

Town of Yucca Valley Community Update October 30, 2014



Welcome to another edition of the Town’s Community update. We trust that you will find this information useful and interesting. While some of the highlighted projects are significant and easily identifiable as you travel around Town, we also like to highlight other important tasks and accomplishments that might not be quite as obvious. As always, we appreciate your participation and feedback at any time. Visit the Town’s website for contact and additional information at www.yucca-valley.org.

Election Day is Tuesday, November 4th

Election Day is almost here! With many local agency seats on the ballot, residents are urged to take the time to cast their votes. Polling places may change from election to election, so voters should verify the correct polling location, listed on the Voter Pamphlet/Sample Ballot. Polling places can be verified online with the San Bernardino County Registrar of Voters. Polls are open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Vote-by-Mail voters are encouraged to drop off their completed ballots at the Town Clerk’s office located at Town Hall, 57090 Twentynine Palms Hwy, or at the Yucca Valley Branch Library to assure the ballot is received by the election deadline. Mail ballot voters may also drop-off completed ballots at any polling location on Election Day. Vote-by-Mail ballots must be in the return envelope provided and the envelope must be signed by the voter as indicated.

The November 4th election will feature many federal, state, and county level offices. Locally, voters will select the winners for several races, including seats on the Yucca Valley Town Council, and board members for Hi Desert Water District, Morongo Unified School District, and the Hi-Desert Memorial Healthcare District.

For ballot locations, Election Day results and other voter information, please contact the San Bernardino County Registrar of Voters at www.sbcountyelections.com or by calling (909) 387-8300

Recreation Department – Upcoming Events and Activities

Youth Basketball

Play basketball for the Town of Yucca Valley! The Youth Basketball Program provides a fun and positive sports experience for boys and girls in grades 1st through 8th. Registration opens on September 23; closing on November 21 or when filled. The cost is \$60.00 per child and includes a team jersey and complimentary picture package. Youth Coaches and Referees are also needed! Share your experience and enjoyment of sports with the youth of our community. Contact the Community Services Department at (760) 369-7211 for more information.



Veterans Day Events

Veterans' Tribute

Tuesday, November 11

10:00am – 1:00pm

Yucca Valley Community Center

Free to the Public

The Town of Yucca Valley is proud to present a Veterans' Day Tribute on November 11th at the Yucca Valley Community Center from 10:00 am – 1:00pm. It will include a military and public safety equipment display, a Veterans' Recognition, a community Barbeque, and a Young Marines Flag Folding Ceremony.

Veteran's Breakfast

Tuesday, November 11

8:00am – 10:00am

Yucca Valley Senior Center

Free to Veterans, Military & Public Safety

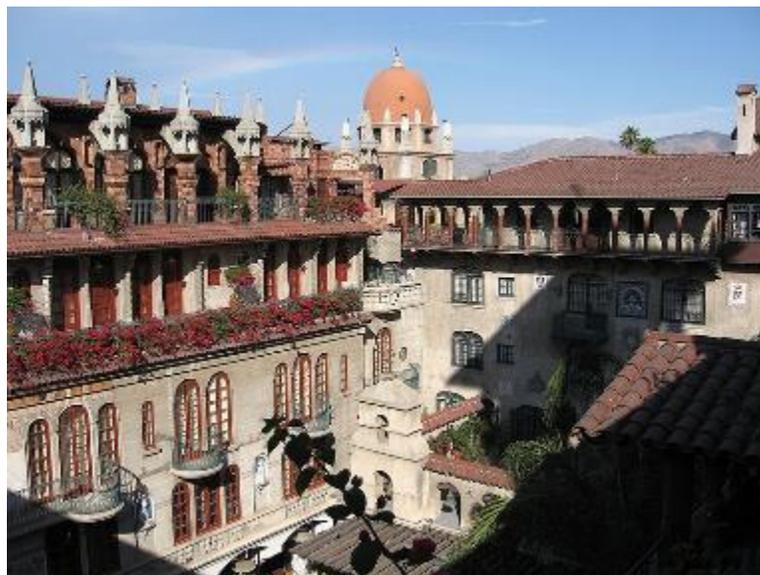
The Young Marines will be serving breakfast at the Yucca Valley Senior Center from 8:00am-10:00am. This event is free to veterans, military & public safety.



