

OUR TOWN

AUGUST 2002

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

County Law and Justice Center underway

San Bernardino County has broken ground, and construction is underway for the new Law and Justice Center coming to north Apple Valley. Phase 1 consists of a \$31.3 million Juvenile Detention Facility on the southeast corner of Dale Evans Parkway and Morro Road, just off the I-15. Scheduled for completion in June 2004, the 98,000-square-foot facility will include 200 beds for juvenile detainees and create 600 permanent, high paying jobs for the region.

Apple Valley has been working with San Bernardino County for over two years to bring this project to town. Competition was intense, and Apple Valley's success in the effort opens the door for further growth. As Ken Henderson, Economic Development Director for the Town of Apple Valley, explained, "North Apple Valley is an untapped frontier. The High Desert Law and Justice Center will serve as a catalyst to further development in that area, and pave the way for the development of freeway frontage opportunities." To that end, the Victor Valley Wastewater Reclamation Authority has agreed to fund a north Apple Valley interceptor sewer to serve the needs of this and future developments.

Although the construction timeframe has not yet been set, subsequent phases of the Law and Justice Center will include a 1000-bed adult detention facility, offices for the Probation and Sheriff's departments, the District Attorney and future courts for the entire high desert.

Town budget reflects increases in police, parks and road repair

The Town Council of the Town of Apple Valley adopted a \$38.7 million operational and capital budget at its meeting on June 25. The budget reflects measured growth and conservative fiscal policies with minimal impacts from the proposed state budget.

Highlights of the budget include funding for two additional deputy positions, bringing Apple Valley a total of 38 sworn positions. The Parks and Recreation department will see an increase of \$1 million over last year, for a total of \$2.6 million; an obvious example of the Town Council's commitment to expand and enhance recreational opportunities for Apple Valley citizens.

Roads are an important issue in Apple Valley, and this fiscal year will see \$10 million dollars in major road projects, including the start of a widening project for Apple Valley Road and a new traffic signal at Sitting Bull and Navajo Roads. Major improvements to Bear Valley Road between Kiowa and the Mojave River bridge will include adding a second left-turn lane from Bear Valley Road, north onto Apple Valley Road. In addition, the Town Council is expected to award a \$1.5 million contract this month for resurfacing and repairs throughout Town.

The complete budget is available for review at Town Hall, or you can access it through the Town web site at www.applevalley.org. For more information, please call the Public Information Office at (760) 240-7000 x 7072.

Building permits at an all-time high

The Town of Apple Valley experienced an unprecedented 53% increase in residential building permits over the last fiscal year. From July 1, 2001 through June 30, 2002, 436 permits were pulled for new single-family homes, compared to 286 the year before. The Town even surpassed its previous all time high of 339 single-family building permits in a fiscal year. A jump of 97 permits over our previous high is a clear sign of an increasingly vibrant local economy as more and more people discover that Apple Valley really does offer "A Better Way of Life."

More importantly, the average building permit value of new home construction is increasing, going from \$115,000 in January this year, to \$138,000 in June. The homes being built – and most often by local builders – are high-quality homes, further proof of our standing as the premier residential community in the High Desert.

Park and Recreation unveils new programs

Excursions: Beginning this fall, the Park and Recreation Department will offer occasional excursions to popular destinations. Rolling out the program will be a trip on Tuesday, October 8 to see a taping of *“The Price is Right.”* Who knows? You may be the next contestant to “C’mon down!” The bus departs at 7:30 a.m. and returns at 5:00 p.m. Cost is \$31 and registration deadline is September 25. Then on Friday, November 8, satisfy that itch to play a little blackjack or try a pull at the slots as the bus heads out to *Laughlin!* Leave at 7:30 a.m. and return at 9:00 p.m. after eight hours to do as you please, plus a free buffet lunch –all for only \$15! Deadline to register is October 18. Both trips leave from the James Woody Community Center.

Hip Hop Skate Park Party: Skateboard to the sounds of hip-hop with a live deejay, plus demonstrations, refreshments and drawings! Ages 17 and under are invited to the 3-Diamond Skate Park at the James Woody Community Center on Friday, September 13 from 6 – 9:00 p.m. Cost is only \$2 per person!

Skate Park Band Series/Coffee House: Fridays, October 4 and 18, and November 1 and 15, ages 17 and under can skate to the sounds of different garage bands starting at 6:00 p.m. While you’re there, drop in at the Coffee House (in the Mini-Gym) for refreshments, games, slam poetry and dancing. Cost is \$3 per person.

For more information on the above programs, call the Park and Recreation Department at 240-7880. For more new programs and classes, plus information on winter basketball and lots more, watch your mailbox for the Fall Recreation Activity Guide coming the end of August.

The Jazz Night Street Fair is back!

Quick on the heels of a very successful first effort, the Town of Apple Valley is pleased to bring back the Jazz Night Street Fair to be held Saturday, August 17, 2002, from 4 – 10:00 p.m. in the parking lot of the new Town Hall. The Gary Whitesides Band will be back with their unique jazz sound that had hundreds of people tapping their toes at the inaugural street fair in June. Joining them will be Lorenzo Armstrong & Band and Thomas and Friends.

