

# **CITY MANAGER'S UPDATE**

# **CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE**

## Administration

#### Deficit Elimination Plan Follow Up Meetings

Assistant City Manager Michelle Dawson and Financial and Administrative Services Director Rick Teichert are meeting with each member of the City Council to review the progress being made on the number of follow up ideas and proposals that came out of the Council discussions in preparing the 3-Year Deficit Elimination Plan. They will also be updating the Council on the status of the goals identified in the goal setting workshop in May.

#### Town Hall Meetings

The third *Council Connection* Town Hall meeting was held on October 12 in Council Member Batey's District 5. The meeting was conducted at the Conference and Recreation Center. The Town Hall meeting for District 3 was held on Wednesday, October 26 at Landmark Middle School. In addition to distributing press releases and announcements posted on the web site, the City sent out e-mail blast announcements to our database of subscribers and placed posters promoting the events throughout each Council District. Mayor Pro Tem Molina's Town Hall meeting is scheduled for December 7 at the Moreno Valley Senior Center.

#### 2011 Employee Giving Campaign Update

The annual Employee Giving Campaign to benefit the United Way and Community Health Charities is well underway. Among the October fund raising events which have taken place are the "Department Feud" luncheon and competition and Denim Days which was extended for one week and raised \$300 just in that one event. Other events included the October 27th Chili Cook-off, Bake-off and Holiday Costume Contest, the sale and delivery of Halloween Candygrams, and a silent auction scheduled for November 2. Special thanks to all of the committee members dedicating their time and creativity to this effort: Kathy Savala, Lisa Smethurst, and Joy Uribe, Parks & Community Services; Ariana Ayala, Public Works; Ewa Lopez, Council/City Clerk; Loes Knutson, Library; Liz Plazola, Land Development; Rob Roseen, City Manager's Office; Tina Gallegos, Animal Services; Cathy Parada, City Manager's Office; Michelle Pierce, Public Works; Margaret Williams, Public Works; and Jeremy Hamilton, Financial and Administrative Services.

## Groundbreaking for Morrison Park Fire Station

Staff from the City Manager's Office, City Council Office, Fire and Public Works Departments coordinated the groundbreaking ceremony for the Morrison Park Fire Station held on Thursday, October 13.

#### Veteran's Day

Staff from the City Manager's Office, City Council Office, and Parks and Community Services Departments are coordinating the City's annual Veteran's Day ceremony. The ceremony will be held on November 11<sup>th</sup> and once again will be a sunset ceremony.

## Media & Communications

#### Website Updates

A Community Calendar is currently under construction for the City of Moreno Valley's website. This calendar will be a listing of events and information of what is happening throughout the City of Moreno Valley. This new community tool will be available to anyone wishing to submit a public event or activity and will soon appear on the main page of the City's website <u>www.moval.org</u>.

The City's G.R.E.E.N. MoVal page has been updated to include Energy Efficiency Games, Videos, and new links to helpful energy saving websites. This page encourages residents and businesses to do their part to help reduce energy consumption. The page is available at <u>http://www.moval.org/green-mv.shtml</u> and is updated frequently.

MVTV-3 has created a new Facebook advertisement for the Public Works Department's Free Oil Filter Exchange event taking place on November 19<sup>th</sup>. This ad targets every resident in Moreno Valley that uses the popular Facebook social media site and is expected to attract many residents to this recycling event.

#### Audio Video Coverage

On Thursday October 10<sup>th</sup> MVTV-3 was on hand to provide audio/video and photographic coverage for the ground breaking ceremony of the new Morrison Park Fire Station. Photos will be available on the City of Moreno Valley's Facebook and Flickr account at http://www.facebook.com/pages/City-of-Moreno-Valley-California/193351624032181 or http://www.flickr.com/photos/moreno\_valley.

## Equipment

MVTV-3 has replaced its old video play-out server. Due to the video server's advanced age and recent malfunction, the MicroNet video server has been replaced with a new larger server that is capable of handling larger files. The server was installed on Wednesday October 9 and has an expected shelf life of over five years.

# Pre Production

"Spay and Neuter Your Pets" – In association with the Moreno Valley Animal Shelter, Media and Communications is creating a campaign to encourage residents to spay and neuter their pets. This campaign will include a television commercial, a web page, brochures, multiple online advertisements, and press releases. This new project comes on behalf of the City's recently approved ordinance, which will make the spaying and neutering of pets mandatory when they are in violation of state or local animal control regulations.

**"Moss Bros. Featured Project"** MVTV-3 is a creating a special video, webpage and photo slideshow dedicated to the large scale projects generated by Moss Bros Auto Group. Look for this featured project on the City's website, YouTube, and on MVTV-3 in November.

"Chomp MoVal" – In an effort to promote local restaurants and to encourage residents to "Shop MoVal," MVTV-3 is in the development process for a restaurant review program. This new show will feature a very special host as he dines his way through Moreno Valley, interviews restaurateurs, learns to cook, and competes in eating challenges.

# New Programming

"News Center" this quarter features stories including: Youth Fest 2011, Moreno Valley gets Social, and State of the City, News Center airs daily at 7:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m., 4:00 p.m., 7:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. and is available online at <u>http://morenovalley.granicus.com/</u> ViewPublisher.php?view id=2.

**"Spotlight on Moreno Valley Business" –** This month Moreno Valley highlights Village Cafe and Kaiser Permanente. This program airs daily at 9:30 a.m., 5:30 p.m., and 9:30 p.m. Episodes are available on line at: http://www.moreno-valley.ca.us/spoton-mv.shtml

**"Pets of the Week Featuring: Josh, Dante & Gunner"-** Pets of the Week will air on MVTV-3 at 8:30 a.m., 4:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. Visit the Pets of the Week website or watch streaming Pets of the Week videos at http://www.moval.org/resident\_services/animal/petweek.shtml

# **CITY CLERK'S OFFICE**

Redistricting of Moreno Valley Council Districts

The final Redistricting Public Hearing for the City of Moreno Valley was held on October 25. The deadline to complete the redistricting process was before the first day of November 1, 2011. A public hearing was also conducted on October 11, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. Citizens' Community Meetings were held on September 12, and on September 15, 2011. Citizens were provided an opportunity to draw and submit maps electronically through the City's website. An on-line redistricting tool was made available. The citizens of Moreno Valley submitted eleven maps for consideration. These maps were placed on the City's website at www.moval.org.

Questions regarding the redistricting process may be submitted to the City Clerk's Department at 951.413.3001, <u>cityclerk@moval.org</u>, or the City's consultant, Doug Johnson of National Demographics Corporation at 310.200.2058, <u>djohnson@NDCresearch.com</u>.

# COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

## Administration

Social Security Administration-Hearing Office

A Certificate of Occupancy was issued mid October for the new Hearing Facility for the Social Security Administration. The new facility, situated at 22690 Cactus Avenue, will provide hearing facilities for social security claims and cases. The new 20,000 S.F. facility, situated at the NW corner of Cactus and Veterans Way, will serve all of Riverside County.

