

City Manager Report



FEBRUARY 2, 2012 — FEBRUARY 15, 2012

FIRE DEPARTMENT

STRUCTURE FIRE

Firefighters responded to a structure fire on the 1200 block of north Holly Ave. shortly after 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 2nd. Heavy smoke and fire was coming from the front porch and extending into the structure. An initial report from bystanders was that there was an individual still inside. A single occupant was located in the rear portion of the residence. She was treated at the scene and refused transport to a local hospital. The fire was contained within 20 minutes of the initial dispatch; the cause of the fire is being investigated. No injuries to fire personnel were reported. One engine from San Bernardino City was utilized to cover Fire Station #1 while Colton units were on the fire scene.

EQUIPMENT REPLACEMENT

The Fire Department received 19 radios and chargers as part of a replacement agreement between San Bernardino County and Sprint/Nextel. This agreement is the result of a mandatory program that is required by the FCC for the 800 MHz re-banding process. All of the equipment was provided at no cost to the City.

TRAINING

Fire Department personnel attended a Fire Pre-Plan Inspection at Con Agra Foods last week. Issues reviewed were fire protection sprinklers and fire department connections, ammonia leak protocols and concerns, general building construction, and life hazard issues. This was the first of many pre-fire inspections scheduled throughout the city for the upcoming year.

Joint training was conducted with Loma Linda Fire Department in the flood control channel off Fairway Drive. The drill



focused on safety when working near swift water and reviewed the set-up and limitations of a tension diagonal rope system used during swift water operations.

Community Services

Community Meeting

The City of Colton, Community Services Department will be hosting a Community Meeting on Wednesday, February 29, 2012, 6:00 p.m. at the Gonzales Center. The Department is looking for input and suggestions about our current services and what residents might like to see in the future. This is part of the department's goal to help CONNECT residents to the programs, facilities and services they need.

RECREATION SERVICES

Teen Center Activity

The Thompson Teen Center continues to be a 'happening' place for teens ages 13 – 17. On Tuesdays and Thursdays, the teens can be found working to improve their physical skills and health, Wednesdays are Movie days, and Fridays are full of system link games. Participation continues to grow, with over 450 visits to the center in January 2012.

Do you yoga?

Looking for a way to decompress from the day and grow stronger as well? Join the new YOGA Class, held Mondays and Wednesdays at the Hutton Center from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. Monthly fee is only \$54 and the class is great for the flexible and inflexible alike.

Adult Basketball / Softball Leagues

For those tired of watching from the sidelines, registration for upcoming spring leagues begins this month! Recreation offers a 5-on-5 basketball league and men's and coed softball leagues. Play runs from end of March through June.

Seniors 4 Seniors Quarterly Meeting

February 9 was the first joint quarterly Senior Advisory Meeting, held at the Hutton Center. Seniors from both Hutton and Luque Centers were invited to give input about current programs and hear about upcoming events and activities. Approximately 40 seniors attended, as well as a representative from the Department of Adult and Aging Services, who spoke about what services seniors can access. All in all, it was a great opportunity to hear from the participants, and plans are in place for the next meeting, to be held in June.

LIBRARY SERVICES

Another Cooking Demonstration from Chef Alonso

On Wednesday, February 22, the Colton Public Library will host the first of three healthy cooking demonstrations. This month Chef Alonso will teach us the importance of eating healthy while showing us all how to make hearty soups. The local chef will cover everything from the careful selection of ingredients to safe serving temperatures. The workshop will meet in the community room at the Main Library and begins at 6:00 pm. This program is free of charge and all library visitors are welcomed. Come early, as Chef Alonso's workshops have been very popular!

HUMAN SERVICES

Sierra Vista Preschool – 10-Year Anniversary

Our Sierra Vista State Preschool will be celebrating its "10 Year Anniversary" on March 8, 2012. A celebration will be held at the preschool, 2300 N Rancho Avenue, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Please "save the date" and plan to join us. It is a joyous occasion and a milestone worth celebrating. We will have lots of fun and good food. An official announcement flyer and invitation will follow.

Development Services

- Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA): SCAG has officially released the draft 2012-2021 RHNA for the City of Colton:
 - 443 units – very low income
 - 302 units – low income
 - 347 units – moderate income
 - 831 units – above moderate income

The number of units allocated for this period is approximately 52% below the number allocated by the 2008-2014 RHNA. The new allocation took into account the continuing weak economy, local household incomes, and vacancy rates.
- Staff has reviewed the Draft 2012-2035 Regional Transportation Plan, Sustainable Communities Strategy and Program EIR, and submitted comments on behalf of the City/Public Works.
- 99 Cent Only Store has submitted plans to modify the exterior of a 21,288 sf. building and upgrade landscaping for a new store at 1481 N. La Cadena Drive.
- Dollar General Stores has submitted plans to modify the exterior of a multiple tenant commercial building and upgrade landscaping and lighting for a new store at 869 N. Rancho Avenue.
- Ecology Auto Parts (aka Pacific Rail) has submitted plans for a Regenerative Thermal Oxidizer Air Pollution Control System at their facility on M Street.
- The following new Business Licenses have been issued:
 - Furtura Net, Inc. (Retail), 1149 N. Mt. Vernon Ave. – 3 employees
 - SEC Equipment Corp. (Wholesale Construction), 2650 S. La Cadena Dr. – 3 employees
 - Moon's Acupuncture, 1280 E. Cooley Dr., Ste. 22
 - OC Autoplex (Used Auto Sales & Rental), 1242 N. Mt. Vernon Ave.

