

## CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE

### *Administration*

#### Staff Assists League with Response to New Sales Tax Exemption Law

Economic Development Director Barry Foster and I recently worked with the League of California Cities and other agencies to draft recommendations regarding the implementation of SB 71, a new law that provides a sales tax exemption for green manufacturing industries. SB 71 passed through the Legislature extremely quickly as a result of Governor Schwarzenegger's recent call for statewide economic incentives. The new law allows for a sales tax exemption for equipment purchased for the manufacture, production, or assembly of advanced transportation technologies or alternative source products. Our involvement was focused on ensuring that the exemption not be applicable to end products such as electric vehicles. The recommendations for the implementation of SB 71 have been forwarded to the California Alternative Energy and Advanced Transportation Financing Agency.

#### Hazardous Material Mitigation Cost Recovery Fee Ad Hoc Committee Update

As reported in the February 23, 2010 City Manager's Report, Interim Assistant City Manager Rick Hartmann agreed to participate in an ad hoc committee of partners and Riverside County Fire Department/Cal Fire representatives to determine an equitable method to divide amongst its cities, special districts, and the County, hazardous material abatement costs in which the County has historically funded in an amount estimated to be \$2 million per year. At the ad hoc committee's April meeting, the County/Cal Fire reported in a typical year, the Hazmat Team responds to approximately 300 to 400 calls. Of those calls for service, roughly 41 percent would be in unincorporated County areas. The ad hoc committee requested the County/Cal Fire consider a formula using a four-year rolling average of calls, number of positions, and number of stations per jurisdiction to establish a percentage of the total costs of the program to be

allocated to each contract partner. Also, the committee asked to include population (California Department of Finance estimates) in the formula as an option. The Committee's next meeting is in early May and it is hoped that the committee will finalize its formula to present to other contract partners at their summer meeting.

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPT

### Planning Commission

The next Planning Commission meeting is scheduled for May 13, 2010. The following items are currently scheduled for that meeting:

1. A tentative tract map to subdivide a 40-acre site located at the southeast corner of Heacock Street and Gentian Avenue into 139 single family residential lots. The map is accompanied by General Plan Amendment and Change of Zone applications to change the property from Business Park (BP) to Residential (Maximum 5 Units per Acre) (R5). The project is a follow up to a prior application for a large warehouse building on the same site; that application was denied by the City Council. The applicant is Rados Companies.
2. A conditional use permit for a 50-foot tall telecommunications facility disguised as a pine tree. The proposed site is at the west end of Cottonwood Park, located on the north side of Cottonwood Avenue, west of Redlands Boulevard. The applicant is T-Mobile West Corporation.
3. A review of the annual Capital Improvement Plan for consistency with the General Plan, as required by State Law.
4. The annual election of Planning Commission officers.

### Administrative Approval

1. Conditional use permit to co-locate a second telecommunications carrier on an existing facility located at 11000 Redlands Boulevard. The approval includes the planting of additional live palm trees to screen the

- monopalm. The applicant is Royal Street Communications.
2. Plot plan to expand a pre-employment and counseling service center for parolees located at 14315 Corporate Way. The applicant is Human Potential Consultants.
  3. Plot Plan to establish a martial arts studio at 22445 Alessandro Boulevard. The applicant is James Edward Cosey, Jr.
  4. Amended plot plan for an approved vehicle maintenance building at 17700 Indian Street. The building is now in plan check for construction. The applicant is Waste Management.
  5. Amended plot plan to allow modification to the approved parking lot for the Skechers warehouse. The applicant is Highland Fairview Properties.
  6. Amended plot plan to allow exterior modifications to the former Mervyn's store to facilitate occupancy by Burlington Coat Factory. The applicant is the Fritz Duda Company.
  7. Plot plan to establish a hair and nail salon at 24473 Sunnymead Boulevard. The applicant is Claudia Mercado.

