



# QUARTERLY City Manager's Report

Fall 2023

## City Manager's Message



As the year comes to an end, we have had many accomplishments in the last few months. We had a successful groundbreaking of the future Universally Accessible Playground (UAP); the re-opening of the Ward bridge – the last of the bridge construction zone in the I-405 project; the first Dutch Bros in OC is under construction at Talbert/Magnolia; the Planning Commission approved the 2024 General Plan Update with a 3-2 vote. City Council will consider the item on November 21; City staff is working hard to enforce the banning of short-term rentals in the City and will revisit the City of Costa Mesa's group home ordinance and their pending lawsuit in the near future; the City continues to work on the Mile Square Park lease renewal with the County; and we continue to work closely with City Net in our continued efforts on outreach to show compassion for the unhoused population and providing them with resources and services to position themselves for a better future. Transparency will continue to be a priority for City Council and me as a City Manager. I hope you find this Quarterly Report beneficial.

Sincerely,  
*Maggie Le*

Maggie Le, Fountain Valley City Manager

### Administration

#### Opportunity for Volunteer Service: Applications now OPEN

The City is accepting applications from volunteers to sit on Committees, Commissions and Boards. Applications are available in the City Clerk's Office and online [HERE](#). The deadline for application submission to the City Clerk is 5 p.m. on **December 14, 2023**.

#### Strategic Planning on November 16

City Council, executive management team and managers will participate in our next City's 6-month strategic planning session on Thursday, November 16 from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the FV Recreation Center. Our team will collaborate and work on the next six-month strategic objectives. To view the current strategic objectives from May 2023, visit [HERE](#). As a reminder, City Council adopted a new vision and mission statements below.

### Vision Statement

Fountain Valley is a safe, inclusive, and desirable community where you can live your best life!

### Mission Statement

The City of Fountain Valley is a team driven organization committed to providing excellent service to our community through our core values.

### Core Values

(Not in priority order)

- Fiscal Stability
- Honesty, Integrity and Ethical Behavior
- Teamwork
- Excellent Customer Service
- Innovation
- Quality of Life [More...](#)

Follow us on Social Media!



## Community Development

### General Plan Update

The General Plan creates a long-term vision for the City's future and we encourage everyone to participate in the review process, including the many public meetings we will be hosting. The City has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the 2045 Fountain Valley General Plan to address the potential environmental effects associated with implementation of the proposed project. The Draft DEIR is available for public review through July 24, 2023 and the document is available on the City website. [More...](#)

The Planning Commission approved the General Plan Update, related EIR, zone changes and amendments to the Zoning Code with a minor amendment on October 25, 2023. The item will next be heard by the City Council at their November 21, 2023 City Council meeting.

### Sober Living Ordinance for Consideration

Sober Living Homes, a type of group home, are a topic of interest and concern to many citizens of Fountain Valley as well as to the City Council and City Staff. Sober Living Homes are often located in single-family residences and are a cooperative living arrangement for people recovering from alcohol and/or drug addiction supporting one another in their sobriety. The City is limited in its ability to regulate or restrict this type of use due to a complex set of State and Federal laws. City Council will reconsider a sober living homes ordinance similar to the City of Costa Mesa in 2024.

## Building

Permit and Inspection Activity	
	October 2023
Permits Issued	125
Inspections	579
Plan Checks	99
Valuation Added	\$2,350,577.76

### Code Enforcement

Currently there are 196 active code enforcement cases and 34 closed cases.

### Recently Approved Projects:

- A CUP and Precise Plan for a 1,428 square foot expansion to the Holy Spirit Church at 17270 Ward Street
- A CUP to allow for temporary vehicle storage at the Former Boomer's site

## Finance

### City Audit Update

The City's annual audit began on Monday, October 30 and will wrap up by December 2023. The City's auditors, Davis Farr LLP, will complete its current contract with the City. An RFP for audit services for the next five years will release in December 2023.

## Recreation & Community

### Services Department

### Congratulations to Lilia Vu as #1 Women's Golfer in the World!

Fountain Valley High School's alumna, Lilia Kha-Tu Vu, at the age of 25-year old, is an American professional golfer recently won the Women's British Open with a \$1.35 million prize as a second major champion and became the #1 women's golfer in the world back in August 2023. Fountain Valley community is so proud of Lilia Vu!

### Special Olympics Southern California Fall Games

The Special Olympics Southern California's Fall Games Championship event will take place at Fountain Valley Sports Park on November 11 & 12. This event includes Special Olympics athletes competing from across Southern California and is a joyous day celebrating their efforts, courage and inclusion with the community. Come out and cheer on our athletes!

[More...](#)

### Free iPad Rentals Available at the Senior Center

The Center at Founders Village Senior & Community Center is proud to announce our new On-site iPad Rental program alongside our Access to Technology program.

