

# CITY MANAGER'S UPDATE

From: Henry Garcia, City Manager

## **CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE**

#### Administration

### **Deficit Elimination Plan**

The Budget Team and I met with each Council Member to review the draft 3-Year Deficit Elimination Plan proposal. Staff has prepared the plan to address the \$14 million structural deficit in the General Fund budget. With significant expenditure reductions and the strategic use of fund balance, I believe the 3-Year Plan provides a good road map for our way out from under the burden of the deficit and positions the City well for full economic recovery after the implementation of the plan. The first of many planned City Manager's Budget Update messages was distributed to the employees and Management staff met with each of the employee associations to discuss the budget situation and the deficit elimination plan. A public workshop scheduled was held on March 23 and a special Study Session for the Council was held on March 29.

#### Legislative Update

Over 2,300 bills were introduced in the state legislature prior to the February 18 deadline. The City is actively monitoring 72 bills that may have an effect on local government. As the bills begin to move through committees, Staff will review bill analyses and draft position letters based upon the Council-approved Legislative Priorities Policy. Some of the local government related bills we are monitoring include the following:

- AB 190 (Wieckowski) imposes an additional \$3 fine to any traffic citation, excluding parking citations, for spinal cord research
- AB 884 (Cook) provides that any law enforcement entity that is notified of the registration of a sex offender who was convicted of a sexually violent offense or a sex crime against a child under 14 years of age shall provide notice and information to all persons living within 1,000 feet of the residence of the convicted sex offender and all schools and day care centers.
- SB 656 (Steinberg) expresses the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation that would authorize a city and a county to enter into a revenue-sharing agreement to fund criminal justice and social

services administered by counties for the benefit of city residents.

## Military Appreciation Banner Promotion

Memorial Day will mark the first installation of the military appreciation banners that are available for residents to purchase to honor local military servicemen and women. Thanks to the efforts of the Chamber's Military Appreciation Committee to use fundraising to keep the banner costs down, each banner is available for just \$100. In order to promote the program, staff has issued a press release which included a rendering of a sample banner. We are airing a new MVTV-3 "commercial" promoting the banners, and have temporarily relocated some of the banners from the Veterans Memorial to the intersection of Cactus and Elsworth to increase the visibility of these banners.

# Franchise Agreement Update for Time Warner Cable

Prior to the passage of the Digital Infrastructure and Video Compensation Act (DIVCA) in 2006, the various cable companies negotiated and held individual contracts with each local jurisdiction in California. DIVCA essentially transferred the contracts to the state, allowing cable companies to negotiate just one franchise agreement that applies to all local jurisdictions. The City's franchise agreement with Time Warner Cable, our largest cable provider in Moreno Valley, will terminate this December.

Staff from the City Manager's Office recently met with Time Warner Cable representatives to discuss the potential impacts to the City. Due to the adoption of Moreno Valley Ordinance 744 in 2007 to address DIVCA, the impacts will be minimal. The City will continue to receive franchise fees and PEG (Public, Education, and Government) fees based on the current percentages of gross revenues. One minor change is that the City will have to pay \$15 per month per cable drop in City facilities (excluding public safety) which Time Warner currently provides free of charge.

#### Media & Communications

## <u>Media Day – Leadership Moreno Valley</u>

On March 10 MVTV-3 hosted "Media Day" for the Leadership Moreno Valley participants. Activities included an in-depth presentation of the role of the Media and Communications Division, presentation of a MVTV-3 demo reel, individual photographs, a mock television interview, discussion of media "Do's and

"Don'ts," and a mock City Council meeting (including television equipment training in the Chamber control room). All participants were provided a DVD of the mock television interviews and Council meeting at the end of the day.

### MVTV-3 Update

Highland Fairview Photographs: On February 22, MVTV-3 staff shot photographs of the new Highland Fairview/Skechers project. MVTV-3 will add these photos and a video to an upcoming webpage highlighting specific projects in the City. This webpage will exist in conjunction with the regular "Spotlight on Moreno Valley Business" program.

This month's "Spotlight on Moreno Valley Business" highlights Walmart and Moreno Valley Carwash. This program airs daily at 6.a.m., 9:30 a.m., 5:30 p.m., and 9:30 p.m. Episodes are also available for viewing online at <a href="http://www.moreno-valley.ca.us/spoton-mv.shtml">http://www.moreno-valley.ca.us/spoton-mv.shtml</a>.

"Cottonwood Golf Course" is a new public service announcement which highlights all of the amenities of this City-owned 9 hole, Par 3 golf course. "Cottonwood Golf Course" will air every hour at the end of the hour on MVTV-3 beginning March 10.

"Mission MoVal": In this 5<sup>th</sup> episode of Mission MoVal, MVTV-3's reality show loosely based on "The Amazing Race," our three teams of residents compete in a Mission at Valley Skate Park in District 4. Watch as the Red, Blue and Green teams attempt to be crowned winner of Mission MoVal. Episode 5 of Mission MoVal premiered on MVTV-3 beginning March 3rd at 8:00 p.m. Mission MoVal airs daily at 8:00 a.m., 5:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. after the premiere and is available online at <a href="http://www.moval.org/mission-mv.shtml">http://www.moval.org/mission-mv.shtml</a>.

*I.E.T.V. Meeting:* On March 3 MVTV-3 staff participated in an Inland Empire Television meeting. This is a group comprised of several local municipal cable television operators. Items discussed during the meeting included social media, government access issues, special programming and opportunities to expand viewership. This group meets several times throughout the year to discuss local issues, programming, and other aspects of local government television.

City Events: On March 8, MVTV-3 provided video coverage for "Safety Day." This footage will be used to create an upcoming news story and promotional video for next year's event. Look for it on April's edition of the monthly news program News Center.

# COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

#### Administration

# **Buffalo Wild Wings Opens**

If you haven't been by yet--check out the new Buffalo Wild Wings Grill & Bar (BWW) located on Day Street in TownGate Crossings. The new BWW had a 'soft' opening on Monday, March 21. As part of the opening, the first 100 people waiting in line received coupons for 'Wings for a Year' from Buffalo Wild Wings. The 6,126 sq. ft. restaurant includes two additional patio areas with another 1,250 sq. ft. and is situated in TownGate Crossings, right next door to the Sports Authority. Presently there are 110 people employed at the new BWW operation in Moreno Valley. Many thanks to a number of staff in Development Services—including Economic Development, Building & Safety, Planning and Fire Prevention for helping get this new restaurant operation open as soon as possible. Over 700 people attended a two-day job fair at the Employment Resource Center (ERC) to undertake interviews and a background check to pursue employment at the new Buffalo Wild Wings.

Check out the new Buffalo Wild Wings to watch your favorite basketball team play and sample their award winning NY-style wings, including fourteen different types of Buffalo Wild Wings sauces from Mild to "Blazin." Presently there are nearly 700 BWW's restaurants in 44 states including seven in the Inland Region including Chino Hills, Corona, Eastvale-Mira Loma, Hemet, Murrieta, Palm Desert and Rancho Cucamonga.

### Max Muscle Now Open in TownGate

The Max Muscle Sports Nutrition store opened mid-February at TownGate Center. The new business. which specializes in nutrition and sports supplements, is situated between Burlington Coat Factory and Minage. Please check out this new store and say hello to owners Austin and Shannon Browne.

# National Tube Supply

National Tube Supply, one of Moreno Valley's newest employers is now operating in the community. National Tube Supply has hired 10 people and will add more employees as it grows its new business in Moreno Valley which will serve its western U.S. customers. The National Tube Supply company began in 1990 in Illinois and is a national distributor of carbon and alloy mechanical tubing. Corporate headquarters are located in University Park, a suburb of Chicago, Illinois. The Moreno Valley site is located at 22360 Goldencrest

Drive and includes a service area comprised of the western United States and Canada.

