

# **CITY MANAGER'S UPDATE**

From William L. Bopf, Interim City Manager

### **CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE**

#### Administration

### Rotational Tow Program Update

Six local tow operators have new 5-year agreements effective January 1 to participate in the updated Rotational Tow Program for the City. Per the approval by the City Council, one more operator is expected to join the program by the end of the month upon meeting certain conditions. Staff is bringing several proposed revisions to the Rotational Tow Program ordinance to the City Council for consideration on January 11. The tow operators participating in the program provide tow services to the City's Police Department and Code Compliance Division.

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

# **General Municipal Election**

The General Municipal Election held on November 2, 2010 was certified by the County of Riverside Registrar of Voters Office on November 26, 2010.

Swearing-in of the newly elected Council Members took place at the December 14, 2010 Regular City Council Meeting. Newly elected Council Members for District 2 and 4 are Richard A. Stewart and Marcelo Co, respectively. Reorganization of City Council also took place on December 14, 2010. Swearing-in of the Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem take place during a Special Meeting on January 4, 2011. The Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem are selected annually by majority vote 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.

Advisory Ballot Measures "N" and "O" relating to the Directly Elected Mayor overwhelmingly received majority "Yes" votes.

Ballot Measure "P" relating to the Transient Occupancy Tax received majority "No" votes.

### **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

### Code & Neighborhood Services

### Sweep Of Illegal Vendor Activity

On November 12, 2010, the Code and Neighborhood Services Division, Moreno Valley Police Department and

Riverside County Environmental Health conducted a sweep of illegal vendor activity. The operation resulted in the issuance of nine misdemeanor citations, two administrative citations, the suspension of one health permit and the confiscation and disposal of approximately 550 pounds of perishable food items.

### **Planning**

# Planning Commission

The Planning Commission met on November 18<sup>th</sup> to review the following item:

1. Reviewed and recommended City Council approval of the Updated General Plan Housing Element. The City's Neighborhood Preservation Division has worked with the State Department of Housing and Community Development to craft a revised element that is consistent with State Housing Law. The proposed element includes a number of programs that will require the preparation and review of new or revised development requirements or allowances as well as consideration of rezoning specific parcels to R30 (Residential – up to 30 units per acre). Neighborhood Preservation will be scheduling the element for City Council review at a meeting early next year.

### **Administrative Approvals**

- Conditional Use Permit for co-location of a wireless telecommunications facility on an existing monopalm located at 25430 Edwin Road in the Moreno Valley Industrial Area. The applicant is Clearwire Wireless.
- Amended Conditional Use Permit to add a concrete access road to an approved, but not yet constructed wireless telecommunications facility on City property located behind the Moreno Valley Ranch Fire Station on Lasselle Street. The applicant is Core Communications for Verizon Wireless.
- 3. Plot Plan to allow installation of a paint booth and related roof-mounted and ground-mounted ventilation equipment at an existing manufacturing facility at 25100 Globe Street. The applicant is BDG Architects for Masonite Industries.
- 4. Plot Plan to modify approved plans for Tract 31319 to facilitate the construction of homes on five remaining lots. The applicant is Bowlus Pacific Homes.

- 5. Plot Plan to add three walk-up ATM machines to facilitate occupancy of an existing bank building in the Stoneridge Shopping Center. The applicant is Burnham Nationwide for Chase Bank.
- 6. Plot Plan to establish a muffler shop in an existing multi-tenant industrial building at 14300 Elsworth Street. The applicant is Jose Espinosa.
- 7. Plot Plan to construct a 988 square foot detached garage at 29203 Kimberly Avenue. The applicant is Mindy Turner.

#### Ridge Realty Warehouse/Industrial Project

The Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) public review period ended on December 6<sup>th</sup>. On December 1<sup>st</sup> staff and the EIR consultant conducted a public meeting to answer questions regarding the project and provide additional information on future review of the project by the City. Approximately a dozen people attended the meeting. All written comments will be forwarded to the EIR consultant to prepare written responses. Once those responses are reviewed and accepted by staff, the project will be scheduled for Planning Commission review and recommendation. Since the project includes a proposed Zone Change and Municipal Code Amendment, it requires City Council review and action.

