

## CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE

### *Administration*

#### Annual Memorial Day Ceremony

Planning is underway for the City's annual Memorial Day ceremony. The May 30 event will once again be a sunset ceremony held at the Veterans Memorial. Staff from the City Manager's Office, City Clerk/Council, and Parks and Community Services Department are making the preparations which will include a flyover, speeches by the mayor and Council Members, and the traditional laying of a wreath at the Memorial with the assistance of the Knights of Columbus.

#### Requests for Price Reductions from Vendors

Where appropriate, City departments have been forwarding letters to our vendors requesting 10% price reductions on services provided to the City. The City of Los Angeles implemented a similar program last year which resulted in cost reductions and Moreno Valley has already had some positive responses to our requests which have resulted in 10% reductions in costs in services such as copier services. Purchasing and Facilities Division Manager Rix Skonberg was instrumental in implementing the program.

#### Meeting with Senator Boxer's Representative

I met with Alton Garrett, Southern California Director for Senator Barbara Boxer. We discussed potential grant funding opportunities, which staff from my office will follow up on. We thanked Mr. Garrett for the Senator's ongoing support of Moreno Valley, especially her continued support of the Community Development Block Grant program and requested her assistance in keeping funding levels for this program at the current level.

#### Labor Negotiations

The City's negotiating team for new Memorandums of Understanding with the three employee associations include Acting Assistant City Manager Michelle Dawson, Human Resources Director Sonny Morkus, and Financial and Administrative Services Director Rick Teichert. They have had two meetings with the Moreno Valley management Association to date and are scheduled to meet with the Moreno Valley City Employees Association on May 18.

Information on the negotiations was shared with the City Council at the April 15 closed session.

#### City Submits Application for Helen Putnam Award

Staff from the City Manager's Office and the Community and Economic Development Department collaborated on a submittal to the League of California Cities for consideration of a Helen Putnam Award. Staff wrote the application nominating the City's Employment Resource Center for a League Partners Award for Excellence in City-Business Relations. This award recognizes the collaborative efforts in engaging the leadership of the private, nonprofit, and labor sectors in addressing community problems. Award winners will be recognized at the annual League conference which will be held in San Francisco in September.

#### MVUSD Town Hall Meeting

Staff from the City Manager's Office attended a Town Hall meeting at the Moreno Valley Unified School District. The purpose of the meeting was to gather input from the community for the district's strategic planning process. Among the initiatives mentioned by Superintendent Judy White was a partnership with Moreno Valley College, Riverside County Regional Medical Center, and the new UCR Medical School to create a medical hub in Moreno Valley and provide outreach to the schools to promote health services careers to the students.

#### Legislative Update

Letters of support for the following bills were drafted by staff and forwarded to our State representatives:

- *AB 61 (Jeffries):* Riverside County Neighborhood Electric Vehicles (NEV). AB 61 will authorize the County of Riverside, or any city in the County, to establish a NEV transportation plan. The intent of the plan is to assist in creating sustainable development that will reduce gasoline demand and vehicle emissions by creating safe routes of travel for NEVs and by providing for NEV-related facilities.
- *SB 11 (Anderson):* Registered Warrants and SB 120 (Anderson) State Funds: Registered Warrants. SB 120 would direct the state to accept registered warrants, commonly known as state IOU's, endorsed by the payee at full face

value for the payment of any obligations owed by that entity while its companion bill, SB 11, would free small businesses, non-profits, taxpayers, and all who receive state issued IOU's from unfair late-payment charges or penalties incurred due to the state's forced borrowing upon its citizens. Under current state law, the public is required to accept registered warrants, or IOUs, under certain emergency circumstances; however, the state itself will not accept such securities as payment. Both SB 11 and SB 120 address this issue with the state's IOU program.

## **Media & Communications**

### MVTV-3 Update

*Audio/ Video Maintenance:* Recently the Media and Communications Division has received calls related to audio and video level concerns for Channel 3. The audio levels are reported as being too low and the video levels are reported as being over modulated. MVTV-3 staff is working closely with Time Warner Cable, Verizon Fios, and AT&T Uverse to remedy this issue. The current solution will require the acquisition of digital components to replace several analog components, enlisting the assistance of a local engineer, and correcting and testing the server's video/audio levels. MVTV-3 staff may have the bulk of these issues resolved in early May.

### Website Updates

[www.moval.org](http://www.moval.org) - Currently Media and Communications is working on a new and improved official City of Moreno Valley website. This new website will be more interactive, user friendly, and provide a very modern aesthetic. This project is expected to be completed this summer.

### G.R.E.E.N. MoVal

As part of the City's goal to keep promoting energy efficiency, MVTV-3 will be launching a webpage dedicated to G.R.E.E.N. MoVal (Getting Residents Energy Efficient Now). The web page button for this is located on the home page of the City's website and was launched on Earth Day 2011.

### Highland Fairview Featured Project

"Spotlight on Moreno Valley Business" has chosen to highlight the Highland Fairview Corporate Park as its featured project. This project highlight entails a new webpage, a web photo slideshow, and a web video. This will provide residents with more information about the project. This webpage was made available on April 21.

### Social Media

The City has launched its official Flickr page, an online photo management and sharing application. Selected sets of photographs of the Moreno Valley can be found at:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/morenovalley/>.

Photos and a photo slideshow of the Highland Fairview Featured Project can be found on this site as well.

*City Events:* On March 28 MVTV-3 shot photographs and video of the "deconstruction" of the old hospital building that served March Air Force Base. Photographs and video were taken of the City Council and local dignitaries during this event.

MVTV-3 was on hand on March 21 to cover the grand opening of Buffalo Wild Wings. Photos and videos were taken of the ribbon cutting ceremony and interviews were conducted with the owner and staff. Buffalo Wild Wings was featured in the April episode of "Spotlight on Moreno Valley Business".

## **CITY CLERK'S OFFICE**

### Council Agenda Packets go Paperless

Throughout California, cities are looking to technology to provide an automated solution for agenda distribution. The City Clerk's Department and the Technology Services Division are providing that solution with the City's first iPad implementation. The iPad and iAnnotate software were selected after a thorough cost analysis. Within six months, printing and the associated labor costs will be eliminated and the City will realize a full return on its investment.

Starting with the March 29, 2011 Special Meeting/ Study Session, Council Members and staff began using the new technology. The City Clerk will continue to provide a paper agenda for all City Council meetings, and electronic copies can be printed via download from the City's website at: [www.moval.org](http://www.moval.org).

## **COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

### *Administration*

#### Panera Bread

Tenant improvements are underway for the new Panera Bread to be located in TownGate crossing. Look for the new Panera Bread in Moreno Valley (to be situated just a few doors down from Qdoba Mexican Grill) to open by this summer.

### Buffalo Wild Wings Bar & Grill

Business remains extremely strong for the new Buffalo Wild Wings Grill & Bar in TownGate Crossings. A month after opening the new Moreno Valley Buffalo Wild Wings continued to track as one of the strongest producing locations for this popular restaurant chain that has nearly 700 restaurants nationwide. Recently, the Moreno Valley restaurant opened both of its patio spaces to allow for more seating opportunities, and the restaurant patrons still experience waits for a table much of the time.

