

Lomita

N e w s l i n e



Spring 2004
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In this issue

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Hazard Mitigation | 2 |
| Employee of the Year | 2 |
| Council Actions | 2 |
| Budget Message (cont) | 3 |
| New businesses | 3 |
| Street Sweeper | 4 |
| Large item pickup | 4 |
| Founders Day | 4 |
| Craft Fair/Book Sale | 4 |
| Notary | 4 |
| Library News | 4 |

Budget Message from the City Administrator

Cities nationwide are hard pressed to meet financial obligations and this is especially true in California due to a huge projected state deficit of \$38 billion. According to a recent national survey 81 percent of cities are less able to meet financial needs during 2003 than in the preceding fiscal year. Cities are reacting in many ways: increasing fees, freezing positions/salary increases, and reducing services.

The City of Lomita had the foresight to recognize a weakening economy and began reducing expenditures one and a half years ago by implementing the following:

- Put a freeze on vacant positions, non-essential purchases and training.
- Rescinded approval of capital expenditures and projects.
- Lomita Newsline will not be printed and mailed to all Lomita residents, but instead will be available on the City's web site, Lomita Library, City Hall and the park.
- Reduced programs and supervised hours at Lomita Park.
- Increased user fees, fines and penalties.
- Reviewed existing contracts for reduction and/or termination.

Although the above measures will go a long way in reducing city expenditures, the main problem for California cities is the continued practice by the State Legislature of shifting the state deficit to local government. For example, the 2004-05 state budget shifts \$1.3 billion of the state's deficit to local governments which in turn forces cutbacks in local services and possible fee and tax increases.

The State financial debacle is very complicated but the bottom line is simple – the state is taking money away from local services to balance its own budget.

continued on pg 3

Arbor Day Celebration

Saturday, May 1 will mark the day for this year's Arbor Day and *Looking Good Lomita* Celebration.

For the fifth year in a row, Girl Scout Leader Lani Marshall, local volunteers, and the City's Tree Committee along with city staff will join together for this event.

Volunteers are needed to plant trees, clean tree wells, pick up trash and debris and pull weeds. Snacks will be provided.

Please contact Virginia Lortz at 325-9830 if you would like to participate in this popular event or wish to donate cash or prizes for a raffle for the younger volunteers.



Local Hazard Mitigation Plan



City Officials

Mayor

Susan Dever

Councilmembers

Ken Blackwood
Tim King
Don Suminaga
Mark Waronek

City Administrator

Tom A. Odom

City Clerk

Dawn Tomita

City Newsletter to Inform Community

Lomita Newsline is published by the City to provide information about City programs, services and issues.

Your comments and suggestions are welcome.
Please contact:

Monika Martinez
Newsline Editor
Lomita City Hall
24300 Narbonne Ave.
Lomita, CA 90717
or call
325-7110.

The Disaster Mitigation Act passed by Congress in 2000 requires all local governments to adopt a mitigation plan by November 1, 2004 to receive and qualify for pre- and post-disaster grants. The local mitigation plan is the representation of the City's commitment to reduce risks from natural hazards. The plan will include a risk assessment that will describe all hazards and vulnerability to those hazards, and will also include the development of a mitigation strategy to reduce potential losses in the event of a disaster. The City is embarking on a public outreach process to receive input from the community on items that should be considered in the plan. The following issues have been identified:

- ◆ Earthquakes/Seismic
- ◆ Liquefaction
- ◆ Other Earth Movement (e.g., landslides, etc.)
- ◆ Flooding
- ◆ Terrorism
- ◆ Refinery Incidents
- ◆ Airport/Aircraft
- ◆ Hazardous Materials

If you feel any other issues should be included in the plan, please contact Gary Sugo, Community Development Director at 325-7110, ext. 121 before May 14.

City Employee of the Year

Sharon Estrada was selected as City Employee of the Year 2003. Sharon, an Account Clerk, has been with the City of Lomita for 13 years. She virtually single-handedly maintains the day to day operations of the Water Office that generates over \$2 Million in revenue. Sharon extends warmth and friendly customer service to Lomita's residents coming to the City to pay their water bills. She is a team player, punctual and dependable.

