

CITY



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Moreno Valley's Newsletter for Residents

April - August 2009

Neighborhood Stabilization Plan Addresses Housing Needs

The federal government approved 'emergency' legislation in 2008 that provides grants to many U.S. cities, counties, and states so that they may customize a local response to the foreclosure crisis.

This legislation allocated \$11.4 million to Moreno Valley to implement a Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP). Both the City Council and the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) have approved a Plan to assist those Moreno Valley neighborhoods most affected by abandoned and foreclosed homes. The Plan includes the following measures:

1. To reduce the number of vacant homes, the City will encourage homeownership with down payment assistance for income-eligible first time homebuyers.
2. The City will assist in helping rehabilitate foreclosed, abandoned single-family residences and resell them to income-eligible homebuyers.
3. To serve individuals and families earning incomes up to 50% of the area median income, the City will rehabilitate multi-family rental units in partnership with non-profit housing developers.

These NSP programs will be available in late Spring 2009. For more information, please contact the City's Neighborhood Preservation Division at 951.413.3450. To view the full NSP Plan, please visit the City's Web site at www.moval.org.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
about Neighborhood Preservation programs and assistance
 call 951.413.3450 or go to
www.moval.org



- Foreclosure Strike Team Preserving our Neighborhoods
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Strike Team Preserving our Neighborhoods

In response to the home foreclosure crisis, the City has formed a residential Foreclosure Strike Team. Comprised of two Code Compliance Officers, the team employs pro-active measures to ensure the proper landscaping and structure maintenance of properties undergoing foreclosure.

The Foreclosure Strike Team works closely with the City Attorney's Office to make sure lenders and trustees of foreclosed properties — and their real estate agent representatives — secure vacant structures from vandalism, restore yard landscaping to maintained condition, clean up trash and debris, and drain polluted pools.

Formed in July 2008, the Strike Team has initiated approximately 3,200 code enforcement cases and brought 1,116 properties into compliance. With the help of the Foreclosure Strike Team, the City is making significant progress in addressing the foreclosure challenge and preserving our neighborhoods.

Foreclosure Prevention Workshops Help Residents



Another measure the City took recently to help residents preserve the dream of homeownership was to host seven foreclosure prevention workshops. Congresswoman Mary Bono Mack, pictured above, participated in the February 28 kick-off of the workshop series, which provided residents with valuable information and resources to assist them in saving their homes. For more information on how to avoid foreclosure, contact the City's Neighborhood Preservation Division at 413.3450, the Fair Housing Council at 951.653.8314 or the Department of Housing and Urban Development at 800.225.5342.

Code Compliance Form Now On-Line

The City's Code Compliance and Technology Services teams have developed an on-line complaint form that is now available for use on the City's Web site. This on-line form provides residents and business owners with an additional option to report code violations. Easy to complete, the form only requires information concerning the violation location, complaint type, and description. The on-line Code Compliance form is electronically forwarded to City staff for investigation and response. To view the new form, visit "Resident Services/Code and Neighborhood Services" on the City's Web site.

Library Update

There is a lot happening at your Moreno Valley Public Library! In fact, the Library is busier than ever with a 19% increase in visits over last year.

- Job resources: Free usage computer lab, free WiFi access, practice tests and books, various online resources, handouts, job listings, and more.
- 2 new Storytimes have been added. See the Library Web Site for days and times.
- Thanks to a generous grant from Stater Bros. Charities, the City has developed a new coloring book. "Webster's Guide to the Moreno Valley Library" will be distributed to pre-schools in the area, in partnership with the Riverside County Office of Education.
- The Summer Reading Program starts June 15. For this year's themes, contact the Library.

The Moreno Valley Public Library is located at 25480 Alessandro Boulevard.

For additional information about Library programs and services, call 951.413.3880.

Redevelopment Agency Helps Maintain, Build Affordable Housing

Moreno Valley's Redevelopment Agency (RDA) dedicates funding to ensure the development and maintenance of quality affordable housing opportunities in the City. In compliance with state law, the Redevelopment Agency provides financial assistance in conjunction with an affordable housing developers' conventional financing, state and federal tax credit awards, along with other grants and loans to create long term affordable housing opportunities and share the cost of project construction and operation. RDA participation is determined by the City Council, acting in their role as the RDA Board of Directors. In the past few years, the RDA Board of Directors has supported the following affordable housing developments:

FOR MORE INFORMATION
about the Redevelopment Agency, go to
www.moval.org

The **Bay Family Apartments** at 22711 Bay Avenue, a 61-unit affordable housing project, held its grand opening in February 2008. This project is now fully occupied and has a waiting list of potential tenants.

The **Oakwood Apartments** on Perris Boulevard (south of JFK Boulevard) will provide 241 affordable units to low income families. Currently under construction, the project targets completion by mid-2009.

The **Perris Isle Senior Apartments** is located at 15168 Perris Boulevard. This 189-unit complex was completed in October 2008 and is fully occupied.

The **Rancho Dorado Apartments** will be located on Perris Boulevard (south of JFK Boulevard). The first phase of this project offers 71 units available for area families.