### News on Five Guys Burgers & San Sai Japanese Grill

Work continues toward the development of a new Five Guys Burgers & Fries in Moreno Valley. In mid-March a lease was fully executed for Five Guys Burgers to occupy the space in TownGate Plaza that currently has the San Sai Japanese Grill. Officials with San Sai have executed a revised lease document with the Fritz Duda Company to relocate their restaurant operation to a smaller space—the former Extreme Pita restaurant in TownGate Crossing—in the shop building along Day Street that also contains Starbucks Coffee, Nutrition Zone, and Jamba Juice. As part of the move, San Sai will be re-branded as Miru Sushi & Teriyaki.

Tenant improvement plans have been finalized and submitted for the new San Sai restaurant space on Day Street. Tenant improvement plans for the new Five Guys Burgers restaurant are also being formulated. Look for the new Five Guys Burgers & Fries to open by the end of the summer. The Five Guys Burgers website already lists the new Moreno Valley site on Frederick Street as **‘Coming Soon’**.

### Anna’s Linens

Work is underway for the relocation of Anna’s Linens from the Moreno Valley Mall to a space next to 99 Cents Only in TownGate Crossing. On March 24, a lease was fully executed between Anna’s Linens and 99 Cents Only (the owner of the 33,000 S.F. building situated on Day Street). Tenant improvement plans are being worked on, with an opening of the new Anna’s Linens targeted for August. The move by Anna’s Linens out of the Moreno Valley Mall is part of a corporate strategy by Anna’s Linens to re-position their stores to shopping centers rather than large indoor malls.

### Economic Development Subcommittee

A monthly meeting of the Economic Development Subcommittee was held on April 4. Items discussed by the Economic Development Subcommittee (which includes Mayor Pro Tem Molina and Council

Member Co) consisted of 1) Digital Advertising, 2) the Draft Economic Development Action Plan, 3) follow-up to the Developer’s Workshop in March, and 4) What are some of the Best Places to do Business. The next Economic Development Committee meeting will be held on Thursday May 12.

### ED Plan-Areas of Opportunity

At the March 22 City Council meeting, Barry Foster presented a preliminary Economic Development Plan called Areas of Opportunity. The timing of the creation of an Economic Development Plan seems perfect with a slight improvement in the economy, but more importantly addresses several key issues in the community including 1) the high unemployment rate, 2) an imbalance in the City’s job to housing ratio, and 3) evaluating the highest and best land uses of undeveloped property in Moreno Valley. The drafting of the plan follows up several initial steps recently taken to enhance the City’s economic development efforts including 1) the reformation of the Economic Development Subcommittee, 2) the Council’s approving of the Housing Element that preserves the opportunity of rezoning undeveloped residential areas to more appropriate land uses aimed at producing employment opportunities in the community, 3) conducting a Developer’s Workshop to seek ways to work with the development community in making Moreno Valley a Best Place to do Business, and 4) work with major developers and stakeholders in the community at advancing near term economic efforts.

The Areas of Opportunity include locations spread throughout the community:

- Eastern Moreno Valley-Rancho Belago
- City Center
- South Moreno Valley Industrial Area
- March LifeCare
- Centerpointe Business Park
- Alessandro Boulevard
- Sunnymead Boulevard
- Festival-Ironwood
- Sunnymead Ranch-Lakeshore Village Marketplace
- TownGate
- Canyon Springs Plaza and TownGate Highlands
- Edgemont Area

Included with the Economic Development Plan is the need to closely tie the City’s Capital Improvement Plan to economic development efforts. A recommended action is to pursue three capital improvement projects in the City Center area as priority projects including 1) the connection of Eucalyptus to Moreno Beach near Stoneridge Towne

Centre and Moreno Beach Plaza, 2) the extension of Nason from Cactus to Iris, and 3) installing the ultimate road improvement on Cactus to coordinate with the extension of Nason. Eight of the City's top 20 sales tax producers (Walmart, Moss-Toyota, Super Target, Moss-Chevrolet, Moss-Chrysler/Jeep/Dodge, Moss-Honda, Best Buy and Kohl's), along with major employers such as Kaiser's Moreno Valley Community Hospital, Riverside County Regional Medical Center and Moreno Valley College are all included in the City Center area. The importance of making these capital improvements a priority—from an economic development perspective, was illustrated at the April 26 City Council meeting.

#### 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 March 8 City council meeting were the Walmart Supercenter and Moreno Valley Car Wash. The April 12 businesses for Spotlight on Moreno Valley Business were the new Buffalo Wild Wings Grill & Bar and Oishi Sushi & Teriyaki.

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

- **Universal Soccer League**—opened in fall 2010 and is located at 25073 Sunnymead Boulevard in the Butterfield Shopping Center at the SE corner of Sunnymead and Perris Boulevards. The owner of the store—Soccer Bohx Inc. also operates a store in Fontana. The store is a family run operation that offers a full range of soccer equipment including accessories, balls, cleats, socks, and clothing.
- **Max Muscle**—is a new sports nutrition supplement store that opened in mid-February in TownGate Center at 12625 Frederick Street Suite B-3, just a few doors down from Burlington Coat Factory. Max Muscle, which has operated a store in Riverside's Orangecrest area for years, is excited to now have a Moreno Valley store to serve more customers interested in sports nutrition supplements, as well as providing advice on working out and enjoying a healthy lifestyle.
- **Destiny Home Health Agency Inc.**—is a for-profit home care provider that is situated at

12370 Perris Boulevard in the Moreno Valley Center located at the NE corner of Perris Boulevard and Elder Avenue. The company offers nursing care, physical & occupational therapy, speech pathology, and senior care assistance. The Riverside County Office of the Aging contracts with Destiny Home Health Agency, which employs a staff of 30.

#### 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2010 Sales Tax Revenue Up

Encouraging news for Moreno Valley came out of an early release of sales tax revenue reports for 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2010. A 10.7% jump in sales tax revenue as compared to the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter in 2009 is the first double-digit increase in a quarter to quarter comparison since an 11.6% increase in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2006. This 4<sup>th</sup> quarter 2010 increase is the fourth straight quarterly sales tax increase after 11 straight quarterly decreases.

Rises in sales activity in all major industry groups (except for Business & Construction) is a positive indication that recovery is happening. Starting in 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2010 with an increase of 4.5% in sales tax revenue, then followed up with an increase of 8.2% in 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter, with an 0.8% increase in 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter, and now, with a 10.7%, sales tax increase in 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter, Moreno Valley appears to be experiencing the beginning of recovery.

4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2010 Major Industry percentage increases in Moreno Valley are as follows:

General Consumer Goods, 8.8%; Fuel and Service Stations, 15%; Restaurants and Hotels, 2.7%; Autos and Transportation, 15%; Food and Drugs, 9.1%; and Business and Industry, 1.17%.

A clear leader in auto sales, Moss Bros. Auto Group brands all fared well with increases of 20.1% for Honda, Toyota at 18.6% and Chrysler-Jeep-Dodge by 13.5%. Leading the way was Moss Bros Chevrolet up a huge 124.5% as compared to the year before. Top grocery outlets were Food 4 Less and Stater Bros. with solid increases. Sales in General Consumer Goods were led by Costco, Walmart Supercenter, Super Target, Macy's, JC Penney, Sears, Best Buy, Ross Dress for Less, and Kohl's with the most growth achieved by Costco with a solid 7.7% increase in sales as compared to 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2009.

