

views

WINTER 2003

PLANS, PROGRESS AND PEOPLE



YUCCA VALLEY TOWN COUNCIL

- Sue Earnest, Mayor
- Bob Leone, Mayor Pro Tem
- Paul Cook, Councilmember
- Chad Mayes, Councilmember
- Bill Neeb, Councilmember



- Town Council/Town Hall 369-7207
- Parks & Recreation 369-7211
- Code Compliance 369-6575
- Animal Control 369-7207
- Streets/Public Works 369-6579
- Museum 369-7212
- Building & Safety 365-0099



- Hi-Desert Water District 365-8333
- Yucca Valley Fire District 365-3335



Road Improvement Program Underway

The first phase of the Town of Yucca Valley's \$1.2 million road improvement program has been completed and the remaining work will be done by the end of the fiscal year. The program began with the Town Council's decision to make a significant investment in roadwork during the 2003-04 budget cycle.

Most local residents experienced temporary detours recently as a slurry seal was applied to approximately 25 miles of roads within Town limits. Slurry seal is a preventive maintenance procedure that provides a protective coating for existing roads to keep out water, provide a better driving surface, and improve the look of the roadway. Slurry seal extends the useful life of roadways and should be



Contract crews put the final touches on Joshua Lane slurry seal project.

done routinely every 5-7 years.

The next phase of the road program will be an overlay to approximately 9-10 miles of local roads. An overlay is the application of a thin layer of asphalt concrete over the existing

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Town Renovates Neighborhood Parks

Significant improvement projects are nearing completion at two of Yucca Valley's neighborhood parks. The renovations are part of the Town Council's implementation of the Parks Master Plan adopted in 1999.

Paradise Park, located at the corner of Indio Avenue and Barron Drive in the Paradise Valley area, will have a new restroom building, picnic shelter and parking lot in addition to other site amenities when the project is completed.

The same features are also under construction at Hi Desert Park, located on Onaga Trail at the Hopi Trail intersection. Hi Desert Park will also get two half-courts for basketball in the project.

Several sources were tapped to provide

funding for the renovation projects. While Hi Desert Park is being funded through a combination of Community Development Block Grant monies and Town reserves, the Paradise Park project is being financed by Proposition 12 park bond funds.

The current projects follow the recent renovation to Machris Park, located on Santa Barbara Drive in the Sky Harbor section of town. At completion, all three neighborhood parks will have restroom buildings and paved parking lots, part of the minimum standard for local parks recommended by the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Commission.



Commissioners and Council break ground for park work.

Further efforts to implement the long-range recommendations of the Parks Master Plan are underway as the Town continues a land acquisition program for the future South Side Community Center, and progresses in the development of a Trails Master Plan.

SPOTLIGHT

Captain Jim Williams



The Town of Yucca Valley contracts for law enforcement services with the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department. The local police force is headed up by Captain Jim Williams, who has been serving as Yucca Valley's Chief of Police for nearly two years.

In his current assignment as the Station Commander for the Morongo Basin Sheriff's Station, Captain Williams is charged with providing effective and efficient law enforcement services to the residents of the Town of Yucca Valley and the City of Twentynine Palms. His area of responsibility also extends to the unincorporated areas of Morongo Valley, Joshua Tree, Landers, Johnson Valley, Wonder Valley, Amboy and Cadiz.

Jim began his law enforcement career 21 years ago with the San Bernardino County Marshal's Department, where he served for 17 years. In 1999, the Marshal's Department was merged with the

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Town Council Revises Strategic Plan Priorities

In a November review of their Strategic Plan, the Town Council discussed the progress made on their "Top Six" priorities for the current year. As a result, the Council was able to revise their priorities and expand the list to a "Top Ten".

Noting that some issues and projects cannot be resolved until sufficient funding is in place, the Council discussed priorities that they want to keep in focus in the immediate future. In no particular order, the new priority list is as follows:

- Continue development of the fiscal action plan; evaluate revenue vs. needs
- Create and adopt a long-range land acquisition and development plan
- Identify and evaluate aquatic center development alternatives
- Improve publicly maintained local roads and investigate funding alternatives
- Develop dirt road maintenance alternatives
- Develop plans for town-wide flood control improvements
- Evaluate alternatives for Camino del Cielo / SR 62 intersection safety improvements
- Economic Development: secure tenants for commercial building vacancies
- Explore energy conservation alternatives
- Continue progress on the South Side Community Center

Enforcement on Dirt Roads

Responding to a growing number of concerns from citizens, the Town Council adopted resolution recently that gives local law enforcement personnel the authority to enforce the California Vehicle Code on certain privately owned and maintained dirt roads in Yucca Valley. The affected roads are generally open for use by the public for vehicular travel.

The action was taken after an Off-Highway Vehicle Citizens Committee made recommendations for dealing with nuisances caused by the disruptive use of off road vehicles in certain

Meet the Public Arts Committee

The Town of Yucca Valley recently accepted its first donation of public art thanks to the work of the Public Arts Advisory Committee (PAAC). Now affixed to the front of the California Welcome Center building, the piece was created by Morongo Basin artist Simi Dabah.

Last year, the Town Council adopted the first Public Arts Policy which establishes criteria for the accepting and maintaining public art. The new sculpture is now one of four pieces in the Town's inventory.

The other objects are the saber-tooth tiger sculpture in Remembrance Park, the Angel of Flight in the Community Center rose garden, and the "Owls" sculpture in front of the Hi Desert Nature Museum.

The PAAC, appointed by the Town Council in February of this year, serves as an advisory body in matters related to the acquisition, display, care and disposition of public art. Although its current focus deals mostly with art in public places, the committee could also make recommendations regarding other artistic pursuits.

