



STAFF REPORT TO COMMUNITY AND LIBRARY SERVICES COMMISSION (CLSC)

TO: Chair Yamamoto and Members of the CLSC Commission

SUBMITTED BY: Christopher Roke, Parks and Recreation Director

MEETING DATE: November 10, 2025

TOPIC: Events Update

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the Community and Library Services Commission receive an update on events.

BACKGROUND:

Annually there are several events that take place in the Fall and early Winter. These events include, but are not limited to Ohana Day, Unity Day, Trunk or Treat/PUMPKATAAZ, Tree Lighting, and Breakfast with Santa. This report will concentrate on those events that transpired since the last Community and Library Services Commission meeting.

Unity Day is the signature event of National Bullying Prevention Month. The key message is to unite for kindness, acceptance and inclusion, to help prevent students from being bullied. Statistically, 1 in 5 students are bullied annually. This year's event was held on October 22. The Parks and Recreation Department had photos from all over the city come in with work groups showing their participation by wearing and sharing orange.

On October 24, Hercules Parks and Recreation held their 7th annual Trunk or Treat event, featuring the 4th annual PUMPKATAAZ event. PUMPKATAAZ is a fun, free way for the community to share their creativity during the Halloween season. Participants decorate, draw, paint, carve, sculpt, a pumpkin of any size/shape, and enter to win. This year there were about 30 pumpkins that were entered, with the top prize going to Karin Nester and the Boy Scouts from Troop 76 for their realistic pumpkin sculpted/decorated into the shark from Jaws poster fame. This pumpkin received over 400 votes, with the next closest receiving 102 votes.

In addition, we held our annual Trunk or Treat event at the Community Swim Center the same day. We ended up with 23 decorated trunks which is a little less than we've had the past few years, but Lupine PTA stole the show with their performing Oompa Loompa's and homage to Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory. Both events were extremely successful. I have a couple videos I'd like to share with you.

Big thanks to all those who participated, which includes many of our City Recognized Nonprofit groups.

The Parks and Recreation Department has now shifted focus to the upcoming Tree Lighting and 125th Anniversary event that will be held on Sunday, December 7, 2025, at City Hall. A planning committee has met twice in preparation of the event. We plan to hold the event outside, but if the weather doesn't cooperate, we will head inside the Senior Center and the Council Chambers with light refreshments and seasonal crafts. The event will begin at 3:30pm and conclude with Santa lighting the tree at approximately 5:25pm.

Breakfast with Santa will be held on Saturday, December 13, from 9a to 12p, at the Hercules Community Swim Center. This event is the signature event for the Friends of the Senior Center, featuring a pancake breakfast, face painting, a raffle and of course a visit from Santa. To get your tickets, go to [Tickets for Hercules Breakfast With Santa 2025](#)

FISCAL IMPACT:

Most of the costs for these events are covered in donations, or within the cost of other programs. The biggest cost of Trunk or Treat is candy, and many of the City recognized groups enter at least one vehicle and/or donate lots of candy for the games and to ensure we don't run out during the event. The biggest cost of PUMPKATAAZ are pumpkins that we purchase for our in-house program like preschool and afterschool. However, these programs, would be making the purchase of pumpkins for craft projects anyway, so the cost is already accounted for.

The Hercules City Council did allocate money for the Tree Lighting this year to help celebrate the historic event of 125 years of incorporation. There will be a new light up photo frame as well as limited edition give aways for those in attendance – while supplies last.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Tree Lighting Flyer
2. Breakfast with Santa Flyer