

ACONA Meeting Notes

May 26, 2020

After introductions, the following topics were presented.

Leaf Blowers

Speakers:

Dan Mabe, Founder/CEO/President, AGZA American Green Zone Alliance
Michael Cacciotti, Board Member, South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD)

Michael Cacciotti: SCAQMD has an incentive program for commercial lawn management companies. There is a rebate program for residential conversion to electric lawn mowers, an incentive program for electric vehicle chargers. Used to have a furnace rebate program, but funds ran out due to high demand. Volkswagon Settlement resulted in \$423 million available to fund electric projects. Carl Moyer Program: AQMD will pay to convert from diesel for commercial vehicles. Replace Your Ride program: up to \$9,500 to replace a high emission vehicle. www.replaceyourride.com. SCAQMD mobile app available on Apple App store and Google to check air quality.

Dan Mabe: Impacts of gas-driven devices: leaf blowers: 200 cites have some form of ban on gas leaf blowers. Noise: gas devices operate at lower frequencies, which can travel farther. Leaf blowers expose workers to over 50 times more than a busy street intersection.

Solution: Green zones: parks maintained with electric equipment

Don't demonize the workers who use gas leaf blowers. AGZA trains workers to use them as responsibly as possible (e.g., use rakes, brooms wherever possible) and to transition to electric. SCAQMD's programs have been valuable to transitioning to electric tools.

Altadena Library Update & Resources

Speaker: Nikki Winslow, Library District Director, Altadena Library District
Digital and modified closures while the library is closed. Soonest opening is June 1, but will be guided by LA County Public Health.

Virtual Summer Reading Program June 6-August 1: Imagine Your story; four age categories; more information on the library website: www.altadenalibrary.org/summer

Curbside Service: Call in an order and pick up the next day or later: 626-798-0833, Monday-Friday, 10am-4pm. Pick-up is at the west end of the parking lot. Parking lot is open Monday-Friday 10am-6pm.

Digital Library open 24/7:

Hoopla: pay per use

cloudLibrary: sharing with multiple library services as ebooks and audiobooks
Availability better than Overdrive which the library used to use.

Brainfuse: resource for home schooling; includes live tutors.

Tumblebooks: picture books

Many other resources available on the library website www.altadenalibrary.org

Live chat & phone reference available

Friends of the Altadena Library Annual meeting will be held 6/6 at 1pm via Zoom. Info on the library website.

There is a library board vacancy (Gwen McMullins) and the library is accepting applications. Nominations at June 22 library board meeting to serve out the rest of Gwen's term (end of 2020). Deadline for applications is June 12.

There are three seats that will be open in the November 2020 election. July 31-August 7 is the filing period for candidates.

Altadena Connections: local news email. You can email news updates to news@altadenalibrary.org.

Crisis Management Plan: phased return of services. (LA County libraries aren't opening until July.)

Cyber Crime and Social Media

Speaker: Deb Halberstadt

Review video/voice/messaging apps before kids download them. Keep electronic devices in a common use room in your house, not in a bedroom. Check children's profiles to make sure they are not revealing confidential information. Make sure your children know to report questionable messages etc.

Q&A

Q: Why are yard/lawn sweepers not offered in the exchange? Who does leaf blower training? A: They aren't in the program for the commercial exchange, but perhaps you can bring that to AQMD's attention. AGZA is doing leaf blower training.

Q: LACO Regional Planning is presenting to the Commission tomorrow identifying Green Zone Districts focusing on 11 unincorporated areas.

Q: What is the process for worker/gardeners to attend the training? A: Just contact AGZA.

Q: Really like that gardeners are being encouraged to use rakes. Can you comment on the effects of solids being blown into the air which is the same for electric as for gas? A: AGZA has been training workers to use even electric gas blowers judiciously.

Comment: There is a Town Hall Meeting tomorrow with Sheriff Villanueva and PPD Chief Perez on recent shootings.

Q: Are you educating gardeners on the benefits of leaving leaves in place (make good mulch)? A: Yes, we do teach good practices, but the property owners need to be educated about this too.