



views

FALL 2004

PLANS, PROGRESS AND PEOPLE



YUCCA VALLEY TOWN COUNCIL

Bob Leone, Mayor

Chad Mayes, Mayor Pro Tem

Paul Cook, Councilmember

Susan Earnest, Councilmember

Bill Neeb, Councilmember

Andy Takata, Town Manager



Town Council/Town Hall 369-7207

Parks & Recreation 369-7211

Code Compliance 369-6575

Animal Control 369-7207

Streets/Public Works 369-6579

Hi-Desert Nature Museum 369-7212

Building & Safety 365-0099



Hi-Desert Water District 365-8333

Yucca Valley Fire District 365-3335



Seven Miles of Streets Get New Pavement

The Yucca Valley street maintenance crew has been fulfilling the Town Council's commitment to improve the condition of local roads. Having recently acquired a paving machine, the crew is able to stretch the road improvement dollars much farther than if the same work was to be contracted to a street paving company.

Although several accepted methods of maintaining asphalt and prolonging the life of roads are still used in many cases, the paving machine applies a better fix with a longer life expectancy.

The warmer temperatures of the spring and summer months provide favorable conditions for paving roads. Without many summer storms to divert their attention to clean-up efforts, the road crew has been able to make considerable progress on paving projects.

The focus for the past six months has been primarily on the residential streets in the area southwest of Yucca Trail and Palomar Avenue. Other streets that have recently been at least partially repaved include Mohawk Trail, Wamego Trail, Airway Avenue, St. Mary's Drive, and "the Carmelitas" in Sky Harbor.

On tap for September and October is paving of seven of the Outer Highways that parallel 29 Palms Highway. With approximately \$750,000 remaining from recent allocations for paving projects, the Town will continue with the projects until weather conditions are prohibitive. Paving will resume in the spring.

PAVING STATISTICS THIS SEASON

THROUGH SEPTEMBER 1

964,700 square feet of roads have been paved

19,294,000 pounds of asphalt have been applied to local roads

Seven miles of road have been paved (assuming a standard 26-foot width)

\$350,000 on local road paving projects has been spent

Veterans' Tribute November 11th in Yucca Valley

Brigadier General Richard C. Zilmer, Commanding General of the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center in Twentynine Palms, will serve as the Grand Marshal in this year's Veterans' Day parade.

The 2004 Veterans' Tribute, which alternates annually between Yucca Valley and Twentynine Palms, will be held in Yucca Valley on Thursday, November 11th. The event will not only honor those who have served, but also those still serving in the United States Armed Forces.

This year's celebration will include a parade along State Route 62 followed by a community reception at the Yucca Valley Community Center.

Post-parade activities will include addresses by General Zilmer and other special guests, music and chorus performances, flag-folding ceremony, parade and band awards and refreshments.

The Hi-Desert Nature Museum will feature a special exhibit displaying various photos and memorabilia on loan from local veterans and their families. The "Tribute to Our Local Veterans" exhibit is scheduled through November 27th.

Veterans are invited to ride or walk in the parade with others who have served in the armed forces.

All Morongo Basin residents interested in participating in the parade should contact the Community Services Office at 369-7211.

Town Manager

Andy Takata



Andy Takata began his new assignment as Yucca Valley's Town Manager in May of this year. The Town Council unanimously selected him for the Town's top staff position following an extensive professional recruitment.

Prior to coming to Yucca Valley, Mr. Takata served as City Manager in Newcastle, Washington since 1997. Prior to that, he was the City Manager of Atascadero, California. His 30 years experience in the public sector also includes employment in Mammoth Lakes, Santa Fe Springs, and Simi Valley.

Before branching off into city administration, Mr. Takata held positions as Director of Community Services, Parks and Recreation Director, and Recreation Supervisor. As a long-time water polo official, he was selected to referee that sport in the 2000 Sydney Olympics.

Mr. Takata's educational experience includes a bachelor's degree in business administration from

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Sound Fiscal Outlook for 2004–2005

After several scenarios were developed based on the State's fiscal uncertainty, the Yucca Valley Town Council approved a balanced budget for fiscal year 2004–05. The approved general fund expenditures for the year will be \$7,744,076 and the revenues are projected to be \$7,766,320.

Of the total general fund budget, \$2,159,791 is allocated to law enforcement through the Town's contractual arrangement with the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department. The remainder is split among the Town departments to provide services in administration, public works, animal control, recreation, museum, code compliance, building and safety, planning and other divisions.

Going into the fiscal year, the Town reserves are in excess of \$3,000,000. This is consistent with the Town Council's policy of maintaining at least 35% of the general fund budget in its reserve accounts.

Town general fund revenues come from various sources including property taxes, sales tax, fees and charges, rents and interest. Of each dollar of property tax collected locally, the Town of Yucca Valley receives 16.8 cents.

The graphic below shows the distribution of each Yucca Valley property tax dollar collected.



Strong Building Permit Activity Continues

The recent increase in Yucca Valley's residential construction is continuing strong through the first half of 2004. Through the 2003-04 fiscal year, 353 building permits were issued for new single family dwellings within the Town limits. This is an increase of 165 residential permits compared to the previous fiscal year.

Although the increase in building activity is obvious to local residents, the statistics validate the perception of a healthier local economic outlook compared to five years ago



when the total number of permits issued during the year was forty-four.

Analysis of the current building activity shows that while all areas of town are seeing new development, most of the residential construction is occurring in the Western Hills and the Sky Harbor areas.

Public Art

Inventory Expands

Yucca Valley's inventory of public art has recently grown to six sculptures as the Town Council accepted two pieces offered for donation by artist Simi Dabah. One of the new sculptures has been installed at the Park and Ride facility at the west end of Town, the other is scheduled for installation adjacent to the Town's Public Works yard in the Monterey Business Center.

