Info-Bits

Summer 2012

I•B A Publication for the Employees of the City of Torrance

City Yard Open House & Car Show
Disaster Preparedness Expo
Environmental Fair

The City Yard Open House, now a bi-annual event, shared the date with the Disaster Preparedness Expo and the Environmental Fair on Saturday, June 9, 2012. The City was able to provide important information to the public with great efficiency by combining these events into one date and location. John Drakodaidis (Public Works) coordinated eight City departments and a number of civic organizations for the event. Employees, City Council members, volunteers and civic groups provided information, give-aways and prizes, and many opportunities to learn about City services, green practices and how to be prepared for a disaster. George Gonzales, a vendor who supplies goat powered landscaping for the city, brought in baby goats and a group of retired city employees showcased their very loud race car at the Employee Car Show.

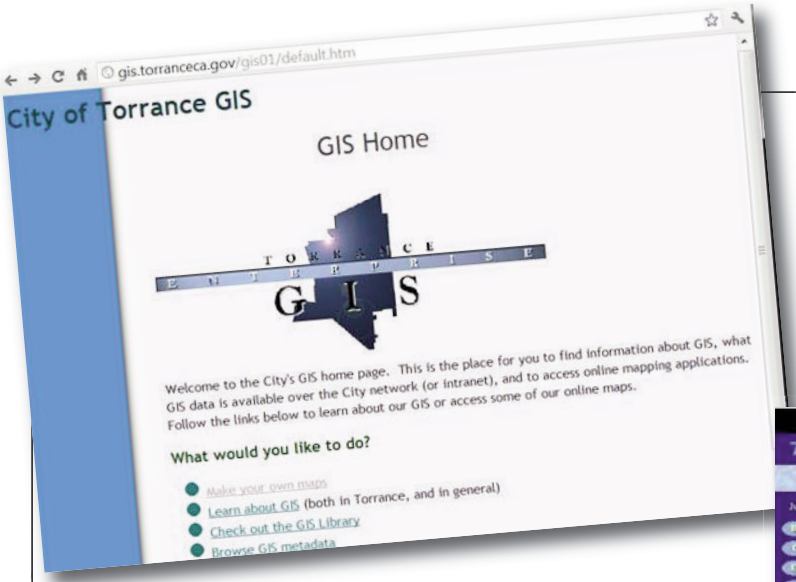
Continued on Page 6

WHAT'S INSIDE

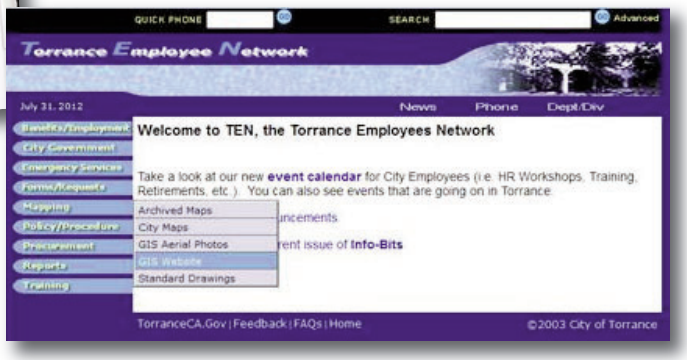
page 2 *GIS Multi-Media Article*

page 4 *Rideshare Goes Online*

page 5 *Electronic Vehicle Charging Stations*



GIS – More than Just Cool Aerial Photos



Editor's Note: To enhance your experience, open the link to the City's GIS @ http://gis.torranceca.gov or on the TEN by going to Mapping, GIS Website – in the left navigation list.

Work began on developing the City's Geographical Information System (GIS) in 1994 as part of a storm drain master plan project. Today, the GIS is being used in some way by all City departments. Systems Analyst, Stephen Lavey, believes the system has the potential to significantly contribute to the City by providing information to both the public and staff in ways that provide better service to the public and allow staff to work more efficiently. "The more information that can be accessed by the customer either on their own computer or at our computer kiosks, the fewer and more informed their inquiries to staff, and, the more time staff has to spend on providing answers and input rather than just looking up information. There's a lot more available than just looking at a picture of your house," said Lavey. Property information like sewer connection locations, zoning, day of trash pick-up and much more, will soon be made available to the public utilizing GIS' 70+ layers of maps and aerial photos.

Some applications are already available like Crime Mapping that allows citizens to keep informed of recent crimes in their neighborhood. An ongoing project is the Electric Vehicle (EV) mapping survey that encourages interested citizens to suggest locations for future EV charging stations (see related article page 5).