# Industrial Vacancy-4<sup>th</sup> Qt 2011

Moreno Valley's vacancy rate for industrial buildings has dropped to 2.2% for 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2011. In the past six months three sub-lease opportunities in large industrial buildings have been occupied by the main tenant in the building including the following:

- Lowe's leased an additional 256,340 S.F. and expanded into the entire 756,340 S.F. building on Heacock Street.
- Harmon Kardon Electronics leased an additional 125,000 S.F. and expanded into the entire 431,000 S.F. building at the NW corner of Perris Boulevard and Glove View Road.
- United Natural Foods Inc. has leased an additional 100,000 S.F. and is completing tenant improvement to expand into the entire 613,174 S.F. building on Commerce Center Way.

There presently is NO available industrial building space for larger modern distribution use. The only available industrial building space is 1) the 80,019 S.F. former Ecolite building at the SE corner of Alessandro Boulevard and Day Street, 2) three older buildings with a total of 126,418 S.F. that previously housed the MVP RV operation on Elsworth Street, and 3) two smaller buildings with a total of 27,661 S.F. on Veterans Way. The following is a summary of the City's Industrial Building activity:

# Moreno Valley Industrial Buildings

- Occupied 10,276,823 S.F.
- Vacant 234,098 S.F.
- Total Building Space 10,510,921 S.F.
- Available 2.2%

With NO new industrial building product available, City staff from Development Services continues to work closely with a number of developers on advancing new industrial building projects. Presently there are two buildings with a total of nearly 1.5 million square feet under construction in the South Moreno Valley Industrial Area. Additionally there are six buildings with nearly 4.5 million square feet in plan check and looking to start construction this year with new speculative industrial building projects. Currently there are ongoing and advanced negotiations with major users to occupy three of the buildings under development.

## March JPA Update

Activity is picking up at the March Joint Powers Authority (JPA) of which Moreno Valley is a member, along with Riverside County and the cities or Riverside and Perris. The following is a summary of activity at March JPA:

- I-215/Van Buren Interchange—Work is moving quickly on the upgrade of the Van Buren interchange. \$65 million in funding for the project has been fully secured and the bid process is expected to start by early November. Riverside County is the lead-agency on this construction project. Construction is targeted to start early in 2012 with an 18 month time frame for completion.
- **SYSCO Foods DC**—LNR, the master developer of the Meridian Business Park is working with Sysco on the development of a new 515,000 S. F. distribution center that is slated to employ 280 people. Grading is presently underway on the 45-acre site.
- AMRO Fabricating Corporation—AMRO, which is a subcontractor for Boeing, is finishing new Tenant Improvements to occupy 1/3 (100,322 S.F.) of the former DHL building. Job Fairs have occurred for this new user, which is looking to employ approximately 115 people. Look for

AMRO to start their new operations at March by the end of the year.

• U.S. Vets—March JPA is using affordable housing funding to help develop a new facility for U.S. Vets. The project is anticipated to occur with three phases.

## <u>Unemployment – September 2011</u>

Unemployment rates decreased overall in September in the Inland Region. This was the  $2^{nd}$  straight month unemployment declined. Below are unemployment statistics for the months of August and September.

	Sept	Aug
California	11.4%	11.9%
<b>Riverside County</b>	14.0%	14.7%
Banning	15.9%	16.7%
Beaumont	15.9%	16.6%
Corona	10.3%	10.9%
Hemet	17.5%	18.3%
Moreno Valley	<mark>16.1%</mark>	<mark>16.9%</mark>
Perris	21.4%	22.3%
Riverside	14.1%	14.8%
San Jacinto	20.8%	21.7%

## ED Action Plan Update

At the September 27 meeting, the City Council was presented with a six-month update of the City's Economic Development Action Plan. The update provided an opportunity for the City Council (and the community watching the meeting) to hear about the many projects happening in Moreno Valley. Despite a still 'soft' economy in the Inland Region, progress is being achieved throughout all five geographic areas contained in the Action Plan including:

- TownGate
- Centerpointe Business Park
- South Moreno Valley Industrial Area
- East Moreno Valley-Rancho Belago
- City Center

Some of the highlights of activity include:

- Opening of Five Guys Burgers & Fries, Panera Bread, Village Café, and Anna's Linens, along with coming of TJ Maxx and HomeGoods
- Upgrades, along with leasing interest and ongoing negotiations at the Moreno Valley Mall
- Moreno Valley Auto Mall has new freeway sign and is expanding with the addition of Volkswagen
- Harbor Freight Tools DC will open in November and DC's for iHerb and Harmon Kardon expanding
- Two speculative DC buildings with nearly 1.5 million S.F. are under construction in South MV, with negotiations underway with users aimed at producing new jobs

- Five building with more than 4 million S.F. are in plan check are getting ready to start construction soon
- Skechers USA will start moving product from its new 1.8 million S.F. facility in October and the City is working with Highland Fairview on the planning to expand the Highland Fairview Corporate Park in Rancho Belago area.
- The nearly 1 million S.F. WestRidge Commerce Center has been approved and Prologis is working on development plans for a 2.28 million S.F. business park.
- Efforts to expand the City's medical corridor include a 74,000 S.F expansion at Kaiser's Community Hospital and conceptual plan development for Highland Fairview's proposed 200-acre medical-healthcare campus
- \$75 million in capital improvement projects is being pursued in the City Center area

A total of 18 developers/businesses submitted letters of support for the City's Economic Development Action Plan including: Alere Property Group, Diversified Realty, First Industrial Realty Trust, Fritz Duda Co., Highland Fairview, IDS Real Estate Group, Komar Investments, Merlone Geier Partners, Moss Bros. Auto Group, Pacific Communities, Pacific Retail Partners, Rancho Belago Developers, Ridge Property Trust, Riverside Community College District-Moreno Valley College, Riverside County Regional Medical Center, Spinoso Real Estate Group-Moreno Valley Mall, Stoneridge Centre Partners-Weingarten Realty and Trammell Crow Company.

## Economic Forecast

Economists are predicting that the Inland Region shouldn't expect much recovery in the next few years. At a joint economic forecast event conducted by the UCLA Anderson School and Claremont McKenna College on September 22, economists suggested that a healthy and robust economy that was enjoyed in the Inland Region prior to 2007, won't return before 2017-or at least five years from now. Economists believe the Riverside and San Bernardino county area will experience at least 10 economic lost years, from an perspective. Unemployment, which currently is over 14 percent in the two-county area isn't predicted to drop below double digit figures until 2015. The housing construction market is stagnant at best and not expected to start up much until at least 2013 and then the new housing product type will likely be smaller lots and apartments, with a major focus on affordability.

Overall, the recession was twice as bad in the Inland Region and it will take the two-county area longer to recover. Key for any economic growth will be job creation—with the majority of growth focused on jobs in two areas--logistics-distribution and medical-healthcare. While the economists don't predict there will be a double dip with a second recession—they do suggest that any economic growth will be slow and must clearly include the creation of new jobs.

