

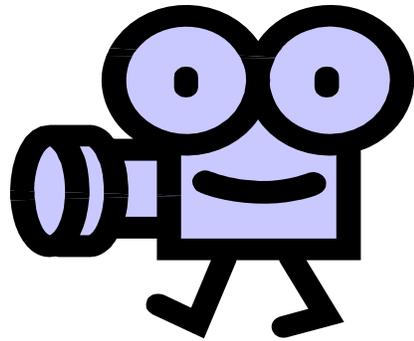
The City of Ridgecrest Monthly Report



November 2007

Short Takes

*Written and Directed by
Harvey Michael Reese*



-  "Housing starts fell 3.7 percent in November, with construction of single-family homes sliding to the lowest level in more than 16 years as builders scrambled to cope with a deep drop in sales."
-  PEAR labor negotiations.
-  Council and Staff meetings.
-  News media briefings, radio commentaries, newspaper columns.
-  Staff; review of Wastewater Treatment Plant #2 planning.
-  Teleconference: Benz fuel surcharge proposal.
-  "The Bosses;" quarterly meeting of City Manager, Base Commander, Schools Superintendent, College President, County Representative.
-  Schools Superintendent, College President; discussion of community facilities needs.
-  Staff; Wal-Mart project review.
-  Jean Fuller meeting.
-  Meeting with prospective lobbyists.



Merry Christmas

from the

Parks Recreation

And Cultural Affairs Department





Monthly Report



Special points of interest:

- Flag Football Season Coming To An End
- Director's Scoop
- Basketball League Starts Soon

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City of Ridgecrest

November–December 2007

Flag Football Coming To An End

The end of another successful Youth Flag Football season is near. This year's "Big Mac" Flag Football League brought together over 250 youth spread across 26 teams in 3 divisions for the 6 week season sponsored by McDonalds of Ridgecrest. McDonalds of Ridgecrest generously sponsored this year's league by purchasing the shirts for participants, as well as giving every player a coupon good for a "Big Mac". The Parks and Recreation Department would like to thank McDonalds of Ridgecrest, the Tosti's, all of our referees and the coaches and participants for making the league a success.



Basketball Season Begins Soon

It's that time of year again. Youth Basketball Season is here, and it begins in January. This years Youth Basketball League will be Sponsored by John's Pizza of Ridgecrest. John's Pizza will be supplying all of the participants shirts as well as offering coupons weekly for each participant for a free children's buffet. Due to the generosity of John's Pizza, the

league will take the name "John's Pizza Youth Basketball League". This year's league has over 350 youth signed up spread across 42 teams in 6 divisions. Teams will practice one night a week with games on Friday nights or Saturdays during the 9 week season. We are still looking for officials for the season, if interested you may call the Kerr McGee Cen-

ter for more information at 499-5151.



Directors Scoop

By Jim Ponek

The 2007 season is coming to a fantastic end. It was a great year for our Parks, Recreation and Cultural affairs dept. A few highlights of the dept.

Staff was awesome in developing new programs, especially the Big Mac Youth Flag Football League, the Desert Winds 5k Run and Drama performances/Shakespeare in the House.

The Maintenance Department is also making a lot of progress.

The new softball fields at Jackson Sports Complex have been a great addition and the electrical rehab at the Kerr McGee Youth Sports Complex has already paid huge dividends. Both associations that use the complex, Youth Baseball and Youth Football have saved a significant amount of money on lighting costs. We do not have exact figures, but it looks like the new electrical rehab, which allowed the city to get on a new electrical rate, is saving about 40 percent on all costs related to the use of lights. We are extremely pleased with the results. Maintenance staff also made several small improvements to Pinney Pool with a new chlorination system and a remodel to the concession area.

Facility rentals and the use of the Kerr McGee Community Center has never been so high. Hats off to staff.

So now with the help of funding from the City Council, our department is repairing the swimming pool. Re-plastering the pool bottom, replacing the pool heater and the surge tank has begun. Also on the agenda is replacing the playground equipment at Kerr McGee Community Center and the painting of City Hall.

In ending, 2007 was a great year due to our wonderful and motivated staff.

A work crew is currently removing the old plaster in preparation for the new plaster at the pool.



Side Line Courtesy

By Greg Clark

I'm sure you all have seen the news clips of fans, parents, coaches, and spectators getting into physical altercations over something that transpired in the course of a youth recreational sporting event. As unfortunate as these spectacles are, they serve as a reminder that if rules of conduct are not in place people can rapidly get out of hand.

While the attached article (Please See Page 3) may seem out of the ordinary to some, we here at Parks and Recreation see examples of overzealousness on a fairly consistent basis. Various levels of enthusiasm are common on the sidelines or in the bleachers, however limits must be maintained in order that conditions do not get out of control. Improper behavior is not limited to the spectators viewing the sporting activity. We have had to council some of our players and volunteer coaches from time to time and remind them that our programs are meant to be purely recreational. The first rule is to provide an environment that is safe as well as one that kids can learn and have fun with others.

As a society of sports fans, which is an abbreviation of (fanatics), it is only natural to become emotionally involved with a game especially if ones children or grandchildren are participating. Our staff constantly monitors the action, interaction, and tone of the events we sponsor. It is our responsibility to insure that a safe and courteous atmosphere exists at all times. If inappropriate actions manifest on our playing turf we investigate the circumstances surrounding such behavior and take appropriate measures to mitigate unwanted behaviors before any escalation of misbehavior takes place.

When it becomes necessary to act upon a person's misconduct we have various options available which are fair and impartial. After our initial investigation is concluded we generally call the party or parties involved in for a meeting where we discuss our findings and offer suggestions to correct whatever problem that brought about the intervention. Unfortunately, there are those who do not heed the advice or warning. In these cases, depending on the severity of the infraction, we may have to go to a harsher action which could include suspensions for various terms, or complete termination from our sports programming. Termination is rare and unfortunate, but we have had to implement sanctions in the past to maintain order and provide for a safe environment for players spectators and officials.

Essentially it is the responsibility of all city residents who attend our sports functions to conduct themselves in a manner conducive to an experience which leads our youth to have a good time and by example observe behavior that emulates the spirit sportsmanship, friendship, and athletics.

Please see the companion article on page 3, entitled "Confessions of a Nasty Sports Mom"

Confessions of a Nasty Sports Mom

By Sandy Hingston, Prevention

My opponent was talented, a star. I knew that as she ran toward me. She'd scored three times already; she had to be stopped. So: "You're not as good as you think you are!" I bellowed.

Startled, she froze, her concentration broken. Mission accomplished! Then the referee blasted her whistle and strode over to the bleachers. "I'm going to ask all of you to refrain from making personal comments," she said curtly. I knew she meant me. And I didn't care, even though my "opponent" was only 13 years old and playing field hockey against my daughter's team.

That's right. I was an Ugly Sports Mom.

My kids were ashamed of me. "Could you please not scream at the officials?" my daughter would plead. My son, braver, shouted back at me from the basketball court: "I am hustling! Leave me alone!" I couldn't. I just couldn't. They were the ones playing, but I was the one caring.

I've read the same news stories you have, about the T-ball coach who paid a player to bean a subpar teammate, the parents who have done even worse. I clucked my tongue along with you. I abhor the emphasis America places on winning. I know what matters isn't the score but how you play the game. And yet there's a fire that flares up in me when opponents square off. It doesn't matter what they're playing, or at what level competition makes me come alive. ("My wife will watch any sport with me on television," my husband once told an envious colleague. "Even soccer.") I don't know how I got this way. I only know that games mean more to me than they ever have to my kids. "I like to practice," says my daughter, a three-sport athlete in high school, "but I don't like the games." Practice? Who cares about practice? The game is everything.

I played lots of games when I was younger: softball, basketball, volleyball, field hockey. And whether it was a varsity match or pickup at a picnic, I played whole hog. I did it for the rush I got when I stopped a shot on goal or served up an ace. No academic honor, no professional prize, would ever feel that good.

Once my kids came along, though, I stepped aside. It was their turn. And oh, the hopes I had for them! I coached them, rooted for their teams, and waited anxiously to see them blossom into stars. They didn't. They tried hard, and they had moments of glory. But, you know, they never wanted to watch soccer on TV. And it slowly dawned on me that athletic competition meant something to me that it didn't to them. In my mind, sports were life's proving ground the whole *Chariots of Fire* shtick. To my kids, sports were "That Thing That Makes Mom Go Berserk."

As happens so often, I came to this realization too late for it to make a difference. If only I could have stayed in my lawn chair like the other mothers instead of pacing the sidelines, maybe the kids and I would be sitting down together to watch the World Cup. Maybe they'd link sports with joy like I do, instead of with self-consciousness and a sense of expectations unmet. If I could have done that, though, I wouldn't be who I am. Competitiveness isn't something you clear from your psyche when you clean out your locker. At my kids' matches, I could smell the mown grass, scuff the chalk lines on the field.

I couldn't bear to just watch. I wanted to play. When I raged at the refs, I was raging at the fact that I was stuck on the sidelines.

Then, a few years ago, while dropping my son off for basketball at the Y, I ran into the mom of a kid in his Scout troop. She was there, she told me, for the Wednesday night volleyball game.

"I love volleyball," I said.

She must have heard something in my voice. "Why don't you come along?"

"Oh, I haven't played in years," I said. "My ankles... my shoulder..."

She shrugged and remarked, "Everybody's got something."

That's how I got my game back. The regulars who show up on Wednesdays range from early 30s to mid-60s, and from whippet-lean to, well, not. We're stay-at-home moms, workers at Wal-Mart, engineers, teachers, a preacher, and one writer. What we have in common is this: We need our fix, the chance to prove ourselves and shine. "I'm gonna be a hero!" Dominick crows as he serves up a point. Maybe he will. Or maybe he'll be a goat instead. We revel in that edge of uncertainty, the bright lure of glory heightened by the chance of failing ignominiously.

I am more myself in the company I keep on Wednesday nights than I am at work or even with my family. My fellow players are kindred souls, our games a release for the competitive drives we assumed that age and time would put an end to... but haven't. We are both embarrassed by and proud of our intensity.

Recently, there was a mix-up when we arrived; an employee had borrowed the net — our net — for a beach party. We roiled in the lobby like a lynch mob. The poor desk clerk was cowed enough to get on the phone and find that net now. We paced the sidewalk outside, grumbling, until the truck rolled up with it. We took possession as if we were jonesing.

Then we started in, and all our discontent and ill will dissipated. For 2 hours, life boiled down to this: Sometimes you win, and sometimes you lose.

And you can't do either if you don't play the game.

DIVING INTO



THE FUTURE OF THE AQUATIC FACILITY REQUIRES A LOOK

Every agency wants to be on the cutting edge with its aquatic facilities. And it's not always easy to be prepared for the next big trend.

Because well-planned facilities will likely last 50 years or longer, insight for looking forward can often be gained by reviewing the successes and failures in hindsight. Continuing a common mission of community outreach, modern

aquatic facilities have come a long way from beginnings as varied as marble bathhouses in Rome to a common backyard swimming hole.