Electric Department

Reliability Audit: The Colton Electric Department has been notified that it's compliance with reliability standards will be audited in August 2012. The audit will be performed by the Western Electric Coordinating Corporation (WECC). National reliability standards have been established to increase the reliability of the bulk power system. WECC will require written proof that Colton has provided all necessary information to local and regional transmission planning organizations and has prepared and filed required annual reports.

Cap and Trade: California's cap and trade mechanism to reduce greenhouse gas emissions will begin in July 2012. Local utilities, including Colton, are working with California's Air Resource Board (CARB) to prepare for the first round of emission allowance audits. Cap and trade establishes strict limits on the amount of greenhouse gas that entities can emit and covered entities must acquire emission allowances equal to or greater than their annual greenhouse gas emissions or face potential fines from the CARB.

Railroad Flyover Project (Colton Crossing): The Colton Electric Department (CED) is working with Union Pacific and Southern California Edison to re-route its transmission lines between La Cadena Drive and Pennsylvania Avenue to accommodate Union Pacific's project to raise a portion of the railroad tracks. CED will remove its overhead lines and underground all distribution and fiber-optic facilities in the area. Union Pacific is paying for much of the costs associated with re-locating the facilities. CED coordinated with Union Pacific's design engineers to plan and design the new line configuration and worked with Union Pacific's contractors to ensure the work is being done in compliance with CED's standards.

Economic Development

Implementation of AB 1X 26 (AB26): On February 6th, staff attended a "Redevelopment Dissolution Roundtable" hosted by the County of San Bernardino to discuss issues and seek clarification on the implementation of AB 26. Redevelopment consultants, legal counsel and the County Auditor/Controller were in attendance to address questions regarding the dissolution of redevelopment agencies and operation of Successor Agencies.

Former Moss Bros. (1900 W. Valley Blvd.): On February 1st, staff and Development Services met with a potential tenant conducting due diligence regarding use of the building. The use would be automotive sales related for the site. The potential tenant is currently negotiating a lease for all or a portion of the two buildings.

CDBG Ad Hoc Committee: On February 8th, staff met with the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Ad Hoc Committee to receive, review and prioritize the 2012-2013 fiscal year projects and programs. The 2012-2013 CDBG funding allocation is estimated at \$414,330.

Comfort Inn & Suites (450 N. Sperry Drive): On February 9th, staff met with the owners and the owner's architect to discuss the possibility of improving their restaurant building into a banquet/meeting facility. Unfortunately, the owners and their real estate agent have not been successful in attracting a restaurant operator for the 6,000 square foot building. Additional meeting facilities are in demand in Colton and surrounding cities.

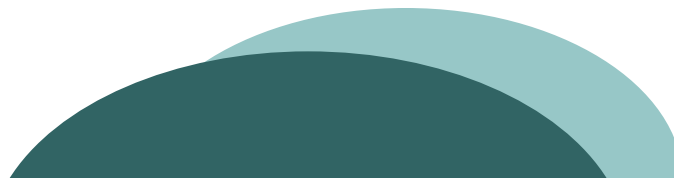
Former Zendejas Building (1030 So. Mt. Vernon Ave.): Staff is working with the bank's real estate agent in scheduling a walk-thru with a potential investor/buyer of the building. The walk-thru is scheduled for the week of February 20th. At least two restaurant operators have expressed interest in leasing the building.

Vacant Land in the Pellissier Area: Development Services and Economic Development staff met with a representative of a potential buyer conducting due diligence studies on an approximate 250 acres (comprised of 2 parcels) in the Pellissier Ranch Area. Zoning planned as part of the General Plan Update and future plans for needed infrastructure were discussed. The representative will present his information to the potential buyer and keep the City informed.

Developer Interest in Colton: On February 16th, staff will be meeting with an investment group partnering with retail developers in identifying various opportunities from ground-up development to repositioning of existing buildings throughout the City.

Vacant Parcels – NEC of So. Mt. Vernon Ave./Santo Antonio Dr. (6.5 acres): Representatives from Sperry Van Ness have indicated that an offer has been submitted for the purchase of the site. The potential buyer is interested in developing an office building at this location. Staff is encouraging retail/commercial/restaurant facilities along Mt. Vernon Avenue.

Pepper Plaza Commercial Project (SWC of Valley Blvd. & Pepper Ave.): The appraisal to determine the fair market value for a County-owned remnant parcel and the City's vacated Valley Boulevard right-of-way was recently completed, though not yet received by the City. The properties are anticipated to be sold to Valley-Orange Enterprises (the developer). Staff is prepared to resume negotiations with the developer. A draft Disposition and Development Agreement with Valley-Orange Enterprises has been prepared for the development of a new service station/car wash and an approximate 7,000 square feet of commercial/retail.



Public Works / Utilities Services

The departments within Public Works and Utilities Services have completed routine maintenance throughout the City, responding to work orders and service requests. Administrative staff is consistently working on account receivables/payables, entering work data and maintaining the departmental budgets.

ENGINEERING

- Staff bid out for the purchase of 816 LED Streetlights with funds provided through the Energy Efficiency Conservation Grant. Bids will be received on February 27, 2012.
- Staff awarded a design agreement to TKE for the C Street Landscaping Project and the La Cadena Landscaping Project.
- Design for the Bus-Turn-Out on Washington Street is 80% complete and estimated to be completed by the end of February.

WATER

The water department has completed or is working on the following:

- Weed abatement at the Wells and Booster sites
- Fire hydrant maintenance
- Meter change out program/Customer Service
- Meter box replacement
- Pot-hole Repairs on the following Streets:
 - 12th Street
 - F Street
 - Vista Street
 - 4th Street
 - Penn Ave.

WASTEWATER

- City crews continue with storm drain cleaning.
- Placed Sludge Bed 11 in Service
- Updated the required County Business Emergency/Contingency Business Plan