#### Foreclosures and Homes Listed for Sale

Information available from the RealtyTrac website shows a sharp increase in foreclosure activity in the City and region. For March, the website reported one in 62 housing units in Moreno Valley were in some stage of foreclosure. This compares to a rate of one in 89 units in February, 30% deterioration between February and March. The March rate was the same as the community suffered in September of last year. Foreclosure activity increased significantly throughout the region, with the highest rates in communities with the highest levels of single family housing construction during the past building boom. Moreno Valley is in the middle of the list of local communities with Temecula, Corona and Wildomar. Slower growth areas such as Riverside and Banning have much lower rates, and faster growth areas such as Beaumont and Murrieta have much higher rates. Calimesa had the lowest rate locally (1 in 168 and Winchester had the highest rate (1 in 10). By zip code, area 92555 had the highest rate in the City (1 in 24) and area 92557 had the lowest rates (1 in 90). Foreclosure activity increased in all four zip codes in the City.

Information available from the Realtor.com website indicates a small increase in the number of homes for sale in the City and continued stability in median asking prices. As of April 1, 2010, 985 homes were listed for sale, compared with 950 on March 1st, and 1,537 in April of last year. The median asking price in April was \$159,000, compared with \$155,000 in March and \$149,900 last April.

#### Regional Conservation Authority (RCA) Development Impact Fees

The Executive Committee of the RCA has voted not to implement the cost of living adjustment for multiple species habitat conservation plan development impact fees for fiscal year 2010-11. Therefore, the fees will stay at the current level at least till June 30, 2011.

#### Moreno Valley Medical Campus

The County of Riverside and Optiflex Properties and Development have entered into an agreement to develop a 308 bed skilled nursing facility at the southeast corner of Nason Street and Brodiaea Avenue, just east of the Riverside County Regional Medical Center. The skilled nursing facility is a component of a 20-acre medical campus. Upon completion, the campus is anticipated to employ over 1,000 people. The project is currently under review by the City. Public hearings before the Planning Commission and City Council are anticipated within the next few months.

#### Neighborhood Electric Vehicle Study

The Western Riverside Council of Governments (WRCOG) is conducting community meetings in Riverside, Corona and Moreno Valley to elicit input on a draft neighborhood electric vehicle (NEV) plan. NEV's are electric vehicles that may be legally driven on public streets with a speed limit of 35 miles per hour or less and in designated NEV lanes on higher speed roads. The plan, funded by a grant from the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) is intended to encourage the use of non-polluting NEV's by providing designated routes between the three cities and to activity centers in each community.

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPT**

### *Administration*

#### Acapulco

Real Mex Restaurants Corporation has executed an option for a 5-year renewal of the Lease for the Acapulco Mexican Restaurant & Cantina in TownGate Center. Given the challenging economic times- this is great news. Previously, officials with Real Mex Restaurants had contemplated closing the Moreno Valley location for Acapulco when the Lease was expiring late in 2009. After rent concessions from their landlord, the Fritz Duda Company, the Lease for the Acapulco Restaurant was renewed for a one-year period, with the hope that the economy would get better and restaurant sales would improve. With restaurant sales on the rise in the area and especially at the Moreno Valley Acapulco Restaurant—Real Mex Restaurants has decided to pursue the 5-year Lease renewal, along with making some interior improvements to the Acapulco Restaurant. The menu for Acapulco will also soon experience some enhancements.

Real Mex Restaurants, based in Cypress California is the largest full service, casual dining Mexican restaurant company in the U.S. Real Mex Restaurants has over 200 restaurants in 12 states—including popular Mexican restaurant concepts such as Acapulco, El Torito, Chevy's, and El Torito Grill. In addition to the Moreno Valley location for Acapulco, Real Mex Restaurants presently operates a total of 31 Acapulco Restaurants in California. Because of sluggish sales brought on because of the downturn in the economy, Real Mex Restaurants has carefully evaluated the performance capability of all its restaurants.

#### Anna's Linens

The Lease for Anna's Linens expires at the Moreno Valley Mall late in 2010. Officials with Anna's Linens made it known that they were looking for a new location that wasn't part of an indoor Mall setting and they were looking at several sites on both sides of Day Street (in Moreno Valley, as well as the city of Riverside). City staff worked hard on several possibilities in an attempt to relocate Anna's Linens into a new Moreno Valley site. Eventually Anna's Linens focused on the vacant space left in the building where the new 99 Cents Only store just opened up in Town Gate Crossing. 99 Cents Only

purchased this building from Circuit City last fall when that company went out of business. Look for Anna's Linens to submit tenant improvements in the next 45 to 60 days.

