



# OUR town

OFFICIAL COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER OF THE TOWN OF APPLE VALLEY

DEC/JAN 2008-09

## 'Tis the season ...to shop local!

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No need to go over the river and down the hill for your holiday shopping this year – you can find what you are looking for right here from new and established Apple Valley merchants! Since 2005, more than three million square feet of retail has opened in our Town to meet your shopping needs.

A few years back, a study found that 70% of our potential sales tax revenues were being spent elsewhere because we lacked the shopping selection for our residents. Today, shopping at the more than 500 local retail and service outlets keeps money in Apple Valley that can be used for better roads and improved public safety.

At Apple Valley Commons (Dale Evans and Highway 18), Super Target and Lowe's have been joined by six eating establishments, along with Verizon Wireless, Union Bank and UPS, among others. Ross Dress for Less and Office Max will be open for the holidays in 2009.

At Apple Valley and Bear Valley Roads, three-quarters of a million square feet of retail even draws shoppers from neighboring communities. National chains such as Best Buy, Kirkland Home, Bed, Bath & Beyond, Home Depot and Lowe's have everything you need for your home and garden. Fashion Bug, Lane Bryant, Dress Barn, Famous Footwear and Payless Shoes offer shopping choices for clothing. Specialty stores like Big 5, Staples, Game Stop, the Wine Seller and PetSmart are complemented by services such as Auto Club, PFF Bank and Trust and Western Dental. In addition, no fewer than 20 restaurants and eateries can be found at that intersection. Red Robin, Cinemark and 24-Hour Fitness are just a few months away from opening.

In today's economy, we all face tough choices when it comes to spending our hard-earned dollars. Please make the choice to shop Apple Valley. ○





## MEETING CALENDAR

*Unless otherwise noted, all meetings take place in the Council Chambers at 14955 Dale Evans Parkway*

### TOWN COUNCIL

*2nd & 4th Tuesday, 6:30 p.m.*

### PLANNING COMMISSION

*1st & 3rd Wednesday, 6 p.m.*

### PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

*1st Thursday, 7 p.m.*

### EQUESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

*2nd Wednesday, 7 p.m.*

### HISTORICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

*3rd Thursday, 2 p.m.*

*\*No meeting in December*

### HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE

*1st & 3rd Saturday*

*10 a.m. – 2 p.m.*

*Public Works Yard*

*22411 Highway 18*

*Information: 240-7000 x7522*

### DISASTER COUNCIL

*Tuesday, January 13, 1:30 PM*

*Fire Station 336*

*19235 Yucca Loma Road*

*Information: 247-7618*

## Local bus routes get you where you're going

No car? Too expensive to fill the old gas-guzzler up? Try a Victor Valley Transit Authority (VVTA) bus! The majority of VVTA buses run on Compressed Natural Gas (CNG), which is why they produce no black smoke or diesel exhaust. CNG is one of the cleanest fuels commercially available.

Apple Valley has four bus routes, including two that go into Victorville. Last July alone, these routes provided nearly 24,000 rides. Each bus runs from about 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. Routes are completed in one hour so that each stop

is serviced every 60 minutes. Service on Route 43, which travels Bear Valley Road, was recently increased to run every 30 minutes during peak time between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.


VVTA covers the majority of the high desert's population with pick-up locations near residential centers, and drop-off stops in areas for shopping, doctors, schools, and other key locations. Bus stops are conveniently located about one-half mile apart, preferably on vacant rather than private property. They are not placed too close

to schools or preschools to discourage loitering. With safety as a prime concern, the VVTA avoids installing bus stops near underground utilities, curves in the road, trees or other visual obstacles, and areas where the shoulder of the road is too narrow. Other areas to avoided are driveways of commercial centers where a

stopped bus could block a driver's vision while in the driveway.


Despite every effort, routes do change to accommodate altered road configurations, population shifts or adding stops at new retail developments.

If you're aware of an area that needs additional service in any area covered by VVTA (Apple Valley, Adelanto, Hesperia, Victorville and unincorporated areas), please contact the transit coordinator for the specific city. In Apple Valley, that number is 240-7000 x 7521. General questions about VVTA can be directed to the transit agency at 948-3030, or you may check out their website at <http://vvta.org>.

And if you want to cut down a little on air pollution and oil consumption, take the bus! 



## Free commemorative calendars for 2009

A limited quantity of the first-ever Town of Apple Valley calendar will be available for pick up at Town Hall beginning December 15. The full-color calendar features selections from the 20th Anniversary Art/Photo/Essay contest on each page. Listings of council and commission meetings, special events, Town Hall closures and a two-page Town Services guide make for a resource you won't want to be without. With a "Green Apple" theme, the calendar also features tips and resources on each page to help you recycle and conserve to protect our environment. We are grateful to AVCO – A Burrtec Waste Industries Company for their significant contribution towards this project. Calendars are free while supplies last. 