## Fallas Store Opens

The new Fallas Discount Stores location has opened in Moreno Valley Plaza. The new 24,715 S.F. store is a relocation and re-branding of the former Factory 2U store which is owned by National Stores Inc.--the same company that operates Fallas. Check out the new Fallas Stores location which offers a variety of brand name and private label clothing and accessories for men, women and children. Other nearby stores include Corona, Fontana, Rancho Cucamonga, Rialto, and San Bernardino.

Now that the new Fallas store has opened, the Factory 2U store will soon close to make way for a new Harbor Freight Tools (HFT) retail store. Tenant improvements plans are being fast-tracked for the new 15,280 S.F. HFT's store which is looking to open in November.

# Volkswagen Opens

The new Moss Volkswagen store has opened at the Moreno Valley Auto Mall. Moss Bros. Auto Group and Volkswagen USA officials were anxious to start up the new Volkswagen operation while pursuing a variety of improvements and upgrades that will create the new Volkswagen look.

## Ross Stores Inc.

Ross Stores Inc. is clearly on an upswing not only in Moreno Valley but as a company. This is great news because Ross Stores Inc. is a major business entity in Moreno Valley—operating two retail stores including Ross Dress for Less and a dd's Discount store, along with a large Distribution Center (DC) in the South Moreno Valley Industrial Area.

The Ross DC, which is situated at the SE corner of Perris Boulevard and Globe Street was recently expanded to 1.6 million S.F. and employs more than 1,400 workers, along with having a just added a 3<sup>rd</sup> work shift to meet a growing distribution demand. Ross Stores Inc. officials expect to add another 150 employees this fall to work at the Moreno Valley DC.

The Ross Dress for Less store in TownGate Center and the dd's Discount store on Perris Blvd have always been strong performers for Ross Stores Inc. Together, they have enjoyed 11 straight quarters of sales tax growth. Please note, the two stores report sales tax revenue as a combined number. For calendar year 2009, the two stores had a sales tax revenue increase of 16.8% as compared to 2008. Even with the opening of the Burlington Coat Factory Store in TownGate Center in spring 2010, the Ross stores realized a 6.9% sales tax increase in 2010. Ross sales for the first half of 2011 are also up. Ross Stores Inc. has also talked about the possibility of opening a  $2^{nd}$  Ross Dress for Less store location in the eastern area of Moreno Valley.

As a company, Ross Stores Inc. has continued to grow and prosper. Presently Ross Stores Inc. has established an \$87.4 billion market value, which is second to only Gap Inc. by just \$78.5 million. It is worth noting that Ross Stores Inc. has accomplished this while only having 1,000 stores versus 3,300 for Gap Inc. In the recent fiscal year—Ross Stores Inc. achieved total sales of \$7.87 billion and value of its stock has risen 18 percent so far in 2011.All of this bodes well for Ross Stores Inc. doing even more expansion in Moreno Valley—with a new retail store and hopefully more expansion of its DC operation.

# Hotel Business

Inland hotels were battered by the recession, but they remain optimistic about the future and are positioning for a recovery of the economy in the Region. Over the past few years, a number of hotel properties in the Inland Region went into default and foreclosure. Fortunately, all Moreno Valley hotels and motels have remained fiscally solid. In fact Moreno Valley was one of the few growth areas that experienced the development of new hotel properties—with the opening of the Hampton Inn & Suites in spring 2009, followed by the opening of the La Quinta Inn & Suites and Ayres Hotel & Spa in spring 2010.

While the economy continues to struggle, Inland hotels are seeing some recovery in 2011. In Riverside County hotels have seen occupancy rates rise to an average of 58% so far in 2011 as compared to 54% in 2010 and 53% in 2009. Several of the newer Moreno Valley hotels have seen their occupancy rates climb to between 63 to 65% and have reported a strong upswing in business in the last few months, with many reporting sold out nights on a regular basis. Business travelers have been a big part of the increase in hotel business in Moreno Valley and this hopefully increases even more as more new businesses move to town.

From a City revenue perspective, Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) revenue had a strong increase in FY2010/11 as compared to previous fiscal year. In FY 2010/11, the City's total TOT revenue increased by 29.3%--going from \$535,775 in FY2009/10 to \$692,585 in FY2010/11. Overall, in FY2010/11, Moreno Valley hotels/motels had total gross sales of \$11,740,268 in FY 2010/11 as compared to just \$8,970,125 in FY2009/10. This is all good news.

# New Restaurants Coming to Alessandro Boulevard

Several new restaurants are on the way for the Alessandro Boulevard corridor including:

- **Taco Bell**—Construction has started on a 2,966 S.F. restaurant building to be situated within Moreno Valley Professional Village-on the south side of Alessandro Blvd, between Elsworth and Veterans Way. This is a relocation and upgrade for Taco Bell that previously had an older restaurant near the NW corner of Alessandro and Heacock.
- Albertaco's Mexican Food—Former building for Taco Bell at 23880 Alessandro Blvd is being renovated to reopen as Albertaco's Mexican Restaurant.
- **Richie's Kitchen**—The Golden Ox restaurant at 23750 Alessandro Boulevard has closed and will soon reopen as a new restaurant concept—Richie's Kitchen. Remodeling is underway on the restaurant, which is situated on a pad in Alessandro Plaza, which is anchored by 24 Hr. Fitness. The owner of Richie's Kitchen currently operates another restaurant in Moreno Valley—Richie's Diner on Cactus Avenue.
- **Cantaritos** New Mexican restaurant has moved into a restaurant space at Alessandro Plaza that previously was Chicano's Grill. The new Cantaritos Mexican Food restaurant is now open for business at 23750 Alessandro Blvd. – next door to the River Kwae Thai Restaurant.

# Business Spotlight

The Spotlight on Moreno Valley Business program seeks to increase the community's awareness of the many and diverse businesses that operate in Moreno Valley. The businesses that were showcased at the September 13 City Council meeting were Panera Bread and Dancing Images. The spotlight businesses for the October 11 City Council meeting will be Kaiser Permanente-Moreno Valley Community Hospital and the Village Café.

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

• **Torres de Sinaloa**—a Mexican restaurant recently opened at 14070 Perris Boulevard, in a small center

near the SE corner of Alessandro Blvd and Perris Avenue.

- Fontanain Insurance—a new insurance business at 24905 Sunnymead Boulevard, in the State Bros. anchored center near the SW corner of Sunnymead Blvd and Perris Blvd.
- Hera Teara Beauty—a full-service beauty product and hair care supply business at 14940 Perris Boulevard, located in the Cardenas anchored neighborhood shopping center situated at the NE corner of Perris and JFK Avenue.

## Developer's Workshop

A 2<sup>nd</sup> Developer's Workshop was conducted on October 6. The focus of the Workshop was to follow up with the development community on ways that the City can work with developers on enhancing the Development Services process in Moreno Valley. Representatives from more than fifteen developers participated in the event, including developers from industrial, commercial retailoffice and residential. The Economic Development Subcommittee consisting of Mayor Pro Tem Molina and Council Member Co also participated in the Developer's Workshop which aimed at making Moreno Valley a 'Best Place to do Business'.