#### Buffalo Wild Wings

The new franchisee for Buffalo Wild Wings (BWW's) continues to aggressively pursue a location in Moreno Valley for this popular restaurant chain. The franchisee, who is based in Chicago, has made numerous trips out to California in the past few months, as have BWW's corporate officials in evaluating site locations for a new BWW's in the TownGate area. Negotiations are ongoing with four locations, but one site has recently surfaced to the top. City staff has worked closely with BWW's and their real estate representatives in examining opportunities in Moreno Valley and will also recommend some CDBG-Recovery funding be used to help locate Buffalo Wild Wings in Moreno Valley. Hopefully, BWW's will soon solidify a site location in Moreno Valley.

Buffalo Wild Wings, based in Minnesota, is a casual eatery specializing in its chicken wings that also includes a sports bar environment. The new franchisee for BWW's for this area is looking at developing BWW's locations in Moreno Valley, Redlands and San Bernardino. Existing nearby BWW's restaurants are in Murrietta, Corona, Eastvale – Mira Loma, and Rancho Cucamonga.

#### LaQuinta Inn & Suites

The new LaQuinta Inn & Suites on Sunnymead Boulevard opened on April 16. The 58-room mid-priced, limited service hotel should provide more quality lodging opportunities in Moreno Valley. Officials with LaQuinta are working with the Moreno Valley Chamber of Commerce on a ribbon cutting event.

#### Economic Development Summary

The Economic Development Summary has been updated for April 2010 and is available on the City's website or via hard copy in the information rack near the Economic Development Department on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of City Hall.

## *Neighborhood Preservation*

### CDBG and HOME Allocations for FY 2010/11

CDBG and HOME grants are provided on an annual basis to Entitlement Cities and Counties (eligible areas with a population exceeding 50,000). Allocation amounts vary each year based on a formula that considers a number of factors including the extent of poverty, population, housing overcrowding, the age of housing and the population growth in relationship to other metropolitan areas.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) recently released allocations for CDBG and HOME funding for FY 10/11. Moreno Valley has been granted an allocation of \$1,941,611 in CDBG (a \$147,694 increase over the FY 09/10 funding allocation) and \$666,589 in HOME (a modest \$145, increase over FY 09/10 funding allocation). This is the second year in a row that HUD has increased the allocations. Prior to that, the City had not seen an increase in their allocations since 2003 and in fact, in most years, funding allocations decreased.

The following are the adjusted expenditure caps for CDBG based on the recently released allocation amounts:

#### *Total FY 10/11 CDBG Grant: \$1,941,611*

- Maximum 20% cap on Administration, including HUD-Mandated Fair Housing Services: \$388,322.20
- Maximum 15% cap on Public Social Service Programs: \$291,241.65
- 65% for all other CDBG eligible programs such as Code Enforcement, Economic Development, and Facilities: \$1,262,047.10

Because the allocations are an increase over what the Economic Development Department had estimated and used for drafting a budget at the March 23<sup>rd</sup> 'Project Selection' Public Hearing, City staff is drafting recommendations for the Council to consider in adopting the CDBG budget on May 11.

Some ideas for additional funding include:

- Slightly increasing popular programs such as CAP and the Moreno Valley Educators.
- Enhancing programs facing high demand because of the economy, including Fair Housing's Foreclosure Mitigation Counseling Service and the Salvation Army Food Program.
- Increasing funding for the Neighborhood Cleanup and Problem Oriented Policing (POP) programs.
- Provide new funding for the 211 telephone referral program.

