing was held to provide for the Annual Levy Assessment for the City of Placentia Landscape Maintenance District 92-1.
- ◆ A Public Hearing was held to provide for the Annual Levy Assessment for the City of Placentia Street Lighting District 81-1.

Planning Commission

The monthly Planning Commission meeting was cancelled due to a lack of quorum.

Recreation and Parks Commission

The Recreation and Parks Commission met on Monday, July 9th, and took action on the following items:

- ◆ Discussed the ongoing summer programs and activities of the Community Services Department.
- ◆ Staff provided an update on the Park Lighting Improvement project that will commence in the next few weeks and the Neighborhood Park Improvement project that will go out to bid next week.
- ◆ The Commission also received a brief update from staff about the status of the potential transfer of Tri-City Park to the County park system and the Fiscal Year 2012-13 Budget.

Senior Advisory Commission

The Senior Advisory Commission met on Wednesday, July 11th, and took action on the following items:

- ◆ The Committee reviewed some of the regular operations of the Senior Center and provided a few suggestions for future programs such as a basic computer skill class.
- ◆ The Committee also discussed the upcoming excursion to the Concerts in the Park and the possibility of having an excursion to the Free Seniors Day at the Aquarium of the Pacific.
- ◆ The Committee also discussed having a craft booth at the Heritage Festival again this year. The next Senior Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 10, 2012.

Heritage Festival Committee

The Heritage Festival Committee met on Wednesday, July 11th, and took action on the following items:

- ◆ The Committee reviewed and approved terms to partner with the Chamber of Commerce for the Business Showcase, the Chamber and Rotary Club for the Pancake Breakfast, and the Friendly Center to operate the Beer Garden.
- ◆ The Committee also discussed the application that they submitted to the Placentia Community Foundation for support for this year's event. The Committee also officially decided that Wendy Burch from KTLA Channel 5 News would be the Grand Marshall in the parade this year.
- ◆ The Committee also discussed that they are still confirming a few potential honorary and celebrity Grand Marshalls such as recently retired PYLUSD Superintendent Dr. Dennis Smith, the Star Cars group, or a professional BMX X-Games Bronze Medalist that lives in Placentia.