



OUR TOWN

A BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FROM THE TOWN OF APPLE VALLEY TO THE COMMUNITY

Town responds to wildfires

The Town of Apple Valley had a close call in October as wildfires of historic proportions raged throughout Southern California. The Town of Apple Valley disaster preparedness program was put to the test and emerged with high marks from everyone involved.

On Monday, October 27, while the fires were still a good distance away, the Town activated the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) at Level 1, monitoring the situation and developing messages for our residents to keep them informed of any potential effects on Apple Valley.

We watched closely as the Old Fire climbed the south side of the mountains separating us from San Bernardino and as the Grand Prix fire snaked through the canyons on either side of Cajon Pass. Then, at approximately 1230 hours on Wednesday, October 29, the Town received word that a voluntary evacuation order had been placed for the southern reaches of Apple Valley, and we elevated the EOC to Level 2. Residents should know that the fire never came closer than six miles "as the crow flies" from the area known as Bowen Ranch, the southern boundary of our sphere of influence. The fire perceived as the biggest threat at that time was burning on the north side of Lake Arrowhead.

Working with 40 deputies on loan from Riverside and San Bernardino County, Apple Valley Police Captain John McMahon oversaw notification of the affected residents and increased patrols throughout the area until the evacuation notice was lifted two days later on Friday, October 31, at 7:00 a.m.

During the Level 2 activation, representatives from the Town of Apple Valley, Apple Valley Police Department, Apple Valley Fire District, Apple Valley Unified School District, St. Mary's Medical Center, and San Bernardino County Sheriff were present in the EOC. We were also in regular contact with the incident command posts located at Glen Helen Park and in downtown San Bernardino as well as with the County EOC at the Rialto Air

In the end, the biggest impacts on Apple Valley were in terms of sheltering both human and animal evacuees from the mountain communities and in providing fire-fighting support. The American Red Cross used Apple Valley High School to house as many as 200 displaced mountain residents. In addition, the School District put up several strike teams of firefighters for several nights in the Tony Balsamo Performing Arts Center. An animal shelter was opened at Horsemen's Center and at its height was home to



Horses enjoy the donated feed at the animal evacuation site set up at Horsemen's Center. At one time, over 100 livestock were safely sheltered and cared for by Town staff and volunteers.

almost 100 horses, two llamas, four ponies, plus assorted sheep and pigs. Animal Control staff, volunteers and the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Posse manned the shelter 24-hours a day during the operation.

As seen so often in times of disaster, our residents and businesses showed generosity and compassion through donations of time, money and supplies. Our deepest appreciation goes out to the many agencies and individuals who assisted during these times. As well, our hearts go out to those who lost homes or loved ones.

For information on how to better prepare your family in case of disaster, visit the emergency preparedness page on the Town's website at www.applevalley.org/public/emergency/index.htm, or call Cindy Serrano at 247-7618.

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Meeting Calendar

Unless otherwise noted, all meetings take place in the Council Chambers at

Town Hall

14955 Dale Evans Pkwy.

TOWN COUNCIL

2nd & 4th Tuesdays - 7:00 PM

PLANNING COMMISSION

1st & 3rd Wednesdays - 7:00 PM

PARKS & REC. COMMISSION

1st Thursday - 7:00 PM

TRAFFIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

2nd Thursday - 1:30 PM

HISTORICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

3rd Thursday - 1:30 PM

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION CENTER

1st & 3rd Saturdays (excluding holiday weekends)

10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Public Works Yard

22411 Highway 18

Information: 240-7000x7500

Event Calendar

See related articles for details.

Unless otherwise noted, call 240-7000 x 7071 for information

CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING
December 26 - Jan. 17

NEW YEAR'S EVE BLAST
Dec. 31 Jan. 1

Essay contest:

The wildfires forced the cancellation of Apple Valley's 15th Anniversary Celebration, however the annual essay contest winners were still recognized at the November 25 Council meeting. For a list of winners and the winning essays visit the Town's website at www.applevalley.org.

Earn \$100 with "The Right Stuff!"

Those of you who were hibernating, don't read *Our Town*, don't read the local newspaper and don't talk to your neighbors, could have missed "The Right Stuff" contest in Apple Valley last year. Don't let it happen again!

The Right Stuff contest is just an excuse to reward good recyclers in the community. "Good recyclers" are people who take an extra two seconds to toss discards into the correct bin: either in the green trash bin or the blue recycle bin. Over a six-month period in 2002, 17 winning families collected \$100 or more for being good recyclers.

Because the contest was so successful, Burrtec Waste Industries, Inc., parent company of AVCO Disposal, has agreed to keep the competition continuing on a monthly basis. This edition of *Our Town* contains the new entry form. Fill out the form and return it to Town Hall to be part of the contest. You must enter to win!

Beginning January 2004, one entry form will be drawn at random each month. Both the trash and recycle bins from the entry address will be picked up on trash day and taken to the MRF to be sorted by AVCO personnel. If each bin contains the "right stuff," the contestant wins \$100. If the wrong type of material is found in one or both bins, that entry loses, and we'll explain why. Both the trash and recycle bins must be out at the curbside on the regular trash day. Even if your entry is drawn for the contest, you cannot participate if the barrels are not available for pickup. Sorry, only barrel service is eligible to participate.