Moreno Valley's top 20 sales tax revenue producing businesses for 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2010 (in alphabetical order):



- Arco
- Best Buy
- Costco
- Food 4 Less
- Home Depot
- JC Penney
- Kohl's
- Lowe's
- Macy's
- Moss Bros. Chevrolet
- Moss Bros. Chrysler-Jeep-Dodge
- Moss Bros. Honda
- Moss Bros. Toyota
- Ross Dress for Less
- Sears
- Stater Bros.
- Super Target
- Tesoro Fuel
- Thrifty Gas
- Walmart Supercenter

The year 2010, with a 6.08% increase in sales tax performance, was a marked improvement over the past three years. The steady increases in revenue along with new outlets such as Buffalo Wild Wings and Panera Bread, and continued interest in Moreno Valley as a place to do business, are all indicators of a successful beginning of Moreno Valley's recovery from the Great Recession. Let's keep this going by remembering to Shop MoVal.

#### Economic Development Summary

The Economic Development Summary has been updated for April 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***

#### Youth Opportunity Center

City staff is working closely with Aardex LLC (the property owner) and ResCare Workforce Services toward the opening of a new Youth Opportunity Center in Moreno Valley. Tenant improvement plans have been approved by the City and construction is underway at a building space in the Moreno Valley Professional Village. Until the improvements are finished for the facility, situated on the south side of Alessandro between Veterans Way and Elsworth Street, the ResCare people are utilizing the City's Employment Resource Center to begin serving the needs of the youth in Moreno Valley.

### ***Code & Neighborhood Services***

#### Neighborhood Clean-up

A Neighborhood Clean Up was held on April 2<sup>nd</sup> within Council District 4. Over 140 households were included in the Clean Up area, which was located between Brodiaea and Cactus, just west of Perris Boulevard. There was good participation from the residents, who utilized 11 dumpsters to dispose of approximately 28 tons of residential trash, debris, discarded household items, and landscape trimmings. As an added service level at this Clean Up, Waste

Management provided a receptacle designated solely for the disposal of used tires. About 20 tires were collected and will be properly disposed. Staff from Neighborhood Preservation, Public Works, Code & Neighborhood Services and the POP Policing Team along with Waste Management assisted in the clean up efforts. The next Neighborhood Clean-Up will be May 21 in Council District 1.

### ***Neighborhood Preservation***

#### Redevelopment Update

Nothing has been resolved yet on the Governor's push to eliminate redevelopment in California. The California Redevelopment Association (CRA) has presented an alternative proposal for voluntary redevelopment contributions to schools. The CRA proposal provides for significant funding to schools that will surely help with the State's budget deficit, yet avoids the unconstitutional and costly battle if the State moves to abolish redevelopment in California. The CRA proposal includes the following components:

1. An RDA could voluntarily suspend their housing set-aside efforts for FY 2011/12 and contribute that tax increment revenue stream to local schools in their redevelopment project areas. In exchange for this contribution to local schools, an RDA will be allowed to extend their project area's term or life by two years.
2. Additionally or alternatively, an RDA could voluntarily contribute up to 10 percent of their tax increment revenue stream to local schools for up to 10 years beginning in FY 2011/12. In exchange for this contribution the RDA's term or life of its project area would be extended by one additional year for each year it makes a contribution—up to a maximum of 10 years.

CRA estimates that their proposal if adopted could raise more than \$2.7 billion over a 10-year period—far exceeding the Governor's proposal to abolish redevelopment and generate an estimated \$1.7 billion to help balance the State's budget. Staff from Moreno Valley has analyzed CRA's proposal and the financial impact it would have on the RDA's cash flow. While it would be helpful to have redevelopment continue, the CRA proposal would have a significant impact on the short-term cash-flow of the RDA. Adding years to the term of the RDA's life would be nice, but only if the RDA has the ability to incur more debt to generate some short term cash flow (Moreno Valley's 20-year term to incur debt expired back in December 2007). Both Barry Foster and I have been speaking to our

local State representatives about ways that the CRA proposal might incorporate the ability of all RDA's to incur more debt, as part of any transfer of RDA funds to schools.

### CDBG/HOME

On May 10, the FY 2011/12 budgets for CDBG and HOME will be considered for final adoption by the City Council. No official word has come from HUD about the exact budget allocations that Moreno Valley will receive for FY 2011/12. However, as part of the federal government's budget process, HUD staff recently informed cities to anticipate a funding decrease of 16.5% as compared to the FY 2010/11 allocation. With a 16.5% percent reduction, Moreno Valley's new CDBG budget allocation for FY 2011/12 would be \$1,621,245—down from \$1,891,611 for this year's allocation. The HOME budget allocation is expected to also decrease by 16.5%, going from this year's allocation of \$666,589 to \$556,600 in FY 2011/12.

Given the 16.5% reduction—which is a deeper decrease in CDBG funding than what staff anticipated when it presented the preliminary CDBG Budget on March 22, staff has been busy revising the FY 2011/12 Budget for CDBG to make adjustments in programs and services to reflect a lower budget allocation. Because of some budget carryover and projects savings, a number of the potential projects and programs recommended on March 22 can be properly maintained. However, because of HUD's restrictions with the CDBG program on a cap of only 15% to be used for social services, City staff must make recommendations to adjust to a lower funding allocation for the social services category. Recommendations, along with the consideration of the entire CDBG and HOME budgets, will be presented to the City Council on May 10.

### Family Services Association

Family Services Association (FSA) continues to be an active partner with Moreno Valley in providing needed services in the community. FSA, which is based in Moreno Valley, has served the needs of low income families in the community for years, including operating three child care centers and a nutrition program. Recently FSA pursued new child care facilities in the community brought on by the closing of two KinderCare Learning Centers. After completing a renovation project, FSA recently opened one of these child care centers on Olivewood Plaza Drive (just north of Sunnymead Blvd). FSA also purchased the closed and blighted former grocery market property on Alessandro Boulevard—just east

of old 215. FSA is working with the City on plans to improve this property so it can open a food preparation facility to better serve FSA's expanding meal and nutrition program.

### Hemlock Family Apartments

Planning continues toward the development of new affordable housing project—Hemlock Family Apartments. The proposed 77-unit multi-family housing project, to be developed by Rancho Belago Developers Inc and its development entity, MV Hemlock L.P., will be situated on Hemlock Avenue just west of Perris Boulevard. On April 12, a required Public Hearing was conducted for the Developer's proposed financing plan of the issuance of multi-family housing revenue bonds through the California Statewide Communities Development Authority.

### NSP Enhancements

The City's Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) continues to be very active. The City and its Development Partners remain busy with the original NSP and Moreno Valley recently received notification from HUD that its NSP3 action plan was been approved for another funding allocation of \$3,687,789.

To assist in the further use of the NSP, staff is pursuing the following two enhancements of the program to more effectively react to residential market conditions.

- Moreno Valley will be using the services of Neighborhoods Partnership Housing Services Inc. (NPHS) to help supplement the NSP qualification and underwriting services for the Homebuyer Assistance Program. NPHS currently works with a number of other agencies on NSP and affordable housing efforts in the cities of Chino, Montclair, Rialto, and Hemet. Utilizing the proven expertise of NPHS will greatly assist Moreno Valley in enhancing the turnaround time needed to qualify potential homebuyers and then efficiently close escrow transactions.
- A number of cities and Riverside County have revised their Homebuyer Assistance Programs (HAP's) to better adjust to the current lending environment. With this in mind, staff is recommending a change in Moreno Valley's HAP guidelines to have the loan amount be forgivable after a 20-year term, but still having an equity share provision if the home is sold before the end of the 20-year period. Being able

to market a forgivable loan (even if its 20 years out) will improve the effectiveness of the HAP in Moreno Valley. Look for this recommended change to come before the City Council on May 10.