### Foreclosure Prevention Workshops

The third series of Foreclosure Prevention Workshops began on April 26, 2010 at Vista Heights Middle School in City Council District 2. The event provided homeowners facing foreclosure the opportunity to meet one-on-one with mortgage lenders and housing counseling agencies to discuss solutions to their current mortgage situations. The HELP program was onsite to educate homeowners on topics such as:

- Can my home be saved?
- Loan modification, short sale and foreclosure processes
- Tax implications of debt forgiveness
- New Federal foreclosure prevention programs and assistance

Foreclosure Prevention event participants will include:

- PNC Mortgage
- Chase Bank
- HSBC
- Springboard Nonprofit Counseling
- Fair Housing Counsel of Riverside County
- Riverside County Recorder-Assessor-County Clerk
- Internal Revenue Service
- Housing Opportunities Collaborative of the Inland Empire (HOCIE)
- U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

\*Please check the City website at [www.moval.org](http://www.moval.org) for specific participant schedule.

Upcoming events will be held on the following dates:

*District 1*

Saturday, May 8, 2010 (10 a.m. – 2 p.m.)  
Butterfield Elementary  
13400 Kitching Street

*District 4*

Saturday, May 22, 2010 (10 a.m. – 2 p.m.)  
Badger Springs Middle School  
24750 Delphinium Avenue

*District 3*

Monday, June 7, 2010 (6:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.)  
Valley View High School  
13135 Nason Street

*District 5*

Saturday, June 26, 2010 (10 a.m. – 2 p.m.)  
Moreno Valley Conference & Recreation Center  
14075 Frederick Street

For more information on the foreclosure prevention workshops series please contact Keyneica Jones, Management Analyst at 951-413-3464.

Neighborhood Stabilization Program

The City continues to experience success administering the NSP – the Neighborhood Stabilization Program.

***Single Family Residential Acquisition, Rehabilitation, and Resale (SFR-ARR)***

Approximately \$5.3 million is allocated to the SFR-ARR activity of the City's NSP. To date, over \$4.4 million (approximately 85% of the SFR-ARR budget) has been obligated. Through the four Development Partners, the City has acquired and closed escrow on 24 single-family residences. Despite continued reports from agents, brokers and Development Partners regarding diminished available real estate inventory, the Development Partners continue to aggressively seek acquisition opportunities and overall have been extremely successful in acquiring foreclosed and bank-owned houses. In addition to the City's current NSP inventory of 24 single-family properties, three additional properties are in escrow and three more have been submitted by Development Partners for consideration of acquisition.

ANR Industries, Mayans Development, and Sheffield Homes have completed rehabilitation on a total of seven properties. These houses are currently being marketed for sale to income-qualified buyers earning up to 120% of the Area Median Income (AMI). Two of the seven properties are under contract with prospective homebuyers.

Below are a few before and after photographs of recently rehabilitated NSP properties:

**ANR INDUSTRIES, INC.**  
**24654 Sinaloa Street**



*Exterior Before*  
*Exterior After*



*Interior Before*  
*Interior After*

**SHEFFIELD HOMES**  
**11100 Davis Street**



*Exterior Before*  
*Exterior After*



*Interior Before*  
*Interior After*

## ***Multi-Family Residential Acquisition, Rehabilitation, and Rental (MFR-ARR)***

In December, Mary Erickson Community Housing (MECH), a non-profit corporation and a designated Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO), closed escrow on two bank-owned apartment buildings, totaling 27 units, located on Myers Avenue. Since a few of the units were not vacant at the time of acquisition, MECH has been working with Overland Pacific, a consultant specializing in relocation, to create and implement a relocation plan to ensure all tenants who qualify for relocation benefits are adequately compensated for any displacement – temporary or permanent – that will be caused by this project.

Due to the number of units, the use of NSP Funds, and federal funding requirements, prevailing wages must be paid for the all rehabilitation work that will be completed with this project. The City is currently in the process of obtaining bids, (per City and HUD procurement policies), to secure a consultant that will be responsible for managing the compliance of prevailing wage requirements, in accordance with the Davis-Bacon Act. After a prevailing wage consultant has been selected, rehabilitation of the units will begin. It is anticipated that rehabilitation will commence by the end of April. Upon completion of the rehabilitation work, MECH will operate and manage both apartment buildings, 26 units will be income-restricted and rented to qualifying residents earning up to 50% AMI; one unit will be reserved as a manager's unit.

