

The Friday Letter: January 15, 2016

Public Works:

PG&E contracted a tree service company this week to remove dead tree limbs around high power utility lines within the city. Next week, West Coast Arborists will be in Carmel for a couple of weeks removing dead trees and limbs around the truck route and various areas within the City.

Public Works staff have completed the annual inspection and maintenance of the City storm water drains. However, inlets, pipes, and drainages will continue to need periodic maintenance over the course of this winter. Should community members note maintenance needs, they should pass along the specific location and information to our Public Works staff at 620-2070.

Public Works staff have begun researching user-supplied propane-fueled fire containers for use on Carmel Beach. There are several UL-rated (safety rated) models available, and staff will develop a list of models that appear most suitable for use in the beach environment and then conduct outreach to Carmel area stores to encourage these businesses to offer these models for sale and/or for rent. An update to the Coastal Commission staff on progress towards refining the beach fires management pilot program was provided earlier this week.

City Centennial Signs:

Today, two new Centennial signs were installed within the center median. One at Monte Verde and Ocean Ave; the other at Rio and Lasuen. There is another sign within the center median at Ocean & Junipero that was installed earlier this month. There's a total of three signs.

Building & Planning Department:

The Planning Department will be hosting a Restaurant-workshop on Tuesday, January 26th, at 3:00 pm in the Council Chambers. The purpose of the workshop is to review Municipal Code regulations pertaining to restaurants. We will discuss potential restaurant code amendments with a focus on maintaining the high quality dining experience in Carmel. The workshop is open to the general public and we have invited all restaurant owners in the City and are expecting a big turnout.

Police Department:

The Police Department has completed the background process on one of the three police officer vacancies and hired David DiMaggio as its newest member of the police force. David is a recent graduate of the South Bay Regional Training Consortium (MPC Police Academy) and will begin working for the police department starting January 16th. David will begin a four month training period before he begins working as a solo beat officer. The police department

currently has two other candidates in background and are hopeful to have them completed and on-board in the next few months.

Hwy 68 Roundabout:

On Thursday, Commander Paul Tomasi and Public Works Superintendent Rob Culver attended the monthly Highway 68 roundabout meeting hosted by TAMC. The monthly meeting provide communities with an opportunity to provide feedback, concerns and to receive direction and updates regarding the project. An update was provided on the construction schedule, which should commence in April. A number of traffic plans will be implemented in effected communities to ease the anticipated congestion during the construction which is expected to take approximately a year to complete. The construction of the roundabout will include three complete lane closures of the north and southbound on/off ramps. The ramps will not be closed at the same time which still allows traffic to use highway 68. These closures will last 2-3 weeks and only be closed during the nighttime hours. The specific dates for the closures have not been determined yet as the construction calendar is still being developed. Emergency vehicles will continue to have 24 access to CHOMP and non-emergency vehicles needing emergency access during the closures will be escorted by CHP to CHOMP should it be necessary.

In February, the first meeting of the emergency responders group will take place. At this meeting emergency responders from the peninsula will participate in an exercise to go over emergency access to CHOMP during the construction phases of the roundabout, and provide input and feedback regarding the plans that have been developed.

On January 7th, TAMC participating in public outreach by attending a meeting of local businesses hosted by the Carmel Chamber of Commerce. TAMC discussed the project timeline as well as possible impacts to businesses during the construction phases. Those businesses in attendance provided ways to reduce traffic during the construction through a number of ride options.

To stay informed and receive project updates throughout construction, sign-up for Highway 68 Roundabout email notification:

<http://tamcmonterey.org/programs/roundabouts/hwy68rndabt.html>