

# **CITY MANAGER'S UPDATE**

From: Henry Garcia, City Manager

# **CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE**

#### Administration

City Hosts League of California Cities Regional Meeting The City hosted the January 13 Riverside County Division of the League of California Cities meeting. Approximately 90 participants, including elected officials and staff from the 29 cities within Riverside County, attended the meeting at the CRC. The program included a brief welcome by Mayor Owings and a presentation by Michael Coleman, fiscal policy consultant for the League.

#### 2012 Employee Giving Campaign

The results of the 2012 City Employee Giving Campaign have been tallied up and the generous employees of Moreno Valley have donated a total of \$12,730 to the United Way and Community Health Charities. The donations include \$3,000 raised through special events such as Denim Days, Breakfast Burritos, Silent Auction, Department Feud, Chili Cook-off, Executive Lunch, Snack Basket, Jewelry Making classes, Candygrams, Arbonne skincare demonstration, and generous cash donations from Waste Management and The Beeson Group. A total of \$9,730 was pledged by participating employees to the United Way and Community Health Charities. Special thanks are in order to the hardworking members of the Employee Giving Campaign who devoted their time and energy to planning and conducting all of the fund raising activities: Campaign Chair Kathy Savala (Parks and Community Services), Liliana Alvarado (Human Resources), Ariana Ayala (Public Works), Tina Gallegos (Animal Services), Jeremy Hamilton (Finance), Gina Henderson (Fire), Loes Knutson (Library), Ewa Lopez (Council/City Clerk), Cathy Parada (City Manager), Liz Plazola (Land Development), Rob Roseen (Media), Lisa Smethurst (Parks and Community Services), Joy Uribe (Parks and Community Services), Margaret Williams (Special Districts), and Officer Manier, (PSB).

#### Media and Communications Division

#### **Event Coverage**

• Swearing In Ceremony

#### New MVTV-3 & YouTube Programming

- Launched a New All Digital MVTV-3 Programming Guide
- "News Center: M.V. Auto Mall Car Display Ribbon Cutting" <a href="http://youtu.be/\_nCUuxuOKWg">http://youtu.be/\_nCUuxuOKWg</a>

- Veterans Day 2012 Video <a href="http://youtu.be/4f2S-LIB4Bw">http://youtu.be/4f2S-LIB4Bw</a>
- "Spotlight on Moreno Valley Business: Rancho Belago Realty" <a href="http://youtu.be/qz8C5gDHMdg">http://youtu.be/qz8C5gDHMdg</a>
- "Spotlight on Moreno Valley Business: Portillos" http://youtu.be/wfBO2XucaT0
- "Spotlight on Moreno Valley Business: Chicago's" http://youtu.be/\_fgCFP9EIOM
- "Spotlight on Moreno Valley Business: McDonald's" http://youtu.be/FxRWMLpdOOM

# Jobs / Education Linkage Initiative

The City Manager's Office is pleased to announce that the 2013 Jobs / Education Linkage training program is under way!

Last year, we worked with the Riverside Community College District (RCCD) and the San Bernardino Community College District (SBCCD) to create a training program that facilitates employment of Moreno Valley's residents at new / local logistics facilities.

Two new classes recently commenced: 21 Moreno Valley students began the Certified Logistics Associate course and 13 students started the Programmable Logic Control systems course. Graduates of the Certified Logistics Associate and Certified Logistics Technician curriculum gain skills for employment as entry- and mid-level logistics staff. In addition, with emerging logistics technologies, many distribution centers offer higher paying positions that require advanced skills in programming and maintenance of robotics, conveyors, computer numerical control, and programmable logic control systems. We look forward to our new student residents' graduation and full employment in the logistics industry!

RCCD thanks Denise Bagley and Linda Arnold for the tremendous support and hospitality provided by the Employment Resource Center to RCCD and the residents of Moreno Valley.

#### **CITY CLERK'S OFFICE**

#### Swearing-in Ceremony

On January 2, Jane Halstead, City Clerk, conducted the swearing-in ceremony for the newly appointed Mayor Tom Owings, and newly appointed Mayor Pro Tem Marcelo Co. A reception sponsored by the Moreno

Valley Chamber of Commerce was held following the ceremony.

The Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem are selected annually by majority vote of the Council members and serve a one-year term. The Mayor's position is largely ceremonial and includes presiding over Council meetings, representing the City at official functions and signing official documents.

# COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

#### Administration

#### Former Albertson's Site

A major grocery company continues to work on plans to acquire the former Albertson's building at the NW corner of Ironwood and Pigeon Pass for reuse as a new grocery store operation. The 43,609 S.F. building, along with a 4-acre parcel in the neighborhood shopping center is owned by SuperValu Inc.-the parent company of Albertson's. The potential user has been busy formulating a budget for a significant rehabilitation project for the former Albertson's store. Both City staff and the owner of the Pigeon Pass Plaza are working closely with the grocery company on ways to make this transaction work.

#### Chipotle Coming

Work continues on the new site in TownGate Center for Chipotle. Look for the new Chipotle restaurant to open later in January. The new Chipotle in Moreno Valley will be the 13<sup>th</sup> Chipotle in the Inland Region including other locations in Chino Hills, Corona, Eastvale, Hemet, Menifee, Montclair, Norco, Rancho Cucamonga, Redlands, Riverside, San Bernardino and Temecula.

#### Alessandro & Graham Project

Walls are going up quickly on the new neighborhood shopping center at the NE corner of Graham and Alessandro. This is the first new ground up retail development to start construction in Moreno Valley in the past five years. Hopefully this is a good indication that the economy has turned the corner and more new development will be on the way. Uses at this new development project include a 7-11 Store, a UPS Store, a Flame Broiler Restaurant and a car wash.

#### Kaiser Permanente

Movement is towards the opening of the new medical office building (MOB) at Kaiser Permanente's Moreno Valley Community Hospital Campus. A temporary occupancy permit was issued in mid-December to enable Kaiser to start moving furniture and equipment into the

75,000 S.F. MOB. A 3-phase occupancy will start in late January, with a full use of the building by late April.

#### Harbor Freight Tools DC

Operations for Harbor Freight Tools (HFT) distribution facilities in Moreno Valley continue to expand. The 779,016 S.F. HFT Distribution Center (DC) at the NW corner of Graham and Cactus in the Centerpointe Business Park is now at full operating capability after opening in November 2011. The 507,720 S.F. expansion for HFT's DC was approved by the City Council on December 11 and has been filed. However, the law firm of Johnson & Sedlack-representing the Sierra Club of Moreno Valley and Residents for a Livable Moreno Valley have sued the City and the developer. This is disappointing news considering the need to produce new jobs in the community. With a bit of positive news work continues on tenant improvements for HFT's 2<sup>nd</sup> DC facility in Moreno Valley—a 691,960 S.F. building at the First Inland Logistics Center in South Moreno Valley.

# **Building & Safety Division**

#### Development Update

The following is a summary of current development activities being worked on within the Building & Safety Division:

#### • Certificate of Occupancy

- o PD Traffic Division Public Safety Building
- o S Bar & Grill
- Morrison Fire Station
- Starbucks @ Lakeside Plaza
- o Edible Arrangements @ Lakeside Terrace
- o Round 1 @ the Moreno Valley Mall
- McDonald's @ Moreno Valley Plaza
- O Dollar Tree @ Lakeside Terrace

#### • Temporary Certificate of Occupancy

- Hemlock Family Apartments Phase I
- Harbor Freight Tool DC @ First Inland Logistics
- Oasis Community Church
- Nandina Distribution Center IDS Real Estate
   Group
- Lumber Liquidators @ Canyon Springs Plaza
- Kaiser Permanente Medical Office Building @ Moreno Valley Community Hospital

#### • Building Permit Issued – Under Construction

- o Robertson's Ready Mix Concrete Plant
- Hemlock Apartments Rancho Belago
   Developers Phase II
- Centerpointe Logistics Center Overton Moore Properties
- o Rancho Dorado Apartment (Phase II) Palm Communities

- o Graham Street Center 7-11; Car wash, and Flame Broiler
- o I-215 Logistics Center Trammell Crow Co.

