

## CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE

### *Administration*

#### June Wake Up Meeting

The City was the sponsor for the June 23<sup>rd</sup> Chamber of Commerce Wake Up meeting. The program included an economic development update by Barry Foster, promotion of the City's 4<sup>th</sup> of July activities by Mike McCarty, and a presentation by Chris Vogt regarding the Zone B Street Lighting ballot.

### *Media & Communications*

#### MVTV-3 Receives 3 Awards from Regional Telecommunications Organization

MVTV-3 won first, second, and third place awards from SCAN NATOA, the California and Arizona chapter of The National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors. Cable TV Producer Bob Lorch won first place in the public safety category for his "You Spray, You Pay" anti-graffiti public service announcement. The monthly news update "News Center," which is produced and hosted by Cable TV Producer Rob Roseen, won a second place award in the news category and third place in the news magazine category.

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

### *Code & Neighborhood Services*

The Code and Neighborhood Services Division has applied for the 2010 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG). The JAG program allows jurisdictions to address various enforcement needs including the prosecution of offenders, crime prevention and education of the community. The allocation is in the amount of \$110,266 and will be utilized to hire part-time code compliance personnel for assignment to the City's proactive foreclosure enforcement program.

### *Planning Division*

#### Administrative Approval

1. Conditional use permit to relocate a previously approved wireless communication facility at John F. Kennedy Park. The facility would be on a ball field light pole instead of a backstop screen support pole. The applicant is Royal Street Communications.
2. Change of product for the remaining 26 lots in

Tract 31089 on the east side of Kitching Street north of Ironwood Avenue. The new product would be within ten percent of the average size of the existing product. The applicant is Beazer Homes, a new developer in this tract.

3. Plot Plan to establish a permanent make-up training center at 24490 Sunnymead Boulevard. The applicant is Hilda Vasquez.

#### Foreclosures and Homes Listed for Sale

Information available from the RealtyTrac website for May shows a slight increase in foreclosure activity in the City, contrary to a slight decrease in the region. For May, the website reported one in 82 housing units in Moreno Valley were in some stage of foreclosure. This compares to a rate of one in 87 units in April, 6% deterioration between April and May. Foreclosure activity decreased slightly in 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 had much better rates, and faster growth areas such as Beaumont and Murrieta had much worse rates. Calimesa had the lowest rate locally (1 in 273) and Winchester had the highest rate (1 in 16). By zip code, area 92555 had the highest rate in the City (1 in 30) and area 92557 had the lowest rates (1 in 119). Foreclosure activity decreased in the 92551 and 92555 zip codes and increased in the 92553 and 92557 zip codes.

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 June 1, 2010, 993 homes were listed for sale, compared with 957 on May 1st, and 1,206 in June of last year. The median asking price in June was \$155,000, compared with \$156,000 in May and \$149,900 last June.

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

### *Administration*

#### Restaurant Sales Improving

Sales are rebounding in Moreno Valley for most restaurants. In 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2009 (last October-December period) total sales tax revenue from restaurant sales in Moreno Valley was flat as compared to the same quarter

in 2008. This was actually the first quarterly period in the past two years that restaurant sales had not decreased as compared to the previous year. During those eight consecutive quarters of sales decline, Moreno Valley restaurants averaged a 3.7% quarterly decrease in sales—as compared to the 4.8% and 4.0% decreases by the restaurant business group categories for Riverside County and the State of California respectively.

Many local restaurants have reported that sales started to increase in Fall 2009 as the holiday period approached and they have remained solid through the first half of 2010. Some of the Moreno Valley restaurants that have rebounded with strong sales increases include Applebees, BJ's, Chili's, IHOP, In N Out, Mimi's Café, Olive Garden, Panda Express and Sizzler. In fact, the Panda Express on Day Street experienced a 14% sales increase during calendar year 2009 and this location has been ranked as one of the strongest producing restaurants for Panda Corporation in Southern California.

#### Negotiations with Possible User for Centerpointe Building Appear Promising

During the past few months the City's Economic Development Department has worked aggressively to market and pursue possible users to lease the large unoccupied building in Centerpointe Business Park.