#### Economic Development Summary-October 2011

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

## **Building & Safety Division**

## Skechers USA

Work continues towards gaining the full operation of the Skechers USA facility at the Highland Fairview Corporate Park. A Temporary Certificate of Occupancy (TCO) has been issued for Skechers to operate in approximately 90% of the 1.8 million square foot building. The TCO provides Skechers with full access to the distribution center and the ability to move product in and out of the facility. Tenant improvement work continues to move quickly on the office space and retail store with an occupancy targeted for early November.

#### First Inland Logistics Center

Construction is moving quickly on the new 691,960 S.F. industrial building at the First Inland Logistics Center. First Industrial Realty Trust is the Developer of the project, which is situated between Nandina Avenue and San Michele Road, just west of Perris Blvd. This project is the first new speculative development to happen in Moreno Valley in at least three years.

## Nandina Distribution Center

IDS Real Estate Group is under construction with the 2<sup>nd</sup> speculative industrial building in Moreno Valley. The new 769,320 S.F. building will be situated near the corner of Nandina Avenue and Indian Street.

## Harbor Freight Distribution Center

The new Harbor Freight Tools Distribution Center (DC) should be fully operational early in November. The material handling system is substantially complete and product stocking is underway for the 779,016 S.F. facility that handles the vast majority of Harbor Freights western U.S. DC operation. By the end of the year, Harbor Freight Tools expects to employ more than 350 people at its new Moreno Valley DC.

### Harbor Freight Tools Retail Store

Look for tenant improvement (TI) work to start the last week of October for the new retail store in Moreno Valley for Harbor Freight Tools. Development Services staff worked to fast-track the TI plans for the project which will call for Harbor Freight to renovate and reoccupy the 15,280 S.F. space at Moreno Valley Plaza that previously housed the Factory 2 U that relocated and was rebranded as Fallas. Harbor Freight Tools is looking for a late November or early December opening of the new Moreno Valley retail store.

#### Development Activity

The following represents a summary of development activity being worked on by the Building & Safety Division:

- Temporary Certificate of Occupancy
  - ✓ Skechers USA Highland Fairview Corporate Park
- Buildings Under Construction
  - ✓ First Inland Logistics Center First Industrial Realty Trust
  - ✓ Nandina Distribution Center IDS Real Estate Group
  - ✓ Taco Bell
- Tenant Improvements Underway
  - ✓ Moss Volkswagen
  - ✓ FSA Facility
  - ✓ Social Security Administration Hearing offices
- Plan Check for Building Drawings
  - ✓ IDS Real Estate Group
  - ✓ Panattoni Development
  - ✓ Alere Property Group
  - ✓ Trammel Crow Co.
  - ✓ Kaiser Permanente Medical Office Building
  - ✓ Overton Moore Properties

## Code & Neighborhood Services Division

## Medicinal Marijuana Dispensaries

In 2008, the City Council adopted ordinance 767 and 768 prohibiting medicinal marijuana dispensaries and/or marijuana cooperatives Citywide. In spite of the ordinance, a number of medicinal marijuana dispensaries have established business in the City illegally. These establishments are also currently conducting business without a valid City Business License or a required Certificate of Occupancy.

In response to these violations, the City Attorney's Office has directed the Code Compliance Division to issue Administrative Citations to the Business Owner, Property Owner and any all representatives, employees or agents of the active dispensaries. The citations will be issued on a daily basis to four confirmed dispensaries as long as they are open and actively conducting business.

Staff understands that there may be other locations operating in violation of code provisions and is presently investigating these locations. Once they have established that these other facilities are indeed operating a dispensary, staff will also cite all responsible parties of these locations on a daily basis.

## Pro-active Business License Enforcement

A number of licensed business proprietors expressed concerns regarding unlicensed businesses operating in the City. In response to complaints, the Code & Neighborhood Services Division initiated a pro-active inspection program to target the proliferation of unlicensed businesses citywide.

The program which was implemented on July 1, 2011, utilizes existing staff members to identify and cite businesses that operate without the benefit of a City business license per Municipal Code requirements. Since the initiation of this program, code staff has cited 130 business owners resulting in 84 newly licensed businesses and generating approximately \$15,000 in unanticipated revenue.

## Land Development Division

#### Development Activity

- Grading Permit Issued
  - ✓ First Inland Logistics Center First Industrial Realty Trust
  - ✓ Nandina Distribution Center IDS Real Estate Group
  - ✓ Robertson's Ready Mix-Relocation to Old 215 site
  - ✓ Kaiser Permanente Office Building
  - ✓ Taco Bell Moreno Valley Professional Village

- Plan Check for Grading Plans
  - ✓ Panattoni Development
  - ✓ Vogel Property Group
  - ✓ Trammell Crow Company
  - ✓ Overton Moore Properties
  - ✓ Hemlock Family Apartments

## Southern California Edison (SCE)

The scheduled trip of another SCE Generator Transport has been delayed due to a suspension tracking problem with the trailer. The trip was scheduled to go through Moreno Valley on Friday or Saturday, but was delayed as parts are shipped and installed on the trailer. Once the necessary safety tests are completed, the trip will be rescheduled by SCE.

#### Robertson's Ready Mix Relocation

The Robertson's Ready Mix (RRM) plant relocation is finally under construction. A permit has been issued and grading is underway on the new 5.9-acre site for the new concrete plant to be situated on the Old 215-Frontage Road, just north of Alessandro Blvd. Thanks to many people in Land Development who worked hard at overcoming several design issues including water quality basins, off-site grading challenges and the need for an EMWD water line extension. RRM officials are hopeful of fast-tracking this project to enable the relocation of the Robertson's operation from Day Street. In fact, RRM is working extended hours of 5 a.m. to 5 p.m. to help accelerate the completion of the project. Moving RRM will also facilitate a street improvement project slated for the NE corner of Day Street and Eucalyptus Avenue.

#### Water Quality Basin Accepted for Maintenance

On October 3, the Storm Water Management Program of the Land Development Division accepted its 21st water quality basin for long-term city maintenance. The basin is located in the Celebrations housing tract and is near the intersection of White Box Lane and Evergreen Street. The three quarter acre basin "cleanses" runoff generated from the homes within the subdivision before the water leaves the City and flows to Canyon Lake and Lake Elsinore. The basin is a Best Management Practice utilized by the City to comply with the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit. Funding for maintenance comes from a special levy placed on the tax rolls of all properties receiving the benefit, not from the General Fund.

#### Neighborhood Preservation Division

#### Housing Resales

The housing resale market continues to be up and down. With a bit of good news – the average resale home value in Moreno Valley for September was \$161,017, which was a 2.2% increase from the value of \$157,476 for the month of August. During the nine months of calendar year 2011, Moreno Valley's average resale value has been up four months, down four months, and flat one month. During the past nine months the average resale home value in Moreno Valley has only increased by 0.5% - going from \$160,208 to \$161,017. The up and down resale market has also been experienced in other nearby communities such as Corona, Riverside, Hemet/San Jacinto, Perris and Temecula/Murrieta.