## • Tenant Improvements Underway

- o Moss GMC/Buick
- o Moss Chevrolet
- o Wizard's Party House Jump House
- o Fitness 19 on Perris Blvd.
- o Southern Illinois University
- o PI Grill
- o Chipotle @ Towngate Center
- Volkswagen of Moreno Valley

# • Plan Check Underway for New Buildings

- o Inland Empire Global Logistics Center
- o Panattoni Development
- Westridge Commerce Center Ridge Property Trust
- o O'Reilly Auto on Perris Blvd.
- o Family Dollar on Perris Blvd.

#### **Quick Stats**

The following are statistics for November 2012 and November 2011 for activity in the Building & Safety Division.

CATEGORY	NOV 2012	NOV 2011
Customer Counter Visits- total/daily average	585	573
Building Permits Issued	119	158
Construction Valuation	\$45,384,336	\$1,898,606
Construction Inspections Performed	824	636
Issued Certificates of Occupancy	5	17
Plan Check Activity	155	NA
Monthly Revenue	\$78,170*	\$162,297
Fiscal Year to Date Revenue	\$392,875	\$599,537

# Lumber Liquidators Store Open

The new Lumber Liquidators store has opened in the Canyon Springs Plaza at the NW corner of SR 60 and Day Street. Many thanks to Fire Prevention and Building & Safety Division for helping resolve some sprinkler, fire alarm and building occupancy issues to get this store open as soon as possible. Lumber Liquidators has more than 200 stores in 46 states including 12 in Southern California-with three other stores in the Inland Region in Murrieta, Rancho Cucamonga and Palm Desert.

#### **Business & Neighborhood Programs Division**

#### Successor Agency Oversight Board Update

The California Legislature adopted AB 1484 in an effort to make technical changes and corrections to the AB 26 (the Dissolution Act) in unwinding former RDA activities across the state. AB 1484 required the Successor Agency to retain a licensed accountant to conduct two separate Due Diligence Reviews (DDRs) related to housing assets and obligations (Housing DDR) and non-housing assets and obligations (Non-Housing DDR). The purpose of the reviews is to determine the unobligated fund balances available for transfer to local taxing agencies.

#### Housing DDR

The Housing Due Diligence Review (DDR) was completed by the accounting firm of Lance, Soll & Lunghard and approved by the Oversight Board and submitted to the Department of Finance ("DOF") for approval on October 15, 2012. The report revealed that no unobligated funds were available to transfer to other taxing agencies.

On November 16, the DOF responded with a letter challenging part of the results of the Housing DDR and directing the Successor Agency to remit approximately \$3.5 million that had been retained in the Low-Mod Income Housing Fund (LMIHF) to be distributed to local taxing entities. The DOF indicated that the funds that are legally restricted for the Rancho Dorado South Affordable Housing Project should have been adjusted to an amount lower than the amount listed on the ROPS. On December 5, Successor Agency/City staff participated in a Meet & Confer with the DOF to appeal the decision and try to demonstrate that the LMIHF's retained for the Rancho Dorado project should be considered an enforceable obligation and placed in escrow for disbursement when the development project is completed this year.

On December 15, the DOF responded with a letter denying the appeal and directing the Successor Agency to remit approximately \$3.5 million of LMIHF's that had been retained for the project to be distributed to local taxing entities. The Successor Agency/City staff disagrees with this decision and will consider legal options available to continue its work with the DOF to resolve this issue. DOF and the Office for the California Attorney General have responded by saying they will not press for payment until at least February while continuing to try and resolve this issue.

#### Non-Housing DDR

On December 11, 2012, the Successor Agency reviewed the results of the Non-Housing Due Diligence Review

(DDR) and authorized staff to submit the report to the Oversight Board for review and approval. The Oversight Board conducted a meeting on December 12, 2012 to discuss the report and to solicit comments from the public. At its next meeting on January 9, 2012, the Oversight Board approved the report and it has been submitted it to the DOF and the County Auditor-Controller.

#### **ROPS III**

On December 18, 2012, the Successor Agency received a determination letter from the DOF disallowing several agreements listed on the Recognized Obligation Payment Schedule (ROPS) III for repayment with future tax revenue. The Mayor Richard Stewart, Rick Teichert and Barry Foster had went to Sacramento on November 5 to participate in a Meet & Confer meeting with DOF. Issued in response to the Agency's appeal of DOF's prior denial, the determination letter disallowed the payment of several important capital project contracts that were to be funded with 2007 RDA bond proceeds. The Successor Agency disagrees with this decision and will pursue options available to continue its work with the DOF to resolve this issue.

Proposed Amendments to the NSP1 and NSP3 Programs
The NSP 1 and NSP3 Programs are being modified to improve the City's ability to effectively respond to current market conditions. The NSP1 Program is being amended to include demolition, rehabilitation, and land banking activities. These activities will be implemented in conjunction with the current program activities.

The NSP3 Program is being amended redefine/broaden the existing Target Area #2 and reallocate budgeted funds between already approved eligible activities. The expansion of the target area will include the Edgemont Area. While the City is currently developing a revitalization plan for the Edgemont area, the modifications that are being made to the NSP Program are independent of the overall Edgemont Revitalization plan. It is anticipated that the NSP Program will be used in the future, to assist with achieving the revitalization goals of the Edgemont Area. However, given the HUD-imposed obligation and expenditure deadlines for the NSP grants immediate implementation. The amendments for NSP were approved at the January 8, City Council meeting.

In the addition to the amendments made to each specific NSP program, both programs will be modified to change acquisition criteria that affect subsidy limits and minimum rehabilitation requirements. Currently, the minimum rehabilitation requirement is \$15,000, and the subsidy limits for NSP1 and NSP3 are \$56,000 and

\$36,000, respectively. These criteria were established at the inception of the NSP programs. Since the Moreno Valley real estate market has changed dramatically, the program will be amended to eliminate both limits, which is allowed under NSP standards. In doing so, the City will have the much needed flexibility to consider properties for acquisition that would otherwise had been excluded from the program.

# Update on Myers Park Apartments Rehabilitation

The Business Support & Neighborhood Programs Division continues to work with Mary Erickson Community Housing (MECH), a nonprofit affordable housing developer, on the rehabilitation of a 27-unit affordable housing project located at 24410 and 24420 Myers Avenue. Major rehabilitation of the project - which includes but is not limited to exterior and interior paint, bathroom and kitchen upgrades, new flooring, new HVAC systems, and landscaping improvements - began October 29, 2012 and continues with great progress.

As of December 19, rehabilitation was 100% complete on four of the 27 units. Three of the completed units are now occupied by income-eligible households that were residents of the property prior to the City's NSP acquisition. The rehabilitation is being completed in phases of 4-units with construction expected to be completed by the end of March 2013. The newly rehabilitated units will be made available to low-income households at or below 50% of the area median income (\$33,500 for a family of four). Below are post-rehabilitation photos of a kitchen and bathroom:





Post-rehabilitation photos of kitchen and bathroom

Income-eligible households interested in residency opportunities at Myers Park Apartments can contact Trilar Property Management for more information at (951) 925-2021.

#### Foreclosure Prevention Workshop

On Saturday January 12 a free Foreclosure Prevention Workshop was held from 11 am until 3pm at the Moreno Valley Ranch Community Center. Participating lenders with a number of counselors at the event included J.P. Morgan-Chase and Bank of America.

