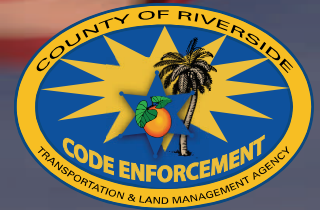


The Posting

A TLMA Code Enforcement Monthly Newsletter



Mission Statement

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



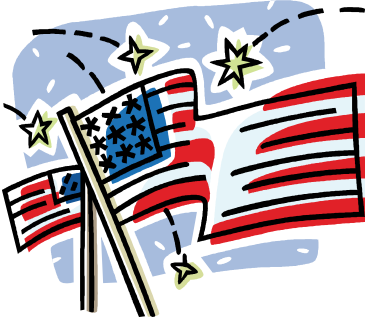
Director Jay E. Orr

Mr. Orr Returns to Sacramento

On Tuesday, June 26th, AB 679 passed through the Senate Public Safety Committee and is now on its way to the Senate floor. Jay Orr attended the committee hearing and provided compelling testimony which contributed to it successfully passing out of the Public Safety committee. This bill will add a civil fine of \$100.00 to an illegal dumping infraction conviction and a \$200.00 civil fine to a misdemeanor conviction for the same offense. A special thanks is due to Assemblyman John Benoit for his diligent work on this important piece of legislation. **Jim Monroe**



State Capitol



Sage residence where over 150 animals were seized.

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District 3 Code Enforcement Partners with Animal Control

Code Enforcement officers from District 3 have fostered a strong working relationship with Animal Control. In early June, Animal Control had assisted Code Enforcement in impounding a female dog and her three puppies. The dogs were discovered by Senior Officer Mary Overholt and Officer Brian Noone under a fire damaged mobile home they were inspecting in Valle Vista.

On another occasion, Animal Control impounded 4 dogs in Hemet as Code Enforcement officers were responding to a complaint of an abandoned and vacant residence. The house was being vandalized and was a public safety concern in the neighborhood. The dogs were impeding the Code Officers from conducting their investigation; therefore, Animal Control impounded the dogs.

On June 22, 2007, it was Code Enforcement's turn to return the favor. Senior Officer Mary Overholt and Officer Alejandro Rodriguez-Barrios assisted Animal Control as they served a Warrant in the Sage area. Over 150 animals, mostly dogs, were seized by Animal Control from a local resident. The animals were kept in filthy and inhumane conditions on the property. They also found 10 dead animals in a freezer. The officers found several violations such as a substandard mobile home and recreational vehicle, an unpermitted second dwelling, excessive outside storage, and an illegal kennel.

Hector Viray & Mary Overholt



The Luminaria Ceremony at the American Cancer Society Relay for Life. The illuminated bags have names or pictures of love ones that have suffered with cancer.

Relay for Life in District 2

Memories of loved ones lined the track of Jurupa Valley High School on Saturday, June 23, 2007, during the Luminaria Ceremony of the 2nd Annual Rubidoux Relay for Life sponsored by the American Cancer Society. Hundreds gathered to pay tribute to those who have lost the battle in the fight against cancer and to honor and encourage those that have beaten the odds or are currently suffering from some type of cancer.

Margie Scott, Chairman of the Relay for Life, and her hard working staff of volunteers did an outstanding job of organizing the event which included contests, food, and fun for folks of all ages. This was done with hopes of raising money for cancer research and programs that help enrich the lives of those suffering from this disease.

Special thanks to Supervising Code Enforcement Officer David C. Christenson's daughter and son-in-law, Kirstin and Steve Lockmiller. They sold 100 luminaria bags and raised over \$1,000.00 in Dave's memory.

Susan Rush



Luminaria bags in Dave's memory.



Follow-ups = Cleanups in District 1

Once a Code Enforcement officer has completed their initial inspection of a property in violation, the key to gaining voluntary compliance is regularly scheduled follow-up inspections. A recent case of accumulated rubbish illustrates this formula for success.

Senior CEO Cynthia Black and I conducted an initial inspection of a property from the public right-away on 3/13/07, which revealed nearly fence-to-fence rubbish on the .88 acre lot. We left a business card and I received a call from the property owner the same day and scheduled a follow-up inspection for 3/20/07.

On 3/20/07, CEO Lori Lyon and I inspected the accumulated rubbish with the property owner and his brother. We issued an NOV and communicated our intentions to return to the property approximately every 30-45 days and issue the appropriate citation until the rubbish was cleaned up.

