

# Town of Yucca Valley Community Update May 22, 2014

## Participate in the Town's Budget Process

The Town's budget process is underway, and public participation in the budget process is highly encouraged. The Town Council has held several budget meetings, involving the public in the budget review, preparation and adoption process.

Budget Policy Discussion & Direction	March 4, 2014
Budget Revenue Discussion	April 1, 2014
Community Partnerships	April 15, 2014
Special Revenue Funds	May 6, 2014
Budget Workshops	May 10 & May 20, 2014
Budget Public Hearing	May 20, 2015

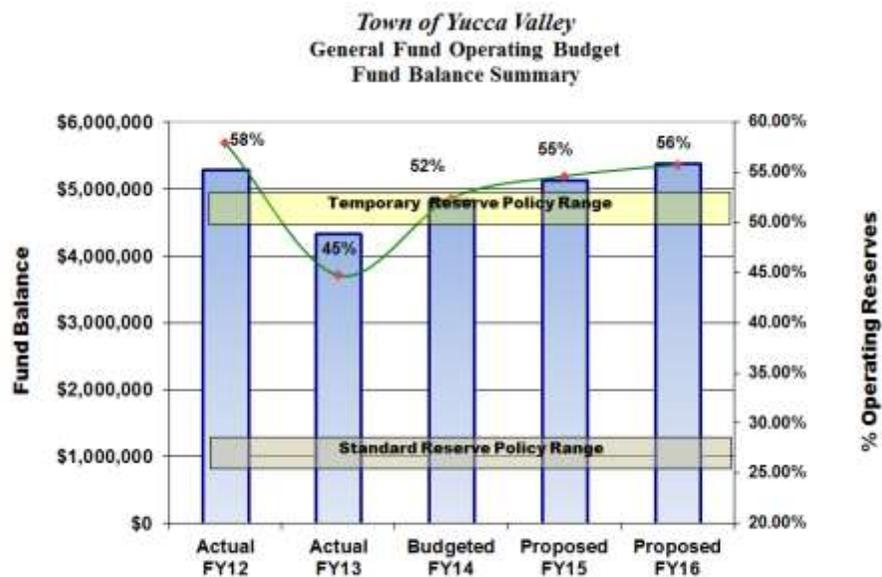
Budget adoption is currently scheduled for the Tuesday, June 3, 2014 Town Council meeting. Please attend this important budget meeting and assist the Town Council in the formulation its annual operating and capital budgets.

The Draft FY 2014/2015 and 2015/2016 Budgets are based upon policy direction of the Town Council.

- *Balanced Budget without the use of reserves*
- *Public Safety remains highest budget priority*
- *No major program or service additions/reductions*
- *Propose reasonable modifications/alternatives to lesser-used programs as appropriate*
- *Continue partnerships near existing budget levels*
- *Identify organizational / staffing impacts resulting from prior year budget adoption that may require modifications*
- *Consider allocation of a sustainable cost of living adjustment or other benefit modification*
- *Continue to seek community financial participation in social, cultural and other appropriate programs*

Based upon Town Council policy guidance, the two-year budget results with revenues in excess of expenditures of approximately \$127,000 in the first fiscal year and \$153,000 in the second fiscal year. When looking at the additional budgetary requirements coming in the near future, the projected budget “surplus”, while positive, remains inadequate to fully fund the many current and future needs of the community. The Town remains in need of a long-term financial solution to address both the backlog and current maintenance needs of its infrastructure assets. **The Town Council continues to implement balanced budgets without the use of reserves.**

Town reserves remain very strong, with undesignated reserves projected to be at the upper range of the Council’s current limit of 55 percent.



Public safety remains the Council’s top priority, implemented through contract with the San Bernardino County Sheriff’s Department, with annual contract costs estimated at \$3.95 million and \$4.10 million during the two fiscal years.

The Town Council will consider adoption of the two-year budget at the Council meeting of June 2, 2014. Residents and business owners are encouraged to attend the Town Council meeting and provide your input into the Town’s budget.