If successful in leasing the last large building in Moreno Valley, the City's overall vacancy rate for industrial building space will go from 13.5% to 4.5%. With over 10 million square feet of approved and entitled industrial projects, Moreno Valley is also well positioned for future large scale distribution and manufacturing development as the economy recovers.

#### March Lifecare

Barry Foster, the City's Economic Development Director will replace Rick Hartmann as the City's representative on the March JPA's Technical Advisory Committee (JPA-TAC). Barry Foster is very familiar with Don Ecker and his March Healthcare Development (MHD) team and he was involved in the review and evaluation of MHD's development pro forma.

Pre-development work continues on the March Lifecare project. MHD and their development partners—HOK and McCarthy Building Companies are busy finalizing construction plans for the 145-acre master planned project. 25 buildings must be demolished to make way for the 3.5 million square feet of new building development on the sprawling March Lifecare medical-healthcare campus that will happen in three phases over the next ten years.

On June 3, a Ground Breaking ceremony occurred for March Lifecare and Governor Schwarzenegger sent the State of California's Director of Economic Development to emphasize the State's support for the estimated \$595 million project. The March Lifecare project is projected to produce 12,700 construction jobs, along with 7,200 permanent employment opportunities when fully finished.

At the Ground Breaking event, MHD officials announced that they've secured a commitment from Catholic Healthcare West and Riverside Medical Clinic to partner in the development of a new 150-bed hospital at March Lifecare. Catholic Healthcare West, based in San Francisco, is the 8<sup>th</sup> largest provider of medical and hospital services in the nation. Catholic Healthcare West presently operates 41 hospitals and medical centers in California, Arizona and Nevada, including St. Bernadine Medical Center and Community Hospital in the City of San Bernardino. Riverside Medical Clinic is also a well respected healthcare provider in the Inland Region and operates a number of medical-healthcare facilities in Western Riverside County to serve its over 200,000 clients. Together, Catholic Healthcare West and Riverside Medical Clinic have 99 years of experience in the medical and healthcare industry.

#### Business Roundtable

The Moreno Valley Chamber of Commerce (MVCC) has worked with two legislators to sponsor Business Roundtable events in Moreno Valley. On June 7<sup>th</sup>, U.S. Congresswoman Mary Bono Mack participated in a MVCC Business Roundtable program at Bob's Big Boy restaurant at the Stoneridge Towne Centre. On June 25<sup>th</sup>, California Assembly Member Brian Nestande attended a MVCC sponsored Business Roundtable session at the Hampton Inn in TownGate Promenade.

#### Taste of the Valley

The 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Taste of the Valley was held on Saturday June 5 at the Conference & Recreation Center. An estimated 350 people attended this popular event, which is managed by the Moreno Valley Chamber of Commerce. Twenty local restaurants plus two wineries participated in this year's Taste of the Valley event.

#### Economic Development Summary

The Economic Development Summary has been updated for June 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***

##### NSP Update

In December 2009, Mary Erickson Community Housing

(MECH) acquired two apartment buildings totaling 27-units on Myers Avenue. Unfortunately, with the procuring of a prevailing wage consultant and an abrupt change in a general contractor, the start of rehabilitation on the project had been delayed for several months.

The rehabilitation process began on June 21<sup>st</sup> with the onsite pre-construction meeting that was attended by AmeriNational- the prevailing wage consultant, the general contractor, representatives from MECH, and City staff. Actual rehabilitation work will commence the following week. Rehabilitation will be completed in three phases: the first phase will include the exterior of the buildings and common areas; the second phase will include the interiors of 12 of the units; and the third phase will include the interior of the remaining 15 units.

Rehabilitation that will be included in the scope of work includes but is not limited to the repair of site concrete to mitigate trip hazards; parking lot improvements to include ADA parking; roof/sheathing replacement, rain gutters, attic insulation and Title 24 upgrades; perimeter fencing, vehicle gate and pedestrian gates; security lighting; replacement of HVAC systems; upgraded energy efficient windows. The estimated cost for the rehabilitation work is \$1.2 million.