#### Home Resale Activity-November 2012

The housing resale market fluctuated up and down throughout 2012. The average resale home value in Moreno Valley for November was \$176,458, which was a 4.6% increase from the value of \$168,640 for the month of October. Other nearby communities such as Riverside, Corona, Hemet/San Jacinto, and Temecula/Murrieta and saw property values increase by an average of 4%. The City of Perris saw its property values decrease by 4.3% during the month of November.

The number of resale transactions increased in this reporting period going from 197 transactions in October to 201 in November. During the eleven months of the calendar year2012, there were 2,304 resale transactions in Moreno Valley, which is a monthly average of 209. The housing resale market continues to be mixed in other nearby Riverside county communities including Corona, Riverside, Perris, Hemet/San Jacinto and Temecula/Murrieta.

#### <u>Unemployment-November2012</u>

Unemployment took a sharp drop in California and the Inland Region in November as compared to the previous month. Moreno Valley's unemployment rate decreased from 13.9% to 13.3%. Below are the unemployment statistics:

	<u>November</u>	<u>October</u>
California	9.8	10.1
Riverside County	11.5	12.0
Banning	13.2	13.8
Beaumont	13.1	13.7
Hemet	14.5	15.1
Moreno Valley	13.3	13.9
Perris	17.9	18.6
Riverside	11.6	12.1
San Jacinto	17.4	18.1

#### **Business Spotlight**

The Spotlight on Moreno Valley Business program seeks to increase the community's awareness of the many businesses that operate in Moreno Valley. The businesses showcased at the January 8 City Council meeting were Portillo's Restaurant and Rancho Belago Realty.

The Business Spotlight program also wishes to alert the City Council of some of the new businesses in the community. A few of the recent openings include:

• Low Cost Outlet—New retail business that assumed the space at 25010 Alessandro Boulevard previously used by Nations Rent to Own. The general merchandize company secures overstock

- product from major retailers such as Costco, Macy's and Sam's Club.
- TownGate Cleaners—Dry cleaning and alterations business that opened in October next Ballard Rehabilitation in the rear of TownGate Center.
- WNW Fashion—Women's fashion and accessories retailer that opened in December in the Sunnymead Village Shopping Center at 24725 Alessandro Boulevard.

# Code & Neighborhood Services Division

#### **Quick Stats**

The following statistics provided are for Code & Neighborhood Services Division for the months of November 2012 and November 2011.

	NOV	NOV
	<u>2012</u>	<u>2011</u>
Cases initiated	256	237
Closed case investigations	281	257
Parking Citations issued	2109	1827
Administrative Citations issued	147	125
Counter Customers	248	228

# Foreclosures and Squatters

At the January 15 Study Session the City Council reviewed ways to enhance the maintenance of foreclosed bank owned homes, and explored ways to prevent trespassing or squatting in vacant houses. Some next steps include:

- Consider whether to adopt a Vacant Property Registration Ordinance.
- Implementation of a public information program on Foreclosure Maintenance and Squatters to be presented to the 34 Homeowner Associations (HOA's) in Moreno Valley.
- Work with HOA's on formulating a signage program for illegal trespassing (squatting).
- Consider forming a Squatter Strike Team-similar to the Foreclosure Strike Team.

#### Land Development Division

#### Development Update

The following represents a summary of the development activity being worked on by the Land Development Division:

# • Grading Permits Issued

- o Kaiser Permanente Medical Office Building
- o Robertson's Ready Mix Concrete Plan
- Hemlock Family Apartments Rancho Belago Developers
- Centerpointe Logistics Center Overton Moore Properties

- o Rancho Dorado Apartments (Phase II) Palm Communities
- o I-215 Logistics Center-Trammell Crow Co.
- o Graham Street Center
- o O'Reilly Auto on Perris Blvd.

# • Plan Check Underway for Grading Plans

- o Inland Empire Global Logistics Center-Panattoni Development
- Vogel Development
- o Westridge Commerce Center
- O'Reilly Auto Parts and Family Dollar on Perris Blvd.

#### **Quick Stats**

Following are Quick Stats for the months of November 2012 and November 2011 for the Land Development Division.

	Nov	Nov
	<u>2012</u>	<u>2011</u>
Plan Checks Processed	11	23
Grading Permits Issued	1	0
Number of Inspections	132	336
Counter Customer Visit	115	142

#### Planning Division

#### **Quick Stats**

	NOV	OCT	NOV
	<u>2012</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2011</u>
Counter Customers	295	350	284
Major Case submittals	15	2	2
Minor Case submittals	76	53	52
Plan Check submittals	29	51	38
Application Fees	\$118,294	\$48,459	\$42,389

#### **Planning Commission**

At the last meeting of the Planning Commission on December 13, 2012, the following actions were taken:

Recommended that the City Council approve four Plot Plans, a Specific Plan Amendment and a General Plan Amendment related to the March Business Center. The proposed project is located at the southeast corner of Heacock Street and Iris Avenue in the Moreno Valley Industrial Area. The project proposes four industrial/warehouse buildings, ranging in size for 16,732 to 1,103,003 square feet, with a total of 1,484,407 square feet of building area. The Specific Plan and General Plan amendments propose to realign and downgrade Krameria Avenue between Indian and Heacock Streets from an Arterial to an Industrial Collector to reflect anticipated traffic volumes. The applicant is the Western Realco. Due to the inclusion of the Specific Plan and General Plan amendments, the

- project will be forwarded to the City Council for final review and action. That review is tentatively scheduled for the January 22, 2013, City Council meeting.
- Approved a Plot Plan and Amended Master Plot Plans related to the proposed expansion of the emergency room at the Kaiser Hospital and related addition of testing facilities. The applicant is Kaiser Foundation Hospitals.

#### Administrative Approvals

The following are recent administrative approvals:

- Amended Conditional Use Permit to convert a former child day care center at 24693 Ironwood Avenue to an adult day care center (the Bliss Center).
- Amended Plot Plan to combine to vacant anchor tenant spaces into a single large building for a new health club (LA Fitness) at 27610 Eucalyptus Avenue in the Moreno Beach Plaza. The approval also includes substantial exterior updating of the building architecture.
- Plot Plan to install a photovoltaic solar system on the roof of an existing mini-storage facility at 21201 Box Springs Road.
- Plot Plan to establish a new church in an existing commercial building at 14420 Elsworth Street.
- Plot Plan to establish a new restaurant (Wing and Fish Market) in an existing shopping center at 14051 Indian Street.
- Plot Plan to establish a new minor automotive repair shop in an existing light industrial complex at 14300 Elsworth Street.

#### Recent Case Submittals

The following are recent planning case submittals:

- Tentative Parcel Map to create four parcels, one for each existing building, at the Lakeside Terrace shopping center at the northeast corner of Lasselle Street and Iris Avenue in Moreno Valley Ranch. The subdivision would allow for each building to be sold or re-financed separately.
- Amended Conditional Use Permit to revise an existing telecommunications facility (T-Mobile) located at the northeast corner of Frederick Street and Eucalyptus Avenue to expand capacity.
- Amended Conditional Use Permit to revise an existing telecommunications facility (Sprint) located at 10271 Heacock Street to expand capacity.
- Amended Conditional Use Permit to revise an existing telecommunications facility (Sprint) located at 12300 Cottonwood Avenue to expand capacity.
- Amended Conditional Use Permit to revise an

existing telecommunications facility (T-Mobile) located at 13931 Elsworth Street to expand capacity.