#### **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

#### Administration

#### Panera Bread

It took a while, but the Lease with Panera Bread is finally fully executed. Seems like the last few years, the process to negotiate and secure the necessary approvals for commercial leases has become complex to navigate and extremely time consuming to complete. Panera Bread will submit tenant improvement plans by mid December to occupy a 3,960 S.F. building space in TownGate Crossing that previously housed Tarbell Realtors.

Panera Bread is a popular restaurant with over 1,400 locations nationwide in 40 states. The new Panera Bread in Moreno Valley will be the 10<sup>th</sup> location in the Inland Region, with existing restaurants in Riverside, Redlands, San Bernardino, Fontana, Rancho Cucamonga, Ontario, Corona, Temecula and Chino Hills. Look for a late spring or early summer opening for the new Panera Bread in Moreno Valley.

### General Growth Properties-Moreno Valley Mall

On November 9, General Growth Properties Inc. (GGP) officially emerged from Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection. GGP is the owner of more than 200 malls across the U.S, including the Moreno Valley Mall, Montclair Plaza and Riverside's Galleria at Tyler in the

Inland Empire, as well as seven other malls in Southern California.

As part of its bankruptcy reorganization, GGP received a \$6.8 billion equity infusion from a group of investors. GGP will also split into two separately publicly traded companies—one will be called GGP Inc. and the other will be called Howard Hughes Corp. The GGP Inc. company will control the vast majority of the mall properties and the Howard Hughes Corp. entity will own most of the company's master planned communities and redevelopment projects, including the closed Redlands Mall property. The Moreno Valley Mall, along with Montclair Plaza and the Galleria at Tyler in Riverside as well as eight other GGP malls in Southern California will stay with GGP Inc. Contrary to several articles from the Press Enterprise, GGP senior officials report that the Moreno Valley Mall is not being considered for a sale or re-trading to its lender. GGP officials like the long-term outlook for the Moreno Valley Mall. Sales have recently been trending upward for the Moreno Valley Mall and GGP's leasing team reports that tenant interest is heating up for the 1.3 million sq. ft. regional mall.

The Moreno Valley Mall has a new General Manager, with Scott Lewis replacing Allison Mack the last week of November. GGP has also hired a new Vice President – Paul Loubet for Retail Big Box Development to manage the marketing and leasing opportunities of bigger spaces at GGP's 11 southern California mall properties, including the Moreno Valley Mall.

#### PH Woods

Economic Development staff is working closely with real estate representatives to market the restaurant opportunity with the former PH Woods's site at the Plaza del Sol shopping center at the NE corner of Alessandro Boulevard and Frederick Street. Reportedly, ownership of the shopping center—the Callender Family Trust, will be aggressive in seeking to reuse this restaurant space. The Callender Family Trust actually owned the PH Woods restaurant business, but recently made the decision to close the restaurant operation because all the family members live outside of the area in Orange County and the Coachella Valley. Since Don Callender passed away in January 2009 at the age of 89, the Callender Family Trust also has closed or sold off restaurants Mr. Callender had started in Redlands and Indio. After the closing of PH Woods in Moreno Valley, the only remaining restaurant operation owned by the Callender Family Trust is Babe's BBQ at the River in Rancho Mirage.

The improvements for the former PH Woods restaurant are quality and they're offering a turn-key deal--including

all furniture, fixtures, and equipment. The terms being presented are attractive, but this is a large restaurant space at 8,800 S.F. (includes the brewing operation). Most mainstream restaurants look for 5,500 to 7,000 sq. ft.

### Riverside County Auto Retail Study

Riverside County's Economic Development Agency, along with help from the Press Enterprise and the cities of Moreno Valley, Riverside, Corona, Norco and Temecula have been researching the issue of why do such a high proportion of Riverside County residents buy their vehicles outside of the Riverside County. Approximately 35 to 40% of Riverside County residents purchase their vehicles in the neighboring counties of Orange, Los Angeles, San Bernardino or San Diego. This is an important loss of sales tax revenue, especially in these challenging economic times. During the past 3 years, thirteen auto dealerships have closed in Riverside County, including the Moreno Valley GMC/Buick dealership about a year ago. Total employment from auto dealers in Riverside County has decreased by nearly 5,000 during the last 3 years.

