

The Posting

A TLMA Code Enforcement Monthly Newsletter



Director Jay E. Orr

District 5

The 'Ole' Watering Hole has been demolished! A nearby neighbor, let Code Enforcement Officer Tom McMullen in on a little bit of history regarding a graffiti-ridden, substandard structure, on Highway 74, in the Good Hope area. The building was known to be the local hot spot in the 70's & 80's where the locals came together for fun and dancing. The building had become an eyesore and public nuisance that could be seen as you drove down Highway 74. In September, the property owners took responsibility and had the structure demolished and the lot cleaned.



This building on Highway 74 has been removed

Newly promoted Code Enforcement Officer Lane Padilla and Code Enforcement Officer Charlene Smith, responded to a complaint received regarding a "messy" property on Flynn St. in the Highgrove area. The officers were able to make contact with the property owner and explained the violation and compliance measures required. Property owner cooperated and complied in two weeks! **T. Towner**



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Marine Drive in District 3

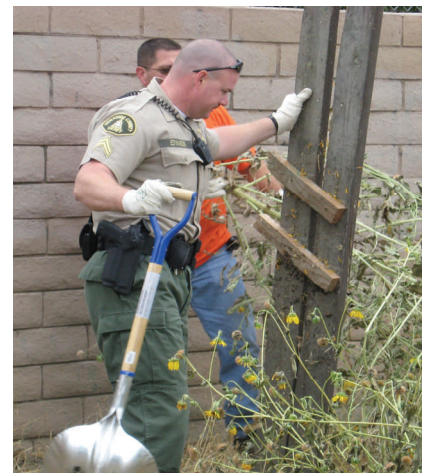
In collaboration with Hemet Sheriff's Department, the Code Enforcement's Community Improvement Program coordinated a cleanup of Marine Drive. This small cul-de-sac of apartment complexes was surrounded with unusable appliances, old furniture, broken toys, trash and rubbish.

Even with the threat of rain, all agencies were ready. Corporal Edwards and his deputies went door-to-door in the early morning reminding tenants of the cleanup. Code Enforcement Officer Brian Noone was invaluable by encouraging the tenants to keep coming back, and had a positive attitude the entire day. Code Enforcement Technician Dawn Burnett showed up early, set up, and spent a large part of the day raking and picking up weeds. Graffiti on the surrounding walls and signs was removed by Graffiti Busters during the cleanup.

A special thanks to retired volunteers Gerald Dayton and Edde Ashley. Without the help of our community volunteers our cleanups would not be as successful as they are.

The tenants were very happy for the cleanup. Overall it was a very successful day, disposing of 9.58 tons.

Becky Mitchell



Corporal Edwards and Deputy Jerry Barba cleaning up Marine Dr.



Compliance is #1 in District 1

A few weeks ago I was driving eastbound on Vine Street in Wildomar when I observed a nightmare of a property. The main structure was boarded up and had gang graffiti all over it. Someone had cut down two trees that were so large when they came down they almost cut the house in half. The entire property was covered in pine needles 12 inches thick, and there was a down power line to boot! Needless to say, this was a property in violation on several levels. After calling Edison to cut power, I canvassed the neighborhood until I found someone

owner's phone number. The property owner, who lives in San Pedro, was aware of the issues, but did not want to take action. Thankfully, I was able to impress upon her (and the upstanding contractor she hired) the urgency of the situation. Within 30 days, the main and accessory structures were down and the grounds were clean. Later, neighbors advised me that the structure was a long-standing gang and narcotics location. Thanks to Brett Farlow, Wayne O'Gara, and Mark Slocum for helping along the way. **Matt Jones**

Voluntary Compliance is a Beautiful Thing in District 2

My first impression of this property was "it's going to be a very long day". This property, known to the locals as Stevenson Ranch, stretches from Limonite frontage road to Riverview Drive in District 2. This parcel was 19.5 acres of barns, corrals, and agricultural buildings. Many of the structures, built in the early 1940's, had fallen into disrepair and were quite an eyesore.