Reflecting Back

Bathhouses were the hub of the ancient Roman community offering social and wellness attributes. A good place to meet friends or business colleagues, the baths also had steam rooms, saunas,

exercise rooms and hair salons. Some contained gardens, courtyards and larger gymnasiums. Each bathhouse contained several pools heated to different temperatures and bathers went from one bath to another. The most impressive bathhouses were in the city of Rome, decorated with marble and statues. These were the precursors to modern man-made aquatic facilities.

Fast-forward and skip a continent or

THE FUTURE



From Roman baths to the most modern waterpark, there's much to learn from the evolution of aquatic facilities.

AT ITS PAST.

two and we find that Early American aquatic programming used the closest natural water source for recreation—often referred to as a “swimming hole.” As demand for aquatic offerings increased, manmade facilities came on the scene. But they were rudimentary fill-and-draw vessels—the water was replaced like a bathtub.

These facilities became more sophisticated and focused on a consistent

experience. With sport being a common component, many of the recreation facilities built in the mid-1900s were rectangular in shape, following a competitive standard. These pools were routinely built for many years and still dominate the aquatic programming landscape across the United States.

In 1977, George Millay created the first commercial waterpark, Wet 'n Wild in Orlando, Fla. This innovative con-

By Scot Hunsaker and Michelle Schwartz

cept in recreational amusement parks featured waterslides, manmade waves, waterfalls, swimming areas and water-oriented rides for all ages. “Nobody understood the concept, including us,” said John Seeker, former vice president of marketing for Wet 'n Wild. “The first couple of months, George had to make payroll out of his own pocket.”

Despite the initial setback, the second year's attendance began to rise and in



AESTHETICALLY PLEASING DESIGN WITH WELL-DEVELOPED LANDSCAPING, LIGHTING, ACOUSTIC MANAGEMENT AND RELAXING SPACES ARE THE REQUIREMENT FOR THE FUTURE.



COURTESY OF COUNSILMAN-HUNSAKER

1982, Millay added the second of what would be seven Wet 'n Wild parks, including a 47-acre complex in Arlington, Texas, three times the size of the Orlando waterpark.

This departure from what had been done before resulted in new experiences for guests. Millay quickly learned that this kind of facility resulted in significantly increased use and a greater willingness to pay. As a result, other facilities began to take notice and began to develop bigger and better facilities than in the past. By the late 1980s, the definition of the municipal swimming pool morphed from a rectangular deep water pool to a family aquatic center with zero-depth entry, interactive play features and waterslides for all ages.

Planning Ahead

Based on aquatic history, one leading indicator for aquatic programming in the future is the entrepreneur. Our history radar shows that the entrepreneur has left the commercial waterpark market and is developing year-round family resorts. These destination resorts often

bundle other program elements with aquatics to extend the length of stay and focus on each age group of the family.

Another leading indicator for municipal aquatic programming is aquatics in the college setting. While varsity athletics are still a driving force on many campuses, funding for new facilities is often from the student body at large. Aquatic elements are geared to meet the needs of every student, not just athletes.

The University of Missouri, Columbia; Boston University; University of Alabama, Birmingham; University of Maine; and Ohio State are defining a new expectation of lifestyle amenities and qualities with recent aquatic facility projects. This is relevant to every community, as these students will soon be your residents and leaders. Lifestyle and community facilities will have a significant impact on their decision making when selecting a community to live in.

Applying The Past and Present to the Future

Learning from past experiences and

gathering information about current trends leads to some important conclusions about planning for the future.

Age-Focused Experiences: In the early versions of the family aquatic facility, it was not uncommon to see a multi-purpose pool developed with features undefined for particular age groups. Today, patrons expect amenities and areas developed in community aquatic facilities for each age group—and age groups are becoming increasingly defined. For example, tots have their own area out of harm's way and a feature that may have been designed for the 8- to 12-year-old market will be broken into two separate features and experiences.

Scott Runkle is the aquatics and safety manager for Skokie Park District in Illinois and president of NRPA's National Aquatic Branch. He says there has been a shift in age-specific facilities. "It used to be that you had two holes in the ground. This one was for kids and this one was for the adults. This one was hectic and this one was calm," Runkle explains. "The facilities I've seen

recently built have been divided with specific age groups in mind.” He says that he’s seeing pools divided into two subsets below the teenage years, one for the thrill-seeking high school students and a more leisurely pool for adults.

Unfortunately, the teenager has been absent from many family aquatic facilities, likely a result of a focus on the 12-and-younger market. To compete with the mobility that a driver’s license brings and the social realities of this age group, aquatic facilities are offering thrill rides and extreme aquatic challenges in addition to socialization opportunities.

The young adult is also demanding a more high-end experience. Not comfortable in a primary-color play land filled with youngsters and parents, this demographic is attracted to environments more closely associated with a resort. Amenities are important and the atmosphere is critical.

Aesthetically pleasing design with

well-developed landscaping, lighting, acoustic management and relaxing spaces are the requirement. While spa services are not common at the municipal pool level, they are frequently offered at universities and resorts.

Seniors are also becoming more demanding. The key to this demographic is a consistent, warm environment. Aquatic wellness programming offers an increased quality of life while also providing an important social hub in the community. Indoor warm water is the norm; however, having the needed support spaces with generous circulation and convenient access is important to the overall success of the facility.

Each community approaches age-specific facilities differently. Some create separate facilities; others create separate spaces within a facility. As individual needs of different age groups are more defined, and the vision for the future facility takes place, it is important to frame the experience based on

the family unit and how its parts will use and experience the aquatic center. How will the design create a unique experience for each user and provide an easy flow of interaction without negatively impacting each other? This is where the skill of art and science meet.

Art and Science of Design: While an amenity or feature may bring a guest to the facility once or twice, the experience will make them a loyal user. One of the primary influences on the experience is the design. Today’s users expect a well defined, thought-out and comfortable environment. While themes are a strong consideration, many communities are instead creating a “theme” of community. The key here is to understand the users and meet and exceed their expectation on the environment they will be in. What the daily community user may prefer will be different than the destination-oriented facility.

In general, the future will be a more

more financially focused or self-sustaining models are being developed.

Jeff Maxey is the aquatics supervisor for the Town of Castle Rock, Colo. He says that the new facilities the public demands have resulted in a different way of financial management. “We are now in an era where what we are attempting to do is faster and different and better than the swimming hole that is down the street so that people can come in and spend considerably more money to visit your facility for a completely different aquatic experience.”

Lifecycle and Decisions: One aspect that is significantly different for the park and recreation professional when looking at other providers as leading indicators is the time horizon. The market is filled with pools in the 35- to 40-year range that are reaching the end of their functional and practical uses. Programming decisions you make regarding your new facility will likely impact operations for more than 50 years.

Even with the best radar system to anticipate what is over the horizon, we need to build in flexibility to respond to unforeseen changes. When making decisions, build in expansion and renovation considerations. In addition to creating a fun, exciting environment for every member and guest of the community, think about changing conditions with security realities (i.e., are three bike racks a must or will one get the job done?) and water quality concerns (new technologies to address cryptosporidium and E. coli).

As we take a 360-degree view of aquatic programming and development, we find a pastime that began in America at the fishing hole, and is now a sophisticated industry continuing to grow in programming and experience complexity. Today’s aquatic guests are expecting a well-developed and thought-out facility that meets their needs and exceeds their expectations. As recreation professionals, we are expected to have the tools and ability to respond to a changing aquatic environment that the ancient Romans would give a nod to. **PER**



WHEN MAKING DECISIONS, BUILD IN EXPANSION AND RENOVATION CONSIDERATIONS. IN ADDITION TO CREATING A FUN, EXCITING ENVIRONMENT THINK ABOUT CHANGING CONDITIONS.

developed design solution and with it will be the need to invest in this experience. For example, broom-finish concrete may be the cheapest and most durable choice, but selecting materials and finishes that demonstrate a palette for community-wide expectations will likely have a positive impact on the image of the facility. Communities are savvy and scrutinize what other communities have, desiring great places where they can enjoy and be proud to invite others to partake in.

Managing the Experience: Guests expect a professionally managed facility that is clean, organized and well-run. Clear communication through Web sites, marketing materials and knowledgeable staff are a must. A water-

streaked message board will cost the facility visits and not add program value. Uniforms and professional appearances are expected.

Choreography of Users: The future is likely to bring a greater awareness of the customer experience. While surveys and suggestion boxes are common, greater emphasis will be placed on studying the use patterns and preferences of guests. In the near future, if not already, municipal facilities will be studying how the facility is used, who uses it, when they use it and how they use it. We will then develop strategies to further influence protection, comfort, access, linkage, uses, activities and sociability to have a positive impact on the operation of the facility.

Financial Sustainability: Historically, there have been three models of fiscal sustainability in the municipal market. The subsidy model responded to a community that was willing to use tax dollars not only to develop a facility but to operate it. We often see these facilities with admission prices under \$2.00.

The second model is the break-even model. These are communities that are willing to use tax dollars to develop facilities, but expect the users to pay for the direct operating costs. The last model is the positive cash flow model.

These are communities that not only expect the users to pay for the direct operations, but also the capital development costs. Park systems are being asked to do more with less. As a result,

Brewing Controversy

FROM FUN-LOVING TO FAMILY-FRIENDLY, A PARKS AND REC DEPARTMENT'S POLICY ON ALCOHOL USE IS SURE TO DRAW CRITICS. BY NICHOLAS BROWN

In Oregon, Clackamas County officials are banning alcohol use in county parks after what police there described as riot-like conditions during normal summer weekend river use. In Kansas, the state's Department of Wildlife and Parks last year issued a reproachful press release citing intoxicated driving, excessive trash, vandalism, fights and rowdy parties as justification for banning all alcohol use at the state's fishing lakes and lakeside facilities. Meanwhile, at public diamonds throughout the country, dusty softball players are celebrating victory (or wallowing in defeat) by downing cold beers served up by recreation departments, and local governing boards everywhere are facing pressure from revenue-generating groups hoping to serve alcohol at private parties on public land.

Regardless of the surroundings or circumstances, any policy relating to public alcohol use is likely to be unpopular with about half the affected population. Thus, parks and recreation department heads are

left to balance residents' desire to use public facilities freely with the need to maintain participant safety and minimize municipal liability.

"It really puts parks and recreation professionals in a difficult position," says Gary Ristow, recreation services manager for the Columbia (Mo.) Parks and Recreation Department. "It's a contentious issue. There are two sides, and people on each side are fervent in their belief that their course of action is right. But the right answer is probably somewhere in the middle."

Recreation officials in Folsom, Calif., recently contributed to an alcohol-use ordinance that they hoped would appease local police, who were tired of responding to complaints regarding intoxicated park-dwellers. But the rec department also wanted to keep in mind Folsom's law-abiding residents, who until 2006 could essentially drink freely on city parkland. "The parks and recreation department had a vested interest in that process because we rent lots of facilities for events where people like to have beer and wine," says Chuck Harrison, Folsom's recreation supervisor. "We also have special events in our parks — such as our Concerts in the Park series — where people have gotten used to bringing lawn chairs and a bottle of wine on Friday nights and enjoying the show."

