



# City of Highland Weekly Report

June 23, 2011

## Temperatures are Rising Conduct A Home Energy Assessment

### Public Services

**REPETE'S WISDOM OF THE WEEK - Home Energy Assessment.** A home energy assessment, also known as a home energy audit, is the first step to assess how much energy your home consumes and to evaluate what measures you can take to make your home more energy efficient. An assessment will show you problems that may, when corrected, save you significant amounts of money over time.

During the assessment, you can pinpoint where your house is losing energy. Energy assessments also determine the efficiency of your home's heating and cooling systems. An assessment may also show you ways to conserve hot water and electricity. You can perform a simple energy assessment yourself, or have a professional energy auditor carry out a more thorough assessment.

#### Do It Yourself Home Energy Assessment

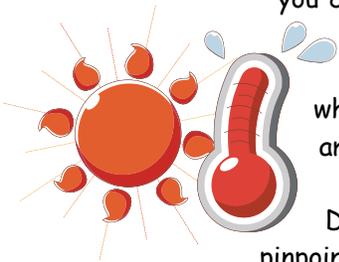
You can easily conduct a do-it-yourself home energy assessment (also known as a home energy audit). With a simple but diligent walk-through, you can spot many problems in any type of house. When assessing your home, keep a checklist of

areas you have inspected and problems you found. This list will help you prioritize your energy efficiency upgrades. Here are a few items that should be inspected during your walk through:

► **Locating Air Leaks:** Check for indoor air leaks, such as gaps along the baseboard or edge of the flooring and at junctures of the walls and ceiling. Also look for gaps around pipes and wires, electrical outlets, foundation seals, and mail slots. Check to see if the caulking and weather stripping are applied properly, leaving no gaps or cracks, and are in good condition.

► **Insulation:** Heat loss through the ceiling and walls in your home could be very large if the insulation levels are less than the recommended minimum. When your house was built, the builder likely installed the amount of insulation recommended at that time. Given today's energy prices (and future prices that will probably be higher), the level of insulation might be inadequate, especially if you have an older home.

► **Heating and Cooling Equipment:** Inspect heating and cooling equipment annually, or as recommended by the manufacturer. If you have a forced-air furnace, check your filters and replace them as needed. Generally, you should change



them about once every month or two, especially during periods of high usage. Have a professional check and clean your equipment once a year.

► **Lighting:** Energy for lighting accounts for about 10% of your electric bill. Examine the wattage size of the light bulbs in your house. You may have 100-watt (or larger) bulbs where 60 or 75 watts would do. You should also consider compact fluorescent lamps for areas where lights are on for hours at a time. Your electric utility may offer rebates or other incentives for purchasing energy efficient lamps.



**Professional Home Energy Assessments -** Professional energy assessments generally go into great detail. The energy auditor should do a room-by-room examination of the residence, as well as a thorough examination of past utility bills.

Many professional energy assessments will include a blower door test. Most will also include a thermo graphic scan. There's also another type of test—the PFT air infiltration measurement technique—but it is rarely offered.

**Preparing for an Energy Assessment -** Before the energy auditor visits your house, make a list of any existing problems such as condensation and uncomfortable or drafty rooms. Have copies or a summary of the home's yearly energy bills. Auditors use this information to establish what to look for during the audit. The auditor first examines the outside of the home to determine the size of the house and its features (i.e., wall area, number and size of windows). The auditor then will analyze the residents' behavior:

- Is anyone home during working hours?
- What is the average thermostat setting for summer and winter?
- How many people live here?
- Is every room in use?

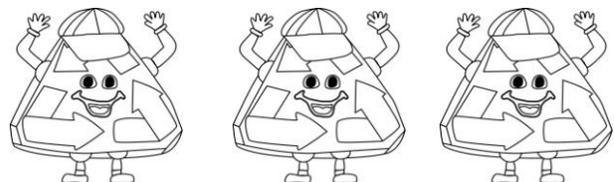
Your answers may help uncover some simple ways to reduce your household's energy consumption. Walk through your home with the auditors as they work, and ask questions. They may use equipment to detect sources of energy loss, such as blower doors, infrared cameras, furnace efficiency meters, and surface thermometers.