As with the SFR-ARR activity, the City has successfully committed much of the funds allocated to the MFR-ARR activity. Of the approximate \$4.04 million allocated to the acquisition, rehabilitation, and rental of multi-family properties, the City has expended approximately \$2.38 million – almost 59% of the activity's budget - with this single project. Both properties were acquired in a single transaction for approximately \$1.9 million; the rehabilitation budget has been established at \$381,000. MECH and Riverside Housing Development Corporation, both continue searching for other potential acquisitions of bank owned apartments.

## Housing Resale Activity

The housing market continues to show a slow steady improvement. The average resale value of single-family homes sold in Moreno Valley was \$157,228 in March 2010, which was about a half-percent increase from the previous month of February. Showing signs of stability, price increases have occurred in Moreno Valley in ten out of the last twelve months. Three other nearby communities also had modest home price increases in March including Temecula/Murrieta (0.5%), Hemet/San Jacinto (1.9%), and Perris (2.8%). Two other communities experienced home price decline in March—Corona down -2.1% and Riverside declining -5.9%.

The number of home resale transactions also remains strong in Moreno Valley—despite less inventory on the market as reported by local real estate professionals. In March 2010 there were 316 single-family home resale transactions in Moreno Valley. During the past twelve months there have been a total of 4,231 home resale transactions in Moreno Valley, which is a solid average of 353 transactions each month.

## Unemployment

Employment data, just released by the California Department of Employment Development, shows a slight increase in unemployment for the month of March 2010. Moreno Valley's unemployment number inched up to 17.4%, from 17.2% in the previous month. Riverside County and the State of California also experienced increases in unemployment, with Riverside County going from 14.9% to 15.1% and the State rising from 12.8% to 13.0%. In March, unemployment increased in every Western Riverside community including the nearby cities of Riverside at 15.1%, Beaumont at 16.9%, Banning at 17.0%, Hemet at 18.6% San Jacinto at 22.1%, and Perris at 22.7%.

With unemployment and workforce skill development continuing to be major problems for Moreno Valley residents, the need to expand the Employment Resource Center (ERC) remains an important project. City staff continues to work closely with Riverside County Workforce Development on expanding the ERC in TownGate Center into the vacant space next door. Look for

the expansion of the ERC to happen by early summer.

#### Mobilehome Grant Program

Another rehabilitation project was recently completed through the City's Mobilehome Grant Program, one of several Neighborhood Preservation Division programs available to assist income-qualified homeowners with eligible housing repairs.

This newly repaired unit is located in Council District 4. Program funds made it possible to address health and safety conditions in the unit, as well as generally improve the quality of life for its residents. The unit which was manufactured in 1973 required numerous repairs to improve the livability for its residents. Grant funds were applied to the following repairs: Foundation System, Entry Deck & Steps, Window Replacement, Water Heater Replacement, Minor Plumbing Repairs, Replacement of Tub & Surround, Service Heating System, and Replacement of Roof-mounted Evaporative Cooler.

Grant recipients must meet residency requirements and income guidelines. For complete information concerning the City's available home improvement programs, please contact the Neighborhood Preservation Division at 413-3450.

## **FINANCIAL & ADMIN SERVICES DEPT**

#### City of Moreno Valley Digital Orthophotography is now on Google

The City of Moreno Valley has submitted its digital orthophotography landbase to be viewed in Google, in an effort to support the new online Mapping Tool to help attract businesses. Google's previous images were more than five years out-of-date and did not show developments such as the Super Target Center. The City's June 2008 imagery can now be viewed on the Moreno Valley Prospector site [www.morenovalleyprospector.com/](http://www.morenovalleyprospector.com/) or any of Google's online resources.

#### February Financial Results

Following is a summary of the General Fund financial results for February 2010:

#### **General Fund Revenues**

- Year-to-date (YTD) *historical* percentage received through February is 54.0%, with 67.7% of the fiscal year elapsed.
- *Actual* YTD revenue received is 52.0%, or 96.4% of expected levels.
- Although slightly below the expected levels, results through February are in line with the fiscal year-end projections included in the Mid-Year Budget Review.