#### Foreclosure Prevention Workshop

On April 2, the Community & Economic Development Department hosted a highly successful 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) to provide homeowners with foreclosure prevention resources. Nearly 400 homeowners from throughout Riverside County attended the event. Over 200 homeowners had the opportunity to meet one-on-one with representatives from over 12 mortgage lenders in attendance while over 70 homeowners met individually with non-profit housing counseling agencies. Educational presentations on federal foreclosure prevention programs, foreclosure fraud, tax related issues, loan modifications, and short sales, were presented by the IRS, HELP, Riverside County District Attorney's Office, HUD and many others.

Mortgage lenders in attendance included:

- Fannie Mae
- Freddie Mac
- HSBC (Beneficial & HFC)
- GMAC Mortgage
- Chase
- Wells Fargo Retail
- Wells Fargo Retention
- U.S. Bank
- American Home Mortgage Servicing (AHMSI)
- PNC Mortgage
- Saxon Mortgage
- Bank of America

Elected Officials in attendance included:

- Moreno Valley Councilmember Marcelo Co
- State Assemblyman Mr. Paul Cook
- State Senator Bill Emmerson
- City of Perris Mayor Daryl Busch
- California Department of Real Estate Commissioner Jeff Davi

The event was held from 9am to 3pm, at the City's Conference & Recreation Center. For information on upcoming events or more information on foreclosure

prevention, please contact the Neighborhood Preservation Division at 951-413-3450 or visit the City's website at [www.moval.org](http://www.moval.org).

#### Rancho Dorado Apartments

Recently Palm Desert Development Company submitted an application with the California Tax Credit Allocation (CTAC) for the Housing Tax Credits Program for the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of the Rancho Dorado Apartments project. In March, the City of Moreno Valley through its Redevelopment Agency (RDA) entered into an Affordable Housing Agreement with Palm Desert Development Co. and its development affiliate, MV Rancho Dorado LP, to provide a funding commitment of \$8.25 million in RDA affordable housing assistance toward Rancho Dorado South, a planned 78-unit affordable housing project to be situated near the SE corner of JFK and Perris Boulevard. Through its partnership with Moreno Valley, PDDC feels confident that their application will score high enough to secure a tax credit allocation in the next round of funding by CTAC, which will be announced by late May. Rancho Dorado North, which is a 71-unit affordable housing complex development, was opened in October 2010 and currently has a waiting list of more than 150 families. Securing funding and developing the final phase of the Rancho Dorado Apartments will provide needed affordable housing opportunities in Moreno Valley.

#### Home Resale Market-March 2011

Home resale values continue to slip in Moreno Valley and the surrounding area. The March home resale values decreased in Moreno Valley by 2.6% as compared to the previous month of February. In March 2011, the average home resale value in Moreno Valley was \$152,457, which was down slightly from the \$156,521 average in February 2011. A number of nearby cities also saw their home resale values drop in March including Temecula/Murrieta (-3.2%), Riverside (-2.2%) and Corona (-1.0%). Only Hemet/San Jacinto (+5.4%) and Perris (+2.6%) experienced an increase in home resale value in March. With a bit of good news, the number of home resale transactions increased in Moreno Valley in March going from 188 in February to 267 in March, a healthy 42% increase. Keep your fingers crossed that the home resale market will continue to recover.

#### Unemployment-February 2011

With a bit of good news, unemployment numbers went down slightly in February 2011 as compared to the previous month of January 2011. According to the California Department of Employment Development,

unemployment decreased slightly in February for both the State of California (going from 12.4 to 12.2%) and Riverside County (going from 14.3 to 14.2%). The City of Moreno Valley and other nearby western Riverside County cities also saw their unemployment numbers dip slightly in February including Corona (down from 10.6 to 10.5%), City of Riverside (down from 14.4 to 14.2%), Beaumont (down from 16.3 to 16.0%), Banning (down from 16.3 to 16.1%), Moreno Valley (down from 16.5 to 16.3%), Hemet (down from 17.9 to 17.7%), San Jacinto (down from 21.3 to 21.0%), and Perris (down from 21.8 to 21.6%).

### ***Planning Division***

#### Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan Fee

Planning staff received notice from the Regional Conservation Authority that their Board of Directors has decided not to implement the Consumer Price Increase adjustment for this year. Therefore, the MSHCP fees will remain unchanged for the 2011-12 fiscal year. Barring this decision, the fees would have increased 1.34%.

#### Energy Efficiency Rebates

The City received four more 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.

#### Planning Commission

1. The Planning Commission met on April 14 and took the following actions:
  - a. Recommended denial of proposed revisions to City's outdoor lighting standards. The proposal is the follow up to a City Council request early last year to consider adoption of a Dark Sky Ordinance. Such consideration was required pursuant to the Settlement Agreement for the Highland Fairview Corporate Park. A denial resolution will be drafted and brought back to the Commission in May. Subsequent to the Commission's ratification of the revised resolution, the Ordinance will be scheduled for City Council review and action this summer.
  - b. Approved Tentative Tract Map 35606, a sixteen (16) lot single family residential subdivision on 4.8 acres zoned R5 (Residential – 5 units per acre) at the end of Metric Drive

east of Hubbard Street and north of Ironwood. The proposed lots range in size from 7,377 to 12,724 square feet, all above the minimum required lot size of 7,200 square feet. No specific homes are yet planned for the subdivision. The applicant is Kenney Kha.

The City Clerk attended the meeting to swear in the four new Commissioners: Meli Van Natta, Tom Owings, Carlos Ramirez and Amber Crothers.

2. The next meeting of the Planning Commission is scheduled for May 12<sup>th</sup> with two items tentatively scheduled for that meeting.
  - a. Westridge Commerce Center is an approximately 950,000 square foot warehouse/industrial building proposed for a 55-acre site on the south side of the Moreno Valley Freeway and west of Redlands Boulevard. The project includes a Zone Change and Municipal Code Amendment to permit the proposed use. The applicant is Ridge Property Trust.
  - b. Proposed Municipal Code Amendment that is required to address water quality regulations included in the adopted Regional Water Quality Permit that will go into effect later this year. The effort involves both Planning and Public Works – Land Development staff.
  - c. In addition to these two items above, the agenda will include the annual election of Planning Commission officers and a Brown Act presentation by the City Attorney's office.

#### Administrative Approvals

1. Plot Plan for a model home complex for Tract 36340. The tract, located on the south side of Eucalyptus Avenue east of Nason Street, includes 275 small lot single family homes. The tract was approved by the Planning Commission in February. The applicant is Beazer Homes.
2. Amended Plot Plan to add a second drive-through lane and automated teller at the existing Bank of America at Lakeside Plaza at the northwest corner of Iris Avenue and Lasselle Street. The applicant is Gensler Design.
3. Plot Plan for a pizza delivery restaurant in Canyon Springs Plaza at the southwest corner of Day Street and Ironwood Avenue. The



applicant is Elias Alfata.

