



COMMUNITY NEWS

from the Land of Gracious Living

Spring 2007

Town Center Blue Ribbon Committee forging ahead

The Town Center Blue Ribbon Committee, a 24-member citizen’s advisory group, is making good progress in carrying out its mission statement to acquire and compile “community input for the purpose of formulating conceptual recommendations and guideline principles for the future development of Yorba Linda Town Center.”

Since its initial meeting last July, the group has tackled a variety of tasks, including selecting a Chair and Vice Chair, receiving education on the basics of planning and redevelopment, reviewing previous Town Center plans and documents, moving ahead with efforts to solicit and select a contract facilitator, and conducting field trips to 11 “town centers” throughout Southern California to get an idea of what works – and what doesn’t.

The Committee has also begun its efforts to gather public input. A feedback form asking community members to provide their vision for the downtown area is currently being collected (see accompanying article).

A variety of information about the Blue Ribbon Committee and Town Center, including several of the previous Town Center plans and meeting agendas

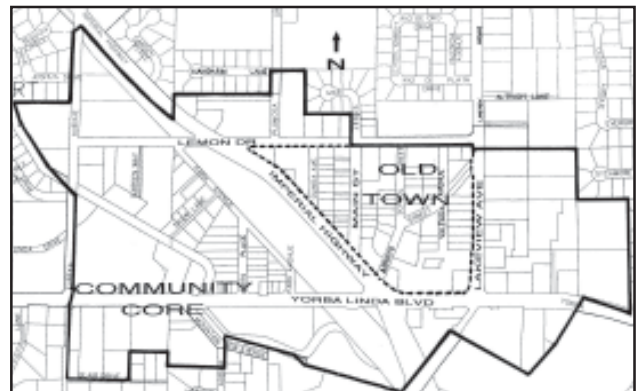
and minutes, is available at the City’s website. Click on the Blue Ribbon Committee link found on the City’s Internet home page.

The Committee meets on the fourth Monday of every month at 6:30 p.m. at the Yorba Linda Community Center. Meetings are open to the public.

Specifically, the Blue Ribbon Committee is looking at the area identified as the “Community Core” and “Old Town” in the City’s current General Plan (see map), the same area covered by the Downtown Master Plan adopted in 2003. This planning area is much larger than what was being considered for development by Old Town Yorba Linda Partners, a project which would have involved only a portion of the Old Town area had it gone forward.

Once the Committee has finished gathering public input, it will package its findings into a set of conceptual recommendations and guiding principles for consideration by the Yorba Linda City Council. No deadline has been established for the Committee to complete its work but a final report is expected to be delivered by the end of this year.

The Committee will be dissolved after presenting its recommendations.



The map above outlines the area that is the focus of the Town Center Blue Ribbon Committee’s efforts.

Community vision sought on downtown

The Yorba Linda Town Center Blue Ribbon Committee is asking community members “What is your vision for the Town Center?”

A feedback form posing that question was developed by a survey sub-committee and mailed to all homes and businesses in the city. The form was also printed in an issue of the *Yorba Linda Star* newspaper.

Those who missed the mailed or newspaper feedback form can still share their opinion in one of several ways. Blank forms can be picked up at the front counter of any City facility. Persons with

access to the Internet can also visit the City’s website and click on the “Town Center Blue Ribbon Committee” link on the home page. Once there, use the link to open and then print out a feedback form to fill out. Responses that have been submitted can also be viewed using a link on the Committee’s web page.

Once completed, Town Center feedback forms can be returned to City Hall through the mail or dropped off in person at any City facility.

Comments can also be e-mailed to the Blue Ribbon Committee. The address is towncenter@yorba-linda.org.

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Caltrans starts work on Imperial Highway bridge



This rendering of the Imperial Highway "grade separation" shows the ramps that will provide access between Imperial and Orangethorpe/Esperanza. The bridge is similar in design to ones already in place on Fairmont and Yorba Linda Boulevards.

Caltrans contractors have begun construction of a bridge on Imperial Highway that will eventually span Orangethorpe Avenue/Esperanza Road and the adjacent railroad tracks. Efforts to install a "grade separation" at this location have been underway since the late 1990's.

The bridge will be similar in design to ones already in place on Fairmont Boulevard and Yorba Linda Boulevard. As the rendering shows, access between Imperial and Orangethorpe/Esperanza will be provided via ramps.

Among the first things to be done is the construction of temporary detours to carry traffic around the construction site.

This is a major project, one that is expected to take 3 years to complete. While Caltrans has indicated it will do what it can to ensure traffic continues to move smoothly through the area, taking alternate routes whenever possible is probably a good idea.

