

P.R.I.D.E.

PROFESSIONALISM*RELIABILITY*INTEGRITY*DEDICATION*EMPATHY



P.R.I.D.E. Staff

- Carolyn Melanson
- Scott Lowe
- Cel Pasillas
- Phil Carter
- Rosemarie Jacot
- Rosie Gross

Contributors

- Kamyar Dibaj



THE DIRECTOR'S CHAIR

BY WILLIAM MURRAY

What's Inside....

There is light at the end of the tunnel, our Director updates us on the City's budget, job openings and more; starts on page 1

Forget about Motor Trends reviews. Read a hands-on review of the "amazing" Chevy Volt by Kamyar Dibaj, starts on page 2

CRASH, BOOM, BANG.....

What to do after a fender bender. Phil Carter tells all. Keep this one in your glove box, just in case; starts on page 3

Rosie lets you know if the movie is worth the \$\$\$\$\$, to wait for the video or just to forget about it; see page 4

The ever inquisitive Cel Pasillas gets the inside scoop from Scott Lowe on what it's like to illustrate a children's book; see page 5.

We say good bye to Loriana Hornik of Environmental Services and Public Works Inspector Ray Valenzuela as they take their considerable talents and experience to other municipalities; and remembrance of Ken Anderson; see page 6

PRIDE – Summer 2013

It's been awhile since we have communicated, so I wanted to give you an update. Our budget appears to be off life support and is resting comfortably in intensive care. Hopefully the economy will continue to improve, if only by a slight amount. We were able to balance the budget keeping our previous reductions in place, such as the furlough and continuing to draw down on our self-insurance funds. You may recall we have a "structural deficit" that used to be around \$15M per year. With our existing budget cuts we are now dealing with a \$5M per year structural deficit. So how do we continue to provide the service that is expected from us with our limited resources? I am asking this question in an honest manner since I feel I have exhausted all possible solutions and so has our staff. Now, if you could think of any other ideas please let me know!

Some of the budget highlights include:

- A commitment over the next 5 years to spend about \$750K on new vehicles – specifically some new PD units as we are almost

making them in 2011).

- We were able to bring on a contractor to help with Park Maintenance efforts. We asked for more staff last year but with budget questions still remaining we went with a contractor.
- A commitment to fill some vacancies at the Yard

Let's talk about the vacancies:

- A PWT has been hired for Water
- We are recruiting for a Parking Control Specialist (will be about 3 spots total by the end of the fiscal year).
- We have under-filled a position in Water Quality with a Utility Worker
- Recruitment has started for a Sr. Water Service Worker.

We are recruiting for 6 Utility Worker Positions that under fill and may turn into:

- 2 Park Maintenance Workers
- 2 Building Maintenance Workers
- 1 Streets Maintenance Worker
- 1 Equipment Mechanic

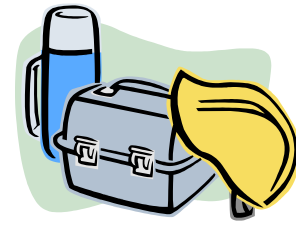
The budget also included a 2% Cost of Living Adjustment in 2014 for

League and Association employees. The additional revenue should help take a bit of the sting out of the furlough cut. The implementation of Obamacare has been delayed.....more later.

the plan checking process speed this project along. There are still some fiscal issues to overcome but our City Council has agreed on an option and we are looking to finalize the remaining issues as soon as possible.

Until next time,

Bill



We will be gearing up to receive the construction plans for the Water Park Hotel development. Engineering will be looking to expedite

I would like to thank each and every one of our Public Works employees for their hard work and dedication these last few months.



Review on Chevy Volt

By, Kamyar Dibaj

After months of research and talking to several Volt owners and negotiating with eight different dealers, I finally got my Chevy Volt. My first impression after the first week of driving: the vehicle is amazing. What made the Volt so attractive to me is that it's an electric car that comes with a gas engine that can step in to extend the Volt's range when the battery is depleted. This is why GM calls the Volt an "extended-range electric vehicle," and the dual-power-source arrangement makes a lot of sense at a time when there's precious little charging infrastructure (Garden Grove currently has no charging stations). Also in California the Volt currently allows solo drivers access to carpool lanes. In my case, it saves me additional 20 to 30 minutes a day, which I can spend sleeping or spending time with my family. Even better, the Volt qualifies for a \$7,500 federal tax credit and \$1,500 state rebate, which more than pays for a charging station at home.

