



# City Update



Volume 4 Issue 2

November 2009

## ‘Tis (almost) the season to celebrate

The Crescent City Business Improvement District (BID) is planning a festive holiday season in downtown Crescent City.

The festivities kick off on Saturday, Nov. 28, with the Christmas Light Parade, followed by the Tree Lighting ceremony at the Downtown Plaza at Tsunami Landing.

The parade begins at 6 p.m. at the corner of Fifth and H streets and winds to the corner of Third and K. After the parade, the community is invited to participate in Christmas caroling and other entertainment. Local service clubs will provide hot cocoa and Miss Del Norte (Katie Rinkevicz) will throw the switch to light the tree about 7 p.m.

Santa Claus is scheduled to arrive on a Crescent City fire truck and will be available for photos.

On Thursday, Dec. 3, BID invites you to go shopping during the annual “Miracle on Third Street.” Retailers will be offering special sales, samples and activities.

Santa will make a second appearance in downtown Crescent City for this event and plans to hand out candy canes.

To encourage people to shop at home this holiday season, many downtown businesses are staying open late – at least until 7 p.m. – on Thursdays. The extended hours are intended to increase convenience for local shoppers.



Left: Haban Construction sponsored this American Cancer Society Relay for Life float in last year’s Christmas Light Parade “Freezin’ for a Reason.”



From left to right: Phil Jamieson, Karen Haban, Sal Trujillo, Brooke Trujillo, Lauren Trujillo, Stefanie Hendricks, Junior Miss Krista Haban, Trevor Trujillo, and Laura Trujillo.

### Inside This Issue

- ◆ Paving and striping of 9<sup>th</sup> Street
- ◆ Wastewater Treatment Plant update
- ◆ Planning Commission news
- ◆ City Pool stays busy during winter
- ◆ City Fire / Police Departments news

# Pool staff offers holiday sale on swim passes

The Fred Endert Municipal Swimming Pool is offering a holiday sale on swim passes from Nov. 27 to Dec. 24, 2009. Passes expire one year from date of purchase.

**Adult passes single:**

- \$25.00 for 10 swims (\$2.50 per visit)
- \$100.00 for 50 swims (\$2.00 per visit)
- \$310.00 Annual Pass (\$1.50 per visit calculated at 4 times per week)

**Adult passes double:**

- \$27.50 for 10 swims (\$2.75 per visit)
- \$110.00 for 50 swims (\$2.20 per visit)
- \$340.00 Annual Pass (\$1.65 per visit)

**Adult passes triple:**

- \$30.00 for 10 swims (\$3.00 per visit)
- \$125.00 for 50 swims (\$2.50 per visit)
- \$375.00 Annual Pass (\$1.80 per visit)

**Youth/senior passes single:**

- \$20.00 for 10 swims (\$2.00 per visit)
- \$75.00 for 50 swims (\$1.50 per visit)
- \$220.00 Annual Pass (\$1.05 per visit calculated at 4 times per week)

**Youth/Senior passes double:**

- \$22.50 for 10 swims (\$2.25 per visit)
- \$90.00 for 50 swims (\$1.80 per visit)
- \$260.00 Annual Pass (\$1.25 per visit)

**Youth/Senior passes triple:**

- \$25.00 for 10 swims (\$2.50 per visit)
- \$100.00 for 50 swims (\$2.00 per visit)
- \$310.00 Annual Pass (\$1.50 per visit)

**Family Annual Passes:**

- \$800.00 – Single
- \$900.00 – Double
- \$1,000.00 – Triple



**Swim passes make great gifts or stocking stuffers for the swimmers on your list.**

Registration is open for the final sessions of swimming lessons in 2009. The Monday / Wednesday lessons run November 30 – Dec. 9 and the Tuesday / Thursday lessons run December 1-10.

Call the pool at 464-5903 for more information or dates of lessons in 2010.