As this is a Caltrans project, Yorba Linda officials have no control over the details of how the work will proceed. However, City staff has been and will continue

to be in contact with the Caltrans employee managing the project to express any concerns.

Caltrans and the Orange County Transportation Authority are coordinating public information for the project and handling questions from the public. Anyone wanting more information should call the Orange County Construction Information Helpline at (800) 724-0353.

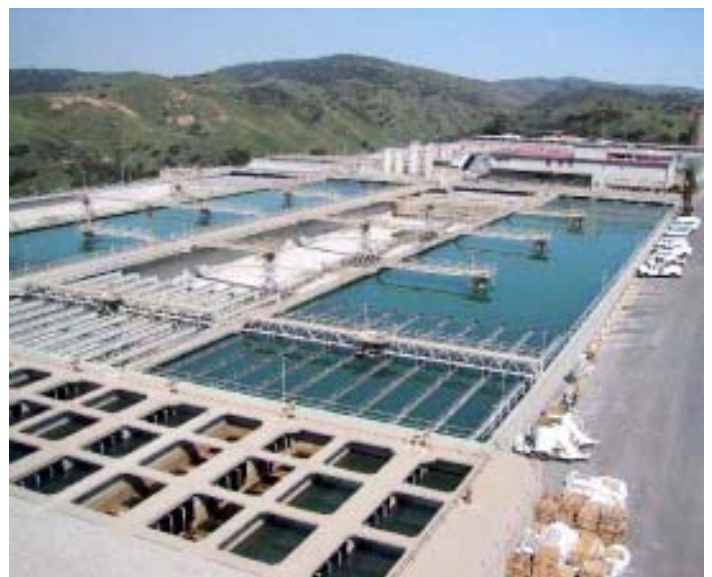
MWD works to minimize impact of water treatment plant renovation

The Metropolitan Water District's (MWD) Diemer Water Treatment Plant in Yorba Linda is currently undergoing a major renovation involving the installation of a new water disinfection system. The new system uses ozone, a form of oxygen, to destroy harmful organisms in the water.

To make room for the new system, several existing buildings and pipelines at the plant are being relocated. Approximately 400,000 cubic yards of soil are also being removed from the south slope of the plant site. Most of that soil is being placed elsewhere on the Diemer property to reduce the impact of having trucks haul the material along local streets.

As the soil is removed, the slope will be rebuilt using a specialized concrete to create a solid foundation for the ozone equipment. This phase of the project, which is expected to last for 5 to 8 months, will generate 350 truck trips a day along Valley View Avenue.

MWD has worked with City staff and the Brea Police to minimize the impacts from this traffic, including limiting the hours of truck travel, prohibiting truck traffic during the 30-minute periods surrounding Lakeview Elementary School's start and finish times, and enforcing a maximum speed for the trucks of 25 miles per hour.



The Robert B. Diemer Water Treatment Plant is capable of treating up to 520 million gallons of drinking water a day.

Residents with questions about the project can call Diemer Plant Manager Trudi Loy at (714) 577-5050.

Tree care keeps community looking good

Yorba Lindans place a high value on preserving the appearance of their community. A major reason Yorba Linda looks as good as it does is the quality of the landscaping along our streets and public rights-of-way, especially the trees.

To keep City-owned trees healthy and looking their best, the City follows a comprehensive set of maintenance procedures and management policies. Following these practices preserves the overall beauty of public landscaped areas, thereby enhancing the value – aesthetic and financial – they add to the community.

Among the practices and policies followed by the City in caring for the community's trees are compliance with the pruning standards of the International Society of Arborists, trimming trees on a regular three-year cycle, and taking immediate corrective action on trees showing signs of failure or presenting a threat to life or property. If you believe a City-owned tree is posing such a threat, please call the Public Works Department at (714) 961-7170.

Many landscaped areas in town are on easements dedicated to the City of Yorba Linda, including on property that's adjacent to homes. While the City doesn't directly own the land, we do determine how it can be used and are responsible for maintaining the landscaping. Only City-authorized personnel are allowed to trim trees and maintain the landscaping located on these easements.



Landscaping along major streets adds significantly to the attractiveness of Yorba Linda and provides a variety of benefits for local property owners.

If you are unsure of whether a tree or other plant is on a landscape easement, please call Public Works before trimming or removing them. You may be held financially responsible for any damages you cause to City-owned landscaping.

The City often receives requests from residents to trim or remove a City-owned tree. In deciding how to respond to these requests, our primary concerns are the safety of persons and property, the health of the tree, and the overall appearance of the landscaped area. Issues that don't affect our decision-making include the tree's impact on views or the amount of litter (i.e., falling leaves or needles) the tree produces.