Folsom officials eventually ironed out a permitting process whereby residents can, once a week, pay a \$10 fee per individual or party for a permit to consume alcoholic beverages during a six-hour window in a city park. To make the process less cumbersome to residents, the parks and recreation department administers the permits from three information centers throughout the city. Police maintain a "do not issue" list of previous alcohol policy offenders, and parks personnel fax copies of permits to police to update them on when and where there will be drinking — and

RETHINKING DRINKING
Municipalities often revisit alcohol policies when confronted by local special-interest groups.



DIGITAL VISION

by whom. The result, says Harrison, has satisfied most everyone.

"I think it's the best of both worlds — the residents have the right to go out and enjoy an alcoholic beverage in the park, but the policy has cut down on the problems the police were dealing with. Now they have an enforceable ordinance."

As was the case in Folsom, most acts of park prohibition stem from events where public intoxication led to inappropriate, and in some cases criminal, activity. In 1988, officials in Woodstock, Ill., axed all drinking in parks after the town's annual Independence Day fireworks celebration, which perennially marks the biggest draw to the city's largest recreation venue — Emricson Park. "It was just getting a little out of hand," says Woodstock's recreation director, Dave Zinnen. "There were no rules. You could just bring a cooler, plop down and start drinking. Basically people were getting there in the morning, setting up a 'picnic' area, then drinking all day — and

the fireworks wouldn't start until 9 p.m."

Woodstock's parks and recreation commission is now considering lifting the booze ban at Emricson Park — but not without limits. Taking cues from about a dozen surrounding parks departments, as well as the handful of people who've shown up to public meetings on the proposed repeal, the commission hopes to establish a permitting policy that allows for highly controlled alcohol use only at large events.

While it's a common practice for parks and recreation departments to dictate alcohol sales and usage through permitting, the degree of control varies widely. A far cry from Folsom's \$10-a-day permit are the city of High Point, N.C.'s requirements regarding alcohol consumption at its park facilities. Prospective drinkers must first enter into a facility rental contract with the parks department and show proof of a special event usage permit from the state's Alcoholic Beverage Control Commission. They must then

set up pricey security contracts with off-duty High Point police officers, the number of whom depends on how much alcohol will be served. Finally, organizers must provide the city with proof of at least \$1 million worth of liability insurance, depending on the event's size.

"It's definitely a process," says High Point Parks and Recreation Department special facilities director Steve Ankelein. "If you want to go through it you can, but we have many safeguards in place to be sure that alcohol use is not going to become a problem." Ankelein says that in a given year, only a small handful of parties or organizations have the energy and inclination to go through the necessary steps to drink or serve alcohol in the city's parks.

High Point's policies seem especially stringent considering the parks and recreation department is also a beer vendor. In the mid-1980s, at the request of some of its golf-playing residents, the city agreed to sell beer at its two public

courses. In the 20-plus years it has been selling beer, says Ankelein, there have been no alcohol-related incidents — save for the time a staff member checked the ID of an undercover agent, but miscalculated his age. Ankelein says the department never promotes its beer sales (which represent about 10 percent of its golf course food revenue) and intentionally keeps its beer prices on the high end of the market.

"We understand there are people who like to have this service, so we provide it — but at a premium," he says. "We don't encourage people to say, 'Let's go have a beer down at the golf course.' We intentionally don't look at this as a moneymaker."

The strategy of selling beer at some of its facilities and strictly outlawing any alcohol use at others may seem hypocritical, but Ankelein says different facilities require different safety requirements, especially given their different users. "We really would like it to be a positive

park experience for everyone," he says.

Ristow's department makes a modest \$50,000-a-year net profit from beer sales at two public golf courses and an adult softball center (though the city shuts down its vending operation when hosting youth softball events). At the time of this writing, officials in Columbia were considering establishing a permitting policy that would allow other nonprofit organizations to sell alcohol in specific city park locations. For years, Ristow says, the department has been "floating along" with a policy that allows alcohol use — but not sales from other vendors — in the college city's parks. The proposed change has many residents now questioning whether alcohol should be allowed in Columbia's parks at all.

"I really think it boils down to philosophical questions," Ristow says. "There has been an overriding concern lately that alcohol and drugs are too prevalent in our society, and there are a lot of people who feel parks should be safe havens."

At the same time, Ristow's department — which has revenue recovery goals for each major program — has developed some reliance on beer sales. "If that \$50,000 wasn't available to us, we'd have to make \$50,000 worth of cuts somewhere, or else raise an additional \$50,000," he says. "Something would have to give if we were to not sell alcohol. There's a real concern, too, that we would actually lose softball teams and golfers. The \$50,000 would just be the start."

Ristow says his department has prided itself on being a responsible alcohol provider, but that Columbia's policies may not be the best answer for other communities — even Columbia itself.

"It's a difficult situation, and I don't know if there is any right answer," he says. "You do have to find out what the community is willing to support." @

Nicholas Brown can be reached online at nick@athleticbusiness.com

Kerr McGee Community Center
Weekly Schedule

**November 26, 2007 -
December 02, 2007**

November 2007							December 2007						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
			1	2	3	4						1	2
44	5	6	7	8	9	10	48	3	4	5	6	7	8
45	12	13	14	15	16	17	49	10	11	12	13	14	15
46	19	20	21	22	23	24	50	17	18	19	20	21	22
47	26	27	28	29	30		51	24	25	26	27	28	29
48							52	31					
							1						

26	Monday	27	Tuesday
7:00am	11:00am Senior Fitness with Patrice Johnson; Aerobics Room	7:00am	9:30am Senior Fitness with Patrice Johnson; Aerobics Rm
9:00am	5:00pm Tumbling; Petro	7:30am	5:00pm Patrice; Kitchen
2:45pm	4:45pm ICS Basketball Practice; N/S Gym	9:00am	5:00pm Tumbling; Petro
5:00pm	7:00pm BHS Basketball Practice; N/S gym	2:45pm	4:45pm ICS Basketball Practice; N/S Gym
5:30pm	7:30pm Aerobics; Aerobics Rm	5:30pm	7:30pm Aerobics; Aerobics Rm
5:30pm	7:30pm China Lake Cheer; Petro	5:30pm	7:30pm China Lake Cheer; Petroglyph
		7:00pm	8:30pm Prepaid Legal; Red Rock
		7:45pm	9:00pm Kung Fu; Aerobics Rm
28	Wednesday	29	Thursday
7:00am	11:00am Senior Fitness with Patrice Johnson; Aerobics Room	7:00am	9:30am Senior Fitness with Patrice Johnson; Aerobics Rm
9:00am	5:00pm Tumbling; Fossil Falls/Ballararat	8:00am	12:00am VX-9 Christmas Party; Pinnacles/Petroglyph
2:45pm	4:45pm ICS Basketball Practice; N/S Gym	9:00am	5:00pm Tumbling; Fossil Falls/Ballararat
5:30pm	7:30pm Aerobics; Aerobics Rm	2:45pm	4:45pm ICS Basketball Practice; N/S Gym
5:30pm	7:30pm Arts Council; Red Rock/Chimney Peak	5:00pm	7:00pm Quality of Life; Red Rock/Chimney Peak
7:45pm	9:00pm Kung Fu; Aerobics Rm	5:30pm	7:30pm Aerobics; Aerobics Rm
		6:30pm	7:30pm Karate; R/C Room
30	Friday	1	Saturday
12:00am	2:00am VX-9 Christmas Party; Pinnacles/Petroglyph	8:00am	12:00am BMAR Christmas Party; Pinnacles
7:00am	11:00am Senior Fitness with Patrice Johnson; Aerobics Room	8:00am	2:30pm Basketball Evals; N/S Gym
8:00am	10:00pm BHS Holiday Concorde; Pinnacles/Petro		
2:45pm	4:45pm ICS Basketball Practice; N/S Gym		
2	Sunday		

Kerr McGee Community Center
Weekly Schedule

**December 03, 2007 -
December 09, 2007**

December 2007							January 2008								
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S		
48					1	2	1	1	2	3	4	5	6		
49	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	2	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
50	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	3	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
51	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	4	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
52	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	5	28	29	30	31			
1	31														

3 Monday	4 Tuesday
7:00am 11:00am Senior Fitness with Patrice Johnson; Aerobics Room ☺ 9:00am 5:00pm Tumbling; Petro ☺ 5:30pm 7:30pm Aerobics; Aerobics Rm ☺ 6:30pm 8:30pm Officials Meeting; Chimney Peak ☺	7:00am 9:30am Senior Fitness with Patrice Johnson; Aerobics Rm ☺ 7:30am 5:00pm Patrice; Kitchen ☺ 9:00am 5:00pm Tumbling; Petro ☺ 4:45pm 6:45pm Smashers Volleyball Practice; N/S Gym 5:30pm 7:30pm Aerobics; Aerobics Rm ☺ 6:30pm 8:30pm CERT Training; Red Rock ☺ 7:00pm 8:30pm Prepaid Legal; Red Rock ☺ 7:45pm 9:00pm Kung Fu; Aerobics Rm ☺
5 Wednesday	6 Thursday
7:00am 11:00am Senior Fitness with Patrice Johnson; Aerobics Room ☺ 9:00am 5:00pm Tumbling; Petro ☺ 2:45pm 4:45pm ICS Basketball Practice; N/S Gym ☺ 5:00pm 7:30pm Smashers volleyball; N/S gym 5:30pm 7:30pm Aerobics; Aerobics Rm ☺ 7:45pm 9:00pm Kung Fu; Aerobics Rm ☺	7:00am 9:30am Senior Fitness with Patrice Johnson; Aerobics Rm ☺ 9:00am 5:00pm Tumbling; Petro ☺ 9:30am 1:30pm FLU Shots; N/S Gym 11:00am 1:30pm Parks & Recreation Staff Holiday Party; Pinnacles 11:30am 1:30pm IWVESC; Red Rock/Chimney ☺ 2:30pm 4:30pm ICS Jr. High GAME; N/S Gym 5:00pm 9:00pm Tumbling Eq.; Fossil Falls/Ballararat ☺ 5:30pm 7:30pm Aerobics; Aerobics Rm ☺ 6:00pm 9:00pm Kern County Roads Meeting; Red Rock/Chimney Peak 6:30pm 7:30pm Karate; R/C Room ☺
7 Friday	8 Saturday
7:00am 11:00am Senior Fitness with Patrice Johnson; Aerobics Room ☺ 8:00am 12:00am F/A-18 AWL Christmas Party; Pinnacles 9:00am 9:00pm Tumbling Eq.; Fossil Falls/Ballararat ☺ 5:30pm 7:30pm ICS Boys Basketball GAME; N/S Gym	8:00am 12:00am R/C Regional Hospital Christmas Party; Pinnacles/Petro 9:00am 9:00pm Tumbling Eq.; Fossil Falls/Ballararat ☺
9 Sunday	
12:00am 2:00am R/C Regional Hospital Christmas Party; Pinnacles/Petro 2:30pm 5:30pm smashers volleyball; n/s gym	