Apple Valley residents, as a rule, have a good handle on recycling. But you would be surprised at the "wrong stuff" occasionally found in the recycle bin: yard waste, food waste, rocks and bathroom waste. (Did you really think we could recycle your wet tissue?) AVCO personnel also found recyclable beverage containers, cardboard, and glass jars in the trash bin. *Everyone* knows that beverage containers are not only recyclable, most of them also have a California Redemption Value (CRV) from \$.04 - \$.08 each and can be turned in for cash. So, throwing a beverage container in the trash can is a double waste!

Questions on recycling? Call Community Services at 240-7000 x 7610. Lists of recyclable and non-recyclables are also available at Town Hall and on the Town website.

Give it a try! You could always use \$100, right? Your odds of winning this contest are a lot better than winning the lottery. Enter the contest and prove that you have *The Right Stuff*.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Trash pick-up day: _____

Please enter me in the "Right Stuff" recycling contest. I understand that entries will be drawn at random from all Apple Valley participants. If my address is selected, disposal company personnel will evaluate the trash and recycling from the residence to see whether materials are correctly sorted.

Signed: _____ Dated: _____

Return to Town Hall, attn: Community Services, 14955 Dale Evans Parkway, Apple Valley, CA 92307

"Easy Pay" option now available for sanitation bills:

No checks! No stamps! Sign up now to have your sanitation bill deducted automatically from your checking account. There's no fee to participate. The registration form is available from Town Hall, or on the Town website at www.applevalley.org. Call AVCO Customer Service at 243-3967 for more information.

Town offers downpayment assistance program

The Downpayment Assistance Program is now available to qualified low-income homebuyers in Apple Valley, thanks to a loan through the California Housing Finance Agency Housing Enabled By Local Partnerships Program (Cal-HFAHELP).

The program provides a zero percent interest 30-year-deferred loan for low- and very-low income homebuyers purchasing a home in the Town of Apple Valley. The property can be attached, semi-detached or detached single-family homes, condominiums, or manufactured homes and mobile homes on individual lots with permanent foundations. The maximum value is \$140,000.

The amount of assistance, up to a maximum of \$20,000 for down payment/closing costs, depends on household income. Maximum allowable income levels are according to the state definition of low-income (80% of median income) or very low-income (50% of median income). As an example, a family of four would have to earn less than \$40,800 to qualify as low income. The homebuyer must also provide 1% of the sales price as equity contribution, to be applied to the home purchase.

For more information about the Downpayment Assistance Program, or to express your interest in participating, please call the Town of Apple Valley Economic Development Department at 240-7000 x 7900.

Recreation programs appeal to all

New Year's Eve Blast! Give your kids their own special New Year's celebration with an overnight camp-out in the Community Center gym. Ages 5-12 are invited to join trained recreation staff from 6pm, December 31 to 8am, January 1. Cost of \$25 includes an evening snack and continental breakfast. Bring a sleeping bag and a pillow and enjoy music, games and more! Pre-registration is required by December 29th. Call 240-7880 for information.

Winter break Day Camp and CAVE: Dec. 22 through Jan. 9, 7am - 6pm at the James Woody Community Center. No more choruses of "I'm bored!" during the school breaks! Day Camp (Kindergarten - 5th grade) and CAVE (6th - 8th grade) will provide games, cool crafts, sports and fun! Cost is \$60/week, and includes an afternoon snack. Half-day and daily rates available for Day Camp. No program on December 25 or January 1. Call 240-7880 for information.

Winterize your sprinkler timers:

With colder nights upon us, residents are urged to set your sprinklers to come on during the day to avoid icy sidewalks and streets.



Recycle your Christmas trees

The Town of Apple Valley, in conjunction with Burrtec Waste Industries is offering free disposal of Christmas trees. From December 26 until January 17, Apple Valley residents can bring trees to Lions' Park on Outer Highway 18 just east of Dale Evans Parkway, or to the Apple Valley Fire Protection District Station One, at 22400 Headquarters Drive, near Central Road and Highway 18.

Recycling your holiday trees keeps them out of the landfills. Trees must be free of tinsel, decorations and flocking. For more information, call the Town of Apple Valley Community Services Department at 240-7000 x 7610.



Residents show pride with "Adopt-a-Street" program

Launched in June 2002, the Town of Apple Valley "Adopt-a-Street" program now boasts 16 adopters taking care of 20 miles of roads. Now that's a great start, but with almost 400 miles of roads, there are still plenty to go around! Organizations, clubs, schools, churches, businesses, families and individuals can all participate. This is a great opportunity to take pride in your community and improve your neighborhood. There is no cost to participate, other than your time. The Town provides trash bags and safety equipment and will even pick up the trash bags when you are done. Plus we will post a sign on your adopted road. Additional program details and an application are available at Town Hall, or on our website at www.applevalley.org, or call 240-7000 x 7072 to have one mailed to you.

