Council Briefing

October 2008

Administrative Services

Fiscal Services:

- ➤ Police alarm permits issued in September totaled 51, bringing the fiscal year-to-date total to 156. Total number of active permits as of Sept. 30 was 4,800.
- Invoices billed in September totaled 679, with a valuation of \$1,585,172. Invoices billed for the fiscal year-to-date total 2,042, with a valuation of \$3,818,571.
- ➤ General checks and direct deposits in September totaled 598 and 212, respectively, with a valuation of \$5,311,739. The number of general checks and direct deposits for the fiscal year-to-date total 2,243 and 819, respectively, with a valuation of \$19,403,084.

• Information Technology:

- Staff completed installation of 200 PCs throughout the City, with the exception of 50 MDCs for the Police Department. Staff is in the process of loading the image on each of the PC toughbooks and the rollout should be completed in a month.
- ➤ Staff is getting quotes for increased bandwidth on the City's network. The current average bandwidth usage stands at 100 percent, and with the introduction of new web applications and smart phones that connect to our email server remotely, the projected usage increase is at about 20 percent yearly. Staff is looking for a provider that would accommodate the projected growth and enable us to increase our bandwidth day to day without additional infrastructure expenses at the end of three years. Staff is also looking at an initial fiber link of 20mpbs (as opposed to the current maxed-out leased phone line of 4.5mpbs). This connection would run throughout the City and would allow up to 100mpbs increase over the course of the next five years.
- Purchasing: In September, the Division processed approximately 200 requisitions, created 75 purchase orders, and saved \$1,325 through early payment discounts and \$2,100 through competitive quotes, cooperative purchases and state/government resources. Central Services ran 453,808 copies and processed 39,691 pieces of mail.

Revenue:

- ➤ In September, 218 new business registration certificates were issued. Of that total, 126 were for businesses in Fullerton and 92 were for businesses out of the city, but conducting business here. Business tax collected totaled \$19,998.
- > A total of 303 businesses closed in September: 108 in the city and 194 out of the city.
- ➤ Business certificates renewed in September numbered 931, which totaled \$129,404 in business tax collected.
- Utility Services: In September, the Division answered 2,593 calls and processed 4,202 cash register transactions totaling \$10,268,184. Of those transactions, 1,264 were credit cards, 1,259 were checks, 955 were cash, and 150 were direct deposits.

Community Development

Planning Division:

- ➤ In September, nine project applications were submitted, including two conditional use permits, four appeals, two administrative restaurant use permits, and one other.
- Also in September, 18 applications were acted upon by the final hearing body, including two minor site plans, three minor development projects, seven conditional use permits, one appeal, two variances, and two subdivisions.

Housing and Community Rehabilitation:

- ➤ One grant project was completed in September. The work included paint, installation of a handicap accessible ramp, and addressing code issues.
- > Two new applications were received, bringing the current total to 22 qualifying projects and two on-going projects.
- ➤ The following inspections were completed in September: 43 rehabilitation projects, 253 affordable housing units, 18 new construction, and 20 interim property management.
- ➤ The Division answered 586 calls in September. The breakdown was as follows: 74 housing rehabilitations; six temporary shelters; 15 senior housing; 22 first-time home buyers; 18 Section 8 assistance; 46 rental assistance; 128 other affordable housing (rental/development); four subordination/payoff; 23 foreclosure assistance; 56 general program; six fair housing-related; 95 Richman Park area; and 93 non-housing.
- ➤ This summer staff saw an increase in calls due to a press release advertising the Housing Rehab Program distributed in June. Callers were responding to the ads placed

