



COMMUNITY NEWS

from the Land of Gracious Living

Winter 2008

Committee releases final report on Town Center

The Town Center Blue Ribbon Committee (BRC) has released its final report on the revitalization of the Yorba Linda Town Center, the community's downtown core.

The BRC is a citizen's advisory group established by the City Council

open space, entertainment, circulation, parking, housing, restaurants, retail, and cultural arts.

For each of the Priority Topics, the Report includes a general Description of the topic, a Guiding Principle statement that defines the Committee's



for the purpose of gathering additional public input on what the community would like to see included in the Town Center and then packaging its findings into a set of conceptual recommendations and guiding principles for consideration by the City Council.

Nine priority topics identified

The report identifies nine topics the Committee believes to be priorities for the revitalization of the community's downtown core. The topics selected, in no particular order, are context, public

recommended policy direction for the topic, and Recommendations for actions which contribute to achieving the Guiding Principle.

A copy of the Report can be viewed at the City's website, www.yorba-linda.org.

The council is scheduled to hold a workshop to discuss how to proceed with the Town Center process on March 25 starting at 6:30 p.m. The workshop will be held in the City Council chamber.

Assessment District ballots due March 4

Ballots for the Street Lighting and Landscaping Maintenance Assessment District vote must be submitted to the Yorba Linda City Clerk by the end of the public hearing scheduled for the City Council meeting of March 4, 2008. Ballots received after the deadline can not be included in the final vote tally.

All property owners should have received a ballot in the mail. If not, please call (714) 996-5410 or send an e-mail to landscape@yorba-linda.org as soon as possible to request a replacement ballot. You must provide the Assessor's Parcel Number (APN) for the property and the property owner's mailing address in order to receive a replacement ballot.

Check the City's website, www.yorba-linda.org, for more information.

Council meetings available for viewing online

Watch them live or on demand

Meetings of the Yorba Linda City Council can now be watched via Internet video streaming, either live or any time after the meeting is done.

Only those council meetings held on or after December 18, 2007 (the date the streaming system began operating) are archived for later viewing.

Persons wanting to watch the meetings on their computer via the Internet can do so by going to the City's website, www.yorba-linda.org, and clicking on the "Watch the Meetings" link on the right hand side of the home page.

Access to agenda and staff reports

The viewing page also includes a copy of the meeting agenda with links to any staff reports prepared for a specific agenda item.

Video of archived meetings also provides viewers with the ability to "jump" to specific agenda items through the use of a drop-down menu, thus allowing viewers to watch only those portions of the meetings they would like to see.

Video of the council meetings can be viewed on most computers, both PCs and Macs. A description of the minimum computer system requirements for watching the videos is available on the Council meeting viewing page at the City's website. Computers not meeting these minimum requirements may not be able to use all the features of this service.

The Yorba Linda City Council meets on the first and third Tuesday of the month. Meetings start at 6:30 p.m.

Schedule building inspections over the phone



In an effort to streamline operations and improve customer service, the City of Yorba

Linda's Building Division has implemented an automated Building Inspection Request phone system. Since it's fully automated, the system can be used 24-hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

The system uses Interactive Voice Response (IVR) technology to allow the public to schedule, reschedule, or cancel building inspections. Multiple transactions can be made each call.

To access the Building Inspection Request system, dial (714) 854-7411. The system will then prompt you for the information necessary to complete your transaction. If you should need assistance during the call, you can hear additional recorded information or dial "0" to transfer to a City staff member (during office hours).

Calls to the Building Inspection Request Line must be made from a touch-tone telephone. Callers will also need the site-specific Permit Number (which can be found on the printed permit issued by the City) and an Inspection Code number. A full list of Inspection Codes, along with more information about this service, is available by visiting the "Your Government" section of the City's website; www.yorba-linda.org.

Emergency preparedness makes sense

No better time than now to get ready

No one knows exactly when a natural disaster or other emergency might occur. Preparing now for such situations greatly improves your ability to protect yourself, your family, and your property whenever or wherever catastrophe strikes.

Personal emergency preparedness

There are two basic elements of emergency preparation; developing a plan of action and putting together an emergency supply kit. Following are some general guidelines to consider as you get prepared. Information on where to obtain more detailed information is provided later in this article.

Advance planning is the first step in emergency preparedness. For example, learn how to make your home safe before and after a disaster. Develop (and practice) plans for exiting your home should it become unsafe. Think about the places where your family spends time: school, work, home, and other places you frequent. Then ask about their emergency plans and find out how they will communicate with families during an emergency. Decide how you and your family members will contact each other if you are not together during an emergency.