The Town extends our appreciation to the following for contributing to "A Better Way of Life" in Apple Valley through the Adopt-a-Street program:

Apple Valley High School Air Force Junior ROTC
Apple Valley High School Key Club
Apple Valley Optimist Club
Lowell and Jan Bamford
Mary D. Ellis-Brown and R.O. Brown, Jr.
Charles Abbott Associates
Carolyn Clark
Everett Holler/Century 21 Desert Rock
Cub Scout Pack 257
Ellen Grundling
Health Occupations Students of America
Tim and Ann Jasper
Mike and Kathie Martin
Don and Judi Orsburn
St. Timothy's Episcopal Church and School
Wells Fargo Bank
Dr. Barron & Tonya Wilson (Alpha Connection)

Bear Valley Road rehabilitation underway

In a joint effort by the Town of Apple Valley, City of Victorville and City of Hesperia, 7.6 miles of Bear Valley Road are currently undergoing major rehabilitation. Improvements include pavement reconstruction and overlay, improvements to seven intersections, and signal upgrades at 13 intersections. The result will be greatly improved traffic flow between Kiowa Road and the I-15.

Some of the major improvements include replacing asphalt with concrete at the intersections of Mariposa, Hesperia and Apple Valley Roads. Apple Valley Road will also get double left turn lanes added eastbound and westbound, plus a westbound right turn lane and a westbound merge lane. Other streets getting double left turn lanes include Hesperia Road (both directions), Spring Valley Parkway and Jacaranda (eastbound).

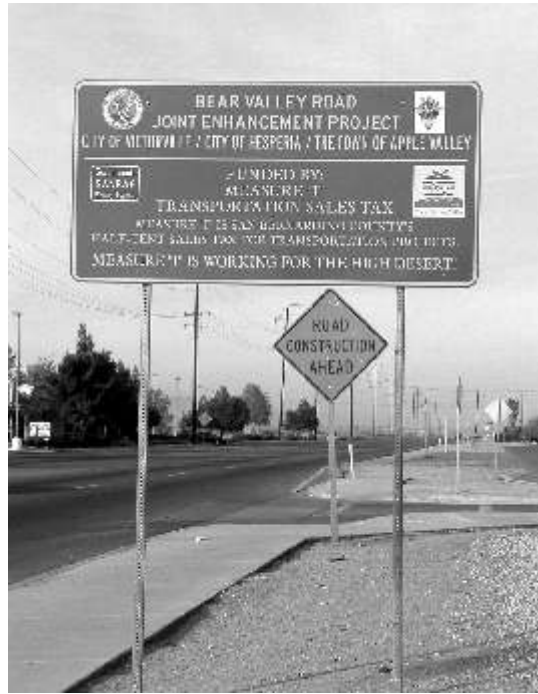
The project is funded by \$5.5 million from the

Federal Surface Transportation Program and \$1.3 million matching funds from local agencies, provided by Measure I.

Measure I is the San Bernardino County half-cent transportation sales tax approved by voters in 1989 for a 20-year period. The Town of Apple Valley has received over \$16 million in Measure I funds so far, which has funded projects such as the reconstruction of the Corwin Road/Highway 18 intersection last year, installation of a traffic signal at Apple Valley Road and Sitting Bull in 1999, and the widening of Navajo Road in 1994.

The Bear Valley Road project was started in September and is expected to last several months. Work will be halted over the holidays to avoid disrupting traffic, but will resume in the spring. For more information visit the Town website at

www.applevalley.org, or call the City of Victorville at 951-1681.



Town Information

Tim Jasper, *Mayor*
 Bob Sagona, *Mayor Pro Tem*
 Ted Burgnon, *Councilmember*
 Scott Nassif, *Councilmember*
 Mark Shoup, *Councilmember*
 Bruce Williams, *Town Manager*

How To Reach Us

Emergencies.....911

Police (Business calls).....240-7400
 Police dispatch after hours.....245-4211
 Town dispatch after hours.....961-6001

Town Hall.....240-7000

Department Extensions - Dial 240-7000 plus:

Animal Control.....7555
 Building & Safety.....7101
 Economic Development.....7900
 Finance.....7000
 Job Information.....7747
 Personnel.....7600
 Planning.....7200
 Public Information.....7072
 Public Works.....7500
 Town Clerk.....7800
 Town Manager.....7051
 Transit.....7610

Other Town Departments & Services (dial direct)

Code Enforcement.....240-7560
 Parks & Recreation.....240-7880
 Trash (AVCO).....243-3967

Town Hall on Call: 240-TOAV (8628)

E-mail: applevalley@applevalley.org

Web Site: www.applevalley.org

Our Town is published bi-monthly by the Public Information Department of the Town of Apple Valley, and mailed to every household and business in the Town of Apple Valley to keep citizens informed of vital issues. Questions or comments on the newsletter should be directed to Kathie Martin, Public Information Officer at 240-7000 x 7072.



Town of Apple Valley
 14955 Dale Evans Pkwy.
 Apple Valley, CA 92307



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