- in the Penny Saver and the water bill newsletter, "Focus on Fullerton." There was little response from the ad in the Korean newspaper.
- ➤ The 2007 Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report was submitted to HUD as required. The report shows that Community Development Block Grant expenditures for fiscal 2007 totaled \$2,255,941. This amount includes project expenditures (\$867,359), administration costs (\$155,877), Section 108 repayment (\$812,950), and Section 108 expenditures (\$419,755).
- ➤ Interest earned and loan paybacks of the CDBG Housing Rehabilitation Program resulted in income of \$126,180. CDBG project expenditures for the rehab loan program totaled \$253,438 and the HOME-funded loan program totaled \$261,120. The total of \$514,558 provided 43 loans and grants to assist 32 households.
- ➤ The CAPER reports that 50 households (181 persons) were permanently relocated from the Richman Park area; 592 Fullerton households are receiving Section 8 rental assistance; and homeless families and individuals are requiring assistance for longer periods of time because of the need to save more money than before to cover rising housing costs.
- Community Preservation: In September, the Division: received 312 complaints (1,065 year-to-date) and resolved 211 (704); handled 618 active cases; conducted 1,180 inspections (2,803); issued 142 first notices of violation (488) and 86 citations (178); arranged for the pick-up of 22 large items such as sofas and appliances (46); received nine requests for graffiti removal (31); received 110 Hotline calls (277); and billed \$11,500 in revenue (\$17,500).

Engineering

- Project Development and Design:
 - ➤ Construction is expected to begin in November on the Sewer Replacement-Cannon Lane/Lemon Street Area Project. The work will consist of replacing sewer main, manholes, and asphalt pavement on five residential streets with a combined total of approximately 4,000 linear feet of pipe. The contract was awarded to BRH-Garver West, Inc., in the amount of \$1,267,500.
 - ➤ A Request for Qualifications was sent to seven select consultants for preliminary design and environmental document services for the Raymond Avenue Grade Separation Project. Three firms submitted proposals. Staff reviewed the proposals and will be interviewing the top two firms, DMJM Harris/AECOM and URS Corporation, this month. It is expected staff will bring a recommendation to Council in November.
 - ➤ The Basque Yard Remediation project was awarded to Environ Strategy Consultants on Aug. 5 for \$188,000. The project includes design and construction of a remediation system in compliance with Regional Water Quality Control Board and Air Quality

- Management District requirements. The consultant has begun design work for the air sparge and vapor extraction system. Construction is estimated to begin in December.
- ➤ Bid opening is scheduled for Oct. 16 on the Woods Avenue Sewer Replacement-Malvern to Valley View, and a contract award recommendation is expected to be brought to Council Nov. 4. Construction, estimated at \$1,309,000, is expected to begin in January. The scope of work will include replacing sewer lines on Woods from Malvern to the alley south of Valley View, in the alley south of Valley View east of Woods Avenue and Malvern Avenue, as well as related work on access ramps, curbs, and gutters. Approximately 3,300 feet of sewer will be replaced and 2,900 feet of road reconstructed.
- ➤ The Chapman Avenue Road Reconstruction-Victoria to Acacia contract was awarded in September to RJ Noble Co. in the amount of \$897,455. The project will include road reconstruction, access ramps, cross gutters, and traffic signal interconnections. Construction is anticipated to begin later this month.

Construction Management:

- ➤ Work was completed in September on the Curb/Gutter and Sidewalk Reconstruction Project for fiscal 2007-08, and on the Lemon Street Reconstruction Project.
- Work is still in progress on electrical power installation at the new Gilbert Park Community Center. The work should be complete by the end of the month.

Water Engineering:

- ➤ On Sept. 13, 50 residents attended the first of two "California-Friendly Landscape" workshops at the Main Library. The workshop was conducted by a professional landscaper hired by the MWD. Topics covered included sources of water in Southern California, residential irrigation systems, landscaping layouts, and low water usage landscapes. The second workshop was held on Sept. 27 at the Main Library.
- Aqua Controls, Inc., has been working on its 200-day contract to upgrade the City's telemetry system and has, so far, installed conduit on select City water storage tanks. The contractor has also begun new telemetry panel manufacturing, a process which will probably continue through December.

