

Villa Park Highlights



What's Inside:

- Villa Park Foundation Memberships
- Earthquake Preparedness
- What to do after Identity Theft
- Drowning Prevention
- Disposing of Electronics

Town Hall Meeting To Highlight Fire Authority



On February 11th at the Villa Park Town Hall Meeting, the Orange County Fire Authority will give a presentation on the services they provide to the City of Villa Park. The OCFA provides a variety of public services, including the following fire service and emergency medical and rescue services from 60 fire stations; administers the Reserve Firefighter Program; provides public education programs to schools, businesses, community associations, and other members of the community; sponsors Fire Explorer Posts; maintains a firefighting helicopter for emergency response; conducts an inventory of hazardous waste sites; coordinates inspections of commercial and residential facilities; and investigates fires for a determination of their cause.

Come to the Town Hall Meeting and learn more about this valuable service to the residents and businesses in Villa Park! For more information, contact City Hall at (714) 998-1500.



State to Walk Away with Local Revenue Source

Each year, the City of Villa Park receives approximately \$340,000 in local revenues from vehicle license fees (VLF). These are fees paid to register a vehicle in California and the share that each city receives is based on population. The funding that Villa Park receives is used to fund public safety services and other public service programs. With a total annual budget of \$2.3 million, the VLF funds represent 15% of the City's total annual revenue and expenditure stream. As an unrestricted revenue, VLF represents nearly 20% of the City's budget. Annually, the City spends \$731,000 on public safety services - VLF revenues represent 50% of our annual public safety service costs. Maintaining vehicle license fee revenue for local government is critical to maintaining current service levels for both public safety services and public services in general.

In 1998, the State reduced the cost to registrants to 0.65% (the current rate) thereby reducing revenue to local governments. However, at that time, the State committed to backfilling the loss of revenue to local government. Until now. The proposed state grab of the committed VLF backfill will leave many cities with no option but to take important public safety services off the street and reduce other public service programs.

As stakeholders in the process, to help protect our local revenues, it is important for you to contact your State representatives and let them know what impact this loss of revenue will have on your service levels at the local level.

Dates To Remember

- Town Hall Meeting • February 11, 7:30 p.m.
- Foundation Meeting • February 17, 12 p.m.
- City Council Meeting • February 25, 7:30 p.m.
- City Council Meeting • March 25, 7:30 p.m.
- VP Foundation Event • May 2003

Volunteers In Action

Villa Park Community Services Foundation Kick-Off Celebration

Are you a member? If not, now is your chance to help make a difference! Membership in the Villa Park Community Services Foundation is one of the best ways to make your contributions and your time count for Villa Park.

Membership categories are designed for every part of the community and surrounding community. Membership can be as an individual at \$50 per year; or, as a Business or Corporate Sponsor membership, Bronze, Silver, and Gold levels, ranging from \$100 to \$3,000. Join today and help shape the volunteer spirit in Villa Park!

The Board of Directors of the Foundation meets on the third Monday of every month at 12 p.m. in the Villa Park Town Hall. The meetings are noticed and open to the public. The call for volunteers is continuous - helping hands, hearts, and spirits are needed to make things happen in the community.

Appointed in December 2002, the Board consists of Erik Kuli, President, Vito Canuso, Vice President, Bob Hunter, Treasurer, George Rodericks, Secretary, Bob Bell, City Council repre-

sentative, John Fader, Board Member, and Karen Holthe, Board Member. As a working volunteer Board, they are dedicated to successes in Villa Park. From the Picnic to the Pancake breakfast and the Halloween Fest to the Holiday Boat Parade, the Foundation supports them all. Help make it a success and join today!



For more information on the Foundation, contact any of the Board Members or City Hall or visit the Foundation website at www.villapark.org/Foundation.htm.

In May, the Foundation will host its official kick-off event, there will be music, fun, food, family, and casino games all in the honor of charity.

If you are interested in coming to the party, look for tickets soon! Join the Foundation as a Charter Member before May and receive a discount into the event!

If you would like to help out with the event or become a Corporate Sponsor, contact Erik Kuli at erik@kustomimprints.com or (714) 921-1505.

Are You Prepared?



Now is the time to start! The beginning of the new year is a good time to begin your preparedness effort. Start today by organizing a meeting with neighbors, co-workers and school officials.

Because floods, fires, earthquakes and other emergencies present us with more challenges to solve in a fast-paced world, we need to work with our neighbors, co-workers and school officials to prepare for emergencies.

Most cities and counties in California have their own emergency agency. Your local emergency agency is responsible for developing emergency plans of your city or county, as well as the coordination of its preparedness, response and recovery efforts.

After you've called your local emergency agency, find people who might be interested in help-

ing. There are many possible participants in each group. Plan your meeting after you've spoken to people who might be interested. Organize the meeting by developing goals and setting an agenda.

Invite others who share your interest to participate in your preparedness efforts. Use a script to explain the importance of emergency preparedness and response, what you hope to accomplish, and how they can help in making it successful.

