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Mission Statement

"To enhance public safety and improve the quality of life in Riverside County, through proactive and timely code enforcement actions."



Director Jay E. Orr



Community Improvement Specialists Angela Boone-Porcher & Lilia Briceno with a team of volunteers from Grace Apostolic Church.



West Garnet Cleanup in District 5

Over 70 tons of trash and 410 tires were collected in the West Garnet Community Cleanup held from June 8-16, 2007. A major cleanup event was held June 16, 2007, with the support of 66 volunteers from Riverside County Fire Department led by Battalion Chief Avila, Waste Management Department led by Joe Contaoi, and Code Enforcement Department led by Angela Boone-Porcher, Grace Apostolic Church volunteers led by Pastor Maddox, SET Free Ministries, and the Gas Company. **Lilia Briceno**

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Property Clean in District 4

Fourth District Senior Officer George Gianos has been busy working on major projects in the Blythe area. One case in particular involved a very difficult property owner refusing access to a very visible public nuisance including accumulated rubbish, junk cars, wrecked and substandard travel trailers and mobile homes. Over the year an inspection warrant was served followed by a seizure warrant for the removal of 25 vehicles and parts. The property owner brought more stuff back on the site. While another seizure warrant was being worked on, a mysterious large fire occurred reducing the property to rubble. A final warrant was served and the property is clean. Good work! **Dave Lawless**



Before



After



SET Working Hard in District 1

I was recently inundated with several complaints of an abandoned trailer containing a large amount of trash at the intersection of Grande Vista and Lake Mathews Dr. When I saw the photos of the trailer and the trash, I could see why the residents of the area were concerned. I contacted Susan Bennalack, the Senior Officer of the District 1/3 SET Team, to initiate an investigation. Susan and her team responded to the location and they not only started their investigation, they set the

wheels in motion for the trash and trailer to be removed. Since the trailer and the trash have been removed, we have received many thanks from the community on the fast response.

Another big thanks to SET for the hard work they are doing in the Lake Mathews and Mead Valley areas with the vendors. Many members of the community have noticed the hard work and have told me how much they appreciate the effort.

Mark Slocum

Community Improvement

Riverside County Code Enforcement's Community Improvement Team is growing and we are pleased to have Laura Gilbert, Jessica Jimenez, Becky Mitchell, Joshias Ponce, and Sean O'Grady on board. The team is keeping busy learning about Code Enforcement and the vital role the department plays in protecting the public's health and safety. Projects that have been completed, due to the increase in staff, include increased distribution of "The Posting" to communities across the county, a monthly community meeting

calendar, and FAQ's on certain county ordinances. In addition, all staff are working diligently on research and assessments needed for the implementation of the Voluntary Public Nuisance Abatement Program to Home Gardens, Mead Valley, and Rubidoux communities, as well as educational and awareness efforts to the communities of Mecca, Quail Valley, and West Garnet.

Community Improvement Team



Dispatch Center in District 2

On July 11, 2007, a new Dispatching Center was set up in the District 2 Office and the HT radios were distributed to the staff. Field Training Officer Marcella Villanueva, a former dispatcher for the Coachella PD, has implemented a log and tracking system for Aides Angela Sarmiento, Rosalva Morales, and Yadira Oseguera to use on a daily basis to keep track of the officers and their locations for added safety in the field. The aides are getting hands-on training on proper radio procedures.

Officers were previously concerned about the communication through the Nextel systems, due to the lack of service in the outreaching areas. They have been extremely excited since the new Dispatching Center has been formed.

Two thumbs up to Wendell Jose for the laminated 10 codes and Officer ID Contact List for the field. Great teamwork!

Mickey Parmele

Cleanup Campaign in District 5



127 tons of trash removed!

The Sky Valley Transportation Crews, along with the Litter Crew, have been hard at work in the middle of the summer heat cleaning up blighted areas behind Bubbling Wells Elementary School and in the Camino Campensino areas in Desert Hot Springs.

There were major health and safety concerns for the children walking in the area to get to and from school each day. Those concerns have been eliminated thanks to the crews that have removed over 127 combined tons of furniture, tires, trash and debris that had been illegally dumped in the area for years.

Sue Rush

Progress for Code

We are preparing to roll out the first group of electronic ticket writers to the 2nd District. These devices will allow staff to electronically generate all forms of parking citations while in the field. The data will be stored in the unit until it is uploaded into the citation processing center's database at the end of the day. These devices will greatly enhance the efficiency of our parking program. Rollouts to the remaining districts will be scheduled in the near future once the program is debugged and operationally sound.

AB 679, the assembly bill related to illegal dumping of trash, is moving well through Sacramento. The bill has passed the Senate Public Safety Committee and is currently in the Senate in its third reading. If approved, this bill would add a \$100.00 and \$200.00 civil fine to each infraction and misdemeanor conviction respectively. The fines would return to the issuing jurisdiction to be used to further enhance their illegal dumping enforcement programs.

