

# **Town of Yucca Valley Community Update November 21, 2014**



**Welcome to the Thanksgiving 2014 edition of the Town's Community update. We trust that you will find this information useful and interesting. While some of the highlighted projects are significant and easily identifiable as you travel around Town, we also like to highlight other important tasks and accomplishments that might not be quite as obvious. As always, we appreciate your participation and feedback at any time. Visit the Town's website for contact and additional information at [www.yucca-valley.org](http://www.yucca-valley.org). As a reminder, Town Hall offices will be closed on Thursday November 27<sup>th</sup> and Friday November 28<sup>th</sup>. On behalf of the Town Council and Town staff, we want to wish everyone a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday with friends and family.**

## **Recreation Department – Upcoming Events and Activities**

### **Riverside Mission Inn Holiday Day Trip**

Register today for the Town of Yucca Valley's Adult Excursion on December 11th to the Riverside Mission Inn. The Inn is filled with rich culture and beautiful gardens and will be gloriously decorated for the holidays!

Registration for the day trip is \$85.00 per person and includes deluxe motor coach transportation, guided tour and meal at the Old Spaghetti Factory. Departure for the trip is at 12:15 p.m., returning at 8:00 p.m. at the Yucca Valley Community Center. Space is limited! To reserve a seat, register by **November 25, 2014**; registration is accepted online at <http://www.yucca-valley.org> or in person at the Yucca Valley Community Center, Monday through Thursday, 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. For more information contact Community Services at (760) 369-7211.



## **Letters to Santa**

From November 10 through December 5, Santa's elves will pick up letters to Santa. Letters can be dropped off at the special mailbox at the Community Center or mailed to Santa Claus c/o Town of Yucca Valley, 57090 Twentynine Palms Hwy, Yucca Valley, CA 92284. The elves will be sure that Santa knows to "write back". Participants must include a self-addressed, stamped envelope with their letter. This holiday program is provided free to the public.



## **Holiday Craft Fair**

**Saturday, December 6, 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

**Community Center**

Ready to tackle your holiday shopping? Here is a great way to pick up those unique gifts for that "hard to buy for" person. Over 50 vendors will be displaying a variety of quality, handcrafted items for your browsing enjoyment! Free to the public.



## **Tree Lighting Ceremony and Santa Visits**

**Saturday, December 6**

### **Santa's Tour Times:**

**Jacob's Park, 4:00 p.m.**

**Paradise Park, 4:30 p.m.**

**Town Hall & Tree Lighting, 5:30 p.m.**

Santa is planning a special tour of Yucca Valley! On Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, Santa will be stopping by the parks to visit children in the neighborhood. His final stop will be at the Community Center where he will host the Town's annual Tree lighting Ceremony, where there will be music, hot cocoa, cider, and cookies. Bring your camera for that special picture with Santa, and your singing voice (hummers welcome too!). Be ready to get into the holiday spirit!

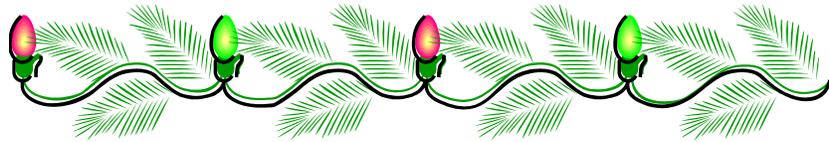


## **17<sup>th</sup> Annual Festival of Light Parade**

**Saturday, December 13, 5:30 p.m.**

Hosted by the Chamber of Commerce and presented by the Rotary Club of Yucca Valley.

If you would like to participate in the parade, entry forms are available in the Chamber of Commerce Office, or they can be requested by email at [director@yucca-valley.org](mailto:director@yucca-valley.org). For more information call (760) 965-1988.

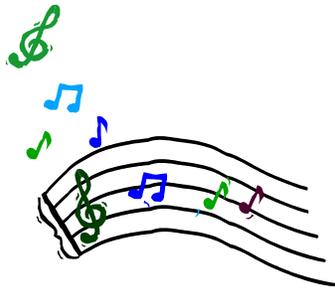


## **Sounds of the Season Concert**

**Saturday, Dec. 13 and Sunday, Dec. 14 at 2:30 p.m.**

**Yucca Valley Community Center, Yucca Room**

The Town of Yucca Valley and the Hi-Desert Chorus presents a holiday concert entitled “Sounds of the Season,” directed by Bill Barrett and accompanied by Clyde Grabski. Donations to the Hi-Desert Chorus are welcome.