On July 14, 2009 three focus groups of residents from Moreno Valley/Riverside, Corona/Norco and Temecula were used to better understand the buying habits, purchase experience, and overall decision making of Riverside County residents who had purchased a new vehicle outside of Riverside County within the past 12 months. It is important to note that the vast majority of people who participated in the focus groups didn't realize that 1% of the sales tax from an auto purchase flows to the city where the vehicle is purchased and how important this revenue is for funding city services such as public safety, streets, parks and libraries.

All of the information from the focus groups is being used to formulate a strategy in creating a PR-marketing campaign that could be used by Western Riverside County cities in educating potential car buyers of the importance of shopping locally and making their vehicle purchases here in Riverside County. The Press Enterprise will lend their marketing expertise in developing some ideas for a PR-marketing campaign to be considered by Riverside County, the cities and a number of major auto dealerships operating in Riverside County including Moss Bros. Auto Group.

#### Moss Bros. Auto Group Brings Buick/GMC Back

Good news—Buick/GMC is back at the Moreno Valley Auto Mall. On Tuesday November 23, Moss Bros Auto Group (Moss) executed the necessary documents to acquire and re-establish the GMC/Buick franchise for the Moreno Valley Auto Mall. After many months of

negotiation with General Motors Corp. (GM), this move allowed Moss to bring back Buick/GMC, which had been dormant in Moreno Valley since the Moreno Valley Buick/GMC dealership closed and went out of business in November 2009. The new Moss GMC/Buick operation officially started business on Monday November 29. The new Moss GMC/Buick business occupies a showroom situated at 12675 Auto Mall Drive—just behind Moss Chevrolet. Moss GMC/Buick will share the Moss Chevrolet service facilities.

Moss continues to actively explore bringing other new auto dealerships to the Moreno Valley Auto Mall. Interest from at least two popular car lines looks promising, but the process will take some time.

# Shop MoVal

The Shop MoVal banners are up and look great. Check out the banners which are situated in a number of major shopping areas of the City including TownGate, Stoneridge Towne Centre, Moreno Beach Plaza and the Moreno Valley Auto Mall.

### Moreno Valley College Holds Community Summit

The Riverside Community College District (RCCD) recently held three Community Summit workshops including one at Moreno Valley College, as well as others at the Riverside and Norco campuses, to discuss 1) current and future economic & community challenges, 2) workforce needs, and 3) exploring ways that the community, businesses and community colleges can develop meaningful partnerships. Barry Foster, the City's Economic Development Director participated in the Community Summit on November 30 at Moreno Valley, along with 15 other community leaders. At the Community Summit, RCCD also unveiled its new Invest in Excellence plan with a goal of raising \$20 million to support new initiatives at the three community college campuses. The four initiatives are aimed at increasing access to college education, fuel economic and workforce development and improve the quality of life. The initiatives of excellence include:

- Invest \$3 million in Student Excellence
- Invest \$5.5 million in Workforce Excellence
- Invest \$5 million in Community Excellence
- Invest \$6.5 million Academic Excellence

A report on the findings of the three Community Summit workshops, along with the kickoff for this exciting new fund raising initiative by RCCD will soon be available.

#### Southern California's Road to Recovery

Recently Southern California Council of Governments (SCAG) hosted a Southern California region wide summit

focused on ways to strengthen Southern California's economy. Mayor Bonnie Flickinger (Moreno Valley's SCAG representative), along with Barry Foster and Michelle Dawson attended the event called—Southern California's Road to Economic Recovery on December 2 in downtown Los Angeles.