#### **General Fund Expenditures**

- YTD actual expenditures are 61.4% of the budget, with the individual operating categories shown below:
  - Personnel Services: 62.7%
  - Contractual Services: 60.5%
  - Materials & Supplies: 45.8%
  - Fixed Charges: 66.9%
  - Fixed Assets: 9.0%
- The above results are positive and reflect the ongoing diligence of departments in their cost-control efforts.
- No actions are recommended with respect to workforce reduction through the end of the fiscal year.
- To help prepare for a large projected deficit next fiscal year, departments are to suspend discretionary General Fund expenditures for the remainder of this fiscal year to help generate savings that can be utilized to offset next fiscal year's deficit.

## **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

#### Fill the Boot Campaign

Each year the Moreno Valley Fire Department, in conjunction with Fire Departments across the nation, raises money for the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA) through the "Fill the Boot" campaign where firefighters collect money from citizens utilizing their turnout boots as collection devices. These funds are used by the MDA to conduct vital research for muscular dystrophy; establish and fund medical clinics; create support groups; and sponsor summer camps for children affected by this disease. Additionally, the MDA provides financial assistance for the purchase of wheelchairs, leg braces, and communication devices for those who can not afford it. This year the Moreno Valley Fire Department conducted it's

annual fund raising campaign on April 16th & 17th. Firefighters from Fire Station 6, 58, and 91 collected \$14,835.66 as part of a County wide event sponsored by the Riverside County Fire Department. In total \$160,881.30 was raised for the MDA over two days.

## **PARKS & COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPT**

### ***Special Events***

#### Art au Soleil

Moreno Valley Parks and Community Services and the Moreno Valley Arts Commission will host "Art au Soleil," a lively street fair showcasing Moreno Valley artists and performers. The event was held on April 24 from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Stoneridge Towne Centre at 27110 Eucalyptus Avenue.

#### July 4th Celebration to be a Two-Day Event

The City of Moreno Valley's July 4th Celebration this year will be a two-day celebration. Beginning on July 3, the Independence Celebration will kick off with a parade from 9:30 a.m. to noon. The parade theme this year is, "America Come Together." The second day of celebration will continue on July 4 from 2:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. with the Family Fun Fest activities at Mountain View Middle School/Morrison Park. Highlights of the festival include a Moreno Valley Idol competition, drawing vocal talent to compete during the July 4 festivities. The concert headliner this year is "The Beach Toys," who promises to bring back great memories with "A Tribute to the Beach Boys," and "Paperback Writer," who will recall great memories with "A Tribute to the Beatles." The festival concludes with a spectacular fireworks display at 9:00 p.m., which is simulcast on radio station KOLA 99.9 FM. In addition, the Moreno Valley Idol auditions began in late April with the finalist showcasing their talent at the festival.

### ***Projects***

#### Patriot Park

Irrigation, concrete flat work, lighting, shrubs, trees, turf, play equipment, and site amenities for Patriot Park have been installed. The project's construction is nearing completion. After construction, a maintenance period will commence. Planned

completion and opening of the park is the middle of June 2010.

#### Parks Maintenance

The following projects have been completed during March: Trimmed trees at city library and various fire stations; installed deck to seal to the joints of the splash pad at Celebration Park; installed new tables and benches at Gateway Park; and renovated turf at Morrison flats.

Vandalism and graffiti have been reported at the following areas for March: Bayside (\$69), Celebration (\$23.50), Community (\$47), El Potrero (\$44.50), Fairway (\$48), Gateway (\$64.50), John F. Kennedy (\$158.50), Morrison (\$36), Pedrorena (\$76), Sunnymead (\$183.50), TownGate II (\$21), Victoriano (\$100.50), and Woodland (\$191). The total cost for vandalism/graffiti was \$1,063. Total labor hours for vandalism/graffiti were 22 hours, approximately 2.75 full-time work days.

Court referrals performed a total of 1,453 hours during March. The total hours for court referrals in 2010 are 3,705 which equates to approximately 463 full-time work days.