**Selecting an Energy Auditor -** There are several places where you can locate professional energy assessment or auditing services. Your state or local government energy or weatherization office may help you identify a local company or organization that performs audits. They may also have information on how to do your own assessment. Your electric or gas utility may conduct residential energy assessments or recommend local auditors. Also check your telephone directory under headings beginning with the word "Energy" for companies that perform residential energy assessments. See the Learn More section on the right side of the page (or below if you've printed it out) for more auditor resources.

Before contracting with an energy auditing company, you should take the following steps:

- Get several references, and contact them all. Ask if they were satisfied with the work.
- Call the Better Business Bureau and ask about any complaints against the company.
- Make sure the energy auditor uses a calibrated blower door.
- Make sure they do thermo graphic inspections or contract another company to conduct one.

For more information on a Home Energy Assessment, please visit the US Department of Energy at [www.energysavers.gov](http://www.energysavers.gov)



## Community Development

**Planning Commission determination:** At its June 21, 2011, regular Meeting, the Commission considered the following Items:

1. Amendments to portions of the City's General Plan Land Use Element (Chapter 2) to include a new "Residential High Density District" (GPA 011-001); and Amendments to the City's Land Use and Development Code amending the City's Official Zoning Map to incorporate a new Multi-family Residential District (R4) and High Density Special Overlay (HDS) within the Golden Triangle Policy Area (ZCO-011-01), and amending the City Land Use and Development Code (Title 16) adopting new R4 and HDS Development Standards (MCA 011-003) all in accordance with the City's 2006-2014 Housing Element, approved on January 25, 2011. The location is City-wide.. [Continued Item from April 19, 2011, and May 17, 2011 Planning Commission Public Hearings]

The Planning Commission approved Resolution No. 11-005 recommending the City Council approve the following:

1. Determine the Negative Declaration adopted by the City Council on January 25, 2011 (SCH No. 2010111081) is the appropriate environmental document for the proposed General Plan Amendments, Zoning Amendments, and Land Use and Development Code Amendments;

2. Approve a Resolution adopting the General Plan Amendments to portions of the Land Use Element (Chapter 2) which include amending the General Plan Land Use Map Figure 2-2, updating the General Plan text defining the proposed Residential High Density - Special District, and updating the land use statistics table (GPA-011-001);

3. Introduce an Ordinance to amend the City's Official Zoning Map to incorporate a new R4 Multi-family District, and Residential High

Density Special Overlay within the Golden Triangle Policy Area (ZCO-011-003); and

4. Introduce an Ordinance Amending the City's Land Use and Development Code (Title 16) to include new R4 Multi-family Residential District Development Standards (MCA-011-003), as amended at the Planning Commission's Meeting.

5. Under a separate Commission action, the Commission recommends to the City Council to establish Apartment Management Programs / Regulations for existing and new apartments located City Wide.

2. Appeal (APP-011-001) of City's Staff decision for property located at 8047 Marilyn Avenue. APN: 0279-162-09. Appellant: Xam Thach.

At the request of the Appellant, the Planning Commission continued this Item to its August 2, 2011, Public Hearing.

3. Annual Review of the City's General Plan Implementation in accordance with Government Code Section 65400 and 65588.

The Planning Commission recommended that the City Council "Receive and File" the Subject General Plan Implementation Annual Report. This Item may now proceed forward in the process and the Applications will be scheduled for a future City Council Meeting.

**And speaking of PC...New Planning Commission Chairman and Vice Chairman elected.** At the June 21, 2011, Planning Commission Meeting, the Commission went through the election process and selected a new Chairman and Vice Chairman. The Commission elected Randall Hamerly as Chairman and Trang Huynh as Vice Chairman. This is the third time for Randall to serve as the Commission's Chairman and Trang's second time as Vice Chairman. Staff is looking forward to continue working with both Randall and Trang in their new positions.

## Volunteer Services

**Residential Cleanups Wanted...** The Highland Improvement Team (H.I.T.) is currently accepting requests for residential cleanups.



We urge Highland homeowners who need help with yard cleanup and minor landscaping to contact Volunteer Services as soon as possible. Requests are screened and scheduled on a first come, first served basis.