The **City's Redevelopment Agency** recently purchased 8.5 acres at the northeast corner of Alessandro Boulevard and Day Street. Plans for this property include an apartment complex and a childcare center.

Animal Shelter Extends Hours, Lowers Microchip Fee

In an ongoing effort to reunite lost pets with their owners and provide residents additional access to the Animal Shelter to adopt a new family pet, the City of Moreno Valley extended the Saturday hours at the Moreno Valley Animal Shelter for a temporary period of time, starting in March. The Shelter is now open for adoptions Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., (previously it had closed at 4:00 p.m. on Saturdays.) The City is hoping the additional hours will result in an increase in adoptions. The extended hours on Saturday will continue through August 2009.

The City is also reducing the cost of microchips to just \$10 on every animal adopted from the Shelter or returned to its owner. This is a reduction from the standard \$16 microchip fee. For more information about adopting an animal or locating a lost pet, please contact the Moreno Valley Animal Shelter at 951.413.3790 or visit the city's Web Site at and click on "Animal Shelter Adoptions" under "Resident Services."

Burros Rescued, Relocated to Sanctuary

The City of Moreno Valley's Animal Services Division recently rescued two juvenile burros that were wandering in and out of traffic in the area of Pigeon Pass Road and Lawless Lane. The burros, one jack and one jenny, had also been causing minor property damage to lawns and gardens as well as creating a potential safety hazard to drivers in the community. Working with the Peaceful Valley Donkey Rescue, a nationally recognized donkey and burro rescue organization, the Animal Services Division successfully placed both burros in the care of this sanctuary, providing a safe home for these animals. A herd of approximately 50 undomesticated burros has reportedly roamed free in Reche Canyon since the 1950s.



Did you know?

Oleander Avenue has been renamed to Harley Knox Avenue to remember the longtime Moreno Valley resident and pioneering developer for the Moreno Valley Industrial Area. Knox passed away in October of 2005.



Photo courtesy of Donna Knox
Harley Knox

Bob Hope's USO tours started as a successful radio broadcast in 1941 from what used to be called March Field. Troops at March loved Mr. Hope so much that he decided to take the show on the road.



Photo courtesy of March Air Field Museum
Bob Hope and Francis Langford at first USO at March Air Field in 1941.

Auto parts leader coming to MoVal

O'Reilly Automotive, Inc. has selected Moreno Valley for its new west coast distribution center. O'Reilly will occupy a new 408,000 square foot industrial building located at the northeast corner of Indian Street and San Michele Road.

Tenant improvements are currently underway with plans to open for business this Fall. O'Reilly Automotive brings much needed jobs to Moreno Valley and will eventually employ up to 500 people.

After completing its 2008 acquisition of CSK (Kragen) Auto (1,350 stores), O'Reilly is now the largest automotive related retailer in the U.S. with more than 3,250 stores nationwide.

MoVal Attracts Retailers Despite Slowdown

As the nation experiences a difficult economic climate, the City of Moreno Valley continues to work with developers to bring new retail and restaurant uses to Moreno Valley.

The **Moreno Valley Mall** reports strong sales and recently completed a major upgrade and expansion.

Visit www.morenovalleymall.com for store directory and center information.



Mayor Richard A. Stewart, kneeling right, poses with company representatives at the groundbreaking ceremony for Ayres Suites Moreno Valley in February, which opens in Spring 2010. Ayres Suites is located in TownGate next to the Hampton Inn.

The Sports Authority opened in April 2009 at **TownGate Crossing** with 40,000 square feet of sports equipment, general merchandise, shoes, and apparel. Focusing on premium brands, the Sports Authority is the largest U.S. sporting goods chain with more than 400 stores in 45 states.

The Hampton Inn and Suites, located on Memorial Way in **TownGate**, greeted its first guests in March. Six additional hotel projects are under development, offering a total of 676 new hotel guest rooms to visitors.

More new restaurants are planning to open locations in Moreno Valley during 2009. New places to grab a bite will include SanSai Japanese Grill, located next to Starbucks at Frederick Street and State Route 60.

Moreno Marketplace, a new neighborhood shopping center at the northwest corner of Cactus Avenue and Moreno Beach Drive, is expanding its offerings. New stores already open include Stater Bros., Fantastic Sam's, Jack in the Box, and Wells Fargo.

Iris Plaza, another new neighborhood center situated at the southeast corner of Iris Avenue and Perris Boulevard, has recently opened the following businesses: Fitness 19, KFC, Provident Bank, and Quizno's. They join anchors Walgreens and Fresh & Easy.

City Planning to Improve Park Facilities

The City is updating its Park and Recreation Master Plan. This Plan provides recommendations for the development of future park, recreation and cultural facilities, the implementation of recreation services, and recommendations for future trails. To view the proposed Master Plan, visit the City's Web site.

Honoring our Heroes

The City's annual Memorial Day ceremony will be held at 10 a.m. on Saturday, May 30, at the Veterans Memorial. The memorial is located on Memorial Circle at the Moreno Valley Civic Center.