Creating an emergency kit allows you to have the items you'll need after a disaster right at your fingertips. Stock your kit with enough supplies to make it on your own for at least 3 days, maybe longer. Think first about fresh water, food, medications, and other

daily necessities. Other important items to have are a flashlight, battery- or solar-powered radio, extra batteries, first aid kit, and personal hygiene items. Consider having two kits; one that includes everything you will need to stay where you are and another, lightweight version you can take with you if you have to leave.

City emergency preparedness

Being prepared to respond to emergency situations is also important for government organizations. The City of Yorba Linda has developed an emergency plan that establishes a specialized organizational structure for emergency response, provides a detailed task checklist for various disaster scenarios, and lists a variety of emergency resources and procedures.

The City's emergency planning efforts also include regular training. As part of the City's on-going training, the City conducted a joint functional exercise with the Yorba Linda Water District last October. Also participating in the training were the Brea Police Department, Orange County Fire Authority, Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District, and American Red Cross. In addition to organizational training, all City employees receive individual training related to their position.

For more information on how you can prepare for a natural disaster or other emergency, visit www.ready.gov and www.redcross.org.

Area code overlay takes effect

10-digit dialing to be required for all calls



The California Public Utilities Commission has approved an area code overlay that will add a new 657 area code to the same geographic region as the existing 714 area code.

Consumers with the 714 area code will retain their current telephone number(s) and area code. Consumers who would like new or additional telephone numbers or services may be given telephone numbers with the new 657 area code starting September 23, 2008.

Having an area code overlay means all calls dialed within the 714 and the new 657 area code will soon require 10-digit dialing (area code + seven digit number). Consumers may begin using this new dialing procedure on February 23. After August 23, all calls made within the 714/657 area code must use 10-digit dialing or the call will not be completed.

For more information on this change, you may call (800) 331-0500 or visit www.cpuc.ca.gov/714areacode.



Pretty but poisonous

Many common plants pose health hazard

Plants, trees, and flowers are such a common part of our everyday lives that we often forget that many of them can be harmful – even deadly – to humans and animals. Each year, over 100,000 people across the country call their local poison control centers to report ill effects from exposure to various plants.

One of the most common outdoor plants in Yorba Linda and Southern California, the oleander, is also one of the most harmful. It is thought that consuming as few as 10 to 20 leaves can cause an adverse reaction in adults while a single leaf could be lethal to an infant or child. Even a full-sized horse could die after eating just a few leaves.

Oleander is just one of the many common plants that are poisonous if eaten. Others include Agapanthus, Amaryllis, Bird-of-paradise, Carnation, Chinese lantern, Chrysanthemum, Eucalyptus, Hydrangea, Lantana, Mistletoe, Night-blooming Jessamine, Rhododendron, and Sago Palm. Many other plants can cause itching or skin irritation if touched.

By following a few basic guidelines, you can significantly reduce the chance that you, your family, or your animals will suffer from plant-related sickness or death.

- ❑ Never touch or taste any part of a plant that you aren't absolutely certain is safe. That includes making "tea" from leaves, flowers, or the bark of a plant.
- ❑ Put indoor plants out of the reach of young children and pets.
- ❑ Watch your kids and animals when outside to ensure they don't touch or eat plant materials.
- ❑ Avoid purchasing plants (indoor or outdoor) that are dangerous.
- ❑ Conduct an inventory of plants in your yard. Consider removing those that pose a risk, especially if you have pets or young children.

Information on which plants are dangerous and which are safe is available from a variety of sources, including your local garden center, the public library, Internet, or Poison Control Hotline (800-548-2423).

Proper power planning prevents problems

Last summer's heat wave and resulting power outages were reminders that the amount of electricity we use individually can add up to create significant impacts on the stability of the overall system. Not only does high usage strain the system's ability to provide power to all users, it can also damage the equipment that delivers electricity to our homes and neighborhoods.

One of the challenges faced by the power grid is the increase in high-tech devices in our homes. In addition to higher numbers of computers, electronic games and other items with relatively low power demands, many homes are adding larger items that require a good deal of electricity. Multiply that increase across a neighborhood or city and it can have a significant impact.



Southern California Edison is in the process of upgrading various parts of its infrastructure to deal with this increasing demand. Here in Yorba Linda, they recently completed upgrades that allow higher power loads to be carried and provide improved management of the system during periods of high demand.