4. Plot Plan for a large (990 square foot) garage at 29127 Kimberly Avenue in Old Moreno. The applicant is Gilbert Ramirez.

#### Energy Efficiency Rebates

The City received the last of the rebates submitted to Southern California Edison 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 March shows a decrease in foreclosure activity in the City, which is in contrast to an increase in Riverside County. The website reported one in 112 housing units in Moreno Valley were in some stage of foreclosure. This compares to a rate of one in 107 units in February, a 5% improvement in foreclosure activity. The current rate is also a significant improvement from a year ago in March 2010, when the rate was one in 62 units. Foreclosure activity was up 2% in Riverside County, 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 with Corona and Perris.

Slower growth areas such as Riverside and Banning had much better rates, and faster growth areas such as Beaumont and Menifee, as well as Temecula had much worse rates. Calimesa had the lowest rate locally (1 in 233) and Winchester had the highest rate (1 in 23). By zip code, area 92555 had the highest rate in the City (1 in 46) and area 92557 had the lowest rates (1 in 155). Foreclosure activity decreased in all zip codes. Moreno Valley had 495 homes reported in some stage of foreclosure, compared to 521 in January. The City of Riverside had the highest number of reported foreclosure properties at 748, Corona had 489, and Temecula had 451.

Information available from the Realtor.com website indicates a decrease in the number of homes listed for sale in the City but a continued stability in median asking prices. As of April 1, 1,139 homes were listed for sale, compared with 1,230 on March 1, and 985 in March 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 generally increased throughout 2010 and early 2011. The median asking price \$155,000, compared with \$155,000 in March and \$159,000 last March 2010. The current inventory of homes for sale is approximately a four month supply. Anything less than a six month supply of homes for sale is considered a positive marketplace.

#### Kaiser Medical Office Building

City staff has completed a first review of Kaiser Permanente's plans for a new 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 reviewed through a pre-application process with Kaiser's design team on April 7<sup>th</sup>. Kaiser and City staff target a June review by the Planning Commission.

#### Continental East Trading Inc.

Staff had a follow up meeting with the principal and other staff from Continental East Trading Inc. (CET), which has purchased two former Empire Land parcels from a lender. One parcel is located on the east side of Lasselle Street, just south of the Moreno Valley College campus. In response to a recent pre-application review, CET has suggested a proposed mixed density project, with apartments and small lot single family residential units, in lieu of a previously approved 227-unit condominium project. CET is working with Moreno College on a plan to provide a temporary parking lot on a portion of the property during the College expansion program over the next year. The second parcel is located on the west side of Moreno Beach Drive, just north of the Moreno Marketplace (Stater Brothers anchored shopping center). With this development opportunity, CET is proposing an assisted living complex in lieu of the condominium project previously approved for the site. CET has identified the assisted living project as their top development priority. CET is interested in having both projects approved in 2011.

#### Aqua Bella

City staff is working in a collaborative effort with Highland Fairview on the idea of developing a major medical, health, and wellness campus on approximately 200 acres of the Aqua Bella site. The proposed site would be on the easterly side of where

Nason Street is proposed to be installed to provide the public roadway that will connect Cactus Avenue with Iris Avenue via the Nason Street extension. The preliminary development concept presented by Highland Fairview would create a world-class health care environment consisting of medical, healthcare and wellness uses situated within an attractive campus setting that would still utilize the many lakes and water features contained in the Aqua Bella development plan. The development of this type of project would also provide for an important link in connecting the Kaiser Community Hospital with the Riverside County Regional Medical Center (RCRMC). In 2007, the City adopted a medical overlay zone for this area, near the two hospitals, as an opportunity toward creating a medical-healthcare corridor in the community.

Clearly, the medical and healthcare industry is in a major growth mode and the need for more hospitals, medical offices and healthcare facilities in the Inland Region is evident. Situating more medical and healthcare uses in close proximity to the Kaiser Community Hospital and RCRMC, along with nearby Moreno Valley College makes great sense. Kaiser Permanente is working on plans to add another 75,000 S.F. facility and RCRMC will be the major teaching hospital for the new UC-Riverside Medical School. Moreno Valley College is also well underway with \$88 million in improvements for the campus which specializes in Allied Health Sciences.

Highland Fairview has prepared some conceptual plans on what a new medical and healthcare campus might be, along with preliminary market analysis on the cost and types of users that might be interested in this type of a project. Preliminary discussions are starting with a number of possible users.

March LifeCare

The developer of the March LifeCare project has started the demolition work on the old March Base Hospital at the SW corner of Cactus and Heacock. There are a total of 22 buildings needed to be demolished to make way for the new March LifeCare project. Approximately 87% of the materials will be recycled. Look for the demolition work to be completed by this summer.

Industrial Vacancy Report—2<sup>nd</sup> Qt. 2011

Moreno Valley’s industrial building vacancy rate is 3.4% for 2<sup>nd</sup> Qtr. 2011. Presently there are NO large scale buildings available for lease or purchase in Moreno Valley. Two older industrial buildings—the former MVP RV and Ecolite buildings, along with

two small buildings on Veterans Way are the only industrial buildings available. One sub-lease opportunity is also available in the South Moreno Valley Industrial Area. Moreno Valley clearly needs developers to push forward with plans to build more large-scale industrial buildings suitable for major logistic distribution users. Below is a summary of the existing industrial building market in Moreno Valley.

**MORENO VALLEY - INDUSTRIAL BUILDING OCCUPANCY  
2<sup>nd</sup> QUARTER – 2011**

Centerpointe-Ridge

- Occupied 2,064,026 S.F.
- Vacant 0
- Total 2,064,026 S.F.
- Available 0%

Centerpointe-Other

- Occupied 1,119,587 S.F.
- Vacant 233,800 S.F.
- Total 1,353,387 S.F.
- Available 17.3%

South Moreno Valley Industrial Area

- Occupied 5,147,908 S.F.
- Vacant 125,600 S.F.
- Total 5,273,508 S.F.
- Available 2.4%

East Moreno Valley-Rancho Belago

- Occupied 1,820,00 S.F.
- Vacant 0
- Total 1,820,000 S.F.
- Available 0

Total Moreno Valley Industrial Building

- Occupied 10,151,521 S.F.
- Vacant 359,400 S.F.
- Total 10,510,921 S.F.
- Available 3.4%

Unemployment – March 2011

Unemployment continues to slowly decrease. Riverside County and most nearby cities saw their unemployment numbers slightly drop in March 2011 from the previous month. Moreno Valley’s unemployment rate in March 2011 was 16.2%, down slightly from 16.3% the month before.

	<u>March 2011</u>	<u>Feb 2011</u>
State of CA	12.3%	12.2%
Riverside County	14.1%	14.2%

Banning	16.0%	16.1%
Beaumont	16.0%	16.0%
Corona	10.4%	10.5%
Hemet	17.6%	17.7%
Moreno Valley	16.2%	16.3%
Perris	21.5%	21.6%
Riverside	14.2%	14.2%
San Jacinto	20.9%	21.0%

### ***Building & Safety Division***

#### Skechers USA

Staff from Development Services continues to work closely with Skechers and Highland Fairview on the 1.82 million S.F. facility set to open in the Highland Fairview Corporate Park in the Rancho Belago area of eastern Moreno Valley. The state-of-the-art distribution center will help establish a new standard for logistics and distribution facilities as major corporations look to enhance the movement of goods and product within an ever changing global marketplace. The employees necessary to operate this new facility—which will be the North American headquarters for Skechers—must be well trained and possess high tech skills set because of the highly automated infrastructure being installed in this facility.

