5 YEAR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT BUDGET PASSED

The City of Pico Rivera will be busy with several projects as the Five-Year Capital Improvement Project (CIP) Budget was passed during a City Council meeting held in October.

The passage of the CIP Budget paves the way for City staff to begin on several projects throughout the City in the upcoming year.

Beginning at the north of the City, the Pico Rivera Teen Center will undergo much needed renovation improvements. The project includes some cosmetic repairs and improvements such as roof repair, interior and exterior painting, new flooring, and outdoor fencing.

When the Pico Rivera Senior Center is allowed by Health Officials to re-open, the restroom facilities will have been updated to the most current ADA standards, enhancing the safety of those facilities for the patrons that use them.

More ADA upgrades will be made at Pico Rivera City Hall. Upgrades include ADA compliancy in the City Hall public restrooms, elevator, and entrance ramps to City Hall for easier accessibility for residents.

"Our public facilities are what our residents and visitors use on a daily basis. These cosmetic improvements and ADA enhancements will not only provide even more accessibility to our residents, they will also ensure that

these facilities remain in use for years to come," said City Manager Steve Carmona.

While our facilities will be getting renovated and upgraded, the City's sidewalks and roads will also be improved through the City's Annual Sidewalk Replacement Program and Annual Signing and Striping Project.

The Annual Sidewalk Replacement Project ensures the safety of our residents by repairing or maintaining damaged sidewalks or the installation of new sidewalks in high pedestrian areas where sidewalks are not available.

Many drivers can appreciate the Annual Signing and Striping Project throughout the City. Each year, City staff remove and replace existing signage, and re-stripe faded roadway markings throughout the City. This project allows for better visibility of signs and roadway markings day or night; making for safer travel for motorists traversing City roads.

Another roadway project that many motorists will surely appreciate is set to begin next year. This project will be the rehabilitation of Rosemead Boulevard from Whittier Boulevard to Gallatin Road. This rehabilitation project will include re-paving this roadway segment and reconstructing portions of pavement along this roadway segment, installation of signs, crosswalks, and curbs.



"Fixing our City streets is one of our top priorities, and we take advantage at any opportunity provided to us to fix them," said Carmona.

With a couple of more projects down the pipeline, the cost of the scheduled projects for the upcoming year alone come at a cost of just over \$33 million. All of which is funded through various sources such as Community Development Block Grant funds, and Measure R Funds, to name a few.

"We are going to be busy this year and in the next few years. We have much work to do despite the current pandemic," said Carmona. "These are projects that needed to take place to ensure the highest quality of life for our residents."

More information on these projects including road closures and updates will be made available on the City's website, Social Media channels, and in future editions of the Profile. For additional information, contact our Public Works Department at 562.801.4415.

City Continues to Invest in Clean Water for its Residents

The City of Pico Rivera is taking the first steps in ensuring that water delivered to the customers of the Pico Rivera Water Authority (PRWA) is safe for use and consumption.

Back in 2019, the State Water Resources Control Board announced updated guidelines for local water agencies to follow in detecting



and reporting the presence of perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS) and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) in drinking water. The Board also announced it had begun the process of establishing regulatory standards for these chemicals.

Based on the most current results, it was determined that the Notification Level for perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS) and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) in the groundwater served to customers of PRWA had been exceeded but was below the Response Level. Notification Level warrants further monitoring and assessment while Response Level is higher and requires a taking a water source out of service or provide treatment if available. Currently, all Pico Rivera Water Authority Wells remain in operation.

During the City Council meeting held last month, City Administration was given the authority to seek bids for a Polyfluroralkyl Substances (PFAS) Treatment System Project. This project will seek to treat and remove PFOS and PFOA chemicals and other contaminants in the water provided by the Pico Rivera Water Authority.

"As we take this huge first step, we want to show our residents our commitment to water safety and that we are taking the necessary steps in addressing this issue," said City Manager Steve Carmona.

City Staff is currently working with an engineering firm for the design, bidding and construction support services for the PFAS Treatment System Project.