## City Council and Planning Commission meeting schedule

Nov. 12	Thursday	5:30 p.m.	<b>City Planning Commission Meeting</b> Flynn Center, 981 H Street, Crescent City
Nov. 16	Monday	6:00 p.m.	<b>City Council Meeting</b> Flynn Center, 981 H Street, Crescent City
Dec. 7	Monday	6:00 p.m.	<b>City Council Meeting</b> Flynn Center, 981 H Street, Crescent City
Dec. 10	Thursday	5:30 p.m.	<b>City Planning Commission Meeting</b> Flynn Center, 981 H Street, Crescent City

# Seats open on commissions and committees

## City seeking applicants to fill vacant volunteer positions

The City of Crescent City is seeking applicants for vacancies on several volunteer commissions and committees.

Volunteers must attend an average of one or two meetings per month.

Terms are two to four years. Applications for all vacancies may be obtained from the City Clerk's office at City Hall, 377 J Street, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

- ◆ **Crescent City Planning Commission:** Applicants must be city residents who are willing to provide a minimum of 15 hours a month for review of materials, the commission meeting and attending other meetings as needed. Planning Commission meetings are held

the 2nd Thursday of each month at 5:30 pm. Anyone interested in playing a key role in the future development of Crescent City should contact Linda Jangala at City Hall (464-9506) for additional information and application materials. The commission consists of five members who advise the City Council on planning and zoning issues.

- ◆ **Crescent City Housing Advisory Commission:** This commission consists of five members and two tenant members who advise the Housing Authority on policy matters, housing and landlord/tenant issues and concerns. Qualifications: Must be a Del Norte County resident. Tenant

members must be participants of the Housing Authority's Section 8 Rental Assistance Program.

- ◆ **Police Citizens' Advisory Committee:** This committee of five members meets with the Chief of Police monthly to discuss activities and concerns in the city. Qualifications: City residency preferred.

- ◆ **Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Compliance Committee.** This group of five committee members meets quarterly to monitor the City of Crescent City's compliance with its ADA Transition Plan. Membership must include individuals with disabilities.

# Public Works makes progress on projects

The Ninth Street project was completed in September on time and within budget. The job included paving and striping.



In October, local volunteers helped city crews pour a concrete pad for a flag and lighting at the S.S. Emidio memorial in Beachfront Park.

The Emidio was an oil tanker with a crew of 36 returning to San

Francisco from a delivery in Seattle when it was torpedoed by a Japanese submarine off the coast of southern Humboldt County just two weeks after the Pearl Harbor attack in December 1941.

It was World War II's first attack on a ship along the West Coast. Five members of the Emidio crew were killed. The badly damaged vessel drifted north to Crescent City and remained half-sunk in Crescent City Harbor for 10 years.

In 1951, the ship was scrapped and a fragment of the hull was made into a monument.

**Right: the S.S. Emidio memorial in Beachfront Park has a new flag pole and lighting.**



# Waste Water Plant moves toward finish

The City of Crescent City is nearly 30 months into a 36-month, \$43 million Waste Water Treatment Plant upgrade project. City Public Works Director Jim Barnts recently explained to the City Council in detail how the additions and construction will improve the treatment process.

The City added a new tertiary treatment system, called a Membrane Bio Reactor. The MBR building holds several pieces of vital equipment. There is a chemical room, a generator room and an electrical control room. The basement of the MBR building contains the pumps and motors that make the MBR function, plus the recycled water system. The recycled water system includes an ultraviolet disinfectant system.

In the old mechanical building, a new rotary drum thickener has been installed. This equipment takes sludge from the secondary clarifiers and presses it from 3 percent solids to 6 percent solids before it is sent to digesters.

“That is so much better than we have now, which is about 1.5 percent in the digesters,” Barnts said. “We are getting four times the solids which means they can digest longer and work better. We also put in mixing jets that keep the sludge circulating and well mixed, and keeps the temperature constant throughout the entire digester.”

New pumps under the operations building will



**The electrical controls for the system are in the new MBR building (below).**



increase pumping capacity by 33 percent, reducing the chance of overflows.

The project was designed to improve facilities and replace equipment to better treat the area's wastewater. Built in 1958 and renovated in the 1970's, the plant has violated state water quality rules, prompting state limits on connections for new users.

During heavy rains, the plant's pumps sometimes fail when the sewer system is

overloaded with excess incoming water. The extra flow overburdens the current facility, causing it to back up and pour into the streets.