City departments already use the system to access and track work in the field and more. The program is now available to every employee computer. "Feedback from staff is what initiates applications that can potentially save a lot of time and effort in the long run. There is so much valuable information in the system," said Lavey. "We encourage City staff to make requests and give us their ideas for applications to streamline workflow," he said. "In some instances, the application may already exist but people just don't know about it."

CIT's forward thinking analysts Lavey and Jenny Gough (now retired) found ways to include information into the system that most similar sized cities just don't have. One example is with scanned engineering plans: the GIS map's Identify function allows one to click on a location to ask, "What is here?" The answer pops up with all of the plans covering that location, as opposed to manually searching through dozens of maps, large file cabinets and other paper documents.

Workflow software has recently been acquired for the GIS that will provide standard procedures for editing, and help protect 18 years of input and work on the system. "We are proud of the high level of accuracy in our maps, as much of that information was redrafted from original plans. This level of accuracy represents a huge investment by the City. It would be extremely expensive to recreate if the information was compromised with errors or inaccurate updates: we're talking about possibly hundreds of thousands of records to recheck or redraw. Although it may seem obvious, not many agencies are thinking about protecting the work process aspects of their GIS. We're lucky to have a lot of support from across our departments and City management for our work to create a powerful and useful GIS.," said Lavey.

Work is ongoing to expand the uses for the GIS, such as supporting field operations to streamline record keeping and eliminate paperwork, adding more public access features and responding to employee feedback and requests. "Among other things, GIS enables us to get information to and engage with the public; in turn staff time is spent more efficiently, and that's good government," said Lavey. If you have an idea or request for the GIS contact Stephen Lavey at slavey@torranceca.gov.

November 12-16 is Geography Awareness Week – GIS Day is November 14, be sure to check out the City's GIS for special displays and events during that week. I•B

eNotify - You can "Subscribe" to Info-Bits online! Here's How…

eNotify allows anyone to receive updates on certain web pages. You can subscribe to *Info-Bits* and other city information updates by registering online at http://www.torranceca.gov/20726.htm. Once you have registered, you can choose from a menu of update notifications for various city web pages, including *Info-Bits*. Check the boxes to choose the information you would like to monitor and you will be emailed when the web pages are updated. Here is the process to sign up:

- Log In
- Click e-notify
- Click webpage subscription
- Under Human Resources is Retiree Resources
- Check Retiree Resources box
- Click save on bottom of page
- A message on top of page will say "Database updated successfully"
- Exit or log out

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REVIEW

Red Cross Blood Drive Results

City employees generously donated 37 units of whole blood at the Employee Blood Drive on Tuesday, June 12, 2012. We had 42 employees turn out to help us reach our goal of 52 units, we achieved 71% of the goal. These units will help save approximately 111 lives.

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Moments in Torrance History

By: Michael George, Reference Librarian
Torrance Public Library

Fifty-nine years ago the Torrance Press thundered, "Torrance will become one of the most modern and advanced cities not only in California but in the entire country". Midcentury Torrance was at the cusp of a communication revolution, a miracle of modern technology. What was this communications marvel? A hint, do you remember "FAirfax", or perhaps "DAvenport" or "TErminal"? Yes, one minute after midnight on May 28th, 1953 the city switched to direct distance dialing telephone use. No more connecting only through the operator to reach such faraway places like Lomita or San Pedro. That was cutting edge technology in 1953!

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Risk Management Relocation

The final step of realignment implementation has moved Risk Management under the umbrella of the Finance Department. The division that handles the Liability and Workers' Compensation programs has physically relocated to the second floor of the East Annex next to the Building Inspectors' offices. The phone numbers are unchanged. Visitors should check in with security in the lobby.

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9.11.12 – Employee Variety Show
Then & Now -
The Centennial Edition
Benefits
American Cancer Society
7:00 P.M. Tickets $15

9.15.12 – Coastal Clean-Up Day
Torrance Beach
9:00 A.M. – Noon
Contact Cyndy Rosell
310-618-5929 or
Sunny Lai 310-618-5990

9.16.12 – Torrance Centennial Hometown Parade
Downtown Torrance
11:00 A.M.