Kerr McGee Community Center
Weekly Schedule

**December 10, 2007 -
December 16, 2007**

December 2007							January 2008						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
					1	2	1	1	2	3	4	5	6
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30	31			
31													

10	Monday	11	Tuesday
7:00am	11:00am Senior Fitness with Patrice Johnson; Aerobics Room	7:00am	9:30am Senior Fitness with Patrice Johnson; Aerobics Rm
9:00am	5:00pm Tumbling; Fossil Falls/Ballararat	7:30am	5:00pm Patrice; Kitchen
3:00pm	9:00pm BHS Football Banquet; Pinnacles/Petro	9:00am	5:00pm Tumbling; Fossil Falls/Ballararat
5:30pm	7:30pm ACTION committee meeting; Fossil Falls/Ballararat	11:00am	1:00pm Youth Advisory ; Pinnacles
5:30pm	7:30pm Aerobics; Aerobics Rm	2:45pm	4:45pm ICS Basketball Practice; N/S Gym
6:30pm	8:30pm Officials Meeting; Chimney Peak	5:30pm	7:30pm Aerobics; Aerobics Rm
		7:00pm	8:30pm Prepaid Legal; Red Rock
		7:45pm	9:00pm Kung Fu; Aerobics Rm
12	Wednesday	13	Thursday
7:00am	11:00am Senior Fitness with Patrice Johnson; Aerobics Room	7:00am	9:30am Senior Fitness with Patrice Johnson; Aerobics Rm
9:00am	5:00pm Tumbling; Petro	9:00am	5:00pm Tumbling; Petro
9:00am	12:00pm IWW Collaborative; Red Rock/Chimney Peak	9:00am	12:00pm Social Security; Fossil Falls/Ballararat
9:00am	10:00am Multi DSC Trn; R/C Rm	11:30am	1:30pm shannon Balas; Red Rock/Chimney Peak
10:00am	3:00pm City Staff Party; Pinnacles	2:45pm	4:45pm ICS Basketball Practice; N/S Gym
5:00pm	7:30pm Smashers Volleyball; N/S Gym	5:00pm	9:00pm Tumbling Eq.; R/C rm
5:30pm	7:30pm Aerobics; Aerobics Rm	5:00pm	7:30pm Smashers Volleyball Practice; N/S Gym
7:45pm	9:00pm Kung Fu; Aerobics Rm	5:30pm	7:30pm Aerobics; Aerobics Rm
		6:30pm	7:30pm Karate; Chimney Peak
14	Friday	15	Saturday
7:00am	11:00am Senior Fitness with Patrice Johnson; Aerobics Room	8:00am	12:00am Alta One FCU Christmas Party; Pinnacles/Petro
8:00am	12:00am DCS Christmas Party; Pinnacles/Petro	8:00am	12:00pm PD Testing; Red Rock/ Chimney Peak
8:00am	12:00pm Tumbling Eq.; R/c Rm	8:00am	12:00pm Tumbling Eq.; R/C room
2:45pm	4:45pm ICS Basketball Practice; N/S Gym	10:00am	2:00pm Smashers Volleyball GAME; N/S Gym
		1:00pm	3:00pm Fisher Birthday Party; Fossil Falls/Ballararat
16	Sunday		
12:00am	1:00am Alta One FCU Christmas Party; Pinnacles/Petro		
8:00am	8:30am		
2:30pm	5:30pm Smashers Vball Practice; N/S gym		

Ridgecrest Police Department

RPD monthly report

CAPTURED "RIDGECREST MOST WANTED"

Special points of interest:

Pin Maps

- Traffic Accidents
- Thefts

PACT NEWSLETTER

On November 14, 2007 at about 0955 hours, Ridgecrest Police Officers and Detectives responded to 200 W. Perdew Ave., after the location of the wanted felony suspect, Warren Bozek was confirmed. Upon arrival, police officers surrounded the residence and found an aggressive pit bull dog at the location. Before officers could make contact Mr. Bozek fled from inside the residence, running through the backyard.

Mr. Bozek was confronted as he attempted to jump

the rear fence line. As he attempted to run back towards the house, he was shot with a Taser device. Additional officers were able to move in to the rear yard, continuing to fend off the vicious dog. Parties from inside the home restrained the animal and Mr. Bozek was taken into custody by Officer Ryan Marrone. Mr. Bozek had been at large and on the run for over two years. Neither Mr. Bozek or any officers or detectives were injured in the arrest.

Mr. Bozek was trans-

ported to Ridgecrest Regional hospital then to Kern County Jail where he was booked on the outstanding warrant and open resisting arrest charges. He remains in custody.

Warren Bozek was recently featured as one of Ridgecrest Most Wanted suspects.

Community Oriented P

During the month of November, Officers of the Ridgecrest Police Department made several positive citizen contacts related to our Community Oriented Policing philosophy. Many of the concerns voiced by these citizens were related to the summer months and concerns of graffiti and theft problems. One new Neighborhood Watch Program was initiated during this month, with another scheduled to have its first meet-



ing in January. Officer Seth Podell joined students from Mesquite High School in painting over graffiti at a local business and Officers Sparks and Lloyd used the police department pickup truck to gather abandoned shopping carts and return them to the rightful owners.

Inside this issue:

Crime Report

Current Traffic Stats

General Investigations

Overtime

Animal Control

Reserve Stats

PACT

Explorers

Stolen Property Recovered

On November 17, 2007 at about 1530 hours, Ridgecrest Police Officers, Sparks and Lloyd responded to the location above, after a information of the wanted felony suspect, Larry Delapena, a parolee, and the possible location of stolen property in the above cases. Mr. Delapena was supposed to be staying at the location with his



girlfriend and her mother. Upon arrival the Officers contacted Mr. Delapena and he was arrested.

A search of the residence revealed stolen property in a residential burglary as well as a burglary from a vehicle, in which US government equipment was stolen. The property was recovered. Additional property from the cases

remains outstanding as well as other suspects and possible additional charges.

Mr. Delapena was transported and booked at Kern County Jail Ridgecrest Substation. He remains in custody. The reports have been submitted to District Attorney for review.

SHOPLIFTER DETAINED

On the above date and time, Ridgecrest Police Officers Ryan Marrone and Rodney Robbs responded to the Rite Aide store, after security agents there had detained a shoplifter, Linda Thomas. Upon arrival Officer Marrone spoke to the suspect and agents at the scene.

The suspect had been detained after concealing \$43.00 plus dollars of personal hygiene items on her person. The suspect, who had identified herself

as Linda Thomas, was arrested. It was discovered that Ms. Thomas was wanted by State Parole and had been at large for over 4 years, and was considered a escape/ flight risk.

She was transported to the Ridgecrest Police Department, then to Ridgecrest Regional hospital for clearance. She was then transported to Central Receiving Facility Bakersfield where she was booked and remains in custody on the parole

hold and open commercial burglary charges.



Burglary Solved

On November 20, 2007 Ridgecrest Police Detectives Mike Atkins and Kristen Lawson arrested Brandon Medlin, a 30 year old Ridgecrest resident and Jeffrey Cripe, a 34 year old Ridgecrest resident for possession of stolen property and commercial burglary after he

and an accomplice burglarized Mickey's Pub and Grill. Medlin was contacted and found to be in possession of property stolen from Mickey's. The value of the stolen property recovered by Smith and Lawson was approximately \$19,750.00. Medlin and Cripe were booked

at Kern County Jail/ Ridgecrest substation.

Probation Sweep

On November 27, 2007, five detectives from the Ridgecrest Police Department and eleven Agents from the Kern County Probation Department initiated a "Mini Sweep", targeting active

felony probationers living in the City of Ridgecrest. 36 residential searches were conducted, resulting in 2 arrests. The arrests were for narcotics violations and probation violations.

These sweeps send a message to criminals that we will not tolerate criminal activity in Ridgecrest.

(see pictures on page 5)

DUI and Hit and Run

On November 14, 2007 at about 1350 hours, the Ridgecrest Police Department received a call of a hit and run that occurred on W. Ridgecrest Blvd in the 200 blk. Before officers could respond, another call was received



of an intoxicated subject at the Howards Mini Market on W. Upjohn Ave. Witnesses advised the suspect was "buying" beer. Sgt. Obergfell responded to the area, only to find the suspect was gone. Moments later, witnesses called back that the same suspect had crashed into the fence at Faller Elementary School.

tary School.

Sgt. Obergfell and other officers responded towards the location. As Sgt. Obergfell approached he found the suspect driving in his lane, the wrong way. After a short distance the suspect finally stopped for the pursuing patrol car, but after it stopped the suspect placed the car in reverse and struck the patrol vehicle. The suspect was removed from the car and taken into custody. He was identified as Richard Torres, and he was obviously intoxicated. He also admitted to taking several types of prescription medications. Witnesses identified Mr. Torres as the suspect in the hit and run. It was also apparent from the damage

to his car and pieces of victim vehicles which were stuck to Mr. Torres 1988 Honda.

Officer Marrone took custody of the suspect, who was later treated at Ridgecrest Regional hospital. Mr. Torres was then transported to Central Receiving Facility Bakersfield where he was booked on the Drunk Driving and Hit and Run charges. Officer Armogida and Officer Frid located 4 total accident scenes in which this suspect was involved.

No civilians or Officers were injured in the incidents.

\$5,000 in Damages at Faller School

On November 10, 2007 at about 0640 hours, Ridgecrest Police Officers responded to Faller Elementary School, after a teacher arrived on campus to find extensive vandalism throughout the campus on all the buildings. The suspects had used paint to write abstract symbols and heinous expressions throughout the campus. Officers located tracks and evidence left behind by the suspects. A canvas search was conducted and additional evidence was found nearby. Officers were able to track the suspects over two blocks' to a residence. Once there several young men were questioned

and evidence led to the two arrests. The suspects confessed to the crime and were booked at Ridgecrest Police department for Felony Vandalism. They were released to the custody of their respective parents. A representative of SSUSD estimated the damage at \$5,000.00 and requiring several employees to work over the holiday to make repairs and the campus suitable for students



return. In addition to the criminal nature, restitution will be sought for all damages to the complex.



Detectives from the Ridgecrest Police Department and Parole Agents picking up parolees during the sweep.



