

**"Our Town"
March 2003**

Published by the Town of Apple Valley

For information contact the Public Information Department at (760)240-7000 x 7072

Park and Recreation Department embarks on Master Plan process

The Town of Apple Valley is updating the Master Plan for Park and Recreation Services, a process last completed in 1996. The Master Plan will provide a "blueprint" for future park and recreation growth and development as it relates to programs, park expansion and improvements. Park and Recreation Commissioners will be meeting with various community organizations that currently use town facilities to get their input on amenities and programs needed in our town. Also, public meetings will be held on Wednesday, March 26th and Thursday, April 3rd and April 17th in the Council Chambers at 7 pm.

Additionally, residents are encouraged to complete and return the survey located on page 3 of this issue of Our Town. The survey will also be made available to print from our website.

For more information, please call the Park and Recreation Department at 240-7880.

Passport services now available at Apple Valley Town Hall

International travel just got a little easier with the addition of passport services at Apple Valley Town Hall. With convenient hours and a friendly environment, the newest service by the Town Clerk's office began on March 10.

Passport services are offered on a walk-in basis Monday through Thursday from 8:00 a.m. to 12 noon, and afternoon appointments are available by request. When applying for a passport, applicants must bring an original birth certificate or naturalization certificate, and a valid driver's license or state ID card. Since Town Hall is not set up to take passport photos, applicants must also bring two photos with them, available at a nominal cost from several local sources.

For age 16 or older the cost is \$85, or \$70 for ages 15 and under. The Town retains \$30 of that as a processing fee. The whole process takes 5 – 6 weeks, although a rush service is available for an additional \$60, reducing the processing time to 2 – 3 weeks. Emergency passport needs can be handled through the Los Angeles office.

For more information please call the Town of Apple Valley Town Clerk's office at 240-7000 x 7800.

Upcoming Special Events

- Spring Craft Fair

Shop the annual Spring Craft Fair Saturday, April 5, at the James A. Woody Community Center. Over 50 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. Call Rosanna Lafler at 240-7000 x 7071 for more information.

- 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!

This event is sponsored by the Town of Apple Valley, Keep California Beautiful, and the Apple Valley Community Resource Foundation.

This program is offered in conjunction with the County of San Bernardino Solid Waste Management System Division Free Dump and Recycle Day! Call Rosanna Lafler, Event Coordinator, at 240-7000 x 7071

- Bunny Run

Categories for men, women and children make this 5/10K run fun for the whole family! All ages are invited Saturday, April 19 at Lions Park, Outer Highway 18 just east of Dale Evans Parkway. Check-in is at 7:00 a.m. and the race starts at 7:30. Pre-registration is \$8 prior to April 17, or \$10 after that. Race t-shirts are available for \$9 while supplies last. Children under 10 must be accompanied by an adult. For more information call 240-7880.

Give your old shoes a new life

Clean out your lockers, gym bags and closets and get your old shoes back in the game! The Town of Apple Valley has committed to collecting 5000 pairs of shoes for the Nike “Reuse-A-Shoe” program between now and June 30. So if you want to reward your sneaks for a job well done, recycle them with Nike and 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 is one of only 25 agencies nationwide partnering with Nike in this project. By our participation we will have an opportunity to apply for a \$25,000 grant towards new sports surfaces made with Nike Grind.

Our first collection will occur on Saturday, April 12 in conjunction with Community Clean Up Day. We will also have a collection on May 17 at the Community Yard Sale. Not every shoe is cut out to be Nike Grind. We are collecting used athletic shoes, only – any brand. Shoes must be free of metal eyelets, spikes or cleats. For other collection options, check our website or call 240-7000 x 7072.

Exotic Newcastle Disease in California

Exotic Newcastle Disease (END) was diagnosed in backyard poultry flocks in Southern California in October 2002. END is a very contagious, and often fatal, viral disease that affects most species of birds. Birds with END may have respiratory, nervous, or gastrointestinal symptoms, but some birds may die without showing any signs. Symptom-free birds can still spread the disease to other birds with fatal consequences.

The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) are currently conducting an eradication campaign for END. The disease is restricted to poultry in Los Angeles, Riverside, San Bernardino, and San Diego Counties. Officials are going door-to-door to find sick birds in affected areas and tracing birds into and out of infected flocks.

So far, END has not been found in Apple Valley, although it has been identified in the High Desert. It is not a public health threat and does not affect the safety of poultry or eggs. Call 1-800-491-1899 for more information and to report suspicious cases.

Town plays role in regional issues

People may think that the Town Council has an “easy” job – two meetings a month and the occasional appearance at community events. The truth is our Council members spend many hours making sure that the Apple Valley perspective is brought forward in all regional issues by serving on many boards, committees and commissions. They know that effective leadership requires collaboration with other agencies across the High Desert and Southern California.

The Town is a member of several joint power authorities (JPA), associations that help cities to share costs and resources to address specific local services. These include the California Joint Powers Insurance Authority, Mojave Desert Solid Waste JPA and the Victor Valley Transit Authority (VVTA). Council members also serve on the boards of the Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District and the Victor Valley Waste Water Reclamation Authority.

Beyond the boundaries of the High Desert, a Council member serves on the Board of Directors of the San Bernardino Association of Governments (SANBAG), the transportation planning agency for our County. This position has proven critical in cooperative regional planning and unified efforts in attracting funding. Projects that will eventually lead to an additional east-west portal out of Apple Valley are moving forward due to the work of this organization.

Additionally, the Town has been very active in the League of California Cities, with one of our Council members currently serving as president of the Desert-Mountain Division, an area that covers 15 cities from Mammoth to Big Bear and from Palmdale to Needles.

Remember, the Town's voice is your voice. The Town Council welcomes comments on both local and regional issues that affect our residents. For a list of which Council members serve on the various boards, please visit our website at www.applevalley.org, or call 240-7000 x 7072.

Committee seeking Apple Valley history

The Historical Advisory Committee (HAC) of the Town of Apple Valley completed the long-term project of publishing the "Historical Points of Interest" booklet last year, but they are by no means resting on their laurels! The committee includes Chairperson Debi Trudeau, Vice-Chair Art Bolding, Bill Bascom, Joan Lopez and James Woody, and members at large Al Bush (Mohave Historical Society) and Carl Mason (Victor Valley Museum).

The HAC continues to collect artifacts and stories on the colorful history of our Town. The committee also works closely with the Victor Valley Museum, the Victor Valley College Local History Collection, long time residents and a store of resources to answer frequent inquiries on Apple Valley history. However, we have run into a dead-end on a recent find.

In a storage room in our very own Community Center, an employee discovered a plaque that reads, "This fountain dedicated in loving memory of Capt. Lyle N. Leavitt USAF. Born June 1, 1917, who was active in the early growth of this community in Apple Valley. Killed in service to his country August 23, 1950."

We have newspaper articles about his pending move to Apple Valley in 1948, and about his death in a plane crash near El Mirage in 1950. People involved with the Park District at that time recall a water fountain dedicated in front of the community center. However we do not have any photographs, any indication as to the date the fountain was dedicated, or information as to the role he played in the early growth of Apple Valley.

If you have any information on this plaque, or have any artifacts, memorabilia or personal recollections of Apple Valley, we would love to hear about it. Donations are accepted. In the case of printed material, we can make copies if you prefer to retain the original. Please call Kathie Martin, Public Information Officer, at 240-7000 x 7070.