- Amended Conditional Use Permit to revise an existing telecommunications facility (T-Mobile) located at 24831 Alessandro Boulevard to expand capacity.
- Amended Conditional Use Permit to revise an existing telecommunications facility (Sprint) located at 13051 Elsworth Street to expand capacity.
- Amended Conditional Use Permit to revise an existing telecommunications facility (Sprint) located at 12380 Quincy Street to expand capacity.
- Amended Conditional Use Permit to revise an existing telecommunications facility (T-Mobile) located at 23800 Sunnymead Boulevard to expand capacity.
- Plot Plan to establish a new internet café in an existing shopping center at 13121 Perris Boulevard.
- Monument Signs for Valley Jewelry and Loan on Alessandro Boulevard.
- Monument Sign for Moreno Valley Volkswagen in the Moreno Valley Auto Mall.

#### Foreclosures and Homes Listed for Sale

Information available from the RealtyTrac website for November shows a decrease in foreclosure activity in both the City and the County. The website reported one in 175 housing units in Moreno Valley were in some stage of foreclosure, or 0.57% of mortgages in the City. This compares to a rate of one in 166 units in the prior month of October and the one in 106 in November 2011. Foreclosure activity is 5% lower than the prior month and 39% lower than the same month last year. Please note a higher number—175 versus 166, indicates a lower foreclosure rate.

Calimesa had the lowest rate locally (1 in 332) and Winchester had the highest rate (1 in 143).

By zip code, area 92551 had the highest foreclosure rate in the Moreno Valley (1 in 123) and area 92553 had the lowest rates (1 in 232). Foreclosure activity decreased in all zip code areas in Moreno Valley except for 92555.

Moreno Valley had 319 homes reported in some stage of foreclosure in November, less than the 335 homes in the prior month. The City of Riverside had the highest number of reported foreclosure properties in Riverside County at 471—with Moreno Valley second and Corona just behind in third with 300. The overall number of foreclosed homes is consistent with the size of Riverside, Moreno Valley and Corona and their population base and significant number of single family

homes. Moreno Valley has a total of 55,825 single-family homes-with just 319 foreclosed homes.

The trends are shown in the chart below:

	NOV	OCT		NOV	
	2012	2012	Change	2011	Change
Foreclosure	175	166	(5%)	106	(39%)
Rate/City					
Foreclosure	248	205	(17%)	131	(47%)
Rate/County					

Information available from the Realtor.com website indicates a continuing decrease in the number of homes for sale in the City and some strength in median asking prices. As of December 1, 390 homes were listed for sale, compared with 428 at the start of the prior month, and 988 in the same month last year.

January 2010 marked the prior low point for inventory in recent years when 806 homes were listed for sale. Inventory fell sharply in 2009 from a high of 2,068 in January 2009, and increased throughout 2010 and early 2011 to a peak of 1,230 in March 2011 before steadily declining since that time.

The current inventory of homes for sale is less than a three-month supply. Anything less than a six-month supply of homes for sale is considered a limited supply. At less than half of a normal inventory, the current situation indicates a shortage of homes for sale.

The median asking price in December was \$169,000, compared with \$165,500 in the prior month of November, along with \$152,000 in December of last year.

The trends are shown in the chart below:

	DEC 2012	NOV 2012	Change	DEC 2011	Change
Homes for Sale	390	428	(9%)	988	(61%)
Median Asking Price	\$169,000	\$165,000	+2%	\$152,000	+11%

# FINANCIAL & ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DEPARTMENT

#### **Technology Services Division**

New Digital Imagery Enhances GIS Maps Online

Technology Services proudly announces the release of new 3-inch resolution imagery! This new orthophotography, additional building footprints, and updated curb line data reflects the changes that have occurred throughout the City since the last update in 2008. Utilizing this imagery, both online and in

hardcopy map format, will assist staff in visualizing and interpreting ground features to facilitate informed analysis and effective decision-making.

The Sanborn Map Company was selected as the result of a competitive bidding process to acquire the new, custom flown citywide image. The flight was completed in June and covered over 63 square miles which included the City, March Air Reserve Base, and a 500 foot buffer around the City's boundary. A total of approximately 1,800 raw images were collected. Using control points, the images were matched to features on the ground to ensure accuracy. The data processing and quality control review of the imagery was completed by staff over a three month period. Requiring over 92 gigabytes of storage space, the size and complexity of the final product required an additional 25 hours of staff time to load into the GIS database.

With development activity increasing once again in the City, we are excited to offer this new imagery for staff and public use. Current GIS imagery is critical to successful planning and development efforts. The final product is posted and ready for viewing on the GIS MapsOnline Intranet and Internet sites. Please contact us at 413.3424 if you have any questions.

#### **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

20<sup>th</sup> Annual Spark of Love Toy Drive

The Moreno Valley Fire Department, in conjunction with Riverside County Fire Department / CAL FIRE and ABC-7, conducted its 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Spark of Love Toy Drive. The toy drive officially started



drive officially started November 17<sup>th</sup> and continued through December 24<sup>th</sup>.

With the help from Moreno Valley Community Assistance Program (CAP), Moreno Valley Fire Explorers, Moreno Valley Reserve Firefighters, volunteers from Kohl's as well as Fire Department personnel and their families, toys and sports equipment were distributed to 686 children from 266 families. Additionally, toys were distributed to 55 families with 115 children at the Women's Shelter in Moreno Valley.

December 24<sup>th</sup> was a special day for the children admitted to Riverside County Regional Medical Center (RCRMC) and their siblings as firefighters from Truck 91 visited the medical center to distribute toys and spread holiday cheer. The nurses at RCRMC were

ecstatic with the generosity of the donations from the community which made the children's day a little brighter.

The Fire Department would like to thank all those who donated to our Spark of Love Toy Drive. With your help, we were able to give the underprivileged children in our City a very special and wonderful holiday.

#### Significant Events

On December 12 Moreno Valley Firefighters responded to a residential structure fire in the Kennedy Park Fire Station response area. Upon arrival, firefighters found a double wide mobile home that had fire issuing from the structure. An aggressive interior fire attack contained the fire within 10 minutes and confined the fire to the living room, crawl space underneath the dwelling, and exterior wall with limited smoke and fire damage to the A total of four fire engines, two truck residence. companies, one breathing support, and one Chief Officer were committed to the incident, for a total of 23 personnel. Units from Riverside County Fire/CAL FIRE provided coverage of the open fire stations in the city during the time of this incident in order to provide emergency fire and medical response to all other 9-1-1 calls.

On December 13, Morrison Park Engine 99, Sunnymead Fire Engine 2, College Park Fire Truck 91, and a Battalion Chief were dispatched to a traffic collision on eastbound State Highway 60 at the Moreno Beach exit. Upon arrival, firefighters located two vehicles with major damage. One person was trapped inside a vehicle while three other subjects had self-extricated from the vehicles. Engine 99's crew immediately began advance life support care for the trapped victim who had moderate traumatic injuries while Truck 91 began the extrication process. Within 10 minutes the victim had been extricated from the vehicle. The patient was then transported to the local area trauma receiving center. The outcome of the patient who was extricated from the vehicle is unknown at this time.

On December 19 Moreno Valley Firefighters responded to a residential structure fire in the Kennedy Park Fire Station response area. Upon arrival, firefighters found a single family residence with heavy smoke and fire issuing from the garage area of the residence. Initial reports from neighbors stated that someone might still be inside the house. An aggressive interior fire attack with simultaneous roof top ventilation was coordinated as firefighters searched the home for any victims. Firefighters confirmed the dwelling was clear of any victims and successfully contained the fire to the garage area of the home. A total of four fire engines, two truck

companies, one breathing support, and two Chief Officers, were committed to the incident, for a total of 23 personnel. Units from Riverside County Fire/CAL FIRE provided coverage of the open fire stations in the city during the time of this incident in order to provide emergency fire and medical response to all other 9-1-1 calls.