## **SR62 Sidewalks & Medians: TCRP**

The project includes the installation of raised medians on SR 62 from Kickapoo Trail to Elk Trail, and from Cherokee Trail to Acoma Trail. The project also includes sidewalks in sections that have gaps or that are non-existent on both north and south sides of SR62 from Palm to Dumosa Avenue, as well as curbs & gutters. The Town Council awarded the construction contract on July 23, 2013 to C.S. Legacy in the amount of \$2,161,147.00.

### **Status:**

All work for this project is complete and the traffic control measures have been removed. The project was completed with no change orders, no funds from the \$215,853 contingency account were used in the construction project, and \$258,496.22 will be returned to the source funds.



## **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 Matich Corporation in the amount of \$2,798,000. The Town is working with Matich Corporation on traffic control measures which would result in the all travel lanes being re-opened at the end of each construction day and on weekends. These efforts are designed to minimize to the extent feasible the impact to business access and traffic flow on SR 62 during the construction process.

### **Status:**

Matich Corporation is scheduled to start work on this project on June 2, 2014, and the project is expected to be completed by October 31, 2014. Working hours will be from 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, and no work will be performed on holidays. Access to businesses will be available at all times. Matich Corporation will send business owners a letter 48 hours in



## **Town Wide Slurry Seal 2014/2015**

The project involves the application of a Type II slurry seal and cape seal on designated streets throughout the Town of Yucca Valley. It includes but is not limited to mobilization, traffic control, removal of pavement stripping, markings and legends, and application of slurry and cape seal as well as all appurtenant labor, materials and equipment.

### **Status:**

The bid is set to open May 22<sup>nd</sup>. Town Council award of bid is scheduled for June 2014.



## **Planning Commission to Hold Workshop on Home Occupation Permit Regulations**

The Planning Commission will be holding a public workshop to discuss regulations for home occupations or home based businesses at 6:00 p.m. on May 27, 2014. The Commission will receive additional input from the community on the policy issues related to home based businesses including exemptions from obtaining a permit, hours of operation, prohibited businesses, outdoor storage, approval authority, conducting business activities in the primary structure, accessory structures and in screened outdoor locations, in addition to all other standards related to home based businesses. Please join the Planning Commission as they prepare the standards and regulations for Town Council consideration.

The Commission held a public hearing to discuss Home Occupation Permit regulations on May 13, 2014. Approximately 25 members of the community were in attendance. The public hearing on Home Occupation Permit regulations has been continued to the June 10, 2014 Planning Commission meeting.

Please join the Planning Commission on Tuesday, May 27, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. at the Yucca Valley Community Center Yucca Room.

## **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.

CORE will be holding additional sign up days in June for those who wish to submit applications. They will be accepting applications at the Joshua Tree room in the Community Center from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Monday June 9<sup>th</sup>, June 16<sup>th</sup>, June 23<sup>rd</sup> and June 30<sup>th</sup>.

### **Status:**

Sub-contractors of all trades are working on completing building one. Installation of modules for building two started on May 14<sup>th</sup>. No off site work is occurring at this time. Building one is currently scheduled for completion in August, and building two is scheduled for completion in approximately October.



## **Hawks Landing Golf Course at Blue Skies**

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

### **Status:**

Planting continues for sod, greens, and trees, and soil preparation for the fairway areas has started. Turf on the greens has started to come up, and the site is beginning to take shape. Construction of the concrete cart paths is also ongoing.

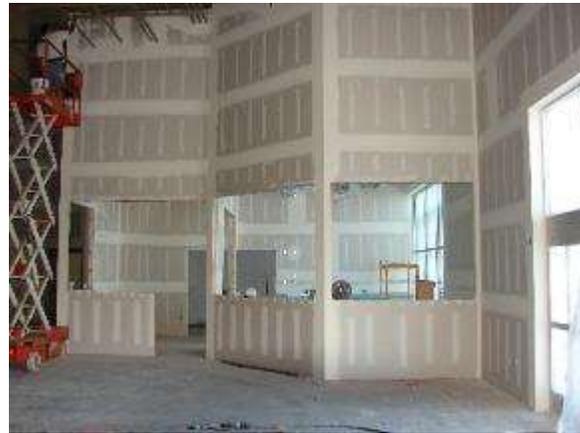


## **Marshalls/Petco**

The project involves the construction of 34,650 square feet of retail space for a Marsha/Petco commercial building at the Home Depot front parcel.

