

The Posting

A TLMA Code Enforcement Monthly Newsletter



Director Jay E. Orr

Abatement in District 5

The community of Good Hope has been distraught over a property located on the corner of Mountain & Palm due to its unsightly accumulation of rubbish, debris, inoperable vehicles, occupied trailers, vagrants, and substandard sheds. Code Enforcement notified the property owner of the problems, and the owner assured us that he would take responsibility to have the property cleaned. Attempts to accomplish the clean-up were made, but never finished. Code Enforcement Officer Tom McMullen followed due process and took the case to the Board of Supervisors to request approval for abatement. Approval was granted and early this month Code Enforcement was able to hire a Contractor and the clean-up was completed.

Thanks and praise were received from the Good Hope residents for a job well done! **T. Towner**



This property in Good Hope is no longer a problem.



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Contract Services in District 5

The County of Riverside Code Enforcement Department is providing contract code enforcement services to the City of Desert Hot Springs (DHS). An agreement between the City and the County came into effect on September 18, 2007. Code Enforcement staff met with City staff and developed the scope of duties for the contracted services. On October 24, 2007, Code Enforcement Officer Danny Pike started the services and conducted initial inspections in the commercial district of the City of DHS. The inspections consisted

of a check of the landscaping, signage, trash enclosures, verifying current business licensing, and overall appearance of the business. The following day Officer Pike assisted in removing a homeless camp in the business district that became troublesome to the local businesses and residents with the criminal activity, trash, and debris. We are developing a



The County and City working together!

successful partnership to supplement the City's efforts to make it a safer community. **T. Towner**



Task Force conducts illegal fiesta sweep

Illegal Fiesta Sweeps in District 2

On October 13 & 14, 2007, deputies from the Riverside County Sheriff's Department, Jurupa Valley Station Community Action Team in conjunction with the Inland Valley Task Force conducted an illegal fiesta sweep.

The Task Force included the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department, the Ontario Police Department, the California Department of Agriculture, Milk & Dairy Branch, the Brands Branch, the California Board of Equalization, the Riverside County

Environmental Health Illegal Food Program, Riverside County Code Enforcement, and their Special Enforcement Team, Riverside County Animal Services, the Recording Industry Association of America, and the Motion Picture Association of America. The sweep was conducted in the unincorporated communities of Glen Avon, Mira Loma, and Eastvale. There continues to be illegal fiestas and food vendors selling food and dairy products that have not been inspected. This presents a significant health and safety risk to the public and residents of Riverside County.

Numerous misdemeanor citations

for violations of California state law and Riverside County codes were issued, and one female subject was arrested for 2 counts of PC 114 - use of false documents in addition to 12500 (a) VC - unlicensed driver and other Food and Ag crimes. U.S. currency was seized as evidence as a direct result of illegal food sales.

The Inland Valley Task Force is planning future sweeps in a continuing effort to provide a safe environment for the residents of Riverside County. These and other locations will be checked regularly to ensure compliance with state and local laws. **Marr Christian**

Substandard Structure Leads to Multi-Agency Training in District 1



Multi-agency training

At the request of Riverside County Sheriff's H.D.T. unit, District 1 Senior Officer W. O'Gara was able to locate and gain permission from the property owner for a multi-agency training

day in Eagle Valley. Members of the Sheriff's H.D.T., S.E.B. units, along with local agencies, were able to practice various aspects of building entry and hostage negotiations throughout the day.

H.D.T. demonstrated their new TAC-CAT armored vehicle which can be used for many different tactical operations including the demolition of structures with one of its many attachments.

