



City of Highland Weekly Report

February 08, 2013

Save the Date - March 30, 2013 17th Annual Citrus Harvest Festival

Community Development

Save the Date for the Citrus Harvest Festival!!! The City will soon celebrate its 17th Annual Citrus Harvest Festival. The Festival will be held in the Highland Historic District at the intersection of Palm Avenue and Main Street up to Pacific Street.



Join us on Saturday, March 30 from 10:00 am to 3:30 pm. The Historic District will be filled with crafters, delicious food, antique and classic cars and lots of area residents. There will be fun for everyone including live entertainment, kids' games and rides, and historic home tour, shopping and much more. For further details, please contact Kim Stater at (909) 864-8732, at Extension 204. You may also visit the City's Website at www.ci.highland.ca.us under the Events Section.

Administration

Building A Disaster Kit - Having a well-stocked disaster supply kit on hand before a disaster strikes will make anyone's life easier. A disaster may cause everyday necessities like food

and clean water to become scarce and hard to come by. You may need to survive on your own after an emergency. This means having your own food, water and other supplies in sufficient quantity to last for **at least** three days. A week is preferable. Local officials and relief workers will be on the scene after a disaster but they cannot reach everyone immediately. You could get help in hours or it might take days. A well-stocked disaster supply kit should have the following items:

Water - one gallon of water per person, per day.

Food - Canned goods, MRE's, freeze dried. Also include at least one manual can opener.

Battery-powered or hand crank radio and NOAA Weather

Flashlights and extra batteries

First aid kit

Sanitation Items - Moist towelettes, toilet paper, feminine hygiene products, garbage bags and plastic ties, soap/detergent and bleach.

Basic tools - wrench, pliers, screw drivers, shovel, and duct tape, etc.

Cash and change

A change of clothes, sturdy shoes, and rain protection for each person

A sleeping bag and/or extra blankets

Other supplies

Cups, plates, bowls, utensils, foil

Extra batteries

Plastic sheeting

Copies of important documents (Driver's license, passport, birth certificate, etc)

Fire extinguisher

Lighters and/or matches

Extra medication

These are just the basics. Everyone's kit will be different because everyone has different needs. If you have an infant, then extra bottles, formula, and diapers would be necessary. Don't forget about your pets. They'll need food and water as well. Remember that a disaster can strike at any time, but the time to get prepared is now. For more information on assembling your disaster supply kit, please visit www.ready.gov.

Put on Your Eagle Eyes - It's Time to Count Eagles! - Volunteers are needed to help count bald eagles for the 35th season in the annual winter bald eagle counts in and near the San Bernardino and San Jacinto Mountains on Saturday February 9th.

Concurrent Bald Eagle counts are held at Big Bear Lake, Lake Arrowhead, Lake Silverwood,

Lake Perris, and Lake Hemet. Volunteers are stationed at vantage points around the lakes, where they watch for bald eagles during a 1-hour period on the count mornings. Volunteers record their observations on maps and data sheets. This is a wonderful opportunity to catch a glimpse of our breath-taking national symbol. A brief orientation is conducted prior to the count so volunteers know where to go and what to do.

A total of twelve eagles were observed during the count in January. Many of the 183 volunteer eagle-maniac counters saw an eagle during the census.

The bald eagle counts for this winter are scheduled for the following Saturday mornings: February 9 and March 9. No experience needed. Signing up ahead of time is unnecessary - just show up at the designated time and location, dress warmly, bring binoculars and a watch.

- **Big Bear Lake** area volunteers will meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Forest Service's Big Bear Discovery Center on North Shore Drive for orientation. Contact Robin Eliason (reliason@fs.fed.us or 909-382-2832) for more information. Contact the Discovery Center (909-866-2789) for information about Eagle Celebrations.

- **Lake Arrowhead/Lake Gregory** volunteers will meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Skyforest Ranger Station for orientation. Contact Robin Eliason (reliason@fs.fed.us or 909-382-2832) for more information.

- **Silverwood Lake State Recreation Area** volunteers should plan to meet at the Visitor Center at 8:00 a.m. for orientation. Contact Kathy Williams or Mark Wright for more information about volunteering or taking an eagle tour (760-389-2303 between 8:00 and 4:00; or email: khwilliams@parks.ca.gov).

- **Lake Hemet** volunteers should plan on meeting at the Lake Hemet Grocery Store at 8:30 a.m. for orientation. Contact Anne Poopatanapong (apoopatanapong@fs.fed.us or 909-382-2935) for more information.

- **Lake Perris State Recreation Area** volunteers should plan to meet at the Lake Perris Regional Indian Museum at 8:00 for orientation. Contact the office for more information at 951-940-5600.

See websites for additional information about the San Bernardino National Forest (<http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/sanbernardino/>) and the California State Recreation Areas (www.parks.ca.gov).