Rehabilitation work positively affects the City's grant performance. Moreno Valley continues to perform well with allocating NSP funding. Moreno Valley has obligated 84% of the total grant funding which surpasses the national average of 52%. To date, \$9.5 million of NSP funds have been obligated including \$5.3 million of SFR-ARR; \$3.1 million of MFR-ARR budget; and \$1.1 million of Administration cost.

The Single Family Residential Acquisition, Rehabilitation, and Resale (SFR-ARR) activity remains busy. The City, through their five Development Partners, has closed escrow on and acquired 28 single family properties that are currently undergoing rehab or are currently in escrow for resale. Development Partners are busy pursuing other NSP acquisition/ rehabilitation opportunities aimed at spending another \$1.6 million.

#### More NSP Funding

The Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) was created in 2008 to address the housing crisis by providing communities with the resources to assist in purchasing and rehabilitating vacant bank-owned residential properties. In March 2009, HUD awarded nearly \$6 billion in NSP1 grants, of which Moreno Valley received \$11,390,116. Moreno Valley has been very active in its NSP activity and to date has obligated \$9.5 million of this funding.

On May 18, 2010, HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan announced that HUD plans to recapture and reallocate funds awarded in the NSP1 that remain uncommitted to specific projects. HUD estimates that only 70% of the \$3.9 billion in NSP1 funds will be obligated by the 18-month expenditure deadline (September/October 2010), allowing for a recapture of approximately \$1 billion. Following the deadline and a 30-day review period, funds that grantees have not yet committed to specific projects will be reallocated either to new grantees or as additional funds for first round grantees. Based on its positive performance with NSP1, Moreno Valley hopes to secure additional funds.

The Homeowners' Relief and Neighborhood Stabilization Act of 2010 (S.2969) proposes a third round of the Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP3) funding. Already, the House of Representatives has passed the Wall Street Reform Protection Act of 2009 (H.R. 4173) which provided for \$1 billion for NSP3 funding. The third round of the Neighborhood Stabilization Program is proposed to distribute funds based on the NSP1 formula allocation.

The NSP3 program guidelines are still in development. If funding is secured, HUD has discussed plans to explore a number of technical changes with Congress that they believe could improve the flexibility and impact of the NSP program.

Neighborhood Preservation staff have been working diligently on the NSP1 program and Moreno Valley's grant performance is at 84% obligated, putting us well above the national average of 52%. HUD's NSP representative for Moreno Valley has expressed confidence in the progress of Moreno Valley's program. We look forward to the possibility of securing additional NSP funds to assist neighborhoods in Moreno Valley most affected by the housing crisis.

#### Foreclosure Prevention Workshops

The last event in the City's latest series of Foreclosure Prevention Workshops was held on Saturday June 26 from 10 am to 2 pm at the Moreno Valley Conference & Recreation Center. Over 130 people attended.

#### Unemployment

Unemployment numbers for May 2010 were recently released by the California Department of Employment Development. In May, the percentage of Moreno Valley residents that were unemployed was 16.1%, which was more than a 1 percent decline from the 17.3% in the previous month of April. Both the State of California and Riverside County experienced slight decreases in unemployment rates for May with the State going from

12.6 to 12.4% and the County going from 14.3 to 14.0%. Most other nearby communities also experienced modest declines in unemployment except for Perris which had unemployment increase by half a percent to 21.4%. The May unemployment rates for some other Riverside County cities include Corona at 10.3%, City of Riverside at 14.1%, Beaumont at 15.9%, Banning at 16.0%, Hemet at 17.3%, Perris at 21.4% and San Jacinto at 20.8%.

#### Youth Opportunity Center

Work continues towards the opening of a new Youth Opportunity Center (YOC) in Moreno Valley. Arbor E&T—the designated service provider by Riverside County, has entered into a Letter of Intent to lease the 5,580 S.F. vacant building at 22275 Alessandro Boulevard. Tenant improvement plans for the YOC should be submitted to the City soon for plan check for the building situated at the SE corner of Alessandro and Grant that was part of the recent development project that also includes a new car wash facility at the rear of the property.

