



The Posting

A TLMA Code Enforcement Monthly Newsletter



APRIL

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Message from the Director

Our restructuring is going well as we continue to re-shape into a cutting edge code enforcement organization. The result of adding additional officers into our communities is evident in the many before and after photographs shown in this edition. Just in Eastvale alone, we are seeing voluntary compliance rates up to 85%. The Department is continuing to create new tools and sharpening our existing ones. We can look forward to the new vending ordinance which goes to the Board of Supervisors on May 1st. This will empower our officers with the ability to seize illegal vendor's inventory and tools and make us more valuable to allied enforcement agencies. All of these



Our newsletter title winner, Manolito Molina, at his celebratory lunch at the Mission Inn! Left to right: Michael O'Connor, Jay Orr, and Manolito Molina.

things add up to the enhancement of public safety and improvement in the quality of life in Riverside County communities.

Jay Orr

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Illegal Vending



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Special Enforcement and Vending Violations

On March 23, 2007 the Special Enforcement Team conducted a day long joint operation with the Sheriff's Department Jurupa Valley Station and Environmental Health in the communities of Eastvale, Mira Loma, Glen Avon and Jurupa. The focus of the operation was to conduct an investigation into numerous complaints of illegal vending and

unsafe food handling. During the course of the investigation contact was made with eleven suspected violators. Enforcement action was taken and a total of 23 citations were issued; eleven by Code Enforcement, eleven by Environmental Health and one by the Sheriff's Department. Also, approximately four

hundred and fifty-five pounds of potentially hazardous foods were confiscated. The Sheriff's Department was also able to confiscate \$749.00 cash from the illegal sales of unsafe foods. This joint operation is just one of many planned for the communities in the coming months.

Steve Bloomquist



Many hands make light work!

Nuevo Cleanup Volunteers



Several groups came together to collect 50 tons of trash & tires.



Jurupa Valley Tire Event

Code Enforcement staff was able to assist Riverside County Waste Management in the very first Jurupa Valley Tire Collection Event that was held on Saturday, March 24th. With the help of 55 participants, we were able to collect 566 tires, 113 of these tires were collected when Code Enforcement staff took 3 volunteer Jurupa Valley High School students out to collect illegally dumped tires in a vacant lot off of Galena Street and Etiwanda Avenue across the street from the High School, along Etiwanda Avenue by the freeway off ramps and behind the Farmer Boys off of Etiwanda Avenue.

Susan Rush

50 Tons Collected

Supervisor Marion Ashley's Office and the residents of Friends of Nuevo, Juniper Flats, and Lakeview came together to participate in a successful Community Cleanup & Tire Collection Event on Saturday, March 17, 2007. The event took place at the Valley View Elementary School where over 15 agencies and groups participated, including: AAA Egg Farm, Nuview Union School District, Eastern Municipal Water District, Riverside County Public Library-Nuevo, Nuevo Citizen's Patrol, County Fire Department, Nuevo Post Office, Nuevo Municipal Advisory Council, Waste Management Inc., Riverside County Code Enforcement Department, County Waste Management Department, and Western Riverside Council of Governments. These agencies and groups offered their support ranging from informing the local residents of the cleanup, to volunteering their time and resources, as well as providing the clean up tools and support for all participants. Over 50 tons were collected because of this cleanup, including tires, all thanks to a tire bin, which was sponsored by Supervisor Marion Ashley's office.

Susana Orozco

Making a Difference

For many years, 68th Street in Mecca has been considered a mini landfill, attracting all types of illegal dumpers. Thanks to the hard work and dedication of the Transportation Department's litter crews, which are now working full force in all unincorporated areas of the County, this area is no longer an eyesore!

This is a wonderful example of the improvements we are making Countywide in our fight against illegal dumping, with the collaborated efforts between Riverside County's Transportation Department, Environmental Health Department, Waste Management and our Code Enforcement Department. The services we are providing are necessary in improving the health and safety of all community members. Way to go team!

Susan Rush

Department Updates

Code Enforcement Administration is currently revising the Department Grooming and Dress Code Standards. A final draft of the Dress Code will be in place by May 1, 2007. Starting May 1st, all field staff will be required to be in uniform. This includes Techs, Officers, Sr. Officers, and Supervising Officers. Supervising Code Officers will have the option to wear business attire. If any one doesn't have their uniforms now, please contact me as soon as possible.

The Safety Lighting (light bars) has arrived at Woodcrest Vehicle Center. A plan is currently being developed to bring the vehicles in on Thursdays so they can be worked on over the weekends. Please be flexible with this process. The plan is to do 10 vehicles per week until the entire fleet is done.

Mike Bowles

Tire Enforcement Grant

In November of 2006, our Code Enforcement Department applied for a Tire Enforcement Grant, which will provide funding to pay for personnel and equipment cost associated with carrying out a local waste tire inspection and surveillance program for the California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB). Our Department has recently been awarded \$300,000.00, to carry out the inspections that will begin in July of 2007. Our duties as a department will entail 1) identifying illegal waste tire piles; 2) inspecting tire facilities, points of tire generation, haulers, and end-use facilities; 3) investigating referrals and complaints; 4) examining waste tire hauler registration and manifest documents; and 5) providing outreach and education to waste tire facilities, generators, and haulers. In addition to these, we have the authority to issue Notice of Violations (NOV), but it will be up to the CIWMB to carry out enforcement action after the NOV stage. According to the CIWMB records there are over 800 of these facilities in Riverside County and our plan is to inspect all of these, during fiscal year 2007/2008, with the use of these funds.