National Tube Supply's success is built on the strength and scope of its ever-expanding inventory, value-added capabilities, and next-day service. The 50,000 sq. ft. Moreno Valley facility will cut and transport carbon/alloy mechanical tubing, heavy wall pipe, mechanical tubing, carbon tubing, Honed Fluid Power products, and chrome bar and supply companies that manufacture metal parts for a myriad of applications across a broad range of industries. Primary markets involve construction, agricultural, mining and drilling equipment, paper machinery and fluid-power applications.

National Tube Supply worked with the Moreno Valley Employment Resource Center (ERC) for employee recruitment and training. The company is participating in the Riverside County Workforce Development Division's on-the-job training assistance program. The company's employee compensation package includes a competitive wage structure along with medical, dental and vision insurance coverage, as well as a 401 K retirement plan.

## Spotlight on Moreno Valley Business

The Spotlight on Moreno Valley Business program seeks to increase the community awareness of the many and diverse businesses that operate in Moreno Valley. The businesses showcased at the February 8 City Council meeting were iHerb and Citrus Belt Tax Service. The March 8 businesses for Spotlight on Moreno Valley Business were the Walmart Supercenter and Moreno Valley Car Wash.

The Spotlight program also wishes to alert the City Council to some of the new businesses having just opened in the community. Please remember to Shop MoVal. Recent openings include:

• AMI Business Services—is a new business support company started in January at 23846 Sunnymead Boulevard. Owner Mike Dominguez started the business because he has been a long time resident of Moreno Valley. Previously, Mr. Dominguez was a 50 % partner in Aggressive Tax Solutions in Riverside for 15 years. The new Moreno Valley business offers a variety of services for both individuals and businesses including tax preparation, financial management, accounting, bookkeeping, payroll and other business related support services.

- Liberty Tax Service—is a new tax preparation office that opened in January at 22275 Alessandro Boulevard (SE corner of Alessandro/Grant). The franchisee-owner, LT Financial Service LLC, also operates other Liberty Tax offices in Moreno Valley at 16380 Perris Boulevard and 24871 Sunnymead Boulevard.
- Mongolian BBQ—is a new restaurant that just opened in January at 25155 Sunnymead Boulevard in the Butterfield Valley Village shopping center at the SE corner of Sunnymead & Perris. The owner also operates Mongolian BBQ locations in Grand Terrace and Riverside. Check out the Grand Opening Special that offers a 20% discount and provides a \$5.99 lunch special and \$7.99 dinner special.
- PM Fashion—is a new women's apparel and accessories retailer that opened in the Fall at the Elsworth Plaza, located on the SW corner of Alessandro/Elsworth (just a few doors down from Subway). The new owners, who are a mother and daughter team, have been pleased with their start-up business and like the potential for further customer growth with the Moreno Valley marketplace.

## High Speed Rail

Planning continues for the proposed California High Speed Rail project that would run 800 miles from San Francisco to San Diego—via Los Angeles and the Inland Region. The High Speed Rail system in California would have trains traveling up to 220 miles an hour, which would enable a passenger to go from San Diego to Moreno Valley/Riverside in 48 minutes and from Downtown LA to Moreno Valley/Riverside in 33 minutes. Moreno Valley is working with Riverside, San Bernardino, Perris, March JPA and other jurisdictions to push for an I-215 alignment of the High Speed Rail route in the Inland Region.

The Moreno Valley City Council approved a Resolution supporting High Speed Rail and promoting a I-215 rail alignment, including the development of a station near March Air Reserve Base (ARB) that would serve the cities of Moreno Valley, Riverside and Perris. Having a High Speed Rail alignment along I-215 and serving the major population areas of the Inland Region—including Moreno Valley, Riverside and San Bernardino makes great planning sense and will clearly provide the most ridership, along with producing the greatest potential for a strong revenue stream.

On March 3, a contingent of Inland Region officials (including Barry Foster, the City's Community & Economic Development Director) attended the monthly California High Speed Rail Authority (CHSRA) Board meeting in Los Angeles to lobby and document the support for an I-215 alignment. The mayors of Riverside and San Bernardino both addressed the CHSRA Board to stress the many positive merits of having an I-215 alignment for High Speed Rail in the Inland Region. Both an I-215 and I-15 alignment will be further analyzed by the CHSRA.

# Economic Development Subcommittee

The reactivated Economic Development Council Subcommittee has hit the ground running. The Economic Development Council Subcommittee includes Mayor Pro Tem Jesse Molina and Council Member Marcelo Co, along with staff support from Barry Foster. The overall goal of the ED Subcommittee is to facilitate new development and business activities, along with striving to make Moreno Valley one of the best places to do business.

The initial meeting of the Economic Development Council Subcommittee was held on February 16. At the meeting, a Work Program was established that created both short and mid-term initiatives to be pursued by the ED Subcommittee. Additionally, the Subcommittee recommended the City Council approve a Resolution supporting the High Speed Rail program in California, including the pursuit of an alignment along I-215 to best serve the Inland Region and specifically Moreno Valley, Riverside and San Bernardino.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Economic Development Council Subcommittee was on March 7 and included a Developers Workshop to solicit feedback from the development industry on the effectiveness of Moreno Valley's planning and entitlement process, along with the City's overall position as a place to do business. Participants in the Workshop included residential, industrial, and commercial/retail developers, along with Council Member Co, Mayor Pro Tem Molina, and City staff from Development Services. Look for the Economic Development Subcommittee to use the valuable feedback from the Developers Workshop to help improve the City's service delivery in working with developers doing work in Moreno Valley. Again, the overall goal is to make Moreno Valley an outstanding place to do business.

#### Moreno Valley Mall

The new owner of the Moreno Valley Mall--CW Capital and its operating partners (Cushman & Wakefield and Spinoso Real Estate Group) continue to work on plans to

help reposition the 1.25 million square foot regional mall. CW Capital and its partners really like the upside for the Moreno Valley Mall. Several respected architects have been solicited to provide proposals for creating plans to expand and upgrade several areas of the Moreno Valley Mall. Both Barry Foster and John Terell have been invited to actively participate in this planning effort that will be used to pursue a number of potential users at the International Council of Shopping Centers (ICSC) event in Las Vegas on May 22-25.

CW Capital is also expanding its presence in the Inland Region and recently closed escrow on the purchase of the 1.35 million sq. ft. – Montclair Plaza from General Growth Properties (GGP). CW Capital continues to explore other acquisition opportunities in Southern California. Spinoso Real Estate Group, based in New York, recently hired a senior level leasing person from GGP to manage its west coast operations (including the Moreno Valley Mall and Montclair Plaza) and this person will be situated in the Inland Region, with an office at the Moreno Valley Mall.

# Panera Bread Coming Soon

Work started in mid-March on the new Panera Bread to be situated just a few doors down from Qdoba Mexican Restaurant in TownGate Crossings. The new 3,960 sq. ft. restaurant is slated to open by early summer.

#### Village Café on the Way

Escrow closed the first week of March on the purchase of the former Red Robin restaurant by a Los Angeles/Pasadena restaurateur. The new owner, Constantinos 'Kostas' Fergadis, plans to re-open the 6,600 sq. ft. restaurant as the Village Café.

#### **ICSC-Monterey**

Barry Foster attended the recent International Council of Shopping Centers (ICSC) event in Monterey on March 15-17. New deals will still take awhile because of the lingering effects of the recent economic downturn, but many retailers and restaurants are at least starting to again look at opportunities in the Inland Region. Meetings at the ICSC event included BevMo, Big 5 Sporting Goods, Café Rio, CW Capital (Moreno Valley Mall owner), Fritz Duda Co. (owner TownGate shopping centers), Fry's Electronics, Hobby Lobby, Red Lobster, Sprouts Markets, Sunflower Markets, TJ Maxx and Weingarten Realty (Stoneridge Towne Centre owner).