Fire

- Statistics: The Department responded to 895 requests for service in September, up slightly from the 855 recorded in September 2007. If the 895 requests, 29 were for fires, 734 were medical aids, seven were hazardous materials incidents, and 59 were service calls. Also in September, the Department went on 77 automatic aids and received 94. Of the 734 medical aid calls, 480 were Advanced Life Support and 254 were Basic Life Support.
- Suppression/Notable Activity and Responses:

- At 12:25 p.m. Sept. 3, Truck 1 was dispatched to the 200 block of E. Valencia Drive on a report of a stuck elevator. Crews were able to access the elevator room and lower the elevator to the first floor and allow the trapped individuals to exit safely. Smoke from the malfunctioning elevator motor had set off the smoke detector.
- At 7:53 p.m. Sept. 6, Engines 2 and 6, Truck 1 and Battalion 1 and neighboring city units responded to a structure fire in the 200 block of S. Turner Avenue. On arrival, crews found a two-car attached garage well involved with fire. After advising responding units that overhead electrical wires had fallen in front of the garage, crews quickly extinguished the fire and checked the attached units for fire extension. There were no vehicles in the garage and damage was limited to the structure. No injuries were reported.
- ➤ At 11:12 a.m. Sept. 8, Engines 2 and 5 and Truck 1 responded to a two-inch gas line leak in the 100 block of E. Amerige Avenue. Crews established a 300-foot safety perimeter and evacuated approximately 50 persons and neighboring businesses. The leak was controlled by SoCal Gas Co.
- ➤ At 2:35 p.m. Sept. 9, Engines 4, 2 and 6, Truck 1 and Battalion 1 were dispatched on a gas leak in the 2300 block of N. Camino Del Sol. A half-inch line had been damaged by construction workers. The residence was evacuated and Fire personnel secured the leak until SoCal Gas arrived to repair the damaged line.
- At 8:10 p.m. Sept. 10, Engine 2 was dispatched to the 7000 block of Stanton Avenue in Buena Park to assist Orange County Fire Authority at a residential structure fire with interior fire attack and overhaul.
- At 2:05 p.m. Sept. 11, Engine 1 and Battalion 1 responded to a medical aid in the 500 block of S. Jefferson Avenue. A man had been working on a utility pole when he lost his footing and fell approximately 12 feet, and was seriously injured when he was impaled on an object. He was treated by Paramedics and transported to UCI Medical Center. The Department received a note of appreciation for the very expeditious care of this patient.
- At 7:34 p.m. Sept. 13, Engines 3 and 5, Battalion 1 and 2, Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) Unit 1 and neighboring city units responded on a report of an explosion and fire in the 500 block of N. Commonwealth Avenue (Hope University property). On arrival crews found fire and significant structural damage to several units of a vacant apartment complex. USAR personnel shored up the structure and extinguished the fire. It appeared the explosion, which had lifted the roof, was caused by someone accidentally cutting a gas line. The following morning, Fullerton Police received a report of a flash burn victim seeking medical treatment at St. Jude Medical Center, and the injuries were possibly related to the Commonwealth incident.
- ➤ At 6:13 p.m. Sept. 15, Engines 1, 3 and 4, Truck 1, Battalion 1 and neighboring city units were sent to Fullerton College where they found a two-story classroom building filled with smoke and a small fire inside a bathroom. Approximately 150 students were evacuated from the building. Fire crews overhauled the fire area and removed all smoke from the building. The cause of the fire is suspicious in origin.

- At 5:04 p.m. Sept. 21, Engines 1, 2, and 6, Truck 1 and Battalion 1 were dispatched to a residential fire in the 100 block of S. Citrus Avenue. The Engine 2 crew made entry through a front window and found burned food on the stove. While searching the residence, crews found a puppy hiding under the couch and gave it oxygen for treatment of smoke inhalation.
- At 1:21 p.m. Sept. 21, Engine 1 was dispatched to a medical aid on a 40-year-old man by the railroad tracks at Highland and Walnut avenues. On arrival, the Paramedics found the man was dead. Fullerton Police is investigating.
- At 9:24 a.m. Sept. 25, Engines 1, 3 and 5, Truck 1 and Battalion 1 responded to a structure fire in the 1000 block of S. Placentia Avenue. An overheated air-conditioning unit had filled the second floor of the building with smoke. The crews shut down the unit and removed the smoke from the building.
- At 6:07 p.m. Sept. 27, Engines 3 and 5, Truck 1, and Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) Unit 1 responded on a report of an auto crashing into a building in the 2700 block of Pine Creek Circle. Arriving units found the driver in the vehicle and the occupants of the two-story condominium outside the building. The driver was assessed by Paramedics and taken to St. Jude Medical Center. The Police placed the driver under arrest on suspicion of driving under the influence. The USAR crew, with Engine 3 personnel and the Battalion Chief, shored up the structure prior to removing the vehicle from the building. Two units were declared unsafe for occupancy.
- At 6:36 p.m. Sept. 30, Engine 2 and Battalion 1 were dispatched to the Airport when a single-engine airplane lost control on take-off, flipped over and landed alongside the runway. The only occupant the pilot was found lying partly inside the plane. He was extricated, treated on scene, and transported Code 3 to UCI Medical Center.

