

News From City Hall



Table of Contents

- 7 **Building Safety Week**
San Clemente's staff provide training to local builders and designers.
- 8 **Adopt a Beach**
Local businesses, organizations and individuals unite to keep our local beaches clean.
- 9 **Government Access Channel**
Residents can now tune in for 24-hour coverage on City news and public service announcements.
- 9 **Mock Disaster a Success**
A role-playing exercise designed to prepare City staff and residents for the after effects of a real-life earthquake.
- 10 **Safe Routes to School**
City grants to be used for major sidewalk improvements and educating the public on ways to create safer streets.
- 10 **SCBPR Foundation**
Providing funding sources for projects and programs to enhance the quality of life for San Clemente residents.
- 11 **Graffiti Task Force**
Maximizing the effectiveness and cost efficiency of graffiti removal.
- 12 **Protecting Our Seniors**
San Clemente deputies praised for their knowledge of elder abuse and excellent work protecting seniors.

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News From City Hall

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city news San Clemente

Official Publication from City Hall

Summer 2008

City Observes Building Safety Week

**STAFF PROVIDES TRAINING TO
LOCAL BUILDERS AND DESIGNERS**

Those of us living in California understand the importance of building safety, especially considering 75 percent of the nation's seismic activity is experienced here.



Building Official conducts educational session. Photo by Gina Borchers

In January 2008, significant changes to the California Building Standards Code went into effect, including the new seismic design standards which provide the latest in earthquake safety for the construction of all buildings in California.

Many other changes were made to the code to provide the latest technology for building safety, fire prevention, safe construction and code enforcement. The improved standards will allow California to utilize the latest technological advances in the construction and remodeling of residences, state government buildings, schools, hospitals, and other occupancies regulated by the state.

This year Building Safety Week 2008 is recognized from May 5th through the 11th with the theme "Building Safety: Where You Live, Work and Play." To help raise awareness of building safety, the City of San Clemente is celebrating Building Safety Week, joining communities across the nation to promote the use and understanding of build-

ing safety and fire prevention codes to protect lives and property. To help bring local contractors, architects and building designers who live, work and play in San Clemente up to speed on the new standards, the City of San Clemente's Building Official Mike Jorgensen held the first building code update educational session on March 27th. A total of 70 professionals, involved in construction and building design in San Clemente, attended the session.

Additional training sessions, coordinated by the City's Building Division were held on Thursdays throughout the month of April. This series of educational programs provided an introductory understanding of the new codes and local amendments and how they affect residential projects here in San Clemente. The training included desired code update material, such as architectural code changes, fire and life safety topics, electrical/mechanical/plumbing provision changes, and significant changes to the structural code provisions.

The City of San Clemente would like to take this opportunity to say, "Thank You" to the design and construction professionals who work so closely with the Building Division in keeping the community safe. By reviewing projects for code compliance and inspecting buildings both during and after construction, the Building Division ensures that buildings in the community are safe places to live, work, play, and learn. The Building Division staff in San Clemente has over 125 years of combined experience in reviewing and inspecting construction projects.

The Building Division prides itself on its customer service and is available to assist building and design professionals with their questions. For more information about Building Safety Week or the new building standards, call the City's Building Division at (949) 361-6100 or visit their offices at 910 Calle Negocio, Suite #100. Certificates towards continuing education will be given to the professionals who attended the training sessions.



Pedestrian Beach Trail

PHASE II Construction Progress

The San Clemente Pedestrian Beach Trail will continue to be closed between the Mariposa access path and Linda Lane until June 20, 2008. This is due to the new underpass tunnel installation at Mariposa and completion of the boardwalk. The boardwalk will remain open as will the access path from the boardwalk to West Mariposa Avenue. Possible alternatives include local surface streets between West Mariposa Avenue and Linda Lane, or the beach (tides permitting) between the trestle near El Portal and Linda Lane.

In addition to the new pedestrian tunnel under the railroad tracks at Mariposa and completion of the existing boardwalk, Phase II consists of three new at-grade crossings at Lost Winds, Dije and El Portal. The Dije and El Portal access points include stairs over the existing rocks and down to the beach.

A major milestone took place over the weekend of April 12th and 13th involving heavy equipment and excavation work to insert the pedestrian tunnel, which was successfully placed under the railroad track. The underpass won't open until June as there are still some fine details to complete, including the extension of an elevated boardwalk over the tunnel.

For biweekly newsletter updates on the trail progress, log onto san-clemente.org and click on Information/Current Projects /Beach Trail.

ADOPT A BEACH PROGRAM

HELP KEEP SAN CLEMENTE BEACHES CLEAN



The members of the "Clean Team" on their first scheduled clean up for section #12 (T-street to Restrooms).