#### Developer Workshop

On March 7, the Economic Development Subcommittee held a two-hour Developer Workshop to solicit feedback on the City's overall effectiveness with customer service for the Development Services process. Additionally, the ED Subcommittee and City staff explored ways on how best Moreno Valley can work as a partner with developers to make the City a great place to do business. Development firms who participated in the workshop included Alere Property Group, Beazer Homes, DR Horton, First Industrial, Fritz Duda Co., Highland Fairview, K. Hovnanian, Pacific Communities, Pacific Realty, Young Homes. The ED Subcommittee will schedule a follow-up Developer Workshop for the month of May.

# **Economic Development Summary**

The Economic Development Summary has been updated for March 2011 and is available on the City's website or via hard copy in the informational rack on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of City Hall.

## **Building & Safety Division**

#### Skechers USA

Staff from Development Services, led by Barry Foster and Anne Schneider, continues to work with Highland Fairview and Skechers USA to facilitate a temporary occupancy of 1/3 of the building by May 1. Several meetings between all parties, including one on March 21 have focused on ways to make this happen. Progress has been realized and City staff is clearly committed to making the temporary occupancy happen for Skechers by May 1.

The 1.8 million square foot Skechers project in the Rancho Belago area of eastern Moreno Valley is a major project that the City is working hard with the developer Highland Fairview to complete by this summer. The following facts illustrate the size and complexity of this project:

- Walking around the perimeter of the 1.8 million square foot building is 1 ½ miles
- The huge concrete slab for the building was accomplished with 140,000 yards of concrete (supplied locally by Robertson's Ready Mix) in one continuous pour
- 50 miles of saw cut concrete joints were used
- There are 45 miles of steel trusses in the building
- 55,000 sheets of plywood are used on the roof
- 30 miles of sprinkler pipe is installed
- 1,625 skylights have been installed in the roof
- There are 4,500 light fixtures in the building

# Below is a current update on the project:

• The scheduled helicopter lifts of the mechanical fans and other equipment to the roof was delayed one day to February 26 because of bad weather.

- CalTrans was cooperative with the delay and the work was successfully completed
- EMWD and JD Diffenbaugh, the General Contractor, have completed installing all the needed backflow and water meter devices to enable domestic water to be established to the 1.8 million sq. ft. building
- Work continues on office spaces and restrooms in the building
- Concrete work is underway on sidewalks around the entire building, and after the recent rainy weather, concrete work has re-started on parking areas
- The roof is 95% complete and properly sealed
- Installation of the racking and material handling system continues and is nearly 50% complete
- On March 18, the U.S. Department of Commerce inspected the building to qualify Skechers as a Foreign Trade Zone

#### Code & Neighborhood Services Division

# Moreno Valley College Parking

City staff is working with representatives of Moreno Valley College in exploring ways to create temporary parking to offset parking lost by new construction activity at Moreno Valley College. Negotiations are ongoing with a Continental East Trading Inc. to use a future housing development site for use as a temporary parking area for college students for an 18-month period.

#### Valentine's Day Vendor Sweep

In response to concerns from the business community, the Code and Neighborhood Services Division conducted a sweep of illegal vending activity during the Valentine's Day weekend. Sixteen vendors were contacted and issued Notices of Violation by staff for selling Valentine's materials without a City Business License.

#### Neighborhood Watch Meeting

On February 15, Code Compliance staff attended a Neighborhood watch meeting in the area of Dracaea and Frederick. Staff explained Code Compliance's role in addressing community blight and educated residents regarding code procedures. Staff also answered citizen's questions regarding code related concerns within their community area. Staff will continue to participate in future meetings with this group as requested.

## Permit Parking Near Moreno Valley College

In response to residents concerns involving lack of parking in their neighborhood, the City Council approved permit parking on the streets of Clydesdale Lane, Gelding Way, Mare Lane, Quarter Horse Road and Hackney Court. The action taken by City Council was to

mitigate the impacts of Moreno Valley College students parking within the residential areas surrounding the campus. Thus far, City staff has issued 156 parking citations for failure to comply with the permit parking ordinance. City staff is also working with officials from Moreno Valley College on several ways to create more parking opportunities to help with short term loss of parking areas because of on going construction projects at Moreno Valley College.

#### Neighborhood Preservation Division

# Redevelopment

Sacramento is still going fast and furious with what happens to redevelopment. Lobbying efforts to save redevelopment are underway from the California Redevelopment Agency (CRA) and League of California Cities (League of Cities) and they believe that a move by the State to abolish redevelopment in California is a violation of Proposition 22 that was passed by California voters last November, along with being against the State Constitution. At this point, it is anyone's guess what will happen. To guard against the possibility of the elimination of the RDA, the City Council took a number of actions on March 8 to protect the RDA's revenues and assets.

The proposed bill language to dissolve RDA's was released late on February 23. The language in the proposed bill is very encompassing in an effort to eliminate redevelopment in California and attempt to divert as much redevelopment revenue and RDA assets away from the control of cities and counties. The proposal to abolish RDA's through the adoption of the is moving quickly legislation in Sacramento. Concurrently, the CRA and the League of Cities are gearing up to file litigation if the State adopts legislation to eliminate redevelopment. Both CRA and the League of Cities are convinced that a move by the State to abolish redevelopment is a violation of the State Constitution, as well as Proposition 22, which was just passed by California voters last November.

With the move by Governor Brown to eliminate redevelopment moving forward, staff is recommending that the City Council/RDA Board pursue a number of actions aimed at protecting revenues and assets of the Community Redevelopment Agency of the City of Moreno Valley.

 Create a Moreno Valley Housing Authority to provide a mechanism to transfer the existing fund balance from the RDA's 20% Affordable Housing Set-Aside Fund. A Housing Authority would possess the powers to help manage existing affordable housing projects in Moreno

- Valley rather than rely on the Riverside County Housing Authority.
- Approve Affordable Housing Agreements with Palm Desert Development Company (2<sup>nd</sup> Phase of Rancho Dorado Apartments) and Rancho Belago Developers Inc. (Hemlock Family Apartments) to solidify the funding obligations for two planned affordable housing projects.
- Reprioritize projects and adopt Public Improvement Agreements between the City and RDA to protect bond proceeds intended to build capital improvement projects to be funded through the \$41.7 million in RDA Tax Allocation Bonds. These agreements are aimed at protecting bond proceeds for several projects that are underway with planning and design but don't have executed agreements with construction contractors.
- Approve Resolutions for the redemption of \$22.5 million in RDA Series B Bonds presently held by the City's General Fund, which now requires the use and liquidity of these reserve funds.
- Adopt a Public Improvement Agreement between the City and RDA to ensure redevelopment funding in the amount of \$350,000 for the widening of Day Street, near NEC of Day/Eucalyptus.
- Approve Public Improvement Agreements to solidify the partial funding by the RDA of the City's existing Lease Revenue Bonds for three previous capital projects: 1) the Public Safety Building, 2) the Conference & Recreation Building, and 3) Sunnymead Boulevard Improvements.
- Consideration of using Deeds of Trust for all RDA owned property as security for the RDA's debt obligation to the City.

# Inland Empire SBDC Gets SBA Grant

The Inland Empire Small Business Development Center (SBDC), in conjunction with the Orange County SBDC, was recently awarded a \$927,229 Small Business Association (SBA) grant. The funding was provided under the Small Business Jobs Act of 2010 that was signed into law by President Obama last September. The Inland Empire SBDC is a partner of the City of Moreno Valley and provides small business counseling in the Moreno Valley community through CDBG funding. The IE-SBDC offers office hours once a week in the California Bank & Trust in the TownGate Center on Frederick Street.