***The mission of the Highland Improvement Team is to improve the overall environment of our city for all residents and businesses.***

Top priority is property cleanup projects for disabled and senior citizens. There are no income eligibility requirements and absolutely no charge to the homeowner. A fabulous team of volunteers complete all work and repair at H.I.T. projects.

Here are the few qualifications:

1. Must be 55 years and older or disabled
2. Must own and reside in your home

The Highland Improvement Team schedules one cleanup per month. Each cleanup requires enough work to fill the allotted four-hour period, usually from 8:00am to noon.

If you are interested or want to know if you qualify, contact Volunteer Services at 909-864-6861 extension 203.

**Blood Drive Committee - New Members Welcome...**The next Blood Drive Committee meeting is this Monday, July 27, 2011. The meeting takes place at the Jerry Lewis Community Center, 7793 Central Avenue, from 4pm to 5pm. Potential new members or volunteers are welcome to join us.

Topics of discussion will be donor recruitment and incentive ideas to attract new and past donors to Highland's Blood Drive. Our region needs over 600 units of blood each day to fulfill the demand.

Last month we reached an all time *low* in donor participation. Our blood drive brought in 16 units of blood, which is far from our norm of 40-45. If anyone has ideas on how to increase participation, please join us at the meeting or contact Volunteer Services. All input is appreciated.

Please contact Denise Garnsey, Volunteer Services Coordinator for questions, input and information at 909-864-6861 extension 203.

Recruitment!! Recruitment!! Recruitment!!

## Library News

**Discover Novel Destinations with Highland Adult Summer Reading Program.** Summer Reading Program is not just for kids! Join the Highland Sam J Racadio Library and Environmental Learning Center throughout June and July for "Novel Destinations", our Summer Reading Program just for adults! Register at the Adult Reference Desk to earn rewards for reading or listening to books from the library. Not sure where to begin?



Check out the Recommended Reading list for Travel and Destination themed suggestions. Enjoy special programs Monday nights in the Community Room where guests including the Automobile Club of Southern California and Inlandia will give exciting and informational presentations.

Journey throughout the library and find opportunities to share your travel experiences and show off your knowledge of classic literature with our passive programs. The Summer Reading Program is FREE and open to adults 18 and older.

## Weekly Programs -

**Monday, June 27 at 6:00pm - Made from Maps?!?! We all have piles and piles of old maps lying around, but what can you do with out-of-date maps? From envelopes, to handy storage containers, learn how to turn that pile of maps into something useful!**

**Monday, July 11 at 6:00pm - Travel Talk: One Patron Shares Tips, Tricks, and Tales from His Travels Around the World.** Tour guide, travel agent, teacher, and Highland Literacy Tutor, Dr. Jan-Hendrick A. Vroom will share his experiences visiting over 200 countries around the world.

**Monday, July 18 at 6:00pm - Travel with an Author.** Join Inlandia as we present a special guest author showcasing their works about local destinations. Author TBD, look for more information soon!

The Highland Sam J Racadio Library and Environmental Learning Center is located at 7863 Central Ave. Highland, CA 92346.

For more information about the Highland Summer Reading Programs, please call the Highland Sam J Racadio Library and Environmental Learning Center at (909) 425-4700.

**Highland Adult Craft Weaves Map Baskets.** Calling all Crafty Adults! The Highland Sam J Racadio Library and Environmental Learning Center invites you to join us for a special Adult Summer Reading Program Creative Crafts for Adults: Woven Map Baskets on Saturday, July 2, 2011 at 10:00am in the Community Room. Share your "Novel Destinations" and discover a new use for those old travel maps by weaving them into a beautiful basket. Participants can bring their own maps or use

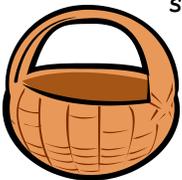
those provided by the staff. This program is FREE and open to the public, registration is recommended, but not required.

The Highland Sam J Racadio Library and Environmental Learning Center is located at 7863 Central Ave. in Highland, CA.