Arbor E&T officials indicate that the new YOC in Moreno Valley will employ 6 people and is projected to serve 150 youth in the community when it opens this September. Arbor E&T currently operates YOC's for Riverside County in Perris and Indio. As part of the FY 2010-11 CDBG Budget, Moreno Valley will provide \$50,000 in funding to help establish the new YOC.

#### Leadership Moreno Valley

The Leadership Moreno Valley Program Class of 2010 Graduation Luncheon was held on Thursday, June 24, 2010, at the Riverside County Regional Medical Center. The Leadership Moreno Valley Program is a cooperative effort between the City of Moreno Valley and the Moreno Valley Chamber of Commerce.

Fourteen local business and civic leaders completed the program, which is comprised of nine monthly themed sessions from October through June. Each session offered discussions, tours, and “hands-on” activities covering a variety of topics and services including; government, business, media, public safety, health, education, natural resources, military and quality of life. Graduates include: Nancy Banda, Riverside County Regional Medical Center; Aaron Barnett, Moreno Valley Unified School District (MVUSD); Annabelle Brown, Visterra Credit Union; Mary Carlson, Tucker's Tax Service; Timothy Caszatt, retired educator; Janet Epstein, commercial property manager; Mayor Bonnie Flickinger; George Hanson, Moreno Valley Electric Utility; Erica Hopkins, resident – community volunteer; Stephanie Hughes, Hampton Inn and Suites; Jeanette Marlar, United Way of the Inland Valleys; Valerie M.

Maxwell, Realtor; Geraldine Newell, Riverside Physician's Network and Donny H. Wilson, Lighthouse Baptist Church.

Applications became available on June 24th for the 2010-11 year through the City's Economic Development Department and the Moreno Valley Chamber of Commerce. Applications will be accepted until September 2, 2010. The new program year begins on October 7, 2010.

## LIBRARY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

### Summer Reading Program

The following special programs are presented as part of Moreno Valley Public Library's 2010 Summer Reading Program:

- Wednesday, June 23: Water conservation story time: "Gobi's Adventure" – at 10 am and 11 am (takes the place of the regular pre-school story time).
- Wednesday, June 23 : “Drought Resistant Plants” by Master Gardener Fara Simon - 6 pm; intended for adults.
- Wednesday, July 7: “Got Trash? Want to be Green?” Come learn how to help the environment. Recycling Program presented by Public Works, 1:00 & 2:00 pm; intended for children.
- Wednesday, July 14 : “Sustainable Gardening” by Master Gardener Fara Simon - 6 pm; intended for adults

### New Database

Through the Inland Library System, the Library has added a new database to its online resources. *CareerTransitions* walks users through the job search process from beginning to end, including a résumé wizard, job listings from around the country, networking and educational opportunities, and more.

## PARKS and COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPT

### ***Parks Maintenance***

The following projects are underway:

Install new benches at Fairway Park; replace John F. Kennedy Park monument sign; trim hedges at Sunnymead Park (Pedrorena and Victoriano Parks completed); replant beds at various park sites; install updated signs for shelter reservations at all shelters (40%



complete); install cameras for vandalism deterrent at JFK and Woodland Parks; fertilize parks (75% complete); irrigation repairs at various sites; install new benches at JFK and Woodland tennis courts; remove and replace restroom stalls in mens' and womens' restroom for ADA compliance at Community Park; remove and replace concrete walkways at three areas of the park per ADA compliance at Community Park; Calsense conversion to ET at CFD #1 and facilities with Calsense controllers (98% complete; last site to complete is the PSB); design irrigation for wild flowers in Aqueduct section, southeast of JFK Park; prepare golf course proposals with help from public volunteers; add cellular phone communications to irrigation controllers at Shadow Mountain Park; spray CFD #1 park sites; and paint rear arbor at TownGate Community Center.

Vandalism and graffiti for May have been reported at the following areas: Aqueduct (\$299), Bethune (\$443), Celebration (\$49), Community (\$226), Edison (\$60), El Potrero (\$96), Fairway (\$25), John F. Kennedy (\$123), Morrison (\$66), Pedrorena (\$322), Rancho Verde (\$24), Sunnymead (\$435), Towngate (\$168), Towngate II (\$104), Victoriano (\$188), Vista Lomas (\$25), Westbluff (\$82), Weston (\$25), and Woodland (\$50). The total cost for vandalism/graffiti during May was \$2,810. Total labor hours for vandalism/graffiti during May was 55½ hours, approximately 6.9 full-time work days.