Background - The best time of year to see bald eagles in Southern California is during winter months when there is an influx of eagles. Migrating eagles typically begin arriving in the area in late November and leave in late March or early April.

Bald eagles are usually found close to water because their diet is primarily made up of fish and ducks. As winter approaches in those northern regions, lakes freeze over and waterfowl fly south. For bald eagles, that means that the food they eat has become scarce. So, they head south looking for areas with abundant food supplies and end up wintering in sunny southern California!

During the winter, southern California bald eagles are typically found at many of the lakes, including Big Bear Lake, Baldwin Lake, Silverwood Lake, Lake Arrowhead, Green Valley Lake, Grass Valley Lake in the San Bernardino Mountains and Prado Dam, Lake Perris, Lake Hemet, Lake Skinner, Diamond Valley Lake, Lake Matthews, and the Salton Sea to the south.

Through radio-tracking bald eagles, biologists learned that some of the same individual eagles

return to the San Bernardino Mountains year after year. We also determined that there is a lot of movement of eagles between the different mountain lakes and that the lakes do not have distinctive separate populations—the eagles regularly move between the mountain lakes.

Radio-tracking and/or banding also revealed that the eagles that winter in the San Bernardino Mountains migrate to Southern California from Montana, Wyoming, Idaho, and Canada. Those regions are likely where most of our migratory bald eagles nest in spring and summer. Some of our San Bernardino Mountains' eagles were tracked all the way to Alberta and the Northwest Territories in Canada - that is about 2,000 miles one-way! For more information regarding bald eagle migratory routes for these and other California eagles go to the University of Santa Cruz Predatory Bird Research Group's at the following web site (<http://www2.ucsc.edu/scpbrg/baeamigration.htm>). While the evidence suggests a northern interior migration for most of the bald eagles, some of our southern California eagles have traveled fewer miles, moving over from the Channel Islands.

Breeding populations of bald eagles in Southern California were extirpated by the late 1950s. Until reintroduction efforts began in the 1980s on Catalina Island, the southern-most nest site known in California was in Lake County. Since 2003, several pairs of bald eagles have decided that our southern California neighborhoods were too nice to leave - they built nests and have successfully raised families. Nesting bald eagles can now be found at Lake Hemet, Lake Skinner, Lake Matthews, and Big Bear Lake. As the populations continue to grow, more bald eagles are in our future.

This is exactly what happened at Lake Hemet in Riverside County. The female eagle with orange wing tags "02" hatched at San Francisco Zoo in 2000, and was released on Catalina Island as part

of the reintroduction efforts. In 2004, she arrived at Lake Hemet and decided to take up year-round residence with the male bald eagle that was already there. Together, the pair has raised successful nests ever since then. In 2012, the first successful bald eagle nesting ever recorded in the San Bernardino Mountains happened in Big Bear Lake!

As bald eagles raise families in southern California, it is now possible to see bald eagles year-round (not just during winter migrations). Because of the influx of migrating bald eagles during the winter, the easiest time to see eagles is still between December and March.

The bald eagle is a success story of the federal Endangered Species Act - through protection under that law; its populations have recovered from the brink of extinction. Captive breeding programs, reintroduction efforts, the banning of DDT, and public education have all helped in the recovery of this species. There are over 10,000 breeding pairs in the United States and they now breed again in all 49 of the continental United States (they have never bred in Hawaii). Because of the population rebound, bald eagles are no longer in jeopardy of going extinct. While bald eagles are no longer protected under federal Endangered Species Act, they still have full protection under the Bald Eagle Protection Act and under the State of California's Endangered Species Act. These laws make it illegal to harm or harass bald eagles. It is also illegal to possess bald eagle parts, even a feather.

Catching a glimpse of our breath-taking national symbol is relatively easy during winter months. There are some fantastic opportunities for excellent close-up photographs too. Just look in the tallest trees around the lake near open water for perching eagles. Or, if the lake is partly frozen, look for eagles perched on the ice near small groups of ducks using the open water.

If you want to look for eagles in the Big Bear area, stop by the Forest Service's Big Bear Discovery Center (on North Shore Drive, 1-1/2 miles west of Stanfield Cutoff) and pick up a handout on eagles. Also, join us for one of our free public talks - call the Big Bear Discovery Center (909-866-2789) for dates and times.

If you are in Garner Valley and want to see the resident pair, stop by the Forest Service's Lake Hemet Day Use Area and just look across the lake. The birds are often flying overhead fishermen and or sitting in trees above the picnic area.

Remember that human presence may distract or disturb the eagles - so, try to limit your movements and do not make loud noises when they are nearby. If possible, remain in your car while looking at eagles - the car acts as a blind. Stay a respectful distance of at least 200-300' away from perched bald eagles. Do not get closer than $\frac{1}{4}$ mile away nesting bald eagles - trying to get a closer look may result in eagles becoming agitated and knocking eggs or chicks out to the nest. It is illegal to harm or harass bald eagles. Please do your part to help protect our national bird!