Wayne O'Gara

Assembly Bill 679

On October 10, 2007, Riverside County Code Enforcement made legislative history when Governor Schwarzenegger signed into law Assembly Bill 679. This new law, sponsored by Assemblyman John Benoit, will add a \$100 fine to each illegal dumping infraction conviction and a \$200 fine to each misdemeanor dumping conviction. These newly established fines will be deposited into the citing

jurisdiction's general fund further enhancing efforts to curb illegal dumping. The idea for this amendment to the Penal Code was borne out of discussions within Riverside County Trash Task Force, the brainchild of Supervisor Marion Ashley. The original language for the bill was drafted by Code Enforcement staff and was included in Riverside County's 2006-07 Legislative Platform. **Jim Monroe**

8361.42 tons
trash & debris removed from
Riverside County



Before



After

Highway 111 in Mecca

Entering the farming community of Mecca on the main Highway 111, there were multiple advertisement signs/billboards posted on this vacant lot. The billboard signs were placed precariously so it was hard to determine if the signs were in the road right of way or on private land. A Notice of Violation was not issued at the time of inspection.

Senior Engineer Tech Dan Castillo in the Transportation Dept., from

Signs in District 4

the new Palm Desert office, was contacted regarding the road right of way violations, since the Transportation Dept. is responsible for everything within the county road right of way. They use recorded maps and centerline to cross tie the information kept in the office. Then they find the centerline monuments and property monuments referenced in the documents to determine the road right of way. It was found that

the signs were in the Hammond Road right of way and 30 feet from the centerline.

The sign owners were called and warned that the signs were not permitted and that they had the opportunity to remove the signs on their own. All the signs were removed by the owners from Sept. 18th to Oct. 10th. The turnaround time for voluntary compliance was 23 days!

V. L. Haeberle

Summary Abatement in District 2

I responded to a complaint for a reported substandard structure on a vacant lot in El Cerrito on Carmelita Ave. Upon my arrival, I found a residence and garage with multiple steel I-beams going through them resting on stacked 4x4 pieces of wood approximately 5 ft. off the ground! The residence and garage was moved from its original foundation onto this vacant parcel. The garage appeared to have been once attached to the residence and was torn off during the move. The property was unfenced and accessible to anyone who wished to explore the area. I also encountered an occupied RV on the property sitting 30 feet away

from the residence. The RV had electrical and water hookups from a neighboring house.

The residence and the garage were both posted as substandard. Supervisor Mickey Parmele immediately called Deputy Counsel Bruce Fordon when he saw the pictures taken of the conditions. All persons involved agreed that a Summary Abatement to fence in the substandard structures was needed as quickly as possible. Sr. Officer Palmer and I gathered all the documents and exhausted all means, including driving to the property owners home in District 1, to make contact. Contact was made through acquisition of a

telephone number however, the property owner did not have the means to correct the violation immediately.

With the help of Sup. Parmele and Sr. Officer Palmer, I met a fencing contractor at the property who secured the substandard structures with a gated 6 ft. high fence. The occupied RV was removed the same day. The abatement process has begun to remove the structures completely.

Jonathan Lance



Summary abatement was necessary on this substandard structure

New Staff to Expand Plans

This month marked the graduation of close to 25 staff members from our enhanced Basic Code Enforcement Academy. The new officers are now involved in their field training programs. The addition of new staff to our offices will greatly enhance our ability to respond faster to all our customers and keep cases on track for faster compliance. These new staff members will also play an important part in the year to come as we expand our comprehensive Community

Improvement Plans to more and more communities. Our program in the 4th District community of Mecca has been very successful thus far. Its success has led to the recent development and implementation of a plan for the Quail Valley community in District 3. In the very near future we will begin work on plans for Home Gardens in District 2 and Mead Valley in District 1. We are finding success with these programs through working together with all of our stakeholders and the community. **Brian Black**

Inspection Warrant in District 2

On October 18, Jurupa Code Enforcement served an Inspection Warrant on a repeat violator on Bellegrave Ave. in the Glen Avon area.

Twelve Code Officers were joined by 10 Sheriff Deputies, four R.A.I.D. (Riverside Auto-Theft Interdiction Detail) investigators, four Animal Control Officers, and one investigator from the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture. Three properties covering almost four acres were inspected.

