

Finance 101 – a look at the Town budget

With budgets so much in the news these days, this seems an appropriate time for a short course on the Town budget. The budget reflects the Town Council's policies and long-range vision for Apple Valley. With Council direction, Town staff prepares a budget proposal in early spring. After public hearings and Council input, the budget is revised, if necessary, then adopted by the Council in June. The new budget goes into effect each year on July 1.

Half-way through the current budget cycle the Town remains financially strong, while keeping a close eye on the state budget crisis. The budget is made up of eight separate funds, totaling just under \$36 million, for fiscal year 2002-03. The General Fund includes revenue from sales tax, property tax, various fees, and our share of the vehicle license fee. The following chart breaks down the main categories of revenue and expenditures. The complete budget is available on the Town website at www.applevalley.org. For more information please call the Public Information Office at 240-7000 x 7072.

Pitch in and pick up for Community Clean Up Day

Volunteers are needed to "Pitch In and Pick-Up" for the semi-annual Apple Valley Community Clean-Up Day on Saturday, April 12. Sign up in advance, and then check in at 8:30 a.m. at Town Hall for assignments. The Town and sponsors provide all the trash bags and water you need. Plus, each volunteer receives a t-shirt and lunch!

Since January 2000, over 3,000 volunteer hours have been contributed to picking up litter in Apple Valley, with over 60 tons of trash and scrap metal cleaned up from vacant lots around town! If you have three hours to spare, help Keep California Beautiful . . . starting right here in the Town of Apple Valley!

This program is offered in conjunction with the County of San Bernardino Solid Waste Management System Division Free Dump and Recycle Day! Individuals and organizations interested in volunteering for the effort MUST sign up in advance. Call Rosanna Lafler, Event Coordinator, at 240-7000 x 7071.

AVCO and Town work to reduce illegal dumping

Vast expanses of open desert offer beautiful views for Apple Valley residents. Unfortunately, for some it also offers handy dumping grounds when no one is looking. The Town of Apple Valley works closely with AVCO, our waste disposal company, to offer convenient curbside and local disposal of large household items several times a year. Following are a few of the events coming up.

Appliance Disposal Day and Mattress Disposal Day: On February 22 residents within the incorporated boundaries of Apple Valley may drop off large appliances free of charge at Lions Park between 8:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Senior citizens and the disabled can have appliances picked up curbside by calling AVCO at 245-8607 between February 10th and 14th. Enjoy the same free, convenient disposal for your old mattresses one month later on March 22. A call to AVCO between March 10th and 14th will again schedule curbside service for seniors and disabled.

Large Item Pickup: Coming in April is a free curbside bulky item pickup for all residents of incorporated Apple Valley. You must make an appointment for pickup by

calling AVCO between March 10 and April 4. Items will be picked up on your normal trash day the week of April 9.

Free Dump Day: After presentation of a valid driver's license confirming residency in San Bernardino County, privately owned automobiles, station wagons, cars with trailers and pick-ups are permitted to dump residential refuse at County landfills at no charge on Saturday, April 12. This service is offered in conjunction with San Bernardino County Solid Waste Management Division. As a reminder, tires require a special handling fee and are not included in the free dump day disposal. Additionally, household hazardous waste is not accepted at the landfill and can be properly disposed at the Town's Free Household Hazardous Waste Center held on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of each month.

Teen Scene returns!

The Town of Apple Valley is rolling out the red carpet for its teens at the annual Teen Scene! With a theme of "Reach for the Stars," students from local middle schools and high schools have taken starring roles in the production of this "box office smash" event! For teens, by teens, and totally **FREE**, Teen Scene will be held Saturday, March 8, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the James A. Woody Community Center, 13467 Navajo Road.

The event will feature over 20 information and game booths ranging from recreational opportunities to employment/career options to social/health issues. The Park and Recreation Department will have a "Paparazzi" photo booth for instant pictures in fun movie star-type costumes. A few of the organizations confirmed for Teen Scene include the High Desert Center, Sylvan Learning Center, American Red Cross, Apple Valley High School ROTC, and the California National Guard.

Deejay Kev*Dog will appear in a supporting role, offering music and karaoke. Other activities include a dance off, a self defense clinic and skate boarding demonstrations. Continuous entertainment, door prizes and a free pizza lunch for the attendees will round out the day.

Teen Scene is sponsored by the Town of Apple Valley, *Daily Press*, Y-102, KATJ, and St. Mary Regional Medical Center. For additional information, call Rosanna Lafler at (760)240-7000 x 7071.

Shop at the Spring Craft Fair

The Town of Apple Valley is hosting the annual Spring Craft Fair Saturday, April 5, at the James A. Woody Community Center. Over 40 vendors will offer a variety of quality-handcrafted items. Jewelry, handmade soap, ceramics, wood and silk flowers are just a few of the items that will be available.