On December 19, Kennedy Park Fire Engine 65 was dispatched to a suspected full arrest with Truck 91 and AMR. Upon arrival, firefighters made contact at the residence and was advised that a small child had been attacked by a dog that had entered the backyard. The firefighter paramedic from Engine 65 provided pediatric advance life support care for the child while Truck 91 was cancelled from responding. AMR, accompanied by the firefighter paramedic, rapidly transported the child to the local area trauma receiving center. It is expected that the child will make a full recovery. The dog was later located and captured by the Moreno Valley Police Department and Animal Control.

On December 19, Moreno Valley firefighters responded to a commercial fire at a tire recycling center in the Towngate Fire Station primary response area. Upon arrival firefighters found a 40,000 square foot, single story, commercial building with dark smoke issuing from the rear of the structure. Firefighters deployed hose-lines and entered the building to locate and extinguish the fire. The fire was contained to a large conveyer belt unit, spanning approximately 150' with burning tire product in several stages of the milling process. The fire was kept to the initial conveyer belt with extension to one silo unit located outside of the building. Due to the difficulty in accessing the burning material within the conveyer belt and the silo unit, firefighters remained on scene for several hours to overhaul the remaining hot material. A total of five fire engines, two truck companies, one breathing support, and one Chief Officer were committed to the incident. for a total of 23 personnel. Units from Riverside County Fire/CAL FIRE provided coverage of the open fire stations in the city during the time of this incident in order to provide emergency fire and medical response to all other 9-1-1 calls.

On December 22, Towngate Fire Engine 6, Sunnymead Fire Engine 2, Sunnymead Fire Truck 2, and Battalion 9B were dispatched to a reported traffic collision with extrication on the southbound lanes of I-215 at the Cactus Avenue off ramp. Battalion Chief Lanzas was the first unit to arrive on scene and reported that a vehicle had rolled approximately 100' off the freeway and was resting on its roof. The vehicle had one person trapped inside, requiring extrication. The crew from



Truck 2 conducted the extrication efforts while firefighter paramedics provided advance life support care to the patient. Once the extrication process was completed, the patient was rapidly transported to the local area trauma receiving center

by AMR and was accompanied by a firefighter paramedic. The patient was in stable condition upon arrival at the hospital and is expected to make a full recovery.

On December 22, Towngate Fire Engine 6, Sunnymead Ranch Fire Engine 48, Sunnymead Fire Truck 2, and Battalion 9B were dispatched to a reported traffic collision with extrication on Frederick Street at Towngate Boulevard. Battalion Chief Silvio Lanzas was the first unit to arrive on scene and reported that a single vehicle had collided into a power pole with one person trapped inside the vehicle requiring extrication. The crew from Truck 2 completed the required extrication, removing the driver's door and part of the roof while firefighter paramedics provided advance life support care to the patient. Extrication was completed within 25 minutes and the patient was transported to the local area trauma receiving center accompanied by a firefighter paramedic. The patient was in stable condition upon arrival at the hospital and is expected to make a full recovery.

On December 24, 2012, at 7:32 a.m. Moreno Beach Fire Engine 58 was dispatched to a traffic collision on westbound Highway 60 at the Perris Boulevard



off-ramp. When Engine 58 arrived on scene the captain reported that a single patient was trapped and required extrication. Additional resources were requested and the Emergency Command Center dispatched Battalion 9A, Sunnymead Fire Truck 2, and Morrison Park Fire Engine 99. The victim was extricated and firefighters along with AMR staff were repositioning the gurney for loading into the ambulance when a second vehicle entered into the scene striking the rear of the ambulance which came to rest on the rear tailboard of Engine 58 missing the first patient, firefighters, and AMR staff; however, two other people on scene were struck by that Battalion Chief Mike Smith requested additional resources as the sole occupant of the second vehicle also required extrication. In all, a total of four patients (including the initial patient) were transported to the local area trauma receiving center. The final outcome on all four patients is unknown at this time.

On December 29, Towngate Fire Engine 6 was dispatched to a reported traffic collision with extrication on the Southbound lanes of I-215 near Harley Knox Blvd. Battalion Chief Lanzas was the first unit on scene and reported that a passenger vehicle had collided with the rear of a work truck, with one person trapped inside the vehicle. The firefighter paramedic from Engine 6 began providing advance life support care to the trapped victim while the crew from Kennedy Park Fire Engine 65 began the extrication process. Within 10 minutes the patient had been removed from the vehicle and was placed into the ambulance for transport to the local area trauma receiving center accompanied by the firefighter paramedic from Engine 6. The patient was in stable condition upon arrival at the hospital and is expected to make a full recovery.

On December 30, Towngate Fire Engine 6 was dispatched to an emergency call for service for a person having difficulty breathing. While conducting the patient assessment, the firefighter paramedic noticed that the patient was presenting with all the signs of a STEMI, which is a type of heart attack. Advance life support care was initiated by the paramedic, and continued while en route directly to the local area heart attack receiving center, also known as a STEMI center. This designation for a hospital means that a heart attack patient will receive treatment in 90 minutes or less upon arrival at the hospital utilizing the most comprehensive emergency and interventional care to treat their heart attack. This includes expedited patient processing into the cardiac catheterization lab and intensive care unit as well as access to a cardiac emergency call team. Upon arrival at the hospital, Emergency Room staff confirmed the patient was suffering from a STEMI and assumed care of the patient. The final outcome of the patient is unknown at this time.

On December 30, College Park Fire Engine 91 was dispatched to a medical emergency call for service in the Kennedy Park primary response area along with the Moreno Valley Police Department. Upon arrival, fire department personnel located a patient suffering from several severe traumatic wounds. Rapid advance life support care and transport was initiated by our firefighter paramedic and AMR paramedic. During transport, the patient's condition continued to decline which resulted in the AMR paramedic performing a needle thoracostomy while our firefighter paramedic maintained the patient's airway and assisted with bag valve mask ventilation. The final outcome of the patient is unknown at this time.

On December 31, Towngate Fire Engine 6 was dispatched to a medical emergency call for a person with seizures. Upon arrival, fire department personnel located the patient in the storage area of the attic



space in the garage. The fire department paramedic performed a patient assessment and began advance life support care in the attic area of the garage. Truck 2 was requested to assist in extricating the patient from the attic. Truck 2 personnel arrived on scene and placed the patient in a "Sked Sled". The patient was then lowered to the floor for further treatment and transported to the local area trauma receiving center.

On January 7, Moreno Valley Firefighters, Riverside County/CAL FIRE firefighters, and the Moreno Valley Police Department were dispatched to a reported multifamily structure fire in the Towngate Fire Station primary response area. Upon arrival responding units found a working fire in a three-story, twelve unit apartment building with heavy smoke and fire was present in a third-story apartment and attic space. The fire was fueled by significant winds which contributed to rapid fire spread throughout the roof and adjacent third story apartment units. Interior fire attack operations with simultaneous roof top ventilation were implemented by first arriving fire department resources.

Due to the large volume of fire and deteriorating conditions, additional alarms were requested and a defensive fire strategy was implemented. Substantial fire and smoke damage was sustained to the third-story



apartment units and roof with water damage present to the second and first floor apartment units. Personal losses to the tenants of the first and second story units were minimized by salvage operations performed by firefighters early on in the incident. Prior to the arrival of Fire Department units, tenants occupying the building had safely evacuated their apartments which prevented injury to any civilians. One Firefighter experienced heat and exhaustion related symptoms and was transported to a local area hospital as a precaution. The Firefighter was treated and released and is expected to make a full recovery.