### **Status:**

Steel roof beams have been installed on the Marshalls building. The exterior scratch coat of stucco has been completed on the Petco building, and the installation of drywall and HVAC units is underway. The parking lot light bases and the parking lot curb and gutter have passed inspection.



## **Panda Express**

The 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.



## Taco Bell

The 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:** Building and grading construction plans for Taco Bell have been submitted and are under review by Engineering and Building and Safety.



## Safe Route to School 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

**Status:**

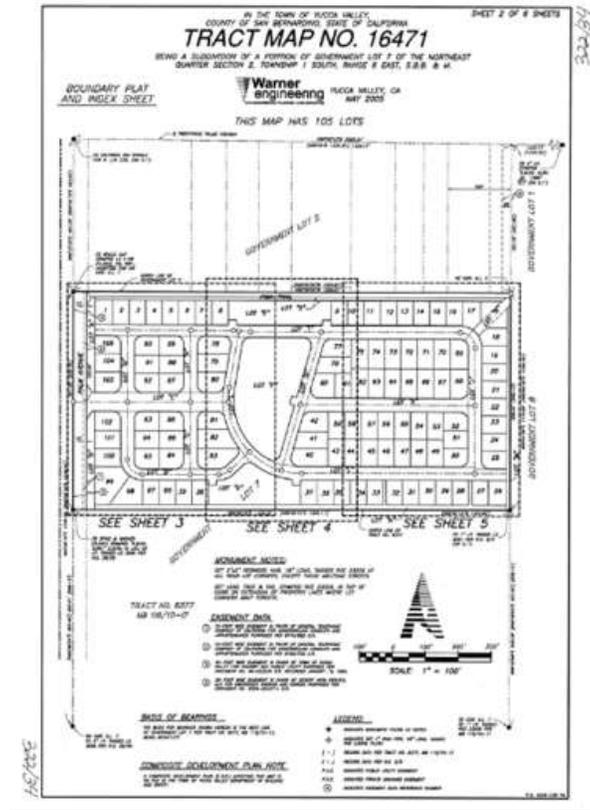
Council authorized the re-bidding on May 6, 2014. Bids will opened on May 29, 2014 and award in the first meeting of June 2014. Construction is scheduled to start in July 2014.

# Desert Vista Village, Senior Community

The project involves the construction of a senior residential development on Palm Avenue, South of 29 Palms Highway.

**Status:**

Four new model homes are under construction and are close to being completed.



### **HOP 11-05 Falossi**

This project involves a request for approval of a Home Occupation Permit for an artist studio located at 6229 Hoot Owl Trail.

**Status:**

This request is scheduled to go before the Planning Commission on June 10, 2014.

### **HOP 01-11 Zorawicki**

This project involves a request for the renewal of an approved Home Occupation Permit to assemble firearms that are purchased in kit form and to buy and sell firearms to the public. The project is located at 55990 Skyline Ranch Rd.

**Status:**

This request for renewal is scheduled to go before the Planning Commission on June 10, 2014.

### **SPL 05-14 Starfinds**

This project involves an application to conduct a weekly (Saturdays) Certified Farmers Market to include a crafters and artists. The property is located at 7332 Apache Trail

**Status:**

This application is currently undergoing review by the Planning Division, pending the submission of further materials by the applicant.

## **Wastewater Project Neighborhood Meetings**

Hi-Desert Water District will be hosting a series of neighborhood meetings about the Wastewater Reclamation Project "the sewer project" for residents in Yucca Valley. The purpose of these meetings is to collect community input and answer questions about the cost, construction, and any other information regarding the sewer project.