Behind the wheel, it all operates seamlessly. Hit the glowing blue start button, and two LCD screens come to life; the instrument panel, and the navigation display. The instrument panel presents an estimated electric-only range (up to 40 miles on a full charge, will explain more), a gas range (300 miles on a full tank), with a total range of 340 miles. To the right is a graphic that provides driving feedback; the Volt is operating most efficiently when the spinning, green ball of leaves stays in the middle. Hit the gas too hard, and the ball elevates, shrinks, and turns yellow. Go for too much brake, and the ball does the opposite, slinging downward because energy that could have otherwise been recaptured is being wasted. The center screen above the array of touch-sensitive controls on the dash keeps track of electric and gas-driven miles separately while rating the efficiency of your driving. It's almost like a video game!

It takes 8 to 10 hours to recharge a fully discharged Volt battery pack using 120-Volt household current and the standard charging cord stowed in the Volt's loading bay. At a 240-Volt Level 2 charging station, whether a public unit or one installed at your residence, it cuts the charging time more than in half. As long as you always plug it in when you're at home, you don't need the Level 2 charging station.

I like the cabin. It's futuristic, has sharp-looking materials and is intimate. Because of the lithium-ion pack, there is no center seat in back, though I like the four-seat layout. You always have a valid excuse of why "we can't take my car because I can only fit three others", and in my case, one of the back seats is always occupied by my son's car seat. The hatch is large, offering plenty of room for storage; however, my wife may tell you otherwise.

The only disappointment was our gas mileage last week when we took our 18-month-old son on his first long road trip in the Volt to San Diego. Over the 190-mile journey that included both freeway and city driving, the initial battery charge was gone in the first 30 minutes, and our average combined fuel economy was 33 mpg. Still not bad.

The Volt is more practical than the Nissan Leaf, and is far more fuel-efficient than traditional hybrids for daily driving. (A former colleague who drives a Leaf points out the Leaf has less maintenance, since there is no gas engine.) If you travel less than 40 miles a day, with occasional trips to grandmas, the Volt is practical for you. If you put on a lot of miles in a week, and don't have hours of time to stop and charge up, the Volt may not be right for you. In my assessment, the Chevy Volt is ahead of its time in many ways, thanks to American ingenuity.

WHAT TO DO IN THE EVENT OF AN ACCIDENT



Accidents are always stressful events, no matter how serious the results. With adrenaline pumping through you, it can be difficult to process what exactly happened during the accident and what to do when the dust has settled. As such, it is extremely important to know how to handle the situation before it occurs.

Immediate Actions

While the steps you take generally depend on the severity of damage, the most important thing you can do after an accident is try your best to stay calm. Panic can make a bad situation worse. If need be, take a few deep breaths before assessing the situation. If anyone is seriously hurt, call 911 immediately; this is one of those times when seconds can matter.

Even if no one is injured, call the police – especially if there is significant damage to the vehicles. In some states they aren't required to attend a non-injury accident, but police can help mediate the situation and control traffic if the vehicles are unsafe to move.

If, like 70 percent of accidents, no one is injured, you can consider moving all cars involved to a safe area away from traffic. If the cars cannot be moved, it is advisable to turn on your hazard lights and set up marking flares, cones or a reflective triangle. Keeping other drivers aware of the situation is important for the safety of everyone involved.

You'll want to exchange information with the other driver at this point, so grab your license and insurance card. The more information you get from them, the better, including their name, phone number, address, insurance company, policy number, driver's license number and license plate number. If the owner of the car was not driving, get information for the owner as well as the person who was behind the wheel.

Write down the year, make, model and VIN number of the other car and, if you're feeling up to it, try to jot down any details of the crash itself – your speed, the direction the cars involved were traveling, that sort of information. The insurance company will want to know as much as possible and it's best to record the details when they are fresh in your mind.