SCAG, which covers an area with a population base of more than 19 million residents, has recently been working towards establishing an Economic Growth Strategy for Southern California to help the region recovery more quickly from the recent recessionary period. During the Great Recession period the SCAG region lost over 980,000 jobs. SCAG is the nation's largest metropolitan planning organization representing six counties (Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, Ventura and Imperial) and 190 cities, including the City of Moreno Valley. In preparation of developing its Economic Growth Strategy, SCAG retained Mr. Jack Kyser as Chief Economist, along with engaging five other prominent economists representing sub-regions to gather data and met with over 300 key business leaders throughout Southern California. Included in the SCAG outreach effort was respected Inland Empire economist Dr. John Husing, who will also work with the Inland Empire Economic Partnership on developing a more focused economic recovery strategy for the Inland Region of Riverside and San Bernardino counties.

SCAG's Road to Recovery summit included discussion on several key topics such as:

- Results of interviews from over 300 key business leaders from throughout Southern California
- What are the major hurdles to business growth and restoring jobs lost during the past recessionary period
- What opportunities does Southern California have for quickly improving the economy
- What can elected/appointed officials and business leaders do to speed up the economic recovery

Clearly, the biggest need to improving the economy is to create new jobs. Every region in Southern California needs to produce jobs, jobs and more jobs to help stimulate economic growth. To do so will require the public and private sector to work together in improving the business climate in Southern California. SCAG has urged cities and counties to adopt resolutions embracing Business Friendly Principles and 144 local governments have done so already, including Moreno Valley. Most importantly, government and business leaders must lobby California legislators to make the State of California a

better place to do business, including granting the Governor of California emergency powers to help pursue new economic development initiatives towards improving California's economic condition. At SCAG's May 5 2011 General Assembly, officials will receive the draft of the Southern California Economic Growth Strategy.

### California High Speed-Rail Project

Work continues on the planning of the California High-Speed Rail project. Presently environmental review and planning studies to determine train route alignments is underway for the project, which is proposed to go from the San Francisco Bay Area to San Diego—via Los Angeles and the Inland Region. The goal is to have a high speed rail system in place to allow a trip from San Francisco to San Diego in 2 hours and 40 minutes.

The State of California has established the California High-Speed Rail Authority to be responsible for planning, constructing and operating a high-speed rail system in California. Presently \$14.25 billion in funding has been secured for the first phase of the project which will go from the SF Bay Area to Los Angeles. This represents 33.5% or 1/3 of the funding necessary for the first phase, which is estimated to cost \$42.6 billion to construct. The preliminary timetable for the first phase from SF to LA is to start construction in late 2012, with a completion of this route and start-up of the rail line projected by 2020. Pursuing additional funding from the State, Federal government and private sector is ongoing.

The second phase of the High-Speed Rail project will go from LA to San Diego-via the Inland Region. Two possible alignments for the Inland Region are being evaluated including one along I-215 and another along I-15. The City of Corona is pushing hard to have the route turn south at Ontario and then run along I-15 (with a station in South Corona near Calico Road) to Temecula/Murrieta and then along I-15 to San Diego. Clearly this alignment would avoid serving the vast majority of the Inland Region. The cities of Riverside, San Bernardino and Moreno Valley have recently started to meet to work together in building a coalition to lobby to have the High-Speed Rail alignment go easterly along I-10 from Ontario downtown San Bernardino, then turn south and go along I-215, with a station at March to serve Moreno Valley and Riverside, and then proceed on to Temecula/Murrieta and then to San Diego. Initial studies significantly increased ridership with this alignment, while only adding a couple of minutes of extra train time. Doesn't seem to make much sense to avoid the three major cities of San Bernardino, Riverside and Moreno Valley, as well as the opportunity to connect with the High and Low Desert areas.

#### Economic Development Summary – December

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

### Neighborhood Preservation Division

### NSP Changes

Staff continues to work with the City's four Development Partners to seek ways to enhance the Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) to better meet the needs and expectations of the current housing market. Several staff adjustments have been made to improve the efficiency of processing NSP residential acquisitions and resale transactions. To make the Homebuyer Assistance Program (HAP) more marketable to potential homebuyers the present housing marketplace, staff is recommending making Moreno Valley's HAP into a grant after 30 years, rather than the current practice of having a balloon payment after 30 years. Riverside County recently instituted this type of forgivable loan as part of their HAP and several other nearby cities are also considering this same type of move with their loan programs. Please note that HAP's are funded by the Redevelopment Agency and this move will have NO impact on the City's General Fund. This proposed adjustment is strongly endorsed by local real estate professionals, lenders participating in the City's HAP, and the City's NSP Development Partners.