Susana Orozco





Teamwork - District 5

Substandard structures, trailers, accumulated rubbish, unpermitted business and inoperable vehicles kept seven Team 5 Code Enforcement Officers busy in Desert Hot Springs. Danny Pike, CEO, and Regina Keyes, Sr. CEO, coordinated the effort. On 3/29/07 the team partnered with RAID, RSO, and CHP on a property that has been an eyesore for months. With the cooperation of all departments an initial investigation was conducted and the property owner was issued a Notice of the violation and necessary compliance measures.

Accumulated Rubbish in Cherry Valley. Sara Cervantes, CEO III, responded to this property and found accumulated rubbish throughout several parcels in the area. Sara notified the property owner of the violation and the

property was cleaned within two months of notice, compliance gained.

On March 17, 2007 David W. Newton, Vice President of the I-10 Corridor Neighborhood Watch Program presented Tracey Towner, Supervising Code Enforcement Officer, a Certificate of Appreciation in Recognition of Participation and Cooperation with the Program. A meeting and introduction of Danny Pike, CEO, and Tony Green, CEO, was held with the Cabazon / Whitewater community members. The group was very appreciative of all the work that Code Enforcement has done and excited with the new Officers coming on board.

Tracey Towner

Helping One Another - District 1

Officer Matt Jones contacted me about a tip that someone had dumped a large amount of oil in front of a home. Officer Jones investigated the allegations and found that there was approximately thirty gallons of an unknown fluid on the road gutter and in five gallon containers. I advised Officer Jones to get the information, and to stay at the scene until further notice. I called Riverside County's Transportation Department and Environmental Health's Hazmat and advised them of the situation and location. I also contacted Manuel Acueto of the SET who advised me that he was going to get someone out to the location. I drove out to assist Officer Jones and we documented the scene with photographic evidence. Using networking with other departments, and real team effort, Officers from SET, Hazmat, and the District Attorney's Environmental Crimes obtained a confession. Criminal charges are pending. GREAT JOB TO ALL!



Jose Cruz

Three Years to Clear - District 2

After three long years of diligence and hard work a major nuisance has been cleared in the Pedley area. Jurupa Code Enforcement Officers and staff have worked to gain compliance on the subject property for multiple violations including: excessive outside storage, accumulated rubbish, construction without a permit, multiple inoperative vehicles, and several substandard structures. The property had become a community problem that taxed resources from Fire Dept., Sheriff Dept., Planning Dept., and the property owner. Recently the vacant property had become a haven for the homeless, which caused the piles of rubbish to grow and created an increase in the crime rate in the surrounding area. The Jurupa Special Enforcement Team became involved when it was found out squatters were charging a tipping fee for violators to dump their trash on the lot.



Tracey Towner receives award



On March 30, 2007 the property owner began a major clean up effort that included demolition of the substandard structures, and removal of vehicles and debris. The property is now clean, clear and secured with a chain link fence around its perimeter. The property owner has also agreed to monitor and maintain the fence.

Credits: Candace O'Gara, Marcella Villanueva, Diana Parra, Jim Palmer, John Game, Ed Torres, and Julio Pineda

Mickey Parmele

So Much to See in District 3

Team 3 keeps a non-stop pace! Officers assigned from Hemet work the northern areas of District 3, and Murrieta officers work the southern areas. Both areas have numerous high profile cases. Currently there are several cases at counsel for injunctions. The last half of March, officers executed three seizure warrants; conducted a pre-bid job walk; and partnered with County Counsel staff on an inspection of Crossroads in Aguanga. NET officers worked with SET officers and Sheriffs in a sweep of a chronic problem area in Hemet. Thirteen notices were issued with excellent results. Officer Wayne "J" Durant has seen great success recently (see before and after below). Good job, Wayne! Kudos to Mark Slocum, SET Sr., for his great attitude, team mentality and willingness to include area officers in SET activities. Mark and SET officers have assisted NET officers in execution of warrants and shared equipment and resources. Awesome!

Mary Overholt



Reaching Our Goals - District 4

First of all, we would like to congratulate Manolito for winning the newsletter contest. "The Posting" is a great opportunity for all of us to share our successes in doing what we love doing best...making our communities a better place to live and to take pride in doing it. The goal for this inaugural event of being our own department has taken on a new meaning for all of us.

For the month of March, District 4 officers took on the challenge of setting goals with a higher expectation of such issues as gaining compliance voluntarily from property owners, especially in the Thousand Palms area. The numbers speak for themselves.

25 non-operational vehicles removed

13 vacant lots cleared of trash and debris

3 substandard structures abated

Along with our community improvement specialists, we are raising awareness of issues pertaining to accumulated rubbish, abandoned vehicles, substandard living conditions and reaching out to the residents and homeless as well. Along with District 4, we are currently working under a Tribal Gaming Grant to investigate violations of State Codes and County Ordinances in the unincorporated areas surrounding the tribal lands, utilizing a Community Enhancement Program.

The program will improve the quality of life for the citizens as well as eliminate identified health and safety issues associated with the older existing neighborhoods, thus reducing the potential for loss of property and life. With the reduction of accumulated materials in residential areas and vacant land, not excluding inoperable vehicles. This will greatly improve the aesthetics of the surrounding areas of tribal lands, and improve the quality of life. The property owner can take part in this program without the burden of expense and will know that Riverside County and the local Indian tribunal do care about these issues that affect all of us at some level.

Dave Lawless



Structure that was abated in Thousand Palms



Editor's Corner

Dawn Burnett

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Calendar of Events

April

27th

Palm Spring Household Hazardous Waste

28th

Palm Springs Household Hazardous Waste

Sky Valley & Indio Hills Cleanup

May

12th

Jurupa Valley Cleanup

19th

Home Gardens Cleanup

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