The four other pieces of public art include the Sabre-tooth Tiger in Remembrance Park, the Angel of Flight in the Community Center rose garden, the Owls outside the Hi-Desert Nature Museum, and the Sunburst sculpture on the front of the California Welcome Center building.



The Town's public arts program is outlined in the public arts policy adopted by the Town Council in 2002. Offers for donations of public art may be directed to the Community Services Department in the Yucca Valley Community Center.

Park Gets Facelift and New Name

C.H. Jacobs was a Parks Commissioner in the 1950's and was the driving force in the early development of Yucca Valley's neighborhood parks. Mr. Jacobs planted and cared for the original trees at both Hi-Desert Park and Paradise Park, and personally installed other park features and play structures.



In recognition of his efforts, the Morongo Basin Historical Society proposed changing the name of Hi Desert Park to Jacobs Park. The suggestion was approved by the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Commission and the Town Council. A dedication ceremony this summer was attended by his daughter, Pauline Hanson of Yucca Valley.

The park is located at the corner of Onaga Trail and Hopi Trail, adjacent to Yucca Valley Elementary School. The buildings on the 5-acre property served as the original homes for the Yucca Valley Library and the Hi Desert Nature Museum.

The newly re-named park has recently undergone a significant renovation project financed primarily with Community Development Block Grant funds. The park now features a new parking lot, restroom building, basketball courts, lighting, walkways and renovated picnic shelter.

Block Grant Applications Available in November

Local organizations may soon apply for financial assistance through the 2005-06 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. The Town of Yucca Valley administers the program jointly with San Bernardino County. The grant funds are provided through the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

The application period for CDBG funds is typically from early November through early December. Applications are then reviewed by the County for eligibility under CDBG guidelines, which favor proposals that provide public benefit for low to moderate income residents, or address Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance issues.

In February, the Town Council will prioritize local eligible applications. The amount of funding requested by local organizations usually exceeds the Town's allocation of funds. No more than 15% of the total funding allocation may go towards public service programs; at least 85% must be allocated to project proposals. The total Town allocation in the current year was \$158,000.

The actual expenditure of funds can not take place until after July 2005 when the funds become available.

The Town will host a workshop in November to help local organizations with the application process. To receive notice of the workshop, contact Community Services at 369-7211.

Starry Nights Festival Slated for October

Amateur astronomers from all over the southwestern United States are making plans to visit Yucca Valley for the eighth annual Starry Nights Festival on Friday and Saturday, October 15 and 16. The event offers stargazing enthusiasts a wealth of opportunities to learn more about our universe.

Originally feted in 1996, the festival has become a meeting ground for members of the Western Region of the Astronomical League, the International Dark-Sky Association and a huge mix of local and visiting stargazers. With a backdrop of consistently clear night skies, the event has attracted hundreds of visitors each year.

This year's Starry Nights Festival will feature a twilight reception and lecture on Friday and a variety of educational sessions on Saturday at the Community Center. Shuttle buses will transport interested viewers to Machris Park for stargazing both nights.

Again this year, there will be no registration or participation fee thanks to a donation by the local Andromeda Astronomical Society.

For more information, contact the Hi-Desert Nature Museum at 369-7212.

Town Manager, Andy Takata

California State University, Fullerton, and graduate study as well as a teaching credential from Claremont Graduate School.

Noting his frequent visits to family property in the Yucca Valley area during his childhood, Mr. Takata is not a newcomer to the Morongo Basin. "I think this is an excellent fit for me,

my family, and for Yucca Valley," he said, "I've really enjoyed these first months of becoming part of this community."

The Takata family includes Andy and his wife Tami, son Kenny and daughters Kaylin and Kimi. In his spare time, he likes traveling, refereeing water polo, and flatwater kayaking.

Voters to Consider Extending Measure I

In 1989, San Bernardino County voters approved Measure I, the half-cent sales tax for countywide transportation improvements. Measure I, which has funded thousands of local road projects and transportation improvements, will expire in 2010.

On November 2nd, voters will consider the extension of Measure I for a new term from 2010 to 2040. If approved, Measure I will continue to provide revenue for transportation projects and services at the same rate. Measure I is the only on-going revenue source the Town receives for roadway improvement projects.

San Bernardino Associated Governments has developed a Transportation Expenditure Plan that outlines the improvements to be funded by the anticipated revenue. Planned projects include:

- *Nearly \$42 million in Yucca Valley over 30 years for street repair, widening or traffic signals*
- *Widening and safety improvements on State Route 62 and State Route 247*
- *Continuation of low bus fares and expanded service by the Morongo Basin Transit Authority for seniors and riders with disabilities*

For more information, contact San Bernardino Associated Governments at (909) 884-8276 or visit the "Measure I Central" section of the agency's website at www.sanbag.ca.gov.



Public Meetings

THE TOWN OF YUCCA VALLEY

Town Council	
First & Third Thursdays 6:00 PM	Community Center
Planning Commission	
First & Third Tuesdays 7:00 PM	Community Center
Parks, Recreation & Cultural Commission	
Second Tuesday 7:00 PM	Community Center
Traffic Commission	
Fourth Monday 6:00 PM	Community Center
Youth Commission	
First & Third Mondays 6:30 PM	Oct — June Community Center
Sports Council	
Second Monday 6:30 PM	Mar/June/Sept/Dec Community Center
Graffiti Abatement Team	
Second Monday 6:00 PM	Community Center
Citizens On Patrol	
First Tuesday 6:00 PM	Community Center
Public Arts Advisory Committee	
Call for meeting date 369-7211	Community Center



57090 Twentynine Palms Highway
Yucca Valley, CA 92284