# Palm Desert Development Company

Palm Desert Development Company (PDDC) has finished the first-phase of its Rancho Dorado Apartments affordable housing project near the SE corner of JFK and Perris. Occupancy is complete on the 71-unit first-phase project. The project was fully leased in two weeks and there is a waiting list of 164. Clearly the need for quality affordable multi-family projects exists in Moreno Valley and the surrounding area. Below are some telling facts and statistics about Rancho Dorado Apartments.

- 84% (58 units) of the Rancho Dorado residents' previous residence was in the City of Moreno Valley.
- 18% (13 units) of the Rancho Dorado residents moved from either Perris or Riverside.
- 69% (48 units) are occupied by single parent families.
- 4% (3 units) are occupied by people who would otherwise be homeless if not for opportunity at Rancho Dorado Apartments.

- 16% (11 units) are occupied by people who previously were living in a group home or were actually homeless in the Moreno Valley area.
- 1 unit is occupied by a family that was previously residing in a group home were the wife is expecting a child in the next few months.

On December 9, PDDC held a Grand Opening event to showcase the Rancho Dorado Apartments. The quality of the new project is evident in the architecture, fixtures, finishings, energy efficiencies and amenities.

PDDC will again be pursuing tax credits for the second and final phase of 79-units at the Rancho Dorado Apartments. On November 30, the RDA approved a funding resolution to provide \$8.25 million in housing set-aside funding for the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of Rancho Dorado Apartments, which is estimated to cost \$19 million to develop. Illustrating how really competitive the tax credit market has become for affordable housing projects--this will be the fourth application by PDDC during the past two years to try and secure a tax credit allocation for the final phase of the Rancho Dorado Apartments project. The last round, Rancho Dorado finished 3<sup>rd</sup> and only two projects from the Inland Region received a tax credit allocation.

With the economy still struggling and financing markets remaining challenging, along with the significant competition for securing an allocation of tax credits, the RDA has discontinued working with PDDC on a future affordable housing project on the RDA's 8-acre property at the NE corner of Alessandro Boulevard and Day Street. In early 2009, after a Request for Qualifications/Proposals process, PDDC and the RDA entered into a Negotiation Agreement for pursuing a Disposition & Development Agreement for a future 225-unit affordable housing project. However, during the past two years, the financing of affordable housing projects and competition for 9% tax credits in California has changed tremendously. Securing tax credits for a project of this size, even on a phased basis doesn't make fiscal sense in this current economic and financial market. The Negotiation Agreement with PDDC expired on December 10. This property still makes long-term sense for the development of a quality affordable housing project, but the timing is probably several years down the road. Meanwhile, RDA-Housing staff will look for other near term affordable housing opportunities that fit better into the existing cash flow capability of the RDA-Housing fund.

#### Oakwood Apartments

Occupancy continues for the new 240-unit Oakwood Apartments, opening up on Perris Boulevard, just south of JFK. All but one of the 20 buildings has received occupancy permits, and this building just has minor outstanding items to finish. The project is 64% leased with strong tenant interest still underway in trying to quality potential tenants. 94 units or 39% of the Oakwood Apartments project has already been occupied and more moving in almost daily. The Oakwood Apartments, developed by MacFarlane Costa Housing Partners is another nice affordable housing project assisted by Moreno Valley's Redevelopment Agency.

### **Habitat for Humanity Homes**

On November 17, a dedication ceremony was held by Habitat for Humanity to celebrate the completion of two new homes at 12118 and 12126 Graham Street. Two families—the Gaston's and Fraustos were selected by the non-profit group—Habitat for Humanity to purchase the new homes at a discounted price. The 1,286 S.F. houses were constructed by Habitat volunteers and include four bedrooms, two bathrooms and two-car garages, along with a long list of energy efficiencies and green technology. The City of Moreno Valley's RDA donated the land for the two homes at no cost as part of its affordable housing program.