One warm July morning, Technician's Romero, Faiva, and Lucero assisted in posting 12 substandard structures, 1 substandard mobile home, inventoried 12 inoperable vehicles and measured thousands of feet of corrals and accumulated rubbish. There were issues - heat, bee hives, and a breeze blowing reminders of the deceased horse removed earlier that morning. Good times.

By August, the tenants had moved out and the demolition and cleanup was scheduled. Removal of the bees and the rubber matting attached to acres of corrals slowed the progress only slightly. By mid September, the only thing remaining on the property was piles of rubble and rubber. Consistent progress has been made in removing the debris. It is estimated that 50 tons of debris and 30 tons of rubber matting and tires will have been removed from the property.

We all know how wonderful it feels to drive by a nightmare property and see significant progress. The cleanup should be completed by mid October. The property owner assured me he would correct the violations in a timely manner, and he actually did!

S. Baumgartner



Respect the Parking Spaces

Officer Vicki Haeberle was called to investigate several complaints regarding a large parking lot located at a medical plaza in Bermuda Dunes that was in disrepair. After researching land use requirements and conditions of the plot plan on file, she arrived at the medical plaza for the initial inspection.

The Handicap parking stalls, the regular parking stalls and the condition of the parking lot were definitely lacking proper markings and maintenance, causing imminent danger to the health

and safety of patients, especially the elderly and the handicapped. Officer Haeberle made contact with the tenants in the pharmacy and was given the contact information for the person in charge of maintaining the medical plaza. He was very

happy that some action was finally being taken, because many of the tenants and patients had made complaints and nothing had been done.

After issuing a Notice of Violation for RCC 17.172 Zoning Violation for Failure to Comply with Conditions of Approval - Handicap Space Markings and Regular Space Markings, Vicki had the Rx Tech sign for it. To ensure that the repairs would be handled expeditiously, she kept in direct contact with the Director of Facilities frequently. A paving contractor was hired, the parking lot was prepped, slurried, and the sealer coat and striping was completed in 8 days. The turnaround time for voluntary compliance was 41 days! **V. Haeberle**



SET

Officers with Riverside County Code Enforcement’s Special Enforcement Team, along with Deputies from the Lake Elsinore Sheriff’s Station Community Action Team, conducted a high visibility enforcement operation targeting habitual properties and those properties identified by the community and enforcement personnel (Top Right), which could evolve into blighted parcels.

Enforcement actions led to numerous notices and infraction citations being issued for violations ranging from excessive outside storage and accumulated rubbish to inoperative vehicles, construction without permits, and

occupied recreational vehicles. Compliance for these violations will be verified in 30 days. One vehicle was removed during the operation, identified as abandoned on private property. One non-permitted “End Use Waste Tire Facility” was identified and enforcement action was initiated. Compliance for this Waste Tire Facility will be verified in 30 days. Two illegal dumping cases were investigated, one resulting in a four count misdemeanor case for dumping demolition rubble, and the second involved the dumping of hazardous substances. This investigation is continuing.

Marr Christian

District 3

A long standing case is in the process of being resolved with the help of County Counsel, TLMA Purchasing, and Fleet Services. Lisa Traczyk, County Counsel, successfully negotiated a settlement agreement with the tenants and property owners of a thirty-two acre parcel that was in multiple violations of County of Riverside ordinances (left). The tenants vacated the property after months of posturing and exercising their due process through the judicial system. The property owners agreed to pay for a supervised abatement conducted by the County of Riverside Code Enforcement Department.