Recently, the Inland Empire SBDC and specifically the Moreno Valley office received several notable recognitions:

- The Inland Empire-SBDC was a recipient of the California Small Business Development Center of Excellence Award in 2010.
- The Inland Empire-SBDC was selected as one of the Top 10 Most Helpful SBDC's in the U.S. (the only SBDC in California with this distinction).
- The Moreno Valley office of the IE-SBDC and its manager Al Gohary were featured in a February 22 article in INC magazine called "A SBDC with a Unique Bank Partnership". The INC article also had a quote from Anthony Fabelo the Vice President & Manager of the California Bank & Trust branch in Moreno Valley.

## More NSP Funding

Moreno Valley has secured a new allocation of \$3.7 million in Neighborhood Stabilization (NSP) funding. On February 22, the City Council approved an amendment to the City's CDBG Annual Action Plan to implement the new round of NSP. The amended Action Plan will be submitted to HUD for final certification.

#### **NSP** Lender Training

On March 3, City staff from Neighborhood Preservation conducted training for approved lenders for the City's Homebuyer Assistance Program. The objective of the training was to work with lender representatives to more effectively process and qualify potential homebuyers for the Neighborhood Stabilization Program.

#### **Housing Element**

The City Council approved the City's updated Housing Element at the February 22 meeting. The document will now be submitted to the California Department of Housing & Community Development for final certification.

#### Possible New Affordable Housing Projects

City staff is working on two new possible affordable housing projects.

• Rancho Dorado South—a 79 unit, 2<sup>nd</sup> and final phase for the Palm Desert Development Company's project, near the southeast corner of John F. Kennedy and Perris Blvd. The 1<sup>st</sup> phase of the Rancho Dorado Apartments opened in October 2010 and has a waiting list of nearly 150 people. In December 2010, the RDA Board approved a funding resolution to provide \$8.25 million in RDA financial assistance for the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of Rancho Dorado. With the uncertainty of redevelopment in California, the consideration and adoption of an Affordable Housing Agreement (AHA) will help solidify the funding for this affordable housing

project. The AHA will was scheduled to go before the RDA Board on March 22.

• Hemlock Family Apartments—a proposed 78 unit rental community of 13 buildings to be situated on Hemlock Avenue just west of Perris Blvd. The Developer, Rancho Belago Developers Inc., has designed the project to meet LEED standards, as well as offer many quality project amenities for prospective tenants. A project proforma has been evaluated by a 3<sup>rd</sup> party financial consultant and an Affordable Housing was drafted by the RDA's legal counsel which was presented to the RDA Board on March 8.

#### CDBG/HOME

On March 22, the City Council held the first required Public Hearing for the FY 2011/12 budgets for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME. At this time, the Federal Government still has yet to adopt a budget and CDBG and HOME allocations have not been released by Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Nevertheless, to successfully meet HUD's timeframe of submitting approved budgets for CDBG and HOME by May 8, Moreno Valley held its first public hearing on March 22. A second Public Hearing is scheduled for April 26.

Staff from Neighborhood Preservation has begun to work on the development of draft budgets for FY 2011/12 for the CDBG and HOME programs. With the federal government looking to reduce the size of the U.S. Federal Budget, HUD funding is being reduced, which includes establishing preliminary funding allocations for CDBG and HOME that are 7.5% less than this current fiscal year. With this in mind, staff is looking at Moreno Valley's CDBG funding for FY 2011/12 to be \$1,795,900, which is down \$145,621 from \$1,941,611. HOME funding is estimated to be \$616,595, down from \$666,589 (\$49,994 reduction).

A total of 29 service providers submitted application requests for CDBG funding under the social services category, which under HUD program requirements is restricted to 15% of the total CDBG funding level. The City's Technical Review Committee has interviewed and evaluated the service providers seeking CDBG funding. Staff met with City Council members to review CDBG budget recommendations, prior to bringing the FY 2011/12 CDBG and HOME budgets for a Public Hearing on March 22.

## Neighborhood Clean-up

The Neighborhood Clean-up that was scheduled for February 26 for Council District 5 was postponed

because of bad weather, and was rescheduled to March 12. The area includes 103 homes near the southeast corner of Bay Avenue and Graham Street. The event will was held from 7 a.m. to 11 a.m. and allowed residents to dispose of residential debris, discarded household items, and landscape trimmings in dumpsters provided by Waste Management. Staff from Neighborhood Preservation, Code & Neighborhood Services, Public Works and the POP Team were on-site to assist residents with their clean-up efforts.

# <u>Unemployment-January 2011</u>

Despite California adding 12,500 jobs, new unemployment numbers slightly increased in January 2011 in Riverside County, along with virtually every city in the area. The State of California's unemployment rate decreased slightly from 12.5% in December 2010 to January 12.4% in 2011. Riverside County's unemployment increased from 14.2% to 14.3% during the same period. Moreno Valley's unemployment rate for January 2011 was 16.5%, up slightly from 16.4% in December 2010.

Some of the other nearby cities that also experienced slight unemployment increases from December to January included Corona (up from 10.5% in December to 10.6% in January), City of Riverside (up from 14.3% to 14.4%), Beaumont (up from 16.1% to 16.3%), Banning (up from 16.2% to 16.3%), Hemet (up from 17.8% to 17.9%), San Jacinto (up from 21.1% to 21.3%) and Perris with the highest unemployment rate in the area (up from 21.7% to 21.8%).

Hopefully, adding new employment opportunities such as Skechers USA, Harbor Freight Tools and Buffalo Wild Wings will help decrease Moreno Valley's unemployment number.

#### Foreclosure Prevention Workshop

On April 2, the City of Moreno Valley's Community & Economic Development Department will host a Regional Foreclosure Prevention Seminar in partnership with the Riverside County Economic Development Agency, the City of Hemet, the City of Perris, Homeownership Education Learning Program (HELP) and the Housing Opportunities Collaborative of the Inland Empire (HOCIE). During the event participants will have the opportunity to meet with mortgage lenders, services and investors, numerous housing counseling agencies, social service providers, and elected officials. Moreno Valley's Economic Development Department is providing an expanded partnership approach to foreclosure prevention which will increase available resources to Moreno Valley residents, which is evidenced by the many organizations,

institutions, and individuals that have already confirmed their participation in this event.

#### **Elected Officials**

- Moreno Valley City Council
- Office of Congresswoman Mary Bono Mack
- State Assemblymember Paul Cook
- Riverside County Supervisor Marion Ashley
- Riverside County Supervisor Jeff Stone

# Government Offices/Representatives

- U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
- Internal Revenue Service
- CA Department of Real Estate Commissioner Jeff Davi
- Riverside County District Attorney's Office

#### Lenders

- Fannie Mae
- Chase
- Freddie Mac
- HFC
- HSBC
- Beneficial
- GMAC Mortgage

The event will be held from 9am to 3pm on April 2. For more information please contact the Neighborhood Preservation Division at 951-413-3450 or visit the City's website at www.moval.org.

## Planning Division

At their meeting on February 24, the Planning Commission took the following actions:

- O Approved an Amended Plot Plan for the Robertson's Ready Mix batch plant previously approved for the east side of Old Highway 215 south of Alessandro Boulevard, that would replace an existing plant located on Day Street. The revised proposal expands the area of the batch plant to include an area that was to be a mini-storage facility. The proposal would increase the storage area for the Robertson plant but not the production capacity of the facility. The applicant, Robertson's Ready Mix, has indicated their interest in beginning development of the project within the next few months.
- Approved a Tentative Tract Map and Conditional Use Permit for a 275-unit small lot single family home project on the south side of Eucalyptus Avenue east of Fir Avenue in Stoneridge Ranch.