Moreno Valley Office of Emergency staff was on scene and worked cooperatively with representatives of the Red Cross in providing assistance to displaced residents. As a precaution, a shelter was established at Moreno Valley High School should the large number of residents affected by the fire not be able to secure immediate housing. The shelter has since been closed without a need to shelter any tenants as housing was provided through other means.

Throughout the event, Riverside County Fire/CAL FIRE (utilizing Cooperative, Regionalized Fire Protection system) was able to provide the additional resources to respond to the fire and provide coverage of the open fire stations in the city during the time of this incident for emergency fire and medical response to all other 9-1-1 calls. A total of twelve fire engines, three truck companies, one breathing support, four Chief Officers, one press information officer, two safety officers, one ground ambulance, and four overhead personnel were committed to the incident for 9 hours, for a total of 52 firefighters.

## **HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT**

#### **Human Resources**

The Employee of the Quarter program recognized the Public Works Department's Operation & Maintenance Division. In presenting the award, the City Council lauded team's swift actions to protect numerous properties and reduce the amount of damage that could have occurred on the east end of our City during a recent major storm event.

MotiVate Wellness: The City's employee wellness program remains extremely active, with the following activities taking place:

- Through a partnership recently forged between the City and California Baptist University, our employees now benefit from a 10% tuition scholarship and waiver of all application fees. This is a first for the City of Moreno Valley, and work is already underway to strike similar agreements with other area universities.
- A representative from Moreno Valley's Costco store provided an information booth in City Hall which provided discounts for new memberships as well as information to assist all of our employees to *Shop MoVal*.
- Employees received information regarding January's Personal Fitness Month, to include resources on how to start an exercise program and keep it going.

**Talent Management:** Robust recruitments are underway for several positions in the City workforce. Recruiting and/or selection processes are focused on the following openings:

- Management Analyst-PW/Land Development and FMS/Financial Operations (FTC, 137 applicants to date). Candidate screening to commence on 1/9/13.
- Intern I-PW/Solid Waste Recycling (PT/Temp, 185 applicants to date). Candidate screening to commence on 1/10/13.
- Vehicle Equipment Technician (FTC, 52 applicants). Second round interviews have been scheduled.
- Alternate Crossing Guard (PT/Temp, 78 applicants). Additional interviews have been scheduled.
- Fire Safety Specialist (FTC, 48 applicants to date). Recruitment ongoing.
- Recreation Aides-Banquet Facilities (FTC, 161 applicants). Candidate selected, recruitment closed.
- Payroll Supervisor (FTC-Internal). Candidate selected, recruitment closed.

#### Purchasing & Facilities Division

The Facilities Division is actively pursuing participation in a Southern California Edison program which would generate 50% rebates for regular maintenance activities on Heating/Air Conditioning systems on City facilities served by Edison. Participating in this program will yield several significant benefits: The city's HVAC Mechanic will have additional time to utilize on HVAC repairs and replacement; contract maintenance activities will support the private sector job base; and maintenance will reduce the City's energy costs through efficient operation of equipment.

#### **Animal Services Division**

Moreno Valley Animal Shelter Adopts 5 Pets at Visterra Credit Union

**Pet Adoption Event:** On Friday, December 14th Lead Animal Care Technician Dorathy Haun along with volunteers Barbara Hamilton (Capital Projects) and Karen Sylva participated in an off-site pet adoption event held at Visterra Credit Union. The team successfully placed 5 dogs with new families during a 4-hour event, the second one hosted by Visterra in 2012. The Animal Services staff and volunteers wish to thank the Credit Union for its continued support for pets in our community, and for creating opportunities to showcase adoptable dogs at Visterra's facility.

**Mutual Aid:** On Thursday December 13th Animal Services Field Supervisor Steve Lulli along Animal Control Officer Darla West and Animal Care Technician Kristin Miller responded to a high profile animal abuse incident in the City of Lake Elsinore. At the request of the Riverside County Department of Animal Services,

our staff assisted in responding to a situation involving more than 300 abused and neglected reptiles. We partnered with other responding agencies, including Animal Friends of the Valley-AFV (AFV contracts with the City of Lake Elsinore for Animal Services), Marin Humane Society and PETA. Our staff identified and handled animals for veterinarians performing health examinations. Animal Services Field Supervisor Steve Lulli, who has extensive experience with reptiles, identified many rare species that most people would only see in a zoo. The rapid, multi-agency response to this highly unusual scene provided our staff with an opportunity to gain valuable experience as well as the ability to network with other animal welfare organizations.

#### Library Services Division

New Feature on Library Web Page: Mobile device users can now search the library catalog directly from the home page of the Library's web site (powered by BookLetters). Users previously had to click through several steps to reach the catalog search feature. Now, the search box appears on the home page and the Library did not have to design or acquire an additional app to provide this convenient element.

**Fall Reading Program:** Children from ages 2-12 read an impressive total of 1,000 books during the Library's Fall Reading Program. Readers were eligible to win up to three prizes for logging their reading. Nearly one-third of participants earned all three prizes.

Christmas Puppet Shows and Santa Visit: Nearly 200 residents attended the Christmas puppet shows and visit from Santa the week of December 17. Staff received many compliments on the puppet show presentations. We extend our thanks to Parks & Community Services Division Manager Mel Alonzo for donning the Santa suit to the delight of young and old.

Friends of the Library Donations: The Moreno Valley Friends of the Library reported taking in more than \$19,000 during 2012, the majority of which came from their ongoing used book sale in the Library's Book Nook area. The Friends use this money to support a variety of library services, materials and programs throughout the year that the library budget is unable to accommodate. We express our gratitude to the Friends for their continued efforts and generosity in our behalf.

# PARKS & COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

## Park Projects

Foundations for the Lasselle Sports Park switchgear and waste enclosure have been poured, and walls are being installed. This developer-constructed (no cost to the City) project is 12¾ acres. Amenities are to include: restroom and concession, three turf football/soccer fields with natural turf, security lighting, picnic facilities, play apparatus, and parking for approximately 200 vehicles.

Final building corrections have been issued to the contractor for the John F. Kennedy Memorial Park cell tower. Unconditional releases from subcontractors and material suppliers are forthcoming.

The arbor, vines and groundcover roses have been installed for the TownGate Community Center patio.

The arbor, screening, vines, and trees have been installed for the Conference and Recreation Center north patio.

Regarding the Cottonwood Golf Center banquet room restroom improvements, the storage room has been removed, creating larger rooms for ADA compliance. New wallboard will be installed along with fixtures and lighting. The project is scheduled to be completed by January 18.

Requests for Bids for the operation and maintenance of the Cottonwood Golf Center are anticipated to be noticed in January with bids expected in February. Once bids are reviewed, a recommendation will be made to award bid.

#### Parks Maintenance Division

Projects completed included trimmed hedges at various park sites; graded infields at baseball sites; worked on irrigation at Celebration Park, Vista Lomas Park, and Rancho Verde Staging Area for EMWD compliance; overseeded golf course; and worked on irrigation at golf course.

Projects in progress include tree planting at various park sites (ongoing); remove old and install new ET irrigation controllers at 19 park sites (ongoing); repair playgrounds at Gateway and Pedrorena Parks (50% complete); repair infields and improve the playing conditions at March Middle School (50% complete); weed all trails and parks (ongoing); put decomposed granite on all trails (50% complete); place fiber at Patriot Park playground (ongoing); and plant cherry trees at the CRC (ongoing).

Vandalism and graffiti have been reported at the following areas: Bayside (\$26), Cold Creek Trail (\$24) Community (\$338), Cottonwood Trail (\$24), Gateway (\$56), JFK (\$33), Morrison (\$42), Patriot Park (\$24), Rockridge (\$24), TownGate (\$100), and Woodland (\$88). The total cost for vandalism/graffiti during December was \$779. Total labor hours for vandalism/graffiti were 15.5 hours, approximately 1.9 full-time work days.