Heavy equipment, high sided transport trucks, and numerous employees started the cleanup on this project that is estimated to take four weeks. What was once a tilapia farm operated by Coca-Cola (legal use) is now piles of rubbish being hauled away. Approximately 1,219,680 square feet of rubbish and outside storage will be abated. It is one of the largest abatements in recent history. Thank you Annette Paturzo, Agency Program Supervisor, and Walter Mack, Procurement Contract Specialist, for your diligence in assisting with all of the behind the scenes paperwork and contracts. **Mike Sanders**



Excessive trash & debris



Approx. 1,219,680 square feet of rubbish

Mead Valley - District 3

On September 22, Code Enforcement participated along with over 50 other agencies at the Annual Mead Valley Health & Safety Fair. Despite the rain, hundreds of Mead Valley residents came out to the Mead Valley Community Center and received free health and dental screenings on site. Animal Control’s mobile clinic was offering pet adoptions and discount spay/neuter vouchers to residents. Supervisor Bob Buster thanked Code Enforcement for all of their hard work and outreach efforts in Mead

Valley and the rest of District 1. Code Enforcement’s Neighborhood Enforcement and Community Improvement Teams discussed community concerns and provided resource information to residents. The team used the opportunity to educate the public on the health and safety risks common code violations pose to families and communities. Overall, the event was successful and enjoyed by all who attended. **Angel Olivo**



From right to left are, Angela Boone-Porcher, Jose Cruz, Terrence Wiggins, Angel Olivo, of Code Enforcement and Patricia Buckley, EDA, 1st District Supervisor Bob Buster, and Alice Goshen, EDA.



Boat Takes a Dive in District 1

I know some of you out there in District 1 really wanted to take this beauty for your next family vacation, or for a very short, scenic cruise around one of our many lakes, but thanks to the Transportation Cleanup Crew, this boat has taken its final dive.

Residents around Curtis Avenue in Lake Elsinore were sorry to see this baby go. Since it was illegally dumped back in 2002, it had been a collection site for hazardous waste and other trash. Shortly

after it was removed, our friends in the Environmental Health Department, Hazardous Waste Division were able to have the hazardous waste removed as well. Thank you to Code Enforcement Officers Daniel Gregorio and Lee Nichols and Technician Patricia Silva for all of your hard work on the case. This is another wonderful example of our County agencies working together to make our neighborhoods clean and safe. **Sue Rush**



Before



After

District 4

Located just off Dillon Road, which is the main road in Sky Valley, this structure was very visible. The property was unfenced, vacant, and the dwelling had suffered severe fire damage. The roof was completely gone, and the interior walls had exposed wooden framing which was charred. The exterior of the structure was defaced and vandalized with graffiti. Less than a mile away from the County Fire Station, the structure was a nuisance and a potential hazard to the community.

Notices were mailed out to rehab or demolish the structure, but there was no apparent change during the follow up. Officer Frank Mendez prepared an Abatement Report and sent out the file to County Counsel for

Abatement. Because of its proximity to the main road, Officer Frank Mendez repeatedly drove by the property. It was evident something was going on when a new foundation was laid, a large container was installed, and LMS permit system showed there was a permit to rehab the structure.

On a recent follow up to report its current condition for County Counsel, it was found that the dwelling was nearly complete and awaiting its final inspection. The dwelling was much larger, new windows installed, new roof and stucco. The interior was being finished and the property has been listed for sale. The surrounding community will have something nicer to see while on their daily commute.

Frank Mendez

District 4

Property owners in Thousand Palms are working diligently with Code Enforcement to improve their properties and their community. This property had 2 vehicles and one old boat loaded with trash that had been dumped there. The property owner contacted me within a week of receiving the NOV and advised he was almost done with the cleanup. With the help of CHP the vehicle abandoned between the property line and the roadway was towed, making it easier for the property owner to access his



Before

property. The property was cleaned within the 30 day window for compliance. Special thanks to all the property owners who with a little information and help from other agencies are doing what it takes to improve their property.