## **Parks Division News, Repairs and Improvements**

### **Community Center Complex**

The Parks Division is always working to keep our Town’s Parks safe and looking good. That means performing regular maintenance and repairs. Recently the Parks Division repaired the fences at the Community Center and pruned the palms and other trees at the San Bernardino County Branch Library, located in the Community Center Complex





## **Hi-Desert Nature Museum – Upcoming Events and Activities**

### **Hi-Desert Nature Museum Presents “Art Tours Collective Show” Exhibition on view through November 29<sup>th</sup>**

The Hi-Desert Nature Museum is pleased to partner with the Morongo Basin Cultural Arts Council to host the “Art Tours Collective Show.” This dynamic exhibition features the artwork of many artists participating in the Open Studio Tours being held October 25-26 and November 1- 2. The Hwy 62 Art Tours encompasses all the arts of the Morongo Basin during the two weekend celebration showcasing music, performance and honoring the best in visual arts. The Open Studio Tours allows the visitor to experience working studios and purchase original art directly from the artists. The exhibition will be on view through November 29th at the Hi-Desert Nature Museum.



### **Hi-Desert Nature Museum Presents “Season of Light Holiday Exhibition”**

**On display December 3 through December 20**

December is a time when people all over the world celebrate holidays. Discover and learn about the history, origins and different customs of the Christmas and Holiday seasons.



## **Yucca Valley's got Talent Variety Show - Call for Performers**

The Town of Yucca Valley is seeking talented performers for the upcoming Yucca Valley's Got Talent event. Those with unique or even not so unique talents are welcome to apply. Categories of talents are open to singing, dancing, instrumentals, comedy, drama, skits, and novelty acts. Performers of all ages are encouraged to participate. The deadline to submit performance applications is Saturday, November 29th. Applications and contest rules are available at the Hi-Desert Nature Museum, the Community Services office or online at <http://www.hidesertnaturemuseum.org>.

There is no cost to enter. Applicants will be reviewed during the month of December. The Yucca Valley's Got Talent event is scheduled for an evening show on Saturday, January 31, 2015.

**Deadline to submit performance applications, November 29th.**

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 31**

**7:00 - 9:00 p.m.**

**Yucca Room, Community Center Complex**

**\$10 per person**

**Tickets go on sale January 15!**

Presale tickets available at the Hi-Desert Nature Museum or online at [www.hideserternaturemuseum.org](http://www.hideserternaturemuseum.org)

All proceeds will benefit the Hi-Desert Nature Museum and its educational programs



## **Brown Bag Lunch Lecture – The History of Christmas Foods with Stefanie Ritter**

**December 4, 2014 at 12:00 p.m.**

**Admission: \$5 and Free for Members**

Roasted turkey, mashed potatoes, bean casserole and pumpkin pie are easily recognized as a traditional holiday meal, but has it always been? How about swan and peacock served with feathers? When did you last have plum-pudding? Or a nice side of cooked tongue?

This lecture will enlighten you about the history and meaning of some of our favorite holiday dishes. Please bring your own memories of favorite dishes and if you wish the secret family recipe to share....

Bring your lunch, bring your friends, or just bring yourself to our Brown Bag Lunch Lecture Series once a month. Speakers will present topics of special interest for high desert residents. The lectures start at 12:00 p.m. Admission is \$ 5 – Free for Members - beverages will be served.



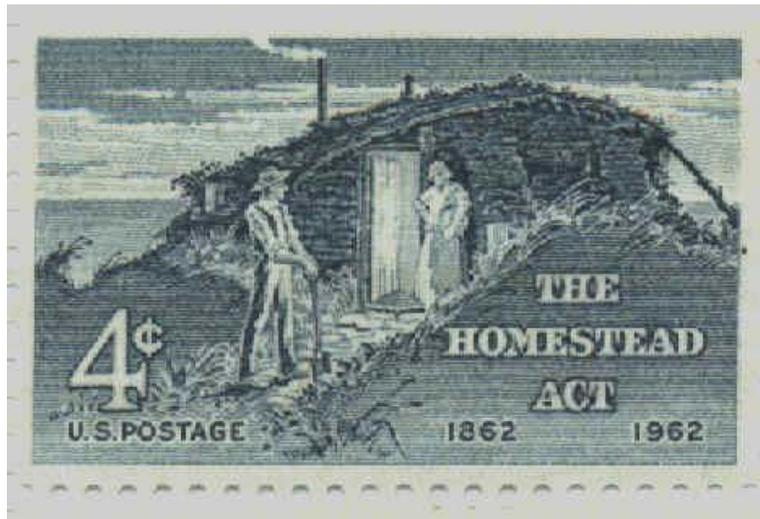
## **MBHS Presents “Homesteading: The Free Land Idea” with Lorna Shuman, National Park Service**

Wednesday, December 10, 2014

5:30 p.m.