Court referrals performed a total of 657 hours. The total hours for court referrals in 2012 are 5,437, which equates to approximately 680 full-time work days.

#### Recreation Division

The Time for Tots program was full of activity for the month of December. In addition to the winter-themed educational curriculum, December also featured special activity days such as Bring Your Favorite Book Day, Ginger Bread Day, Polar Express Day, and Pajama Day.

The Time for Tots Winter Celebration was held at the Conference and Recreation Center on December 5. More than 120 children performed three holiday classic carols including Jingle Bells, The Elves are in the Workshop, and We Wish You a Merry Christmas. The program's participants also received a special visit from Santa Claus, whom assisted with the exciting gift exchange. More than 475 of the children's family members enjoyed the holiday program.

The Annual Winter Contract Class Performance for the City's contract classes was held on December 12. More than 100 registered participants performed for an audience of 500 family and friends.

The Winter Valley Kids Camp opened on December 26 and saw a similar number of registrations compared to the fall camp. Attending children spent their vacations from school creating creative holiday and seasonal crafts, playing fun-filled games and activities, and much more. Winter Valley Kids Camp will conclude on January 11.

Local children dropped off their letters to Santa Claus at the Conference and Recreation Center, just in time for the holiday. Children also received a specialized response from Santa Claus if they included a self-addressed stamped envelope with their letter. Santa Claus received more than 300 letters from Moreno Valley children through Parks and Community Services.

Santa Live was held on December 3 on MVTV-3. The telephone lines were consistently busy with callers wishing to speak to Santa Claus and tell him what they

would like for Christmas. Santa and accompanying host asked holiday trivia questions with winners gaining prizes. Staff would like to thank MVTV-3, Sergeant Butch Rassmussen, and Mayor Richard Stewart for making this year's Santa Live a success.

December 8 children ages two to twelve years attended Breakfast with Santa inside the Conference and Recreation Center's Grand Valley Ballroom. Participants enjoyed a delicious breakfast prepared specifically for them. The children were also entertained with a morning of crafts, music, games, and had a special visit with Santa Claus. This year saw a dramatic increase in registrations with more than 200 local children attending the festive holiday event.

The Moreno Valley Police Department adopted many of the program's families for their annual Holiday Cheer Program. Children and their families were treated to a special dinner and Christmas presents. Ross Distribution's Human Resources Department also adopted 10 of the children from "A Child's Place" after school program and gave each child a gift bag full of goodies.

Parents participated in the program's first annual Take it and Make it Hot Chocolate night at the school sites. Children enjoyed a cup of hot chocolate and participated in a winter craft with their parents.

December 6 the Senior Community Center held its annual tree trimming party sponsored by Health Net.

December 7 the Senior Community Center held its swap meet at the Senior Center north parking lot. There were approximately 30 vendors participating and more than 100 visitors.

December 12 the Center celebrated its 20th anniversary. The event included Donovan who performed his Elvis tribute, a dinner buffet, and an open house with a lot of the volunteer instructors on hand to answer any questions about the classes and activities offered. Opportunity drawings were held with items donated by Walgreens, Little Caesars Pizza, Shakey's, Destiny Hospice and Home Care, and Health Net. Councilman Molina stopped by and made sure that no senior walked away without a gift as he donated more than 100 gifts for the seniors. It was estimated that the Center hosted 280 seniors at the event.

December 20 the senior holiday party was held at the Senior Community Center. There were 70 seniors in attendance. Games, snacks and prizes were available to seniors. The event was sponsored by Health Net.

#### **POLICE DEPARTMENT**

#### Internet Access Services Job Scams (Part 5 of 5)

The Moreno Valley Police Department (MVPD) is concluding its five part series to improve awareness about certain crimes to reduce the probability of becoming a victim. This fifth installment provides information about "Internet Access Services Job" scams.

#### The Scam

Internet services job scams can be more difficult to detect than other internet scams. These scams take advantage of people who are looking for internet resources to improve the sales of their product or the delivery of their service. These scams are typically initiated through advertisements that claim internet marketing assistance. The scammer claims they can find prime locations in internet malls, create revenue generating websites, and or provide banner internet advertisements that generate big profits. The scammer takes advantage of the victims' limited understanding of internet technology, and they make promises they do not intend to keep. The scams are difficult to detect because they offer real Internet business services, but the scammer has no intention of providing that service. Consistent with most Internet scams the scammer will ask for payment in full prior to providing the service; but once the payment is received they disappear into the internet.

Generally these scammer companies open and close very quickly and are difficult to track. The majority of these scammer companies are located outside the United States making it very difficult or impossible to resolve complaints. But both of these facts help us minimize our risks. That is to say we should be cautious of Internet Service companies that do not have a track record of reputable service. Taking time to check references of the company can decrease your chances of becoming a victim.

The following tips, some mentioned in prior installments, are intended to help you reduce the likelihood of becoming a victim of the internet scam artist:

- Make sure you know who you are dealing with. If you are unfamiliar with the company, check with your state or local consumer protection agency or the Better Business Bureau. Most legitimate web sites have feedback forums. These forums can be a good way to get reviews of the companies work product.
- 2. Get references. Attempt to locate business that have used the company's services and determine if they were satisfied. If your local business

- community has not heard of the business, they are either a new business or not a legitimate business. Often blogs or websites like "Yelp" can be helpful in identifying customer satisfaction history.
- 3. Be cautious of foreign organizations. Be extremely suspicious when dealing with an out-of-country organization. Your recourse, should the arrangement fall through, can be extremely limited.
- 4. Resist pressure to make a decision. Legitimate companies will normally give you all the details about their service and will give you time to make a decision with a follow-up meeting. If the seller is pushy and demanding, be cautious of a potential scam.
- 5. Never pay in full upfront. If your research lead you to believe the company you would like to do business with can be trusted, avoid making full upfront payment for services that have not been rendered. If the company goes out of business and or fails to provide the promised service, you may not get your money back.
- 6. Contact the police. If you believe you are dealing with a scammer, call the Police Department to report the incident.

## Community Advisory Meeting

The next Citywide Camera Surveillance System Community Advisory Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 24, 2013, at 6:00 p.m., in the multipurpose room at the Moreno Valley Police Department. The goal of each meeting is to inform attendees of the history, purpose, benefits, and progress of the project. The meeting will also include an open forum for community input, questions, and answers.

#### Case of the Week

Friday, December 21, 2013, at 9:20 a.m., officers responded to a bank robbery in progress at the Altura Credit Union, located in the 12100 block of Day St. Officers immediately responded and set up a perimeter around the area of the bank. After making contact with the bank employees and making sure no suspects were still inside, officers learned the suspects fled the area in two separate vehicles. Employees and witnesses advised that three adult male suspects entered the bank armed with handguns and ordered everyone to get on the ground. The suspects took a large amount of cash and left the area in a vehicle. Investigators from the Moreno Valley Police Department responded to the scene and took over the investigation. Fortunately the money taken by the suspects was equipped with a GPS tracking device and three suspects were eventually arrested on Interstate 110 in the Los Angeles area. Our investigators later identified and arrested an additional suspect. The investigation is ongoing.

#### **PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

#### Capital Projects

#### **Auto Mall Improvements**

The American Public Works Association (APWA) presents the City of Moreno Valley with a B.E.S.T. award for the completed Moreno Valley Auto Mall improvement project. Mayor Richard Stewart and Ahmad Ansari, Public Works Director / City Engineer accepted the Southern California Chapter of the American Public Works Association 2012 Project of the Year Award on behalf of the City for the Auto Mall Improvements project at the B.E.S.T. Awards Luncheon on December 12, 2012. The award was bestowed upon the City for the "Auto Mall Transformation - A Redevelopment Agency (RDA) Business Attraction Plan" project which encompasses both the freeway pylon sign (Phase I) and the street and landscape improvements (Phase II). The completed project is an important element of the RDA's "Shop Moreno Valley" program encouraging residents and businesses to spend retail dollars here in the City. The Public Works Department Capital Project Division Project Team attended the luncheon held at the Center at Sycamore Plaza in the City of Lakewood.

