



# OUR TOWN

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

## Council digs in on Civic Center Park

Successful grants and federal appropriations resulted in the start of construction on October 13<sup>th</sup> of the first phase of Civic Center Park. The park will be located on 22 acres immediately north of Town Hall. Assemblyman Dennis Mountjoy was in attendance at the ground breaking ceremony and announced a new \$213,000 award from the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

Money accumulated for the park has been divided into two funds (see chart). The first phase, costing \$1.4 million, will consist of water service and utilities, grading, parking lot, and a 1000-seat grass amphitheater with stage. Water and grading will be complete by the end of the year, with the entire phase scheduled for completion by late spring.

By installing all of the infrastructure up front, the costs are reduced for future park elements which include a playground, tot lot, memorial garden, basketball court, dog park and the aquatic center.

The Apple Valley Community Resource Foundation (AVCRF), a 501(c)3 non-profit public benefit corporation formed by the Town of Apple Valley, is raising money towards the swimming pool and other park elements. Wal-Mart Distribution Center has donated \$5000, and the late Jim Poulos, community activist and volunteer, donated \$200 before his passing, challenging other residents to step forward and do the same. At the ground breaking ceremony, Scott Weldy, Assistant General Manager for Apple Valley Ranchos Water Company, told Town staff, "You build it and we'll fill it," indicating his company will fill the pool for free upon its completion.

Individual and corporate donations through the AVCRF, both cash and in-kind services, are tax deductible. *For more information on donating call 240-7382.*



CIVIC CENTER PARK Master Plan

Park Funding Source	Amount	Pool Funding Source	Amount
Prop. 40 <sup>1</sup> per capita	\$250,000	ED <sup>2</sup> 2004	\$250,000
Prop. 40 <sup>1</sup> Roberti-Z'Berg-Harris	153,806	Prop. 40 <sup>1</sup> per capita	166,322
Community Development Block Grants	395,137	Land & Water Conservation Grant	213,130
ED <sup>2</sup> 2002	200,000	James Poulos	200
ED <sup>2</sup> 2003	402,368		
Department of Conservation Grant <sup>3</sup>	16,341		
Department of Forestry Grant <sup>4</sup>	22,919		
Wal-Mart Foundation	5,000		
<b>Park Subtotal</b>	<b>1,445,571</b>	<b>Pool Subtotal</b>	<b>876,702</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>		<b>\$2,322,273</b>	

<sup>1</sup> The California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal Protection Act of 2002

<sup>2</sup> Economic Development Initiative - Federal appropriations granted through the Dept. Of Housing & Urban Development

<sup>3</sup> Allocated for purchase of recycling receptacles

<sup>4</sup> Allocated for purchase of trees

### Inside This Issue:

- New Equestrian Advisory Committee formed
- Lowe's, Home Depot, Walgreens, Stater Brothers and other retail sites opening in Apple Valley
- Services from the Town of Apple Valley
- VVEDA survey
- Special events for the Holidays

## Town of Apple Valley to open municipal animal shelter

By the first of the year Apple Valley residents will have a convenient location for all Animal Control and shelter services.

Since April 1<sup>st</sup>, when a contract with the Victor Valley Animal Protective League shelter was not renewed, Apple Valley animal control officers have been taking stray dogs to the Hesperia Animal Shelter. Knowing this was only an interim solution, the Town Council directed staff to begin development of our own animal shelter immediately. A usable facility was identified at the Town Public Works Yard, and work began to convert the building into a full-service animal shelter.

Located at 13643 Tonikan, just south of Outer Highway 18, one block west of Central, the animal shelter will offer dog licensing, immunizations, spay and neuter clinics and pet adoptions. The facility will include dog kennels as well as a cat room. A grassy get-acquainted area will be available for people to meet their potential furry friends.

*continued on back page...*

## 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

### EQUESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

2nd Wednesday - 7:00 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: 240-7000x7610

## Event Calendar

Unless otherwise noted, call 240-7000 x 7071 for details.

### TREE LIGHTING

November 29

240-7000 x 7071

### AV's MOST TALENTED KID

December 3

### SHOP & DROP

December 4

### KIDS NEW YEAR'S EVE BLAST

December 31 - January 1

## Equestrian Advisory Committee off and galloping

Cattle and thoroughbred farms. Dude ranches. Horse-drawn buggies picking guests up at the old airport. Apple Valley history is steeped in the equestrian lifestyle.

In recognition of the important role of the equestrian community in maintaining Apple Valley's unique quality of life, the Town Council has formed the Equestrian Advisory Committee. Appointed by the Town Council, the members are Chairperson Gail Nunn-Henderson, Vice Chairperson Bruce Kallen, Dan Bader, June Jaramillo, and Lovella Sullivan.

The Equestrian Advisory Committee reviews and provides recommendations to the Council regarding establishment and maintenance of equestrian trails, establishment of equestrian programs, and preservation of the Town's equestrian heritage. The Committee also makes recommendations to the Town's Planning Commission on equestrian matters relating to the subdivision of land and the development standards associated with the equestrian use of such land. Additionally, the Committee facilitates coordination between existing and proposed equestrian programs and services.