Each neighborhood in Yucca Valley will have an opportunity to attend a sewer project meeting. There are two meeting times for each neighborhood's scheduled meeting date. Meetings will begin May 12, 2014 and will continue through July.

Below is a list of meetings currently scheduled for various areas:

**Burnt Mountain Area**

**June 11** at 2:30 - 4:30 p.m. and 5:00-7:00 p.m.  
YV Community Center Senior Center

**Western Hills Ranchos Area**

**June 12** at 12:30-2:30 p.m. and 5:00-7:00 p.m.  
YV Community Center Yucca Room

## **Science Saturdays at the Hi-Desert Nature Museum**

The Hi-Desert Nature Museum continues their popular education program, Science Saturdays, with two exciting topics for the month of May. This series of discovery opportunities for children is designed to ignite curiosity by presenting information and performing experiments relating to biological and physical sciences. It is recommended that children be of school age for this program. Science Saturdays are held from 11:00 – 11:30 a.m. and are offered free of charge with no pre-registration required

### **Harmful and Helpful Bacteria**

**Saturday May 24, 2014**

**11:00 – 11:30 a.m. – Free of charge and no pre-registration required**

Bacteria are all around us, in the air, the water, the soil, and the bodies of plants and animals. This may sound scary since some bacteria create disease but some bacteria are helpful to humans. Without helpful bacteria humans wouldn't be able to live! Join Museum Educator Crystal Mason as she explains helpful and harmful bacteria through microscopic pictures.



## **Hi-Desert Nature Museum Presents “Hatching The Past”**

**May 30 through September 22, 2014**

The Hi-Desert Nature Museum will present a new temporary exhibition, “Hatching the Past,” on display May 30 through September 22, 2014. This exhibit takes a rare and exciting look at the life of dinosaurs through their eggs, nests, and embryos. “Hatching the Past” blends the arts and sciences with an astounding array of dinosaur eggs and nests collected from all over the globe, including those of each major plant and meat-eating dinosaur group. This science rich hands-on exhibit invites visitors to dig for eggs, touch a real dinosaur bone and discover the mysteries of dinosaur family life.

For 50 years the Hi-Desert Nature Museum has been dedicated to the process of education by exploring the natural, artistic and cultural heritage of the Morongo Basin and High Desert. The Museum seeks to inspire wonder, discovery, understanding, and responsibility in its community and visitors through exhibits, programs, and collections in the arts, history, and natural sciences. The Hi-Desert Nature Museum is located in the Yucca Valley Community Center Complex at 57116 Twentynine Palms Highway. The Museum is open Tuesday-Saturday from 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Admission is free; donations support the educational mission of the Museum. For more information, contact the Hi-Desert Nature Museum at (760) 369-7212 or see our web site at [www.hidesertnaturemuseum.org](http://www.hidesertnaturemuseum.org). Visit us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter!



## **Animal Vaccination Clinic**

Yucca Valley Animal Control will be holding its second animal vaccination clinic for 2014 on June 26th from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. The clinic will be held at the Community Center with both the Town and County staff selling dog licenses. The attending veterinarian will be Dr. Bethan Smith, D.V.M. of VCA along with supporting VCA staff members.

**June 26<sup>th</sup> from 4 -6 p.m at the Community Center**

## **Animal Shelter Visitors and Adoptions**

Positive praises and good reports are being spread throughout the Morongo Basin that the Yucca Valley Animal Shelter is a great place to adopt a pet! Recently, we have been adopting out a good number of sweet puppies and kittens in addition to the adult animals to wonderful, kind people who are looking for a dog or cat companion. Some of the folks are local, and some come in from other cities. All of the adoptable pets are photographed and put on the internet ([www.petfinder.com](http://www.petfinder.com)). We also have "Pet of the Week" posted in the Hi Desert Star, and monthly in the Desert Moon Estate Pictorial Magazine in addition to their website.