To ensure all of San Clemente's beaches remain healthy, the Watershed Task Force implemented an Adopt-a-Beach program in 2005. The late Stephanie Dorey spearheaded the program which runs the full length of the San Clemente Beach Trail and is divided into 22 different sections of beach. The Adopt-a-Beach program supports the Watershed Taskforce mission statement: to provide a healthy ocean/beach environment in San Clemente, by developing a community-wide effort to improve the quality of our local waters.

Individuals, family businesses, organizations or clubs select an area of beach that they will be responsible for cleaning up, at least twice a month. They will be given a large litter and debris collection bucket, calipers (litter grabbers) and a data recording sheet. There is no fee to Adopt-a-Beach!

The program has proven so popular with the community that as of early April 2008, all sections of the beach have

been adopted. The San Clemente City Council has adopted the beach portion from the Pier to T-street. Members of the community can still adopt sections of the beach by doubling up (and in some cases, tripling up) with already adopted stretches of sand. It is the Watershed Task Force's goal to one day get to the point where all sections of the beach and trail are cleaned on a weekly basis. So, the more volunteers the better.

Litter on the beach is a problem and comes from human activity. Public participation and "ownership" are critical ingredients in making a real difference in protecting and improving the water quality of our local beaches and the watersheds leading to them. Volunteers can help make the beaches cleaner and safer to surf, swim and play in.

If you'd like to participate, contact the Adopt-a-Beach Program Organizer Sherry Johnson at info@scwatershed.com or call (949) 36-Ocean (62326).

CITY EXPANDS LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACCESS Channel Programming

Residents can now tune in for 24 hours continuous coverage

The government access channel in San Clemente is available on Cox Channel 30. Residents with high definition television can view the local programming on Channel 854.

The City of San Clemente recently completed an overhaul of its outdated audio/video equipment in its media room. Historically, the equipment has only been used to tape and air City Council meetings and post static information on the Community Calendar for public viewing on Channel 30. Grant funds, which the City received from Cox Communications, allowed for upgrades to new technology that now enables the City to offer expanded programming 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. This change also makes the City responsible for airing its own programming, including the playback of City Council meetings, which in the past had been done by Cox Communications.

The content on the government access channel in San Clemente now plays a variety of informational and educational programming for residents. A two-day programming schedule appears on the Community Calendar as well as a "See It Again" schedule, appearing after the "Around Town" feature programs.

The type of programming featured on the government access channel includes:

- City Council meetings (aired live and replayed Thursday, Friday and Saturday at noon and Sunday and Monday at 7 p.m.) and Planning Commission meetings (aired live and replayed Thursday



and Saturday at 7 p.m. and Sunday and Monday at noon).

- "Around Town" San Clemente's news program about events, local issues and activities played every hour.
- Public service announcements provided by local non-profit organizations.
- Public service announcements provided by other government agencies, such as the Orange County Fire Authority, Orange County Department of Education, and Municipal Water District of Orange County.
- Occasional special feature programming by "The Heart of Orange County".
- Announcements of City events and activities, and more.

Organizations are encouraged to submit public service announcements or announcements of special events and activities that may be of interest or benefit to residents. The material will be reviewed by the City prior to airing on the government access channel to ensure it meets the City's guidelines. Content must be non-commercial in nature, serve public interest and relate to events and activities that are open to the public.

For more information, call City Hall at (949) 361-8254 or E-mail FergusonL@san-clemente.org.



Mock Disaster A PROVEN SUCCESS City prepares for the real thing

Residents volunteered for a mock emergency shelter drill coordinated by the City of San Clemente and American Red Cross. This drill was held at the Community Center on April 2nd from 8:00 a.m. to noon, which in the event of an emergency, would be used as a public shelter.

Ten residents of all ages volunteered to be "acting victims" of an emergency who would go to the Community Center for food and shelter. The drill consisted of a 7.1 earthquake that rocked San Clemente, killing or separating families and stranding victims without medication.

The role-playing exercise was designed to prepare city staff for the after effects of a real-life earthquake of that magnitude. City staff members routinely undergo emergency drill training, where they monitor a disaster from a command center, but this was the first time volunteers were utilized for a shelter exercise.



City Receives Safe Routes to School Grant

A popular school route will be getting a whole lot safer in the coming months as a result of a recent grant award by the State of California's Safe Routes to School grant program.

The City of San Clemente's Principal Civil Engineer M. Akram Hindiye prepared the grant and Mayor Pro Tem Lori Donchak shepherded the grant through the State's political process, resulting in a \$262,080 grant award for the City of San Clemente. A subsequent grant in the amount of \$100,000 in Measure 1B funding was awarded to the City by the County of Orange. These funds will be used to make major sidewalk improvements along Avenida Palizada, a popular route used by kids who walk to and from school. The end result will be continuous sidewalks for overall improved pedestrian safety.