9.27.12 Employee Health & Benefits Fair
11:00A.M to 2:00 P.M

10.28.12 – Torrance Centennial Birthday Bash

Looking Back & Moving Forward
TORRANCE · CA · 1912-2012
100 Years

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Skin Care Health

Skin cancer is the most common of all cancers, accounting for nearly half of all cancers in the United States. Ten thousand people die annually from skin cancer. In addition, the Skin Cancer Foundation estimates 90 percent of all skin changes attributed to aging actually are effects of the sun.

Follow some simple tips to protect your skin, to keep it healthy and looking young and fresh:

- Try to stay out of the strongest sun between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.
- Wear protective clothing, such as wide-brimmed hats and loose-fitting, long-sleeved clothing to cover as much skin as possible.
- Wear sunscreen with SPF of 30 and above for high protection.
- Apply sunscreen 30 minutes before going into the sun and reapply every two hours.
- Take special care of babies' skin. Babies younger than 6 months always should be shielded completely from the sun. Make sure children always wear sunscreen.

Healthy workforce tips from Kaiser Permanente

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New Employees 06/12 - 09/12

Community Services
Mila Rianto
Library Assistant II

Jonathan Manjarrez
Maintenance Worker

Fire
Katherine Meyer
Typist Clerk II

General Services
Julio Garcia
Wayne Hamamoto
Jorge Orozco
Ryan Wood
Custodian

David Soto
Equipment Attendant

Police
Davida Watt
Police Officer

Police (continued)
Kelly Salmon
Public Safety Dispatcher

Public Works
Marco Salgado
Juan Ibarra
Benjamin Burch
Ricky Sisneros
Felipe Garcia
Leopoldo Barajas Jr.
Richard Carbajal
Myron Perry
Iraldo Elizundia
Maintenance Worker

Daniel Boykin
Sanitation Equipment Operator

Ervell Prodan
Water Service Tech I

Retirees 06/12 - 09/12

Name	Title	Ret Date	Years of Svc.
Jeffrey Bushong	Building Maintainer	4/30/2012	28
Glenn Foster	Airport Worker	4/7/2012	36
Behrooz Haghani	Engineering Technician III	5/31/2012	12
Paul Johnson	Bus Operator	6/27/2012	9
Rosalinda Molina	Library Assistant I	4/6/2012	9
Martha Moorman	Library Assistant II	5/8/2012	28
Le Roy Pasewalk	Equipment Attendant	5/31/2012	22
Todd Reynolds	Police Officer	6/28/2012	29
Anthony Rodriguez	Maintenance Worker	4/20/2012	27
Evelyn Simon	Library Assistant II	6/29/2012	36

Promotions 06/12 - 09/12

Community Services
Evan Coates
Librarian

General Services
Tyler Knickerbocker
Equipment Attendant

Public Works
Anthony Graham
Cement Finisher

Public Works (continued)
John Aldama
Equipment Operator

Guadalupe Martinez
Sanitation Equipment Operator

Transit
Chris Baker
Senior Mechanic

City Rideshare Program to go ONLINE!

This Fall, the employee Rideshare program will go ONLINE, with all accounts accessible from any computer at any time. "Rideshare participants requested this change," said Rideshare staff member, Cyndy Rosell. "We created a more efficient, paperless program that participants can customize for their own individual needs," she said.

Rideshare Online Features:

- Account access from any computer 24/7
- Monitor up to date rideshare activity.
- Access activity history.
- Manage carpool partners.
- View up to date points balance
- Claim reward points
- View and edit pending reward orders
- Place incentive gift card orders anytime during the month
- Daily e-mail reminder to log in your daily rideshare activity with your choice of e-mail address
- A larger database for gift cards in various monetary amounts
- Printable statements and reports as needed

The webpage launch date is scheduled for October, 2012. Participants and new enrollees can set up their accounts at the 2012 Health and Benefits Fair where staff will be on hand to assist and answer questions.

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The City takes a Pro-Active Role in Providing Alternative Fuel Sources

Progress continues on the City's commitment to reduce local Green House Gas emissions through the development of public access to alternative fuel sources within the city borders and throughout the South Bay. The City's 2005 Carbon Footprint indicated that 1/3 of the City's total greenhouse gas emissions were attributed to transportation fuels. As directed by the City's Strategic Plan, the City has been diversifying the alternative fuel sources available to the public. We already accommodate a Bio-Diesel Co-Operative and a Compressed Natural Gas station at the City Yard; last year Shell Oil and Toyota Motor Sales USA opened the City's first public hydrogen fueling stations. The City was approached by Honda to be a part of the Honda Fit-EV Collaborative with Honda, Google and Stanford University. The Fit-EV collaborative provided a one-year lease of the Fit-EV to each participant. The City will use the Fit-EV to better understand the need for charging infrastructure, technically known as Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment (EVSE). The goal is to locate the sites in such a way as to never be more than one mile away from an accessible Electric Vehicle (EV) charging station. Staff is also working with the South Bay Environmental Services Center staff to develop the EV infrastructure throughout the South Bay and implement best practices for permitting and development review.