The new Skechers Distribution Center utilizes a high-standard of ‘green building’ design and energy efficiency, along with a sophisticated material handling system which requires an investment of more than \$100 million to install. Almost 1,000 people have already taken the opportunity to tour the new Skechers facility to view first hand the quality of the development project, along with the high-tech make-up of this 1.82 million S.F. facility. Many corporate executives, developers and real estate professionals have also closely watched the progress of the Skechers project and toured the site. On April 21, the City’s Executive Team and Division Managers accepted a gracious offer by Highland Fairview for a tour of the new Skechers DC.

#### Overton Moore Properties

Overton Moore Properties has renewed development plans for a new 519,760 S.F. industrial building to be situated in the Centerpointe Business Park at the NW corner of Cactus Avenue and Frederick Street. Overton Moore Properties, a major industrial developer based in Southern California, is bullish that the industrial development market is improving quickly and they wish to move forward on plan check for this approved and entitled 519,760 S. F. building, so it can pursue construction by this fall.

## **FINANCE & ADMIN SERVICES DEPT**

### ***Animal Services Division***



#### High School Senior Coordinates Fundraisers

On April 5, Valley View High School Senior Sarah King presented a check in the amount of

\$494.20 along with a supply of towels and blankets to the Moreno Valley Animal Shelter. As her senior project, Sarah decided to help the animals at the Animal Shelter through raising money by coordinating a variety of fundraising activities. Sarah received over \$300.00 in pledges this past February for participating in her Roll-A-Thon where over a period of five days she completed 30 laps around the Valley View High School track. In addition to her successful Roll-A-Thon, Sarah held candy sales, sold donuts, and coordinated a garage sale held on Saturday, April 2. In her spare time, Sarah also donates her time as a volunteer at the Moreno Valley Animal Shelter. Staff at the Animal Shelter are truly inspired by Sarah's commitment and compassion to the animals in the community.

#### Moreno Valley Animal Shelter Welcomes Interns from Oasis Youth Opportunity Center

On April 4, two interns from the Oasis Youth Opportunity Center, Jessica Avelar and Marisol Aguilar, began their work experience opportunity at the Moreno Valley Animal Shelter. The Oasis Youth Opportunity Center is part of the Youth Opportunities Consortium, led by the Council for Youth Development, the youth voice for the Riverside County Workforce Development Center. As a qualified worksite, the Moreno Valley Animal Shelter will be working with young adults between the ages of 18 to 21 from the Oasis Youth Opportunity Center to gain valuable work experience to prepare them to enter the competitive workforce environment. Interns receive formal training from the Oasis Youth Center to prepare them to enter the workforce and are guided by an Employer Relations Specialist. Participants from the Oasis Youth Opportunity Center who have expressed an interest in the field of Animal Welfare or an interest in entry level clerical functions will have an opportunity to work at the Animal Shelter learning skills that will aid them as they continue their journey as productive members of the community. Many businesses located throughout Riverside County are participating in this worthwhile program.

## **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

### ***Fire Prevention Bureau***

During the March 2011 California Fire Prevention Institute held in Buellton, CA, our city Fire Marshal Randy Metz was installed as a member of the Board of Directors of the California Fire Chiefs Association's Fire Prevention Officers Section. Randy will be serving a 7-year term on the Board representing both Moreno Valley and Riverside County and will also serve as President of the Southern Section in the 2016-2017 term. This organization is responsible for guiding the state's fire prevention and code development efforts. It also serves as the conduit between local fire departments and the State Fire Marshal's Office in Sacramento as well as the National Fire Protection Association, International Code Council, and the U.S. Fire Administration.

### ***Fire Operations***

During the week of April 4, 2011 Moreno Valley Fire Department Units converged on the Moreno Valley City Yard for advanced auto extrication training. This was not like any normal training evolution. This particular training involved the collective efforts of MVFD's specially trained truck companies, their heavy rescue equipment and the advance life support/paramedic companies throughout the City.



Companies were given scenarios that required Fire Officers (Captains), to test and affect their critical thinking skills and decision making capabilities. These companies were faced with scenarios such as, victims trapped under vehicles, victims trapped inside vehicles, victims partially and fully ejected from vehicles and vehicles upside down, or on top of each other.

They also paid special attention to modern day vehicles and the challenges they provide. Some examples are hybrid and fuel cell vehicles, electric vehicles and vehicles made with new stronger steel.

The week of training was a huge success. Moreno Valley Fire Department companies received quality training while refining and refreshing their basic auto extrication and traumatic injury skills.

A special thanks to the City of Moreno Valley Cooperate Yard and Tom's Towing and Recovery. Their support allowed this real-life training to be possible.

## **HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT**

### ***Human Resources***

#### Personnel Rules - Update

Human Resources Staff met and conferred with the three bargaining units to update the Personnel Rules to reflect changes agreed to during the past two labor negotiations. A staff report with the updated Personnel Rules has been submitted for City Council to consider approval at its regular meeting on May 10.

#### Labor Negotiations

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 are engaged in the meet and confer process regarding the FY 2011/12 successor Memorandums of Understanding with the three employees associations, as follows: Moreno Valley Management Association, Moreno Valley Confidential Management Employees Association, and Moreno Valley City Employees Association.

#### RFP for Employee Benefits Broker

In response to the City's Request For Proposals (RFP) for the selection of an Employee Benefits Broker that was released last month, the Human Resources & Risk Management Department received five (5) proposals. The Employee Benefits Broker Proposals Review Committee is comprised of Michelle Dawson/Acting Assistant City Manager, Rick Teichert/Director of Financial and Administrative Services, Bridgette Montgomery/Human Resources Analyst, Sonny Morkus/Human Resources Director and representatives of the three employee bargaining units. The Committee is expected to complete its review by early May 2011.

#### Layoff Transition Meeting

The HRRM Department staff conducted a Layoff Transition Meeting for employees affected by the Deficit Elimination Plan (DEP). On April 21 Staff worked with the Riverside County Economic Development Agency's Workforce Development Center to provide affected City employees with the following services:

- Resume Preparation



- Cover Letter Preparation
- Personalized Career Counseling
- Development Interview Skills
- Job Leads
- Apply for positions on your behalf
- Access to Phones, Fax, and Copy Machines
- Skills Assessment and Training
- State of California Unemployment Insurance
- Other Important Information to Assist in Career Transition

<http://library.booksite.com/7252/> or call 951. 413. 3880.

## **PARKS & COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPT**

### *Special Events*

The Moreno Valley Wind Symphony performed a free concert on April 21 at the Conference and Recreation Center. The concert began at 7:00 p.m., and the theme was “A Concert of Soloists.”

A heartfelt “thank you” to the ladies in the crochet and quilting classes at the Senior Community Center. The ladies donated crocheted and quilted blankets to the Moreno Valley Chapter of Project Linus, a national organization which provides security blankets for seriously ill and traumatized children locally. This particular need was for 100 blankets for military families evacuated from Japan (additional blankets received would be donated to local Project Linus charities).

