

Our Town

June 2002

A bi-monthly publication of the Town of Apple Valley
For more information please contact the
Public Information Office at (760)240-7000 x 7072

Freedom Festival

The Town of Apple Valley Parks and Recreation has the recipe for fun at the 5th Annual Freedom Festival, coming Thursday, July 4. Mix exciting live entertainment with lots of festival food. Stir in down-home family games and frequent romps in the bounce house. Next, whisk in a rock climbing wall, quad power jump, choo-choo train, pony rides and a park full of vendors. Fill slowly with folks ready to celebrate the independence of our great nation and heat to the temperature of a warm summer day. Finally, serve up generous helpings of laughter and fun, and top it all off with a spectacular fireworks show!

The Firecracker Run kicks off the fun with a 5K Walk and 5/10K Run at 7:15 a.m. Brewster Park opens for the Freedom Festival at 1:00 p.m. Bring your kites for a kite-flying contest at 3:00. From the festival stage, the sounds of Home Spun Harmony, Visions Dance Academy, Colby Tillitson and Rei Zamora with a tribute to Elvis, provide non-stop entertainment during the day. Ellen Spurlock will lead the national anthem at 6:45, and the Yankee Steele Band will rock the crowd until the first burst of fireworks at 9:00 p.m.

Parking and admission are free! Bring your lawn chairs and canopies and stake out your spot. Brewster Park features acres of grass plus a playground and 32 championship horseshoe pits. Barbecued ribs, tamales, peach cobbler, corn on the cob and shaved ice are just a few of the items available from the many food vendors. A beer garden will be offered; however no outside alcohol may be brought into the park. For the safety of all patrons, please leave your pets at home.

Brewster Park is located on Otoe Road. Take Dale Evans Parkway north from Highway 18 and follow the signs! To register for the Firecracker Run, call Parks and Recreation at 240-7880. Cost is \$8 in advance and \$10 day of the race. For more information on the Freedom Festival call Rosanna Lafler, Event Coordinator, at 240-7000, ext. 7071.

Flag-retiring ceremony

Since the events of September 11th, waving American flags are the evidence of a renewed proud patriotism. Everyone is urged to bring your worn and tattered American flags for a proper retirement ceremony by the Apple Valley Fire Protection District, to be held at the Town of Apple Valley Freedom Festival on July 4th. Flags may be dropped off at any Fire Station in Apple Valley, or brought that day to the First Aid booth. The ceremony is at 8:30 p.m.

Town launches “Take Pride in Apple Valley”

Community pride is a state of mind. It is that indefinable feeling of satisfaction when you tell someone, “I live in Apple Valley.” It is a deep-rooted sense of community esteem, with a desire to protect the quality of life it represents.

Do you have it? Are you proud to live in Apple Valley? The Town Council is, and they are proud to announce the launch of “Take Pride in Apple Valley,” a series of programs, activities and services designed to enhance and celebrate “A Better Way of Life” in Apple Valley.

“Adopt-a-Street” to be first component

Everyone has heard of Adopt-a-Highway programs. Now, the Town offers residents a way to “Take Pride in Apple Valley” by adopting a Town road. And, with over 400 miles of roads, there are plenty to go

around! Organizations, clubs, schools, churches, businesses, families and individuals can all take advantage of the opportunity. A sign will be posted on each stretch of adopted road, identifying the responsible party. Program details and an application are available at Town Hall, or on our website at www.applevalley.org. Town staff is also available to speak to your organization on this subject.

Other components of the "Take Pride in Apple Valley" program will include community outreach, a photo contest and recognition of businesses, organizations and individuals who exemplify Town pride. Stop by the Town information booth at the Street Fair, Freedom Festival, and other special events throughout the year for more details.

For more information on "Take Pride in Apple Valley," please call Kathie Martin, Public Information Officer, at 240-7000 x 7070.

Draft Town budget released

The Town Council recently held a workshop and public hearing on the proposed Town budget for fiscal year 2002-2003. The proposed budget reflects an increase over last year, with general fund spending up 7.6%, to a proposed \$10 million. The total budget for all funds is projected to be \$40.5 million, an increase of 17%.