\$5 donation at the door

The Morongo Basin Historical Society’s program of community interest is presented at the Hi-Desert Nature Museum on the 2nd Wednesday of every month beginning at 5:30 p.m. Please join us – membership not required.



### **Adult Craft Program**

Wednesday, December 10

1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Fee: \$5 per person

Take some time out of your hectic holiday schedule and enjoy an afternoon making crafts for friends and family while sipping a relaxing cup of tea.

Pre-registration is required. [Register here.](#)



## **Kid Winter Craft Day**

**December 13, 2014**

**10 a.m. – Noon**

**Registration Required**

**Fee: \$5 per child**

Kids, ages 5 to 12, are welcome to join museum staff to make winter and holiday themed crafts. This is the time for kids to make some homemade gifts for their friends and loved ones this holiday season. Participants will need to bring in one wallet or 4”x 6” sized picture of themselves, pet, idol, or whomever they choose to use for crafts.

Pre-registration is required. [Register here.](#)



## **Yucca Valley Animal Shelter and Animal Care and Control**

### **Animal Shelter – Cats and Kittens in Need of Good Homes!**

The Yucca Valley Animal Shelter has a bounty of cats and kittens in need of loving homes. Due to generous citizen's donations to our "Sponsored Adoption" funds, the Shelter able to adopt out these beautiful animals for \$15.00 each starting now and until December 23rd, 2014. All adopted cats are vaccinated and spayed or neutered prior to adoption. So if you are looking for a companion cat, please visit the Yucca Valley Animal Shelter located at 4755 Malin Way, Yucca Valley CA. The Shelter is open Tuesday through Saturday (excluding holidays) from 12 noon to 5 p.m. 760-365-3111. Make your Christmas a "Mewy" Christmas! =^..^=



### **Animal Shelter – Let's Not Forget the Dogs in Need of New Homes!**

The Yucca Valley Animal Shelter has large, medium and small dogs, and even a few puppies, all in need of loving homes. Adoptions start at \$85.00 for puppies under 4 months of age, adult dogs are \$92.00. All dogs and puppies are altered and vaccinated prior to adoption. If you are seeking a companion dog, please come to the Yucca Valley Animal Shelter and visit with our very nice dogs. Who knows.....you may find your new best friend! Yucca Valley Animal Shelter is located at 4755 Malin Way, Yucca Valley. The Yucca Valley Animal Shelter is open to the public Tuesday through Saturday from 12 noon to 5 p.m. (excluding holidays). The Shelter can be reached at 760-365-3111. Come meet our family of wonderful companions!



### **Animal Care & Control Gets Help in Rescuing Small Dog**

Yucca Valley Animal Control received a report of a small, stray dog that had taken up residence at a home in Yucca Valley. The home owners left food and water for the dog but the little dog remained evasive, preferring to stay on their porch away from human contact. Animal Control responded but was unable to get close to the dog. The next step was to bring another friendly dog out to see if the stray dog would warm up to another dog. After 20 minutes of contact between the two dogs, Animal Control was able to pick up the stray dog. The dog was safely transported to the Yucca Valley Animal Shelter where he gratefully accepted the soft blankets, food, and water that were provided to him.

### **Animal Care & Control - Blanket Donations**

The Yucca Valley Animal Care and Control Staff would like to thank all of the wonderful residents who have donated blankets to the animal shelter. The blankets are given to the dogs and cats at the facility so they may have comfort during their stay. Anyone wishing to donate blankets for the animals may drop them off at the animal shelter located at 4755 Malin Way, Yucca Valley Monday through Saturday. If the Shelter is not open, please place them outside of the main entrance.

### **Code Compliance**

#### **Property Maintenance**

Code received multiple complaints in regards to an abandoned property located on Pueblo Trail. The property contained junk, trash and debris. Code researched the property and found that it belonged to a bank as a foreclosed property. After issuing the bank a correctable citation, the bank cleaned up the property and brought it into compliance.