The project replaces a previously approved and graded condominium project. The Commission also recommended approval of a Development Agreement to provide reduced development impact fees for four years as an inducement to start development of the project in 2011, and in recognition of the public improvements and private amenities to be provided by the developer. The applicant is Beazer Homes. The Development Agreement was scheduled for final review and action by the City Council on March 22.

### Administrative Approvals

- Plot Plan to install screen fencing around the outdoor patio area for Buffalo Wild Wings, currently nearing completion in the TownGate Crossing shopping center on Day Street. The applicant is Pacific Wings Inc.
- Plot Plan to establish a fitness studio in the Canyon Springs Plaza shopping center on Day Street. The applicant is Nedra Walker.
- Plot Plan to legalize the conversion of a detached garage to a storage building on Knoll Vista Street.
   The applicants are John and Lucica McCabe.

The next Planning Commission meeting is scheduled for April 14. One item already scheduled for that meeting is to review revisions to City's outdoor lighting standards. The review, also known as the Dark Sky Ordinance, is the follow up to a City Council request early last year. The Ordinance will be scheduled for City Council review and action later this spring.

## Administrative Approvals

- 1. Plot Plan for exterior building changes and installation of an outdoor seating area for a new restaurant in an existing retail building at 12510 Day Street. The applicant is Panera Bread LLC.
- 2. Plot Plan to establish a youth opportunity center in an existing office building at 22635 Alessandro Boulevard. The applicant is Arbor Education and Training.
- 3. Plot Plan to establish a catering kitchen in an existing building at 21801 Alessandro Boulevard. The applicant is Family Services Association.
- 4. Plot Plan to expand a previously approved, but not yet open, banquet facility in an existing retail building at 22445 Alessandro Boulevard. The applicant is Naji Doumit.
- 5. Plot Plan to construct a 5,000 square foot office building for the Moreno Valley Corporate Yard. The applicant is the City of Moreno Valley.

#### SCAG COMPASS Grant

On March 3, staff from the Southern California

Association of Governments (SCAG) and the City interviewed the top three consultants that submitted proposals for the Alessandro Corridor Implementation Study grant. RBF Consulting was selected for the grant. The grant will provide funding for contractual services of approximately \$150,000, with SCAG handling contract administration. Major components of the Study are implementation of R30 zoning for the RDA property at Alessandro and Day, establishment of a mixed use overlay district along portions of Alessandro, the design of street cross sections for Alessandro that enhance transit, pedestrian and bicycle use, and the design of a prototype bus stop shelter. City staff will provide oversight of the work product development. RBF will begin work this summer, with work completed by June 30, 2012.

## Kaiser Medical Office Building

Kaiser has submitted plans for a 75,000 square foot office building on Iris Avenue adjacent to the Kaiser Community Hospital. The proposed building includes an urgent care center, pharmacy, and various medical offices and laboratories. The project also includes a new 372-space parking lot. The applicant, Kaiser Foundation Hospitals, has indicated their intent to start construction of the facility later this year. The project was scheduled for review by the Project Review Staff Committee on March 8. The proposal will require Planning Commission review and approval.

#### TUMF Audit

The audit of the City's collection of Transportation Uniform Mitigation Fees for Fiscal Year 2009-10 found no issues or concerns and provided a clean bill of health for the City's program. Senior Planner Chris Ormsby coordinated the City's participation in the audit, which required information from the Finance Department and Building Division of the Community & Economic Development Department.

# **Energy Efficiency Rebates**

The City received the first of several rebates for energy efficiency efforts undertaken in conjunction with the 2009 Federal Stimulus Grant. Associate Planner Gabriel Diaz has submitted nine rebate requests totaling \$57,548 to Southern California Edison and Moreno Valley Utility. All rebates must be deposited into the Grant account for additional energy efficiency projects.

#### Foreclosures and Homes Listed for Sale

Information available from the RealtyTrac website for February shows a sharp decrease in foreclosure activity in the City, similar to the County. The website reported one in 107 housing units in Moreno Valley were in some stage of foreclosure. This compares to a rate of one in 90

units in January, a 19% improvement. The current rate is also an improvement from March 2010, when the rate was one in 62 units, a 73% improvement. Foreclosure activity was 23% lower in the region, with the highest rates in communities with the highest levels of single family housing construction during the past building boom.

Moreno Valley is in the middle of the list of local communities, along with the cities of Corona and Temecula. Slower growth areas such as Riverside and Banning had much better rates, and faster growth areas such as Beaumont and Murrieta had much worse foreclosure rates. Calimesa had the lowest rate locally (1 in 277) and Winchester had the highest rate (1 in 24). By zip code, area 92555 had the highest rate in the City (1 in 42) and area 92557 had the lowest rates (1 in 152). Foreclosure activity decreased in all zip codes. Moreno Valley had 521 properties reported in some stage of foreclosure, compared to 607 in January. The City of Riverside had the highest number of reported foreclosure properties at 687 and Corona had 547.

Information available from the Realtor.com website indicates a small increase in the number of homes for sale in Moreno Valley and continued stability in median asking prices. As of March 1, 1,230 homes were listed for sale, compared with 1,178 on February 1st, and 950 in February of last year. Last January marked the low point for inventory in recent years. Inventory fell sharply in 2009 from a high of 2,068 in January 2009, and has gradually increased throughout 2010 and early 2011. The median asking price \$155,000, compared with \$159,000 in February and \$155,000 last March.

The current inventory of homes for sale is approximately a five month supply. Anything less than a six month supply of homes for sale is considered positive.

# **FINANCE & ADMIN SERVICES DEPT**

**Animal Services Division** 

<u>Animal Services Field & Shelter Operations Continue to</u> Experience Increases

Strong momentum in early 2011 for both critical operations within the Animal Services Division is an indication demand for animal services will continue to grow this year. During the first two months in 2011 the Field operations section has experienced a 6% increase in total calls for service as compared to the same time period in 2010. Calls for services involve a response by an Animal Control Officer ranging from routine animal control complaints to higher priority calls including potentially dangerous and vicious animals, animal attacks and assisting local law enforcement. Shelter

operations continue to see increases in animals impounded, a 60% increase in animals surrendered by their owners and a 15.5% increase in stray animals impounded was realized during January & February 2011 as compared to the same time period in 2010. During calendar year 2010 the Moreno Valley Animal Shelter handled 6,350 dogs and 4,056 cats along with a variety of 506 other animals including various farm animals ranging from horses, to chickens, and to pigs, along with a variety of wildlife including high-risk rabies carriers, for an overall total of 10,912 animals entering the Moreno Valley Animal Shelter. Staff continues to work diligently in providing a high level of care to all animals entering the animal shelter and encourages anyone interested in adopting a companion animal to first visit their local animal shelter.

# <u>Wildlife Activity Increases for Animal Services as Spring Approaches</u>

Springtime usually means flowers, warmer weather and



longer days, but for Animal Control Officer Mary Jacquez it means having to wrestle with a 4 foot Red Diamondback Rattlesnake that recently decided to lay out next to the pool of a Moreno Valley resident's home. Officer

Jacquez quickly removed the venomous snake (pictured) and brought it to the Animal Shelter for a closer look by our in-house reptile expert, Steve Lulli. The significant rainfall this year has provided excellent cover and an increase in available food for many of the wildlife found along the foothills of Moreno Valley. City workers who are often in the field providing a wide variety of city services to residents are encouraged to keep their eyes open and be careful especially in areas where there is overgrown vegetation and while working near shrubbery, woodpiles and thick plantings around the outside of homes and structures. Steve Lulli recommends to residents that the best deterrent in combating snakes. as well as other wildlife in and around their homes, is to keep a neat, trimmed yard and eliminate any hiding places such as woodpiles and garden debris. It's also a good practice to keep the rodent population under control by keeping pet foods inside, garbage cans tightly sealed and vegetable gardens harvested. Anyone who feels that wildlife is posing a threat is encouraged to call Moreno Valley Animal Services.