Meetings are held every 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month in the Town Hall Council Chambers. Any person wishing to address equestrian-related issues and concerns is invited to attend a regularly scheduled meeting. For additional information please call (760)240-7000 ext. 7054.



Horse enthusiasts participate in the Cowboy Breakfast & Trail Ride in September

## Key intersection slated for retail development

Do-it-yourselfers in Apple Valley will soon have a much shorter trip for their home improvement needs, and Jess Ranch residents will be able to drive their golf carts to the grocery store and drug store.

Town of Apple Valley officials were excited to announce the recent approval of two new retail centers. Lowe's Home Improvement, Stater Bros. and Walgreens will be building on the northeast corner of Apple Valley Road and Bear Valley Road. The shopping center will include additional space for restaurant, retail and professional service. Directly across the street on the northwest corner, another developer has landed Home Depot. While it is unusual to welcome two major home improvement stores at the same time, let alone on the same corner, our growing population will now be guaranteed a variety of products, services and prices. Plus, it sends a signal to other major national retail tenants that Apple Valley residents are underserved in a number of retail and service areas.

"Years of business attraction efforts have been building up to this moment," said Ken Henderson, Director of Economic and Community Development. "In the next 12 to 18 months we will begin capturing the sales tax revenue that has been escaping to surrounding cities."

Construction is expected to begin on the Lowe's center sometime after the first of the year.



# VVEDA seeking input for regional economic development needs

The Victor Valley Economic Development Authority (VVEDA) is asking for a few minutes from each business, resident, and worker in the cities of Victorville, Hesperia, Apple Valley, and Adelanto to participate in one of two online surveys.

A business survey will provide city officials with a profile of local employers and the local workforce, identify labor issues that employers face daily, and document the average wage levels for area workers. This information will be used to improve services to local businesses. A survey of local residents and workers will provide information on where they live, where they work, where they shop, their employment status, educational and skill levels, and commute patterns.

This is an opportunity for those residents faced with long commutes to tell local employers what would induce them to work locally. The Community Survey asks "What matters most to you in your current employment or in choosing future employment opportunities?" Respondents can choose from a variety of suggested responses related to wages and other financial opportunities, work schedule, company size and work environment. In addition to asking residents about their employment, VVEDA wants to know about shopping habits. Where do residents shop and why? What are the advantages and disadvantages of shopping locally?

Businesses and residents participating in the surveys can remain anonymous. All responses to the survey questions are

strictly confidential. These surveys are being conducted to assist the consulting team in documenting the characteristics of the VVEDA labor and retail trade markets.

To take the survey, visit the Town website at [www.applevalley.org](http://www.applevalley.org). Links will take you to the on-line version, or you can download and print a hard copy to complete and return to Town Hall. Printed copies are also available from Town Hall.

For more information call the Economic Development Department at 240-7000 x 7900.

## Services from the Town of Apple Valley

### Sign up for sanitation "Easy Pay"

No checks! No stamps! No late payments! 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](http://www.applevalley.org). Call AVCO Customer Service at 243-3967 for more information.

### Keep in touch with Town Hall

Send your ideas, comments, suggestions and questions to [idea@applevalley.org](mailto:idea@applevalley.org), or call 240-7000 x IDEA (4332). To receive "AV-Mail", occasional email announcements of news and events from the Town of Apple Valley, send an email to [idea@applevalley.org](mailto:idea@applevalley.org) with "AV-Mail" in the subject line.

### Council meetings now on web streaming

Can't make it to Town Hall on Tuesday nights, but still want to stay informed on issues in Apple Valley? Do you want to get your information "straight from the horse's mouth?" Well now you can, as all Town Council meetings are now available for viewing through the technology of web streaming. By visiting the Town website at [www.applevalley.org](http://www.applevalley.org) and following the instructions, you can watch a Council meeting as it is happening at 7 p.m. on the second and fourth Tuesdays every month. Even if you miss the scheduled time, you can still access the meeting from your computer at your convenience. Watch the entire proceedings or just click on the agenda item of interest to you.

Begun on November 9<sup>th</sup>, web-streamed meetings are being stored in a searchable archive. Want to see every discussion on a particular subject? Use the search feature and bring up a list of each time the item appeared on an agenda. Web streaming is the newest component of our customer service commitment. An informed citizen is an involved citizen. For more information call 240-7000x7070.

### New bulky item pickup service

At last! No more storing that old recliner on the front porch until the next bulky item pickup! In an effort to improve customer service, AVCO will now provide Apple Valley residents the opportunity to schedule two bulky item pickups during the year at the customer's convenience free of charge. Beginning in January 2005, residents may call AVCO at 243-3967, to schedule a large item pickup when needed. Each address may use this service twice a year at no charge. Residents will be billed for any third and subsequent pickups requested.