# A Better Way of Life

# Recreation events and classes

**SCUBA SANTA:** You've always known that Santa could fly, but did you know he could SCUBA? Bring an unwrapped gift worth \$10 or more to the Civic Center Aquatic Center on December 13 from 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. and you can visit Santa and have your photo taken at the bottom of the pool. For ages 10 and over only, you'll get a brief safety course before diving. Enjoy hot cocoa and cookies while touring fire engines, police cars and helicopters. The event is sponsored by Sport Chalet and the San Bernardino County Sheriff Dive Team. For information and registration call 240-7000 x 7882. Free admission to spectators.

**CHRISTMAS CAMPFIRE:** Join us for caroling and cookies around the campfire at Horseman's Center December 19 from 7 – 9 p.m. for just \$7 per person; all ages are welcome. Visit with Santa as you enjoy hot cocoa, s'mores and Christmas stories. For more information or registration call 240-7880.

**SANTA AT THE PARK:** Santa is making the rounds in Apple Valley. Visit with him December 12 at James Woody Park from 3 – 5 p.m., and December 19 at Thunderbird Park 3 – 5 p.m. Visits with Santa are completely free and he'll be listening to



wish lists so be sure to bring a camera. For more information or registration call 240-7880.

**SHOP 'TIL YOU DROP:** Parents - need to do some holiday shopping? Don't want to take the kids with you? Leave them with our friendly Recreation Staff for a day of fun! Drop your child off at the James Woody Community Center from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. for a day filled with crafts, games, movies and outdoor activities. Pizza lunch will be served at 11 a.m. Register by Thursday, December 18. Cost is \$12.

**CREATIVE WRITING:** Author and award-winning journalist Charlene Engeron, will teach a six-week writing class Wednesdays from 5:30 to 7 p.m. This class will help remove the mental roadblocks that inhibit creativity in fiction and non-fiction. Cultivate new ideas and learn the basics for getting published in magazines, newspapers, books and on the Web. The first session begins February 4. Second session begins March 25. Cost is \$40 per person. Call (760)240-7880. ○

## Forecast: cold with a chance of flu

As cooler weather descends on Apple Valley, it is not uncommon for residents to wrestle with colds and flu symptoms. Residents who are traditionally exposed to these germs may want to consider getting a flu (influenza) shot. If the thought of getting a shot sends shivers up your spine, here are a few facts from the San Bernardino County Department of Public Health (SBCDPH) that may make you consider doing just that.

- 1) Influenza is a contagious respiratory virus. (This is not related to what people commonly call the "stomach" flu.)
- 2) Between 5 and 20 percent of the American population contracts the flu virus each year resulting in more than 200,000 hospitalizations and 36,000 deaths.
- 3) You cannot GET the flu from a flu shot. While some people have reported getting flu-like symptoms after receiving a flu shot, the San Bernardino Department of Public Health explains that

- the immunization is a "dead" virus that contains no live germs.
- 4) It takes up to 14 days after receiving a shot for the immunization to take full effect. What this means is that people who develop flu-like symptoms shortly after receiving the flu shot were most likely exposed to the virus before or during that two week incubation period.
- 5) A new flu shot is recommended every fall since the influenza vaccine components change yearly based on the expected viral strains circulating in the environment.

While many drug and grocery stores offer shot clinics costing in the range of \$25, the SBCDPH is offering the vaccine for \$5. For clinic locations and times, or more information on the flu vaccine, visit the SBCDPH website at [www.sbcounty.gov/dph](http://www.sbcounty.gov/dph) and go to the "Vote No for Flu" section. Or, you may call the Immunization Program at 1-800-722-4794 Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. ○

# Kick up your heels at Horseman's Center

If you haven't been to Horseman's Center lately it's time to take a little trip. This park at the east end of Town on Highway 18 offers shade, picnic areas, and a playground. The dog friendly park also features a walking trail with benches, water fountains and "clean up stations." Horse-owners will enjoy the recent improvements to both the show and rodeo arenas, such as fencing, gates, chutes and corrals as well as new footing material. For more information visit [www.applevalley.org](http://www.applevalley.org) or call 240-7880. ○



## Cold Hard Facts

As the weather turns colder people like to warm up their cars in the morning, starting the heater and defrosting windshields. The Apple Valley Police Department would like to remind the public that this is an open invitation to get your vehicle stolen. Please remember to lock your vehicles and do not leave your car unattended. Also allow extra driving time in the morning as there may be black ice due to weather conditions. ○



## Fight the frost

Here in the High Desert the change of seasons can be sudden and dramatic. Take a few minutes to prepare for fall and winter by following these tips.

To prevent freezing pipes, wrap exposed water lines with fiberglass or foam pipe insulation. Use 10 mil pipe wrap, electrical tape, or duct tape to secure the insulation to the pipe. Reduce sprinkler times as lower temperatures mean less evaporation. Also set watering times to mid-morning and early afternoon to prevent icy roads and sidewalks. Adjust your sprinkler heads year-round to prevent overspray. Check your vehicle's tires for proper inflation and tread wear, and check your antifreeze level to prepare for our occasional icy conditions and snowy days.