We identified and inventoried a total of 222 inoperative vehicles, eight substandard structures, three unpermitted structures, one substandard double-wide mobile

home, prohibited fencing, and approximately 50,000 square feet of outside storage. Officers completed the inventory, taking photographs, and posting notices in about four hours.

The property owners were not home, but Sr. Officer Jim Palmer was contacted by the family attorney. He said he knew most of the cars on the property were junk and should be cleared off the property. He said the property owner was willing to comply, and they "just needed a little time." The inspection was concluded without injury or incident.

Jim Palmer



About 50,000 square feet of outside storage



222 inoperative vehicles



Senior Office Jim Palmer distributes information

Safety Awareness in District 2

Code Enforcement knows too well the haphazard electrical wiring, accumulated rubbish, and unsound structures that endanger many homes and families in Riverside County communities. On October 13, Code Enforcement participated, along with the Fire Department, in a Safety Awareness Day at the Home Gardens Library. Approximately 225 children and adults came out to learn about how to prevent and survive a fire. There were games to play and the Fire Department Explorers demonstrated the old-fashioned way of putting out a

fire "bucket brigade" style. Code Enforcement distributed information to the public on county ordinances, illegal dumping, "Junk Your Clunker," and the Home Gardens CDBG Voluntary Public Nuisance Abatement Program. This program can assist the residents of Home Gardens with the free removal of trash and debris, weeds, and mobile homes. These programs are all in an effort to create a cleaner and more fire safe Home Gardens community.
Angel Olivo

Early Saturday morning, October 27, 2007, the Code Enforcement Team, Waste Management Team, and the residents of Highgrove gathered at Highgrove Elementary School to eagerly begin their second cleanup this year. The cleanup was a resounding success for the community of Highgrove. Neighbor teamed up with neighbor to return for a second or third time and discard unwanted appliances, furniture and/or rubbish. Thanks to the generosity and continued support of Riverside County Fifth District Supervisor Marion Ashley and the Waste Management Team, five roll off bins were provided and quickly replaced as they reached maximum capacity during the four hour event.

Laura Gilbert

Highgrove Cleanup in District 5



Highgrove Cleanup

Compliance in District 4

The site is a 10 acre manufacturing - agriculture rubbish site in Blythe. The site consisted of substandard mobile homes, about 50 inoperative vehicles, and parts. Also, we estimated about 60,000 square feet of rubbish.

The property owner(s) were contacted over the past couple of months and agreed to cooperate. Voluntary compliance was obtained. Case Closed.

George Gianos



Manufacturing/Agricultural site in District 4

Big Cleanup Day in District 1 Yields over 80 Tons!

Over a year ago, District 1 officers told me that the Wildomar and Lakeland Village areas could use a community cleanup and tire collection event. On October 20, that cleanup and tire collection event finally happened! The cleanup yielded an impressive 42.85 tons of trash and metals and 10.71 tons of tires. In addition, approximately 210 e-waste items (computers and televisions) were accepted. Despite the large turnout of over 220 residents, the 308 loads were accepted in a timely and organized manner. Kudos to Ed Campos and CR&R Waste and Recycling Services for their generosity, hard work, and dedication to community spirit.

That same day, Riverside County Code Enforcement joined Riverside County Flood Control, Riverside County Waste Management, and CR&R Waste and Recycling Services for the annual Santa Margarita Watershed Cleanup. The event had over 100 community volunteers arrive bright, early, and eager to help clean up areas of the Santa Rosa Plateau being littered and dumped upon. I went along with one of these groups to an area off of Corona Cala Camino in Murrieta, which has one of the most beautiful views in our County. Some say you can see to the Pacific Ocean on a clear day. As beautiful as this place was, it was littered with cigarette butts,

fast food wrappers, and other trash. The group made speedy work of getting it all picked up. All together these agency partners and volunteers collected over 27.68 tons of trash, tires, and appliances. After the cleanup, Code Enforcement's own Mark Slocum and Brett Farlow fired up the barbecue grills and made hamburgers and hot dogs for the hungry and well-deserving crews. Great job to all who played a part in this wonderful and worthwhile event! See you next year!
Angel Olivo



Supervisor Mark Slocum on the grill!



