

*"I would like to welcome you to the City of Barstow's Quarterly Newsletter. These newsletters are designed to help the public stay informed regarding the latest departmental happenings by providing in depth information into projects, events and citywide efforts to improve the quality of life for residents and travelers."*

*Mayor Julie Hackbarth-McIntyre*

*On behalf of the Barstow City Council*

**Please click on the link below to direct you to the page for Quarterly Updates by Department.**

## **2016 YEAR IN REVIEW**

- **On January 20, 2016 Barstow Police Officers participated with the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department in an active shooter training exercise at Silver Valley High School.**
- **Montara Place, a new shopping center to be anchored by a 200,000 square-foot Super Walmart store is currently under construction and is scheduled to open in mid-2017.**
- **The sale of the CNG/LNG Station to VVTA was completed June 30, 2016.**
- **New restaurants opened this summer which included Oggi's Pizza and Brewery on Serrano Drive, Tony's Steakhouse and Buffet in the former Sizzler building on East Main Street and two restaurants at the new Asian Food Court on High Point Parkway.**
  - **City staff attended a meeting at Goldstone in May to view the Goldstone Museum and some of the potential items available for display along with the Science on a Sphere Exhibit. The NASA**

**exhibit Science on A Sphere debuted to the public in October with an opening ceremony that included guest speakers from NASA who were on hand to discuss the MARS 2020 Mission as well as a reunion of Star Trek actors from the original series who were on hand to sign autographs and celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the show. The guest roster included actress Lee Meriwether, actor Gary Lockwood, actress Celeste Yarnall, actress Barbara Luna & actor Felix Silla to name a few. The Exhibit will run through March 2017.**

- Public Works began striping city streets with the new striper in September. The first streets striped included Outlet Center Drive and West Main. In addition to limiting its impact to one lane of traffic, the new striper is more economical to operate using fewer staff and less costly yet more durable paints.**
- Summer community programs included the 4th of July celebration and a series of Concerts in the Park at Foglesong, helping to highlight community spirit through the city.**
- A Japanese film company produced a travel show on Route 66 showcasing Barstow and the downtown area. We were extremely excited to have welcomed them to our amazing city.**
- At the last meeting for 2016 of the California Water Environmental Association, Desert and Mountain Section gave out its annual awards. This year Barstow and its staff won the following awards:**
  - City of Barstow – Small Facility of the Year**
  - Troy Minnick - for Collection System of the Year**
  - Kody Tompkins – Supervisor of the Year (Kody also won Supervisor of the Year in 2014 at the section and the state level)**
- When the City took over the WWTP, it commenced on a major plan to clean all of the sewer lines leading to the plant. Staff will complete the final section in January. Staff will then continue with ongoing preventive maintenance.**

## **RECORDS/CITY CLERK: Year End Projects**

### **Office of the City Clerk:**

#### **RECORDS/CITY CLERK:**

- Updated the City's web streaming page regarding meetings, agendas and minutes.
- 3rd Quarter (FY) Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) reports were processed.
- Business licenses and Fire Permits were verified, created, and dispersed for the 4th quarter.
- Questys Archival System has been expanded to bring additional departmental records into a centralized system.
  - o Currently completing archiving the Minutes of the Traffic Committee and Resolutions from Planning Department
  - o Processing Special Government Reports into digital
  - o Archiving Project for Planning Department maps and specs continues using interns from Barstow Community College.
- Al Vigil Record Center:
  - o Begin the close out of files for 2016 and start the process of setting up new 2017 files for the City Record Center.
  - o Records Center clean up and inventory is continuous. Staff has made remarkable progress with this project. We will be shredding file boxes after the first of the year in the 1st quarter of 2017 for the documents that have reached the end of the life cycle and are ready for destruction.

#### **PASSPORT OFFICE**

- The Barstow Passport Office processed 33 passports for this part of the 4th Quarter.
- Los Angeles Passport Agency did an audit of this year's passport business done at City Hall. Congratulations to our Passport Team for coming out with an "A" Rating with no major errors.
- All Passport Agents will be training this month for testing to obtain their recertification for 2017.