While the average resale value increased in September, the number of resale transactions dipped slightly in September, going from 252 transactions in August to 231 in September. During calendar year 2011 there have been a total of 2,129 resale transactions in Moreno Valley, which in a monthly average of 237.

The housing resale market continues to be mixed in other nearby Riverside County communities with Corona up 3.3% and Perris right behind Moreno Valley with a 1.2% increase. Several areas were down in September including Riverside – 2.9%, Temecula/Murrieta – 3.1% and Hemet/San Jacinto -4.6\%.

## Youth Opportunity Center

A grand opening event was conducted on October 19 to showcase the new Moreno Valley Youth Opportunity Center (YOC). The new YOC is operated by ResCare Workforce Services, through a contract with Riverside County's Investment Board. This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> YOC that ResCare and Riverside County have opened, with other YOC locations in Perris and Indio. If you haven't already--check out the new YOC located at 22635 Alessandro Blvd., Suite C in the Moreno Valley Professional Village, situated on the south side of Alessandro Boulevard-between Elsworth and Veterans Way.

# Hemlock Family Apartments

The construction financing closed on October 20 for the Hemlock Family Apartments project to be situated on both sides of Hemlock Street, just west of Perris Boulevard. Financing for the affordable housing project includes:

- \$4.1 million in bonds from the California Statewide Communities Development Authority
- \$6.3 million in RDA housing set-aside loan assistance
- \$1.2 million loan from the City's HOME funds

The 79-unit affordable housing project is being developed by a local development firm-Rancho Belago Developers Inc. Look for grading to start early in November.

## Family Services Association Opening New Facility

Final improvements are nearing completion on the Family Service Associations remodel of the building at the SE corner of Alessandro Blvd. and Old 215 – Frontage Road. The remodeled building, which will provide a central food preparation facility for FSA's lunch and nutrition program, is anticipated to start operating by late October.

## NSP Update

In conjunction with the City's selected Development Partners, the City of Moreno Valley has acquired 43 single-family properties through the Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) for the purposes rehabilitating and reselling them to income-qualified households earning up to 120% of the Area Median Income. Since receiving the grant award, the City and its Development Partners have been extremely active acquiring properties and creating homeownership opportunities for families through the Program. Below is a year-to-date synopsis of NSP1 Acquisition, Rehabilitation, and Resale Activity:

Total Properties Acquired	43
	10

Properties on the Market:	12
Properties w/an Accepted Offer in Escrow:	10

Properties Wall Accepted Oner In Escrow. 10
Properties Resold / Escrows Closed: 21

The resale of the twenty-one single family properties has generated approximately \$2 million of Program Income that will recycled into the Program to continue Acquisition, Rehabilitation, and Resale efforts to continue to provide homeownership opportunities to income-eligible households. Staff is also working on rolling out the next round of NSP.

## Planning Division

# Planning Commission

The Planning Commission met on October 13<sup>th</sup> and took the following actions:

- Approved a Tentative Condominium Map and Plot Plan to convert an existing apartment complex at the southeast corner of Day Street and Eucalyptus Avenue to condominiums. The map is being done at this time for financing purposes only with no imminent plans to sell individual units. The applicant is Moreno Valley Day Street Apartments.
- Approved a Conditional Use Permit for a cellular communications facility behind an existing church (Moreno Valley United Methodist Church) in a residential zone on the west side of Heacock Street, north of Lake Summit Drive. The proposed 75-foot high facility will be designed to look like a pine tree and would include new live pine trees to assist with compatibility. The applicant is Realcom

Associates for Verizon Wireless.

• Approved a Conditional Use Permit for a cellular communications facility on an existing street light on the west side of Perris Boulevard, south of Sunnymead Ranch Parkway. The approximately 35-foot tall facility would also include equipment in a below ground vault. This would be the City's first such facility in the public right of way and represents a new source of revenue for the City. The applicant is T-Mobile West.

Newly appointed Commissioner Jeff Giba was sworn in at the beginning of the meeting and was able to participate fully in the night's discussions. The Planning Commission now has a full membership of seven people.

The next Planning Commission meeting will be on November 3. The Planning Commission will be asked to make a recommendation on the time extension for the Development Agreement for TownGate.

# Administrative Approvals

- Conditional Use Permit to construct a 75-foot cellular communications facility behind an existing church in an office zone at 26755 Alessandro Boulevard. The facility will be designed to look like a pine tree and include new pine trees to assist with compatibility. The applicant is Verizon Wireless.
- Plot Plan to install mechanical equipment (baler and shredder) and screening at the Skechers Distribution Center. The applicant is Wynright Engineers and Integrators.
- Conditional Use Permit to replace telecommunications equipment located in the cupola of the office building at 11441 Heacock Street. The new equipment will expand the capacity of the telecommunications facility. The applicant is AT&T Mobility.
- Conditional Use Permit for an adult day care facility in Canyon Springs Plaza (space formerly occupied by Adelphia Cable). The applicant is Supporting Unlimited Possibilities.
- Plot Plan to legalize two existing carports at 21652 Cottonwood Avenue that were built without permits. The applicant is AA & Associates.
- Plot Plan for minor revisions to an approved renovation of an existing commercial building at 21801 Alessandro Boulevard. The applicant is Family Services Association.
- Plot Plan for revisions to an approved truck washing facility at 17700 Indian Street. The applicant is Waste Management of the Inland Valleys.

# Planning Application Activity

Planning continued to experience a higher than anticipated level of application activity in September, continuing a trend that has happened for most of the past year. The pace of both minor and major project applications for calendar year 2011 is now slightly more than one month ahead of the pace for 2010. Application fees for September were just over \$56,000, compared to just over \$32,000 for September 2010. Nine of the last twelve months have shown increases over the prior year monthly comparison.

# Highland Fairview Corporate Park

In late September, Highland Fairview submitted applications for all street and freeway monument signs for the Corporate Park project. The applications included two 53-foot freeway monument signs. All of the applications have been approved. Most of the wall signs for the Skechers Distribution Center, previously submitted by Skechers, have already been approved. Additional signs were approved as part of the sign program for the Corporate Park, but have not yet been submitted.

# Vogel Industrial Project

The draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Vogel Industrial Project was submitted to the City in early October. The EIR is now being reviewed by staff and the City's peer environmental consultant. Staff anticipates completing the first review of the EIR and providing comments back to the applicant in late October. After resubmittal by the applicant and a second review, the EIR will hopefully be ready to release for public review and comment. The Vogel Industrial Project is a proposed 1,616,133 square foot warehouse/distribution building on a 71-acre site located at the southwest corner of Perris Boulevard and Grove View Road in the Moreno Valley Industrial Area.

## Southern California Edison Grant

Staff has submitted the last two reports to Southern California Edison (SCE) as required by the Local Government Strategic Plan Strategies program grant. The reports provide an outline for preparing "reach codes" for consideration by the City Council to enhance the City's energy efficiency code requirements beyond Building Code, and the establishment of a revolving fund for future energy efficiency projects using utility rebates and energy savings from past and current energy efficiency projects. The grant provides funding for these activities as well as other activities to expand and continue the Energy Efficiency and Climate Action Strategy, including the preparation of a greenhouse gas analysis, as well as provide funding for building inspector training in energy efficiency codes. The

\$375,000 grant was accepted by the City Council in February.