Lakeland Village Middle School hosted a successful cleanup



National Red Ribbon Week in District 2

National Red Ribbon Week is a national campaign of anti-drug education and drug abuse awareness. This week, celebrated October 23-31, encourages individuals, families, and communities to take a stand against abuse of alcohol, tobacco, and illegal drug use. The campaign also educates communities on the positive alternative lifestyle choices available to youth and adults.

The Department of Code Enforcement and Troth Street Elementary School partnered together to make a difference in District 2 at the Information Fair and Library Open House Event. Upon invitation by Librarian Doris Sanchez, our Department provided educational materials on the importance of clean communities. We also offered available resources and showed support for healthy, drug-free

lifestyles. The planning and working together is as important as Red Ribbon week itself because it creates a sense of community and shared values. The event was a great success and the families in attendance were very grateful for our Department's presence. Thanks to all who participated!

Chaka Osborne



Banner at Troth Elementary

Relay for Life Wrap Up

On June 23rd and 24th 2007, the American Cancer Society held their 2nd Annual Rubidoux Relay for Life Event, to remember those that have passed away from cancer and to honor and encourage those who have either overcome or are currently suffering from some type of cancer.

With the help of Kirstin Lockmiller, daughter of the late Supervising Code Enforcement Officer David C. Christenson, and her husband

Steve, our team raised a top fundraising amount of \$3,375.75 in Dave's memory. This year's event brought in a net profit of \$20,372.77 that will go towards research for finding a cure and for special programs.

Planning has already begun for next year's Relay, which will be held on May 3rd and 4th, 2008. If you are interested in becoming involved, please contact Margie Scott at (951) 453-2118.

Sue Rush



Educational materials available to the public at the Red Ribbon Week event.



Unattended Nuisance Gives Opportunity for Team Work in District 3

It is our goal as Code Enforcement to develop a team with other officers and the public. Our common goal is both compliance and education to build a better community in which we are all a part of. In July, while driving down Hwy 79, we noticed a burned out and gutted house about 200 ft. off the roadside. The property had been used as a dumping ground by local contractors and residents. The property was assessed and cited for multiple violations (SSST, AR, GWP). Contact was then made with the investment company who owned the property, and they

were educated regarding its current condition as well as our concerns regarding public safety. The house was 1560 sq. ft. and surrounded by approximately 3 acres of trash, debris, green waste, and stockpiled dirt. After explaining the situation to the owner, we were able to gain compliance, remove a public safety hazard, and avoid court proceedings. We were able to obtain complete compliance within 90 days. This demonstrates that our best tool is working with the owner to help them understand the issues at hand and what they can do to resolve them. **Ron Welch**



Compliance was obtained within 90 days

Did You Know?

- The Code Enforcement Department sponsors a "Junk Your Clunker" program where citizens can obtain free removal of inoperable vehicles from their property.
- Code Enforcement staff participates in over 250 community meetings and events each year bringing the message of a cleaner, safer neighborhood through pro-active community code enforcement programs.
 - Code Enforcement and County Counsel will appear before the Board on over 115 abatement or statement of expense related cases this year.

Jim Monroe



Code Enforcement District Office Numbers

- District 1 (951) 245-3186
- District 2 (951) 275-8739
- District 3 (951) 600-6140
- District 4 (760) 863-7180
- District 5 (951) 485-5840

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Editor's Corner

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Editor's Note:

There was a misprint in the October newsletter. On page 3 the heading "Mead Valley - District 3" should have been "Mead Valley - District 1."