

Town of Yucca Valley Community Update March 24, 2014

Paradise Park Gets New Playground:

The Town of Yucca Valley conducted a ribbon cutting ceremony, announcing the completion of the Town's latest capital improvement project at Paradise Park. Mayor Robert Lombardo cut the ribbon, with assistance from Mayor Pro Tem George Huntington and fellow Council Members, Merl Abel, Bob Leone, and Dawn Rowe. The Parks, Recreation and Cultural Commission was also represented by PRCC Chair Jeff Evans, and Commissioners Meredith Jones, Edith Jones-Poland, and Laurine Silver.

The Paradise Park Improvement Project was financed by Community Development Block Grant funding in the amount of \$91,000 and took a month to complete. The improvements include the replacement of the existing playground equipment, and replacing the existing play-surface sand with wood chips allowing for ADA access. The new playground equipment has age-appropriate features for children 2-5 and also 5 – 12 years of age.

The Yucca Valley Town Council and the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Commission encourage families to enjoy the local parks and the many features offered in the community.



Panda Express /Taco Bell:

CUP 02-04 Amendment #1, Tentative Parcel Map, TPM 19525

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 and a 2,423 +/- square foot Taco Bell located at the southeast corner of 29 Palms Hwy and Avalon Ave.

Status: The project was approved by Planning Commission on March 11, 2014.

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 Ave., 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: Construction of concrete sidewalks on both the north and south sides of SR62 is continuing. Caltrans provided specifications and permission to relocate signal loop pull boxes at Sage Ave, which will allow the concrete to be completed. Edison completed the relocation of vents; however the vault work at Sage has been delayed due to material delivery dates. Construction of sidewalks between Sage Avenue and Palm Avenue will continue for the next several weeks, with the project scheduled to be completed on or before April 15, 2014.



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 with the project.

Status: Sidewalks for the offsite work have been poured on Dumosa and Antelope. Work includes continuing to clean the storm drains of material deposited by the recent rain event. Over 50CY of debris has been removed so far...all by hand & 5 gallon buckets. Paving of Dumosa is scheduled on Monday March 24, 2014. Carpenters have been onsite installing bottom plates in anticipation of the module delivery. Module delivery is scheduled to begin approximately at the end of March or first part of April 2014.



Hawks Landing Golf Club at Blue Skies:

Status: Grading & irrigation work is ongoing. Several truckloads of new trees have been planted. Soil preparation for grass has begun at the Club. Edison crews were onsite this week and have started installing facilities for service to the irrigation pumps near the lake. The owner has indicated that the facility may be open for business in late 2014.



Marshalls/Petco:

The project includes the construction of a Marshalls/Petco commercial building at the Home Depot front parcel.

Status: Walls for the Petco building have been grouted. Footings for the Marshalls building will be completed next week. Site work continues with additional storm drain tie-ins and pipe installation for the fire system.



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 and radar speed indicators at Yucca Elementary, Onaga Elementary, and La Contenta Junior High School. Plans and Specifications are complete, and the project will bid in March 2014. Construction is expected to commence after the current school year is completed.

Status: Council authorized the bidding on March 18, 2014. Bids will be open on April 24, 2014, with award of the construction contract anticipated in May 2014.

SR 62 at Dumosa Traffic Signal:

The project consists of the design and construction of a traffic signal at the intersection of SR62 and Dumosa Avenue.

Funding: The project is funded by Measure I Regional funds in the amount of \$471,000.

Status: Staff will be meeting with Caltrans on Tuesday March 25, 2014 to finalize project plans and documents. Caltrans plan approval is anticipated in May 2014, with construction bidding following Caltrans plan approval.

2014/2015 & 2015/2015 FY Budget Process:

The Town is well underway with the initial drafting of the FY 2014-15 & FY 2015-16 budget. In accordance with the Town's adopted budget calendar, the Council will be reviewing and receiving public input on the various budget segments. The first of these reviews will occur at the April 1, 2014 Town Council meeting at 6 pm, with a review of the forecasted Town General Fund revenues over the course of the next two years. Department Budget presentations and

Town Council review will be occurring over the next several months. Please join the Town Council and staff and provide your input into the budget preparation process!