You might also invite someone from the Fire Authority, Sheriff's Department, or American Red Cross to talk about hazards that threaten your area and what you can do to be prepared. As a wrap up, distribute a questionnaire to identify each person's skills, as well as equipment, supplies and other resources available.

See the back of this newsletter for important contact numbers to local agencies.

Public Safety Happenings

What to do if you are an Identity-Theft Victim

If you suspect that you have been a victim of identity theft, the first thing that you should do is report the crime to police. Other actions to take are:

- * Contact the three major credit-reporting agencies and ask them to log the theft and remove the fraudulent information from your credit record. Call Equifax at (800) 525-6285; Experian at (888) 397-3742; and TransUnion (800) 680-7289.
- * Request that a "fraud alert" be placed on your credit report. This will alert any credit provider to contact you before issuing a new credit card. Call and then write each agency.
- * Call your credit-card issuers to cancel your credit cards. Cancel them with the status "Account closed at customer's request." If you allow the closing status to be "Card lost or stolen" - the "lost" part could place blame on you. Request new cards with different numbers.
- * Call each company that issued a fraudulent credit card to obtain a copy of the signed credit-card contract. You must have this document to prove you did not authorize the issuance of the card and are therefore not responsible for the charges.
- * If your ATM card has been compromised, get a new card. Use a new password that is not related to your date of birth, address, Social Security Number, or any other obvious aspect of your life.

For more information, visit <http://www.interesting-information.com/identity-theft/identity-theft-victim.htm>.



Children Drown Without a Sound - Watch the Water

Swim season in California is almost year-round. As families start spending more time outdoors, it is vital that all residents understand the dangers associated with the ocean, lakes, and especially backyard swimming pools. Drowning is the leading cause of accidental death for Orange County children under age five. Children drown without a sound, in as little as two inches of water.

- * Never leave a child alone near a pool or spa.
- * If a child is missing, check the pool area FIRST.
- * Pools should be fenced from the rest of the house with five-foot fences.
- * Doors and windows leading to the pool area should be locked at all times.
- * Pool covers, gates and other layers of protection do not replace adult supervision.
- * Don't rely on swimming lessons, life preservers, or any other equipment to make a child "water safe."
- * Mount rescue equipment near the pool.
- * Learn CPR and insist that babysitters have CPR training.

The OCFA has taken a proactive approach in reducing the number of drownings in Orange County by making residents more aware of how drowning can be prevented. The OCFA offers free drowning prevention programs and CPR classes to Villa Park residents.

For more information about classes or on tips on drowning prevention, call the OCFA Community Relations and Education Services Section at (714) 532-7266 or visit www.ocfa.org.





City of Villa Park

17855 Santiago Boulevard
Villa Park, California 92861-4187

Phone: (714) 998-1500

Facsimile: (714) 998-1508

E-Mail: cityhall@villapark.org

TUNE IN VILLA PARK CABLE TV CHANNEL 3

- 1st Tuesday - 7:30 p.m.
Meet the Mayor
- 2nd Tuesday - 7:30 p.m.
Council Meeting Replay
- 3rd Tuesday - 7:30 p.m.
Meet the Mayor
- 4th Tuesday - 7:30 p.m.
Council Meeting LIVE
- 5th Tuesday - 7:30 p.m.
Special Presentations

VISIT US ON THE WEB AT
WWW.VILLAPARK.ORG

KEEP IN TOUCH WITH YOUR LOCAL GOVERNMENT

City Hall	998-1500
City Hall Fax Line	998-1508
City Hall Hotline	998-0250
City Hall Email	cityhall@villapark.org
City Website	www.villapark.org
Sheriff Department	
Non-Emergency	647-7000
Emergency	911
Fire Authority	
Non-Emergency	744-0400
Emergency	911
Fire Station #23	997-2552
Animal Control	935-6848
Health Department	834-7712
County Recorder's Office	834-2500
County Property Assessor	834-2727
County Tax Collector	834-3411
County Auditor-Controller	834-2457
Villa Park County Library	998-0861
Serrano Water District	538-0079
Villa Park Disposal	238-3300
Pacific Bell Telephone	(800) 310-2355
Southern California Edison	(800) 655-4555
Southern California Gas	(800) 427-2200
Adelphia Cable	777-1313

DISPOSING OF ELECTRONICS

To dispose of household electronics, visit the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Center, 1071 N. Blue Gum Street, Open Tuesdays through Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. - visit www.oc.ca.gov/iwmd for more information.

Villa Park City Council

Bob Bell
Mayor

Patricia Bortle
Mayor Pro Tem

Richard Freschi
Councilmember

W. Bill MacAloney
Councilmember

Robert E. McGowan
Councilmember

Villa Park Highlights is published by the City of Villa Park and is distributed as a public service to the homes and businesses of the City. The City of Villa Park welcomes your comments, suggestions and questions regarding this publication.

City of Villa Park
17855 Santiago Boulevard
Villa Park, California 92861

PRE-SORTED
STANDARD
US POSTAGE
PAID
ORANGE, CA
EXPRESS

VILLA PARK RESIDENT
VILLA PARK, CA 92861