Downtown Activities:

- At 2:05 a.m. Sept. 3, Truck 1 was sent to the 100 block of W. Wilshire Avenue, where crews assisted two patients: one man had been struck by a slow-moving car and beaten, and another man had been beaten in the face. Both patients were transported to St. Jude Medical Center.
- At 2:55 a.m. Sept. 19, Engine 1 was called out on a medical aid in the 200 block of N. Harbor Boulevard. A 25-year-old man had been struck with a blunt object in his parked vehicle. Paramedics assessed the patient and accompanied him to UCI Medical Center.
- At 12:13 a.m. Sept. 21, Truck 1 responded to the 100 block of N. Harbor Boulevard on a call of a male who had hit himself on the head with a beer mug, causing a laceration. The patient was transported by private auto to an area hospital.

Other Activities:

- ➤ September was "National Disaster Preparedness Month," sponsored by the Department of Homeland Security. The goal of the observance was to encourage citizens to prepare for emergencies, as well as to become part of emergency preparedness in their community by participating in the Community Emergency Response Team program.
- ➤ CERT members presented Disaster Preparedness information to one of Fullerton's Rotary clubs, and staffed booths at Fullerton Market Sept. 11 and at the St. Jude Health Fair Sept. 17.
- Fullerton Fire units participated in several 9/11 commemorative events both in the City and at the Orange County Firefighters Memorial in Santa Ana.

Human Resources

- Citywide Training: Joan Tremblay of Tremblay and McLaughlin conducted a pilot customer service training workshop to a group of employees representing each department and classifications from field level to executive. Based on the positive responses from attendees and observers, the City has contracted with Ms. Tremblay to provide her workshop citywide. The first session is tentatively scheduled prior to the end of October.
- Employee Processing: In September, staff processed four regular and four nonregular new employees, two nonregular promotions, and four regular and one non-regular separations.
- Liability Program: In September, 12 new claims were opened, 12 claims were closed, and one lawsuit was served on the City.
- Workers' Compensation: Nine claims were opened and nine were closed in August.

Library

- Expansion Project: A presentation was made at the Sept. 25 Board of Trustees meeting by LPA, Inc, on Library Expansion and Remodel concept drawings prepared thus far. Prior to the meeting, the plans were presented Sept. 18 to the "working group" which includes City/Library staff as well as principals from each firm. This presentation was also attended by members of the Library Building Committee. The concept plans were also presented to the Fullerton Public Library Foundation Sept. 23. The updated concept plans reflect programming needs, assessment of existing conditions, and weekly meetings with staff.
- Summer Programs: Enrollment in the Summer Reading programs was record-breaking this year. The total number of children signing up at the Main Library and Hunt Branch for the programs was 3,430, which surpassed the old record by 358! The Adult Summer Reading Club had several hundred participants, with about 200 also attending three film