Furthermore, her cakes and pastries are cherished by everyone in City Hall.

Congratulations, Sharon, for a job well done!!

COUNCIL CORNER

*Since November of 2003,
the City Council:*

- ◆ Elected Susie Dever as Mayor and Ken Blackwood as Mayor Pro Tem
- ◆ Appointed Mike Savidan and Fred Campbell to the Planning Commission, Andrew Nieto and Vince Viveros to the Public Safety and Traffic Commission, Nancy Borland to the Museum Foundation Board, Pat Rico to the Parks Commission and Michelle Allen as Lomita's representative on the Workforce Investment Network Board
- ◆ Approved midyear budget adjustments and an investment policy for FY 2003/04
- ◆ Held quarterly meeting with the Sheriff's Department
- ◆ Awarded bid for street sweeping to Dickson Company in the amount of \$119,592
- ◆ Established a committee to plan a memorial to former Parks Commissioner Tom Rico
- ◆ Approved the concept of an Iraq memorial at Lomita Post Office
- ◆ Adopted a resolution supporting Proposition 57 and 58
- ◆ Increased fees for planning services
- ◆ Extended contract with MuniFinancial to conduct a water rate study

The City of Lomita welcomes the following new businesses/owners:

| Business Name | Address | Business Type | Phone |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|----------|
| HOT N TOT | 2347 P. C. H. | RESTAURANT | 326-9626 |
| ANGEL'S BARBER SHOP/SALON | 1741 P. C. H. #C | BEAUTY SALON | 534-1517 |
| HOLLAND HOUSE | 2244 P. C. H. | HOTEL | 326-0462 |
| FUTURE STARS ACADEMY | 2320 P. C. H. | PRE-SCHOOL | 530-0256 |
| PLAZA TERIYAKA | 1737 LOMITA BLVD | RESTAURANT | 517-0365 |
| STEERS & STRIPES | 24831 NARBONNE | WESTERN WEAR/FEED & SEED | 534-0678 |
| LEONARDO'S BEAUTY SHOP | 1874 P. C. H. | BEAUTY SALON | 539-6768 |
| MINTY'S BRIDAL | 2209 LOMITA BLVD | BRIDAL BOUTIQUE | 326-4722 |
| HANABI RESTAURANT | 1945 P. C. H. | RESTAURANT | 539-0131 |
| SALON PRIVADO - BOOTH | 2039 P. V. DR NO. | BEAUTY SALON | 325-6655 |
| SUBWAY | 1941 P. C. H. | RESTAURANT | 325-4328 |
| EZ NAILS AND SPA | 24204 CRENSHAW | BEAUTY SALON | 326-1273 |
| SO. BAY WINDOWS/DOORS | 2041 P. C. H. | WINDOWS AND DOORS | 326-0112 |
| TAIWAN BUDDHIST TSU CHI | 2315 P. C. H. | BOOK/RETAIL STORE | 326-2659 |
| AMERICAN CHUNG NONG CHURCH | 1823 LOMITA BLVD | NON-PROFIT | 373-9251 |
| COAST MOTORCYCLE SUPPLIES | 26105 WESTERN | RETAIL SALES | 529-3592 |
| BENZ N BEAMERS - AUTO DETAILING | 26122 WESTERN | AUTO DETAILING | 326-1034 |
| AP KU JUNG HAIR STUDIO-BOOTH | 24216 CRENSHAW | HAIR STUDIO | 530-7800 |
| PIANO PLUS | 24630 NARBONNE | PIANO/ORGAN CENTER | 326-9005 |

continued from pg 1

The 2004-05 Fiscal Year will be challenging. Some of the factors that may have a fiscal impact on our city are:

- Proposition 57 and 58. Proposition 57, the Economic Recovery Bond Act, if approved by the voters in the March 2, 2004 Primary Election, would issue a one time \$15 Billion bond to pay off the accumulated General Fund deficit for the State of California for FY 2004-05. Proposition 58, the California Balanced Budget Act, establishes a budget reserve and prohibits future deficit bonds.
- Fiscal constraints and increased costs that the County of Los Angeles will pass on to the cities for services such as animal control, public safety, building and public works.
- A lagging economy which has reduced sales tax revenue