Local Economy Showing Signs of Improvement:

4Q2013 Sales tax numbers are in with the Town recognizing receipts for October through December 2013 sales 4.2% higher than the same quarter one year ago. This is encouraging news as the Town experienced continued strong sales for autos and transportation, general consumer goods, and several other industry groups, offset by a decline in sales from service stations and the food and drug group. The Town is hopeful that sales tax activities will continue to increase.

As we have mentioned before, staff is particularly pleased with the upcoming arrival of new apparel retailers, Marshall's and Ross. This is a sales tax category that experiences significant leakage "down the hill", and it will be a real positive to the community to capture some of that sales activity here in Town, as well as provide an alternative to leaving the Basin to shop for clothes.

Science Saturdays at the Hi-Desert Nature Museum:

Science Saturday – Eyes & Ears
Saturday, March 22 from 11:00 – 11:30 a.m.

Eyes and ears are the dynamic duos which help to perceive the world around us but it is no simple task. Both the eyes and ears are complex parts of the human body and experience. Enjoy this Science Saturday where Museum Educator Crystal Mason will help children explore the senses of sight and sound.

It is recommended that children be of school age for this program. This program is free and no pre-registration is required. The program is on Saturday, March 22 from 11:00 – 11:30 a.m.



For more information about the Hi-Desert Nature Museum and its programs please visit the [Hi-Desert Nature Museum Website](#).

Successful Youth Basketball Program Wraps Up Another Year:

Youth Basketball is wrapping up the season with All Star Tournaments in surrounding communities. The Town of Yucca Valley all-star teams will wrap up the season by competing in the 29 Palms Tournament on March 28, 29 and 30th.

Adult Softball Season Around the Corner:

The Spring Adult Softball league play begins on March 24th and features Ladies Leagues on Mondays, Traditional Coed League on Tuesdays, Men's League on Wednesdays, and Casual Coed League on Thursdays. All games take place at the Yucca Valley Community Center beginning at 6:30 p.m. This popular slow pitch softball program features 23 teams with over 350 players participating each week.

The Recreation Department also maintains a Free Agent list for individuals looking to join a team. To register as a Free Agent online visit www.yucca-valley.org or register in person at the Community Center, Monday through Thursday from 12:00 to 5:00 p.m.

April 19th Annual Easter Egg Hunt:

The Town of Yucca Valley Recreation Department will host its annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 19th at the Community Center softball field at 9:00 A.M. sharp!! Bring your camera for a photo with the Easter Bunny and a basket to collect prize-filled eggs. Easter themed contests include "Name the Bunny" and "Guess How Many Jelly Beans". The event is open to children age 8 and under with the field divided by age division. The event is presented at no charge.

April 30th Rose Bowl Stadium & Norton Simon Museum Trip:

Be one of the first to experience a guided tour of the famous Rose Bowl Stadium. This exclusive opportunity will grant you behind-the-scenes access to locations including the Court of Champions, UCLA locker room, official press boxes, playing field and more! Then enjoy a delicious lunch at the Brookside Country Club and travel to the famous Norton Simon Museum featuring art exhibits from the early Renaissance through the 20th century. Package price of \$100.00 per person includes deluxe motor coach transportation, guided tour, lunch and museum admission. The trip will take place on April 30, 2014; participants must register on or before April 18, 2014. Register online at www.yucca-valley.org or in person at the Community Center, Monday through Thursday from 12:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Plan to Attend April 19th Earth Day at the Community Center:

Save the Date for Earth Day, coming to the Town's Community Complex on April 19, 2014 from 9 am to 2 pm. Stay tune for more details.

High Desert Nature Museum Spring Craft Program:

Have a child interested in spring crafts? Sign them up for the exciting Hi Desert Nature Museum's Spring Craft program. During this event, your child will have the opportunity to make spring themed crafts to keep or give as gifts!! Contact the Hi Desert Nature Museum, or the Town's Recreation Department at (760) 369-7211.

High Desert Nature Museum Lecture Series Continues:

On March 13, the Morongo Basin was treated to a fantastic informative and entertaining lecture at the Hi Desert Nature Museum from our own local wildflower expert, Mr. Mark Wheeler. Mr. Wheeler shared with over forty participants fascinating facts about our local desert botany. Take a moment and escape to the Hi Desert Nature Museum and check out the Museum's current Desert in Bloom wildflower exhibit with live specimens and their identifications.