THE CURRENT MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ARE

Klaus Wille, Michael Callan, Wanda Stadum, David Mueller, Christopher Perry, Denise Dompke and David Falossi.

The committee meets as needed to conduct business.

For information about the committee or meetings, contact the Town's Community Services Office.



Mayor Sue Earnest and
Artist Simi Dabah

residential areas of town. The Town formed the committee in response to several citizen complaints about excessive dust and noise caused by the vehicles.

In passing the resolution, council members emphasized that there is no budget for creating increased patrols in any of the affected areas, and noted that enforcement action is likely to be responsive rather than pro-active.

A list of the roads affected by the resolution is can be obtained by contacting the Community Development Department in the Monterey Business Center.



Young People Serve on Youth Commission

Twenty-nine local students are appointed to the 2003-04 Town of Yucca Valley Youth Commission. The current commissioners will serve until June of 2004.

The Youth Commission was created in 1995, to give Yucca Valley's young people a voice in the community and a forum for communicating concerns and issues pertaining to youth. The group is appointed by the Town Council, and operates under the oversight of the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Commission.

Students who attend high school or junior high school in Yucca Valley are eligible to serve on the commission. The 2003-04 commission has representation from Yucca Valley High School, La Contenta Middle School, Joshua Springs Christian High School, Joshua Springs Junior High, Sky High School, and Lighthouse Christian Academy.

In addition to their advisory responsibilities, the commission is involved with developing communication avenues for youth, including a web site, the Teen Connection video program and contributions in the local media. The group also develops and presents forums at local schools on topics of interest to students. Many of the commissioners also volunteer time to assist at community special events.

The Youth Commission meets on the first and third Monday of each month at the Community Center.

Town Receives Clean Audit Report

The Town Council received the comprehensive annual financial report for fiscal year 2002-03 at their November 6th meeting. The report was presented by the Management Services Department and a representative from the independent firm contracted to conduct the audit.

According to the auditor, all previous recommendations have been satisfactorily implemented, and there are no new suggestions for improving the Town's financial management. The annual financial report was completed earlier than any in the Town's history.

In addition to the stellar audit report, the Town has received an Award for Reporting Excellence presented by the California Society of Municipal Finance Officers.

Pavement Management System

Helps to Prioritize Road Repairs

The most effective tool for determining which roads receive which treatment is an up-to-date pavement management system (PMS). The PMS is a computerized program systematically that organizes and analyzes information about pavement conditions to determine the most cost-effective maintenance treatments and strategies.

The concept behind a PMS is to identify the optimal rehabilitation time and to pinpoint the type of repair that makes the most sense. The PMS replaces the "worst first" approach to repairing streets and roads. An update of the Town's PMS is expected to be completed in March 2004.

One of the first steps in developing a PMS is to conduct a field survey to determine the condition of the Town's road network. The PMS then analyzes various data entered and provides a type of scoring known as a Pavement Condition Index (PCI).

The PCI is a measure of pavement distress, with a rating scale from 1 to 100. Higher values indicate better condition. It is usually desirable to attempt to place all streets above a PCI of 70. Therefore, any streets with a PCI below 70 become candidates for repair or maintenance.

During the analysis of any particular pavement section, alternate pavement repair options are considered, and consultation with traffic engineers ensures that all factors have been considered before developing a final recommendation to economically maintain the Town's roadway system.

The most recent estimate of the total cost for bringing the Town's road network up to a PCI of 70 or above is approximately \$15 to \$20 million.

California Welcome Center Serves Basin Tourists

After a year and a half of full operations, tourist activity has followed the anticipated pattern at the Morongo Basin's California Welcome Center, located in Yucca Valley. The visitor counts increase in the spring and fall months, with the summer decline consistent with trends typically reported by the Joshua Tree National Park.

Visitors to the Morongo Basin are generally quite complimentary about the information and assistance provided by Welcome Center employees and ambassadors. The staff and volunteers receive monthly training to stay informed about the region's destinations and attractions.

Local residents are also discovering that a trip to the California Welcome Center can be beneficial before traveling to other areas of the state. A huge variety of information about resorts and attractions is available at no cost.

The winter hours for the Welcome Center are from 9:00 am until 5:00 pm seven days a week. The facility is located at 56711 Twentynine Palms Highway in Yucca Valley.

Road Improvement Program Underway

roadway surface. An overlay provides all of the same benefits as a slurry seal as well as increasing structural strength and a creating a smoother driving surface. Work on the overlay projects requires moderate temperatures and will be scheduled as weather permits.

Overlays are used to solve various structural problems with existing roadways. An overlay will improve ride quality on very rough pavement, improve the surface profile, and prevent moisture and air from entering the pavement. Application of an overly extends the useful life of roadways and should be done every 10-14 years.

The slurry seal portion of the project was completed through a \$472,815 contract with Pavement Coatings Company. The Town street crews will use a recently acquired piece of paving equipment to complete the overlay work.

Captain Jim Williams

Sheriff's Department. At that time, he assumed his current position as Captain with the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department.

Captain Williams is a graduate of the Federal Bureau of Investigation National Academy and the F.B.I. Southwest Command College. He is also a graduate of California State University, San Bernardino.

Jim is a native Californian who moved to the Morongo Basin in 1984. He currently resides in Yucca Valley with his 13-year-old son. The captain is an active member in several community service organizations including the Morongo Basin Footprinters, Morongo Basin Historical Society, Yucca Valley Chamber of Commerce and the Rotary Club of Yucca Valley.

When not actively fulfilling his law enforcement responsibilities, Captain Williams enjoys camping, hiking, backpacking and motorcycle riding.

Public Meetings

THE TOWN OF YUCCA VALLEY

Town Council	
First & Third Thursdays 7:00 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 7:00 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 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

