Emergency Preparedness: September was National Preparedness Month and the theme of this year’s campaign is “Prepared, Not Scared. Be Ready for Disasters.” Even though September is National Preparedness Month, we should remember to be prepared for any sort of emergency or disaster year-round. It is crucial to create a family emergency plan and learn the community’s evacuation plans in the case of an emergency. Southern California experiences fires and flooding during this time of year. Wildfires are one of the biggest threats to Orange County and can start at any time without notice. Flooding is one of the most common disasters in California and driving through flooded roads can be dangerous. Avoid areas with heavy water as there may be more damage than one can see. If you approach a road that is flooded, do not enter the flooded area, and turn around. You can be prepared for emergencies by signing up for AlertOC. AlertOC allows you to receive alerts for multiple locations such as your home, child’s school, and workplace. If an emergency situation arises in any of these locations, you will receive a notification, even if you are not currently there. Visit alertoc.org to register.

Coffee with a Cop: National “Coffee with a Cop” occurs every October 2 and the Police Department celebrated at the new Starbucks on Katella Avenue and Winner Circle. Los Alamitos Police Chief, Eric Nunez, surprised customers by serving coffee at the drive-thru window. The Los Alamitos Police Department will be hosting the next “Coffee with a Cop” on November 6, 2019 from 7:30 to 9:30 AM at the Starbucks on Katella Avenue and Pine Street.

Holiday Shopping/Crimes During The Holidays: Shopping trips and vacations become more of a common occurrence for households as the holiday season begins to approach. Around Thanksgiving, many people will either be traveling or on the road. The day after Thanksgiving, Black Friday, is one of the most popular times to go shopping. Unfortunately, this also means it’s the time of year when vehicle and home burglaries rise. Here are a few tips to help prevent vehicle and home burglaries:

- Do not leave anything in your vehicle that is valuable and visible. Make sure you grab your purse, wallet, phone etc. when leaving your vehicle even if you do not anticipate being gone for long.
- Make sure your vehicle is locked. More often than not, thieves will check for unlocked vehicles to steal items that may be left behind.
- If you are going on vacation, check with your local police department if a vacation check can be conducted while you are gone.
- Before leaving on vacation make sure your house is locked, windows are shut, valuable items are hidden, and any spare keys are in a safe place/hidden.

Don’t Lose It
Be Smart. Stay Safe.

After working for the City for six years, City Manager Bret Plumlee resigned from his position effective August 16, 2019 to retire. The City Manager is responsible for the implementation of policies established by the Los Alamitos City Council and coordinate those efforts through the various City departments. Providing leadership and vision, the City Manager oversees the affairs of the City through the execution of the adopted budget, identification of legislative priorities, and overall management of City operations. The City Manager elicits effective involvement from City Council, City Staff, and our community members to address strategic needs and identify future issues. The City Manager is also responsible for representing the City’s interests throughout the region including with the Joint Forces Training Base. City Council appointed Mr. Les Johnson to serve as the Interim City Manager. The City is fortunate that Mr. Johnson has agreed in serving the City as Interim City Manager as the Ad-Hoc Committee begins the recruitment process for the permanent City Manager position.

This past year Mr. Johnson has served as the Development Services Director for the City of Los Alamitos. His professional career of more than 25 years has provided a number of opportunities that align extremely well with this position. His experiences have demanded and successfully resulted in a strong, performance driven, and results oriented public service career. His current and previous peers and supervisors recognize him as someone who is a successful leader and facilitator, customer experience driven, committed to establishing and maintaining relationships, able to see the “big picture” while maintaining attention to detail, as well as being a dedicated, committed, and self-motivated employee who is a key person within the organization to get things accomplished. Mr. Johnson’s professional experience and character is in direct alignment with the City of Los Alamitos values.

Interim City Manager
Les Johnson
The City of Los Alamitos is proud of its services and strong accountability that create a high “Quality of Life” for its residents. The City of Los Alamitos will need to take extraordinary measures to fulfill the City’s goal of “Fiscal Sustainability” that includes employing innovative, creative, and progressive methods to continue City Services.

**What is the problem?**

The City is projected to enter a budget deficit starting in 2020 that will grow over the next 10 years to greater than $3 million per year.

All City’s cash reserves will be exhausted before 2024

**Why is there a problem?**

- The State of CA is taking more from cities causing a decrease in tax revenue
- Costs have increased across the board - public safety services, pension obligations, and infrastructure
- Cities are being required to deal with an ever increasing number of State mandates (i.e. homelessness)
How are we currently dealing with the problem?