#### **CITY CLERK'S OFFICE**

- City Clerk Cousino gave presentations to Service Clubs and Youth Groups regarding the Presidential and the consolidated Municipal Election scheduled for November 8th.
- The City Clerk's Office was a mail ballot drop off location for both elections this year held in June and November. (Presidential and our Municipal Election).
- City Clerk Cousino partnered with the Registrar of Voters to provide the City Council Chambers as a Poll Worker Training Center so that our local poll workers don't have to travel to Victorville or San Bernardino to obtain their mandatory training.
- City Clerk delivered outreach snack baskets from the City of Barstow to the poll workers on "Election Day" as a "Thank You" for working the polls.
- Prepared and Officiated the November 8th Presidential and Municipal Election.
- City Clerk assisted the BYAC and the Associated Government Students from Barstow Community College to coordinate a Candidate Forum that was held in the City Council Chambers.

## CURRENT BUSINESS

- The newly re-codified Barstow Municipal Code Project has been completed and delivered and is also available on the web-site electronically.
- Permanent minutes archival project is continuing.

## BARSTOW YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL (BYAC)

- Continue to work with SAFE Coalition to create awareness of their MISSION:
  - o To reduce the use of drugs and alcohol, especially among youth, in an effort to create an environment that is free of harmful substance us. adversary conditions when youth drink, smoke or do drugs.
- They continue to assist the Healthy Eating Active Living (HEAL) Committee in various projects and functions as needed.
- The “B Factor Talent Show” is tentatively scheduled for February 24 or 25th depending on the availability of the facility. Currently working on an Action Plan for that event.
- Participated in the Desert Sanctuary Candle Vigil Walk on Saturday, October 1 and their Open House held on Wednesday, October 5th
- Participated at the Barstow Fire Protection District Pancake Breakfast on October 8, 2016.
- Participated in the Barstow 84th Mardi Gras Parade held on October 22nd. Some were marching in the band, others with their perspective groups and two members were with the City Clerk in the parade.
- Delivered Veteran’s Day Cards and Thanksgiving Cards to the Veterans Home, Rimrock Convalescent Hospital and Comfort and Care Residential Home.
- BYAC Treasurer Ashenden Salazar represented the BYAC at the Veterans Day Memorial at Mountain View Memorial Park on November 11, 2016.
- BYAC did a fundraiser booth at the City “Tree Lighting” Event held on December 2nd and another fundraiser booth at the Barstow Community College “Lights of Learning” Event held at BCC Campus.
- BYAC will be distributing Christmas Cards and Caroling at the Barstow Veteran’s Home, Rimrock Convalescent Hospital and at the Comfort and Care Residential Care Facility on December 17th.
- Continue to recognize people and groups through the “Blue Ribbon Program,” which acknowledge people for what they do through positive reinforcement.
- Assisted the City’s CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) as victims for the Skills Assessment.
- Preparation and training to serve the Martin Luther King Breakfast.

## COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM (CERT)

1. Monthly training is held on the 3rd Tuesday of every month.
2. Preparing for next CERT 24-hour Disaster Preparedness Class
3. Assisted with the 5K Run and Pancake Breakfast held at Fire Headquarters on October 8, 2016
4. Provided traffic control for the Science on a Sphere Exhibit Unveiling Event at the Harvey House on October 5
5. Participated in the Great California Shakeout for San Bernardino County on October 20th.
6. Some members participated as Judges for the 84th Mardi Gras Parade on October 22.
7. Gave presentations of Disaster Preparedness to Service Groups and Agencies as requested.