#### Recreation

Staff visited nine local elementary schools during February and March. More than 4,000 children were visited by the Easter Bunny and received information regarding the spring activities and Valley Kids Camp.

Valley Kids Camp opened for three weeks from March 22 through April 9 for local children in kindergarten through seventh grades. While the children enjoyed their spring break from school, they spent their days at camp playing exciting recreational games, watching movies, playing video games, and utilizing their individual creativity with arts and crafts.

The Easter Egg Hunt was held at Sunnymead Park on March 27. More than 600 community residents searched for more than 16,000 candy and prize-filled eggs. Event sponsors included Visterra Credit Union, Waste Management, Walgreens, Food 4 Less, the Moreno Valley Mall, Brunswick Bowling, Costco, Castle Park, Valley Party Rentals, John's Incredible Pizza, Shakey's, and Target. Staff would

like to thank Moreno Valley Parks Commissioner Stuart Swan for attending the annual event. The annual Bunny Brunch was held on March 27 at the Senior Community Center. More than 90 children enjoyed an exciting morning of crafts, music, raffles, a special visit from the Easter Bunny, and a filling breakfast prepared by the Morning Optimist Club of Moreno Valley consisting of pancakes, eggs, bacon, fruit, and juice. Staff would like to thank the local chapter of the Optimist Club for their continual support.

Hop Down the Craft Trail was held on March 30 at the TownGate Community Center. Children ages 5 to 12 utilized their creativity by creating egg animals, chocolate flowers, and jelly bean chicks to take home and enjoy. The evening also included music, games, and raffles.

The spring events concluded on April 1 with the Spring Chef Workshop at the TownGate Community Center. More than 20 children arrived to get their hands sticky making cupcake baskets, coconut chicks, and a healthy (non-sugar) bunny. In addition to the activities, the children enjoyed music, raffles, and spring themed games.

Women's soccer signups are underway. The league will begin on June 27.

The adult softball league will begin on May 23. There are six leagues.

#### Senior Community Center

On March 8 free hair cuts were provided by Barbara and Tina.

On March 17 the annual St. Patrick's Day Carnival was held. It was sponsored by Health Net and Angel City Hospice Care. There were more than 100 seniors in attendance.

The Health Fair was held on March 25, with 30 vendors and 150 seniors attending. They offered various services and valuable information to our senior community.

The March Senior Birthday Party was celebrated on March 25. This event was sponsored by the Friends of Moreno Valley Senior Center who provided a

free meal and a box of candy. Miller Jones Mortuary donated the cake and ice cream.

Ten seniors attended the day trip to Pauma Casino on March 3. The cost was \$5 with \$5 back from the Casino.

On March 13, March 20 and March 29, the seniors went to Spotlight Casino. Cost was \$25 with \$20 back from the Casino.

Mother's Day Spa will be held on May 7.

#### Grant Programs

Applications for enrollment in the STARS Program were available for school year 2010/2011 beginning on April 20. Staff started accepting the applications on May 4 at the CRC at 7:30 a.m.

March Madness Sports at 41 school sites will continue during the month of April and will conclude with finals in May.

The Annual Councilman William Batey Reading Contest ended March 19 with a total of 82,000 book reports read. The top 20 readers will be recognized at the City Council meeting on April 27, and the top 3 winning schools will accompany Councilman Batey on a private screening of "How to Train a Dragon" on May 6 at Harkins Movie Theater. The theater is donating popcorn packs for all 200 winning students.

## **PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

### *Capital Projects Division*

#### KITCHING STREET IMPROVEMENTS:

Construction for the Kitching Street Improvements Project from Cactus Avenue to Alessandro Boulevard began on April 5, 2010. The project will construct a missing street segment south of Alessandro Boulevard and will install a new traffic signal at the intersection of Kitching Street and Cactus Avenue.

Project construction is anticipated to be complete by October 31, 2010.

#### LASSELLE STREET WIDENING:

Construction for the Lasselle Street Widening project from John F. Kennedy Drive to Alessandro Boulevard

was recently completed and was opened to traffic on schedule by March 31, 2010. The project widened one mile long segment of Lasselle Street to four (4) travel lanes plus the necessary turning lanes.