Engineering



Boulder Avenue Bridge

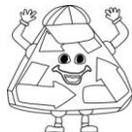
Update - Construction of Boulder Bridge is nearly complete. While there are many activities that have taken place, following are major highlights. Finishing touches on the bridge have been made including type 80 rail, parapet wall, and aluminum rail. North and south Boulder Avenue and multi-use trail have been paved. Monuments on the west side of Boulder Avenue, south of Base Line have been constructed.

Upcoming work includes removing of spoils and establishing finished grades in City Creek, applying temporary painted striping, and installing traffic control devices and signage.

Arrangements are being made to possibly open Boulder Avenue to vehicular traffic during the final phases of work, stay tuned. Project completion is anticipated to be completed late April 2013.

Base Line Town Center Beautification Construction Ongoing. Construction of the center intersection of Base Line at Church Avenue was done in preparation for decorative pavers that will follow toward the end of the project. Next week the contractor will continue to place base material in the areas adjacent to the new median curb. Weather permitting; they will also construct the center portion of the intersection of Base Line at Palm Avenue.

A road closure of Palm Avenue at Base Line is set for Thursday, February 14, 2013 at 8 pm thru Monday, February 18, 2013 at 10:00 am. Northbound and southbound traffic on Palm Avenue at Base Line will be detoured during this closure. However, eastbound and westbound traffic on Base Line will remain open but left-turns will not be permitted as construction will be taking place on the interior section of the intersection. Reader board signs are posted on Base Line and Palm Avenue to alert motorists of this road closure.



Public Services

Repete's Wisdom of the Week - Check before You Burn Program. Under AQMD's *Check before You Burn* program, residents in the affected areas of Orange County and the non-desert portions of Los Angeles, Riverside and San Bernardino counties only are prohibited from burning wood or manufactured fire logs in their fireplaces or outdoor fire pits. Residents can enter their ZIP code at www.aqmd.gov to see if they live in an affected area. They can also sign up for daily reports on air quality and *Check before You Burn* alerts at www.airalerts.org or call AQMD's 24-hour *Check before You Burn* toll-free line at (866) 966-3293.

Clean-burning natural gas-fueled fireplaces are exempt from AQMD's no-burn alerts. AQMD offers a discount of up to \$125 at participating retailers toward the purchase and professional installation of gas log sets. See www.healthyhearths.org for details on the incentive program.

AQMD's *Check Before You Burn* program, in effect each winter from Nov. 1 to the end of February, is designed to protect public health by minimizing harmful wood smoke from residential wood burning. Wood smoke contains hundreds of contaminants including PM2.5, a pollutant linked to increased emergency room visits and hospitalizations, as well as increased risk of heart attacks and early deaths.

A *Check Before You Burn* alert is called when air quality is predicted to be in the Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups range or higher due to fine particulate levels. This occurs when PM2.5 levels are forecast to be higher than 35 micrograms per cubic meter during a 24-hour average.

The program applies to residents of the South Coast Air Basin, which includes all of Orange County and the non-desert portions of Los Angeles, Riverside and San Bernardino counties. Mountain communities above 3,000 feet in elevation are exempt, as are homes that rely on wood as a sole source of heat, low-income households and those without natural gas service.

Residents who burn wood in their fireplaces when a no-burn alert has been issued could, for a first time violator, be fined \$50 or attend a wood smoke awareness course in lieu of a fine. For a second violation, the fine increases to \$150 or a resident may install a dedicated gas-fueled fireplace. Third time violators will receive a \$500 fine or may fund a project that will benefit the environment. Multiple violations are accrued only if they occur during a single wood-burning season, November through February. To report a suspected violation, residents may call 1-800-CUT-SMOG (1-800-288-7664) or visit

www.aqmd.gov.

For further information on *Check Before You Burn* and alternatives to wood burning, see www.healthyhearth.org.

Volunteer Services

Highland Blood Drive - New Members Always Welcome! Interested in volunteering but short on time...join the Highland Blood Drive



Committee! Help is needed during the blood drives to sign-in donors and help in the canteen. Donors must stay for 15 minutes after they donate blood to make sure they do not have any type of reaction. Our volunteers keep donor time; assist with doling out snacks and drinks and best of all...engage in great conversation with members of the community. One to six hours every two months is all it takes to commit to this great committee.

Join us at our next planning meeting on Monday, March 11, 2013 to find out more. The meeting will take place at Highland City Hall, 27215 Baseline from 4pm to 5pm. You may also contact Volunteer Services at 909-864-6861 extension 203 to find out more information.