Riverside Mission Inn Holiday Day Trip

Register today for the Town of Yucca Valley's Adult Excursion on December 11th to the Riverside Mission Inn. The Inn is filled with rich culture and beautiful gardens and will be gloriously decorated for the holidays!

Registration for the day trip is \$85.00 per person and includes deluxe motor coach transportation, guided tour and meal at the Old Spaghetti Factory. Departure for the trip is at 12:15 p.m., returning at 8:00 p.m. at the Yucca Valley Community Center. Space is limited! To reserve a seat, register by November 25, 2014; registration is accepted online at <http://www.yucca-valley.org> or in person at the Yucca Valley Community Center, Monday through Thursday, 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. For more information contact Community Services at (760) 369-7211.



Letters to Santa

From November 10 through December 5, Santa's elves will pick up letters to Santa. Letters can be dropped off at the special mailbox at the Community Center or mailed to Santa Claus c/o Town of Yucca Valley, 57090 Twentynine Palms Hwy, Yucca Valley, CA 92284. The elves will be sure that Santa knows to "write back". Participants must include a self-addressed, stamped envelope with their letter. This holiday program is provided free to the public.



Parks Division News, Repairs and Improvements

Median Maintenance

The Parks Division, along with the Streets Division, periodically performs maintenance on the Highway 62 medians to keep them clean and free from weeds and debris.



Machris Park Maintenance and Improvements

It takes a lot of work to keep the irrigation systems in the Town's parks working properly. Recently the Parks Division repaired a broken irrigation main line at Machris Park.



Pool Repairs and Maintenance

The Parks Division also maintains the Yucca Valley pool, located at Yucca Valley High School. In the picture below, the Parks Division replaced one of the chemical pumps located in the equipment room.



Hi-Desert Nature Museum Presents “Art Tours Collective Show”

Exhibition on view through November 29th

The Hi-Desert Nature Museum is pleased to partner with the Morongo Basin Cultural Arts Council to host the “Art Tours Collective Show.” This dynamic exhibition features the artwork of many artists participating in the Open Studio Tours being held October 25-26 and November 1- 2. The Hwy 62 Art Tours encompasses all the arts of the Morongo Basin during the two weekend celebration showcasing music, performance and honoring the best in visual arts. The Open Studio Tours allows the visitor to experience working studios and purchase original art directly from the artists. The exhibition will be on view through November 29th at the Hi-Desert Nature Museum.



The Hi-Desert Nature Museum – Kid EdVentures – Be a Baker

November 15, 2014

10 a.m. – Noon

Registration Required

Admission is Free

In this month's session, children will be introduced to what it takes to be a baker. There is no cost for this educational experience.

People started baking bread 8000 years ago in Egypt and baked goods are still one of our favorite foods. In this program children will be introduced to the science of baking cookies. Everything from weighing the ingredients, to mixing, kneading, cutting, baking, decorating and cleaning up will be learned. Be advised, children have to be six years or older and healthy to participate in this program. Please bring your own apron and a cookie tin. This class will be limited to ten participants. Sign up in person at the Hi-Desert Nature Museum.