For more information about Creative Crafts for Adults or the Adult Summer Reading Program, please call the Highland Sam J Racadio Library and Environmental Learning Center at 909-425-4700.

## Public Works

**What's New in Public Works?** The following activities were completed by Public Works Crew between 6/1/11 - 6/20/11: Sprayed weeds at various locations; checked air conditioning units at the Environmental Learning Center; checked USA tickets; checked trail repair with contractor at Cloverhill & Emmerton (Shelton Trail); repaired J.D. Gator trailer; City vehicle checks; picked-up supplies; unloaded lumber for assembly of new shelving at Corporate Yard; routine maintenance/repairs of Landscape Maintenance Districts, and City properties; picked-up trash at Aurantia Park and orange grove, Oak Creek, Canyon Oaks, Cunningham, Seeley Parks, YMCA, ELC; worked on air conditioning system at Environmental Learning Center; reviewed Athletic Center for maintenance issues; repaired potholes on Greenspot Rd., 5<sup>th</sup>/Palm, 6<sup>th</sup>/Victoria, 3<sup>rd</sup> St. between Shirley & Tippecanoe, Elmwood/Fisher, and various other locations; delivered ladders from Fire Station #2 to Fire Station #3; attended work release program training at Glen Helen; disposed of dumped furniture at 6<sup>th</sup> St. alley and Lankershim alley; loaded trash and greenwaste into dumpster at Corp. Yd.; took down flash camera on Sterling Ave.; checked trail repairs by contractor on Bacon Ln. & Randall Ln.; took down old tape/yard sale signs/etc. throughout the City; repaired ice machine at Corp. Yd.; assisted Sheriff Dept. with



situation at overpass of 210 Fwy. on Base Line; PARSAC training; repaired irrigation in orange grove at Aurantia Park; used bucket truck for sign; completed service requests; addressed USA marking issues; worked on back-boards of baseball diamonds at Community Park; prep for walk-thru at old library and old post office on Base Line; removed dirt from Autumn Chase and Summer Trail; cleaned and organized electrical/lighting area and prep for recycling of lights and ballast at Corp. Yd.; installed sign at North Fork & Cornelius; picked-up trash on Hillview alley; repaired pole banners on Base Line.

## Mark Your Calendar

### Monday, June 27, 2011

4:00pm to 5:00pm -Blood Drive Committee Meeting, Jerry Lewis Community Center - 7793 Central Avenue

### Tuesday, June 28, 2011

5pm - Finance Subcommittee Meeting, Upright Conference Room

6pm - City Council Meeting, Donahue Council Chambers

### Monday, July 4, 2011

9am to 10:30am - Highland 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade Route: Baseline & Church Ave west to Central and south to Hibiscus

11am - July 4<sup>th</sup> Picnic, Highland Community Park - 27003 Hibiscus

4<sup>th</sup> of July Holiday - City Offices are closed

### Tuesday, July 5, 2011

6pm - Planning Commission Regular Meeting, Donahue Council Chambers

### Tuesday, July 12, 2011

6pm - City Council Meeting, Donahue Council Chambers

### Thursday, July 14, 2011

5pm - Community Trails Committee Regular Meeting has been cancelled

### Tuesday, July 19, 2011

6pm - Planning Commission Regular Meeting, Donahue Council Chambers

### Monday, July 25, 2011

1:30pm to 6:30pm - Community Blood Drive  
Jerry Lewis Community Center - 7793 Central Avenue

### Tuesday, July 26, 2011

6pm - City Council Meeting, Donahue Council Chambers

### Tuesday, August 2, 2011

6pm - Planning Commission Regular Meeting, Donahue Council Chambers

### Thursday, August 4, 2011

5pm - Historic and Cultural Preservation Board Regular Meeting, Donahue Council Chambers

### Thursday, August 11, 2011

5pm - Community Trails Committee Regular Meeting, Donahue Council Chambers

### Tuesday, August 16, 2011

6pm - Planning Commission Regular Meeting, Donahue Council Chambers

*Assembled by: Elena Rodrigues*



*City of Highland  
27215 Base Line  
Highland, Ca 92346  
(909) 864-6861  
[www.ci.highland.ca.us](http://www.ci.highland.ca.us)*