#### CDBG Annual Action Plan for FY 2011-12

City staff from Economic Development-Neighborhood Preservation has started the process for the formulation of the FY 2011-12 Annual Action Plan for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Investment Partnership (HOME) programs. The adoption of the Objectives and Policies for these important programs will be considered by the City Council on December 14. In accordance with U.S. Housing & Urban Development (HUD) requirements, the City has already held two community based meetings to solicit input and feedback from residents on formulating CDBG and HOME programs for next fiscal year.

In past years CDBG and HOME have helped fund a variety of programs in the community including social services, capital improvements, career development & youth job training, employment creation, small business assistance, senior services, affordable housing creation, home rehabilitations, foreclosure prevention counseling, code enforcement, neighborhood clean-ups and community policing. During the past 23 years Moreno Valley has invested over \$40 million into the community through the CDBG and HOME programs. HUD hasn't released funding allocations for FY 2011-12 but Moreno Valley's allocations for FY 2010-11 were \$1.9 million for CDBG and \$660,000 for HOME.

#### Neighborhood Clean Up Program

The first Neighborhood Clean Up event for FY 2010/11 was held on December 4<sup>th</sup> with a Clean Up in Council District 3. Over 130 households were included in the Clean Up area, which was located between Fir and Sunnymead, from Kitching to Lasselle. There was good participation from the residents, and 9 dumpsters were filled by the end of the Clean Up, resulting in the removal of approximately 18 tons of residential trash, debris, discarded household items, and landscape trimmings. Staff from Economic Development, Neighborhood Preservation, Public Works, Code & Neighborhood Services, the POP Policing Team and Waste Management assisted in the clean up efforts. The next Neighborhood Clean Up event is being targeted for February 2011.

### **Employment Resource Center**

The Moreno Valley Employment Resource Center (ERC) continues to serve the community. On average, nearly 200 people use the ERC located in TownGate Center. The newly expanded ERC also provides more opportunities for business development programs and events. Below are updates on several events happening at the ERC:

- On December 7 & 9, the ERC was used by Riverside County's Workforce Development Division and Goodwill Job Industries for a recruitment event for construction workers to assemble racking systems for many of the new business projects in the local area. More than 250 people attended the 2-day recruitment event.
- Beginning in February, Moreno Valley College will restart its logistics job training program at the ERC. Several participants of a recent City Business Roundtable that focused on logistic businesses have pledged to hire qualified graduates of this training program.

Riverside County's Workforce Development Division has assigned a Business Solutions Specialist to work directly with Skechers USA on workforce development needs for the new major distribution center operation in Moreno Valley. The Moreno Valley ERC will be available to help with the recruitment effort for Skechers.

### **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

#### Spark of Love 2010

The Moreno Valley Fire Department, in conjunction with Riverside County Fire Department / CAL FIRE and ABC-7, conducted its 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Spark of Love Toy Drive. The toy drive officially started November 18<sup>th</sup> and concluded on December 19<sup>th</sup>.

On November 17<sup>th</sup>, ABC-7 announced the kick off of the Spark of Love Toy Drive, on November 23<sup>rd</sup> an article was written in the Press Enterprise, and on November 24<sup>th</sup> MVTV3 began running Media Ads.

### **HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT**

Labor/Management Committee Items Being Finalized The MOU's for FY 2010/2011 require Labor/Management Committee be formed for follow-up discussion regarding several items: the Workplace Image Policy, Employee Performance Evaluation Form, Layoff Procedures and Comp Time Pay Conversion Procedure/Form. This Committee, comprised of representatives from all of the City's employee groups, met several times over the past two months and has developed the following:

- Revised Workplace Image Policy to include wearing denim on Thursdays.
- Combined the three current Employee Performance Evaluation Forms into one uniform evaluation document with the following rating selections: Outstanding, Exceeds Expectations, Meets Expectations, Needs Improvement and Unsatisfactory.
- Revised the layoff procedures policy to reflect the updated Employee Performance Evaluation ratings and, effective January 2012, use these ratings as part of the layoff procedures.
- Developed a form enabling employees to cash out up to 20 hours of compensatory time.
- Revised the City employee timesheet by adding verbiage ensuring that each employee took an unpaid lunch break each work day and stating whether or not the employee had a work related injury, accident, or illness during that pay period. This item was not a part of the MOU discussion but is being implemented at the suggestion of the Human Resources Director.