Having a camera is also helpful. In many cases, the closest camera is on your cell phone, but if your phone doesn't have one or takes poor pictures, keep a disposable camera in your glove box. Taking pictures of the accident site, damage and even insurance information will help process the insurance claim. If there were any witnesses around, get their contact information and a recorded statement.

Accident Report and Insurance Claim

If a police officer is on the scene, he will write up an official accident report for you. If not, you'll need to file an accident report on your own. If you've taken the pictures and grabbed all the information you can, this should be a straightforward process. Make sure that you file it within a few days since many states have limits as to how long you can wait before reporting an accident. You can find the form at the Department of Motor Vehicles' website.

Also on the to-do list is filing the much-dreaded insurance claim. Needless to say, the sooner you report the accident, the faster the whole process will be finished. Be truthful and as detailed about the accident as possible. It also helps to know the extent of your car insurance coverage before getting into an accident in the first place, so you're not blindsided by the repair estimates.

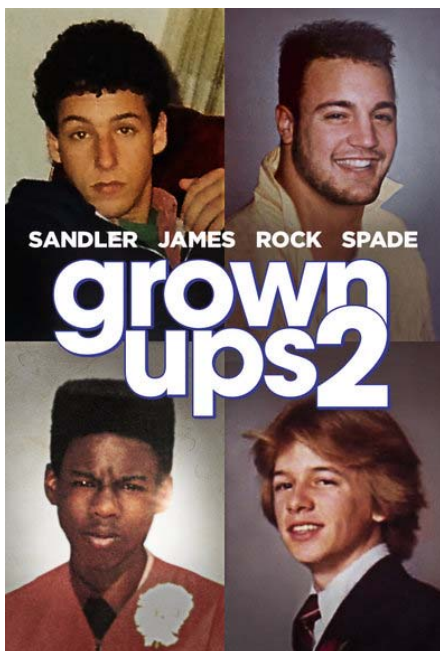
Automobile accidents are an unfortunate but are also a nearly inevitable part of driving a car, and they generally add more stress to your already busy life. Being prepared for the worst can make the process easier, ensuring that you get back to the things that matter as quickly as you can.

Rosie's Movie Reviews



Grown Ups 2:

We began losing IQ points about 10 minutes into this movie! Adam Sandler, David Spade, Kevin James, and Chris Rock play a group of old childhood buddies who hang out together after Sandler moves his family back home after living in the big city. These idiots spend the entire movie being crude, rude, stupid, and almost any other negative behavior imaginable. Their behavior is offensive, and if Ron hadn't been giggling at the "guy humor", and I hadn't been able to play Sugar Crush on my phone to distract myself, I would have walked out. Save your money!

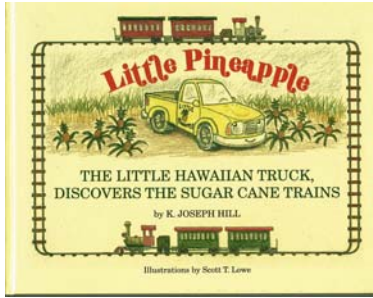


The Way Way Back:

An entertaining coming-of-age movie about an awkward young man, who is forced to spend the summer with his mother and her boyfriend, at the beach. Great cast includes Toni Collette, Allison Janney, Steve Carrell, and Amanda Peet. The young man, Duncan, feels totally out of place, not knowing anyone, not accepted by the boyfriend, his daughter, or even other kids nearby. While exploring the small beach town, he discovers the Water Wizz water park, where he meets the quirky guy who runs the place, is hired to work for the summer, and starts building his confidence, both in relating to his Mom and her situation, and in the girl department. Excellent acting by the entire cast. We enjoyed the scenery of the small East coast beach town. Definitely recommend this one!



Cel on Call



We have a published artist among us. I just recently found out that Public Works' resident artist Scott Lowe, has illustrated a published children's book! It's called *Little Pineapple: The Little Hawaiian Truck*

Discovers the Sugar Cane Trains, written by Karl Joseph Hill. You can purchase it through Amazon on hard cover or download it on Kindle. This blew me away, so I had to sit down with Scott for a little Q & A so that I could get the word out.