Major revenue sources for the Town include sales tax and vehicle license fees, which together account for over 50% of Town revenue. While the current State budget crisis is of great concern, the effect on Apple Valley this year appears to be minimal. In fact, the only expected revenue loss at this time is \$134,000 in booking fees. These are fees the Town pays to the County for booking services at County jail facilities, which is then reimbursed by the state. The state proposes to eliminate the reimbursements.

Program areas showing the greatest growth are street maintenance, parks and recreation and capital improvement projects. This includes money set aside for major improvements to Bear Valley Road, and the first phase of widening Apple Valley Road from Highway 18 to Bear Valley. The Parks and Recreation Department will continue with an aggressive program of park expansion and improvements, as well as increasing program offerings.

A copy of the budget is available for review at Town Hall. For more information, contact Kathie Martin, Public Information Officer, at 240-7000, extension 7072.

Shop & eat at the Jazz Night Street Fair

The Town of Apple Valley is pleased to invite you to the newest special event! Jazz Night Street Fair will be held June 15, 2002, from 4:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. in the parking lot of the new Town Hall. This event will have all the trimmings of a traditional Street Fair, including live musical entertainment throughout the evening by the Gary Whitesides Band.

Past Reflections Classic Cars of Victor Valley will have cars on display, and the Victor Valley Harley Group will bring over 50 motorcycles. Celebrate a "Better Way of Life" at this showcase of the best of local entertainment, crafters and food in Apple Valley. This event offers a little for all so come browse, shop, eat and enjoy the outdoor desert evening. *Parking and admission are free! For more information, please call Rosanna Lafler, Event Coordinator at (760) 240-7000, ext. 7071.*

Have some good clean fun at Mud Fest

The Town of Apple Valley Parks & Recreation Department is sponsoring the 3rd Annual Mud Fest 2002 on Saturday, August 24 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Mud Fest is a free event for middle and high school students competing in teams of 6-10 players. Horseman's Center will be transformed into an oasis of mud pools for events such as mud volleyball, mud tug-o-war, mud obstacle course, bobbing for letters and Mud Mountain! Get your friends, sports teams and classmates together and enter! Spectators for the event are welcome. *Deadline for team registration is August 15. Registration will not be accepted on the*

day of the event. For more information, please call Rosanna Lafler, Event Coordinator at (760) 240-7000, ext. 7071.

Happy Trails Round-Up – the tradition continues

The Happy Trails Round-Up has moved . . . to a new weekend! Mark your calendar now for Friday, Saturday and Sunday, September 20-22, for the 2002 Happy Trails Round-Up at Lions' Park in Apple Valley! Highlights will include a full carnival, kids games, rock climbing wall, pony rides, petting zoo, food, entertainment and a beer garden. As if that wasn't enough, there is also a steak fry, parade, 5 and 10K run, and a Root Beer Garden for the kids!

An important part of this 55-year Apple Valley tradition is the campaign for Honorary Town Marshal! Why not throw your ten-gallon hat in the ring and try to succeed Chris Hitt as the next Town Marshal?

We are seeking parade entries, vendors and Town Marshal candidates. For more information, please call Rosanna Lafler, Event Coordinator at (760) 240-7000, ext. 7071.

Recreation programs offered for all ages

For more information on any of the following programs, please call the Town of Apple Valley Parks and Recreation Department at 240-7880.

Summer Swim Programs: The Parks and Recreation Department has been successful once again in securing five commercial pool locations around town to hold swim lessons and water aerobics this summer. In addition, recreation staff will visit different local parks each weekday for the Summer Splashdown, with sprinklers, water wiggle and slip-n-slide fun!

Swim Fair: Registration for swim lessons will be held Thursday, May 30, 5:30-7:30 pm for Apple Valley residents only. Non-residents can register on Friday, May 31, 5:30-7:30 pm.

Animals! Animals! Animals!

Bring the whole family to enjoy a live animal presentation by Moonridge Animal Park.

Thursday, June 27th 6:30 - 7:30 pm

Cost: \$2.50 per person or \$9/family of 4

Fire Cracker Run

Part of the Freedom Festival celebration at Brewster Park. The 5K Run/Walk and 10 K Run have various age categories for men and women.

Thursday, July 4th, 7:15 am

\$8.00 pre-registration, \$10 day of race. T-shirts available for \$9.