The Human Resources Director will be meeting with supervisors in each City department at the beginning of the year to review and discuss these items.

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

### Special Events

Santa Live was held on December 6 on MVTV-3 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. The telephone lines were

continuously busy with callers wishing to speak to Santa Claus and tell him what they would like for Christmas. Santa and one of Santa's elves asked holiday trivia questions with winners gaining prizes.

On December 11 from 9:00 a.m. to 1100 a.m., children ages three to twelve years were invited to attend Breakfast with Santa at the Conference and Recreation Center. Participants enjoyed a delicious breakfast prepared specifically for them. The children will then be entertained with a morning of crafts, music, games, and a special visit with Santa Claus.

The Holiday Craft Workshop was held at the TownGate Community Center on December 14. Children ages five to twelve years enjoyed an evening of creative crafts that they took home to share with friends and family.

The holiday programs concluded on December 16 with the Jr. Chef Workshop held at the TownGate Community Center. Children five to twelve years of age will spent a fun-filled evening getting their hands sticky putting together fantastic holiday treats.

# Park Projects

Replacement of the play equipment at Moreno Valley Community and Adrienne Mitchell Memorial Parks was approved by the City Council on September 14. A purchase order was issued for the work on September 27. The old play equipment at Community Park has been removed and the new equipment is being installed. Adrienne Mitchell Memorial Park will follow. Completion of the project was expected by December 23.

The ADA hardscape improvements at Moreno Valley Community Park have now been completed.

The plans and specifications for Shadow Mountain Park Ballfield Lighting and Restroom Project are out to bid, and the opening date was December 21. Once awarded, the final plans for the restroom will be provided by the contractor. Prefabricated restrooms require approval from the State Architect as well as our Building and Safety Division. Planned completion of the project is Fall, 2011.

#### Parks Maintenance Division

The following projects were completed in November: Installed new benches at JFK and Woodland tennis courts; epoxy coated restroom floors at Community Park with aggregate; trimmed trees at Public Safety Building and Veteran's Memorial; repaired multi-use fencing on Cottonwood; and installed ADA hand railing at golf course.

The following projects are still in progress: Install new benches at Fairway Park. Replant beds at various park site; aerate and fertilize all parks (50% complete); remove diseased trees at all park sites; prepare multi-use trail and bikeway Request for Proposal; grade CFD #1 multi-use trails; perform CFD #1 cross connection tests at Celebration and Vista Lomas Parks; and trim shrubs in CFD #1 parks.

Vandalism and graffiti have been reported at the following areas: Aqueduct (\$144), Bethune (\$1,376), Community (\$807), Edison (\$228), (El Potrero (\$550), Hidden Springs (\$111), Morrison (\$135), Sunnymead (\$406), Towngate (\$157), Weston (\$72), and Woodland (\$24). The total cost for vandalism/graffiti was \$4,010. Total labor hours for vandalism/graffiti during were 89½ hours, approximately 11 full-time work days.

Court referrals performed a total of 774 hours during November. The total hours for court referrals in 2010 are 11,969 which equates to approximately 1,496 full-time work days.

The Mobile Stage was used on November 20 by Calvary Chapel Higher Ground Thanksgiving Feast.

#### Recreation Division

Several of the Time for Tots fall and winter sessions continue to fill weeks in advance with new and continuing children. The month of November was spent enjoying creative curriculum and celebrating special activity days including Election Day, Cultural Day, and a Thanksgiving Feast. The annual Time for Tots holiday pictures, provided by Life Touch Photography, were taken at each site on November 18 and 19. Children dressed up and posed in front of holiday backgrounds.