The Hi-Desert Nature Museum – Kid Fall Craft Day

November 22, 2014

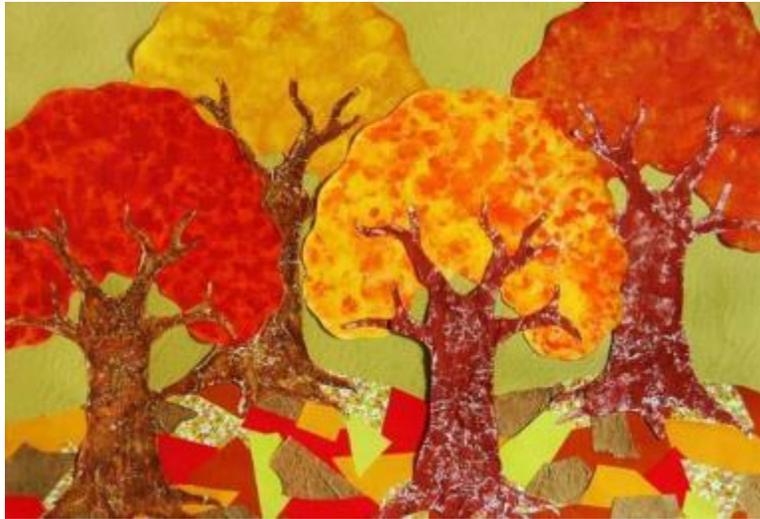
10 a.m. – Noon

Registration Required

Fee: \$5 per child

On Saturday, November 22nd, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., kids ages 5 to 12 are welcome to join museum staff to make arts and crafts inspired by nature and the fall season. Twigs, buttons, fabric, seeds, leaves, burlap, paint and glue will be used to create fall-themed masterpieces for some creative fun! The \$5.00 registration fee covers all materials; pre-registration is required. For more information contact the museum at (760) 369-7212.

Pre-registration is required. [Register here.](#)



Morongo Basin Historical Society Presents - For Love of Life and Country

November 12, 2014

5:30 pm

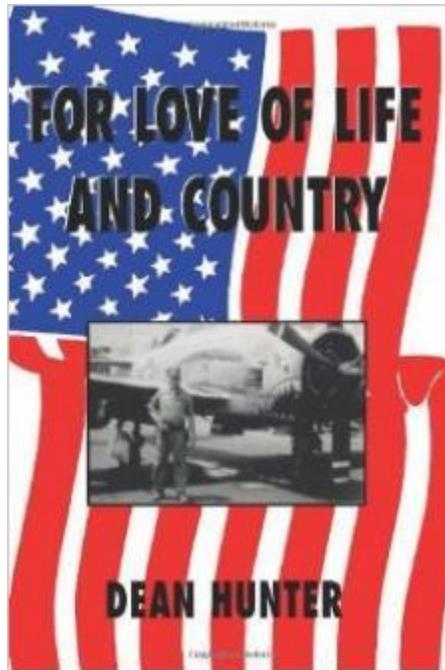
\$5 Donation at the door

The Morongo Basin Historical Society will be presenting “For Love of Life and Country” with W. Dean Hunter Ph.D, author, decorated war veteran, U. S. Marine Corps and Lt. Col USAF retired pilot.

The Morongo Basin Historical Society’s program of community interest presented at the Hi-Desert Nature Museum on the 2nd Wednesday of every month beginning at 5:30 p.m.

Please join us – membership not required.

\$5 donation at the door



Community Disaster Preparation Day a Success

The Town hosted a booth at the Community Disaster Preparation Day event which was held in the Walmart parking lot on Saturday, October 11th as part of the annual Great California Shakeout activities. Town staff joined representatives from the Fire Department, Sheriff's Department, CERT, Ham Radio Operators, Red Cross and others to provide information to the public on survival skills, basic first aid, disaster supplies and kits, water purification and storage, food storage and solar cooking, animal care, and more. The event was a huge success and well attended. If you missed this year's event, we look forward to seeing you next year!



Life at the Yucca Valley Animal Shelter – Loving the Animals

When staff arrives at the animal shelter in the morning, they begin the day feeding the animals, administering vaccines and/or medications needed and then cleaning cages, changing blankets,

doing laundry, disinfecting litter pans and dog bowls, etc. After the tasks are finished and prior to staff's lunch break (11 a.m. to 12 noon), staff will spend time with the animals. At the Yucca Valley Animal Shelter we believe it is very important to take dogs out of the kennel runs so they can play and socialize with people and each other. Cats are also held and loved. If you are thinking of a companion animal, please remember the best place to look is at animal shelters. There are three in the Morongo Basin which are The Morongo Basin Humane Society, Palms to Paws in 29 Palms and the Yucca Valley Animal Shelter. We look forward to meeting you!



Animal Shelter Visitors and Adoptions

Cat & dog adoptions during October 2014 include the adopters shown below. Fees for dog and cat adoption are as follows: Dogs over 4 months of age are \$92.00. This includes annual vaccinations and the pet being altered. Dog licenses must also be purchased at the time of adoption for dogs living in the Town or the unincorporated areas of San Bernardino County. Puppies under 4 months old are \$85.00 because they have not yet received a rabies vaccination.

