

MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 23, 2010
TO: City Council
FROM: Kenneth Frank, City Manager
SUBJECT: FRIDAY UPDATES

Sunset Serenades in May -- The first of four concerts at Main Beach Park will be held on Friday, May 7 at 6:30 p.m. The series includes: Jason Harnell Trio (Jazz) on May 7; Janeen Rae Heller (Singer/songwriter) on May 14; John Gardiner and Jason Feddy (Songs from Shakespeare) on May 21; and Sasha Evens (Originals) on May 28. This event is free and funded by the lodging establishments and City of Laguna Beach.

Census Participation Rates are Low – The Census Bureau is posting daily participation rates on their website. Laguna Beach has the second lowest participation rate in South County. As of April 15th, only 63% of Laguna Beach households have returned their census form by mail. The lowest participation rate is in the downtown area with a 58% participation rate. Every household that fails to send back their census form by mail must be visited by a census taker starting in May.

New Police Officer -- This week, Chris Doveas started as a new Police Officer. Chris graduated from the Rio Hondo Police Academy and received his POST certificate in November, 2009. He was hired as a Reserve Police Officer in December of 2009 with the Laguna Beach Police Department. Chris served in the United States Marine Corps from 1996-2004. Chris's hobbies include weightlifting and snowboarding.

Downtown Traffic Improvements – Construction will begin on Monday to improve traffic and parking on Cliff Drive, Beach Street and Legion Street as identified in the 2006 Downtown Parking and Traffic Circulation Study. Attached are a press release and exhibits with details of the project.

Planning Technician – Belinda Riva is the newest addition to the Zoning Division. She has a BA in Urban Studies and Planning from UC San Diego and is working on a Masters Degree at Cal State Long Beach. Ms. Riva has intern experience with Bell Gardens, OCTA and San Diego Transit.

North Laguna Alley Resurfacing – Work will begin in one week on resurfacing virtually all of the public alleys in North Laguna. The \$1,000,000 project will be completed by the end of June.

Goats and More Goats – During the last year when there had been relatively little rainfall, the Fire Department reduced the number of goats which are grazing the fuelbreak. Now, however, we are faced with an extraordinary amount of new growth and our current complement of goats is insufficient to get the fuelbreak maintained before the peak fire season. Therefore, we have worked with the goat herder to increase the herd by several hundred goats and to divide the flock into two groups. One will start in North Laguna; the other will start in Mystic Hills. This should enable us to have the firebreak maintained before the fall. In the past couple of years, the Fire Department has been able to save money by reducing the herd size, but this year we will need every dollar and maybe more to graze the fuelbreaks sufficiently.

Attachments