

Honorable Mayor and Members
of the City Council
City Hall
Torrance, California

Members of the Council:

SUBJECT: Centennial Committee - Accept and File Centennial Committee Quarterly Report

RECOMMENDATION

Recommendation of the Torrance Centennial Committee that City Council accept and file the quarterly report from the Centennial Committee covering the period of July 1, 2012 to September 30, 2012.

Background

In this past quarter, the Centennial Committee worked primarily on the Centennial parade and Centennial Plaza dedication. In addition, there were other Centennial events happening throughout the city during these past three months. The following highlights activities of this quarter:

Rock Around A Century

Rock Around A Century was sponsored by the Torrance Historical Society in honor of the city's 100th year anniversary on Thursday, July 19, 2012. Rather than rock a round the block this year's theme focused on the City of Torrance through the century. This annual event is to celebrate the birthday of our founder Jared Sidney Torrance. Reminiscing on the past was integrated throughout the event. Food, games and entertainment was enjoyed by all.

Centennial Photo Contest and Gala Reception

On July 22, 2012, Leadership Torrance 2012, a program sponsored by the Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce hosted a recognition and exhibition of the Torrance Centennial Photo Contest – "Our Torrance Photos: A Family Album" at the Toyota USA Automobile Museum. The pictures were chosen in the following categories: People, Landmarks and Businesses. To commemorate the Centennial year, the intent of the contest was to create a collection of images and stories that captured the Torrance spirit as told by the photographer. The purpose of the contest was to collect and create a rich repository of images to capture the history of Torrance. After a month long contest, 9 finalists and 3 winners were selected.

International Surf Festival

The International Surf Festival was held the weekend of August 3, 2012. This year the International Surf Festival celebrated its 51st year. During the 3-day event there were a record number of participants in the peer to peer swim, sand soccer tournament along with the surf competition. Metal of Valor awards were given to many lifeguards for their outstanding job. Participants of all ages enjoyed all of the fabulous and exciting events.

Camp Escapades

This annual event sponsored by Pediatric Therapy Network was held from August 6 through August 17, 2012. A basketball game with the campers and representatives from Council, the Police Chief and community leaders was one of the camp highlights. Much fun was enjoyed by all.

Splish Splash We Gotta Dance 100 Years of Making Waves in Torrance

The Aquacade "Splish Splash Gotta Dance 100 Years of Making Waves" had a record number of 50 performers. The two-night show had an audience total of 644 cheering the performers over the two nights.

LA Galaxy Game – Torrance Day

Our Torrance community was well represented at the LA Galaxy at the Home Depot Center on August 26, 2012. The Torrance spirit and cheering on the LA Galaxy Game was felt throughout the day.

Centennial Celebration Music Concert, First United Methodist Church

On the afternoon of Sunday, September 9, 2012 Torrance residents had the opportunity to enjoy a Centennial Celebration Music Concert sponsored by First United Methodist Church in downtown Torrance. The choral and instrumental concert was enjoyed by all. A reception followed in El Prado Park.

Western Museum of Flight Open House

An Open House at the Western Museum of Flight was held on September 15, 2012. The attendees got an inside look at aircraft restoration projects. The collections includes numerous Warbirds, aircraft and target drones, piston and jet aircraft engines, aircraft components, aircraft ejection seats, World War II instruments, aircrew accessories, and an extensive model aircraft collection.

City of Torrance Employee Variety Show, Centennial Edition

The Centennial Edition of the City of Torrance Employee Variety Show was held on September 15, 2012. The opening number paid homage to the City. Beautiful head pieces depicting various landmarks of the city were worn by city representative, staff and community members. Head pieces included: The Torrance Bridge, Torrance City Seal, Rocket Ship Park, oil derricks, and other images depicting the city.