The City of Pico Rivera is among several communities and water agencies in Southern California that are facing the same issue with their water supply.

"Residents need to know that the water delivered to customers of the Pico Rivera Water Authority still meets and exceeds all State and Federal drinking water standards," stated Carmona. "The water continues to be safe for consumption and use."

The project is currently in the preliminary phase with construction an implementation set to take place later this year.



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Durfee Grade Separation Project Update

Over the last few months, significant progress has been made on the Durfee Avenue Grade Separation Project.

Since December, several 40-ton steel girders were installed. The girders will support the 95-foot-long railroad bridge over Durfee Avenue. Last month, construction crews began work on the retaining walls that will support the roadway underpass and railroad bridge along Durfee Avenue.

Durfee Avenue remains closed until May 2022, when the new roadway is anticipated to open to all traffic. Currently, access to businesses located on Durfee Avenue near the closure that are allowed to operate per the latest Health Orders are not impacted by the road closure, and access is available at all times.

Once completed, the \$107.8 million Grade Separation Project will substantially minimize the issue of emergency responders seeking alternate routes due to blocked access and eliminate the harmful emissions from idling vehicles waiting for the trains to pass. Another issue that is being addressed with this project is pedestrian and bicyclist safety. New pedestrian sidewalks will be installed on both sides of the roadway underneath the bridge, and a dedicated bicycle lane traveling northbound and southbound will be included in the roadway design. This will allow pedestrians and bicyclists to safely traverse along Durfee Avenue in a safe manner without the worry of an oncoming train. Finally, much of the noise pollution associated with trains will be reduced when locomotive horn noise is eliminated as they no longer have to blow their horn when approaching an at-grade crossing.

The Durfee Avenue Grade
Separation Project is in partnership
with the Alameda Corridor-East
Project (ACE), the San Gabriel
Valley Council of Governments, The
City of Pico Rivera, Metro, the U.S.
Department of Transportation, the
California Transportation Commission,
Caltrans, and Union Pacific Railroad.

For more project information, residents may call the Project Helpline at 888.ACE.1426, by visiting the project website at **theaceproject.org** or by following along with the project's progress on Twitter @DurfeeGS.

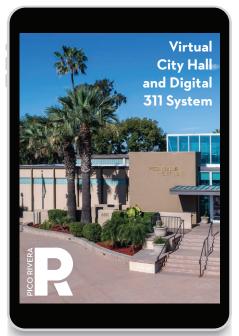
City Staff are steadily advancing implementation of the City's Virtual City Hall & 311 System (VCH + 311). The new VCH + 311 is a comprehensive effort to provide virtual, on-demand city services while ensuring more accurate and immediate transparency.

Thanks in part to a grant from the Department of Justice, the new system will enable residents, businesses, stakeholders, and visitors to submit, track and manage service requests, transactions, communications, and much more with the City. Reporting issues such as potholes, broken street lights, graffiti removal will be much easier. Managing payments for utilities, fees, park reservations, business and pet licenses

and more will be centrally located in a secure and personal account portal. The VCH + 311 system will also enable customizable information dashboards so residents can actively track progress on projects, programs, and other City initiatives that are of interest to you.

This technology will not only enhance services for our residents, it will also help minimize exposure to COVID-19 and enhance public engagement. Although the VCH + 311 will launch in early Spring 2021, new features and functionality will be added on a regular basis. Over time, the system will grow and evolve to ensure a better, more interactive virtual experience for all.

More details regarding the City's Virtual City Hall & 311 System will be coming in future editions of the Profile. Stay tuned for this very exciting City development.



Wine & Dine Your Valentines... Virtually

Join the Pico Rivera Chamber of Commerce on Saturday, February 13, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. for a memorable culinary night.

The evening will include a "Zoom" virtual cooking demonstration with Chef Marco Zapien from Zapien's Salsa Grill. Chef Marco will guide you in preparing dishes for 4 to 6 of your guests.

This is a great way to celebrate Valentine's with your family from the comfort and safety of your home.

Great food, great raffle prizes, and great fun to support the Pico Rivera Chamber of Commerce.