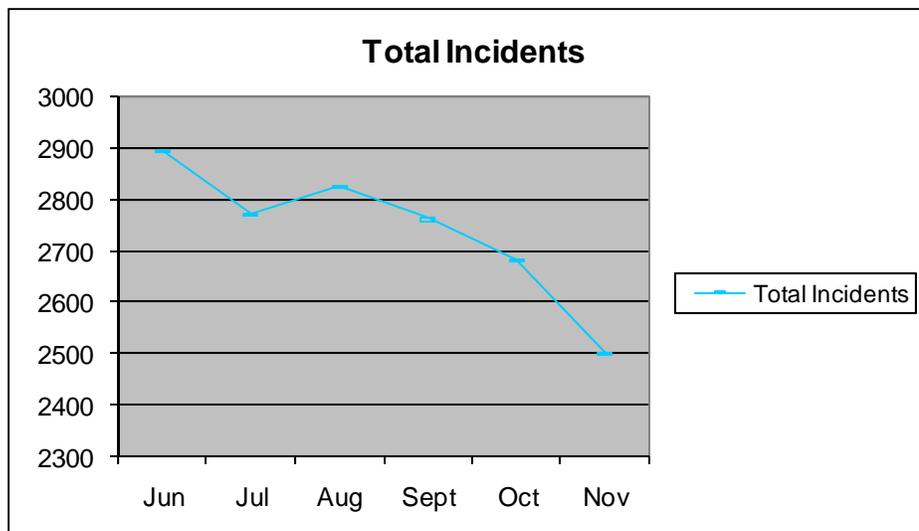
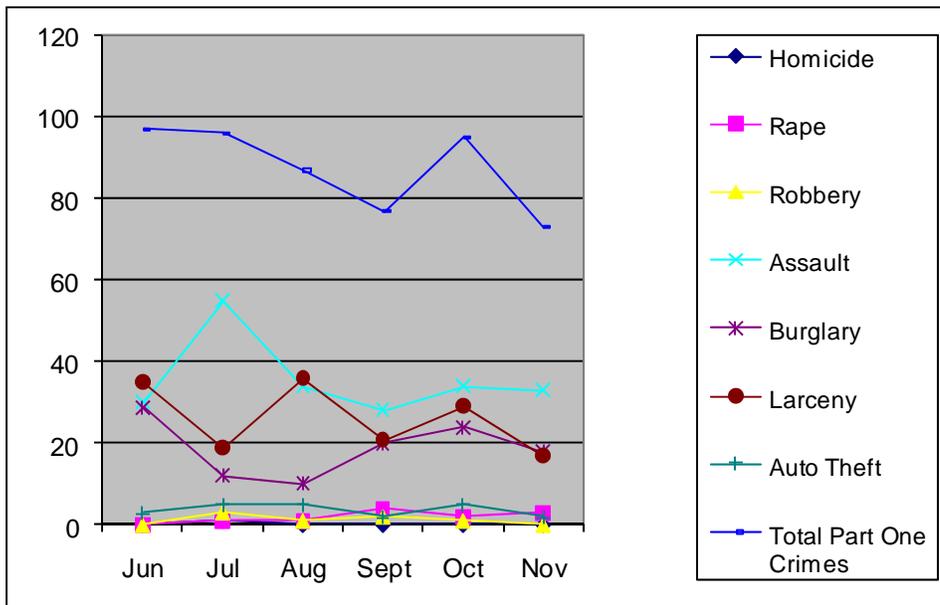
Sergeant Myers and Officer Keys, both of the Traffic Unit, recently went to a motor –x training to improve their skills on the motorcycle. There seems to have been a friendly rivalry. Sergeant Myers (6) and Officer Keys (7)

Ridgecrest Police Department

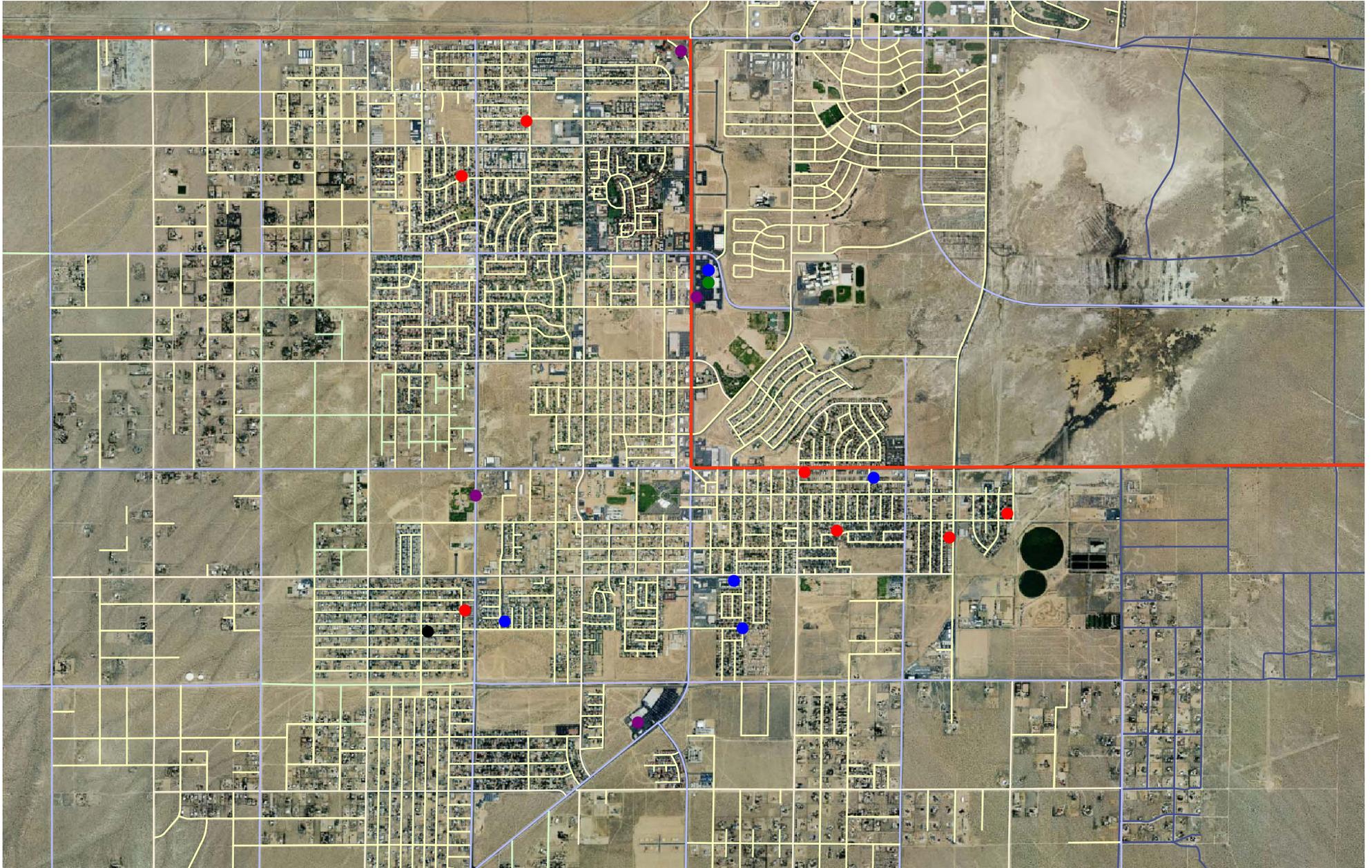
Prepared December 12, 2007

Crime for the Last Six Months

Crimes	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Total
Homicide	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Rape	0	1	1	4	2	3	11
Robbery	0	3	1	2	1	0	7
Assault	30	55	34	28	34	33	214
Burglary	29	12	10	20	24	18	113
Larceny	35	19	36	21	29	17	157
Auto Theft	3	5	5	2	5	2	22
Total Part One Crimes	97	96	87	77	95	73	525
Total Incidents	2895	2772	2826	2762	2682	2500	16437



RIMSMAP - Thefts November 2007



Legend

● Thefts (2-Grand 7-Petty)

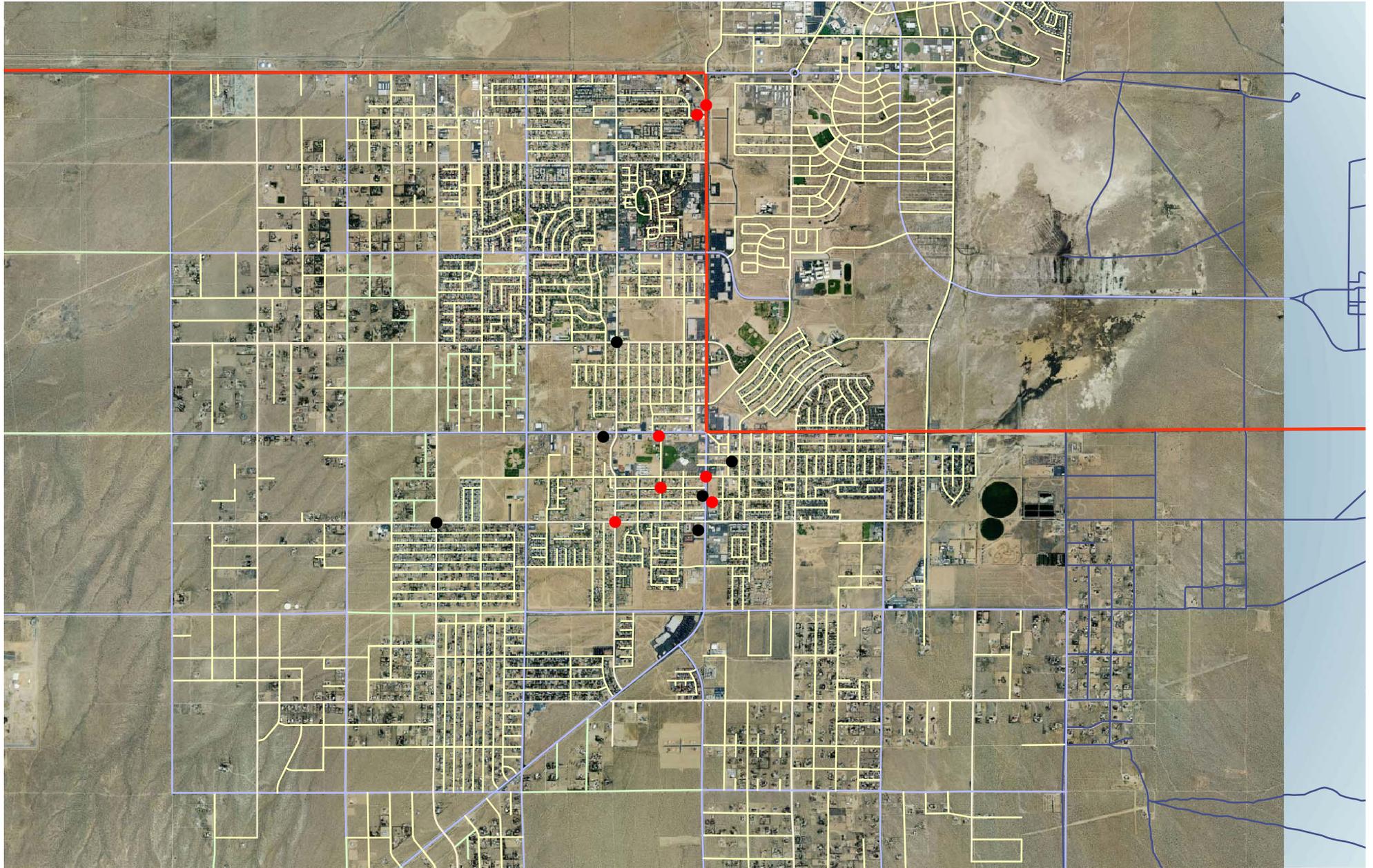
● Shoplift -- 3

● Auto Theft -- 3

● Commercial Burglary -- 8

● Residential Burglary -- 9

RIMSMMap - Traffic Collisions November 2007



Legend

● Non-Injury -- 10

● Injury -- 10

Ridgecrest Police Department



Chief of Police
Michael D. Avery



Police and Community Together

Volume 7, Issue 3

December, 2007

Personnel Changes Mark Season for PACT

Rick Smith Relieves Mike Myers as L.E.D.