Cat and kitten adoptions are normally \$55.00, which includes annual vaccinations and being altered. During the last two weeks of the month, however, the Town has the Catapalooza event where cat adoptions are only \$20.00. This event is made possible through donations submitted to the Town's Animal Shelter. If you are looking for a companion, come in and visit us at the Yucca Valley Animal Shelter located at 4755 Malin Way, Yucca Valley. The Yucca Valley Animal Shelter is open to the public Tuesday through Saturday from 12 noon to 5 p.m. (excluding holidays). The Shelter can be reached at 760-365-3111. Come meet our family of wonderful companions!



Animal Care & Control Staff Reunites Dog with his Family

Representatives of Yucca Valley Animal Care and Control often make exceptional efforts to reunite the animals that are impounded with their rightful owners. In addition to taking lost and found reports at the animal shelter, employees frequently search local radio and newspaper listings, social media sites and other internet listings such as Craigslist and Bookoo. In some cases staff is able to re-unite pet owners with their animals before they ever arrive at the animal shelter through a few phone calls. In other cases, happy endings are literally just a few doors away from where the pet was found.

On October 20, 2014, an Animal Control Officer responded late in the day to a residence in the south side of Town to pick up a confined stray dog. According to the reporting party, the stray dog was discovered wandering outside their home late on the previous evening. The Animal Control Officer took possession of the dog and radioed in to dispatch that she was in possession of an elderly Jack Russell Terrier who appeared to be blind and deaf. The dispatcher, researching the lost dog logs kept at the animal shelter found a report regarding a lost 17 year old Jack Russell Terrier. The dispatcher called the owner who happened to live just up the road from where the dog was found. The Animal Control Officer drove to the owner's home, and was able to re-unite the very emotional and thankful owner with his dear, old friend.

Code Compliance

Property Maintenance

Code received multiple complaints in regards to outside junk and trash located on several properties throughout the town causing a blight in the neighborhoods.

Code Enforcement made several attempts to contact the property owners and issued correctable citations. The property owner then realized the importance of bringing the property into compliance and with the assistance of the town and the volunteer cleaning services the property was brought into compliance.



Streets Division Repairs and Improvements

New Flood Warning Signs

The Streets Division in partnership with the San Bernardino Fire Department, recently installed new signs warning about flooded washes at West Burnt Mountain Wash at Sunnyslope Drive, Yucca Wash at Paxton Road, Yucca Wash at Indio Avenue, and Yucca Wash at Yucca Mesa Road. Washes can become very dangerous when flooded, and motorists should never drive into a flooded wash.



Black Rock Canyon Road

Located in the south east section of the Town, Black Rock Canyon Road provides access to public facilities including the Town's South Park, Black Rock Campground inside Joshua Tree National Park, and access to the local residential neighborhood.

Status:

Reconstruction of the street is completed. Work included demolition of the existing road, grading, compaction, and paving.



State Route (SR) 247 Shoulder Widening and Rumble Strip Project

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) is under construction with a shoulder widening and rumble strip project on SR 247. The project is currently underway from El Cortez Road in Yucca Valley to 0.1 miles North of Napa Road in the County. The project is schedule to be completed over the next approximately 6 months. The project is planned for 160 days for the

pavement work followed by several months for plant establishment. The project may be suspended during winter months due to cold weather, and the project is expected to be completed by end of summer 2015. Drivers should anticipate delays during the construction process.

For Information Contact Philip Havins with Caltrans District 8 at 909-383-6799 or Alex Qishta, Project Engineer (760) 369-1265, ext. 304

SR 62 Traffic and Pedestrian Improvements from Apache Trail to Palm Avenue (PLHD)

The project includes construction of curbs, gutters, sidewalks, and raised median islands on SR 62, between Apache and Palm Avenue and the construction of a traffic signal at SR 62 and Church Street. In addition, there will be traffic signal modifications at SR 62 and Acoma/Mohawk. The Project was awarded by the Town Council on November 19, 2013 to Match Corporation in the amount of \$2,798,000.