Code received multiple complaints of junk and trash located on Chemehuevi. Code made contact with the owner who stated that the property was in the foreclosure process. Code issued the bank a citation. The bank then communicated with Code, and the property was brought into compliance





## **State Route (SR) 247 Shoulder Widening and Rumble Strip Project**

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) is under construction with a shoulder widening and rumble strip project on SR 247. The project is currently underway from El Cortez Road in Yucca Valley to 0.1 miles North of Napa Road in the County. The project is scheduled to be completed over the next approximately 6 months. The project is planned for 160 days for the pavement work followed by several months for plant establishment. The project may be suspended during winter months due to cold weather, and the project is expected to be completed by end of summer 2015. Drivers should anticipate delays during the construction process.

For Information Contact Philip Havins with Caltrans District 8 at 909-383-6799 or Alex Qishta, Project Engineer (760) 369-1265, ext. 304

## **SR 62 Traffic and Pedestrian Improvements from Apache Trail to Palm Avenue (PLHD)**

The project includes construction of curbs, gutters, sidewalks, and raised median islands on SR 62, between Apache and Palm Avenue and the construction of a traffic signal at SR 62 and Church Street. In addition, there will be traffic signal modifications at SR 62 and Acoma/Mohawk. The Project was awarded by the Town Council on November 19, 2013 to Match Corporation in the amount of \$2,798,000.

### **Status:**

Major construction on this project has been completed. Punch list items, mostly related to the traffic signal equipment at the intersection of SR62 & Church Street are underway.



## **Safe Route to School Project Sidewalk Construction Project**

The project includes the construction of sidewalks on Sage Avenue, between Onaga Trail and SR62. The project also includes the replacement of existing flashing beacons by Yucca Elementary, Onaga Elementary, and La Contenta Jr. High School.

### **Status:**

As part of the Safe Routes to School Project, new radar speed control signs were installed on Onaga Trail near Yucca Elementary, on Onaga Trail near Onaga Elementary, and on La Contenta near La Contenta Middle School and Blackrock High School. The radar speed signs are now programmed and fully operational.



## **Pima Trail Improvements**

Included in the Capital Projects Budget adopted by the Town Council, Pima Trail would ultimately be constructed to complete the off-highway circulation route between Church Street and Palm Avenue. This street segment would provide access for north bound drivers that wish to use Palm Avenue to reach the traffic signal at SR 62 and Church Street, thereby providing controlled access

to SR 62. The project will be implemented over a number of years, with paving of the road following Hi Desert Water District's installation of the wastewater collection system.

**Status:**

The dirt portion of Pima Trail Will be graded and maintained to allow access from Palm Avenue to Church Street. This action will provide convenient access to the signal at SR62 & Church Street. The Hi-Desert Water District's relocation of the water mainline is underway. The grading operation will start after completion of property/easement acquisition and utility relocation.



## **Paradise Park Improvements**

The Town received a state grant award in the amount of \$168,700 for improvements to Paradise Park. Various improvement options have been identified including construction of a new basketball court, walking trails, and expansion of shade around the playground area.

**Status:**

The Town Council will be discussing funding and design alternatives to Paradise Park with the State grant and other funds in the near future. The conceptual plan below presents options and is not a final development plan.