The City Council and Staff are confident that in working together we can overcome these challenges. There are several ways in which, you, the Lomita resident can be of invaluable assistance. These include:

Shopping in Lomita. The purchases that you make in Lomita increases the City's local sales tax revenue which in turn helps in providing city services. Shopping in Lomita also supports local businesses that purchase local goods and services. Local economic development increases disposable income for **YOU**, our city residents.

Volunteer your Time. The City is constantly in need of volunteers. Founder's Day and the annual 5 K Run are excellent city-wide activities to become involved in which will reduce the City's dependency on city staff and help reduce costs.

Realistic Demand for Services. In some instances, residents requesting services are expecting a response time that is immediate. In wake of budget reductions which include reducing staffing and resources, City response time may not be as immediate as in the past. Of course, threats to the health, safety and welfare of our residents will always be a high priority and the response will continue to be at the current levels.

Unfortunately, it appears that cities are poised to struggle for a while. Even if the economy recovered fully tomorrow, cities still would face increased fiscal stress over the next year.

Important Numbers

Lomita City Hall
325-7110

Chamber of Commerce
326-6378

Library
539-4515

Lomita Sheriff Station
539-1661

Lomita Park
326-0140

Railroad Museum
326-6255

Water Department
325-7114

Field Services
325-9830

Emergency Water Service
538-6370

Animal Control
523-9566

Animal License (City Hall)
325-7110

Rubbish Collection (CalMet)
212-3496

Anti-Gang/Graffiti
325-3694

Emergency Numbers
Sheriff, Fire, Paramedics, Ambulance
Dial 911

Sheriff Complaints
800-698-8255

Shopping Cart Retrieval
800-252-4613

Cleaner Streets + Cleaner Air = New Street Sweeper

You may have noticed a different look to Lomita's street sweeper. As of January 1, 2004, the city entered into a three year contract with Dickson Company to sweep the city's street for an annual cost of \$119,592.

This more than doubles the cost of the former contract, due to State AQMD (Air Quality Management District) requirements to use alternative fuel and pay prevailing wages. Some of the cost increase will be offset by AQMD funds.

Large Item Pickup

Take your appliances, furniture and oversized yard waste to the curb on your regular scheduled trash pickup day during the week of April 5, 2004.



Certain restrictions apply. For more information, call CALMET Services at 310-212-3496.

Seniors needing help getting items to the curb should contact the Field Services Department at 325-9830.

Join us for a fun filled day for the entire family!

Founders Day Celebration at Lomita Park

24428 Eshelman Avenue
Saturday July 3
2 pm until 10 pm



Fireworks
Kiddie Rides
Food Entertainment



Old Fashioned Games and Contests

Sponsorships and donations to help defray costs for this community event are welcome. Please call City Hall at 325-7110 for more information.



Craft Fair

Saturday, March 27
9 am to 3 pm
In front of City Hall

Fun Jump Hourly Raffle

Many unique and one of a kind items will be for sale. Take advantage of this opportunity to shop for Easter, Mother's Day, Father's Day and other special occasions.

Attention Crafters!
Booths are still available
Call Bridget at 534-1538

Notary Public at City Hall

A state certified Notary Public is now available to notarize documents at Lomita City Hall.

Cost is \$10 per signature

Please call 325-7110, ext. 114 to make an appointment

Lomita Library Happenings

Toddler Storytime (under 3) - 1st and 2nd Tuesday — 10am

Preschool Storytime (3-5 years) - every Wednesday, 10 am

Family Night - every 3rd Tuesday of the month, 6:30 pm

In March the library will be celebrating Dr. Seuss's birthday as part of the **Read Across America** program.

Friends of Lomita Library Used Book Sale

Saturday, March 27, 2004 from 9 am—2 pm
in front of Lomita Library — adjacent to the Craft Fair