In 2007, the City received approval from the California Department of Water Resources for a loan through the state revolving loan fund that will finance the project.

*(Continued on page 5)*

## New system filters waste water better

*(Continued from page 4)*

The city contracted Wahlund Construction Inc., Sequoia Construction Specialties and O&M Industries, a joint partnership out of Eureka, and aims to complete the project by June of 2010.

City officials expect the improved plant to reduce the concentration of waste in the water to levels that are well below the state's standard.

The current plant can handle up to 12 million gallons of effluent, or

sewage, a day. With the improvements, the treatment facility will be able to handle 18 million gallons of incoming effluent per day, which helps during heavy rain.

In the summer or dry months, the current plant has other problems that involve the concentration of waste in the water ejected into the ocean after it's been treated.

The state mandates that average concentrations of this waste cannot be more than 30 milligrams per liter.

Without rain diluting the sewage, Crescent City spits out anywhere between 25 and 35 milligrams per liter. A monthly average over 30 milligrams per liter is a state violation.

The membrane bioreactor helps filter the waste and should reduce the concentration to 5 milligrams per liter. With the excess flow during the winter months, the new system and old one would work together and still put out lower concentrations.



**After the waste water is filtered, mixed and aerated in large diffusers, it is sent to the MBR tanks (shown at left).**

**The MBR tanks are complete and ready for the installation of cartridges, the final step of cleaning and filtering the waste water.**

**The MBR system filters the waste and should produce water cleaner than the state's standards.**

**The system is nearly ready to begin clean water testing.**

# Crescent City Police busy with training, calls

## *Officers complete a variety of educational classes and training*

Have you ever wondered what a regular day is like for the Crescent City Police Department?

During the month of August, the CCPD received 1,693 calls for service. Those calls resulted in 76 arrests, 100 citations, and 110 criminal reports. Fourteen of the calls were responses to alarms and one was for assistance at the skateboard park.

In September, the CCPD responded to 1,474 calls for service. These calls resulted in 85 arrests, 42 citations and 75 criminal reports.

### **Bomb Threat**

Chief Doug Plack said it was fortunate that the CCPD had a full staff on duty plus both sergeants last month when there was a bomb threat at the courthouse.

A command center was set up in the parking lot of Crescent City Fire Department.

The fire department provided perimeter support and traffic control with volunteers.

Officer Barber assisted with traffic control, which resulted in a separate DUI arrest. Officer Mello rushed over to the site of the threatening phone call while others evacuated the building. After the court personnel and members of the community were evacuated, CCPD

officers searched the building with the assistance of officers from the State Parks and National Parks Service. The “all-clear” was issued just over an hour from the initial call.

“It was a great example of multiple agencies working together to keep the public safe. This department has received numerous compliments of how our personnel handled themselves with efficiency and with a positive professional image,” Chief Plack said.

### **Classes completed**

Officer Wiley attended a Forensic Child Interview class in September. Wiley is certified to conduct child interviews and is part of the SART contingency.

Detective Doyle attended an advanced Fingerprint Comparison class. The class was the last training needed for Doyle to be considered an investigative expert in the field of fingerprint classification and comparison.

Detective Doyle was also able to get 24 ballistic door panels for all of the department’s vehicles from the California Highway Patrol at no cost to the department. The panels are valued at \$38,400.

### **K-9 Training**

The Crescent City K-9 unit participated in training on and

around the Klamath River. The K-9 unit has been called to the area several times in past months to search for fugitives.

The Yurok Tribal Police provided a riverboat and members of the Del Norte County Sheriff’s Office Boating and Safety team took part in the training.

Officer Mello and Zeus have been working with the Del Norte County Narcotics Task Force in an attempt to keep drugs from coming into the area.



**K-9 Apollo during training at the Klamath River.**

# Reserve officers provide valuable service

There are currently four level one Reserve Officers working for the Crescent City Police Department.

During September, the reserves worked 137 hours free of compensation.

Reserve Officer Jerrin Gill provided 42.5 hours, one arrest, six

back-up responses, 10 reports, one ticket and two warnings.

Reserve Officer Rich Enea donated 31 hours and four back-up responses. Reserve Officer Jim Holt had 13 hours and two back-up calls.

