



**MNO Magnolia Neighborhood
February 18, 2009
Pachappa Elementary School**

Code Enforcement:

Q – Several houses on our street do not take care of the yards and there is junk in the yard. What can be done to require the owners to take better care of the yard?

A – Code Enforcement investigates all calls placed to either the 311 Call Center or Code Enforcement at 826-5633 regarding troubled properties. The City works in partnership with neighbors to achieve compliance. Please give the address and the concerns when calling the 311 Call Center.

Library:

Q – The City recently purchased the former AAA Building on Palm Avenue to house the Marcy Library. What is the timeline for the relocation of the Marcy Library to that location?

A – Plans are being drafted to create a Marcy Branch Library that can provide a robust array of services to the surrounding community. Once plans have been finalized, facility improvements are projected to be underway as soon as this summer.

Parks, Recreation & Community Service

Q – Are there any plans to purchase more open space in neighborhoods for the purpose of small neighborhood parks?

A – The City is always looking at the opportunity to be able to provide additional recreational facilities. Unfortunately, this neighborhood is built out, which would make it very costly and difficult to acquire enough land to construct a park. The City receives funds from developers through development impact fees to construct parks. Since there are no projects in this area, funding to purchase land would be difficult to acquire at this time. The City is currently in the process of completing Andulka Park, which is in this general area and could provide recreational opportunities for this neighborhood. The City recently completed improvements at Shamel Park, Nichols Park and is completing the Environmental Impact Report for the design phase of Tequesquite Park.

Public Works:

Q – Will the Magnolia Avenue and Riverside Avenue underpass construction projects continue to proceed on schedule despite the current economic situation? If so, what are the timelines?

A – The timing for construction of the railroad underpass is uncertain due to the State's budget situation. The State had previously committed \$20 million of Proposition 1B funds towards the underpass construction; however, these funds have not been made available by the State. The City intends to proceed with right-of-way acquisition and utility relocation in anticipation that the construction funds will become available in the coming months.

Q – What are the plans and schedule for the Brockton Avenue and Central Avenue median construction?

A – The improvements at the intersection of Brockton Avenue, Central Avenue and Magnolia Avenue include re-establishing the south bound Brockton Avenue lane through to move across Central Avenue and installing dual left turns for south bound Magnolia Avenue and for west bound Central Avenue. The project should be completed by late April.

Q – As the City is working to widen Beatty Drive between Brockton Avenue and Magnolia Avenue what will happen to the magnolia trees?

A – The widening of Beatty Drive between Magnolia Avenue and De Anza Avenue will occur on the north side adjacent to the Bank of America building and parking lot. Between Magnolia Avenue and Brockton Avenue, Beatty Drive will be widened on the south side, which makes it necessary to remove those trees. As the construction plans are finalized, the decision on replacement trees will be made.

Q – There are empty tree wells on Brockton Avenue between Merrill Avenue and Sunnyside Drive. Can the City clean them up and plant trees?

A – Following the Brockton Avenue, Central Avenue and Magnolia Avenue intersection improvement project, a landscaping project along Magnolia Avenue will be completed; however, the City wants to wait to see if further street revisions are necessary. In the meantime the tree wells will be cleaned up.

Q – When the construction of the Magnolia Avenue underpass begins, does the City have a plan for the cut through traffic on Beatty Drive and Sunnyside Drive?

A – The City does not anticipate additional cut-through traffic on Beatty Drive or Sunnyside Drive since traffic on Brockton and Central will not be affected.

Q – As the City is widening Central Avenue, what is the plan to modernize the water system for the planters?

A – The irrigation in the medians will be replaced with smart irrigation technology with the project upgrade. When an irrigation system is upgraded, it is replaced with a Cal Sense irrigation controller. Cal Sense is a weather based system that adjusts watering schedules using current weather conditions. Weather information is sent to the clock hourly. Cal Sense then upgrades the water

schedule automatically based on whether conditions are wet, windy, or dry. Cal Sense is used throughout the City.

Q – There has been some construction work done on Magnolia Avenue at Sunnyside Drive; however, the repair work has been something of a patchwork. Is there a plan to pave those streets after the construction of the underpass at Magnolia Avenue?

A – It is anticipated that the pavement on Magnolia Avenue between Central Avenue and Elizabeth Street will be resurfaced after construction of the underpass. Additional areas may be resurfaced depending on the need for rehabilitation.

Q – What is the timeline for the completion of the construction of Central Avenue at Alessandro Boulevard?

A – We are midway through our Central Avenue Improvements Phase II. A large portion of the new waterlines have been installed and we are continuing to do concrete work. Within the next couple of weeks, we will be working on the medians and landscaping. The project should be completed by the end of May.

Q – The temporary patches at several places in Riverside could be better. What can be done to require smoother patches of streets?

A – To elevate a hazard in the roadway such as a pot hole, a hot asphalt patch is installed. In an effort to have the asphalt patch last and not unravel or break apart, the material must be installed at a reasonable thickness in order for the asphalt material to bond to the surrounding area. The Street Division strives to have a smooth driving surface when patches are installed. If you know of an asphalt patch that seems too high please call the Call Center at 826-5311 and City staff will inspect the area and adjust accordingly.

Q – Why does the City plant grass in the medians and water during the day and when it is raining?

A – The City plants a drought tolerant fescue in the medians, which requires 30% of the water required for blue grass, as a measure to help reduce soil erosion caused from such conditions as weather, pedestrian/vehicle traffic, and to help enhance the beauty of the surrounding area. Newly installed medians are equipped with “smart irrigation” controllers that help monitor weather conditions and reduce water usage. Older medians are upgraded with these advanced irrigation controller systems as money becomes available.

Per City of Riverside Public Works landscape maintenance specifications, all watering is to occur at night between the hours of 11:00 pm and 6:00 am. No watering is to occur on the weekends. If City maintained landscape irrigation is seen running outside the specified hours, we encourage residents to report the issue to the City Call Center at 826-5311 so the issue can be corrected immediately.

Q – What can be done to improve the traffic light sequence at Streeter and Central Avenues? It currently favors Streeter Avenue despite traffic flow.

A – The signal timing has now been adjusted to remain green to favor Central Avenue until a vehicle on Streeter Avenue arrives.

Public Utilities

Q – I am concerned about a rumor that lawns must be watered at night. With no sprinkler system, that means I'll be up all night. Will the City require residents to water at night?

A – While California's drought does not affect Riverside as much as it does neighboring communities, we are still proactively asking water customers to use water wisely, and use conservation measures in an effort to work through the water crisis. We are not planning any potential rationing in the foreseeable future; however, we do ask customers to take simple steps to save water. Steps such as checking pipes, sprinklers, toilets, and faucets, for leaks to avoid water waste inside and outside the house are encouraged. While we do encourage people to water lawns early morning or late at night (as a way to save water from evaporating in hot sun, or being blown into streets and gutters during windy conditions), it is not a requirement for Riverside residents.

Other:

Q – What can be done about a car repair business that is being run out of a house on McKinley? Some times the street is closed due to the cars in the street.

A – The Mayor and City staff met with residents to clarify the situation and explore appropriate responses.