Moreno Valley Animal Shelter Participates at the City of Perris Animal Control's "Strut Your Mutt" Event

On Saturday, March 12, the Moreno Valley Animal Shelter attended the City of Perris' annual "Strut Your Mutt" pet event. Lead Animal Care Technician Dorathy Haun, Christine Saxton, and Melissa Hernandez

(Temporary Animal Care Technicians) teamed up with City of Perris Animal Control Officer Christine Bostwick to provide the public with valuable information on responsible pet ownership. The City of Perris contracts with the City of Moreno Valley to shelter stray and lost pets from the City of Perris. Adoptable dogs from the Animal Shelter were taken to the event where one lucky pup was adopted to a new home. The Animal Services Division continues to promote the adoption of shelter pets and encourages all pet owners to have their companion dogs and cats spayed or neutered.

#### FIRE DEPARTMENT

#### Fire Prevention Bureau

On April 4, the Fire Prevention Bureau will mail over 2,500 letters to all vacant lot parcel owners advising them that the City will be conducting hazard abatement inspections beginning April 18. A parcel that is found to be non-compliant will receive a follow up letter describing the violations at the parcel and directing the property owner to address these hazards. The Fire Prevention Bureau hopes to have all parcels compliant by July 1.

# Office of Emergency Management

Office of Emergency Management staff recently attended a disaster recovery applicants briefing conducted by Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to provide public assistance for the recently declared 'December 2010 Storms' disaster. As a result of the winter storms, the President authorized financial assistance for response and recovery. During the week of March 1st, FEMA met with staff for a kick off meeting at our Emergency Operations Center (EOC) to facilitate the reimbursement process for emergency protective measures, as well as permanent work to public property that was damaged during the storms. In addition, the FEMA team conducted on-site assessments of our reported \$1.4 million in damage. In the weeks to come, as a part of the authorization from the Presidential Major Disaster declaration for the winter storms, Hazard Mitigation grant funding will become available for our City to apply for up to \$1.5 million for a project to mitigate future flooding.

## **HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT**

#### **Human Resources**

The City's Executive Management Labor Negotiations Team comprised of Michelle Dawson, Acting Assistant City Manager, Rick Teichert, Financial & Administrative Services Director, and Sonny Morkus, Human Resources Director, have initiated the meet and confer process regarding the FY 2011/12 successor Memorandum of Understanding with the three employee associations, as follows: Moreno Valley Management Association, Moreno Valley Confidential Management Employees Association, and Moreno Valley City Employees Association.

On March 9 & 10, the management staff of the City departments provided informal one-on-one communications to forty-one (41) City employees, informing them that their positions are listed on the proposed Deficit Elimination Plan. Since then, many affected City employees have expressed that they appreciate being given advance notice so that they can seek other employment, because it is always easier to get a new job interview and get the job when one is currently working, as opposed to being on laid-off status.

Human Resources Staff is also working with City staff and bargaining unit representatives to update the Personnel Rules to reflect changes agreed to during past labor negotiations.

# Risk Management

At noon on Monday, March 7, the Risk Management division arranged for Longevity to conduct a Wellness Seminar in the City Council Chamber for City employees. Longevity conducted a five-panel health screening at the CRC, Alessandro A Room on March 24.

#### LIBRARY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

The library's new Literacy Bags are now available for checkout. Each bag has its own theme and comes with various books, games and other activities to foster early literacy. These literacy bags were funded through a grant from Target.

The Women's History Month display features books on individual women who have made a difference in the world, as well as milestones in women's history.

The library continues to be a popular destination for group visits. A group of Cub Scouts toured the library on February 22, and several classes from the MVUSD Adult School toured the library throughout the month of March.

Children's Librarian Sharon Navarro spoke at the Moreno Valley Optimists weekly meeting on Feb. 24, at Brandon's Diner. She spoke about the various children's materials and services available at the library, story times, getting a library card, and more. She also answered questions from the group.

Circulation Supervisor Karen Morales spoke at the Morning Rotary Club meeting on Feb. 17, at Coco's Restaurant. She briefly shared the history of the Moreno Valley Public Library, described the current collaborative of about 80 libraries that share materials, then went on to describe the many resources and services, both print and electronic, that are available at the library. Lastly, she shared the following statistics for the six months from July 2010-January 2011: 8,457 new library cards issued; nearly 246,000 items checked out; over 35,000 questions answered; and over 155,000 visitors to the library.

#### **PARKS & COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPT**

#### Special Events

The Moreno Valley Wind Symphony performed at the Conference and Recreation Center on February 24. This free event was filled to capacity with more than 400 people in attendance.

The Moreno Valley Wind Symphony will be performing another free concert on April 21 at the Conference and Recreation Center. The concert will begin at 7:00 p.m., and the theme is "A Concert of Soloists."

Along with the Arts Commission, the City hosted "The Writer's Launch Pad" on March 19 from 10:00 a.m. to noon at the March Field Air Museum Theater. This is a free workshop that focused on helping writers bring their work to market and launching their careers. Presenters included thriller writer Graham Brown, author of "Black Sun" and "Black Rain," who spoke on how he took his career from being an unknown author to signing a multibook contract. Kimberly Keilbach, author of "Global Warming is Good for Business" also appeared. She discussed how non-fiction writers can prepare a book proposal for agents and publishers.

In recognition of Earth Day 2011, the Parks Division is working with the City's Solid Waste and Recycling Program in providing a park site for a clean up event. The Moreno Valley Equestrian Center was selected due to its location within the urban interface of the surrounding "Badlands" foothill area of the city. With this year's rains, the weed growth will be daunting and to minimize the potential for fire hazard, the clean up event is perfect timing. Working together is just another example of how the Parks and Community Services Department makes life better through people, parks, and programs.

### Park Projects

Replacement of the play equipment at John F. Kennedy and Woodland Parks is in the design process and will be scheduled for City Council approval in April 2011.

The bid was awarded to Fleming Environmental, Inc. by City Council on February 8 for the installation of the ballfield lighting and restroom at Shadow Mountain Park. Once the contracts are approved and signed, the project will commence construction. Planned completion of this project is November 2011.

#### Parks Maintenance Division

The following projects were completed: Trimmed shrubs in CFD #1 parks; performed final weed abatement on aqueduct bikeways and multi-use trails for maintenance contract.

Projects in progress include: Replant beds at various park sites (ongoing); install shade covers over bleachers at Morrison (ongoing); repair damage from rain storms at Equestrian Center and Hidden Springs Paseo trails (50% complete); spray weeds at all park sites (20% complete); install monument signs at Westbluff and Weston Parks (Community, Bethune, Park Amistad completed); paint metal shelters at various park sites; remove and repair sump pump Community Soccer Fields; grade and spray CFD #1 multi-use trails (ongoing); remove and replace trees in raised planters at Shadow Mountain Park (ongoing); splash pad preparation for upcoming season (ongoing); applying slip resistant coating and water proofing the concrete joints of Celebration Park's splash pad for the April 1 opening.

Vandalism and graffiti have been reported at the following areas: Adrienne Mitchell (\$180), Aqueduct Bikeway (\$1,322), Bethune (\$200), Celebration (\$41), Community (\$920), Edison (\$121), El Potrero (\$349), JFK (\$88), Morrison (\$59), Pedrorena (\$24), Rock Ridge (\$41), Sunnymead (\$787), TownGate (\$233), Victoriano (\$30), Vista Lomas (\$82), Westbluff (\$48), Weston (\$41), and Woodland (\$338). The total cost for vandalism/graffiti during February was \$4,904. Total labor hours for vandalism/graffiti during February were 101 hours, approximately 12.6 full-time work days.