## Veterans Day Ceremony

The City of Fountain Valley and the West Orange County Veterans of Foreign Wars Post and Auxiliary 9557 will be hosting an in-person Veterans Day Ceremony starting at 10 a.m. on Saturday, November 11 in Veterans Park (17635 Los Alamos St.).

## Adult Softball Registration Opens Soon

The World Series is right around the corner...now it the time to get your adult softball team registered in the City's Adult Softball League. Registration opens November 6, 2023 and league play begins January 29, 2024. All games are played at the beautiful Fountain Valley Sports Park.

## Fire Department

### Paramedic Membership Program

Fire staff revamped and remarketed the Fire Department's Paramedic Membership Program and some of the program highlights are:

- The membership will cover all Fountain Valley residents anywhere in the city along with family and friends who get sick or hurt at the residents property
- The membership will cover the costs for the Paramedics and ambulance for all emergency (9-1-1) medical care calls
- Your medical insurance will be billed for the 9-1-1 medical care and ambulance transportation, if you are a member, the balance will not have to be paid by you
- NO OUT OF POKCET COSTS TO MEMBERS
- The annual membership fee is \$60 per household
- If you would like to become a member:
  - Call Fire Administration at (714) 593-4436 or send an email to [pmmember@fountainvalley.org](mailto:pmmember@fountainvalley.org) with a Paramedic Enrollment Form
  - Fill in and print out the enrollment form from the link listed HERE and mail to 10200 Slater Ave., Fountain Valley with your \$60 payment
  - You can also enroll in person at City Hall (10200 Slater Ave.)

For question, please contact Fire Administration at (714) 593-4436 or email [pmmember@fountainvalley.org](mailto:pmmember@fountainvalley.org)

## Fire Department 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Jr. Firefighter Academy

In conjunction with the Recreation Center, the Fire Department held its 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Jr. Firefighters Academy from July 10-14. This academy is a great opportunity to have fun, learn about the department and the skills the firefighters have while enjoying fun activities. They toured Fire Station #1, had Wet Wednesday with the Fire trucks water hose and ended with a graduation ceremony and pizza party where they received certificates and "badges". This event is sponsored by Fire's P.R.E.P. program, which allows the costs of this academy to stay at a fantastic low price for the week. It's a great experience for all and we look forward to next year's academy.

## FVY-E31

Our new FVY-E31 engine is now in service and a dedication was held with City Council cutting the ribbon to our new beautiful engine.

## Demolition Derby Fundraiser

On Saturday, July 27 at the Orange County Fair Grounds, Engineer Gledhill, FF/PM Miller, and FF/PM Martin participated in a Demolition Derby fundraiser between Police and Fire departments of Orange County for CHOC Hospital. Every dollar donated to this fundraiser, for CHOC, gave support for Child life, Cancer, Diabetes, Mental Health and much more.

## Strike Team

Another Strike Team went out to the Bonny Wildfire in Riverside County; which has caused more than 1,300 to evacuate their homes. The fire has burned about 3.6 square miles in the rugged hills of Riverside County. We have sent our OES rig out along with Capt. Wright, Engineer O'Donnell, and FF/PM's Kerns and Voss.

## Successful Meet our FV Heroes Day

This event was held at the Steady Brewery and the purpose of the event was the give residents the opportunity to meet with both the FV Fire and Police departments. PD and Fire crews met with families and residents who stopped by and enjoyed some great food that Steady Brewery provided.

## 22<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary of 9/11 Remembrance

This September 11 marked the 22<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the devastating terrorist attack on our nation. Every year both the Fire and Police Department and members of the

community remember the beautiful lives lost that day. This year, the remembrance was held at Fire Station #1.

## Fire Department Open House

This year, the fire Department attracted over 700 attendees at its annual open house in October. Grandparents, parents and kids alike enjoyed hot dogs, fun activities and fire operation exercises.

## Human Resources

### Active Recruitments

The City has multiple job openings and some active recruitments are:

- Equipment operator II - Water
- Fire Prevention Volunteer
- Firefighter Reserve
- Foreman – Sewer/Storm Drain
- Maintenance Worker I – Streets/Utilities
- Maintenance Worker II – Facilities
- Mechanic
- Police Officer – Lateral/Academy Graduate
- Police Recruit
- Police Services Officer
- Recreation Leader p/t
- Recreation Specialist p/t
- Volunteer Youth Basketball Coach [More...](#)

## Police Department

- A Fraud Investigator from Schools Frist Federal Credit Union wrote a letter of gratitude on October 9, 2023, regarding Fountain Valley Police personnel conducting outstanding work on a challenging crime series affecting several of their branches.
- City Council extended a contract with City Net through June 30, 2024. City Net has effectively assisted 45 street exits from April 21, 2023. Hundreds of other homeless individuals have accepted some sort of outreach services including, but not limited to, temporary shelter, medical services, mental health services, financial services and employment services. City Net recently assisted six (6) homeless people get off the streets through various shelters and rehabilitation facilities.
- City Council approved to receive California Office of Traffic Safety for selective traffic and DUI enforcement in the amount of \$60,000. In September, the Department facilitated a DUI Check Point. Two (2) DUI drivers were arrested and 60 vehicles were stopped.