Safe Routes to School (SR2S) is a state effort to enable and encourage children, including those with disabilities, to walk and bicycle to school, and to make walking and bicycling to school safe and appealing. The SR2S grant program is also designed to decrease traffic and pollution and increase the health of children and the community. The SR2S program also addresses the safety concerns of parents by encouraging greater enforcement of traffic laws, educating the public, and exploring ways to create safer streets.

CONTINUED ON ~ Page 11

San Clemente Beaches, Parks & Recreation Foundation

FOUNDATION SERVING OUR COMMUNITY'S RECREATION NEEDS

The San Clemente Beaches, Parks & Recreation Foundation (SCBPR Foundation), founded in 2000, is a non-profit, tax-exempt California corporation created to assist the City in meeting its parks and recreation goals and to provide a consistent funding source for projects and programs that contribute to enhancing the quality of lives in our wonderful community.

Members of the Board represent diverse backgrounds in youth sports, non-profits, communications, business and industry, seniors, education, and social services. Successful endeavors to date include the Cyber Café Computer Learning Center, which has served over 4,500 students; skateboard park bleachers; funding for the summer beach concerts; youth scholarships for recreation classes; skateboard, hike/bike/run trail contests; and the dog parks in San Clemente, among others.

Current Foundation projects include raising funds for Courtney's Sand Castle, a tot lot for both disabled and able bodied children being built in Marblehead Coastal, and the forthcoming LaPata/Vista Hermosa sports park, featuring four

soccer, three baseball, and one football field and an aquatic center. We have contracted with the City to provide naming rights for many of the facilities and seek donations to invest in these much-needed amenities.

Become a Friend of the Foundation by supporting your recreational and park programs and projects. Parents, businesspersons, community members, and other supporters are needed as donors. Invest in your community with a contribution of \$35 for an individual or \$65 for a family. As a Friend, you'll receive regular notifications of park and recreational events, discounts for Foundation-sponsored event entry fees and the Cyber Café, a newsletter, among many other benefits. Please send your donation to:

SCBPR Foundation
1030 Calle Negocio
San Clemente, CA 92673

If you have questions, or would like to become a volunteer for the Foundation's fundraising activities and events, please call (949) 276-8866.



ABC Donate

The corporate conscience of Cars Remarketing, Inc.

A NEW WAY TO GIVE

We have recently partnered with ABC Donate, the corporate conscience of CARS Remarketing, Inc. This partnership will allow us to accept vehicle donations, the proceeds from this program will benefit the BEACHES, PARKS & RECREATION FOUNDATION'S efforts to raise money for Courtney's Sandcastle and the La Pata/Vista Hermosa Sports Park and Aquatic Center.

If you have a vehicle to donate or want more information, please go to their website at www.ABCDonate.com or call Marie Toland at (949) 429-2990.

What Can I do About Graffiti in the Neighborhood?

CONTINUED FROM ~ Page 10

Specific locations for these sidewalk improvements include:

In an effort to improve our community and eradicate graffiti, the City Manager created a Graffiti Task Force last year to assess the City's graffiti program and develop a more proactive program that would assist in eradicating graffiti more swiftly. The focus of the new plan includes a more proactive approach to the removal of graffiti from private property.

An efficient and cost effective solution was developed. Not only did the task force determine a way to expedite the intake process to reduce the response time for graffiti removal, but also concluded it should have private property graffiti removal by City forces approved in advance. And, in order to maximize the effectiveness and cost efficiency of the graffiti removal program, a contract service was recommended.

Although the use of law enforcement personnel was important to graffiti removal enforcement, removing as much of the intake process as possible from the San Clemente Police Services allows the process to be expedited and frees sworn law enforcement personnel to accomplish other duties.

Stewart & Associates was hired to handle the graffiti abatement from April 1, 2008 to March 31, 2009 and now handle the graffiti hotline as well. A helpful feature for citizens is the addition of a 24/7 call taker as opposed to a recording. Citizens can now provide specific details about the graffiti and the location to help speed the removal process. This is critical to a successful graffiti abatement program as studies have shown the necessity of the immediate removal of graffiti. Removing it quickly can reduce the

odds of continued incidents.

Another improvement to the program addresses specific properties in San Clemente that have been routine victims of graffiti. Most of these targets are commercial buildings located on the alley that parallels El Camino Real. Too often there was a lag time between notification of the graffiti to the City, notification to the property owner of the need for removal, and eradication. As a result, the task force created a document that is now provided to these property owners that allows them to authorize the City or its contractors to enter their property to remove visible graffiti from the public right-of-way.