Animal Shelter Visitors and Adoptions:

The Yucca Valley Animal Shelter recently adopted a male Shepherd mix named "Titus" to 29 Palms resident Nina. Nina came to the animal shelter several times, interacting with Titus in our "Meet and Greet" area. Titus looked forward to Nina's visits and would begin wagging her tail uncontrollably waiting for Nina to take her out. On the day that Nina adopted Titus, you could see the bond the two of them had already formed. Moments like this are the one of the wonderful highlights of working at the Yucca Valley Animal Shelter.



Animal Control Call for Service:

Dogs Fighting - On March 11, 2014, an Animal Control Officer responded to the 7600 block of Shawnee trail after sheriff's dispatch reported that several Pit Bulls at a residence had killed another animal. Animal Control made contact with the dog owner who had been trying for over 20 minutes to break up a fight that had started between her own three dogs, all Pit Bulls. One of the dogs, a female, had been badly injured, but was still alive. The dog owner released ownership of two of the dogs to Animal Control.

On March 13th, 2014, Animal Control responded to the Paradise Valley area after receiving another report of a Pit Bulls fighting. The reporting resident stated he had taken in a stray Pit Bull that morning. According to the resident, his own two dogs (both Altered Pit Bulls), had attacked and badly injured the stray dog. The badly injured stray dog was picked up by Animal Control and taken to a veterinary clinic for emergency care.

Animal Control urges residents to be cautious when taking in stray dogs and putting the strays in with their own dogs. Citizens are also reminded that breaking up a dog fight can put you at risk of being injured. People, particularly children, are at risk of being bitten or injured when trying to separate aggressive dogs. Luckily, in both of these cases, no human was injured.

Code Compliance:

Graffiti:

Code received a complaint about graffiti located on the electrical box behind a local commercial business. Code made contact with the store manager and within a few days the property was brought into compliance.



Property Maintenance:

Code received a complaint from multiple neighbors located in the south side of Town in regards to the junk, trash and inoperable vehicles and noise complaints. Code visited the site and observed all the inoperable vehicles, junk and trash on site. Code made contact with the property owner, and they brought the property into compliance.





Property Maintenance:

Code received a complaint in regards to junk and trash in the public view located on Aster Ave. Code made contact with the property owner, and the owner stated that the property was in the process of being foreclosed and the tenants were squatting on the property. The bank foreclosed and evicted the squatters. The property was brought into compliance and citations were dismissed.



Abandoned Trailer:

Code received a complaint about an abandoned trailer full of trash and being used as advertisement for a local business. Code made contact with the store manager and issued a notice of violation. Within a few weeks, the property was brought into compliance.



Property Maintenance:

Code received a complaint about the dead dry vegetation located in a residential neighborhood. Code visited the site and issued a courtesy letter. The property owner contacted code and the property was brought into compliance.



Property Maintenance:

Code observed a new roof being put on the property located in a residential neighborhood. Upon further investigation, Code determined that no permits were pulled for the work. Code made contact with the property owner, and they came down to Building Department and pulled all the permits required for the installation of the roof.



Property Maintenance:

Code received a complaint from a neighbor in regards to the non-permitted grading caused by kids who were riding their BMX bikes on the vacant lot. Code issued a citation to the property owner who then contacted Code. The property was brought into compliance.





Property Maintenance:

Code received a complaint in regards to junk and trash out in the public view. Code made contact with the property manager, and the property was brought into compliance.



Abandoned Trailer:

Code received a complaint in regards to an abandoned trailer. Code sent the owner a courtesy letter. The trailer was removed and the property was brought into compliance.



Parks Division Repairs and Improvements:

Community Center Sports Fields:

The Town of Yucca Valley Parks Division performed maintenance on the lighting surrounding the Community Center sports fields. They replaced any burned out bulbs, checked for loose bolts and clips, and inspected the mast arms for proper connections.



The Parks Division also performed work to address the raised “lip” at the warning track at the Community Center softball fields, where the warning track and turf meet. Keeping the fields safe for all users is important throughout the softball season.



Paradise Park: Storm Damage Repair:

The Parks Division also repaired storm damage that occurred at Paradise Park. The Park recently re-opened with new playground equipment and a new wood chip play surface.



Streets Department Repairs and Improvements:

Erosion on east side of Acoma Trail south of Onaga Trail:

The Town of Yucca Valley Streets Division repaired a section of erosion that occurred along the east side of Acoma Trail, south of Onaga Trail. The damaged area was filled in with 20 yards of dirt.