The onset of autumn serves as a reminder to start preparing lawns and landscaping for the winter months. Protect any vulnerable outside plants from freezing temperatures by covering them with plastic bags or fabric. When there is a threat of frost, cover your plants before sunset, then remove the plastic covers early in the morning to let the increasingly warmer daytime air reach the plants. Prune trees and bushes in the fall to maintain plant health, to improve the quality of flowers/fruit/foilage and stems, and to restrict unwanted growth. Fruit trees and roses are among many plants that need to be pruned on an annual basis. Sean Hagen, Parks Supervisor for the Town of Apple Valley, recommends the "Sunset Western Garden Book" for information on pruning, feeding, and general care of plants. ○




## The mortgage crisis and Code Enforcement


One of the challenges facing our community as a result of the mortgage crisis is the impact of vacant homes on neighboring property values. Foreclosed properties are often left with trash strewn about the yards, swimming pools with polluted water and overgrown weeds. These properties are also prime targets for vandals, squatters and burglars. This is where your neighborhood Code Enforcement Division comes into the picture.

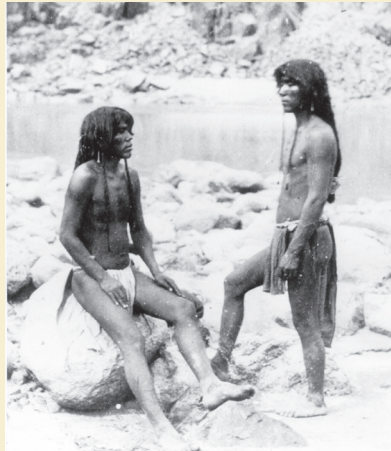
Code Enforcement has been very proactive in identifying foreclosed properties, and with 78 square miles to cover this is no easy task. Officers are on the look-out for the tell tale signs of vacant properties, and tackle related problems as quickly as possible. In a typical year

the Code Enforcement Division will obtain between 5 and 10 warrants from the courts to clean up vacant properties. These abatement warrants give Code Enforcement the authority to go onto a property to correct any Municipal Code violations. So far this year, Officers have obtained over 100 abatement warrants from the courts and that number continues to rise.

If you have a question or concern about a property in your neighborhood, visit the Town website at [www.applevalley.org](http://www.applevalley.org) and click on "Let Us Know". You can submit the information directly to our Code Enforcement Technicians, and someone will respond soon. You can also call 240-7000 x 7560. 


## 20th Anniversary spotlight

After nearly a year of planning, the Town of Apple Valley marked 20 years of incorporation at a community celebration on October 11, and officially turned 20 on November 28. Knowing we didn't spring from the desert floor in 1988, the printed event program included a look at our Town through the decades for the last 100 years. For the rest of the photos and descriptions, please visit [www.applevalley.org](http://www.applevalley.org). Click on "History" under the "About Apple Valley" menu. 



***The 1910 census lists Serrano and Paiute Indians living in the area of Apple Valley. Two Serrano Indian campsites have been excavated, uncovering ancient petroglyphs. The Paiutes are believed to have arrived in the 1860's.***

## ABC's of Water

Are you interested in local landscape ordinances? How do the cities compare? What affect have they had and how are they enforced? Join Mojave Water Agency and local representatives to learn more on January 27 from 5:30 – 7 p.m. in the MWA boardroom at 22450 Headquarters Drive in Apple Valley. To learn more call 946-7000. 

# Volunteers are in 'the zone'



Three-hundred-and-fifty-three hours in three-hundred-and-sixty-five days by three amazing kids. Shown, left to right, Bernadette Lopez, Randy Garcia, and Ashley Campion are all members of Teen Zone, a Town volunteer program for teens ages 13-16. Teen Zone allows teens to volunteer with the Recreation Department

as well as outside organizations in the Community including Habitat for Humanity, Pal Humane Society, Helping Paws, and the Paul Swick Community Garden. It provides monthly educational workshops, quarterly parties, and quarterly awards. To get involved or learn more call 240-7880. [O](http://www.applevalleyca.gov)

## TOWN INFORMATION

### TOWN COUNCIL

- Peter Allan
- Ginger Coleman
- Scott Nassif
- Rick Roelle
- Bob Sagona
- Frank W. Robinson, 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
  - Human Resources .....7600
  - Planning .....7200
  - Public Information .....7072
  - Public Works .....7500
  - Town Clerk .....7800
  - Town Manager .....7051
  - Transit .....7521

### OTHER TOWN DEPARTMENTS

- & SERVICES (dial direct)
- Code Enforcement ..... 240-7560
  - Parks & Recreation ..... 240-7880
  - Trash (AVCO) ..... 245-8607
  - Emergency
  - Preparedness ..... 247-7618



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