

County, State and Federal Actions Affecting Us

Our County Supervisor Dawn Rowe alerted us to closures on Park Ave. starting September 3, between Hwy 62 and Alta Loma, approaching the National Park.



- On the Short Term Rental Ordinance regulating vacation rentals, the tele-conference room in the Joshua Tree Government Center will be open for public comment during the Planning Commission's next meeting, September 5. They have funding for two fulltime Code Enforcement officers here, who can act on vacation rental complaints.

- Pioneertown's new water line is in, being tested by State, hopefully ready by mid-September.

- On September 24, the Board of Supervisors will hear county attorneys and Chief Executive Officer proposals for funding County Fire. The parcel tax sunsets in two years with no increase. She urged everyone to stay tuned; none one likes the Fire Tax or the way it was done. Broadcast via weblink, or tele-conference centers.

Calfire Battalion Chief Rusty McCulley was welcome. For so many months HVCC had no Calfire reports, everyone was away battling wildfires. He reported the county has 14 fire engines staffed, two dozers, and 10 handcrews standing by.

Recent brushfires have been extinguished quickly.

California Highway Patrol Sgt. Randy O'Brian said CHP patrols school zones during pickup and dropoff times.

-After the June HVCC meeting, CHP Commander Cooper sent a letter to Caltrans outlining concerns about Hwy 247 in the Olivine Rd. area, where collisions occur on the blind hill because people cannot pass safely. Caltrans responded with a plan to make continuous double yellow striping.

-A CHP task force will be on 247 for trucks bypassing scales. CHP personnel when not in school zones will be allocated to 247 for speed enforcement.

Dominic Heiden, Field Representative for State Senator Shannon Grove, said they have been dealing with the earthquake situation in Ridgecrest and Trona; both are in the 16th Senate District. Sen. Grove got six semi trucks of bottled water to Trona as they had no drinking water for two weeks.



How to be prepared for emergencies? Identify places people can go to get help and support, that county officials can use for emergency services. Stockpile supplies in community centers; stockpile personal supplies at home.

Field Representative for Congressman Paul Cook, Rick Denison, recalled that in 1992, all the damage Dominic described

occurred here; we lost water, power, infrastructure.



Cook's Morongo Basin field office is in Apple Valley. They work to quickly resolve issues for veterans here.

They agree with CHP on safety on Hwy 247, important both to the Homestead Valley and to the Base. Cook is still involved with issues in Johnson Valley OHV Area. An app available of Shared Use Area map.

County Sheriffs Dept Cpt. Trevis Newport said burglaries in the Homestead Valley area were down. He reminded us, it's a \$600 ticket for passing a stopped school bus.

The Sheriffs Department received a large OHV grant, for new vehicles and more offroad manpower.

Newport enthusiastically described two new programs:

-The Juvenile Court operating in conjunction with DA and probation departments, using juveniles as prosecutors, defenders and juries, to learn how the courts operate by prosecuting low-level juvenile crimes, to keep them out of the system.

-The Innroads Program, a first in the nation, a pilot collaboration by the Morongo Basin sheriffs with the Departments of Behavioral Health, Public Health, and Aging and Adult Services, to find individuals in the homeless population, especially veterans, to bring mental health and other services here to them, and to keep them monitored.

Help is here now for those who want it.