Talent Show and Spaghetti Dinner

Do you have a talent you want to show off? Our "dinner theater" is the perfect showcase! A traditional spaghetti dinner will be served, including garlic bread and salad.

Thursday, July 25th 6:00-7:30 pm

\$2.50 per person. Purchase tickets by July 19th.

Best Bets! Kid Ranch day camp (K-5th grade) and the CAVE (6th-8th grade) will keep summer boredom at bay! Programs begin June 17. Also check out the new computer camp, airbrush class, European cooking, low-impact aerobics, and much more! Men's, women's, and co-ed softball leagues are forming now. Call 240-7880 for more information on any of the programs above.

Zero-percent loans available for home repair

Eligible Apple Valley residents in need of basic home repair can qualify for a 0% interest, deferred loan through the Town of Apple Valley. Through the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD), the Town has received a total of \$517,500 under the Home Investment Partnerships Program (HOME), and another \$10,000 donated by Union Bank of California. Nineteen loans have been issued since the start of the program.

Loans of up to \$10,000 are available to lower income homeowners within the Town limits. The 0% interest loans are deferred for 30 years, with no payments required during that time unless the property is sold or transferred. The loan can be used for repairs to single-family owner-occupied homes. Eligible improvements include addressing code violations, painting, roofing, plumbing, heating, cooling, damaged ceilings and walls, termite fumigation, and other health and safety items. The program can also be used for energy conservation items such as weather-stripping, insulation and window coverings, and can provide funding to increase accessibility for the disabled.

The applicant must complete an application packet, have good credit history and be current on house payments, property taxes and insurance. On the income scale, the maximum annual income for a family of four is \$40,250. The borrower is required to execute a promissory note and deed of trust, however the loan may be subordinate to an existing first or second deed of trust.

Interested residents can call the Economic Development Department at (760) 240-7000, extension 7900.

Qualified contractors needed

The program has been so successful that the Town is in need of more contractors to bid on the work. Local contractors can go through a simple pre-qualification process to be put on the bid list. Interested contractors may call the Economic Development Department at (760) 240-7000, extension 7900.

Park project updates

Last year the Town announced over \$1 million from various grants and funding sources that had become available for park construction and improvements. Using Community Development Block Grants (CDBG), Proposition 12 (Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2000), and Land and Water Conservation Act funds, the Parks and Recreation Department is very excited to bring you a progress report.

Mountain Vista Park (Corner of Rimrock and Serrano)

This brand new 2.5-acre park is nearing completion. Sidewalks, landscaping and irrigation are in place. Hydro-seeding has been done, and installation of a permanent restroom is scheduled.

Community Rooms at Town Hall

The conversion of 3500 square feet on the east side of Town Hall into multi-purpose community rooms is in progress. Designed with flexibility in mind, the area can be formed into as many as four separate rooms, or the folding walls pushed back to create one large room. Uses will include recreation classes, community meetings, and private parties.

While staff will remain at the James A. Woody Community Center on Navajo Road, the administrative functions of parks and recreation will eventually shift to Town Hall. However, customers will be able to sign up for programs at either location.

Civic Center Park (North of Town Hall)

Construction and design documents are nearing completion. We are actively seeking additional grants for the actual construction and being “project ready” with plans gives us an advantage in this process. The 22-acre park will be built in phases, with the aquatic center as the number-one priority. This includes a 25-yard by 25-meter pool, water slide, water play area, sand volleyball courts and picnic gazebos, as well as lockers, showers and restrooms. Other planned park amenities include an amphitheatre, two tennis courts, group picnic areas, a playground, and even a doggy park!

Brewster Park (Otoe, east of Dale Evans Parkway)

Home of the annual Freedom Festival, and already one of the largest parks in Apple Valley, funding has been earmarked to more than double the turf area! Construction will begin later this year on two additional soccer fields and two four-field softball complexes. This is a much-needed addition as existing practice and playing fields cannot meet community demand.

Horsemen's Center (Highway 18, 3 miles east of the Village)

A 3-year, \$360,000 grant project will make for greatly enhanced recreational opportunities. Beginning this fall, the first phase will improve the water-delivery system, including a new water tank. Next we will expand the grass areas, add tent-camping sites, hiking trails, a tot-lot play area, and improve the bleachers at the equestrian arena.