Edison is asking that homeowners do their part in this effort, too. When adding an item with a significant electrical load to your home, you should call Edison at (800) 655-4555 to determine if your local system has adequate capacity to handle the additional load. Items that represent a significant electrical load include central air-conditioning, swimming pools, electric dryers, or other large appliances. You may also want to visit their website, www.SCE.com, to learn about potential energy efficiency rebates and other money saving programs.

Library annex open at Bryant museum

Picking up and returning materials from the Yorba Linda Public Library is now easier for residents living on the east side of town.

That's because a library annex, consisting of 13 locker-sized "mailboxes" and a drop-off box for returning materials, is now operational at the Susanna Bixby Bryant Museum. The Museum is located at 5700 Susanna Bryant Drive, just around the corner from the eastern end of La Palma Avenue.

Persons with a Yorba Linda library card can request materials through the Library website (www.yorbalinda.library.com) and then be notified by e-mail when their materials have been delivered to the annex. The e-mail will



The library annex's location provides round-the-clock access for library patrons.

include the box number containing the requested materials and an access code.

For more information about the annex, visit www.yorbalindalibrary.com/annex.php on the web or call the Library at (714) 777-2873.

YORBA LINDA CITY COUNCIL

Jim Winder Mayor
Jan Horton Mayor Pro-Tem
John Anderson Councilmember
Allen Castellano Councilmember
Henry Wedaa Councilmember

Yorba Linda City Council meetings are held on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month at 6:30 p.m. For more information, call 961-7150.

All regular council meeting are streamed over the Internet and shown live on Time Warner Cable Channel 3, with tape replays airing on Thursdays at 6:30 p.m.

LIBRARY COMMISSION

Library Commission meetings are held on the 1st Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. For more information, call 777-2466.

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Parks and Recreation Commission meetings are held on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. For more information, call 961-7160.

PLANNING COMMISSION

Planning Commission meetings are held on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month at 7:00 p.m. For more information, call 961-7130.

TRAFFIC COMMISSION

Traffic Commission meetings are held on the 4th Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. For more information, call 961-7170.

City Phone Numbers

City Council 961-7110
Administration 961-7110
Building 961-7120
City Clerk 961-7150
Code Enforcement 961-7138
Finance 961-7140
Job Line 961-7107
Library 777-2873
Parks & Rec 961-7160
Planning 961-7130
Police (business) 990-7623
Police (disptach) 990-7911
Public Works 961-7170

New traffic laws for 2008

A number of new traffic laws have or will become effective this year. Following are some of those that have the widest impact. Unless otherwise noted, these laws took effect on January 1.

Hands-free cell phone devices required (effective July 1):

This new law prohibits drivers from using a cell phone while operating a motor vehicle unless he/she is using a hands-free device. Violators will face a fine of \$20 for the first offense, increasing to \$50 for each subsequent offense. Drivers can use a regular cell phone while driving for emergency purposes. Drivers of commercial vehicles can use "push-to-talk" cell phones while driving until July 1, 2011.

Use of cell phones by minor drivers (effective July 1):

Persons under the age of 18 are prohibited from using a cell phone, even if equipped with a hands-free device, or any mobile service device (i.e., text messaging) while driving a motor vehicle.

Smoking in vehicles with minor passengers:

Smoking a pipe, cigar, or cigarette in a motor vehicle where a minor is present is now punishable by a fine not to exceed \$100.

Longer license suspension for high blood alcohol content:

Drivers caught with a blood alcohol content (BAC) of 0.20 percent or higher will have their license suspended for ten months rather than the current six months. The legal threshold for driving under the influence remains at 0.08 percent BAC.

Traffic school:

Prohibits the courts from dismissing serious traffic violations (those that result in the assessment of two negligent operator points) through completion of a traffic violator school program or any other court-approved program for safe driving.

Increased fine & penalty for leaving a pet in a hot vehicle:

The owner of an unattended hot vehicle that contains a pet will now face a fine of up to \$500 and as much as six months in jail.

Additional Clean Air Vehicle stickers available:

The Department of Motor Vehicles is making an additional 10,000 Clean Air stickers available for hybrid-powered vehicles. Vehicles displaying this sticker can be driven in carpool lanes even if the driver is the only occupant.

Required Declaration on an Original or Renewal Application for a Driver License (effective July 1):

Everyone obtaining or renewing a driver's license must sign a declaration acknowledging that a driver may be charged with murder if a person is killed as a result of driving under the influence.

CITY OF YORBA LINDA
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