# Foreclosures and Homes Listed for Sale

Information available from the RealtyTrac website for the month of September shows a decrease in foreclosure activity in the City, similar to the County and most other western Riverside County cities. The website reported one in 120 housing units in Moreno Valley were in some stage of foreclosure, which is less than one percent (1%)of the City's total housing stock. This compares to a rate of one in 107 units in August. This equates to a twelve percent (12%) improvement, reversing the deterioration seen in August. The current rate is also a fifty four percent (54%) improvement from September 2010, when the rate was one in 78 units. Foreclosure activity was fifteen percent (15%) better in the region, with the highest rates in communities with the highest levels of single family housing construction during the past building boom. Moreno Vallev is in the middle of the list of local communities with Corona and Temecula. Slower growth areas such as Riverside and Banning had much better rates, and faster growth areas such as Beaumont, Murrieta and Menifee had much worse rates. Calimesa had the lowest rate locally (1 in 492) 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 176). Foreclosure activity decreased in all zip codes. Moreno Valley had 440 homes reported in some stage of foreclosure in September, compared to 519 in August. The City of Riverside had the highest number of reported foreclosure properties at 717 and Corona had 479.

Information available from the Realtor.com website indicates a decrease in the number of homes for sale in the City and stability in median asking prices. As of October 1, 2011, 1,060 homes were listed for sale, compared with 1,062 on September 1st, and 1,085 in October of last year. January 2010 marked the low point for inventory in recent years when 806 homes were listed for sale. Inventory fell sharply in 2009 from a high of 2,068 in January 2009, and increased throughout 2010 and early 2011 before slowly declining the last few months. The median asking price \$150,000, compared with \$150,000 in September and \$159,000 last October. 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 positive.

## Prologis Business Park

Prologis has submitted a revised draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) to staff for their proposed 2,268,000 square foot warehouse/industrial business park for property located on the south side of the Moreno Valley Freeway east of the Moreno Valley Auto Mall. Prologis restarted their 2007 applications this summer after a period of inactivity due to economic concerns and the merger of the company with a competitor. After the second review by staff and the City's peer consultant, the EIR will hopefully be ready to release for public review and comment.

The proposed Prologis business park includes 5 buildings ranging in size from 186,000 to 861,000 square feet. The proposal includes a zone change to Light Industrial and a General Plan Amendment for the southern portion of the site from various residential designations to Business Park.

## SCAG COMPASS Grant

A follow up meeting for the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) Alessandro Corridor Implementation Study grant was held in early October. RBF Consulting, the Study consultant has completed a draft of the mixed-use overlay district, which if adopted would allow the flexibility to use either the mixed-use standards or the standards of the underlying zone (e.g. commercial or office). The overlay would be proposed for key locations along Alessandro Boulevard that were identified in the original Corridor Study reviewed by the City Council in 2010. The grant funding for contractual provides services of approximately \$150,000, with SCAG handling contract administration. Major components of the Study are implementation of R30 zoning along portions of Alessandro Boulevard, establishment of a mixed use overlay district along portions of Alessandro, the design of street cross sections for Alessandro that enhance transit, pedestrian and bicycle use, and the design of a prototype bus stop shelter. RBF anticipates completion of the Study by June 30, 2012.

# WestRidge Commerce Center

Ray Johnson of behalf of the Sierra Club has filed a CEQA lawsuit challenging the City Council's approval of the West Ridge Commerce Center. The City Attorney's Office has been in contact with the attorney representing the developer who will be defending the City in this matter.

## Trammell Crow Logistics Project

The Trammell Crow Company has submitted plans to revise the previously approved Komar Project at the SE corner of Heacock Street and San Michele Road. The approved project includes two buildings with a total square footage of 1,770,000 S.F. The proposed revisions include minor changes to the square footage of the individual buildings, with the total square footage slightly reduced, limited changes to the site plan, and upgraded building elevations. Staff anticipates completing the administrative review of the revisions by the end of November to assist in meeting the applicant's goal of a permit to start construction at the end of calendar year 2011.

## Energy Efficiency and Climate Action Strategy

The draft Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Study covering both the City as an organization and the community as a whole has been completed. Staff has reviewed the document and provided comments to the consultant. A final study is anticipated by the end of October. The final study will permit a final review and revision of the draft Energy Efficiency and Climate Action Strategy for the City. The final draft of the Strategy should be completed by the end of this year, and will be scheduled for City Council review early next year. The GHG Study and all activities related to the preparation of the Strategy are funded by a Federal Energy Efficiency Grant.

# FIRE DEPARTMENT

## Fire Operations

## Fire Department Applies for Grants

The purpose of the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) that is offered annually by the Department of Homeland Security through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is to enhance the safety of the public and firefighters regarding fire and fire-related hazards by providing financial assistance to fire departments and nonaffiliated Emergency Medical Services (EMS) organizations. This year over \$300 million dollars is available for award.

The Moreno Valley Department submitted two applications for the AFG. The first grant was to replace Squad 58 and Squad 91 at a total cost of \$184,194. This includes the cost of two squads at \$76,902 per vehicle along with a request for \$30,390 in equipment for both squads. The second grant is to replace the diesel generators located at Fire Station 48 and Fire Station 65. The cost for removing the old generators and replacing them with generators fueled by liquid propane gas is \$136,143.

Grant applications were submitted by the Fire Department on September 15 and the grant application period closed on September 16. Currently the 16,494 applications received by FEMA are being scored by a computer. Applications that receive a high computer ranking will then be sent to a peer review panel at the end of October. The first grant award recipients will be announced later this year.

## Fire Prevention

The Fire Prevention Bureau has completed all inspections and acceptance testing for a new fire alarm upgrade at the Moreno Valley Mall. This project has been a two year process from design and plan check to installation and testing. The new system was a considerable investment by mall management to bring the fire & life safety systems in the building up to current code and allow for additional tenant space expansion while reducing false alarm responses from the fire department. The Moreno Valley Fire Department would like to commend the mall management partners in taking the necessary steps to ensure the safest shopping environment for its patrons and tenants.

The fire department's Fire Marshal, Randy Metz, has completed the second year of the National Fire Academy's four year Executive Fire Officer Program, which is designed to provide senior officers and others in key leadership roles with an understanding of the need to transform fire and emergency services organizations from being reactive to proactive.

# PARKS & COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

#### Administration

Billy Amaya, Jr. from Nuview Bridge Early College High School, also a member of Moreno Valley Troop 214 just finished his Eagle Scout service project. Billy decided over 2 years ago that Moreno Valley needed a free place where people could go outside to get fit. He liked fitness walks he had seen in other cities and decided to embark on the installation of fitness stations in Moreno Valley for his service project. He went to multiple parks in Moreno Valley and decided that Towngate Memorial Park was a place used by many walkers. After receiving the support from Parks and Community Services, he began a 2 year process of working on the Eagle Scout service project. Billy raised funds for equipment and donations of materials and labor to complete this endeavor. He completed the project on October 9, 2011. The equipment was installed in a professional manner and is used by residents on a daily basis.