### **Community Development Department:**

- Commercial development in Barstow has noticeably improved over the second half of 2016 as the effects of the slow recovery from the Great Recession have finally begun to benefit our community.
- Construction of a 63-room Best Western Plus hotel in the Lenwood area is currently underway, with a 106-unit Hilton Home2Suites hotel to follow shortly thereafter.
- The Habit, a rapidly expanding regional gourmet hamburger chain, has had plans approved for a new restaurant slated to occupy the former Harvey House restaurant location on Serrano Way; demolition of the existing structure will commence in late 2016 with completion of the new facility scheduled for summer 2017.
- Black Bear Diner has opened a new restaurant in the TA Truck Stop on Lenwood Road and has been doing tremendous business since opening in early November. Along the Main Street/Route 66 corridor plans for a Fairfield Inn hotel are expected to be submitted in early 2017 and a national retail chain will be announcing a store opening within a matter of weeks.
- Also early in 2017 construction will begin on eight Route 66-themed monument signs, each featuring a different classic car from the golden era of the Mother Road. It is anticipated that these innovative, solar-powered signs will draw more tourists to the corridor with the possibility of an increase in small businesses to follow.

Although residential and industrial development have not kept pace with retail, hotel and restaurant growth in Barstow a recent increase in inquiries to the Economic Development Office, visits to the community from manufacturer's representatives and meetings with local realtors and property owners provides grounds for optimism that the long dormant local industrial market may be showing signs of life.

The City Council's enactment of a temporary 50% reduction in residential impact fees earlier this year has yet to have had its intended effect, but the Economic Development Office continues to make efforts to attract residential developers to the community.

With the uncertainties associated with the recent presidential election in the rear-view mirror and the long, slow national economic recovery showing signs of continued life 2017 promises to be a bountiful year for continued commercial expansion in Barstow.

As the City's employment climate strengthens, perhaps spurred by the development of one or more of the City's promising industrial sites, the possibility of a renewed interest in residential construction remains strong. The Community Development team will continue to foster a welcoming environment for businesses, employers and builders in an effort to maintain and build upon the momentum that has become evident this quarter.

*The City of Barstow Community Services Department has been working hard to keep our City looking good. Here are a few of the things that we accomplished over the past few months.*

**Community Services Department:**

Building Maintenance

- Prep work in route 66 for the new HVAC unit that will be installed Oct. (removed wall, and installed wall back when project was completed)
- Installed automatic towel dispensers throughout city buildings for cost effectiveness
- When the weather permits, continue the painting of windows and doors outside of the Harvey House, also repainting the railing on Eastside of Harvey House
- Fixed and repainted the conference room in Harvey House
- Installed holiday decorations at the Harvey House inside and out
- Building and repaint of holiday boxes for event to be held at 3rd and Main.
- Maintenance work at Jasper Park roof and inside restrooms

Crew #1

September

- Pothole repairs
- Graffiti removal
- Assisted with Striping
- Shoulder Maintenance in Section 7
- Installed bus stop seats and signs in several locations
- Cut out lifted asphalt and replaced at Main and L St.

October

- Crack sealing
- Weed removal
- Asphalt patch on High Point Parkway
- Potholes
- Military banners
- Graffiti
- Preparing for Mardi Gras.
- Fork lift training

November

- Christmas decorations and banners
- Crack sealing
- Potholes
- Attended asphalt seminar in Lancaster

December

- Started preparations for Christmas tree lighting
- Hung Sky Line lights on Main St.
- Potholes
- General routine maintenance
- Attended Confined Space Entry training at WWTP
- Installed Christmas on Rte. 66 banners on Main St.

## Crew#2

### September

- Striping
- Sign Maintenance
- Maintenance in High Point Parkway retention basin
- Weed Abatement
- Demo damaged American's with Disabilities Act ramp at Harvey House

### October

- Set forms for ADA ramp at Harvey House
- Fabricated barrier rail for ADA ramp at Harvey House
- Poured and finished concrete at Harvey House including installing and painting barrier rail
- Striping
- Setup traffic control for Car show on Main St.
- Fork lift training
- Made Street name signs
- Set up traffic control for Mardi Gras Parade