Safe Routes to School - Walk to School Kick Off... Cypress Elementary officially kicked off their weekly Walking Wednesdays this week. Parents and Staff members volunteered to monitor students as they walked to school. Volunteers are strategically stationed at intersections that have the most foot traffic before and after school. Way to go Cypress! Please contact Volunteer Services for more information. You can contact Volunteer Services at 909-864-6861 extension 203.

Highland Improvement Team - The next Highland Improvement Team (HIT) cleanup is next Saturday, February 16 from 8am to noon. Join us as we work on a minor landscaping project for a senior resident. Interested volunteers can

sign in that morning from 7:30am to 8:00am. Please remember, volunteers are required to have their own transportation to and from the clean up site. An adult must accompany anyone under 18 years old.

Contact Volunteer Services at 909-864-6861 extension 203 for more information.

Library News

Adult Craft turns single use plastic bags into a reusable shopping bag! Do you have a pile of plastic bags from the grocery store that you keep forgetting to take back and just aren't sure what to do with them now? Then we have just the solution for you! Join the Highland Environmental Education Coalition (HEEC) on Saturday, February 9, 2013 at 10am in the Community Room as we present Creative Craft for Adults, "Recycled Reusable Shopping Bags." Special guest crafter, Eileen Gutierrez, will show participants how to make a reusable shopping bag out of single use plastic bags with a crochet hook or knitting needle. With a little time and creativity you will have your bag done in no time!

This craft program is **FREE** to participate and all necessary supplies will be provided. Since it takes approximately 100 plastic bags to complete this craft project, patrons are encouraged to bring as many plastic bags as they have available and either a big crochet hook or a size 10 or 17 knitting needle.

For more information, please send HEEC a message on Facebook or email us at heecinfo@yahoo.com.

Finance

Commercial Business License Applications - There were no new commercial business license applications for the week of 2/04/13 to 2/08/13.

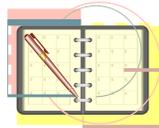
Public Works

Public Works Report - January 2013

Total Man-hours	1,234.5
Compensated Man-hours	827.5
Un-compensated Man-hours	407
Man-Hours per Activity	
General Clean-up	136.25
Parkway Maintenance	1
Potholes	100.25
Sidewalk	0
Storm Drains	2
Signs/Traffic Control	38.5
Trees Trimmed	21.75
Vehicle/Tool Maintenance	44.25
Building/Grounds Maintenance	156.5
Landscape Maintenance District	36
Park Maintenance	198.8
Trail Maintenance	23.75
Special Maintenance	32.75
Crack Sealing	0.25
Graffiti	244
USA Markings	12.8
Weed Spraying	28.75
Staff Meetings	134
Safety Training	8
Personal Time Off	12.25

SPECIAL: Service requests; traffic control for YMCA Run; walk-thru of City facilities with new janitorial company.

Mark Your Calendar



Tuesday, February 12, 2013

8:30am - Public Safety Subcommittee Meeting, Upright Conference Room
5pm - Public Works Subcommittee Meeting, Upright Conference Room
5:30pm - Finance Subcommittee Meeting, Upright Conference Room
6pm - Regular City Council Regular Meeting, Donahue Council Chambers

Wednesday, February 13, 2013

3pm - Street Naming Committee Regular Meeting, Donahue Council Chambers

Thursday, February 14, 2013

5pm - Community Trails Committee Regular Meeting is cancelled

Saturday, February 16, 2013

8am to Noon - Highland Improvement Team Clean Up, Meet at City Hall - 27215 Base Line

Tuesday, February 19, 2013

6pm - Planning Commission Regular Meeting, Donahue Council Chambers

Tuesday, February 26, 2013

6pm - City Council Regular Meeting, Donahue Council Chambers

Tuesday, March 5, 2013

6pm - Planning Commission Regular Meeting, Donahue Council Chambers

Thursday, March 7, 2013

5:30pm - Historic and Cultural Preservation Board Study Session, Upright Conference Room

Monday, March 11, 2013

4pm to 5pm - Blood Drive Committee Recruitment Meeting, Highland City Hall, 27215 Base Line

Thursday, March 14, 2013

3pm - Community Trails Special Meeting, Donahue Council Chambers
5pm - Community Trails Committee Meeting is cancelled

Tuesday, March 19, 2013

6pm - Planning Commission Regular Meeting, Donahue Council Chambers

Thursday, March 21, 2013

Time - TBD - Citrus Harvest Festival BAKING CONTEST Highland City Hall - 27215 Base Line

Saturday, March 23, 2013

8am to Noon - Highland Improvement Team Clean Up, Meet at Community Cross Church, 6955 Palm Avenue

Saturday, March 30, 2013

10am to 3:30pm - Citrus Harvest Festival - Save the Date!!! Located at the intersection of Palm Avenue and Main Street

Assembled by: Elena Rodrigues



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www.cityofhighland.org*