For more about the event, sponsorship opportunities, or if you wish to purchase an event package, contact the Chamber office at 562.949.2477 or email julianbalderas@picoriverachamber.org

See you there and bring your appetite with you.



Our streets have new, brighter lights thanks to the most recent progress of the City's Streetlight Acquisition, LED Conversion, and Operations & Maintenance Project.

Since November 2020, the City took ownership of over 3,000 streetlights previously owned and operated by Southern California Edison (SCE). The City successfully replaced all of the High-Pressure Sodium (HPS) fixtures with new, energy-efficient Light Emitting Diodes (LED) fixtures. LED lights have several benefits, including improved lighting to increase public safety and on-going maintenance and energy savings.

One of the project's design approaches is **standardization**, which means there is not much variation between light fixtures throughout the City.

Safety is a major priority, and LEDs are the general street lighting industry preference for various reasons. The color temperatures for these lights are available in a wide

Streetlight Fixtures Upgraded to LED

range from warm white to daylight (2700K to 6000K), and we've selected lights in the 3000K range.

Reducing wasted resources while increasing performance levels are system **efficiency** goals. LED fixtures consume less energy because they have control functions to adjust the amount of light needed while more light reaches a selected area. The new streetlights waste significantly less energy than HPS because LEDs produce minimal heat emission, and don't require a warm-up or cool-down period. The estimated lifespan of LED streetlights is 25,000 to 200,000 hours, which means these lights can last anywhere from 5 to 50 years. The average lifespan of an HPS streetlight is only 4 to 5 years. While LEDs last longer, they also use about a third of the wattage used by HPS lights. In addition to conserving energy the City's streetlights run on PRIME Future, the 100% renewable energy product, that together have a positive impact on our carbon emissions.

Operations and maintenance will be performed by a team of licensed professionals from Tanko Lighting. LED lights are not as fragile as HPS glass bulbs and do not shatter with mechanical shocks from power

outages or physical shocks from wind force. Unlike HPS lights that flicker near the end of their useful life, LED lights gradually dim over time. With all of these benefits and the 20-year life expectancy of the fixtures, the City will have a significant reduction in maintenance and operation costs.

Lastly, the City is collaborating with Southern California Regional Energy Network (SoCalREN) to assist with rebates and a full energy assessment to maximize our savings from the LED conversion. Installation of the LED streetlight fixtures began in late November 2020 and was completed in January 2021. There will be a second phase of the project to upgrade the remaining 600 decorative fixtures, which have already gone through an audit and mapping process.

The Streetlight Acquisition, LED Conversion, and Operations & Maintenance Project was awarded to Tanko Lighting of San Francisco, CA, in March 2019. For more information regarding the project, call 562.801.4437. Please report maintenance issues online at *tankolighting.com/picoriveramaintenance* or contact our call center 7 days a week, 24 hours a day 800.509.9358.

PROFILE

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The Pico Rivera Profile is produced by the City of Pico Rivera and is distributed to residents and businesses as an educational service. For information about the Profile contact the Media and Communications Division at 562.801.4217.

UPCOMING CITY MEETINGS

All meetings are held in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 6615 Passons Blvd., unless otherwise noted.

City Council Meeting
Visit pico-rivera.org for details.

Planning Commission
Visit pico-rivera.org for details.

Parks & Recreation Commission Visit pico-rivera.org for details.

This Month on CTV

We're on the air... CTV3 has added some new shows to the line-up. Catch episodes of The Garage with Steve Butler, Smart Movie Show, Car Guy Channel, and Space Quest. Additionally, catch local favorites like Huell Howser's California's Gold and live coverage of the City Council meetings. CTV3 can be streamed online at pico-rivera.org.

Spectrum Cable, Channel 3 · Frontier FioS Channel 33 · AT&T U-Verse, Channel 99

Sign up for CITY E-MAILS

Receive important City news and alerts by subscribing to the City's e-newsletter service. Simply email us at gcastorena@pico-rivera.org.