Torrance Centennial Community Parade

Sunday, September 16, 2012 was a picture perfect day for the Centennial Community parade and over 75 groups participated. The parade was led by the Wells Fargo Stage Coach. A lovely mock-up cake reflecting the City's 100 years was designed by Torrance Bakery and was a great reflection of the city's past, present and future. Bishop Montgomery, North, South, Torrance and West High Schools participated in the parade. Non-profits, churches, Kiwanis and Rotary clubs, Boy and Girl Scout troops, Homeowners Associations, Parent Teacher Association, schools, Torrance Transit, Community Services and other groups participated in the parade. The parade was a walking event held in Downtown Torrance that began at noon. Many of the downtown restaurants offered Centennial Specials to the parade goers. It proved to be successful for many of the local restaurants.

With all of the pre-planning of the parade route, shuttle service, parking, traffic control and other countless details the parade went off seamlessly. Everything came together almost perfectly.

A great thanks to the Centennial Committee and City staff for making this event truly a memorable event.

Torrance Centennial Plaza Dedication

Neighbors and friends of the Torrance community attended the dedication of the Torrance Centennial Plaza at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, September 16, 2012. Congresswoman Maxine Waters and representatives from Congresswoman Janice Hahn's Office, Senator Ted Lieu's Office and LA County Supervisor Don Knabe's Office were in attendance for the dedication. Councilwoman Rhilinger provided welcome to guest and made introductions. The program included the Pledge of Allegiance by LeRoy J. Jackson, City Manager, National Anthem by Riviera Elementary Chorus led by Laura Savitz, Invocation by Chaplain Herring, Plaza Dedication Remarks by Mayor Scotto, Centennial Remarks by Dee Hardison, Vice Chair of the Centennial, "Our Torrance Centennial" poem was read by the author Sally Jo Kinsey, Time Capsule remarks were made by Dr. Laurie Love, Chair of the Centennial Committee. Next was the moment everyone was awaiting the unveiling of the time capsule along with the search for their personalized brick on the Centennial Plaza. It was an exhilarating day with many memories to remember. This truly was an awesome day.

Torrance Bakery donated a Centennial Cake for guests as well as 1500 delicious cupcakes for all to enjoy.

Time Capsule Contents

The time capsule items are categorized as follows:

- City of Torrance
- Torrance Centennial
- Schools and Friends
- Churches
- Transportation
- Community Groups, Hospitals and Families
- Houses, Museums and Restaurants
- Sponsors and a Place of Commerce and Work
- Heroes and Home

More information on the Torrance Centennial Community Parade, Torrance Centennial Time Capsule and Torrance Centennial Plaza Dedication and brick location can be found on-line at www.TorranceCentennial.org. Map with brick location is available at the Torrance Historical Society located at 1345 Post Avenue.

Brick Sales

Brick sales will continue until October 28, 2012.

"Where's Jared? Game

The on-line photo game is truly a hit and will continue until October 22, 2012.

Upcoming Centennial Events

There is still opportunity to participate in Centennial events in the month of October.

The Torrance Historical Home Tour sponsored by the Torrance Historical Society is scheduled for October 13 and October 14, 2012 beginning at 11 a.m. This is a rich glimpse into Torrance's past.

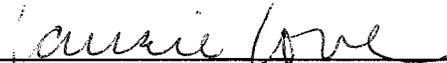
Torrance High Classic and Custom Car Show is scheduled for October 13, 2012 at Torrance High School from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. This is truly a cool event that allows attendees to look at classic and custom cars.

The Centennial Celebration Dinner honoring the Centennial Sponsors is scheduled for Friday, October 19, 2012 at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Torrance South Bay. Thank you to the sponsors for participating and attending many Centennial events and for making this year truly special.

The Birthday Bash our culminating event is scheduled for Sunday, October 28, 2012 at Charles H. Wilson Park. Plans are underway for a grand finale with live entertainment, gourmet food trucks, a petting zoo, pony rides, a history room, cheerleading demonstrations, softball competition between the Fire Department and Police Department, and Kiwanis and Rotary Clubs, the Live Steamers and train rides, precision skydivers and the release of 100 white doves symbolizing our 100 years.

More updates and information can be accessed through www.TorranceCentennial.org.

Respectfully submitted,
CITY COUNCIL CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE



Laurie Love, Ed.D., Chair

NOTED:



LeRoy J. Jackson
City Manager