# Jacobs Park

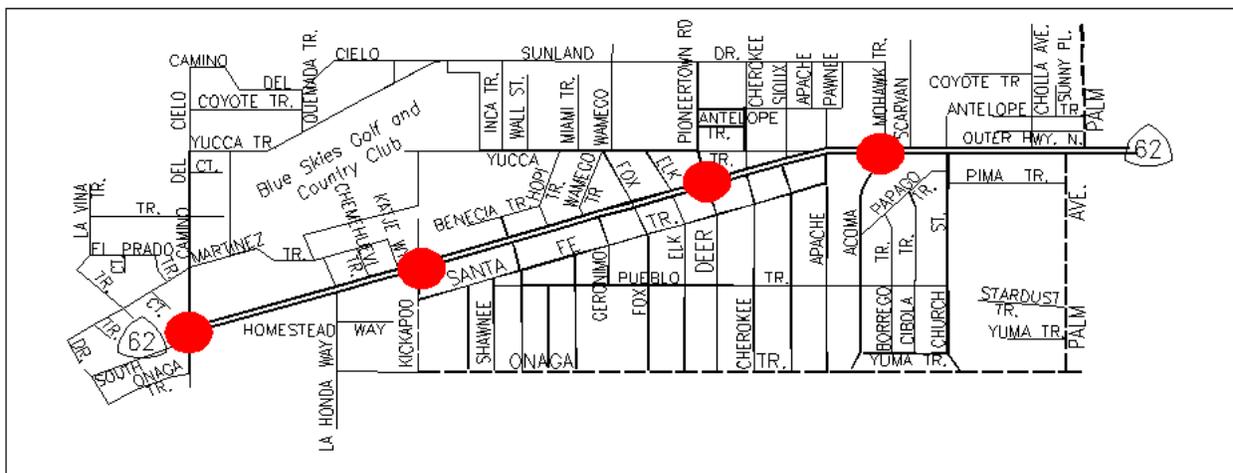


## Signal Synchronization Project, Phase I

This project includes the synchronization of the traffic signals between Camino Del Cielo and Acoma Trail. Phase 1 is fully funded by grant resources.

### **Status:**

The Town Council awarded the construction of the project to DBX of Temecula on July 15, 2014. The synchronization project has been completed and is operational at this time.



## **Conditional Use Permit, CUP-3-11, Senior Housing Project**

The project includes the construction of a 74 unit affordable senior housing development and the construction of all improvements associated with the project. A managers unit will also be constructed.

### **Status:**

The final inspection and release of building two is expected to be completed by the end of the December. Project completion is anticipated in mid-to-late December.



## **Site Plan Review, SPR-1-14, Hawks Landing Golf Club at Blue Skies**

The project involves the reconstruction of the former Blue Skies Golf Course.

### **Status:**

The driving range has been completed. Paving and striping of the parking lot, including new driveway approaches, have been completed. Work on the clubhouse building is continuing, and is expected to be finished by the end of the year.



## **Panda Express and Taco Bell**

The Panda Express project includes a Conditional Use Permit Amendment and a Tentative Parcel Map for the subdivision of 26 acres into three parcels of 0.84 acres, 0.75 acres and 23.88 acres; and the construction of a 2,230 +/- square foot Panda Express located at the southeast corner of 29 Palms Hwy and Avalon Ave.

The Taco Bell project includes a Conditional Use Permit Amendment and a Tentative Parcel Map for the subdivision of 26 acres into three parcels of 0.84 acres, 0.75 acres and 23.88 acres; and the construction of a 2,423 +/- square foot Taco Bell located at the southeast corner of 29 Palms Hwy and Avalon Ave.

### **Status:**

Both buildings are progressing and both plan to open before the end of the year. The paving of the parking lot is complete. Tables, seating and kitchen facilities are currently being installed at the Taco Bell site. The Panda Express building has just completed interior drywall, and the exterior façade treatment is underway.



## **Ross Department Store, Tenant Improvements**

The project involves a tenant improvement at 57646 29 Palms Highway, inside the former Rite Aid lease space at the Vons Center.

### **Status:**

Tenant improvements have started for this project. According to the contractor, the exterior treatment should be complete this month. Ross is planning a February 2015 opening.

## **Tract 16587, 55 Single Family Residential Unit Subdivision**

The project involves a residential development of 55 single family residential units on Acoma Trail, south of Onaga Trail. Seventeen of the 55 single family units have been constructed and completed.

### **Status:**

Exterior flatwork, including sidewalks, driveways, fencing and landscaping will be completed for the four new single family units this month. Footings and slabs have been poured for the next four homes, and framing on three of the four is well underway. Slope protection landscaping, as well as landscaping near the package treatment plant has been completed.



## **Sage Estates, Final Map 17862**

The project involves the subdivision of approximately the development of 107 single family lots on a 63.4 acre parcel. The project also includes 4.68 acres of parks and open space, a sewer treatment plant, and public streets. The proposed project is located at the southeast corner of Golden Bee and Sage Avenue. With construction of this project, additional streets will be added into the Town's Maintained Road System. Simultaneously, the project will also form an assessment district whereby the property owners agree to tax themselves for street and drainage maintenance. Through the use of these tools, the new public streets will not take away existing financial resources from street maintenance efforts throughout the Town.

**Status:** Final Map, grading plans, street improvements plans, drainage and flood control plans and related documents have been submitted to the Town and have completed second plan check. According to the property owner, grading is anticipated to begin in early 2015, after obtaining all necessary approvals and clearances.