Help us **keep recyclables free from contamination** by making sure they are clean, dry, and empty.

Recycle only items accepted in your **BLUE** bin. If you're unsure, place them into your trash bin.

Contact NASA Services with your questions! 888.888.0388

Avoid putting these in your **BLUE** bin:

- Stryrofoam packaging
- To-go food & beverage containers
- Film plastic & plastic bags
- Food & liquid
- Greasy or coated paper

Coming Soon! Streamlined Planning and Building Review

On December 2, 2020, the City was awarded \$300,000 in grant funds from the State's Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) through the Local Early Action Planning Grants program (LEAP). These funds will be utilized to purchase online permitting and interactive digital systems that will expedite the processing of plan approvals and building permits to assist with housing development in the City. In the future, plans can be submitted, reviewed, and staff corrections/comments added electronically, providing real-time communication between the applicant and City Staff.

Providing residents and businesses with online permitting and interactive digital systems will streamline planning and building submittals and review processes, increase transparency and speed up housing production.

Additional information will be forthcoming in future editions of the Profile.

Responses to Housing Element Update Survey Needed

The City of Pico Rivera is in the process of updating the Housing Element of the General Plan. This update is the 6th Cycle for the 2021-2029 planning period. As part of the update, the City wants to hear from residents to help shape the new Housing Element policies, goals, objectives, and programs by receiving your responses to the survey posted on the City's website. After using the "scan code icon" or using the website link below, you will be directed to the City's Housing Element Update webpage where you can click on the link for the Survey that is highlighted in blue. You can also find a link to the presentation that was provided to the Planning Commission and during the Virtual Community Workshop held in December.

The State of California provided a statewide housing goal, which required the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) to assess housing production planning goals by City. One of Pico Rivera's challenges is meeting the requirement to plan for the City's Regional Housing Needs Assessment of 1,022 units assigned by SCAG within the 2021-2029 planning period. This does not mean all units need to be built, but the City must "plan" for these units.

This is a tremendous task, and the City needs your help by submitting the type of housing you would like to see, preferred locations for new housing units, Accessory Dwelling Units, and your vision for your City. To access the Housing Element Update webpage, visit **bit.ly/HousingElementPR**



COVID-19 UPDATE

County Health Officer Issues Update

- » Private Gatherings: Limited to 3 households and a total of 15 people; outdoors only
- » Family Entertainment Centers: Open for outdoor operations (50%)
- » Museums, Zoos and Aquariums: Open for outdoor operations
- » Cardrooms: Open for outdoor operations (50%)
- » Miniature Golf, Go Karts, Batting Cages: Open for outdoor operations (50%)
- » Outdoor Recreational Activity: Open
- » Hotels, Motels: Tourism and individual travel allowed
- » Fitness Facilities: Open for outdoor operations
- » Personal Care: Open at 25% indoor capacity
- » Indoor Malls, Shopping Centers, Lower-Risk Retail: Open at 25% indoor capacity: food courts and common areas closed
- » Restaurants: Outdoor dining only

covid19.lacountv.gov



City Facilities Update

Since last March, the City has taken steps upon the advisement of State and County Health Officials to close all City facilities to help slow the spread of COVID-19. The closures affected City Hall, the Senior Center, and our Parks and Community Centers. Over the last couple of months, State and County Health Officials have lifted several restrictions, allowing for the City to open various City facilities and offer City Services.

City Hall is currently open for In-Person Services Tuesday through Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Residents are able to make payments for City services such as Water, Permits, etc., on a walk-up basis with no appointments necessary. Services provided by Community and Economic Development, Public Works, and the City Clerk's office will require an appointment. Appointments for in-person services can be made by calling City Hall at 562.942.2000. In accordance with local Health Orders, masks must be worn at all times, Social

Distancing protocols will be in place, and residents may be subject to temperature and symptom screening.

City Hall continues to offer phone services Monday through Friday, 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Residents are encouraged to use the City's website for processing payments online and to find answers for many City related questions and services.

Walking Trails and Green Spaces remain open for passive use at our Parks. All Park Playgrounds were just re-opened for public use.