This document has proven to be a vital tool for the Code Compliance Division to notify owners of continual targets, and have permission to enter on file. Although City staff will continue to provide graffiti removal from public property, the City's contractor will remove graffiti on private property because it is much more cost effective. Better yet, the contractor can now remove graffiti from public property after hours, on weekends and holidays rather than the City having to incur overtime costs for City crews.

Only through a cooperative partnership can we succeed in eradicating this problem which affects our quality of life and economic security. **There are two ways to report graffiti, either by calling the 24/7 graffiti hotline at (949) 361-8385 or by logging onto the easy and anonymous website at san-clemente.org and clicking on "Report Graffiti" under the "Quick Links" section or click on Services/ Complaints/ Graffiti Hotline.**

- **Avenida Palizada at I-5 NB On-ramp** – 1/3 mile from San Clemente High School Upper Campus and Our Lady of Fatima School. Children are walking and biking to and from school on dirt pathway, crossing busy freeway without crosswalk, and walking on the street.
- **Avenida Palizada at I-5 Off-ramp** – Pathway to school through ice plant and utility boxes.
- **Avenida Palizada at I-5 Off-ramp** – Uneven dirt path with utility boxes above grade along school route.
- **East side of I-5, near San Clemente Upper Campus H.S.** – Children crossing undeveloped lot toward Palizada Freeway underpass.
- **Northeast Corner of Avenida Caballeros and Avenida Palizada** – Discontinuous sidewalk with sloped lot and overgrown vegetation.
- **Northeast Corner of Avenida Caballeros and Avenida Palizada** – Proposed concrete sidewalk and handicap ramps.
- **West side Avenida Palizada at I-5 NB On-ramp** – Remove existing fence and vegetation to construct new ADA ramp, construct raised median island, and install school crossing.
- **East side Avenida Palizada at I-5 NB On-ramp** – Remove existing vegetation and construct new concrete sidewalk, ramp, curb and gutter.



Join Us All Military Patriotic Music Fest

**PARK SEMPER FI
MARINE MONUMENT**

Monday, May 26th, 1:30 to 2:30 pm



San Clemente Deputies Place High Priority

On Protecting Seniors

In a letter from the County of Orange Social Services Agency, Adult Protective Services (APS), San Clemente deputies were praised for having a strong understanding of elder abuse and dependent adult abuse issues. APS has a collaborative relationship with law enforcement to tackle allegations of abuse and neglect in the elder and dependent adult populations. The deputies in San Clemente were also commended for their outstanding work and knowledge of the issues that confront San Clemente's senior and dependent adult population.

Senior citizens make up an approximately 13 percent of San Clemente's total population. The City of San Clemente also prioritizes the needs of seniors through its provision of free transportation services to local shopping centers and the San Clemente Senior Center where seniors can participate in fun activities, in addition to daily lunches.

Spotting elder or dependent abuse is not easy as it can take on many forms. Elder abuse is the infliction of physical, emotional, or psychological harm on an older adult. Elder abuse also can take the form of financial exploitation or intentional or unintentional neglect of an older adult by the caregiver. Elder abuse



can happen within the family. It can also happen in settings such as hospitals or nursing homes or in the community. Elder abuse is a serious problem in this country. All 50 states have laws against elder abuse. The laws differ, but all states have systems for reporting suspected abuse.

For more information, log onto the County of Orange Social Services Agency website at www.ssa.ocgov.com or to anonymously report elder/disabled adult abuse in a private home setting, call the 24 hour hotline at 1-800-451-5155. If the abused elder or disabled adult resides in a licensed care facility, (nursing home or board and care facility) call the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Service at 714-479-0107. Of course, if the situation is an emergency always dial 911.

Public Invited to Attend Budget Workshops

Cost of Service & Revenue Workshop

April 29, 2008
5:30 p.m.

CITY HALL
Council Chambers
100 Ave. Presidio
San Clemente

Budget Workshop

June 11, 2008
4:00 p.m.

City Hall
Council Chambers
100 Ave. Presidio
San Clemente



HOUSING REHABILITATION PROGRAM LOANS AND GRANTS AVAILABLE

UP TO \$20,000 PER PROPERTY

Does your roof leak? Is your driveway cracked? Windows need replacement? The City of San Clemente has received federal funds for repairing and improving your home, mobile home, or rental property. Priorities are given to properties needing exterior improvements in the downtown target area. Other properties may also qualify depending on need and household

income and assets. Rental properties must have qualified tenants and rents. Funds are limited, so be sure to call promptly.

Call Denise Obrero, Housing Rehabilitation Program, 949-366-4755 for more information. Applications are available on the City web site. www.ci.san-clemente.ca.us/administration/cdbg/homerehab-general/smallad.doc