### November

- Weed abatement from Barstow Rd. to Trinity
- Bus stop replacement for VVTA
- Back filling erosion at Rimrock Rd. and Pine St.
- Installed reflective markers along Riverside Drive near R.R. tracks
- Removed excess dirt from Rimrock desiltation basin near Edison building
- Maintenance work in Opal channel
- Installed No Parking signs and red curb around Cameron School

### December

- Made sign for Harvey House
- Installing bus shelter Kennedy Middle School that was knocked down during a car accident.
- Attended Confined Space Entry refresher course at WWTP
- Housekeeping at Corp Yard

### Events over the last three months

- Free Dump Day at Corp Yard
- Rte. 66 Car Show
- Mardi Gras Parade
- Christmas on Rte. 66 tree lighting
- Our crews respond to various issues that occur after hours

### Fleet Maintenance

As always, Fleet Maintenance is the team that keeps all of the City's rolling assets and other equipment in good working order. They provide quick turn-around for all City Departments. Police and fire always take priority due to the nature of the service they provide, however, Fleet Maintenance is still able to keep the other departments' equipment going with minimal down time. They recently replaced the radiator on the Emergency generator at City hall in preparation for a transformer replacement on the 10th of December, which was completed without any issues.

## **Environmental Services Department:**

**Quarterly** -- October / Burrtec Waste participated in the Mardi Gras parade this year for the first time with their "mini" dump truck ...the crowds loved it !

Solid Waste Department held the semi-annual ShredFest and Free Dump Day ...heavily participated in by the public.

Shredfest had approximately 110 visitors and our dump day saw 87.

November - To assist in achieving compliance with AB 1826 – Business Organics Composting audits were conducted of major generators of food waste and organics throughout the City. The data collected will help the City prepare a program to achieve compliance all the while keeping our trash rates low.

December – Provided outreach at the Tree Lighting Ceremony and handed out over 150 reusable bags to the public. With the new proposition passing, you have to pay for your single use bags at the stores.

**Annually** – Successfully switched the color of our recycling barrels from gray to blue. “Flipped” the 90 gallon barrels used for all residential and small commercial accounts, over 5,000 to the “Do the Blue” campaign...we had cable ads, and multi-media ads running, even had commercials with Burt the recycling mascot running during the Olympics this year! Held a joint Earth Day event with Home Depot had thousands attend and learn about recycling and composting.



**Film Office:**

The film office spent much of this last quarter recruiting for new productions to come to Barstow. Our efforts yielded numerous projects in the surrounding area of the city which included the feature film, "Snowfall."

**Finance Department:**

- The Finance staff are busy finalizing our Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) and Measure I Funds audit for the year ending June 30, 2016. The City's CAFR and other financial reports are posted on our website. To view financial information, use the tab, CITY HALL, CITY DEPARTMENTS, FINANCE on our website and then select the financial reports you would like to view.

## **Fire Department:**

BFPD Events October 01-December 31 2016

- From October 01 2016 through December 31 2016 the Barstow Fire Protection District responded to 1,378 emergency incidents

- Response Time Averages:

Enroute: 1:37

To Scene 6:28

Back in service 13:46

- Busiest day of the week is Monday averaging 108 calls on Mondays October 01 - November 30

- Barstow Firefighters spent 178 hours training on topics including pre-plans, structural firefighting, Officer training and firefighter proficiency.

- Barstow Firefighters responded to several major incidents

- o Walmart Fire (Sept 21)

- o Hacienda Colima Mexican restaurant fire

- o Blue Beach arson fire

- Barstow Firefighters conducted 10 public education events in the community

- October 12 - Department personnel participated in an active shooter drill with Barstow Police Department at Barstow Community Hospital.

Chief Williams attended Greater Hope lunch. Held a Q&A for members regarding the Fire District.

- October 24 Chief Williams attended the regional Communication Section meeting

- November 2 Completed 5-year review of Insurance Service Office (ISO) rating

- November 14-18 Chief Williams attended Chief Officer Leadership Symposium

- Department personnel participated in a coordination meet and greet with Ft Irwin Fire

Department. The goal is to strengthen the relationship between the two departments to aid in mutual aid response.