Sgt. Mike Myers

PACT's Law Enforcement Director for the last 5 years, Sergeant Mike Myers has stepped down and been relieved by Detective Rick Smith. Sgt. Myers, a 18-year RPD veteran, heads the Traffic Division, and is a motorcycle officer. He worked tirelessly to help steer PACT towards excellence.

Det. Smith joined the RPD in 2005, having served with the Inyo County Sheriff's Office for several years. As Rick's wife Virginia was PACT's Coordinator for almost a year, the Smiths are already part of the extended PACT family. Best wishes and good luck to Mike and Rick in their new duties!



Det. Rick Smith

Nancy Young Returns to PACT Coordinator Post

After a 20-month absence, Nancy Young has been rehired as PACT's Coordinator by the RPD.

Initially, Nancy will focus on revitalizing RPD's Neighborhood Watch program and upgrading the Reverse 911 system. She will be in the office 9-2:30 weekdays.

Welcome back, Nancy!



Nancy Young

Paul Wheeler Heads Support Services

Sergeant Paul Wheeler has been named head of RPD's Support Services Division, under which Police and Community Together operates. Sgt. Wheeler, a 14-year RPD veteran and IWV native, replaces Lt. Kurt Fowler, who retired last July. Welcome!



Sgt. Paul Wheeler

PACT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Marty Dorrell

LAW ENFORCEMENT DIRECTOR

Detective Rick Smith

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- President - Marty Dorrell
- Vice President - Rick Smith
- Secretary - Kathy Truesdale
- Treasurer - Theresa Cook
- Director - Gary Burgner
- Director - Bill Seif
- Director - Larry Trowsdale
- Director - Henry Wilson

CAPTAINS

- Animal Welfare - Larry Trowsdale
- Chaplains - Dr. Ralph Ricco
- Child Identification - Denise Mahoney
- Emergency Opns Ctr - Robert Dickus
- Graffiti Taskforce - David Truesdale
- Nuisance Abatement - Gary Burgner
- Patrol - Bill Maddux
- Surveillance - Henry Wilson

PACT COORDINATOR

Nancy Young

TRAINING COORDINATOR

Vacant

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Gary Burgner

Happy Holidays!
To Our Volunteers,
Police Officers and
RPD Staff, and
the Ridgecrest Community!

Merry Christmas

PACT Gets New Hybrid Patrol Car

PACT has received a new Toyota Camry Hybrid patrol car to replace aging R227, a Ford Crown Victoria. At this writing, the car is awaiting purchase and installation of new graphics, light bars, radios, etc.

The Camry Hybrid uses gasoline, but the drive system is a combination of an electric motor and a relatively small conventional engine. The car also features an electronically-controlled continuously-variable transmission, which is similar to a conventional automatic for the driver. Present-generation hybrids perform best in stop-and-go driving, such as local patrolling.



We are a

United Of Indian Valley Agency Wells



Next Coffee: Dec 26, 6:30 p.m. (Fun Page - p.5)

Board Action

Aug 1: The number of new-member apps in processing is growing for lack of a Coordinator to move them along; the status of those applicants was discussed. The treasury contained \$5548 at the end of June and \$6272 at the end of July. The next coffee will be 22 August at 6:30 p.m.

Sep 5: Treasurer Theresa Cook reports \$6208 in the treasury at the end of August. The Chief's report includes 704 volunteer hours. Gary Burgner showed a draft of the PACT presentation he is developing for Sgt. Paul Wheeler, asking for feedback.

Oct 3: Treasurer Theresa was absent, but reports the treasury contains \$6146. Applicant status was discussed. Twenty-nine apps are in processing; Ginger is doing what she can to move them. PACT has been asked to provide overnight security monitoring for the BHS homecoming, a \$200 paying job. [A few days before the job, it was turned down for lack of staffing.] Board approved purchase of 12 new uniform caps for resale to members. A City-sponsored cleanup is scheduled for November 10; PACT will help staff it pending a show of interest by the Code Enforcement Office in working with PACT. The presentation Gary made to a local group of retirees September 12 was well received. A short version will be put on a DVD for recruiting/public relations use at the Community Dinner November 10.

Nov 7: Treasurer Cook reports \$5617 in the treasury at the end of October, and solicited inputs for the FY07-08 budget. The Chief's report shows 1109.5 hours logged in October, including 213 for the motorcycle grand prix and 67 for DEF patrols, nine subpoenas served out of nine attempted, three evidence transports to Bakersfield, one radar trailer deployment, and four patrols Halloween night. Motorcycle grand prix and DEF parade traffic control jobs reported as well-done. A meeting with Sgt Wheeler, G. Burgner, and Code Enforcement Officer Bob Smith is scheduled for tomorrow prior to committing PACT for cleanup duty November 10. Det. Rick Smith, PACT's new Law Enforcement Director, pointed out that all Directors have been in office longer than Bylaws call for, and Chief would like to see new Directors recruited ASAP. Theresa Cook opened discussion of possibility of PACT joining the Ridgecrest Chamber of Commerce. More info requested before a motion would be entertained. Marty and Rick will attempt to conduct a driving Academy class ASAP. More volunteers are needed to staff the Christmas Parade December 8.



Commander's Corner

- Marty Dorrell, Exec. Director

Holiday greetings to you all! As 2007 wanes and we see 2008 looming on the horizon, I want to once again thank you for the time and energy put forth supporting your community.

As we drew closer to the end of 2007 the PACT organization experienced some changes with the hiring of a new PACT coordinator (welcome back, Nancy Young!), the creation of a twenty-hour position to supplement the PACT coordinator, the exit of Sgt. Mike Myers as the Law Enforcement Director, and the entrance of Det. Rick Smith as his successor (welcome aboard, Rick!).

With the new year approaching, preparations are being made to schedule a series of PACT academy classes, as we have several volunteers who have not completed the required courses. My last glance at the applicant roster showed about thirty new applicants who, if successful, will need to attend classes in order to be effective volunteers. These classes are important as, they provide volunteers the "basics" on PACT and RPD policy, procedures, and uniform requirements. We will provide as much advance notice as possible on the classes in case we have current volunteers who want or need to attend.

2008 will be another busy year and I look forward to working with you all throughout the new year.

May you have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

-Marty Dorrell



Volunteers Still Needed for Christmas Parade Traffic Control

As in the previous several years, uniformed PACT members will man intersections along the the December 8 Ridgecrest Christmas Parade route to secure the route during the parade and assist motorists in finding detours to their destinations. Several more volunteers are needed; please call Nancy or Ginger at 499-5107 to sign up.

Clarification of Uniform Code, re: Shorts

A memo to PACT members from the Board of Directors dated July 22, 1998 was found recently in the archives that allows *non-administrative* PACT personnel to wear black shorts as part of their uniforms.

This amendment to the prior uniform code did not make it into the PACT Academy material on uniform standards, and some members were confused as a result (including your Editor!). Approved shorts' legs must extend down to within 6" of the knee midpoint, and must be worn with *plain white* socks (crew length maximum) and *black* shoes. Jean shorts are not acceptable. The same memo reiterates the requirement that volunteers working in the police station are still required to wear long pants (black non-faded jeans are allowed, but dress cotton or polyester uniform style is preferred).

Caps are optional, but may be worn only with a uniform, and must bear approved insignia. The Board is considering modifications/clarifications of cap standards. A number of caps are available at cost (~\$16).

PACT Provides Halloween Patrols

Nine PACT volunteers patrolled the streets of Ridgecrest October 31 to enhance the safety of our trick-or-treaters and report any problems to RPD.

Henry Wilson, Surveillance Captain, organized the patrol, which began just after sunset and continued until after 9 p.m. Also participating were Frances Simpson, Francie Lewis, Ginger Chamberlain, Mary Kubin, Minnie Castro, Mary Sandstrom, Gary Burgner, and Bill Schrader.



PACT Board Members Being Sought

PACT's Board of Directors invites all PACT volunteers to apply for a position on the Board. The nominal term provided by the Bylaws is two years, and all present Directors have served beyond that allotment. Length of service in PACT is not a specific requirement, so even new members can serve on the Board. Approvals by the Law Enforcement Director (Det. Rick Smith) and the Executive Director (Marty Dorrell) are required. They can be reached at 499-5100 and 977-8950, respectively.

(Board meetings are at 7 p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month in the Chief's Conference Rm. PACT members are welcome.)

PACT Nuisance Abatement Team Cleans Up

Ten PACT volunteers helped staff the City's reactivated neighborhood cleanup program November 10. The cleanup was sponsored and coordinated by Code Enforcement Officer Bob Smith and Danielle Valentine of the Community Services Department. The targeted neighborhood was that between West Ridgecrest Blvd and Upjohn and between S. China Lake Blvd and Downs.

Benz Sanitation provided several roll-off dumpsters at the intersection of Church and Norma where area residents could dispose of trash and recyclables, saving many trips to the county landfill. Volunteers also manned shovels and rakes to clean up several eyesore vacant lots in the neighborhood. Volunteers hauled residents' trash to the dumpster site on request for folks with no means of hauling. Benz hauled nearly six tons of tires, old appliances and furniture, televisions, tree prunings, and trash to the county landfill by the end of the 4-hour event.

The last City-sponsored cleanup was in June, 2004. PACT was a major factor in organizing and staffing many past cleanups, and those efforts produced very noticeable improvements in many areas, observed PACT's Nuisance-Abatement Captain, Gary Burgner. But the City's blight-mitigation efforts have been focused on other methods for about three years. However, present City staff is anxious to perform more hands-on



PACT Volunteer Lou Arnold pauses to catch a breath before dragging an old sofa out of a vacant lot on Robertson Avenue. Lou was able to borrow a dump truck from Bud Eyre Chevrolet to help haul the larger items. (Photo by Gary Burgner)

cleanups in specific areas, with PACT and other volunteer groups providing the manpower. "It's tiring and dirty work, but when you see the great improvement taking place before your eyes, you want to just keep at it until a whole area, and the whole city, is trash-free," observed Burgner. There is potential for injury due to the nails, wire, broken glass, etc. involved, but gloves, dust masks, and proper tools are provided the volunteers, and so far there have been no injuries.

PACT volunteers participating in the latest cleanup included Mary Kubin, Mary Sandstrom, Francie Lewis, Vicki Peach and daughter Autumn, Bob Atkinson, Lou Arnold, Bobby Copeland and son Travis, in addition to Burgner. Look for another opportunity to clean up in February.