By my next scheduled follow-up inspection on 5/15/07, the property owner had cleaned up all the rubbish on the property.

Regularly scheduled follow-up inspections are one of the most effective tools a CEO has to gain compliance. If we apply it to each case, we will be amazed at the results! **Mark Mandel**



Cleanup in District 5

Saturday, June 16, 2007, was a busy day for community cleanups in District 5. Cleanups were held in Meadowbrook and Goodhope Communities and with the collaborated efforts of Waste Management, Inc., Riverside County's Departments of Waste Management and Code Enforcement, Western Riverside Council of Governments, and the local residents of both communities, these cleanups were great successes. Over 58 tons of trash, electronic waste, furniture, and tires were hauled off in 24 accumulative dumpsters. Special thanks to the waste haulers for their hard work and dedication to making the events successful! **Susan Rush**



Children wait in the shade while their parents wait their turn at the Cleanup.

Special Thanks in District 5

These are just a few examples of phone calls and letters of thanks for a job well done that are being received from the communities we serve as we continue our efforts to improve their neighborhoods. "Thank you Officer Danny Pike for your help in removing the crowing rooster from our neighborhood," says one constituent in Desert Hot Springs. "We can now have a peaceful nights rest!" "We are so happy to see the Code Enforcement vehicles in our neighborhoods," exclaims a Highgrove resident. "I want to compliment Officer Jason Heagstedt for the thorough inspection he conducted and the tools he used regarding a property in Romoland," says a community member. **Tracey Towner**

A Four Hour Success in District 5

Community service offers a natural bond and strong community connection among Cabazon residents. Over 75 volunteers signed up to participate in the Spring 2007 Cabazon Community Cleanup/Tire Collection Event on Saturday, June 2, 2007. The event was held at James Venable Community Center from 8am-12noon and in just as few as 4 hours, 84 community residents arrived and disposed of 28 tons of trash and 240 tires. The Community Cleanup/Tire Collection Event was a success!

Community resident Ernie Irby said, "This is great for our community, we would like to thank all those who were involved in the coordination of this event. I am ecstatic about the number of residents that utilized the event and did not participate in any illegal dumping".

The County of Riverside Board of Supervisors, along with Western Riverside Council of Governments hosted a roadside litter pickup in conjunction with this event and provided food and drinks for all volunteers. Special thanks to CR&R Waste & Recycling Services, County of Riverside Waste Management Department and Economic Development Agency, Family Services Association, Banning Unified School District, Moreno Valley C.A.R.E. Team, Cabazon SET Free Group, Cabazon Fire Station 24, and community resident Dave Newton for all their hard work and support. At the end of such a hard and dirty task, all volunteers felt good. They knew that they'd made a difference and made a place they love a little bit better. A great time was enjoyed by all. **Chaka Osborne**

Vending Sweep in District 2

As a result of several public complaints of illegal vending in and around public schools in the communities of El Cerrito and Eastvale, an enforcement operation was quickly planned. The June 15th operation targeted ice cream trucks and push cart vendors selling illegal fireworks and other potentially dangerous items. The following agencies assisted in addressing these complaints: Code Enforcement SET team and Jurupa officers, Dept. of Environmental Health, and Riverside County Sheriff's Department. The team was ordered to patrol the areas and make enforcement contacts with vendors. The vendors were cited, and/or warned, and under the authority of RCO 853 items were seized and destroyed. The operation resulted in 10 contacts, 6 citations, 4 verbal warnings to vendors exceeding the scope of their permits, and over 500 lbs. of illegal vending merchandise was seized by Code and EH. In the future officers will continue the illegal vending enforcement as needed. Ongoing assessment and surveillance will continue.

Special thanks to Ed and Tita for working and developing the new Property Impound Receipt form.

Mickey Parmele



Many Thanks

Code Enforcement is often a thankless job but here are a few welcome notes of appreciation:

- May 17th letter from a couple in 5th District. "I want you to know how pleased I was with the service and attitude of Anthony Green, Code Enforcement Officer, when he gave us a Notice of Violation. He was very clear...[and] provided helpful information and support throughout the process. As I look "forward" to paying my county taxes in the future, I will remember the service and consideration given by your department."
- June 24th message from a resident in Sky Country (2nd District). He called to say he was very happy with Code Enforcement's work on his case. Travis Engelking was the investigating officer.
- June 27 phone call from a Sun City resident (3rd District). A very ecstatic resident called to say thank you for the elevated and responsive enforcement efforts along Newport Road. Technicians Anita Bustillos and Ariana Meza are assigned to parking enforcement in that area.