- showings. The Young Adult Summer Reading Club had almost 200 participants, which equated to about 1,800 hours of reading.
- Teen Volunteers: Teen volunteers were used in both the Children's and Young Adult Reading Clubs, and the combined total for young people working in the Library this summer surpassed 3,500 hours for the 11-week period of the programs! The teens converged on Hunt Branch Library Sept. 6 for the annual volunteer party. The 56 guests enjoyed movies, games and food. To qualify for the party each teen had to work at least 10 hours during the summer. The party was sponsored by the Friends of the Library and allowed staff a chance to thank the teens for their many hours of service to the community.
- Women's Suffrage: On Sept. 8, the Library and the League of Women's Voters cosponsored a program entitled "How Women Got the Vote." This popular program was attended by 80 patrons who viewed an award-winning video and joined in a lively discussion.
- New Computers: On Sept. 9, the Information Technology Division and the Library Technical Services Division worked together to replace more than 60 public PCs in both the Main and Hunt Branch libraries. This included all Internet workstations, Children's computers and the catalog stations. The work was accomplished in six hours and patrons were happily using the new computers by early afternoon.
- Town Meets Gown: The popular "Town and Gown" lecture program resumed Sept. 9, with a lecture by Dr. Lisa Tran. The program will continue on the second Tuesday of the month through June, with a special Veterans Day session Nov. 9, featuring the topic "World War II: The Home Front".
- It's Magic: The Afternoon School Club got off to a very good start Sept. 9, with John Abrams' Animal Magic Show. An audience of 170 attended at the Main Library. The show was very well received and the children really liked Abrams' lively audience participation.
- Shhhhh!: Although it was 31 patrons strong, the Bedtime Bears program started with a whisper as a 3-year-old attendee fell asleep during the program at the Hunt Branch. Although our Storytime Librarian makes no guarantees and it may be possible for children to fall asleep at Bedtime Bears, it is far more likely that children will be entertained with stories, songs, rhythm instruments, and crafts. Bedtime Bears continues at the Hunt Tuesdays through Nov. 4.
- Tortilla Curtain: The Hunt Branch Library's Book Discussion launched its new session Sept. 17 with a discussion of "Tortilla Curtain" by T.C. Boyle. The group of 10 enjoyed kicking around their experiences with the book. Even better, the readers checked out our next "Gather at Hunt" title - "Rocket Boys," our city's "One Book, One Community" title and the focus of several book discussions and programs in October.
- Up, Up and Away!: Staff, accompanied by the Bookmobile, participated in "Airport Day 2008." Paper airplanes, crafts and snow cones were well received, and staff had fun talking to the attendees about Library programs and services.

Back in Action: The Toddler Storytime and Bookmobile services resumed in September.
 Staff reports that both have been well attended.

Maintenance Services

Administration:

- ➤ The Department received 1,386 service requests in September, completing 1,006 (72.6 percent) in the month. Of the two emergency requests received, one was completed within one day. The Building and Facilities Division received the most requests 758 or 54.7 percent of the total.
- ➤ In September, the Department's support staff received 2,227 calls, an average of 117 per workday, or 59 for each of our two primary customer service personnel.
- ➤ AAA Flag and Banner has been notified to untangle and replace those flags that are ragged or tangled.

Facilities Division:

- ➤ Crews removed 61,165 square feet of graffiti from 473 sites in September, bringing the year-to-date totals to 175,690 square feet removed from 1,357 sites.
- > Staff completed 13 custodial inspections of City facilities.
- ➤ Effective Sept. 26, the City terminated the custodial contract with Bell Building Maintenance for poor performance. Effective Sept. 27, Priority Building Services began working in our facilities. Awarding of the new contract is pending City Council approval.
- > Staff is soliciting bids for the replacement of four air-conditioning units for Information Technology. The new units will be energy-efficient models.
- ➤ Our Division has also undertaken a project with the Engineering Department to conserve water by using waterless urinals in City facilities and water-efficient low-flush equipment on all City toilets to conserve water. We are in the final process of purchasing 19 more units for the Police Department, Main Library and Senior Center.
- Equipment Division: In September, the Division performed two motorcycle inspections; two safety inspections; one generator PM inspection; three BIT inspections; 85 PMs; and one smoke test.
- Sewer Division: In September, the Division: hydrojetted 29.64 miles of sewer mains; root cut/mechanically treated 4,409 linear feet of main; mechanically treated 194 sewer laterals; performed 16 CCTV inspections of laterals; conducted 76 Source Control inspections; performed CCTV inspections of 30,159 linear feet of sewer main; approved

four Lifeline applications and four Large Lot applications; and received 22 sewer fee calls and 41 sewer service requests.