Viewfinders' Ridgecrest Grand Prix Provides Fundraiser for PACT

The annual Ridgecrest Viewfinders Motorcycle Grand Prix not only provides excitement for participants and a spectacle for observers, but has evolved into PACT's principal fundraiser. Viewfinders MC is a southern California off-road motorcycle club sanctioned by the American Motorcyclist Association.

Viewfinders rents the Desert Empire Fair facilities for the two-day event, and the DEF Board of Directors pays PACT to provide traffic control and course monitoring. The course centers on the Fairgrounds, but extends east, west, and/or south into



adjoining vacant desert land and onto city streets, requiring some street closures and strictly-controlled access. Spectator safety is also an issue at certain turns, and PACT directs spectators to safe areas to watch the races. (Henry Wilson photo)

Community Dinner Recruiters

Three PACT volunteers put in some long hours November 10 manning a recruiting booth at the Rotary's Community Dinner. Frances Simpson (l), Henry Wilson (taking the picture below), and Ginger Chamberlain started setting up mid-morning and worked the booth until about 9 p.m. explaining to dinner guests what PACT does and encouraging applications.



A 10-minute a/v program, assembled by Gary Burgner, was shown on the TV at left. This program, available on DVD in the PACT office, is a shorter version of a live presentation he originally delivered September 12 to the Retired Public Employees Ass'n.

Captains' Reports

Animal Welfare



-Larry Trowsdale



Members of the Animal Welfare Unit promote animal welfare by assisting the staff at the Ridgecrest Animal Shelter. Volunteers clean and maintain facilities, work with the animals, and provide computer and office assistance. There are occasional off-site activities as well. We've recently implemented additional training and mentoring for new volunteers.

As always, there is much to do. Contact either Mary Stage at the shelter or me (375-0310) and learn how you can join the team.



Child I.D.

-Denise Mahoney



PACT conducts a Child Identification program that gives parents and police a head start if a child disappears. Parents are given a pamphlet containing their child's vital statistics, photograph, and fingerprints to aid in the search.

Call Denise at 939-9412 (w) if you want to help with future events.



Nuisance Abatement

-Gary Burgner



The Nuisance Abatement program consists presently of shopping cart recovery, and clean-ups of neighborhoods and illegal dumpings. The last cleanup was November 10, in which 10 PACT volunteers participated (see article, p. 3). Discussions are underway to explore ways to assist the City's Code Enforcement Office.

The latest of seven shopping-cart roundups



Jesus Garcia Looking for Space to Load One More

so far in 2007 netted 62 carts, bringing the total to 1508 since the project started in November of 2003. Cart theft seems to be on the rise, and another roundup is planned for December 2. If you want to get involved, call me at 446-2874.

EOC (Emergency Operations Center)



-Bob Dickus



PACT assists RPD and the City of Ridgecrest, in preparing, coordinating, and maintaining the RPD's Emergency Operations Center and its satellite equipment. All PACT members are subject to call-out to assist with EOC, and are therefore an integral part of the area's disaster preparedness team.

In a major emergency, the two conference rooms in the RPD station (which are specially equipped) will be used as the area's Emergency Operations Centers. The EOC team maintains those facilities in a ready condition.

Another of our responsibilities is hosting, on behalf of the Chief of Police, monthly luncheon meetings of the Indian Wells Emergency Services Committee (IWVESC). The IWVESC is a conglomerate of public and private groups in the valley that work together during emergencies. These meetings are held the first Thursday of each month except July and August. The next meeting is December 6 in the Kerr McGee Center. A member or guest agency usually provides a speaker or makes an interesting presentation. Lunch is provided for a \$3 donation. PACT members are welcome.

If you want to play an important role in disaster response, call me at 375-2635.



Graffiti Task Force

-Dave Truesdale



The objective of the taskforce is to remove graffiti as soon as possible after it is reported (by the public, police, or anyone else). Graffiti has been increasing recently, and several volunteers are now trained how to use the equipment to respond quickly to new tagging, especially on weekdays.

The mobile sandblasting rig has recently been overhauled and upgraded, with assistance

from the RPD and a \$700 grant from United Way. It is now in prime condition to blast ugly graffiti off concrete and block walls, but Dave needs a few volunteers to help him.

All PACT members are requested to be on the alert to graffiti and report it to the PACT Office (499-5107), RPD front desk (499-5100), or Dave at 499-1099.



Patrol -Bill Maddux



Patrol is a many-faceted task. Lumped into patrol are vacation house check, preventive patrol, stakeouts, special operations, traffic control, overlaps with surveillance functions, and the writing of parking violations. Patrol provides extra eyes and ears for regular patrol officers, deters crime, and helps spot graffiti, stray dogs, traffic accidents, and other problems. Preventive patrols are used at high-traffic times to encourage good driving by the public and are manned by PACT volunteers in regular black-and-white cars. Patrolling is a good way for new members to practice radio procedures, driving, general operations, and meet other PACT members. Call me at 375-2756 to get involved and check out our new hybrid Camry!

Surveillance



-Henry Wilson



At the request of the RPD, PACT conducts surveillance operations. Because these often concern on-going investigations, some cannot be reported in this newsletter, nor can the PACT members involved be identified and given the credit they deserve for their efforts.

Surveillance operations often overlap with patrol functions, but tend to be organized on short notice, often at night. Nighttime surveillance equipment is being studied to identify systems to assist in thwarting and identifying graffiti vandals. (See article on p.2 re: Halloween patrols)

Twenty volunteers are presently on the Surveillance team, and a similar number have taken training in the subject. If you're interested in helping, call Henry at 677-9012.



Just For Laughs!

"You can see a lot by observing." -Yogi Berra

Definition: Santa's helpers are subordinate clauses



Hot Investment Tip:



Watch for these consolidations in 2008:

- Polygram Records, Warner Bros., and ZestaCrackers → Poly, Warner Cracker
- Zippo Manufacturing, AudiMotors, Dofasco, & Dakota Mining → Zip Audi Do Da
- Hale Business Systems, Mary Kay Cosmetics, Fuller Brush, and W. R. Grace → Hale, Mary, Fuller, Grace.
- 3M and Goodyear → MMM Good
- FedEx and UPS → FedUP.
- Grey Poupon and Docker Pants → Poupon Pants.
- Fairchild Electronics and Honeywell Computers → Fairwell Honeychild
- Knotts Berry Farm and the National Organization of Women → Knott NOW!



"Mrs. Ward, this is Doctor Jones at the Medical Testing Lab. When your doctor sent your husband's biopsy to the lab yesterday, a biopsy from another Mr. Ward arrived as well, and we are now uncertain which one is your husband's. The results are either bad or terrible."



Blood Work

"What do you mean?" Mrs. Ward asks nervously.

"Well, one of the specimens tested positive for Alzheimer's and the other one tested positive for AIDS. We can't tell which is your husband's."

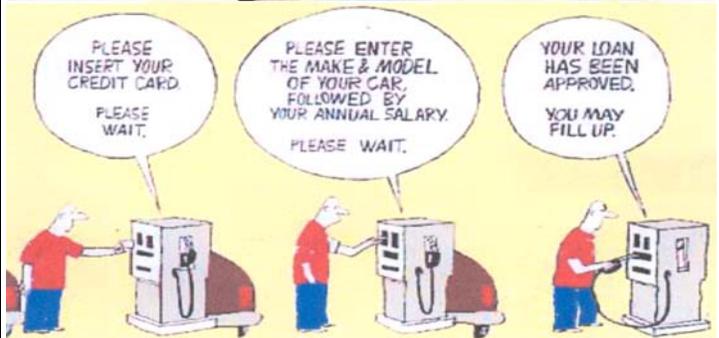
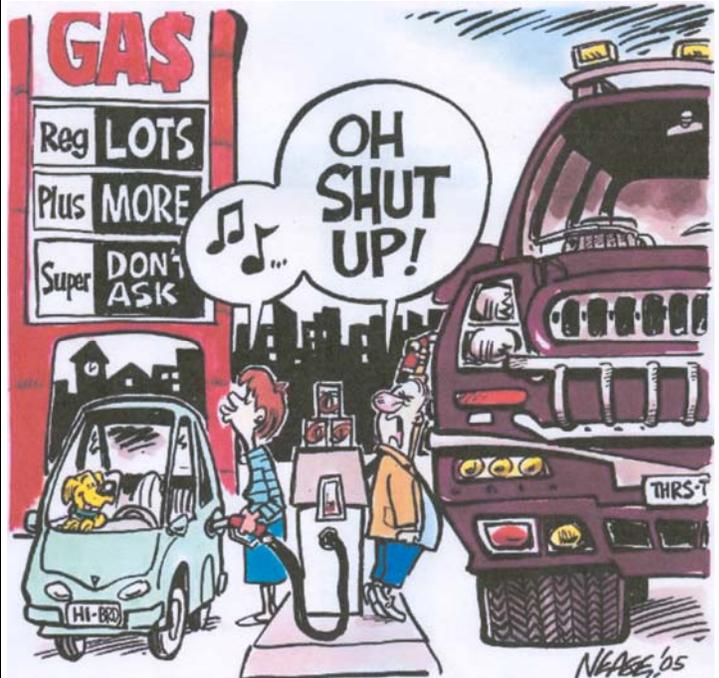


"That's dreadful! Can't you do the test again?" questioned Mrs. Ward.

"Normally we can, but Medicare will only pay for these expensive tests one time."

"Well, what am I supposed to do now?"

"The people at Medicare recommend that you drop your husband off somewhere in the middle of town. If he finds his way home, don't sleep with him."



The Tomato Garden

An old man lived alone in the country. He wanted to dig his tomato garden, but it was very hard work as the ground was hard. His only son, Vincent, who used to help him, was in prison. The old man wrote a letter to his son and described his predicament.

"Dear Vincent, I am feeling pretty badly because it looks like I won't be able to plant my tomato garden this year. I'm just getting too old to be digging up a garden plot. I know if you were here my troubles would be over. I know you would be happy to dig the plot for me. Love, Dad"

A few days later he received a letter from his son. "Dear Dad, Don't dig up that garden. That's where I buried the bodies. Love, Vinnie"

At 4 a.m. the next morning, FBI agents and local police arrived and dug up the entire area without finding any bodies. They apologized to the old man and left. That same day the old man received another letter from his son.

"Dear Dad, Go ahead and plant the tomatoes now. That's the best I could do under the circumstances. Love you, Vinnie"

December 2007

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23/30	24/31	25	26	27	28	29



January 2008

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		



February 2008

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	



Flex Fridays

- 5 Capts & Board mtg 6 pm
- 6 IWESC mtg, K-M Center
11:30 am (lunch)
- 8 Ridgecrest Christmas
Parade (10 a.m., PACT
traffic control)
- 25 Christmas Day
- 26 Coffee, RPD Conference
room, 6:30 pm

Coming Events

- 1 New Year's Day
- 2 Capts & Board mtg 6 pm
- 3 IWESC mtg, K-M Center
11:30 am (lunch)
- 21 Martin L. King's Birthday
- 30 Coffee, RPD Conference
room 11:30 pm

Holidays

- 6 Capts & Board mtg 6 pm
- 7 IWESC mtg, K-M Center
11:30 am (lunch)
- 12 Lincoln's Birthday
- 14 Valentine's Day
- 18 Presidents' Day
- 22 Washington's Birthday,
Winter begins
- 27 Coffee, RPD Conference
room 11:30

A Few Good Men and Women

Know any reliable, honest, trustworthy folks who would like to spend 2 or more hours a month working with Ridgecrest's Finest? Then give him or her a copy of this Newsletter and send them to the PD or have them call 499-5107 for a PACT application package.



