

City passes zone to preserve history

NORCO: City officials take the next step to create a plan for preserving historical sites.

BY LESLIE PARRILLA
THE PRESS-ENTERPRISE

Norco city officials this week created a zone to protect historic properties as part of an ongoing effort to identify and preserve such sites.

The City Council voted 5-0 Wednesday to approve a Historic Preservation Overlay Zone to protect areas with significant historic resources, according to a city report. The new ordinance also will require developers to detail plans for historic properties such as the Lake Norconian resort before building on them.

The ordinance is part of a larger effort by the city to identify sites could be added to the National Register of Historic Places.

"The only landmark the city has at this time is the hotel building on the Lake Norconian property," said Bill Wilkman, a Riverside history researcher and cultural resource consultant. He was hired by the city in 2008 to help develop a comprehensive plan to protect historic sites.

This week's action is the latest step in that plan, Wilkman said. The city started the process by establishing a historic preservation commission and then passing a historic preservation ordinance.

But that ordinance applied

only to individual properties, Wilkman said. If all the buildings on the now vacant Norconian hotel site are to be protected, the new ordinance will do just that, rather than the labor-intensive task of processing each historic building and feature on the property separately.

"This is a management tool. It helps them to manage concentrations of historic resources more effectively and more efficiently," Wilkman said. "It assures that what happens on the property will be consistent with the historic character of the property."

The next step in the historic preservation plan is to survey properties in Norco to determine which qualify as historic sites. The survey is scheduled to begin next



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Norco's Historic Preservation Overlay Zone will require developers to detail plans for historic properties such as the Lake Norconian resort, above, before building on them.

year thanks to funds from a matching federal grant through the state, Wilkman said. The grant can be matched with staff time, volunteer time and consultant time.

"Norco may not have a lot of stand-out historic proper-

ties but it does have the first school that was built in Norco. It's still there. That's a property that probably qualifies as historic designation," Wilkman said. "There are other properties that might qualify."

The most significant his-

toric property in the city is the vacant Lake Norconian resort that was developed for the wealthy by well-known architects. Part of the property sits on state and federal land.

Reach Leslie Parrilla at 951-368-9644 or lparrilla@PE.com

IN BRIEF

EASTVALE

Woman held after child is left in car

An Eastvale woman was arrested Friday after leaving her 18-month-old niece in a car in the parking lot of a Norco grocery store, sheriff's officials said.

Latoya Moreland, 19, was taken into custody after Riverside County sheriff's deputies found her shopping in the Albertsons grocery store while the child sat secured in a child safety seat in the car, a sheriff's news release said.

The outside temperature at the time was about 90 degrees.

Deputies were able to get into the car to free the child, who was lethargic and sweating profusely, the release said. The girl had been in the car 10 to 15 minutes and was taken to a hospital for treatment. She is expected to make a full recovery.

Moreland had cracked the car's windows about two inches before going into the store, the release said. She was booked into the Robert Presley Detention Center in Riverside for investigation of felony child endangerment.

—Steven Barrie
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CORONA

Driver killed when car hits light pole

One person was killed Friday afternoon when a speeding black Lexus ran off northbound Interstate 15 south of Corona and struck a light pole, officials said.

The Lexus left the freeway north of Temescal Canyon Road just before 1:30 p.m. and slammed into the pole, killing the driver and sparking a small brush fire, the California Highway Patrol said on its website.

Witnesses told CHP officers the car was traveling over 100 mph.

A Cal Fire/Riverside County Fire Department crew made short work of the resulting blaze, said Cheri Patterson, a department spokeswoman. It was unclear what started the fire.

The power pole was sheared off and hung from the overhead power lines, CHP officials said.

The identity of the driver was not available Friday evening.

—Steven Barrie
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Business resource center lease OK'd

The Riverside Community College District is opening an economic development center in Corona.

City officials approved a five-year lease agreement on

a 4-0 vote at Wednesday's council meeting. Councilman Steve Nolan was absent.

The Entrepreneurial Business Resource Center will open at the city's former police station at 152 E. Sixth St. The property is owned by the city redevelopment agency.