# State Route 60/Nason Street Overcrossing Bridge -Nason Interchange Phase 2

Riverside Construction Company is expected to start construction in early January 2013. The improvements will replace the existing 2-lane bridge over the freeway with a wider, higher 5-lane bridge, widen Nason Street to meet the new bridge grade, adjust the ramp/Nason intersections to meet the new grade, add street lights and sidewalks along both sides of Nason Street, add a soundwall along Elder Street, and related improvements. Construction is expected to be completed in late winter 2014.

# State Route 60/Moreno Beach Drive Interchange Improvements - Phase 1

Construction is proceeding. The contractor shifted freeway lanes as part of Stage work. He anticipates completing the new water line near Fire Station 58 by mid-January, which allow abandonment of the existing water line along the freeway. The contractor will



then complete the retaining wall behind the Auto Mall. and start bringing in earth material for fill for the new eastbound on-ramp. This first stage is expected to take until late March 2013. The goal of the project is to realign the eastbound on- and off-ramps to a "diamond"

configuration and complete the connection of Eucalyptus Avenue to Moreno Beach Drive, thereby providing better access to the area. Construction will extend to late summer 2013.

# Perris Boulevard Widening from Perris Valley Storm Drain Lateral "B" (Southerly City Limits) to Cactus Avenue

Construction for the Perris Boulevard Widening from Perris Valley Storm Drain Lateral "B" (Southerly City Limits) to Cactus Avenue project continues to progress. To date, all utility poles have been relocated to allow for the widening of the roadway. The contractor, Hillcrest Contracting, Inc., has already constructed most of the curb, gutter, sidewalk, curb ramps, and driveway approaches, completed most storm drain work, and relocated all necessary traffic signals. Upcoming work includes utility adjustments, minor storm drain work, cross gutters, and pavement widening.

The overall project objective includes constructing street widening to a uniform six travel lanes, concrete curb and gutter, sidewalk, curb ramps, driveway approaches, minor drainage improvements, utility relocation, and relocated traffic signals. Project completion is estimated for May 2013.

# City Hall 2<sup>nd</sup> Level Floor Rehabilitation, Seismic Retrofit, and Roof Restoration

The Project Design Team for the City Hall 2<sup>nd</sup> Level Floor Rehabilitation, Seismic Retrofit, and Roof Restoration project are in the final phase of review and plan check of the plans and specifications for the flooring rehabilitation, seismic retrofit, and roof restoration. The Project Design Team has received Cad drawings that identify the proposed temporary office spaces for the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor staff. The relocation of the present staff capacity will allow us to place the personnel within the City Hall, and Annex #4 facilities in lieu of having to use temporary trailers. The relocation of the City Hall 2<sup>nd</sup> floor staff to Annex#4 is based upon the relocation timing of the existing Annex#4 staff into Annex#1 which is still in the process of being renovated. Currently, the mid to end of February is the anticipated construction completion date for Annex#1. Because there are open office spaces on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor now, those moving to the 1<sup>st</sup> floor may be able to do so a few weeks prior to those moving to Annex#4.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> floor project is on schedule to advertise for bids the later part of January 2013. As the above milestone dates become more solidified, we will then publish target dates for staff information and planning purposes. Until that time, to help facilitate the move from the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor staff should start packing plans and files that can be archived according to the City's Archived Procedures. Keep watching this space for updated information on the big migration.

# Cactus Avenue Eastbound 3<sup>rd</sup> Lane Widening Project from Interstate 215 Eastbound Off-Ramp to Veterans Way

In late November 2012, the City received notification of authorization to apply for allocation of the \$560,000 State-Local Partnership Program (SLPP) grant awarded from the California Transportation Commission (CTC) for the Cactus Avenue Stage I improvements, between interstate 215 eastbound off-ramp and Veterans Way. The grant covers 50% of the estimated construction costs. The City will use Development Impact Funds (DIF) to pay the 50% local match requirement. In December 2012, staff submitted to the Caltrans District Local Assistant Engineer (DLAE) the request to allocate the funds. Once Caltrans has completed the City's request and allocated the funds, staff will schedule the project for construction.

The estimated schedule to advertise for construction bids is late March/early April 2013. The improvements will ultimately reduce congestion and increase the level of service between the Interstate 215 Interchange and Veterans Way, especially at the March Air Reserve Base entrance at the intersection of Elsworth.

#### Cactus/Nason Project

Construction work for widening of Cactus Avenue from Lasselle Street to Nason Street and extension of Nason Street from Cactus Avenue to Iris Avenue is continuing in full swing with 74% completion. The Cactus/Nason project construction completion is anticipated by June 30, 2013.





Nason Street under Construction

Cactus Avenue under Construction

#### **EOC Family Care Center Emergency Generator**

On July 10, 2012, City Council authorized the purchase from Johnson Power Systems of the generator set and tank for the EOC Family Care Center and the purchase of the additional tank for



the existing generator at the City contingent upon available funding. On August 1, 2012, the Notice

Inviting Bids was issued for construction of the EOC Family Care Center Generator project. Bids opened on September 11, 2012. The City awarded the construction contract to Global Power Group, Inc., the lowest responsible bidder at the September 25, 2012 Council meeting.

The project will construct a new generator set and tank located at the Conference and Recreation Center which is designated as the EOC Family Care Center, and the a new 5,000 gallon fuel tank at the existing generator at City Hall. This new tank will bring the existing generator into compliance with the National Fire Prevention Association (NFPA) code 110-5.1.2 which requires adequate fuel capacity to run the generator for 96 hours.

Following are the milestone of construction activities:

- Construction started in November 2012
- Demolition of existing trash enclosure in December 2012.
- Construction of new fuel tank and trash enclosure walls in December 2012.
- Construction of generator enclosure in January 2013.
- Construction will finish by end of May 2013 (weather permitting).

# <u>Police Department Monitor Room Space Conversion</u> <u>Project</u>

The project is a Tenant Improvement type building construction. This project will construct the Monitor Room for the City-wide surveillance cameras by joining the room currently used as a Report Writing Room and the adjacent IT Storage Room. The construction contract has been awarded to Rasmussen Brothers Construction, Inc. by City Council on October 9, 2012.

The construction includes the demolition of the existing wall between the Report Writing Room and IT Storage Room, construction of a wall that will ultimately join the two areas to create one complete and separate room, installation of a new door and a small window, patching and painting. Additional fire alarm, strobe and audio, fire sprinklers, minor HVAC, electrical, and lighting work are also a part of the scope of work. Construction started on November 15, 2012. The general contractor has finished the interior improvement including new carpet installation by end of December 2012.

# <u>Street Improvement Program - Kentland Lane, Wilson Place and Kenny Drive</u>

The project involves the reconstruction of three (3) streets citywide with asphalt concrete (AC) pavement roadway, striping, and signage. The improvements also

include drainage, driveway construction, mailbox and utility relocations.

The three streets included in the improvements are: Kentland Lane south of Eucalyptus Avenue, Wilson Place from Hubbard Street to Kenny Drive, and Kenny Drive from Wilson Place to Hilton Street. The construction contract has been awarded to C & C Grading and Paving, Inc. on December 11, 2012. Construction will start in January 2013 and will finish by end of April 2013 (weather permitting).