- In November, the Department will be honored to attend the annual Masuda Middle School Veterans Day Celebration.
- In December, the Department will host a promotional ceremony to recognize the hard work of our employees. Most importantly, the Department will have the opportunity to thank the employee families for sacrificing valuable time to the testing process.
- Also, in December, the Department and our partner Westminster Police Department will participate in the annual Shop with a Cop at the Westminster Walmart.
- The PD also looks forward to our two (2) Police Recruits graduating from the Golden West Police Academy, Class #170.

## Public Works

### Citywide Leak Detection Project

The City is committed to making every drop count when it comes to water. The City has partnered with the Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWDOC) to conduct a comprehensive acoustic survey of the City's 2017-mile water distribution system to identify unreported leaks. MWDOC started the project on October 23, 2023 and will continue for approximately 12-13 weeks through January 26, 2024. MWDOC will listen for leaks with specialized equipment.

Leak detection is an important tool is water loss control because even small leaks can add up to big water losses overtime. Metropolitan Water District of Southern California is providing a \$170 per mile incentive for leak detection in FY 2023-24. This incentive decreased the City's cost from \$300 per mile to \$130 per mile for an upfront savings of \$36,890. The City will pay a total of \$28,210 for the project using funding designated for water conservation.

The survey results will enable the City to repair the identified leaks and plan for future water loss control actions based on the condition of the distribution system. In addition to reducing water loss and helping the City comply with new regulatory standards, identifying and repairing leaks also reduces production costs, including energy costs, by reducing the amount of water that needs to be produced.

## AB 1572- Prohibits the use of Potable Water to Irrigate Nonfunctional Turf

On May 24, 2022, the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) adopted an emergency regulation to reduce water demand and improve water conservation (Resolution No. 2022-0018) during the ongoing drought. This emergency regulation included a prohibition against the use of potable water, water that is suitable for human consumption, for the irrigation of nonfunctional turf (NFT) at commercial, industrial, and institutional (CII) sites.

In compliance with this ban, the City identified the following areas of NFT and turned off the irrigation to these areas:

Nonfunctional Turf Locations at City Facilities	Est. Sq. Ft.
City Hall (turf along Slater Ave., adjacent to employee parking lot)	3,800
City Hall (turf along west side of building)	3,060
Senior Center (narrow strip of turf north of fountain)	730
Senior Center (turf area between building and Bushard St.)	3,000
Fire Station No. 2	1,950
City Yard (area adjacent to Mt. Herrmann St.)	2,280
Well #8 (bordered by Edinger Ave., Richardson St. and W. Lilac Ave.)	18,180
<b>Total</b>	<b>33,000</b>

Since then, water supply conditions have improve and the emergency regulation has been lifted, except for the ban on the use of potable water for the irrigation of nonfunctional turf at CII sites.

On October 13, 2023, Governor Gavin Newsom approved AB 1572 which prohibits the use of potable water for the irrigation of nonfunctional turf located on commercial, industrial, and institutional (CII) properties, other than a cemetery, and on properties of homeowners' associations, common interest developments, and community service organizations or similar entities.

This ban goes into effect on:

- **January 1, 2027**, for properties owned by the State, local governments, local or regional public agencies, and public water systems.
- **January 1, 2028**, for all other institutional properties and all commercial and industrial properties.
- **January 1, 2029**, for all common areas of properties of homeowners' associations, common interest developments and community service organizations or similar entities.

Going forward, the City will keep the irrigation turned off at the previously identified areas of NFT, including City medians, and look for opportunities to replace it or convert the irrigation to recycled water.

### CIP Projects

- Staff is pleased to announce that the concrete ADA access ramp that serves the Police Department's main entrance is open. The exterior phase of the PD Locker Room Upgrade is anticipated to be completed by December 2023.
- The front parking lot stalls have been re-opened to the public. The remaining parking lot work is estimated to be complete at the end of the project. This work includes installation of ADA parking signage, paving restoration, and striping of parking stalls.

#### *Repair Update for Northbound Newland Street Roadway Settlement*

The 2023 California rainstorms damaged a northbound lane in two separate locations on Newland Street. One location is south of Ellis Ave and the other location is between Slater Ave and Warner Ave. Engineering plans to repair the damage are complete. Construction is anticipated to commence winter 2023-24.

#### *Ellis & Warner from Bushard to Brookhurst Paving*

- Award: February 2024
- Start Construction: March 2024
- End Construction: June 2024

#### *Permits:*

Submitted: 96  
Approved/Complete: 5