### *Park Projects*

Contracts for the Shadow Mountain Park Ballfield Lighting and Restroom Project have been signed with Fleming Environmental, Inc. The contractor has provided a schedule for the improvements, with ground breaking in May. Planned completion of this project is November 2011.

### *Parks Maintenance Division*

The following projects were completed: Installed monument signs at Bethune, Community, Park Amistad, Westbluff and Weston Parks; and completed slip resistant coating on deck at Celebration Park.

Projects in Progress: 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 (75% complete); paint metal shelters at various park sites (ongoing); remove and repair sump pump Community Soccer Fields (ongoing); clean debris and remove brush in flow line of Heacock Channel; weed abate open space sites; aerate sports fields; grade and spray CFD #1 multi-use trails (continue as weather permits); splash pad preparation for upcoming season (ongoing); clean drains and water holding tank at Celebration Park; and install new joint sealant at Celebration Park.

Vandalism and graffiti have been reported at the following areas in March: Adrienne Mitchell (\$213),

Other resources at the Workforce Development Center includes on-site job interviews with local employers, use of a personal computer to develop resumes and cover letters, a training center, and lists of private and public sector job opportunities.

## **LIBRARY SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

### National Library Week

National Library Week was April 10-16, and was recognized by the City Council with a proclamation at its April 12 meeting. The library presented two special puppet shows for children that week: “Mystery at the Library”. The theme for National Library Week 2011 was “Create Your Own Story @ your library” and celebrated the role our nation’s libraries play in inspiring stories of all kinds.

The Moreno Valley Library can provide many suggestions and resources for ways in which patrons can create, record and share their own stories, e.g. scrapbooking, photography, film, writing, crafting, public speaking, storytelling, painting, grammar, local history and more.

### Moreno Valley High School Career Expo 2011

Librarian Jennifer Rapier attended the Moreno Valley High School Career Expo 2011 on March 17. She spoke with 165 teens on topics such as librarianship, Moreno Valley Library information and services, how to volunteer at the library, how to get a library card, and more. Some teen-specific topics covered were the Library's new Facebook page, the Library's new website, and video games that are available for checkout. The video game handout was extremely popular.

### Moreno Valley Library now on Facebook

The Moreno Valley Library now has a Facebook page. Check it out and click the “Like” button! The library is located at 25480 Alessandro Blvd. and is open Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m.-8 p.m., and from 9 a.m.-6 p.m. on Saturday. For more information, visit the library web site at

Aqueduct Bikeway (\$403), Bayside (\$25), Bethune (\$24), Community (\$550), Cottonwood (\$41), Edison (\$225), El Potrero (\$263), Fairway (\$47), Gateway (\$162), Hidden Springs (\$80), JFK (\$175), Morrison (\$242), Parque Amistad (\$85), Ridgecrest (\$24), Rock Ridge (\$24), Sunnymead (\$472), Towngate (\$421), Victoriano (\$47), Vista Lomas (\$76), Westbluff (\$24), Weston (\$130), and Woodland (\$495). The total cost for vandalism/graffiti during March 2011 was \$4,248. Total labor hours for vandalism/graffiti were 82½ hours, approximately 10 full-time work days.

Court referrals performed a total of 1,062 hours during March. The total hours for court referrals in 2011 are 3,143 which equates to approximately 393 full-time work days.

### ***Recreation Division***

Recreation classes and programs continue to entertain and attract community participants. On May 25 a variety of contract classes will be showcased in the annual Spring Performance at the Conference and Recreation Center at 6:00 p.m.

New classes are now available for registration for youth and adults, including Kiddie Karate, Flamenco, Tennis, Body Sculpting, R.I.P.P.E.D., and Salsa Dancing.

Summer Valley Kids Camp is sure to be exciting this year. It will begin on May 31 and conclude on August 5. Children in kindergarten through eighth grades will enjoy a summer of various games, arts and crafts, movies, water-themed activities, visits to the local skate park, and fun and exciting field trips.

During the month of March, new registration at each of the three Time for Tots sites increased. Each of the morning sessions filled up quickly, with the CRC location filled to capacity through early May. Both TownGate and March Field Park Community Centers are also filling several of their sessions to capacity. The more than 130 registered participants enjoyed fun-filled, educational, and creative curriculum during the month. In addition to the curriculum, special activity days were held throughout March including St. Patrick's Day, Movie Day, and Safety Day.

The Time for Tots Safety Day was held in early March and the program's participants joined Moreno Valley Police Department Officers Manier and Hiers for a special demonstration and private tour of a police vehicle. The children were also treated to coloring books and crayons from the officers.

MVTV-3 also joined Time for Tots staff and taped an exciting news segment that aired in April on the City's media channel. Staff would like to thank the patient officers and energetic MVTV-3 representatives for participating and making the event a success.

The month began and ended with recreation classes and programs full of residents enjoying the popular youth and adult classes. Zumba, Belly Dancing, Piano and GED classes were full of adult registrants. Also busy were youth Dance, Reading Rascals, and Kung-Fu classes.

During the month, recreation staff has been busy recruiting contract instructors for a variety of new classes and programs to begin classes in the late spring and early summer. Staff is also working on the annual Spring Contract Class Performance to be held in late May.

Recreation staff was busy planning and preparing for the spring events scheduled during the month of April. The annual spring activities began on April 16 with the Easter Egg Hunt for community children ages 2 to 12 years of age. More than 1,000 children were expected to attend the park event and search for 16,000 candy and prize filled eggs.

Also scheduled on April 16 was the annual Bunny Brunch held at the Senior Community Center, 25075 Fir Avenue. The brunch began at 10:00 a.m. for children ages 3 to 12 years of age. For a residential fee of \$6, children enjoyed a morning of crafts, a specially prepared brunch, and a visit from the Easter Bunny. The Morning Optimist Club of Moreno Valley donated their time to assist staff in preparing the breakfast for this fun-filled spring event.

Hop Down the Craft Trail was scheduled for April 19 at the TownGate Community Center, 13100 Arbor Park Lane, for children ages 5 through 12 years of age. The event was held from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. for a \$9 residential fee. Children made fun and exciting holiday crafts that they took home to enjoy.

The spring activities concluded on April 21 with the Spring Easter Chef's Workshop at the TownGate Community Center. From 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Children ages 5 to 12 years made yummy holiday goodies to take home and enjoy.

Valley Kids Camp staff were busy in March preparing fun-filled activities for spring camp for Moreno Valley and Val Verde Unified School Districts during

their scheduled spring breaks March 28 through April 8. While the kindergarten through eighth graders enjoyed their break from school, they spend their days at camp playing exciting recreational games, watching movies, playing video games, and nurturing their creativity with arts and crafts. Early registration numbers show an increase from last year's camp.

The winter youth basketball league concluded with the "B" Division champions winning second place in the SCMAF tournament in Rancho Cucamonga. The winners competed in the Carson Tournament League of Champions on April 2. The first and second place teams from the Inland Empire go to this tournament.

### *Senior Community Center*

April events included: April 1 - Swap Meet; April 6 - Spring Bonnet Parade; April 15 - Latin Music Night; and April 28 - Senior Picture Day.