#### Sports 5 1

Pee Wee Junior Basketball League started October 11th with 85 youth participants. Youth and teen Basketball Clinic started October 17 with 45 Youth.

Adult Softball just started with three different leagues; Men's Monday night church league that has 5 teams, Men's Thursday night has 12 teams and Coed Sunday.

# July 4<sup>th</sup> Advisory Committee

Committee members met on October 20 for a Special Meeting at the Conference and Recreation Center. The meeting included making recommendations on the budget, sponsorship packages and fundraising. The next regular meeting will be November 2 at the Senior Center at 6:00pm.

## After School Program

Attendance targets required by the ASES grant funding are being met at 100% of the Moreno Valley and Val Verde Unified School District sites.

A total of 4,206 unduplicated students have been served since the first day of program.

The Annual Spelling Bee began with preliminaries in October. The final event will be held in November. All Moreno Valley and Val Verde school sites will participate.

Twenty elementary school sites in Moreno Valley and Val Verde schools will be participating in the Jumpstart Pilot STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) Project. We will be partnering with California Afterschool Network and Riverside County Office of Education. The pilot program has approved the Center Stage Math curriculum which was previously purchased by the City. Each of the pilot school sites will be providing 60 minutes of experiential hands-on math learning for a duration of 30 weeks. The other elementary sites will also be utilizing the curriculum, however, will not be assessed through the pilot program.

City of Moreno Valley schools have received an excess of 1,435 volunteer hours. The THINK Together Volunteer Department is currently partnering with Vista Del Lago, Valley View, Canyon Springs, and Rancho Verde high schools, Kohl's, Moreno Valley College, UCR, Cal State San Bernardino, Perris Valley Family Resource Center, and Moreno Valley's Promise the Alliance for Youth.

## **Recreation Division**

YouthFest was held on September 10 at Community Park. The free annual event was extremely successful featuring live performances, many by recreation contract classes, a DJ, raffles, and local business/organizations distributing information to the community regarding youth programs and services available. The exciting event welcomed more than sixty vendors who met with at least 1,700 attendees. Event sponsors included Visterra Credit Union, Waste Management, Costco, Castle Park, Cal Skate, Brunswick, Fiesta Village, and John's Incredible Pizza. Parks and Community Services would like to thank all who made the event such a success.

## Park Projects

March Field Park Soccer Arena: Installation of synthetic turf on the concrete surface of the existing hockey rink. The hockey rink has not been utilized for years. Converting the hockey rink to arena soccer will provide the City another lighted soccer field as well as added revenue from the concession. Status: Staff is investigating synthetic turf for the site. The project is planned for completion by June 2012.

## Parks Maintenance Division

Projects completed include trimmed hedges at parks and installed new trash containers at Shadow Mountain Park.

Projects in progress include: Planting trees at various park sites (75% complete); repairing and replanting parking lot planter at Bethune Park; fertilizing all parks; removing pepper trees at Parque Amistad; removing and replacing concrete at Parque Amistad; trimming palms at various park sites; trimming trees in contract areas; and repairing east parking lot at Morrison Park.

Vandalism and graffiti were reported at the following areas in September: Aqueduct Bikeway (\$88), Bayside (\$184), Bethune (\$113), Celebration (\$148), El Portero (\$24), JFK (\$153), Morrison (\$64), Parque Amistad (\$47), Rockridge (\$50), Shadow Mountain (\$71), Sunnymead (\$363), Towngate (\$231), Victoriano (\$188), Vista Lomas (\$43), Weston (\$70), and Woodland (\$141). The total cost for vandalism/graffiti during September 2011 was \$1,978. Total labor hours for vandalism/graffiti were 38 hours, approximately 4.75 full-time work days.

The mobile stage unit was used on September 10 at the Moreno Valley YouthFest at Community Park and September 14 at the MVUSD "Parent Resource Center" Grand Opening

Staff training included playground structure safety on September 15 and groundskeeping on September 29.

Court referrals performed a total of 216 hours during September. The total hours for court referrals in 2011 are 8,273, which equates to approximately 1,034 fulltime work days.

## **Recreation Division**

Many of the Time for Tots fall sessions continue to fill weeks in advance with new and continuing children. The month of September was spent enjoying creative curriculum and celebrating special activity days including Sensory Fair, Crazy Hat Day, Around the World Day, Apple Day, and Share Day. Staff were also busy preparing for the annual Time for Tots Fall Festival held at the Conference and Recreation Center on October 27 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. The annual event featured Trunk-or-Treating, games and activities, a musical performance by the participants, and a pumpkin patch.

September was also a busy month for many recreation classes. The beginning of fall saw a dramatic increase in many of the youth dance classes. Ballet, Ballet/Acro, Dance Exploration, and Hip-Hop were full of young talented dancers. Adult education classes, such as GED and English as a Second Language, also had a rise in registrations. Recreation staff have been busy recruiting new contract instructors to teach new, exciting, and diverse classes.

Staff are busy preparing for the upcoming fall camp at the March Field Park Community Center. Attending children will spend their November vacation from school creating creative holiday and seasonal crafts, playing fun-filled games and activities, and much more.

Completed the Pee Wee/Junior Flag Football league, which had more than 100 children in the program. The league concluded with an award banquet for participants and parents on October 3-4.

## Senior Community Center

On September 23 the Center held its annual Fall Festival sponsored by Health Net. There were more than 100 seniors attending the party. There was music, dancing, singing, and a chili cooking contest. There was also plenty of corn and chili to go around.

The September Senior Birthday Party was celebrated on September 29. This event was sponsored by the Friends of Moreno Valley Senior Center who provided a free meal and a box of candy. Miller Jones Mortuary donated the cake and ice cream.

The seniors participated in the following trips:

- September 3-4: Las Vegas
- September 5: Day trip to Las Viejas Casino
- September 10: Spotlight 29 Casino
- September 15: Valley View
- September 17: Spotlight 29
- September 24: Spotlight 29

# Library Services

#### Fall Reading Program

This year's Fall Reading Program, "Fall into Reading," runs from Monday, October 17 through Tuesday, November 22, and is open to children ages 2-13. Participants must have their own library card to sign up and are eligible to win incentives from local merchants as they track their reading time. Complete details are available at the library.

## Volunteer Opportunities

Bring your skills and passion to your local library, to a program promoting literacy and education, or to a community nonprofit! Just enter your zip code in the box on the library's homepage, under the "Get Involved: Powered by Your Library" logo, and you will be taken to the California Libraries' VolunteerMatch website, where you will see a list of volunteer opportunities in your area. You can narrow your search by a particular area of interest (e.g. education & literacy, homeless & housing, advocacy & human rights, disabled, etc.), read stories of other library volunteers, track your own volunteer hours, and more. Get Involved promotes civic engagement through California public libraries and is a statewide project of the California State Library and CALIFA. The project was funded in whole or in part by the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act, administered in California by the State Librarian.