This event offers something for all with great food, unique shopping opportunities, and classic cars on display. Celebrate a “Better Way of Life” in Apple Valley under the desert evening sky. *Parking and admission are free! For more information, please call Rosanna Lafler, Event Coordinator at (760) 240-7000, ext. 7071.*

Teens can have “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 lead to Apple Valley

The Old West is coming to Apple Valley! The Happy Trails Round-Up, a 55-year tradition in our Town, will boast several new elements this year, including a visit by Pistols and Petticoats, an old west reenactment group. Enjoy mock gunfights, a jail-and-bail and general rabble rousing at their old west storefront. Of course, a full carnival, kids games, rock climbing wall, pony rides, petting zoo, food, and entertainment will fill the weekend. As if that weren't enough, there is also the annual Happy Trails Round-Up parade, a 5K and 10K run, and the kick-off steak fry on September 19! Adults will enjoy time in the beer garden near the stage, and kids get a place of their own at the Root Beer Garden!

Mark your calendar now for Friday through Sunday, September 20-22, for the 2002 Happy Trails Round-Up at Lions' Park in Apple Valley! Watch for a complete schedule of events to be included in your next trash bill.

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

Apple Valley Snapshot Contest begins

As part of the recently launched "Take Pride in Apple Valley" program, the Town of Apple Valley is pleased to announce the first ever "Your Pride is Showing" Snapshot Photo Contest. Any Apple Valley resident can enter photos showing the people, places and events that make you proud to live in Apple Valley. Winning photos selected by judges will be displayed at the Happy Trails Round-Up, and posted on the Town of Apple Valley web site.

Winners in two age divisions (18 and over; 17 and under) will be chosen in several different categories, including people, places and nature. Photos must be snapshots of Apple Valley life and the Apple Valley experience. Deadline to enter is September 9, 2002.

Complete contest rules are available on our website at www.applevalley.org, at Town Hall, or call the Public Information Office at 240-7000 x 7072.

Be "water wise"

According to the California Department of Water Resources, Southern California precipitation has reached record or near record lows in many areas. Facing drought conditions, coupled with proposed water rate hikes, the necessity for water conservation is obvious.

The Town of Apple Valley encourages residents to use water wisely, and offers the following tips to help conserve this critical natural resource:

Lawn care:

- Water in several short sessions to allow water to soak in.
- Avoid runoff by positioning sprinklers to land on lawn and shrubs, not on sidewalks and streets.
- During the summer, water lawns late at night or early morning to avoid evaporation.
- Practice "grasscycling." Set your lawnmower to cut only a third of the grass height, and leave the clippings on the lawn to decompose. This reduces the amount of fertilizer and water needed by the lawn.
- For long-term water savings, plant native or drought-tolerant plants that require less water and fertilizer. Use micro and drip irrigation systems with mulch to retain water.

Conserve and re-use!

- Never pour clean water down a drain - find another use for it!

- Do not waste water waiting for it to get hot. Capture and heat it using the stove or microwave, or use it to water plants.
- Clean vegetables in a pan of water, then use that water for cleaning or in your garden.
- Operate dishwashers and clothes washers only when fully loaded
- Do not leave water running – while rinsing dishes, brushing teeth, or shaving. And try turning the water off while soaping up in the shower.

One way communities can conserve water is by supporting projects that use reclaimed water for irrigation and other uses. The Town of Apple Valley is a member of the Victor Valley Wastewater Reclamation Authority (VWVRA), the agency that operates the wastewater treatment facility located in Oro Grande. Re-use of highly treated wastewater for irrigation and industrial uses means an equal amount of water remains in the groundwater basin for drinking and other household uses.

This year, the Town of Apple Valley was successful in acquiring \$500,000 in federal grant funds for the planning and design of a sub-regional wastewater reclamation plant to be located in Apple Valley. One strategically placed treatment plant could recapture an estimated 750,000 gallons per day for reclamation and re-use projects, an amount equal to the total annual household water consumption for approximately 825 single-family homes.

Try to do one thing each day that will result in saving water. Every drop counts! *For more information, visit the VWVRA website at www.vvwra.com, or call them at 246-8638. Or, call the Public Services Department for the Town of Apple Valley at 240-7000 x 7610.*

Spotlight on . . . Apple Valley parks!

Many residents are surprised to learn that Apple Valley boasts 13 parks, covering over 90 acres. Some receive widespread attention, as when nearly 10,000 people visited Brewster Park for the annual Freedom Festival on 4th of July. Others, however, are undiscovered treasures, known only to those who drive past or live nearby.

One such treasure is Virginia Park, located on Central and Papago Roads, about one-quarter mile north of Waalew. Large shade trees surround a picnic area and playground, inviting gatherings of family and friends. Two practice fields provide room for softball and other group games.

Another inviting retreat is Mendel Park, located on Tussing Ranch Road in south Apple Valley. Shade trees dot the perimeter of a large grass area with two practice fields. It's perfect for a pick-up game of touch football. A playground and tables provide the basic requirements for an afternoon picnic. The picnic shelter and barbecue is available by reservation. There is even a small meeting room for rent, suitable for up to 50 people.

For more information on Apple Valley parks, visit the Town website at www.applevalley.org, then click on Park and Recreation. Or, call the Park and Recreation Department at 240-7880.