## **POLICE DEPARTMENT**

### American Cancer Society's 2011 "Relay For Life" Fund Raiser

The Moreno Valley Police Department participated in the American Cancer Society's 2011 "Relay for Life" fund raiser on April 16 & 17. The MVPD's efforts, headed by Motor Officer Ted Morgan, helped raise money for cancer research. A huge part of what the American Cancer Society does is provide support for people who already have cancer. The Relay for Life event is a 24 hour walk in which members of teams from various entities walk the track at the Valley View High School, usually in half hour shifts.

This has truly been a team effort and the Police Department can attribute their success to the following:

- Multiple \$100-\$200 donations from our police department members
- Raffles of a gun and scuba certification by the MVPD Lieutenants
- The business office hosted several baked potato, hot dog, and pancake sales
- Community Service Officer Bonnie Terrill baked cookies for weeks and sold them at the police station.
- The Police Department also had help from employees at City Hall, Riverside County Environmental Health, Sheriff's Administration and volunteers from the community donating time and money.

A lofty goal of \$2,500 for MVPD's team was set. As of April 12, over \$5,300 had been raised, with just over \$7,000 raised by April 16.

The first link below is the most recent update for the "MVPD - Arresting Cancer Team". The 2nd link is information about the American Cancer Society.

[http://main.acsevents.org/site/TR/RelayForLife/RFLFY11CA?team\\_id=838375&pg=team&fr\\_id=31432](http://main.acsevents.org/site/TR/RelayForLife/RFLFY11CA?team_id=838375&pg=team&fr_id=31432)

<http://www.cancer.org/AboutUs/WhoWeAre/index>

## **PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

### *Administration*

#### Reserve Deputy of the Year – Reserve Deputy Mark Sambito

On March 30, Mark Sambito, Engineering Division Manager received the Reserve Deputy of the Year Award from the Riverside County Sheriff's Department.

The job of a deputy sheriff is extremely challenging, and sometimes dangerous. Reserve deputies do the same job for nothing more than the satisfaction of knowing that they have helped their community.

Reserve Deputy Mark Sambito has proven to be an exceptional example of this type of person. For the 2010 calendar year, Mark Sambito gave an average of 40 hours of service per month to the citizens of Moreno Valley while working for the Moreno Valley Police Department.

Mark Sambito's duties included working safety fairs, truancy sweeps, curfew sweeps, mall saturations, National Night Out, DUI/Safety checkpoints, and patrol. His additional duties include training new reserve deputies, helping to organize and lead the monthly reserve meetings, and scheduling specialized training. Mark has just recently completed the certified training course and will be working the Sheriff's boat patrol assignment on Lake Elsinore over the summer. Thanks to Mark's selfless dedication, the Moreno Valley Police Department is able to fulfill its mission at a considerable cost savings to its residents.

For these reasons and many more, Reserve Deputy Mark Sambito was presented with the Sheriff's Department Reserve Deputy of the Year Award.

#### Street Improvement For Heacock Street From Hemlock Avenue To Ironwood Avenue Project

This project will improve approximately 650 feet on the west side of Heacock Street from Hemlock Avenue to Ironwood Avenue by expanding the roadway, adding new sidewalk, curb and gutter. The scope of work includes construction of new AC pavement, sidewalks, curb and gutter, access ramps, driveways, retaining walls, chain link fences, wood fence, wrought iron fence, mail boxes, relocating trees, and restoring landscape and irrigation. The project will improve sight distance for public safety and provide a continuous sidewalk for the benefit of school children and pedestrian purposes. Construction will start in late June 2011 and will be completed by end of August 2012 (weather permitting).

#### 2011 Bridge Maintenance Program

The 2011 Citywide Bridge Maintenance project started April 18. The project includes the maintenance and repairs to eight (8) bridges within the City of Moreno Valley. The work involves the application of Methacrylate Deck Treatment to three (3) bridges at the following locations: a) Cactus Avenue Bridge 56C0407, west side of Kitching Street; b) Bay Avenue Bridge 56C0401, 0.25 mile east of Kitching Street; c) Oliver Street Bridge 56C0559, 500 feet north of John F. Kennedy Drive. Additionally, the work includes cold mill and pavement of the back of the existing asphalt concrete over the bridge deck and the bridge approaches at the following five (5) bridges: a) Cottonwood Avenue Bridge 56C0214, 0.2 mile east of Heacock Street; b) Dracaea Avenue Bridge 56C0274, 0.14 mile west of Indian Street; c) Cactus Avenue Bridge 56C0420, 0.5 mile west of John F. Kennedy Drive; d) Cactus Avenue Bridge 56C0421, 0.2 mile west of John F. Kennedy Drive; and e) Perris Boulevard Bridge 56C0464, 1.0 mile south of Iris Avenue. The project is anticipated to be complete by June 13, 2011.

### ***Special Districts***

#### Mail Ballots Being Prepared

Special Districts is preparing Mail Ballots which will allow property owners to decide whether or not they support increasing their parcel charges to pay for increased costs to provide landscape maintenance services for their neighborhoods. If approved, the new charges will be reflected on their 2011/12 property tax bills. Mail Ballots will be sent to ten different landscape service areas (Zones) or just over 5,200 property owners. Staff will be meeting with as many HOAs or neighborhood groups as possible prior to mailing the ballots so that the property owners have an opportunity to ask questions and are aware of the Mail Ballot prior to receiving it in the mail. Fliers

will also be distributed to properties advising the residents of the Mail Ballot. Ballots will be mailed to the owner of record the second week of May to the following areas: residential housing tracts 19912, 20941, 22371, 31591, 19862 and 21737; E-1, TownGate; E-2, Hidden Springs; E-3A, Lasselle Powerline Parkway; and E-4, Moreno Valley Ranch East.

#### CSD Annual Notice

The Community Service District Annual Public Hearing Notice was scheduled to be mailed to property owners within a CSD service area or Zone on April 18. The CSD is scheduled to conduct the public hearing on June 14, 2011 to consider approval of parcel charges to be placed on the 2011/12 property tax bills. The parcel charges are for special services provided within each of the CSD's Zones or neighborhood service areas that include street lighting services and landscaping service areas. Each Notice is personalized to each property, identifying its CSD parcel charges which are scheduled to be collected on the 2011/12 property tax bill. The Notice also provides a brief description of the services provided by each of the CSD's Zones.

#### Special Districts Employee Recognized as Expert

Robert Florez, Landscape Irrigation Technician, was invited by the Inland Empire Job Corp Center, operated by the Management & Training Corporation for the U.S. Department of Labor, to participate in a steering committee to develop the curriculum for its landscaping vocational program. Mr. Florez was one of four invitees to participate on the committee, being recognized as an expert in his field. The committee will meet quarterly to seek his input.

### ***Maintenance***

#### Replacement Grates in Bicycle Lanes

Maintenance & Operations crews, in collaboration with the Transportation Engineering Division, have completed replacing 17 drainage grates located in bicycle lanes throughout the City. The replacement grates are designed to be more bicycle friendly; bars in the grates are placed in a grid pattern to prevent bicycle tires from becoming lodged within the grates. This will result in greater safety for bicyclists in the community and decrease liability exposure for the City.

### ***Moreno Valley Utilities***

#### Third Solar Customer

We had our third MVU solar customer start generating on March 29. A 4.2 kW SunPower



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photovoltaic system was installed, which is expected to generate about 7,500 kWh per year. To date, we have almost 12 kW of installed solar on our distribution system with more than 20 kW of reserved installations waiting.