Court referrals performed a total of 1,233 hours during February. The total hours for court referrals in 2011 are 2,081 which equates to approximately 260 full-time work days.

Staff is also working closely with Ability Counts on performance expectations for their Multi-use Trail and Aqueduct Bikeway maintenance contract.

#### Sports & Recreation

Pee Wee/Junior Soccer is now underway at Community Park with more than 140 participants ranging in ages from three to seven years. This program will run six weeks with three weeks of practice and three weeks of games.

Youth basketball has reached it finale. The championship games were held on March 5. The champion from each age division represented our city at the IVMA/SCMAF Tournament hosted in Rancho Cucamonga on the weekend of March 19.

All adult sports are in full swing. There are more than 30 adult softball teams playing on Thursdays and Sundays, eight adult women's soccer teams playing Sundays at Community Park, and, for the first time in more than five years, an adult basketball league on Monday nights at the CRC has begun.

#### **Recreation Division**

The summer issue of the Recreation Guide and CityLink is scheduled to be delivered to residents and businesses on April 19. This issue contains news about important City issues, and features information on a variety of funfilled activities and programs for the entire family.

During the month of February, the Time for Tots program saw a rise in new registrations at each of the three sites. The newest of the sites, March Field Park Community Center, now has more children enrolled than ever before. Meanwhile, both the TownGate and Conference and Recreation sites continue to fill to capacity for several of their sessions in advance as well. The many new faces joined our continuing students for special activity days through out the month including Disney Days, Valentine's Day themed activities, and its monthly Movie Day.

Staff continues to create new and exciting curriculum, along with creative games and activities for the spring. More information to come regarding the annual Spring Celebration, Mother's Day Tea, and the always impressive Time for Tots Graduation!

Recreation classes and programs saw an increase in the popular youth and adult dance classes. Dance Exploration, for children two to five years of age, continued to fill several of its weekly classes to capacity. Parks and Community Services currently provides two weekly Zumba classes, which both saw a dramatic rise in registrations during the month as well. Staff continues to create new ways of advertising currently-offered classes and programs, as well as recreate and update flyers to

appeal to interested residents. Staff has also been busy recruiting contract instructors for a variety of new classes and programs to begin new classes in the coming months.

Valley Kids Camp staff are busy preparing fun-filled activities for Spring Camp for children during their scheduled upcoming spring breaks in late March and early April. While the kindergarten through eighth graders enjoy their break from school, they will spend their days at camp playing exciting recreational games, watching movies, playing video games, and nurturing their creativity with arts and crafts.

Recreation staff are busy planning and preparing for the spring events scheduled during the month of April. The annual Easter Egg Hunt, Bunny Brunch, Hop Down the Craft Trail, and Spring Easter Chef's Workshop will all be held for local children. More information to come!

Pee Wee/Junior Soccer is now underway at Community Park with more than 140 participants ranging in ages from three to seven years. This program will run six weeks with three weeks of practice and three weeks of games.

#### Senior Community Center

On February 1 free tax assistance became available through AARP. The services are offered Monday through Friday from 12:00 noon to 3:00 p.m.

On February 14 the Center held its Sadie Hawkins dance, which was sponsored by HealthNet. There was lots of dancing, games, and food in a loving atmosphere with approximately 60 seniors attending.

On February 22 the Black History Celebration was sponsored by Supercuts. Entertainment was organized by Samuel Walker. There was singing, an art display, and readings done in honor of Black History Month. A light snack was available for about 45 seniors who attended the event.

On February 25 there was a Wii Dance Party sponsored by MD Care. There were prizes and snacks for the 25 seniors who attended.

The February Senior Birthday Party was celebrated on February 24 at 12 noon. This event was sponsored by the Friends of the Moreno Valley Senior Center who provided a free meal and a box of candy. Miller Jones Mortuary donated the cake and ice cream.

On February 21 and February 28, there were day trips to Buffalo Bills for \$10, which included a free buffet.

March events included Mardi Gras Party on March 11, St. Patrick Day Carnival on March 17, and a Michael Jackson Wii Dance Party on March 25.

## **Grant Programs**

The STARS Program kicked off the Councilman William Batey Annual Reading Contest on February 1 and concluded on March 24. Forty-three schools participated in this contest. The top 20 readers will be recognized at the May 10 City Council meeting. The readers from the top three schools will be able to attend a private movie screening of a movie to be determined at Harkins Theater in April. Also, Councilman Batey visited four of the schools during March with his race car to promote reading.

The Second Annual March Madness Basketball Tournament started March 3. There are 23 schools participating to compete against one another.

Staff is preparing for 2011-2012 STARS program registration, which will tentatively begin May 10 and 11.

There are approximately 3,800 children currently enrolled in the STARS program.

During the month of February, the City hired approximately 80 staff in the Afterschool Program.

"A Child's Place" program staff prepared for the Spring Break festivities held on March 25 and will conclude April 8. The children will be participating in numerous activities including walking field trips to Bethune Park, cooking classes, and guest speakers. Staff is developing new curriculum and activities to keep the children busy during the break. Staff attended development trainings in March that included topics such as promoting healthy eating habits, Title 22 regulations, and classroom management strategies.

#### **POLICE DEPARTMENT**

The Moreno Valley Police Department is in the process of starting a mounted posse team for the City as an extension of our Volunteer services. Sgt. Marcus Boydd and Lt. Chad Bianco are working with mounted posse teams from other communities to help get the mounted posse teamed up and running. We hope to have our mounted posse in place by late summer. The addition, the mounted posse team will help supplement officers by providing search and rescue capability, high visibility patrol, eyes and ears in the community, and everyone loves horses in parades. The mounted posse team members will be comprised of volunteers supervised by officers from the MVPD Community Services Division.

Mounted posse team members pay for all of their own equipment, uniforms, and for the care their horses. Sgt. Marcus Boydd, (951) 486-6714, is looking for persons interested in joining our mounted posse team. If you know anyone that might be interested, please refer them to Sgt. Boydd. Recruitment posters are being developed that will soon be posted throughout the City.

## Revised Policy for Enforcement of Noise Ordinance

Based on the current city ordinance pertaining to noise violations involving loud music and/or noise resulting from parties, patrol officers have very little discretion when responding to these complaints. The parameters set forth dictate that a violation is deemed to exist at any time of day when noise/music can be heard more than 200 feet away from the property line where the source of the noise is located. There is no provision for different enforcement action during the day as opposed to late at night.

A violation results in an Administrative Citation being issued to the homeowner or responsible party with a progressive fine schedule of \$100, \$200, and \$500 for repeated violations within a one year period.

At issue has been the police department's ability to track warnings and/or responses to a location where no citation is issued. Based on calls for service statistics for the past several years, the police department responds to an average of 6,132 noise complaints per year.

Proposed Changes: In an effort to balance the need for enforcement action to ensure the quality of life for all Moreno Valley residents with the right of our residents to enjoy their homes, the following changes are being proposed (specific to noise complaints dealing with loud music and/or noise):

- The current definitions of daytime (8:00 a.m. 9:59: p.m.) and nighttime (10:00 p.m. 7:59 a.m.) will remain in place.
- During daytime hours, officers responding to noise complaints will have the discretion to issue a \$0.00 fine Administrative Citation for violations of the noise ordinance in lieu of the current \$100.00 fine, enabling the police department to document the incident for future violations without penalizing our residents.
- Homeowners and responsible parties issued a \$0.00 fine citation will be educated regarding the city's noise ordinance and advised that a subsequent violation will automatically result in a \$200.00 fine.