Landscape Division:

- ➤ West Coast Arborists, the City's contract tree-trimming company, performed the following services from July 1 through Sept. 30: pruned 6,532 trees; removed 171 trees; and planted 35 trees. The annual downtown trimming continues on schedule.
- > Red Imported Fire Ants were reported at three locations in September, and the Division received 18 calls for bees.
- Orange County Probation Crews completed the water channel clearance at Gilman Park, in addition to weed abatement on the slopes east of the Recreation Riders' Ring.
- Fire breaks at the entrance of the Municipal Golf Course were expanded to create a larger degree of protection to the condominium complex adjacent to the western slope of the Brea Dam Recreational Area. The work was performed by Apple Tractor Services.
- > Staff began the installation of the new plant material and irrigation system at the New Gilbert Park Community Center.
- ➤ The division received 63 landscape-related service requests in September.
- Water Division: In September, the Division produced 969,248,000 gallons of water. Of that amount, 72.01 percent - or 697,911,000 gallons - were pumped from wells and 27.99 percent - 271,337,000 gallons - were purchased from the MWD.
- Street Division: In September, the Division: used 103 tons of asphalt for patching, 145 tons for paving, 52 tons for digouts, and 349 tons of asphalt performing digouts; ground 1,040 sidewalks; performed 45 asphalt sidewalk repairs; milled 195 linear feet of gutter; cleaned, made and replaced 873 street signs; cleaned 375 drains, 405,391 square feet of sidewalk, two roadway spills, and 3,104 curb miles of street; and applied 495 gallons of street paint.

Parks and Recreation

Capital Improvements:

The Lions Field design consultant has finalized the first phase design and is currently
working on construction documents that will take the project to final construction
drawings to be completed in December. Final approval of the architectural theme has
been recommended by several user and advisory groups for RDRC and Council for
review and approval. Review of the proposed re-graded slope and grading concept is
pending review, as well, by several groups and Council.

- The electrical contractor is scheduled to install the meter at the Gilbert Park Community Center so Edison can make final connections to the building by the end of October. Final improvements, such as landscape repairs and enhancements, and procurement of office furniture, are concurrently being made to the site.
- Staff continues to gather hydrology information regarding concerns voiced by neighbors about flooding at the proposed Gilman Park tot lot and surrounding area. Upon completion of this data inquiry, the Department will coordinate a follow-up neighborhood meeting.
- As no response has yet been received from property owners regarding the minor land swap at Hiltscher Trail, just west of Euclid Avenue, staff will continue to move forward with the design process. Staff will also continue to meet with traffic engineering to determine traffic restraints at the Euclid crossing and coordinate with the design consultant to develop concepts for proposed trail improvements.
- Repairs and upgrades to the Brea Dam Facility to meet fire and ADA requirements are close to completion. A final walk-through is scheduled for next week.
 Improvements such as exterior paint and roofing have been completed, and improvements to the landscaping and signs will be the next phase.

Senior Multi-Service Center:

- Volunteer counselors for the Homeowners and Renters Assistance rebate program completed their efforts in September, serving a total of 174 persons over the threemonth service period.
- "Texas and the Ten-Gallon," September's cultural" focus, coincided with the month's country-western theme. More than 90 guests attended, enjoying authentic cowboy chili and skillet corn bread, music and an educational display.
- The annual SeniorServ "Western Day" party was held Sept. 19, with 163 attending
- Two classes each began eight-week programs in September: "Staying Mentally Sharp" and "It's Your Money." The memory improvement class has had an average attendance of 33, and the money management series has averaged 38.
- "National Senior Center Month" was observed the week of Oct. 22. The observance was kicked off with a public reception with information displays, refreshments and live entertainment. Nearly 100 people attended.
- September has seen the reinstatement of beginner computer classes. The six-station computer lab is located in the adjacent historic Amerige House. There has been a very positive response to the classes.