The Time for Tots annual Winter Celebration was held at the Conference and Recreation Center on December 8 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The children performed three holiday classic carols and received a special visit from Santa Claus, who assisted with the gift exchange.

Time for Tots staff and selected participants performed holiday carols on December 14 at the Conference and Recreation Center and Council Chambers. Participating children joined the participants in *A Child's Place* program for an evening of caroling and refreshments.

The annual Winter Contract Class Performance was held on December 15 and featured performances from many of the youth and adult dance classes.

There was a significant increase in the number of participants in the Valley Kids Camp during November

22 through 24. Attending children spent their vacations from school creating creative holiday and seasonal crafts, playing fun-filled games and activities, and much more. Staff are now preparing for the upcoming winter camp available at the March Field Park Community Center from December 20 through January 7.

The Junior and Pee Wee Basketball program concluded on November 23. The awards banquet was held on November 29 and 30. Registration for Pee Wee and Junior Soccer program is underway with the program beginning in February.

Youth Basketball has 220 participants ranging in ages from 8 to 13 years. They will compete January through March, with a pre-season tournament and all star weekend. The championship games will be held on March 5.

### Senior Community Center

On November 18 a volunteer mixer was held at the Center so staff could acknowledge all the volunteers that have contributed their time and talents to the seniors. There were approximately 20 volunteers in attendance.

The November Senior Birthday Party was celebrated on November 18. This event was sponsored by the Friends of Moreno Valley Senior Center, which provided a free meal and a box of candy. Miller Jones Mortuary donated the cake and ice cream.

On November 24 Caremore gave out free pies to the seniors for Thanksgiving.

### **PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

#### Capital Projects

# Ironwood Avenue From Day Street To Barclay Drive

The City's contractor, Riverside Construction Company, Inc., started construction of the street improvements on Ironwood Avenue from Day Street to Barclay Drive the week of December 6, 2010. The work involves widening the south side of Ironwood Avenue, construction a retaining wall, waterline, storm drain, street lights, new concrete curb, gutter and sidewalk, as well as a traffic signal at Ironwood Avenue and Athens Drive. Ironwood Avenue will be open to through traffic during construction. Construction is anticipated to be completed by May 2011 (weather permitting).

#### Sr-60/Nason Street Interchange Improvement

The SR-60/Nason Street Interchange Improvement project has been approved by Caltrans and the Federal Highway Administration to advertise for construction bids. The City has advertised the project, with the bid

opening held on December 6, 2010. There were 7 bids total. All American Asphalt is the apparent low bidder with a bid of \$7,696,245. The Engineer's estimate was revised to \$13,025,322, so the low bid is 59% of the estimate. The SR-60/Nason Street project has been allocated an additional \$7.5 million in federal funds, providing for full federal funding for construction and construction support. Once awarded, construction is expected to take approximately one year. The project will realign and improve the freeway on- and off-ramps; including installing traffic signals at the Nason Street/ramp intersections, to serve traffic needs, while accommodating future bridge replacement.

### **Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Award**

In August 2008, the City applied for the Federal Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) to request funding to install a storm drain and miscellaneous street improvements at the Moreno Valley Townsite area southeast of Alessandro Boulevard and Redlands Boulevard to mitigate flooding hazards in this area. The proposed storm drain is to be installed in the middle of the tract bounded by Redlands Boulevard and Merwin Street, starting from Alessandro Boulevard and discharging to the existing open channel on the southwest of Redlands Boulevard and Brodiaea Avenue. In November 2010, the City received notification of a Grant Award in the amount of \$1,178,000 for the project. Per the Grant requirements, the project is to be completed by April 2013.

# **Day Street Roadway Improvements**

The Day Street Roadway Improvements from Alessandro Boulevard to Cottonwood Avenue started construction on July 13, 2010 and is scheduled for completion in January 2011 (weather permitting). 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. In order to expedite construction, segments of Day Street within the project limits will be regularly closed to through traffic and open to local traffic only.