The Community Center is located at 13467 Navajo Road, one block south of Highway 18. Craft fair hours are 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. For more information, please call Rosanna Lafler, Event Coordinator, at 240-7593

Municipal Code protects enjoyment of private property

The Town of Apple Valley Municipal Code is the “rule book” for living in Apple Valley. Some chapters cover the election and function of the Town Council, commissions and committees. Other ordinances adopted into the Municipal Code offer guidance for everything from residential and commercial development standards to requirements for how public funds are handled. Some chapters provide rules and standards aimed at addressing unsightly and unsafe conditions that can affect your ability to enjoy your private property.

Code Enforcement is the department charged with enforcing these rules, and they offer these reminders of a few of the most common violations that occur within the Town limits:

- Commercial Vehicle parking is permitted in the Town of Apple Valley (1) if you have a valid permit issued by the Town of Apple Valley, (2) are parked within 300 feet of a commercial business on an approved truck route for up to one hour, or (3) for loading and unloading purposes for the specific store only.
- Private vehicles for sale may not be located within the Town right-of-way or be parked in vacant or commercial parking lots, They can only be sold on your own developed private property.
- One inoperative vehicle is allowed in the rear yard provided it is completely screened from public view by using approved screening materials. Otherwise, an inoperative vehicle must be housed in a garage, repaired, or removed from the property.
- Trash and debris (broken or discarded furniture, household items, boxes, scattered debris, etc.) must not be visible to the public.
- Yard sale signs can only be posted on the property conducting the sale - not on telephone poles, street signs, etc.

The entire Town of Apple Valley Municipal Code is available on our website at www.applevalley.org. If you should have any questions regarding the Municipal Code, please call the Town of Apple Valley Code Enforcement Department at (760) 240-7560.

Old street signs are history!

When the Town of Apple Valley incorporated over 14 years ago, we inherited all of those green county street signs. With the signs now aging and faded, the Town has initiated a very aggressive program to replace them with the new Town colors. Our goal is to replace 200 signs, or 100 intersections, per year. Initially, our Public Works Department will replace those that are no longer legible or have lost their reflectivity at night. If your street name sign is in need of replacement, call the Town of Apple Valley Public Works Department at (760) 240-7000 extension 7500, and it will be added to the list and replaced in order of priority.

On a related note, the Town of Apple Valley sells old street name signs at some of our major special events throughout the year. Watch for the Town booth or call for more information.

And, when you see the men in the orange vests out on the street working, slow down and give them a BRAKE!

Apple Valley teams with Nike for “Reuse-A-Shoe” program

Get your old shoes back in the game! Want to reward your sneaks for a job well done? Then recycle them with the Nike “Reuse-A-Shoe” program. They’ll be ground up and used to make brand new athletic surfaces such as soccer fields, basketball courts and running tracks. Providing this “Nike Grind” material is part of Nike’s ongoing efforts to increase physical activity among youth – and give them a place to do it.

The Town of Apple Valley has committed to collecting 5000 pairs of shoes for the Nike program. We will then have an opportunity to apply for a \$25,000 grant towards a new sports surfaces made with Nike Grind. Not every shoe is cut out to be Nike Grind. We are collecting used athletic shoes, only. Shoes must be free of metal eyelets, spikes or cleats.

So clean out your lockers, gym bags and closets and bring your shoes to the Community Clean-Up Day on April 12, or check our website for other collection options. Not only is it good for the environment, it’s a great way to get your old shoes back into action. For more information call 240-7000 x 7072.

Victor Valley Commuter offers down-the-hill service

Tired of the morning and evening commuter crunch? The Victor Valley Commuter, with convenient morning and evening departures, is your ticket to San Bernardino and beyond. Designed with the commuter in mind, each coach features airline-style reclining seats, individual climate controls, laptop connections, and a fully accessible on-board restroom. Offered by the Victor Valley Transit Authority, schedules and routes from three High Desert locations allow convenient connections with Metrolink and Omnitrans in San Bernardino and Rancho Cucamonga.

Monthly pass holders receive free membership in the Commuter Club. Club members are eligible to participate in the Guaranteed Ride Home program which provides complimentary taxi/shuttle service to qualified participants in the event of an emergency need to get home.

Ten-trip and monthly passes can be purchased at Apple Valley Town Hall and other locations around the Victor Valley. Currently, one-way passes are \$9, with discounts for multi-trip passes. Grant funding is expected to allow VVTA to reduce fares by as much as 50% within the next few months. Discounts are also offered to those holding Metrolink passes.

For more information please call VVTA at (760) 948-3030.