Richman Community Center:

- More than 24 junior and high school students attended each of the first Youth in Action meetings. Each youth group had a pizza party and rap session. Staff explained the program and brainstormed ideas for activities, service projects, and excursions.
- The "Happy Feet" hip hop dance crew is working on its performances for the "Lights
 On After School" event Oct. 16 and the opening of the Richman Teen Center Nov. 4.
 Group members are also teaming to fund-raise for a trip to Knott's "Scary Farm."
- The Youth Empowerment Force had a great turnout, with more than 20 fourth-sixth grade students attending, 90 percent of whom were new members. Many members from last year transferred Valencia's older Youth in Action program. Both youth groups continue to meet and work together on fun activities that encourage team work and communication.
- A surge of new faces has been seen at Teen Scene since the start of school. Part of the program provides an afternoon tutoring and study segment to help struggling students with their courses, with approximately 12-15 students attending daily.
- The PACE/ESL programs have begun operations, with 23 parents enrolled in the ESL class. Seven children age 2 and under are enrolled in the PACE program, with seven on the waiting list. Under City staff supervision, children engage in various arts and crafts, movement, and music activities while parents are learning English.
- The Playgrounds-on-the-Go program continues to promote its program to the community, with an average of 20 kids participating in daily activates. Planning is in progress for an Oct. 24 promotional event featuring crafts, games and fund-raising activities.

• Garnet Community Center:

- The Center hosted its first Parent Conference Sept. 13, with 38 parents attending. The conference featured sessions on domestic violence, gang awareness and youth development, and immigration presented by volunteer professionals.
- The GEMS After-school Program and Teen Center started its fall programs. The after- school program daily attendance has reached 55, and the Teen Center welcomes 12-15 teens a day.

• Gilbert Community Center:

 Despite the delays in the opening of the Gilbert Community Center, the after-school program started Sept. 8, with 75 children enrolled in recreation and homework assistance activities.

- On Sept. 18, the Center hosted an impromptu parent meeting in Gilbert Park. Parents shared their neighborhood concerns and appreciation for Parks and Recreation's work with their children. Many parents volunteered their time for future events.
- A group of 12 neighborhood teens enjoyed an evening out with a trip to the Fullerton High School football game their first live football game. After the game, the teens were taken down to the field and met several of the players.
- Tiny Tots: Twenty-two new families have joined the Tiny Tots Imagination Station preschool program at Independence Park for the fall season. Seven morning sessions are at full capacity, with 10 openings remaining in afternoon classes. New families are calling with enrollment questions since receiving the "Fullerton Connect" class catalogue.
- Independence Park/Teen Programs:
 - The indoor racquetball courts are a hit amongst community groups, annual pass holders, and City employees.
 - Two new gymnasium rentals were added to the schedule: Connelly Private School and the NJB All Net team.
 - The first Kids and Young Adult Handball Tournament for ages 13-19 was held Sept. 6.
 All 30 young adult and youth participants received lunch, and the first- and second-place winners received a trophy.
 - The first Custom Car Show was held Sept. 14, with approximately 500 people attending to view the vintage and unique cars. There were also many vendors and activities for the residents that attended.
 - The hip hop break dancing class on Wednesdays is increasing in popularity every week, with more and more participants attending.
 - The Teen Scene kickoff was Sept. 8. Each day, teens visit Independence Park to interact with Teen Scene members and participate in sports, games and arts and crafts.
 - The "Youth in Action" service-learning program kicked off Sept. 23, offering teens an opportunity to experience the rewards of getting involved in the community.
- Orangethorpe After-School Program: The Orangethorpe After-School Program kicked
 off the 2008-09 school year with a mix of new faces and old friends. Staff is looking forward
 to implementing new positive behavior systems with both big kids (grades 4-6) and little kids
 (grades 2-3). The big kids are having tryouts and practices in preparation for the upcoming
 after-school program football tournament which will start Oct. 1.

• Maple After-school Program: The program is now organized in groups to suit the needs of the children. The program is offering activities, sports, games, arts and crafts, homework help, and mentoring for school-aged children.