How did you get involved with illustrating a children's book?

About 2004, Karl Hill told me that he was working on a children's book about the sugar cane trains in Hawaii and he wanted me to illustrate it for him. He finished the writing in about 2005 and presented me with the manuscript along with sketches. Karl being a cartoonist himself (i.e. Surf Kat) had some specific ideas about how the characters and the scenes should look. After numerous character and scene sketches I started working on the finished drawing.

Is this your first published book?

Yes, hopefully not the last.

What was the experience like? Best part and worst part about the whole process?

Collaborating with Karl was the best part; okay, and maybe the layout review lunches at Louie's were not so bad either. The worst part was not really knowing how to go about publishing the finished product, how to lay things out, and so on. We knew what we wanted to do; we just didn't know how to go about it. Karl found a self-publishing company that walked him through the process from submittal to publishing; for a fee of course.

've noticed over the years you use color pencil a lot including this book, which looks great. Is there a reason why you prefer this medium over any other?

It is the one medium I am the most familiar with and what I use for all my caricatures. In the future I would like use more brush and ink with water color and maybe even a digital art program and a tablet.

Looking back is there anything you would have done differently?

Maybe I would have been a little quicker on the draw(ings) It took me almost 8 years to complete the illustrations. If you average it out, it is about 1 drawing every 2 months.

Do you have a childhood favorite book?

Ones that come to mind would be anything by Dr. Seuss. When my daughter was little we loved reading the Richard Scarry's books (pretty clever how he put pants on a worm).

Any illustrators you admired growing up?

N.C. Wyeth, Norman Rockwell, R.C. Crumb, Robert Marble, Fred Bonn, Bill Watterson of Calvin and Hobbes fame, Ed Roth, and Tommy Toons, just to name a few.

What are you going to do with the money after you get rich from this?

I am going to Disneyland of course.

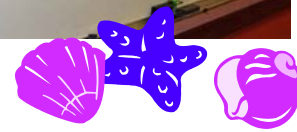
So tell me about your next project?

Karl has an idea germinating for the next one and my wife and I are starting to work on a Christmas story that she wants to write. I better get to it. At my rate of speed I should be done by the time I'm 70.

Go to Amazon.com and purchase yourself, or that child in your life a copy of *Little Pineapple: The Little Hawaiian Truck Discovers the Sugar Cane Train* to show your support for Scott and Karl, and keep an eye out for his next one.



Tuesday, August 27, 2013 Public Works had a 'send off' Potluck luncheon for **Loriana Hornik**, one of our Environmental Specialists. Loriana has taken an Environmental position with the City of Huntington Beach and will be missed very much by her Garden Grove family.



Movin' on Up...

Public Works Inspector Ray Valenzuela is now the Street and Sewer Superintendent for the City of South Gate in L.A. County. In his 25 years with the City Ray has worked numerous job positions in the Streets Division and has taken many classes and courses to prepare himself for this type of opportunity. Earlier this month he took a leap of faith and grabbed on to that opportunity.

If you know Ray, you've probably heard him say "now you owe me lunch". In his typical fashion he turned the tables on everybody by taking us to lunch, preparing and serving a taco lunch at the City yard before he left.

We will miss his knowledge, expertise, quick wit, and his Posole

Godspeed Ray



A Life Well Lived

Ken Anderson Remembered



A memorial service was held for Ken Anderson at the Orange County Worship Center in Santa Ana on August 22nd. Kenny, as he was affectionately known, passed away on April 22nd of this year. Kenny started with the City of Garden Grove in 1966 and retired in 2004. Family, friends, and co-workers shared some of their memories of Kenny. Bill Murray, and Scott Lowe shared some of their memories and stories about working with Kenny. Other City employees and retirees that were in attendance were Mark Uphus, Patricia Hayes, Bob Mills, Chuck Spalding, Kirk Tietjen, and Paul Irvine.

Kenneth Anderson

Thanks Kenny, for not only a life well lived, but also for a job well done.

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