L. Diaz



After

Updates for Code

We welcome Senior Officers Hector Viray, Mary Overholt, and Cynthia Black to our Administration team. Senior Officer Viray will be working on our policies and procedures and the development of a set of general orders as well as other special projects as assigned. Senior Officer Overholt will be working on special project assignments supporting the Field Operations Division. Senior Officer Black will be leading our litigation support unit. She will be coordinating all civil litigations, abatements and warrants with County Counsel and will be working on other administrative projects as assigned.

We are pleased to announce the promotion of the following personnel to the rank of Senior Code Enforcement Officer:

Wayne O'Gara who will assume a leadership role in the District 3 South County office.

Marcella Villanueva who will assume a leadership role in the District 2 Jurupa office.

In addition, we have hired the following personnel as Senior Code Enforcement Officers:

Greg Flannery will be assuming an acting supervisory role in our District 1 office in Lake Elsinore. Greg is a proven leader having built the Code Enforcement program from the ground up at the city of Hemet. Greg also has over 14 years experience with the city of Montclair as a Deputy Fire Marshall and Police Officer.

Kenneth King will be assuming a leadership role in our District 4 East team in the Indio office. Senior Officer King brings with him over 7 years of proven leadership ability with the Town of Apple Valley and the County of San Bernardino. He is also a Reserve Deputy Sheriff with the County of San Bernardino.

Lionel Martinez has accepted a leadership position with our District 4 West team in the Indio office. Senior Officer Martinez has over 10 years of Code Enforcement Officer experience with the cities of Hemet and Lake Elsinore. Lionel has extensive experience in the building codes

and has achieved a Level II Reserve Deputy status with the Riverside County Sheriff's Department.

The following Code Enforcement Officer appointments have been added to our work force. This will bring our total Officer/Senior roster to 84 personnel.

Ryan Dolan - Assigned to our Special Enforcement Team. Ryan comes to us from the Riverside County Waste Management Department where he worked as a load checker and hazardous waste investigator.

Rusty Hannah - Assigned to our Indio Neighborhood Enforcement Team. Rusty comes to us from the County Building and Safety Department and brings extensive knowledge of the Building Codes.

Brenda Hannah - Assigned to our Indio Neighborhood Enforcement Team. Brenda comes to us from the County Building and Safety Department and has experience in Building and Grading Inspections. She is also well versed in the Planning Department Land Use processes.

Adam Hermanson - Assigned to the Special Enforcement Team in the desert. Adam has over 7 years experience with the County Sheriff and is currently enrolled in a college degree program with a major in Criminal Justice.

Jon Kirchoff - Assigned to our Neighborhood Enforcement Team in District 1, Lake Elsinore office. Jon has over 7 years experience in law enforcement and is currently working on a Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice.

Nina Morales - Assigned to our Neighborhood Enforcement Team in Indio. Nina was recently promoted from a Code Enforcement Technician. Nina holds a Reserve Officer Level I certificate and is currently enrolled in an Administration of Justice degree program.

Jennifer Morris - Assigned to our Neighborhood Enforcement Team in District 5. Jennifer comes to us by way of the Waste Management department. She brings with her a broad knowledge of hazardous materials handling and

investigation.

Karen Nguyen - Assigned to the Special Enforcement Team. Karen has over 4 years experience as a Code Enforcement Officer for the cities of Westminster and Anaheim. She possesses a Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from Cal State Fullerton and is fluent in Vietnamese.

Lanee Padilla - Assigned to our Neighborhood Enforcement Team in the fifth district. Lanee has recently promoted from the position of Code Enforcement Technician. Lanee has a background with the Animal Services Department and holds an AA degree in Administration of Justice.

Samantha Phillips - Assigned to our Special Enforcement Team. Samantha comes to us from the Animal Services Department. She also has gained experience in parking enforcement from the city of Corona.

Michael Romero - Assigned to the Neighborhood Enforcement Team in District 2. Michael was recently promoted from the position of Code Enforcement Technician in which he held for about 1 year. Michael has prior experience working with the Animal Services Department.