## **Animal Control Call for Service**

### **Loose, Aggressive Dogs**

On May 14, 2014, Animal Control dispatch received a call regarding two Pit Bulls that had just aggressively charged a woman in her back yard in the area of Buena Vista and Sioux trail in Yucca Valley. A Town Animal Control Officer responded to the location, and was met by the reporting party, who told the officer that a neighbor had just chased the dogs off of his property with a gun. The officer observed a young man down the street waving and holding what appeared to be a small rifle. As the officer approached, both dogs started running back toward the originally reported location. The officer recognized the dogs as two Pit Bulls that had been the subject of a recent complaint regarding excessive barking and inadequate shelter. The dogs had also been impounded numerous times for running loose prior to this incident. Both Pit Bulls were captured and impounded by the Animal Control Officer, and are currently being held at the Yucca Valley Animal Shelter pending an Administrative Hearing to request the dogs be declared a Public Nuisance, in accordance to the Town's Animal Control Ordinance No. 138.

### **Desert Tortoises**

The Town of Yucca Valley and San Bernardino County Animal Control agencies are receiving an unusually large amount of calls regarding Desert Tortoises. In brief, the desert tortoise is endangered in the wild and is protected under Federal and State laws. It is illegal to buy or sell desert tortoises, or to take them from the desert. In California, a permit is required to possess captive desert tortoises. Possession of a permit/tag DOES NOT authorize breeding. For good reason, it is against the law to release captive desert tortoises back into the wild. Released

captives have a low survival rate and may pass diseases into the wild population with devastating consequences. If you see a desert tortoise in the wild, LEAVE IT ALONE! If you think the Desert Tortoise is in an area where it is dangerous to its well-being (i.e.; crossing a street), using gloves (if possible), you can pick it up and in the direction it was traveling, put it in a safer area so it can continue on its way. We are receiving tortoises from people who are simply “finding” them in vacant lots. If you find a desert tortoise in the Morongo Basin area you believe needs help (sick/injured), please call 760-365-1807 and we will direct you to the proper person/agency to assist you.



## **Code Compliance**

### **Property Maintenance**

Code received a complaint reporting a problem with mosquitoes at an abandoned property as well as a dilapidated fence. Code made contact with the real estate company and advised them of the violations. The property was brought into compliance.



### **Property Maintenance**

Code received a complaint about graffiti on the church building located on Buena Vista. Code contacted the property owner and advised them of the situation. Within a few days the property was brought into compliance.



### **Property Maintenance**

Code received a complaint about illegal dumping on the easement located on Palo Alto. Code made contact with the property owner and advised him of the situation. Within a week the property was brought into compliance.



### **Property Maintenance**

Code received a complaint about junk and trash left on a property after the tenant moved out located on David Ave. Code made contact with the property manager and advised them of the situation. Within 30 days the property was brought into compliance.



### **Property Maintenance**

Code received multiple complaints about an old real estate building located on Highway 62. Complaints stated that there was squatting and vandalism occurring on the property. Code made contact with the property owner and they brought the property into compliance by boarding up the windows and doors.



### **Property Maintenance**

Code received a complaint about all the junk and trash in the utility easement on Hopi. Code contacted the property owner and advised them of the situation. Within a few days the property was brought into compliance.



### **Illegal Dumping**

Code received a complaint about illegal dumping on the at the Old Hutchens building along Highway 62. Code sent the property owner a letter advising them of the situation. Code meet with the new owners at the property and within a week the property was brought into compliance.



### **Non-permitted Activity**

Code received a complaint about non- permitted auto repair being conducted on Antelope. Code made contact with the property manager and advised them that they were not allowed to conduct an auto repair business at the residence. They stopped work immediately.



### **Property Maintenance**

Code received a complaint about junk and trash storage out in the public view located at Hopi. Code made contact with the property manager and advised them of the situation. Within 30 days the property was brought into compliance.



## **Parks Division Repairs and Improvements**

### **Essig Park Improvements**

The Parks Division has been continuing to plant new trees at Essig Park. They will ultimately be adding eight new trees to provide shade and beauty for the park's visitors. They have also installed a new picnic table on the large dog side of the park.



The Parks Division is constantly working to keep Yucca Valley's parks beautiful through our ongoing maintenance and improvement efforts.