The center will assist in job training, business building and job creation in Corona and the region. The city is leasing the office space to the district for \$1 a year.

—Leslie Parrilla
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JURUPA

More candidates qualify for ballot

Additional candidates have qualified for the November ballot from the Jurupa area.

The Jurupa Unified School District has five candidates running for one seat in Trustee Area 5 and the Jurupa Community Services District has two candidates seeking one seat in Division 5.

The school district candidates are incumbent Dawn Brewer, Erasmo "Memo" Mendez, Melody "Deedee" Arganda, Armando Muñoz and John M. Todd.

The Community Services District candidates are incumbent Jane Anderson and Umesh Shah.

—Sandra Stokley
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RUBIDOUX

Food distribution at Smith Senior Center

A food box distribution is set for Monday at the Eddie Dee Smith Senior Center.

The distribution is open to people who live in Jurupa and are 60 or older.

Seniors are asked to bring photo identification and proof of income, such as a Social Security letter.

The distribution will be from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 5888 Mission Blvd. Information: 951-275-9975.

—Sandra Stokley
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NORCO

Council to hold study session on Monday

The City Council will hold a study session at 3 p.m. Monday at City Hall, 2870 Clark Ave., Norco.

The council is expected to hear a presentation by the Norco Area Chamber of Commerce and Visitor's Center and discuss a city-wide fiber optics network and public safety communication tower project.

—Leslie Parrilla
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DAVID BAUMAN/THE PRESS-ENTERPRISE

From left, South Korean UCR Extension students Ina Kim, 27, and Dennis Lee, 23, converse with UCR student and native English speaker Alexander Velasquez, 21, in the student lounge of UCR Extension.

NOTE TO VOLUNTEERS: CAN WE TALK?

Conversations partners link English-learners at UCR with native speakers

BY DAVID OLSON
THE PRESS-ENTERPRISE

Min Jung Kim spent a year at the UC Riverside Extension studying for her Teaching English as a Foreign Language certificate.

But the South Korean woman learned more about U.S. culture and how Americans talk to each other in everyday conversation outside the classroom, in a program that enables foreign students to chat informally with native-born Americans.

"In a classroom, you learn a lot, but it's more formal," Kim said. "I wanted to know more common expressions from native speakers."

More than 270 foreign students requested conversation partners in the spring quarter, said Karen Diamond, professional programs coordinator at the UCR Extension, the continuing education branch of the university.

The program is scaled down during the summer, because most of the volunteers are UCR students and not on campus. Other volunteers are adults or high school students from outside

PARTNERS NEEDED

The UC Riverside Extension needs volunteers who will become conversation partners with foreign students studying English.

CALL: Rukmini Shrestha, conversation partner coordinator, 951-827-4346.

the university.

UCR student Alex Velasquez, 21, has had more than 30 conversation partners over the past two years, most from Asia. Conversations usually are one-on-one or with two students. Velasquez said he got involved so he could meet people from other cultures.

"You know the stereotypes about cultures, but this way you can actually interact with people," he said.

For example, many Americans believe Russians are cold and glum, Velasquez said. But that's not how he found a Russian student he conversed with.

"She's probably the nicest girl I ever met," he said. "She

was always smiling."

Velasquez also has had partners from Saudi Arabia and Lebanon.

"You meet people from the Middle East who are very nice and very open, but the media depicts them as terrorists who want to tear apart our government," he said.

Volunteers are required to spend an hour a week with their partners, but Velasquez and others often talk longer, sometimes showing the students around town.

Alexandria Williams, 24, of Riverside, studied Spanish and French in high school and college and can empathize with students struggling to learn English.

"I know what it's like to learn a language and be

nervous and be misunderstood," said Williams.

Many foreign students would not otherwise be able to practice their English with native-born speakers, because they are too shy, she said.

Ina Kim, 27, has been teaching English in South Korea for five years. But she said it's not the same as hanging out with native English speakers.

"When you're just teaching, it doesn't mean you're improving your English," Kim said. "When I'm with a conversation partner, I don't talk like I do in class. You practice and listen and say what Americans really say."

Reach David Olson at 951-368-9462 or dolson@PE.com

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