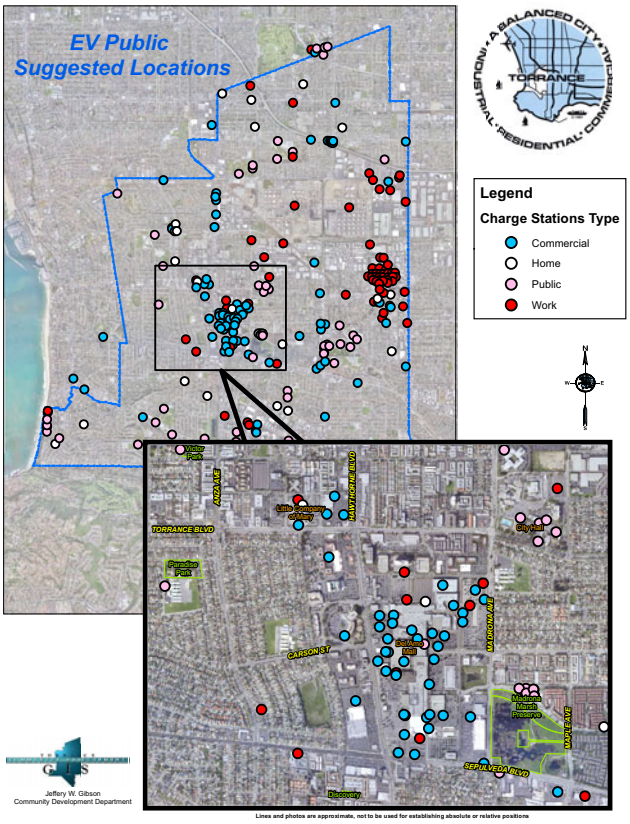
One of the first steps in determining the locations for the EV charging stations was to glean input from the public. At first, this was done with a physical map and pins at public events. In order to include as many members of the public as possible, Community Development teamed up with CIT to create a web-site, http://www.torranceca.gov/22841.htm, where people can submit up to three suggested locations on aerial maps and complete a brief survey on Electric Vehicles. "This information will be crucial in creating an EV infrastructure that will best serve the public's interest," said Jeff Gibson, Community Development Director.

A primary component to facilitating the development of EV infrastructure throughout the City is having an efficient permitting and inspection process. "Staff from the Community Development Department's Building Division has provided tremendous support to the effort by achieving over-the-counter issuance in over 90% of EV permits and sustaining the Building Inspections service goal of next day inspections," said Danny Santana, Senior Planning Associate. There is still much to accomplish to achieve the creation of EV infrastructure capable of sustaining the number of EVs expected to be used by South Bay residents and commuters. The Torrance Municipal Code must be updated to address EVs in new commercial and residential developments, which represent the most cost-effective point to install EV infrastructure.

Public hearings have been held and recommendations are being prepared for presentation to City Council. Meanwhile, eleven EV charging sites are already in operation in the City, including

the Civic Center, GM-Advanced Technology Center on Lomita Boulevard, Varengo Solar on Western and the three Torrance Walgreens locations. The public is invited to participate by visiting the City's EV-website at http://www.torranceca.gov/22841.htm.

Torrance: "1 Mile, 1 Charger"



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Torrance TRIVIA

Spring 2012 Question:
Which of the following communities was not considered for annexing by the City of Torrance?

A. Lomita
B. El Camino Village/Alondra Park
C. Rolling Hills
D. Redondo Beach

E. We wanted them all (CORRECT ANSWER)

Correct Responders were: Jeannie Fuller, Bill Kamimura, Paul Hill, DarLynn Nemitz and the winner of the drawing is: Bill Kamimura!

New Question

The direct dial prefix for Torrance was "FAirfax", what prefix would you use if you wanted to call your friends in Lomita or Harbor City?

Thanks to Michael George for these Trivia Questions and Answers.

Please email your answers to:
JanetStancliff3@ gmail.com

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Submit all game responses, employee news and calendar items to: JanetStancliff3@gmail.com

City Yard Open House & Car Show
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Continued from Page 1

I•B