Jim Monroe

No Parking in District 3

Through the initiative of 3rd District Supervisor Jeff Stone and in an effort to increase traffic safety, the Dept. of Transportation recently posted several "No Parking" signs along Newport Rd. The signs were installed between Murrieta Rd. and Goetz Rd. in the Quail Valley area. This section of Newport Rd. is one lane in each direction and traffic can be heavy at times. Prior to the signs being installed, vehicles were being parked along the shoulder of the road creating a traffic hazard.

Officers from District 3 conducted a Parking Enforcement sweep in the area and issued 15 citations in one day. Senior Officers Mimi Johnston and Mike

Sanders also made contact with a number of individuals and educated them about the County's Parking Ordinance. Subsequently, motorists got the hint and stopped parking along that stretch of Newport Rd.

Mike Sanders & Hector Viray



Before

Unpermitted storage unit



After

Special Projects

Code Enforcement Technicians and Officers working on parking enforcement are showing results. In this year alone, they have issued 6,338 parking citations throughout the County. In the next few months, we hope to see these numbers actually go down. As the program becomes more effective, our goal is to see more compliance with our parking regulations.

But if you think all the Techs are doing is writing parking tickets, you're mistaken. They are proactively working to improve

our communities by removing illegal temporary signs and teaming up with the Development Specialists by identifying graffiti and roadside trash sites. Since October, 2007, their efforts have assisted with 6,418 tons of trash being removed in all 5 districts combined. With such a tremendous success of the Cleanup Campaign, District 2 has expanded the program to include Graffiti Removal. In less than one month, 238 graffiti locations have been reported to EDA's Graffiti Busters for cleanup.

Lou Pizatella



Compliance in District 5

Code Enforcement Officer Joseph Feliciano responded to a property that housed a large metal building in the back yard that was used for storage. He provided information to the owner that a building permit is required or the building would have to be removed. The property owner chose to remove the building and was done within 45 days, VOLUNTARY COMPLIANCE!

In March 2007, a BOS referral was received regarding accumulation of rubbish and a

substandard camper shell in the North Palm Springs area. The property was a local dumpsite and an eye sore for the community. Code Enforcement Officer Danny Pike contacted and worked with the property owner advising of the appropriate compliance measures. Within 60 days the property had come into VOLUNTARY COMPLIANCE! Great Job Officers Feliciano & Pike! **Tracey Towner & Regina Keyes**

SET is Out Shak'n the Bushes

Since last month's newsletter SET Officers have been scrambling from one end of the county to the other. Westend officers facilitated a two-day joint illegal vending operation in Rubidoux, Home Gardens, and the Mira Loma area with Environmental Health's Illegal Food Program, netting several hundred pounds of perishable food items, as well as numerous cooking surfaces seized by SET & EH officers. Three misdemeanor citations were issued for land use crimes.

Southwest SET Officers have been extremely active in the Temescal Canyon region. In a 24-hour period, officers were able to identify 6 dumping locations and through evidence found officers issued 6 misdemeanor citations, each having multiple counts.

First and 5th District Offices, Senior Officer Acueto, Officer Cervantes, and property owners

worked together to give the No Trespass notification and distributed alternative housing resource information for the squatters on each parcel. The combined efforts culminated on 07-13-07 with the entire Special Enforcement Team, as well as Officer Jeremy Wagner from the 1st District, facilitating the cleanup of a large homeless camp along the 215 freeway in Moreno Valley.

Finally, Officer Eddie Delgado responded to a call for service from the Indio Sheriff's station on 07-10-07. Sheriff Deputies were notified by California Fire Station 40 regarding a person dumping palm tree clippings on a vacant, open parcel. When Officer Delgado arrived he was advised that a suspect and the vehicle used had been detained. Officer Delgado interviewed the suspect who indicated that he had permission from the land owner to dump the material on the

property. Officer Delgado had a cursory knowledge of a prior Code case on the property, and knew the property owner lived close by but was not able to contact the property owner to verify the suspect's statements.

Through follow-up investigation, Officer Delgado learned that the property owner did not grant permission for palm tree material to be dumped on the property. The case is being prepared for the District Attorney's office where we anticipate a 70 count misdemeanor filing.

Marr Christian



Before



After

Large homeless camp cleaned up on 215 freeway



If you have ideas on stories you'd like to see in this newsletter, please e-mail me at:

daburnet@rctlma.org

Thank you for your input!

August Calendar

4th
Perris Sheriff Station Grand Opening

7th
Homeland National Night Out Event

11th
Homeland/Romoland/Green Acres Cleanup

A Letter From a Happy District 1 Resident!

Hi Folks,

We are really doing much better out here. Code Enforcement has been doing a wonderful job. One of the days Code Enforcement was out here (there was a stolen car abandoned behind our house that we came upon), looking at some of the problems, we were waiting for the sheriff and neighbors were driving by giving the "thumbs up" sign. They stopped and thanked the Code Officer, Wayne O'Gara. The presence of Mark Slocum, Wayne O'Gara, and Corp. Green made such a difference. I see it as more than just getting something done for our community. People now know that the folks from County care about us! County knows we are here.

Thank you all for your cooperation and assistance to the area.



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Editor's Corner

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