Tennis Center:

- ➤ The Maintenance Services Department repainted the bathrooms and walkway leading into the pavilion. A new storage bin in the pavilion has freed up space in and improved the appearance of the men's and women's locker rooms where equipment and other supplies were previously stored.
- ➤ More than 6,000 players visited the Center in September, up from 4,800 in September 2007. The Beckman Group company tennis league, which uses the courts three nights a week, has also returned following a summer break.
- ➤ The Juniors Program also had a busier than normal September, with participation up more than 30 percent.

Outdoor Recreation:

- ➤ Get Outdoors hiking classes started at the end of the September, with six different classes offered each week. The newest class, "Strolling the Trails," provides a hiking opportunity for those who are a bit slower. Evening classes continue to grow, even with the days getting shorter.
- ➤ Nine families enjoyed the first" Back to School Backwards Campout." They ate breakfast for dinner and hamburgers for breakfast while wearing their pajamas and hiking at night.
- ➤ Friday Night Family Campfires concluded after a very successful summer run. Many families enjoyed the weekly activity at the Brea Dam even as staff modified the "campfire" to meet Fire Department standards.

Cultural and Events

- ➤ The Museum's Education Department started school year programming this month with school tours of the exhibit "Rubber Sole, Canvas Upper." A new exhibit, "The Purse and the Person", will open Oct. 17.
- After-school programs began in September, including Wednesday Art Studio and Guitar Gateways.
- > The ever-popular "Haunted Fullerton Walking Tours" are going out twice a week through Nov. 6 and are already sold out for the season.
- ➤ The Museum participated in The Festival of Children in South Coast Plaza Sept. 28, serving approximately 250 kids with a hands-on art activity.

➤ The Public Art Committee is moving forward with two public art pieces. The Lemon Bridge Mural will be reviewed by the City Council Oct. 7. The PAC selected an artist and a design for the Capri Shoe mural. The design includes a historic pastoral scene of orange groves and local landmarks. The conservation and restoration process of the Lemon Park murals will begin this month.

Police

Patrol:

- Two female shoplift suspects entered Mervyn's carrying "booster bags." After filling the bags with merchandise and leaving the store, they were contacted by store security. The suspects became combative, and one ran to a waiting vehicle and fled. While fleeing, she struck one of the security officers, who was knocked to the ground and sustained some minor injuries. One suspect was taken into custody, but the suspect in the vehicle made good her escape.
- ➤ K-9 Officer Chris Wren entered a fenced-in front yard to conduct an investigation. A large Rottweiler charged the Officer who attempted to get away from the dog. Officer Wren fired two rounds in the direction of the dog, but with no intention of hitting the dog. This distracted the dog and allowed the Officer to escape.
- ➤ Detectives Jon Radus and Hugo Garcia initiated a pedestrian stop. The suspect was carrying a loaded revolver under a bandana and, when Officers approached, threw the weapon away and ran off. The Officers gave chase and the suspect and was arrested.
- > At the Plush, a downtown restaurant, the door monitor allowed a minor decoy into the bar, and the decoy was served alcohol by three different waitresses. The Department issued a total of four criminal citations.
- ➤ Officer Cynthia Mendez, attempting to stop the occurrence of graffiti in the barranca just north of Valencia Drive, staked out the area and spotted two juveniles walking in the barranca. After the youths had used spray paint to vandalize several sections of the barranca, Officer Mendez climbed the fence and detained both.
- Corporal Scott Clanin, a Motor Officer, observed a suspicious vehicle in the area of Harbor and Valley View. A check of the plates revealed the car had been reported stolen in Los Angeles. Two suspects - one a parolee - were arrested following a brief foot pursuit. Their vehicle, which was parked in front of the Washington Mutual Bank, contained many identity theft items.
- ➤ Officer Ritchie Herrera was flagged down by a pedestrian who reported a man possibly carrying a gun and walking in the downtown. Corporal Mike Bova and Officer Paul Irish found the subject running in the area of Harbor and Santa Fe. It was later determined the suspect had been tagging the windows at Tiger Yang's. The unarmed suspect was on parole and very intoxicated. He was positively identified as the vandalism suspect.