By focusing on the "big picture" when it comes to maintaining trees and public area landscaping, we've been able to create attractive parkways and greenbelts that are a huge asset to our community. Only by properly maintaining our trees today can we ensure our community will continue to look good tomorrow.

Time limits on construction activity help "keep the peace"

Few things can be more disturbing in a residential neighborhood than the sound of construction activity early in the morning or late at night. That's why Yorba Linda's Municipal Code places restrictions on when construction or property maintenance activities can occur.

Specifically, the Code states that "any construction or maintenance activity on real property which may disturb the peace and comfort of the inhabitants of the neighborhood" is prohibited before 7:00 a.m. and after 8:00 p.m., Monday through Saturday. Such activity is not allowed at any time on Sundays or federal holidays.

Examples of time-restricted construction activities include grading/earthmoving, equipment operation, construction, repair, or remodeling.

Yard work exempted

While the ordinance does limit the hours for construction and maintenance activity, it specifically exempts lawn maintenance or any work of an emergency nature.

If you have any questions about the construction time restrictions or would like to report a violation, please call our Community Preservation office at (714) 961-7138.

Ralph Pezzullo to speak at Yorba Linda Public Library



Ralph Pezzullo
courtesy of ralphpezzullo.com

Ralph Pezzullo, an award-winning author, playwright and screenwriter, will speak at the Yorba Linda Public Library on Saturday, April 21 beginning at 6:00 p.m.

Pezzullo co-wrote *Jawbreaker* describing the CIA's hunt for Osama bin Laden in Afghanistan. The book details efforts to capture bin Laden starting just days after 9/11, including how we cornered him in Tora Bora before his escape into Pakistan.

The presentation will cover the hunt for bin Laden, the CIA's involvement in foreign governments, and Pezzullo's own experiences in research and writing.

Drawing on his years spent living around the world as the son of a United States Foreign Service employee, Pezzullo has written extensively about international diplomacy, CIA intrigue, and bloody revolutions.

This event is made possible by generous donations from the Friends of the Yorba Linda Public Library. There is no charge to attend, and dinner will be served. Reservations are recommended and can be made by calling (714) 777-2466 or 777-2873 ext. 6.

YORBA LINDA CITY COUNCIL

Allen Castellano Mayor
Jim Winder Mayor Pro-Tem
John Anderson Councilmember
Jan Horton Councilmember
(vacant) 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 also 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
Maintenance 961-7168
Parks & Rec 961-7160
Planning 961-7130
Police (business) 990-7623
Police (disptach) 990-7911
Public Works 961-7170

Protect yourself from residential burglary

Residential burglary is one of the most common forms of property crime in Yorba Linda – and one of the easiest to protect against. To help residents avoid becoming a victim of this crime, the Brea Police Department offers the following information and helpful tips.

Target Selection

Burglars select many of their targets based on a number of factors. Homes with one or more of the following characteristics are among the most likely targets.

- Vulnerable – Houses that have weak or unlocked entry points, or no security system.
 - Lucrative – Houses displaying high value items in plain view.
 - Unoccupied – Houses that are typically vacant during the day or for long periods of time (e.g., vacation or business trip), or that don't have a dog.
 - Secluded – Houses that ensure the burglar won't be seen because of thick landscaping, enclosed courtyards, or are far from the street and/or neighboring homes.
- Lock all doors always – Do this even when you're away for just a few minutes at the store, visiting neighbors, etc. Keep your garage and any doors leading from the garage to the house closed and locked even when you're at home.
 - Never rely on a chain latch – It is not a security device.
 - Never leave out newspapers, mail, or other deliveries – These might inform a potential burglar your house is unoccupied.
 - Protect target number one: the bedroom – The primary target in residential burglaries is the bedroom because most people keep cash, jewelry and other valuable items there. Be creative in the manner and locations you use to store your expensive items. Consider keeping them in another room and retrieving them only as needed.

Extra eyes and ears

Neighbors who notice and immediately report suspicious behavior are responsible for the majority of arrests made in residential burglary incidents. If something appears out of the ordinary to you, immediately contact the Brea Police Department at (714) 990-7911, or dial 9-1-1 to report a crime in progress.

A well-informed public, equipped with the knowledge of how to take away a thief's opportunity to commit a crime, is a valuable tool for crime prevention. For more information on preventing crimes, check out the "Keeping Yorba Linda Safe" section of the City's website by clicking the "Your Government" link at the top of our home page.

Precautions

There are things you can do to make your home an undesirable target. The easiest and most effective is to install high quality locks on all doors and windows – and use them! Other ways to eliminate an "open door policy" for criminals are to:

- Secure the perimeter of your home – If you are not in the house, make sure all windows and doors are secured before you leave. Use locking pins in sliding glass doors and windows as a means of keeping them from being pried from their tracks, and install solid core doors

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