Roy Ryder - Assigned to the Neighborhood Enforcement Team in the 4th District. Roy has over 3 years experience as a Deputy Sheriff and possesses a Bachelor's degree in Psychology.

Gladys Sanchez - Assigned to our Neighborhood Enforcement Team in Jurupa. Gladys has over 7 years experience with the Sheriff's department and can read and speak Spanish fluently.

Britt Starkweather - Assigned to our Neighborhood Enforcement Team in the 5th District. Britt brings over 8 years of Code Enforcement experience with him from the cities of San Bernardino and Rialto.

Jane Tate - Assigned to the Neighborhood Enforcement Team in our District 1 office in Mead Valley. Jane came from the Building and Safety Department where she worked as a building/

Valley. Jane came from the Building and Safety Department where she worked as a Building/Grading Inspector for the last 4 years.

Nicole Wapner - Assigned to the Neighborhood Enforcement Team in District 2. Nicole has over 9 years experience in the Animal Control field where she recently held the position as Senior Animal Control Officer.

Ron Welch - Assigned to the Neighborhood Enforcement Team in the 3rd District. Ron comes to us from the Building and Safety Department. Ron possesses a certification as a building inspector and plans examiner and has over 17 years working in the Building industry.

AB 679 the bill which will add a fine to an illegal dumping conviction is waiting to be signed into law by Governor Schwarzenegger.

Current Office Space Projects - District 4 - 1000 Palms - We have acquired about 6500 square feet of office space in 1000 Palms where we plan to relocate our Indio staff. The space will accommodate both of our District 4 neighborhood enforcement teams as well as a contingent of special enforcement team members.

District 5 - Moreno Valley - We are in negotiations to acquire about 3000 square feet of office space in the Festival Shopping Center in Moreno Valley. This space is in close proximity to our current office. The new space will accommodate our district 5 neighborhood enforcement team. We are also attempting to acquire an additional 1500 square feet of office space adjacent to our existing facility to accommodate future growth in our department.

District 2 - Rubidoux Fleet Services - We have acquired about 500 square feet of office space in the new Fleet Services building to temporarily house a group of our Special enforcement team members.

James P. Monroe

Riverside County Code Enforcement

District 4

September 2007 brought a new combination of challenges to the new Code Enforcement Mecca Team. One of the challenges was to build a good friendly environment with the local residents and to increase pride in the area they have lived in for years. The code violations persist and are visible throughout the community. The Mecca project team not only consists of clerical support and front line officers but also community improvement staff, managers, and our Director.

We are presently working 40 active cases in the Mecca area. The summary abatement of two

substandard mobile homes and the voluntary removal of unpermitted signs, prohibited fences, and inoperative vehicles in the last couple weeks shows our efforts in the community. The support of local leaders has been overwhelming. We were granted permission from the Catholic church to hold community meetings at their property to talk about Code Enforcement and to hand out flyers. The current Code Enforcement meetings offer assistance from local and state agencies to the Mecca residents. Our goal is to have a vital and active community that reflects pride. **Hector Herrera**



District 5 Breakfast

In early September staff members from Team 5 and Director Jay Orr enjoyed a recognition breakfast with Supervisor Ashley and his legislative staff. Supervisor Ashley expressed his thanks to the staff for the good work and visible difference in District 5. Recognition of Excellent Achievement Awards were presented by Supervisor Ashley to Danny Pike, Code Enforcement Officer II, & Regina Keyes, Senior

Code Enforcement Officer, for an outstanding job of professionalism and perseverance on the Whispering Springs Mobile Home park case. Also awarded were Ana Carrillo, Code Enforcement Aide, for her dedication and high level of support to the Team and Chaka Osborne, Community Improvement Specialist, for her work on neighborhood enforcement. A great time was had by all! **T. Towner**



November Calendar

3rd

Quail Valley Community Improvement Fair

10th

Winchester Cleanup

17th

Goodhope/Meadowbrook Cleanup

Quail Valley Cleanup

22nd

Thanksgiving

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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