Status:

Major construction work has been completed. Caltrans is currently verifying signal operation and their overall acceptance of the project. There is also some minor striping to be completed. Several residents have called asking questions about the number of signs installed in this raised median island project. Caltrans controls what is constructed within the SR 62 and SR 247 roadways. Caltrans recently adopted new standards, and these new standards required the installation of the signs within the raised median islands. The Town is working through Caltrans processes to see if there are alternatives that provide adequate levels of traffic safety without the need for the signs to remain permanently within the raised median islands.

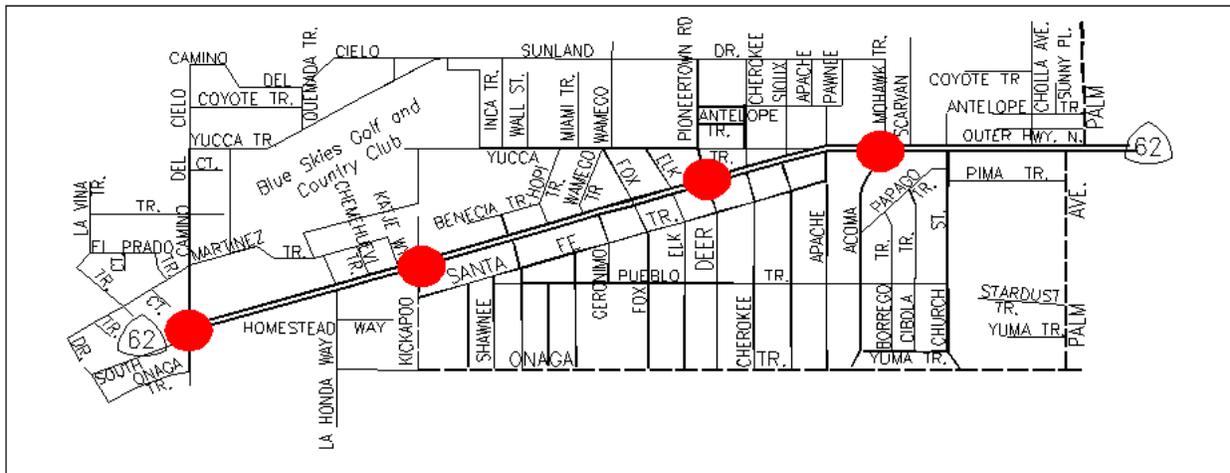


Signal Synchronization Project, Phase I

This project includes the synchronization of the traffic signals between Camino Del Cielo and Acoma Trail. Phase 1 is fully funded by grant resources.

Status:

The Town Council awarded the construction of the project to DBX of Temecula on July 15, 2014. The project construction will be complete by the end of November 2014. The contractor has completed installation of the necessary equipment, and Caltrans is in the process of finalizing signal timing and related adjustments before activating the new synchronization system.