Court referrals performed a total of 1,125 hours during May. The total hours for court referrals in 2010 are 5,892 which equates to approximately 737 full-time work days.

## **Recreation**

### Time for Tots Program

The Time for Tots Program continued to welcome new and continuing students during May. Both morning and afternoon sessions were filling to capacity weeks before those sessions began. In addition to the standard curriculum, the program's participants enjoyed special activity days including Cinco de Mayo and Sports Day. Mothers/grandmothers/aunts joined the children for the annual Mother's Day Luncheon on May 6. The ballroom was full of music, crafts, light refreshments, raffles, and a song performance by the program's participants. This year's theme was a Cinco de Mayo theme, and the community's Folkloric class performed for the attendees as well. The school year came to a close on May 28 for non-graduating participants. To celebrate the occasion, all classes held ice-cream parties. The annual Time for Tots graduation was held on June 2 at the Conference and Recreation Center. After more than two days of rehearsals, 63 Time for Totters performed songs for their family and friends, stated what they wanted to be when they grew up, were showcased

in a slideshow, and received their diplomas. Recreation staff would like to thank Mayor Bonnie Flickinger for participating in the event. The graduation luau was held on June 4. Graduating students and their families joined staff at Celebration Park for a morning of water, games, fun, and a potluck.

### Spring Contract Performance

The Spring Contract Performance was held on May 19. The Conference and Recreation Center was filled with more than 400 guests enjoying the participants performing a variety of special dances for the occasion. Contract classes that performed included Hawaiian Dance, Youth Hip-hop, Ballet, Dance Exploration, Ballet/Arco, Intermediate Ballet, Folkloric Dance, and Belly Dancing. Virgil Chancy, Parks and Recreation Commissioner, hosted the event.

### Summer Valley Kids Camp

The Summer Valley Kids Camp began on June 1 for children in grades kindergarten through seventh. The children are enjoying their two-month breaks from school by attending fun-filled field trips, exciting recreational games, watching movies, playing video games, and utilizing their individual creativity with arts and crafts.

### Sunshine Social Program

May was an exciting month for the participants of the Sunshine Social program. The annual prom was held on May 12. This year's theme was masquerade ball. Participants came dressed in their best and danced the night away to music specially prepared for them. A royal court was crowned and announced during the event. More than 30 participants joined us for the special occasion.

### Adult Softball League

The summer adult softball league has started with 42 teams competing in six different divisions. Games began on May 24 and are being held on Sundays, Mondays, and Thursdays at March Field and Sunnymead Parks. The summer season will run through August.

### Women's Soccer League

The women's soccer league wrapped up its winter season. The next season of women's soccer will begin in early July.

### Youth Basketball Clinic

The youth basketball clinic was a great success, improving skills of more than 60 youth. The clinic is a prelude into the second annual summer youth basketball league.

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### ***Senior Community Center***

On May 5 the Cinco de Mayo celebration was held. There were more than 90 seniors enjoying the festivities including several dance performances. Chips and salsa were provided by Jose's.

On May 7, the Center held the Mother and Daughter Spa party, which was sponsored by Angel Hospice Care and Health Net. There were 96 mothers and daughters receiving manicures, facials, massages, and hand treatments.

On May 28 the craft fair was held in the front parking lot with 16 vendors selling hand-made crafts.

The May Senior Birthday Party was celebrated on May 27. 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.

### ***Grant Programs***

Job fair testing for the STARS program was held on June 23 at the Conference and Recreation Center from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon.

Registration packets for enrollment into the STARS program for school year 2010/2011 are now available at the Conference and Recreation Center.

### ***Community Center Rentals***

Revenue for the community centers for the month of May was as follows: Conference and Recreation Center was \$18,179; Senior Community Center was \$3,180; and the TownGate Community Center was \$7,156.