- Reduction in staffing levels over the past 10 years, which challenges ability to provide high level of service
- Eliminated Recreation Programs including: After School Drop-in Parks Programs, Senior Trips, Aquatics Programs, & reduced Adult Sports
- Delay replacement of outdated park equipment and making facility improvements, including street infrastructure
- Conducted pension reform requiring employee contribution and reducing City obligation
- Developing a 10-year Financial Plan that includes a number of cost reduction and revenue enhancement options

What are possible solutions?

- Parcel Tax (local residents only)
- Sales Tax Increase (residents & visitors)
- Increases to Utility User Tax (local residents only)
- Adjust Hotel Bed Taxes (visitors only)
- Recreation fee increases (residents & visitors)

If a solution is not found, the following will be reduced or eliminated:

- Local Police protection
- Police response time
- School Resource Officer
- Crossing Guard
- Maintaining streets, pot holes & medians
- Tree trimming
- Community events
- Youth sports programs
- Summer youth parks program
- Senior programming
- Community service programs
- Economic & business development
- Parks & facility maintenance

These items will not solve the over $3 Million deficit

Tell us what you think...

We Need Your Input!

Contact
David Cain, Fiscal Sustainability Manager
dcain@cityoffslamitos.org (562) 431-3538 ext. 485

Eric Hendrickson, Finance Director
ehendrickson@cityoffslamitos.org (562) 431-3538 ext. 222

For more info, visit www.cityoffslamitos.org/fiscal-sustainability/
Help Maintain the Quality of Life in Los Alamitos:
The City of Los Alamitos ten year financial plan shows the City will have a structural deficit next year. The City of Los Alamitos will need to take extraordinary measures to fulfill the City’s goal of “Fiscal Sustainability” that includes employing innovative, creative, and progressive methods to continue essential City Services. In September and October, City Staff conducted a number of community meetings held at the Community Center, Orville R. Lewis Park, Stansbury Park, Little Cottonwood Park, and St. Isidore Historical Plaza to seek input from the community members about what your family’s priorities and suggestions are to maintain the “Quality of Life” in Los Alamitos. Thank you to all of the residents and community members that attended each of our meetings, your feedback is essential.

Next Steps: The City of Los Alamitos awarded a Professional Services Agreement to FM3 Research for a public outreach survey and research related to the City’s continuing fiscal sustainability process. The survey plans to provide the City with statistically reliable data regarding voter preferences and information on City tax revenue.

Golden State Water Project:
The Golden State Water Company has now completed the pavement rehabilitation work in certain street in the apartment row neighborhood. Segments of specific streets where new water lines were established, were repaired and resurfaced. The next phase of this large scaled project includes the replacement of water lines within private properties connecting to the main line. At this time, the next phase of this project is anticipated to commence next year.

Republic Services is committed to preserving our natural resources, keeping our environment clean, and helping the people we serve live in safe and healthy communities. It may be hard to believe, but some people think recycling does not make much of a difference in the big picture. But nothing could be further from the truth! The more we recycle, the more we save. It’s simple conservation, and it makes our resources last longer and go farther. This not only helps us today, but of course, it’s also looking out for future generations.

Here are some simple tips to help you become a “Recycling Rockstar”:
- The Poke Test - If you can poke your finger through the plastic, it does not belong in your recycling container.
- Rule of Thumb - Never recycle anything smaller than a credit card.
- Do not bag your recyclables – place them in your recycling container loosely.
- Many common household items (shoes, toys, clothing) can be reused but NOT recycled.

Orange County Sanitation District: The Wester Regional Sewers Program project is scheduled to commence in the summer of 2020. This project will impact seven different Orange County cities, including Los Alamitos. This project proses the rehabilitation of two parallel sewer lines on Los Alamitos Boulevard/Seal Beach Boulevard, from north of the I-405 to Katella Avenue. The sewer line on Katella Avenue from Oak Street to Lexington Drive will also be rehabilitated. Repair to the sewer system is critical, as the lines suffer from corrosion and must be fixed to extend their service life. Once fully repaired, the lines will remain operational for another 50 years.

The City of Los Alamitos Recreation & Community Services Department introduces MemorialCare Miller Children’s & Women’s Hospital Long Beach “My Rec Rewards” Program for families desiring to engage in exclusive loyalty member benefits and privileges. An annual fee (for immediate family members only) of $49 for a Los Alamitos resident family or $52 for a non-resident family provides extensive program benefits which include:
- Free access to My Rec Rewards Program family events
- Swag gifts
- Waived transfer & refund fees
- Preferred parking at Race on the Base & 4th of July
- Exclusive member contest experiences
- Priority registration
- Special discount offers

Upcoming My Rec Rewards events (free for members) include:

- 11/29/19 Drop ‘N’ Shop (free childcare)
- 12/21/19 Holiday Kids Craft Workshop
- 1/24/20 Family Movie Night
- 2/14/20 Valentine’s Day Los Al Kids Club

Register your family today to enjoy these customer loyalty member benefits today!