PATRIOT PARK:

Patriot Park is located at the southeast corner of Filaree Avenue and Perris Boulevard. The completed improvements include new wrought iron fencing, a decomposed granite walkway, play equipment, benches, tables, a drinking fountain, a sod lawn, and landscaping. The Contractor is finishing-up punch list items and the park is anticipated to be opened to the public in late June 2010.

DAY STREET ROADWAY IMPROVEMENTS:

The Day Street Roadway Improvements from Alessandro Boulevard to Cottonwood Avenue (Project No. 02-892.66920) opened bids on April 21, 2010. The construction contract is expected to go before Council for approval on May 25, 2010 and construction is estimated to commence in late June or early July 2010. This project involves the rehabilitation of Day Street from Alessandro Boulevard to Cottonwood Avenue, including street, signing, striping, waterline, utility relocation, and other related road improvements.

EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER:

The new two story 8,000 sq. ft. earthquake resistant and modern Emergency Operations Center (EOC) building, located within the Civic Center complex, is under construction. Currently the roof and exterior work is complete and interior finishes are underway. This project is expected to be in public service by the fall of this year.

PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING RENOVATIONS:

Renovations to Training Room, Women's Locker Room, and the Men's Locker Room began in late January of this year. The Training room construction is more than 50% complete and it should be available for staff use by the last week of May or early June. Renovations to Women's and Men's Locker room are expected to be completed by late summer of this year.

SR-60/NASON INTERCHANGE:

The plans for the SR-60/Nason Interchange have been approved by Caltrans. In March 2010, the project was allocated an additional \$1 million in federal funds. Caltrans and the Federal Highway Administration are

anticipated to obligate the funds by mid-June 2010. Once funds are obligated, the project can be advertised for construction bids. The project improvements will realign and reconstruct all four ramps at the interchange to improve traffic circulation, install new traffic signals, provide drainage facilities, and provide space for the ultimate, separate, freeway bridge replacement project. Once the construction contract is awarded, construction is expected to take approximately 1 year.

INDIAN BASIN STORM DRAIN AND IRONWOOD STREET IMPROVEMENTS:

The project is in the final stage of negotiations for environmental permits. The plans have been completed and are undergoing final approval by Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District. The majority of advance utility relocations have been completed. Once permits have been obtained, the project will be advertised for bids. The project will complete the master planned storm drain system in Ironwood Avenue from the Heacock Street intersection to the Indian Detention Basin, as well as construct street improvements along the south side of Ironwood Avenue from Heacock Street to Nita Drive. The project is funded with 2007 Tax Allocation Bond Series (RDA TABS) funds.

*Electric Utility Division*

Conversion of Existing Streetlights - Update #3

At the Study Session held on October 20, 2009, staff briefed the City Council on issues related to the conversion of existing streetlights to Light Emitting Diodes, or LED.

As part of the discussion, the City Council asked if staff could work with a supplier to get an LED test lamp installed somewhere in Moreno Valley.

An LED streetlight (or any streetlight) suitable for testing should: a) provide an amount of light at the street surface directly under the streetlight roughly equivalent the amount of light under Moreno Valleys' current standard (high pressure sodium); and, b) use less energy than Moreno Valley's current standard. To date, staff has not been able to identify a suitable LED streetlight conversion unit that meets these two guiding principles.

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Staff has identified an induction type streetlight that appears to meet the two guiding principles. As such, two induction type streetlights will be installed on a 45 day, trial basis. The streetlights will be installed at two existing street lights on the northeast corner of Calle San Juan de los Lagos and Veterans Way. In addition, two small, temporary meters will be installed to measure energy consumption during the test period. One meter will be installed in conjunction with one of the induction type streetlights, and another will be installed on an existing streetlight which utilizes the City's current standard 100 watt high pressure sodium luminaire.

As part of the pilot test, a photometric analysis will also be conducted which will measure the light output of the test lamps.

Upon the conclusion of the pilot test, staff will present the findings and results in a report to the City Council.