- In cases where the circumstances dictate a \$0.00 fine will not be effective, officers will retain the ability to issue a \$100.00 citation.
- The intent of the proposed change is to address actual noise violations occurring during the day before 10:00 p.m.
- During nighttime hours, officers responding to noise complaints will adhere to the current policy with regards to enforcement of the city's noise ordinance. After 10:00 p.m., if a violation exists, officers will issue a \$100.00 citation.
- In the event that officers respond to a noise complaint that does not rise to the level of being in violation of the ordinance, but is a nuisance to area residents, officers will educate homeowners and responsible parties regarding the city's noise ordinance and request that they lower the music or reduce the noise.

#### **PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

#### Capital Projects

# <u>Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) – Grant Application</u>

Public Works has received notice that one of our recent Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) grant applications has been approved in the current funding cycle. The project will construct a raised median on Alessandro Boulevard from Perris Boulevard to Indian Street and install a traffic signal at Alessandro Boulevard and Covey Quail Lane. The project has a total estimated cost of \$1,000,000, of which the City is required to provide ten percent matching funding in the amount of \$100,000.

## Southern California Edison - Maintenance

SCE performed maintenance on the electrical system in the area. In order to perform this work safely, SCE has informed staff that they will temporarily interrupt electric service and turn off power. This outage will allow SCE to upgrade aging infrastructure, make needed improvements, and complete other repairs. SCE has stated that they realize this temporary service interruption may cause some inconvenience, and they appreciate the City's understanding as they work to increase system reliability for the future.

# The details are as follows:

Outage Status:	Scheduled
Outage Alert Num:	444208
Starting at:	March 8, 2011 8:30 a.m.
Ending at:	March 8, 2011 3:30 p.m.

# of Residential customers affected:	69
# of Commercial customers affected:	0
Outage Boundary:	BIANCA * FRAN LOU * JACLYN * LA MAYO * LOMBARDY

## **Day Street Roadway Improvements**

The Day Street Roadway Improvements Project from Alessandro Boulevard to Cottonwood Avenue is scheduled for completion in April 2011. This project involves the rehabilitation of Day Street from Alessandro Boulevard to Cottonwood Avenue, including street, signing, striping, waterline, utility relocation, and other related road improvements. Day Street is expected to be periodically closed, as necessary, to through traffic until project completion in early April.

## SR-60/Nason Street Interchange – Phase 1

In mid-February, work started on the SR-60/Nason Street Interchange Phase 1. The first work items consist of tree removal, installation of construction signs, restriping of the freeway, placing temporary concrete railing (K-rail) to segregate work areas on the freeway shoulders, ramps, and Nason Street, and installing stormwater measures. This work will facilitate the next activities scheduled for April, which are building new storm drain pipes, starting earth fill for the ramps, and starting retaining walls on the south side of the freeway, both west and east of Nason Street. Staff is continuing its outreach program, including working with schools, residents, and Stoneridge Towne Center businesses. Handouts, posters, and presentations have been made. Staff is also proactively working with SuperTarget to facilitate traffic during construction. To sign up for project updates, please visit the City's "Route 60 Nason" link on the City's website. A toll-free number has also been set up as 1-888-493-8410. Construction is expected to take 1 year for Phase 1. Phase 2, bridge replacement, will take place after completion of Phase 1, and is expected to take 18 months.

## <u>Ironwood Street And Storm Drain From Heacock To</u> Perris

On Ironwood Avenue, the majority of the pipe draining south to the Indian Detention Basin has been built and is providing drainage to the area. There are two remaining sections of pipe, one in Hubbard and one at the Ironwood/Indian Street intersection, that will be installed by mid-April. Building the approximate 90 foot-long section of 6-foot diameter pipe in Hubbard, from Ironwood to 125 feet north, will require daytime closures of up to ten weekdays, which started as early as March 21. The closures are necessary because of the large pipe and equipment. The closures will speed up construction and thereby reduce the overall workdays at this location.

Advance notifications have been provided and a detour for vehicles was posted. Pedestrians will be provided a safe passage through the area. New catch basins are also being built along Ironwood, which will tie into the new system, and greatly improve street drainage. The contractor has paved the trench in the middle of Ironwood between Indian and Hubbard, and will use the new pavement to direct traffic away from the catch basin construction. The contractor is also putting in pavement on the south side of Ironwood from Heacock to Nita to provide a second eastbound lane. The project is on schedule with completion anticipated by May 2011.

## 2011 Pavement Resurfacing Project

The 2011 Pavement Resurfacing Project will resurface six (6) existing City streets with cold-in-place recycling (CIPR) and rubberized asphalt concrete overlay, pavement grinding and rubberized asphalt concrete overlay, crack seal and overlay, or slurry seal. The project also repairs or reconstructs curb access ramps to meet ADA standards at designated locations. The project will re-establish traffic striping, traffic signal detector loops, hand-holes, and utility covers. The six streets in 2011 Pavement Resurfacing Project are: Kitching Street (Fir Avenue to Cottonwood Avenue), Manzanita Avenue (Heacock Street to Perris Boulevard), Cactus Avenue (Commerce Center Dr. to Elsworth Street), Indian Street (Ironwood Avenue to Sunnymead Boulevard), Fir Avenue (Perris Boulevard to Lasselle Street), and Perris Boulevard (Webster Avenue to Sunnymead Boulevard). Construction will start in April and will be completed by end of June (weather permitting).

## **Dracaea Avenue Sidewalk Improvements**

On January 11, the City Council awarded a construction contract to Mamco, Inc. to construct missing sidewalk on the north side of Dracaea Avenue, between Morrison Street and Mascot Lane, improving walking routes and enhancing safety for students traveling to and from Mountain View Middle School and Valley View High School. The City receives funding from the State's Safe Routes to School (SR2S) Program for this project. The construction is scheduled to start in late March and to be completed in May.

## Maintenance & Operations

# Earth Day Clean-up Event

In celebration of Earth Day 2011, the City's Solid Waste and Recycling Program and Parks Maintenance Division have partnered to host the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Earth Day Clean-up Event on April 23, from 8:00 am – 11:00 am at the Equestrian Center located at 11150 Redlands Avenue. The event will be advertised in local publications and the City's website, along with direct contact with various community groups to encourage participation.

Volunteers will participate in clean-up activities and be provided with necessary equipment, tools, and refreshments. The event complements the City's efforts to raise awareness of Earth Day's significance and the need to reduce each resident's carbon footprint to ensure a cleaner, greener Moreno Valley. To sign-up, contact Solid Waste and Recycling Program staff at 413-3109 by April 6.

## Recycling Volunteer Program

The City's Recycling Program is currently seeking volunteers to help with community outreach efforts. Volunteers will be assisting City staff with recycling presentations provided to the community. They will also be helping staff outreach booths during various community events. Interest in this request has already generated inquiries/commitments. In addition, City staff will be reaching out to Moreno Valley College and local high schools to boost awareness of the program and volunteer opportunities. If you or someone you know is interested, please sign-up by contacting the Solid Waste and Recycling Program staff at 413-3109.

#### Household Hazardous Waste Event

The City in association with the Riverside County Waste Management Department, is holding a Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) event on April 29 and 30, at the City Yard located at 15670 Perris Blvd. A significant amount of waste is accepted at these events including, but not limited to: sharps (syringes), used oil, used oil filters, fluorescent tubes, electronics and paint. Residents are allowed multiple trips, but are limited to 50 pounds or 5 gallons of material per trip. The advertising and outreach efforts for this event include supplying local Used Oil Certified Centers with HHW flyers, which they in turn distributed to their customers. Flyers were also distributed at community events, city facilities and placed on the City's website. Additionally, the event will be advertised on the Moreno Valley Mall's electronic sign.