- November 30-December 4 Barstow Fire District supported the Inland Empire Explorer Academy (IEFEA). This is held at Ft Irwin and includes 33 surrounding departments. Barstow sent 6 instructors to lead the Low Angle Rescue portion of the academy. Approximately 150 youth cadets attended. From Barstow Explorer Post 361 we sent two explorer cadets holding the rank of Battalion Chief and firefighter.

- December 6,9,12- Department personnel utilized Ft Irwin Fire departments emergency driving simulator to conduct emergency vehicle operation training.

- December 13- Department Personnel participated in an active shooter drill at Barstow Jr High School.

**Parks and Recreation:**

The Parks and Recreation Department recently had the Fall registration for the Tot Time Program and had a good turnout for both the morning and after classes and is now at full enrollment.

We started taking registration at the Cora Harper Fitness Center for the Indoor Kiddie Soccer for ages 2 to 3 years old and ended up with over 70 kids enrolled, We also hosts the Blood Bank every second Tuesday of each month from 1-8pm. So please come by and help our community by donating blood.

The Concerts in the Park were held on August 27, Sept. 10, Sept. 17 and October 8th. at Fogelsong Park and had a good turnout from the community.

At the Sportspark we have many ongoing things being held there like Youth recreation soccer, adult soccer, Coed and Men's Softball, and we recently had the BNSF Softball Tournament as well.

Henderson Pool had a great season this year with over 125 children in our community enjoying the hot summer swimming as parents watched their children learn to swim with our lifeguards.

Our Parks and Recreation Division assists with many community events throughout the year such as the annual Chili Cook-off, Juneteenth and the Gem & Mineral Show to name a few. We look forward to helping with more community events in the future as we begin 2017.

**Police Department:**

STATISTICS (09/13/16 – 11/29/16)

During the time period of September 13, 2016 to November 29, 2016 the Barstow Police Department responded to and handled 6,406 calls for service. Officers also arrested 476 subjects during this time period.

**NOTABLE CRIME INVESTIGATION INFORMATION:**

Barstow Police Department Officers conducted two (2) Alcohol Beverage Control (ABC) Minor Decoy operations at various businesses throughout the city.

Downtown pedestrian and traffic enforcement operation.

**CRITICAL INCIDENT TRAINING**

The Barstow Police Department coordinated and conducted a multi-agency active shooter training exercise at Barstow Community Hospital.

Barstow Police Department officers conducted active shooter training for employees at Mt. Saint Joseph Catholic Church.

Barstow Police Department officers conducted robbery awareness training to employees at the Travel Centers of America truck stop.

**YOUTH OUTREACH THROUGH SPORTS (YOTS)**

In an effort to reach out to the youth of Barstow, youth mentoring programs were developed so officers could be more of a positive influence in the lives of the youth of our community. During this quarter, officers of the Barstow Police Department participated in the following events:

- Played a basketball game against the Barstow High School Boys Varsity Basketball team.
- Played a basketball game against the Barstow High School Girls Varsity Basketball team.

**COMMUNITY RELATIONS**

The Barstow Police Department hosted and/or participated in several community events in order to provide crime prevention information to the citizens of Barstow and to strengthen our bond with the community. These events are listed below:

- San Bernardino County Probation Department's Poker Run (Fundraiser for Peer Support Group)
- Barstow Rodeo
- Coffee with a Cop – Barstow Church of God in Christ
- Domestic Violence Candlelight Walk
- Barstow Fire Department's Open House
- County Explorer Softball Tournament
- Thanksgiving Meals on Wheels at the Senior Center
- Christmas Cops & Kids Toy Drive at Walmart
- Christmas on Route 66 Christmas Tree Lighting

### **Waste-Water Treatment Plant**

- Received screw press and supporting equipment and staff is working on getting it installed and operational.
- Ensured that over 191 million gallons of wastewater traveled safely from point of connection to the treatment plant for treatment and disposal.