#### Library Safety Day

Members of the Moreno Valley Police Department and Moreno Valley Fire Department conducted a **Library Safety Day** at the Moreno Valley Public Library on Thursday, October 27. Visitors explored a fire truck and patrol car on display, met with McGruff the Crime Fighting Dog, received a fire hat and other handouts, and more. Police and Fire personnel also participated in preschool Story Times for the two weeks prior to the event, from October 17 through October 27.

#### PAL Island Exhibit Extended

The exhibit period for the Play and Learn Island (PAL), currently on free loan to Moreno Valley Public Library from the Rancho Cucamonga Library, has been extended and will remain at the library through the month of November. This station has been very popular with library customers. With this exhibit, children participate in a variety of hands-on activities that encourage different types of educational play and appeal to a range of ages, which in turn encourage the family to play and learn together.

## Online Internet Use Survey

The library completed a two-week online survey that asked patrons how they use the library's computers and Internet connection, so that we can make these services better. There was a survey link on the library Web site that took about 10 minutes to complete. The deadline was October 9. The IMPACT survey is a project of the Information School at The University of Washington.

# Teen Read Week

Teen Read Week 2011 ran from Sunday, October 16 through Saturday, October 22. Teen Read Week is a national literacy initiative of the Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA), a division of the American Library Association, and is aimed at teens, their parents, librarians, educators, booksellers and other concerned adults. Teen Read Week's recurring theme is "Read for the Fun of It." The 2011 sub-theme is Picture It @ your library, which encourages teens to read graphic novels and other illustrated materials, seek out creative books. imagine the world or through literature, just for the fun of it. The event offers librarians, parents and educators a chance to encourage teens to read for pleasure and to visit their libraries for free reading materials.

The <u>Teens' Top Ten</u> is a "teen choice" list, where teens nominate and choose their favorite books of the previous year. The winners of this year's balloting were announced at the library during Teen Read Week.

# PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

## **Capital Projects**

## SR-60/Nason Interchange Improvement Project

Currently there are new activities taking place which include installation of new street lighting on the eastbound SR-60/Nason Street on-and-off ramps, installation of fill on the northbound Nason Street for a future detour route, placement of base rock on the eastbound on-ramp, paving of the eastbound on-ramp. and preparation for the closure of Nason Street and eastbound on-and-off ramps to complete the new eastbound off-ramp and intersection of the new eastbound on-and-off ramps and Nason Street detour. There are also on-going activities which are rock removal on westbound on-ramp, placement of earth fill for new eastbound SR-60 on-and-off ramps, installation of drainage systems and maintenance of stormwater measures throughout the project. There was a full closure into the Stoneridge driveway off of Nason Street scheduled tentatively from October 21 through October 31, 2011 as well as another full closure tentatively scheduled for November 1 through November 10, 2011 for the eastbound SR-60 Nason Street on-and-off ramps.

## <u>Street Improvements for Heacock Street from Hemlock</u> <u>Avenue to Ironwood Avenue and Ironwood Avenue at</u> <u>Davis Street</u>

This project consists of widening approximately 500 feet of the west side of Heacock Street from 390 feet north of Hemlock Avenue to 530 feet south of Ironwood Avenue. Project benefits include new sidewalk that will join existing roadway and sidewalks at both ends of the project. Additionally, three new street lights will be installed for improved vehicle and pedestrian safety. In conjunction with this project, a new cross gutter, access ramps, and minor street widening will be constructed at the north leg of the intersection of Ironwood Avenue and Davis Street. Hillcrest Contracting, Inc., the City's contractor, started construction in early August 2011 and is scheduled to conclude construction by November 2011.

Day Street Drainage Improvements from 690 feet South of Cottonwood Avenue to Cottonwood Avenue (Phase <u>Ii)</u>

This project will construct approximately 220 feet of 30" diameter storm drain, 65 feet of 24" diameter storm drain, two catch basins, four parkway culverts, and other associated storm drain improvements. The project also includes roadway reconstruction improvements, including new AC pavement, curb and gutter, sidewalks, driveways, striping, and other related road improvements. Project benefits for the residents include greatly improving the drainage in this area by providing a new storm drain system. This will assist during heavy rains and avoid the flooding that occurs along this section and the new sidewalks and other road improvements will provide a safe route of travel for pedestrians. STI Inc. Trucking and Materials, the City's contractor, anticipate starting construction in October 2011 and concluding construction in December 2011 (weather permitting).

## Morrison Park Fire Station (Fire Station #99)

Construction of a new fire station will began in October at the eastern end of Moreno Valley. Located at the northeast corner of Morrison Street and Cottonwood Avenue, the Morrison Park Fire Station (Fire Station #99) will be a 9,772 square foot two-bay fire station with a 576 square foot storage building. The new fire station will use water conservation landscaping to reduce water consumption as well as save in maintenance and water costs. It will also be an example to residents and businesses that water conservation landscaping is not only eye-catching but also environmentally friendly.

The construction contract was awarded by the City Council on September 27, 2011 to Silver Creek Industries of Perris, California. Design and construction of the fire station are financed using Redevelopment Tax Allocation Bonds. Construction has begun and is anticipated to be completed by the end of July 2012 (weather permitting) and will be ready to use by October 2012.

#### Cottonwood Avenue Improvements

The City's Public Works Department will improve Cottonwood Avenue from Perris Boulevard to 650 feet east of Perris Boulevard. Pavement will be widened along the north side of Cottonwood Avenue to allow for a longer right-turn lane in the west bound direction. The benefits of this project will be enhanced safety for vehicles and pedestrians and reduce traffic congestion on Cottonwood Avenue. The improvements will be financed using Development Impact Fees (DIF) for street improvements.

The project is currently in the design phase. Construction is scheduled to start in April 2012 and is anticipated to be completed by June 2012, barring any unforeseen circumstances.

#### Dracaea Avenue Sidewalk Improvements (Perris Blvd. to Patricia St.)

The Capital Projects Division will construct missing curbs, gutters, and sidewalks and widen the pavement along both sides of Dracaea Avenue from Perris Boulevard to Patricia Street. The project will enhance safety for pedestrians and vehicles, as well as provide an aesthetic improvement for the community. The improvements will be financed using federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds dedicated for neighborhood services and improvements.

The project is currently under design phase. Construction is scheduled to start in April 2012 and is anticipated to be completed by June 2012, barring any unforeseen circumstances.

## <u>Heacock Street Sidewalk Improvements (Atwood Ave.</u> to Myers Ave.)

The Capital Projects Division will construct interim sidewalks along Heacock Street from Atwood Avenue to 400 feet north and from Eucalyptus Avenue to Myers Avenue. The improvements will be financed using Measure "A" funds allocated for transit-related projects. The interim sidewalks will replace existing dirt paths along Heacock Street and will enhance safety for all pedestrians using this route. The interim sidewalks will also make this route easier to travel, especially during the rainy season.

The project is currently in the design phase. Construction is scheduled to start in February 2012 and is anticipated to be completed by April 2012, weather permitting.