Since this new service allows residents to dispose of large items throughout the year, the Town-wide curbside bulky item pickups previously provided in April and October will be discontinued. However, Code Enforcement will continue to offer special drop off days for appliances, mattresses and tires throughout the year.

Not all items qualify for large item pickup; i.e., concrete slabs, tires, hazardous materials, etc. If you have questions on whether a specific item qualifies for pickup, please call AVCO directly at 243-3967.

## Is your contractor licensed?

It is certainly no secret that we have a "Better Way of Life" in Apple Valley! A drive down any block will show many homes under construction. New residents are moving here by the hundreds each month. Contractors and suppliers can barely keep up with the work load. While this is great news for our legitimate businesses, times of high activity offer opportunities for unscrupulous businesses as well.

Town officials recently discovered that an unlicensed contractor from out of the area had replaced a seepage pit for a homeowner whose septic system had failed. However, the work was done incorrectly and the homeowner was left with a system that did not work properly and did not meet code. The contractor had told the homeowner that he did not need a permit from the Town, a step that would have prevented the entire problem. Unfortunately the homeowner had to pay to have the work done a second time.

The Building and Safety Department of the Town of Apple Valley urges residents who are building a new home or having repairs, remodeling or additions to their current home, to take certain precautions when hiring a contractor. Verify that they have a valid contractor's license, a Town business license and are properly bonded and insured. Consumers can visit the Contractors State License Board website at <http://www.cslb.ca.gov/consumers> and look up license information on any contractor, as well as file complaints or get a checklist of what you should know before you hire a contractor.

A legitimate, licensed contractor is generally going to be familiar with the building codes and requirements of the local municipality. But if you are not sure if you need a permit, or if you are doing the work yourself, visit the Town website at [www.applevalley.org](http://www.applevalley.org) and click on "Building Permits" in the "At a Glance" box on the left side of the page, or call Building and Safety at 240-7000 x 7101.

# Special events and programs for the holidays



Get pleasure with Santa at the Tree Lighting Ceremony

**Rent-A-Santa:** Want a personal appearance by the Jolly Old Elf himself at your home or party? Santa can deliver packages or just listen to the kid's wish lists! Reservations are available from December 1 - 24. Cost is \$24/half hour, plus 37 cents a mile from Town Hall. Map must be provided. *Call 240-7880.*

**Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony:** Monday, November 29, 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. Caroling, hot chocolate, holiday treats and, of course, Santa Claus, will help ring in the official start of the holiday season in Apple Valley when we flip the switch on our 70-foot tree at Town Hall. Join the Town Council, the Apple Valley High School Marching Band and the AVHS Sunsets for a special evening. *Call 240-7000 x 7071 for information.*

**Apple Valley's Most Talented Kid:** Friday, December 3, 6:30 - 9 p.m. at the James A. Woody Community Center on Navajo Road (Performers must sign up by Nov. 29). Enjoy a night of singing, dancing and root beer floats! Boys and girls ages 3 - 18 are invited to perform. Participants will be judged, with awards going to the top three performers in each age group. Cost to attend is \$2 per person and includes root beer floats. *Call 240-7880 for information.*

**Drop and Shop:** Saturday, December 4, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. at the Town Hall Recreation Center. Fun games, lunch and a gift-making activity will entertain your 4- to 12-year-old while you spend the day shopping (or??). Only \$15. Register by November 30. *Call 240-7880 for information.*

**Kid's New Year's Eve Blast:** Kids ages 5 to 12 will love this special New Year's Eve party just for them. From 6 p.m. New Year's Eve to 8 a.m. the next morning, trained recreation staff will help your children ring in the New Year in style! Music, games, crafts and snacks are provided. You bring a sleeping bag and pillow. Cost is \$25 and a minimum of 20 participants must be pre-registered by December 28. *Call 240-7880 for information.*

## New municipal animal shelter ...continued from front page

A primary mission will be reuniting lost animals with their owners and adopting strays out to good homes. Once the operation is under way we hope to place photos on our website of available animals.

Animal Control recently purchased an additional truck and is recruiting a new officer/officer trainee to help service our growing population of people AND dogs. We currently have over 13,000 licensed dogs in Apple Valley! At full staff we will have two technicians, three officers and a supervisor. *For more information call Apple Valley Animal Control at 240-7000 x 7555.*

### Town Information

Bob Saguna, Mayor  
Scott Nassif, Mayor Pro Tem  
Ted Burgron, Councilmember  
Tim Jasper, Councilmember  
Mark Shoup, Councilmember  
Bruce Williams, Town Manager

#### How To Reach Us

<b>Emergencies.....</b>	<b>811</b>
Police (Business calls).....	240-7400
Police dispatch after hours.....	245-4211
Town dispatch after hours.....	961-6001
<b>Town Hall.....</b>	<b>240-7000</b>
Department EXTENSIONS - Dial 240-7000 plus:	
Animal Control.....	240-7000 X 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)  
(24 Hour Recorded Information)  
E-mail: [applevalley@applevalley.org](mailto:applevalley@applevalley.org)  
Web Site: [www.applevalley.org](http://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.



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