As a reminder, all other amenities such as athletic fields, indoor and outdoor athletic courts, picnic areas, and gazebos remain closed per current Public Health Orders.

The Pico Rivera Senior Center also remains closed to the public, offering services and information over the phone at 562.948.4844.

For updates on City Hall, City closures, Parks and Recreation programs, and Senior programs, visit our websites at **pico-rivera.org**, or **picoriverastrong.org**, or follow us on our City's social medial platforms for the most current and up to date information.



Upcoming Phased Rollout of Vaccines

Last month, State and County officials announced the rollout of the much anticipated COVID-19 Vaccine. The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health will be releasing the Vaccine in phases due to the limited quantities that are currently available.

The first phase, **Phase 1A**, is currently underway and includes the following:

- County Residents who are 65 years of age and older
- Healthcare workers and residents of skilled nursing facilities, long-term care facilities, and routine in-person contact.

The second phase, **Phase 1B**, will be underway in early February. This group includes the following:

- Those at risk of exposure at work (Education and Childcare, Emergency Services, Food and Agriculture, Transportation and Logistics, Industrial, Commercial, Residential, and Sheltering Facilities and services, and Critical Manufacturing)
- Congregate settings with outbreak risk (Incarcerated, Homeless)

Appointments can be booked online at **VaccinateLACounty.com**. Visit the website as well for the full list of eligibility and additional information. Residents may also call 833.540.0473 between 8:00 a.m. and 8:30 p.m. for additional assistance.



Local Resident Receives Childhood Cancer Sibling Scholarship

The costly treatment associated with childhood cancer can lead to long-term financial challenges, including questions of how to afford higher education. Northwestern Mutual, a financial planning firm, has been committed to helping children and families affected by this disease achieve their college dreams. As part of these efforts, local resident Ethan Salmeron has been selected as a 2020 recipient through the company's Childhood Cancer Sibling Scholarship program.

The scholarship program was developed to alleviate the financial strain on families that often results from expensive cancer treatments by helping to fund school tuition and fees. Forty-three students, the largest cohort to date, have each been awarded a \$5,000 renewable scholarship (for a total of \$10,000) through this year's program.

Ethan's younger brother, Jaden, was diagnosed with leukemia when they were both children. He experienced confusion, sadness, and anger, unable to understand why his younger brother was battling cancer. As a result, Ethan decided to focus on factors in life he could control, including school, friendships, and family support.

Jaden's cancer battle allowed Ethan to discover his passion for giving back to others as he volunteers at CoachArt and Camp Ronald McDonald.

"I look for volunteer opportunities that better the lives of those around me. I find so much joy in bringing smiles to people's faces," said Ethan Salmeron. "My brother's battle with cancer marks a difficult time in my family's life, yet those struggles are no longer weaknesses, but rather strengths."

Ethan attended St. Marianne's School in Pico Rivera, East Whittier Middle School in Whittier, and graduated from Loyola High School in Los Angeles. Ethan will be pursuing a Major in Entrepreneurship at Loyola Marymount University.

Los Angeles County Library Services Continue

The Pico Rivera Library will be offering reference services by from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Monday, and Wednesday through Friday, and from 11:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. every Tuesday. The Rivera Library will be offering reference services from 11:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Tuesdays, and from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday. To speak with Library Staff from one of the City's Libraries, call 562.942.7394 for the Pico Rivera Library or 562.949.5485 for the Rivera Library.

Laptop and Hotspot Loans

Do you know anyone without internet or a computer at home who would benefit from borrowing them—to apply for jobs, access homeschooling resources, or simply stay connected to information? You can now check out a kit with a Chromebook and wireless hotspot to access the internet (plus chargers) inside a handy carrying case, from any Sidewalk Service location including Pico Rivera Library and Rivera Library. Please call either library to place a

hold on a Laptop & Hotspot Loan Kit. Any adult with a regular library card can borrow a kit for 3 weeks, with the option to renew, if available.