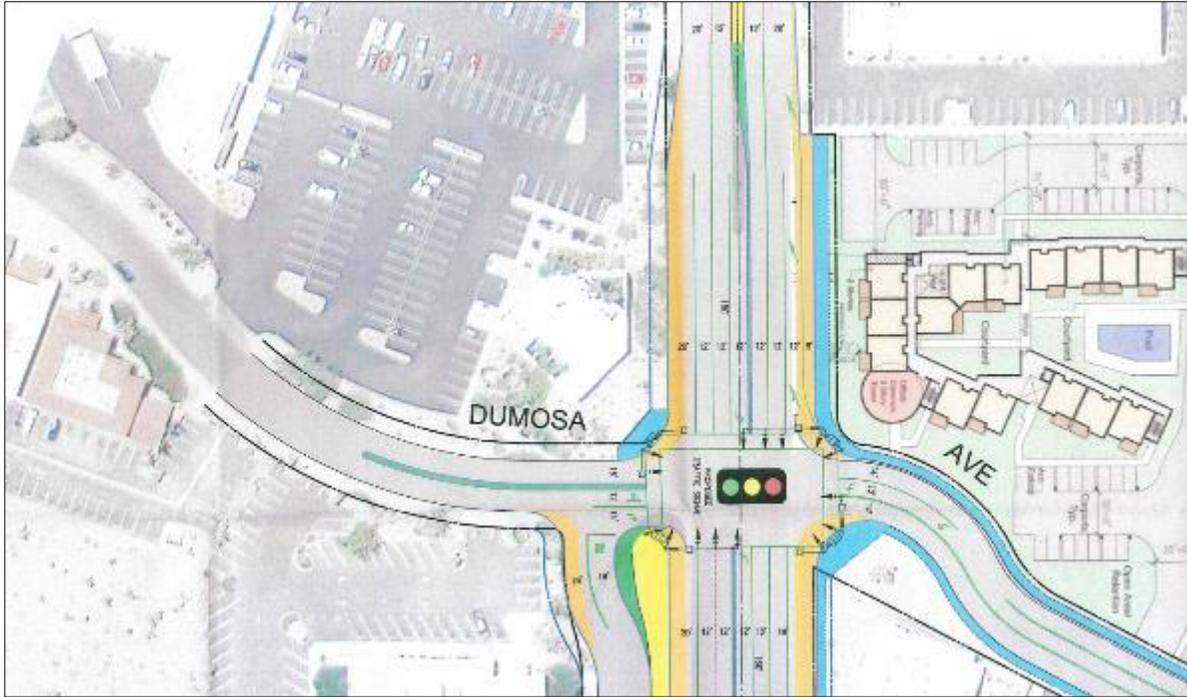


SR 62 at Dumosa Traffic Signal

The project consists of the design and construction of a traffic signal at the intersection of SR62 and Dumosa Avenue.

Status:

Signal poles have been ordered by the contractor. A pre-construction meeting with the prime contractor and Caltrans is scheduled the week of Nov 3, 2014. Site work should begin before the end of the month.



Conditional Use Permit, CUP-3-11, Senior Housing Project

The project includes the construction of a 74 unit affordable senior housing development and the construction of all improvements associated with the project. A managers unit will also be constructed.

Status:

Building one has been completed and there are currently residents moving into their new homes. The site has been fenced to allow construction to continue on building two, while keeping the residents and public safe while construction continues. Additional offsite improvements have been completed on Antelope Trail to assist in safety for access to the Community Center Complex.



Site Plan Review, SPR-1-14, Hawks Landing Golf Club at Blue Skies

The project involves the reconstruction of the former Blue Skies Golf Course.

Status:

Work on the clubhouse is continuing. Parking lot improvements are well underway, with asphalt paving scheduled for next week, weather permitting. The course itself continues to get greener by the day and should be ready for play by the first of the year.



Panda Express and Taco Bell

The Panda Express project includes a Conditional Use Permit Amendment and a Tentative Parcel Map for the subdivision of 26 acres into three parcels of 0.84 acres, 0.75 acres and 23.88 acres; and the construction of a 2,230 +/- square foot Panda Express located at the southeast corner of 29 Palms Hwy and Avalon Ave.

The Taco Bell project includes a Conditional Use Permit Amendment and a Tentative Parcel Map for the subdivision of 26 acres into three parcels of 0.84 acres, 0.75 acres and 23.88 acres; and the construction of a 2,423 +/- square foot Taco Bell located at the southeast corner of 29 Palms Hwy and Avalon Ave.

Status:

Work is progressing rapidly on this project. Both Panda Express and Taco Bell should be completed and open for operation prior to the end of the year.



Ross Department Store, Tenant Improvements

The project involves a tenant improvement at 57646 29 Palms Highway, inside the former Rite Aid lease space at the Vons Center.

Status:

Ross has pulled permits for the tenant improvements and construction is underway. The contractor recently indicated that while the project will be completed this year, Ross is planning a February 2015 opening.

Tract 16471, Desert Vista Village, a 105 Single Family Residential Unit Development, Senior Community

The project involves the construction of a 105 senior single family residential development on the east side of Palm Avenue, South of 29 Palms Highway. Twenty-nine of the 105 single family units have been constructed.

Status:

The four latest homes are ready for final inspection. The owner has indicated they plan on starting construction on the next four single family residential structures in the near future.



Tract 16587, Mesquite 55, a 55 Single Family Residential Unit Subdivision

The project involves a residential development of 55 single family residential units on Acoma Trail, south of Onaga Trail. Seventeen of the 55 single family units have been constructed and completed.

Status:

Four homes are nearing the end of construction. Four additional homes are underway, at the footing/slab stage of construction. Site work recently completed include sidewalk and site landscaping.