Excellent job all! **Brian Black**

More Illegal Vending in District 2

On June 22 and 23 the Sheriff's Department's Jurupa Valley Station, lead by Sergeant Steve Brown, initiated an Illegal Food Vendor Sweep in the communities of Rubidoux, Sunnyslope, Pedley, Glen Avon, Mira Loma, and Eastvale. Joining the Sheriff in this sweep were Officers Game, Torres, Gregorio, and Pineda from Code Enforcement's Special Enforcement Team and Officer Baumgartner from District 2 Code Enforcement Office and Riverside County Environmental Health. The purpose of the sweep was to address the ongoing problem of roadside vending and illegal roadside kitchens that present immediate health and safety issues in the community.

Using the new Vending Ordinance, recently enacted by the County Board of Supervisors, the Task Force began contacting vendor's set up throughout the targeted communities. During this operation Code Enforcement and Environmental Health issued 53 citations for violations of numerous County Ordinances. The sweep seized 1,435 pounds of illegal food which was destroyed. Vending equipment valued at \$12,000.00 was impounded. \$2,337.00 in U.S. currency was seized as evidence as a direct result of illegal food sales.

The Sheriff's Department, Code Enforcement, and Environmental Health are planning future operations throughout the county in the coming months. The purpose of these sweeps is to provide for a safe and healthy community and to pursue those who continue to violate the public health standards and place our citizens at risk. **SET**



A Letter From a Happy District 1 Resident!

Dear Supervisor Buster:

I am writing to advise you that the trailer full of trash which was abandoned on the corner of Lake Mathews Dr. and Grande Vista in Lake Mathews, has been hauled away. I called Code Enforcement to thank them for their efforts in handling this situation. I appreciate all that was done in this matter as it turned out to be a positive experience.

Interns and Research

Our current intern, Kasey Mitchell, has been filling the need for research in our Department. We will be getting a few more interns as well. Here is a list of projects she has worked on so far:

- Abatement of Abandoned Vehicles
- Poultry Waste Management Research
- Rental Housing Inspection Research
- Ideas for Resource List Improvement
- Community Improvement Ideas
- Noise Ordinance Research
- Demographics for Home Gardens
- Media Campaign Research
- Administrative Warrant Research
- Second Unit Research
- Ordinance FAQ Flyers
- Impounding & Towing Research
- Wind Energy Research
- Group Homes Research
- Code Enforcement Biennial Report

Parking Enforcement

Code Enforcement Officers and Technicians are actively working on Parking Enforcement seven days a week throughout the County. Recent weekend work has been very effective and productive, as officers and technicians write an average of 25 citations a day for violations ranging from Illegal Commercial Truck Parking to Disabled Vehicle Parking. In two days, June 9th and 10th, our staff in District 2 wrote over \$10,000.00 worth of citations. With the continued development throughout the County, we are seeing a need for increased parking enforcement in all districts. The parking enforcement staff has stayed on top of this challenge.

Lou Pizatella

Structure Demolition in District 4

On December 27, 2007, SCEO Allan Haerberle began an investigation on a substandard structure in the Sky Valley area. It appeared abandoned and in a very bad state of dilapidation. This structure was an eyesore to the community because of its proximity to the main road. Once notices were mailed, the property owner's daughter called and stated her mother was deceased and now she has control of the property. The daughter emphasized her wish to comply, but needed a little more time. Code Enforcement aspiration is voluntary compliance, and at times it might require reasonable accommodations. Using his best judgment, SCEO Allan Haerberle explained the consequences and then agreed to allow additional time. Soon after, CEO Frank Mendez was assigned to this area. Officer Frank Mendez noticed the property remained unchanged. While considering starting the abatement process, Officer Frank Mendez drove to the property on May 10th and noticed the structure had been demolished and removed from the property. Corrective actions were taken and once again voluntary compliance was achieved. **Dave Lawless**

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Editor's Corner

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Calendar of Events

July

4th Independence Day

August

11th Homeland /
Romoland/
Green Acres Cleanup