Sidewalk Service

The Los Angeles County Library continues to offer Sidewalk Service for holds pick up at select libraries including the Pico Rivera Library and now the Rivera Library, giving residents access to books, music, and movies they want to borrow. Once holds have been processed, they may be picked up at the Pico Rivera Library on Tuesdays from 12:00 to 7:00 p.m., and on Monday and Wednesday through Friday from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. Holds from the Rivera Library can be picked up on Tuesdays from 12:00 to 7:00 p.m. and Wednesday through Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. New holds can be placed by using the Library's online catalog or by calling the Pico Rivera or Rivera Library. All book drops remain open. All returned materials will be quarantined for 96 hours before being reissued.

For details, visit LACountyLibrary. org/express-service.

Printing Pick-Up

Printing Pick-Up is currently available at all Sidewalk Service locations. Print up to 10 pages daily (Monday through Friday) from your wireless device to our printers using the Library's wireless printing service, LACountyLibrary.org/print, and pick up with no contact. After uploading your document(s), please call the Pico Rivera Library to arrange for pickup. Print jobs will immediately be placed in an envelope for confidentiality.

Virtual Programs

Visit LACountyLibrary.org/virtualprogramming/ to see the large array of virtual programming that LA County Library is offering. This includes book and movie talks, virtual storytime, parenting tips, job search opportunities, and much more!

In observance of the President's Day Holiday, the Libraries will be closed on Monday, February 15.

Rio Vista Elementary Teacher Wins National Red Ribbon Week Photo Contest



Rio Vista Elementary third grade teacher KimRenee Magallanes received some good news just before the Holiday break. The National Family Partnership (NFP) announced that she was a National Red Ribbon Week® Photo Contest winner. Ms. Magallanes received an Apple iPad, plus a \$1000 donation was made to Rio Vista Elementary.

Co-sponsored by the Drug Enforcement Administration, the annual contest invited families and schools across the country to decorate the fronts of their homes and schools with a double-looped red ribbon in order to create awareness about the importance of staying drug-free. In addition to the double-looped red ribbon, all photo contest submissions were also required to incorporate the 2020 campaign Theme, Be Happy. Be Brave. Be Drug Free.™

"It's super exciting to win. It's important to educate the kids, which is why I've always participated with my classroom" said Ms. Magallanes.

The winning contest photos either received the most votes in their designated region or were selected by a panel of judges. Contest categories included Most Creative, Best Use of Theme, Best Virtual Photo, Most Educational, Most Ambitious, Best Use of Family, Best Use of School or Virtual School, and Most Creative School or Virtual School.

"My son is ten years old and is autistic," Magallanes said. "I let his and my daughter's creativity lead the way, and everything they drew in the photo is a representation of their personality."

Pictured in the photo entry provided by the National Family Partnership is Ms. Magallanes' daughter, who also attends Rio Vista Elementary.

TK and Kindergarten Registration for 2021/2022

Parents/guardians wishing to enroll their children into transitional kindergarten (TK) or kindergarten in the El Rancho Unified School District have the opportunity to do so beginning Tuesday, February 16. Ongoing registration will be available at specific hours for each elementary school site.

Children who will enroll in kindergarten must be five years old on or before September 1, 2021. Any child who will have his/her fifth birthday from September 2, 2021, through December 2, 2021, shall be offered a transitional kindergarten (TK) program.

For additional information regarding the registration process and/or to complete the necessary documents, parents/guardians may contact their elementary school of choice or visit the registration tab on the District website at **erusd.org**.



The Parks and Recreation Department is currently offering a Virtual Recreation program for youngsters wanting to learn about the game of Chess.

Chess for Kids & Teens for players between the ages of 5 to 16 will provide an opportunity for students to learn about the strategic thinking of the game while improving their ability to concentrate and problem solve.

Chess for Kids & Teens will be held online on Monday afternoons from 3:00 to 3:40 p.m. from February 22 through March 22. The fee for this class is \$26.

Registrations are taken online at **pico-rivera.org**. A Zoom ID and Password will be provided registration is completed.

For more information about this class, call the Parks and Recreation Office at 562.801.4430.