Reserve Officer Gary Goodrich works in the investigation bureau

and is responsible for registering and maintaining the locations of all the registered sex offenders in the city.

Another potential reserve candidate is currently going through background checks and interviews and could be on duty soon for the CCPD.

# Fire Department saves Flynn Admin Center

## *Cause of fire still under investigation*

In late September, the Crescent City Fire Department and the Crescent Fire Protection District responded to a fire at the Flynn Center Manual Arts Building that could have been much worse.

When crews arrived, they found smoke filling the second story of the building. Firefighters climbed to the second floor where they found the fire burning in a pile of shredded paper. The fire had spread to a wall. The crews were able to knock the fire down before it entered an attic crawl space above the flames.

“I’m not sure we could have saved the building if the fire had gotten to the attic,” Fire Chief Steve Wakefield said. “The building is primarily a storage area for the county. It contains numerous records and some valuable equipment that would have been a serious loss for the county had the building burned to the ground.”

Fire officials have determined the fire could have been arson.

“The fire was started by someone in two different locations,” Wakefield said. “It is currently under investigation by the Crescent City Fire Department, Crescent Fire Protection District and Cal Fire.”

Evidence of fire starts in the upstairs hallway and one in the upper bathroom makes the cause of the fire very suspicious.

There was no sprinkler system in the building, and the contents did suffer smoke and water damage. No one was injured.

The Manual Arts Building houses Central Services, the county’s mailing and printing center, and the building maintenance department.

Wakefield said that it only took firefighters about 10 to 15 minutes to put the fire out after it was located, but removing the smoke from the building took much of the afternoon.

“It was a little difficult to locate and get to because of the heavy smoke conditions,” Wakefield said. “We are waiting for a fire investigator to try to find out exactly how it started.”

<u>August Incident Responses</u>	
<b>City Fire</b>	
Medical Assists	49
Brush Fires	2
Trash Fires	5
Vehicle Accidents	4
Haz Mat Incidents	1
Other Calls	6
Total Calls	67
Total Calls Year to Date	395
<b>Crescent Fire Protection District</b>	
Medical Assists	71
Misc. Fires	3
Public Service	7
Brush Fires	6
Trash Fires	5
Total Calls	92
Total Calls Year to Date	634



The Crescent City Planning Department recently approved a request from the Business Improvement District to install 50 mosaic tile murals along a wall on Third Street. To the left is an artist’s conception of the project. The BID is now selling sponsorships of the tiles for the mural.

**City of Crescent City**  
**377 J Street**  
**Crescent City CA 95531-4025**

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*Inside: Information about what's happening in Crescent City*

**CITY OFFICIALS: 377 J Street, Crescent City CA 95531 (707) 464-7483**

- **Mayor:** Kelly Schellong
- **Council Members:** Dennis Burns, Kathryn Murray, Charles Slert, Donna Westfall
- **Deputy City Clerk:** Robin Patch

**CITY STAFF / DEPARTMENTS:**

- **City Manager's Office:** 464-7483. City Hall, 377 J Street. City Manager: Rod Butler.
- **Public Works:** 464-9506. After hours, 464-0400. City Hall. Director: Jim Barnts.
- **Central Services:** 464-9565. 900 10<sup>th</sup> Street. Director: John Cochrane.
- **Building Inspection/Code Enforcement:** 464-9506. City Hall. Building Department.
- **Crescent City Police Department:** 911/464-2133. 686 G Street. Chief: Doug Plack.
- **Crescent City Volunteer Fire Department:** 911/464-9113. 520 I Street. Chief: Steve Wakefield.
- **Finance:** 464-7483. City Hall. Director: Ken McDonald.
- **Crescent City Housing Authority:** 464-9216. 235 H Street. Director: Susie Mendez.
- **Crescent City Water Treatment Plant:** 464-5416. 210 Battery Street. Supervisor: Jim Dohrer.
- **Fred Endert Municipal Swimming Pool:** 464-9503. 1000 Play Street. Manager: Matt Hildebrandt.
- **Planning Department:** 464-9506. City Hall. City Planner: Michele Rambo
- **Water Department:** 464-6517. City Hall