**Police and Community
Together**

Police and Community Together
Ridgecrest Police Department
100 W. California Ave
Ridgecrest CA 93555
Phone 760 499-5107
Email: pact@ci.ridgecrest.ca.us



**RIDGECREST POLICE DEPARTMENT
MONTHLY REPORT
NOVEMBER 2007**

	2007 NOV MTD	NOV YTD	2006 NOV MTD	NOV YTD	2007 NOV YTD
<u>Crime/Reports:</u>					
Part-One Crimes	73	973	144	1072	-9%
All other Crime Reports	134	1788	181	1888	-5%
Traffic Accidents	20	171	14	288	-41%
Miscellaneous Reports	88	958	88	890	8%
Traffic Citations	238	3011	345	3299	-9%
All other Reports	15	129	12	98	32%
Total of all Reports	330	4019	439	4236	-5%
<u>Arrests:</u>					
Part 1 Arrests	37	347	44	360	-4%
Narcotic Related Arrests	11	257	25	350	-27%
All other Felony Arrests	24	181	25	224	-19%
Total other Misd. Arrests	116	1473	127	1357	9%
Total all Arrests	188	2258	221	2291	-1%
Total all Juvenile Arrests	44	511	39	406	26%
Total all Adult Arrests	144	1747	182	1885	-7%
<u>General Information:</u>					
Total Service Hours	2266	25372	2042	22146	15%
Total Activity Hours	1580	18094	1397	15314	18%
Total Patrol Hours	686	7277	645	6833	6%
Total Calls for Service	2500	29550	2774	27210	9%
Total Value Prop. Stolen	32032	679185	55474	604229	12%
Total Value Prop. Recovered	4506	241371	8685	293279	-18%



ACCIDENT SUMMARY BY SEVERITY FOR 2007

12/5/2007

MONTH	NUMBER	---- ACCIDENT CLASSIFICATION ----					---- INJURY TOTALS ----		
		FATAL	MAJOR	UNKNOWN	MINOR	NO INJ	FATAL	MAJOR	MINOR
January	13	0	0	6	6	1	0	0	9
February	9	0	1	3	5	0	0	1	3
March	20	0	1	6	12	1	0	1	9
April	12	0	0	2	9	1	0	0	4
May	14	0	1	7	6	0	0	1	14
June	17	0	2	4	10	1	0	2	6
July	16	0	0	3	12	1	0	0	5
August	19	0	2	3	13	1	0	2	3
September	21	0	1	8	12	0	0	0	10
October	16	0	1	5	10	0	0	1	5
November	20	0	0	9	11	0	0	0	13
December	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	177	0	9	56	106	6	0	8	81



ACCIDENTS BY TYPE OF COLLISION FOR 2007

12/5/2007

MONTH	NO. OF ACCIDENTS	----- COLLISIONS INVOLVING ... -----			
		VEHICLES	MOTORCYCLES	BICYCLES	PEDESTRIANS
JANUARY	13	12	0	2	0
FEBRUARY	9	9	0	1	1
MARCH	20	19	1	1	1
APRIL	12	11	1	0	1
MAY	14	14	1	1	0
JUNE	17	16	0	0	2
JULY	16	13	1	1	0
AUGUST	19	18	0	1	2
SEPTEMBER	21	21	0	2	0
OCTOBER	16	16	1	0	1
NOVEMBER	20	19	2	0	2
DECEMBER	0	0	0	0	0
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
TOTALS	177	168	7	9	10



ACCIDENTS INVOLVING DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE FOR 2007

12/5/2007

MONTH	NO. OF ACCIDENTS	DUI INVOLVED	FATAL DUI	NO. FATALITIES
JANUARY	13	0	0	0
FEBRUARY	9	1	0	0
MARCH	20	1	0	0
APRIL	12	0	0	0
MAY	14	5	0	0
JUNE	17	1	0	0
JULY	16	3	0	0
AUGUST	19	1	0	0
SEPTEMBER	21	1	0	0
OCTOBER	16	1	0	0
NOVEMBER	20	4	0	0
DECEMBER	0	0	0	0
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
TOTALS	177	18	0	0

**RIDGECREST POLICE DEPARTMENT
INVESTIGATIVE SECTION STATISTICS
MONTHLY SUMMARY**

NOVEMBER 2007

CATEGORY	TOTAL
NEW CASES	306
CASES OVER FROM PREVIOUS MONTH	99
REFERRED TO D.A.	93
BY ARREST	45
CLEARED BY OTHER MEANS	147
INACTIVE	21
ACTIVE CASES OPEN @ END OF MONTH	99
PROPERTY RECOVERED	\$ 4,729.74

PREPARED BY: Antoinette Agostinacci APPROVED BY: _____

RIDGECREST POLICE DEPARTMENT

PROPERTY AND EVIDENCE TECHNICIAN MONTHLY SUMMARY

MONTH: NOVEMBER 2007

ACTIVE CASES OPEN

CARRIED OVER	187
NEW ACTIVE CASES	17
REACTIVATED CASES	0
TOTAL	204

CASES CLEARED

RETURNED TO OWNER	3
DESTROYED	0
REASSIGNED TO INVESTIGATOR	0
INACTIVE	0
OTHER / AUCTION	0
TOTAL	201

ACTIVE CASES	0
--------------	---

PROPERTY/EVIDENCE HANDLED

DESTROYED / DEST. BIN	0
RETURNED TO OWNER	3
OTHER	0
NEW CASES IN	0
TOTAL	3

PREPARED BY: Antoinette Agostinacci APPROVED BY: _____

Overtime Use

<i>Overtime Type</i>	<i>Total Of Total Hours</i>
51 Support Services	29
52 Kern Count Patrol	1.5
54 San Bernardino County Services	2
55 Ridgecrest Patrol	262.75
56 Shelter Services	544.25
AM Administrative Duty Meetings	1401.25
AR Administrative Duty Records	117
ARM Administrative Duty Repair/Maintenance	65
AS Administrative Duty Station Assingments	339.5
AT Administrative Duty Records	1.5
AT Administrative Duty Training	3465
CA Court Appearance	2040.5
CS Court Stand-by	219
IF Investigations Criminal Follow Up	2344
II Investigations Interviews	479
IR Investigations Traffic Related	258
IV Investigations Vice / Narcotics	530.75
PB Prisoner booking	662.75
PM Prisoner matron duty	21
PR Prisoner release/feeding	15.5
PT Prisoner transportation	1355.25
RC Report Writing Criminal	2155
RI Report Writing Information	150.75
RT Report Writing Traffic	342
SC Shift Coverage In Court	74.5
SCHEDULED OT	0
SE Special Events	4029
SL Shift Coverage On Sick Leave	2178
SL Shift Coverage On Time Off	12

<i>Overtime Type</i>	<i>Total Of Total Hours</i>
SS Shift Coverage Shortage	4532.75
ST Shift Coverage On Time Off	1914.5
<i>Total Hours</i>	29543

PACT MONTHLY REPORT

November 2007

<u>PACT Volunteer</u>	<u>Hours</u>		
Executive Director	0.0		
Financial	2.5		
Fundraiser	31.0		
Training	0.0		
Administrative RPD	182.0		
Administrative Org	75.0		
Vehicle Maint.	0.0		
Animal Welfare	262.5		
Child ID	0.0		
EOC	2.0		
Graffiti Task Force	0.0		
Nuisance Abatement	42.5		
Patrol	139.5		
Vac. House checks		# of sites: 15	checks: 14
Preventive Patrol	0.0		
Surveillance	0.0		
PACT HOURS	737.0	YTD Hours for 2007	9506.25
Non-member hours	0.0	YTD Hours for 2006	8813.5
Chaplain hours	0.0		
TOTAL HOURS	737.0	Total Hours for 2006	9740.0

Volunteers served nine subpoenas and attempted to serve ten more,

Four evidence runs were made to Bakersfield.

Radar trailer went out twice in the month of November.

PACT Volunteer Henry Wilson was called out for two separate traffic accidents to assist with traffic control.

PACT Volunteer Henry Wilson once again called out to assist with evidence watch at RRH until the Sheriff's deputy arrived to take over.

The November PACT Coffee was attended by twelve people as well as Detective Rick Smith, the new LED for PACT and Nancy Young, PACT Coordinator.

Kathy Armstrong has donated and decorated a beautiful Holiday tree in the lobby of the Police Department.

Prepared by Nancy Young PACT Coordinator

RIDGECREST POLICE DEPARTMENT

RESERVE ORGANIZATION

MONTHLY SUMMARY

November, 2007

	Current Month	YTD Total
Reserve Hrs.	90.00	1166.5

During the Month of November, Reserve Officers worked the following hours:

Officer Kiren	4
Officer Dysart	11.5
Officer Schatz	6
Officer Robbs	25
Officer Dorrell	19.5
Officer Regan	4
Officer Mitchell	12

This month, members of the Reserve Organization augmented Patrol, assisted with Range, provided prisoner transports, Burroughs Football games.

Prepared by;



Tony Brown
Sergeant

PUBLIC SERVICES RIDGECREST

Public Services

Telephone 449-5060 - Fax 499-1580

NOVEMBER MEETINGS

- Nov. 02 - CCTC, California Cultural & Heritage Tourism Council Mtg.
Nov. 02 - Willows Groundbreaking
Nov. 03 - Community Service Award Dinner, Ridgecrest LDS
Nov. 08 - CIWMB Mtg.
Nov. 13 - Assembly-Woman Fuller Mtg.
Nov. 13 - Olde Towne Mtg.
Nov. 14 - KernCOG Blueprint Mtg.
Nov. 15 - WEMO—HCP Mtg. Palmdale.
Nov. 27 - W. Ridgecrest Blvd. Scoping Mtg.
Nov. 30 - Benz Sanitation Mtg.

Additional regular meetings in support of various activities and ongoing projects of interest to the city were attended.

PUBLIC SERVICES

James McRea

Public Services Director

Gary Parsons

Economic Development Manager

Matthew Alexander, AICP

City Planner

Bob Smith

Code Enforcement Officer

Danielle Valentine

Administrative Secretary

The Public Services Department and Engineering continue review of the Wal-Mart Supercenter Project. The Project Management Team of Community Services, Planning, Public Works, Public Safety, and the City Engineer meet regularly and is in the process of developing a design recommendation for discussion by the City Council. The Draft Environmental Impact Report was circulated and is in the process of being revised for presentation as the Final Document along with the Application for Site Plan Review of the Project by the Planning Commission. The Project may not be considered until early next year. The New Rite-Aid has also selected an opening date for next January. As the holiday season approaches several projects and programs will slow down and be held over to the new year.

Recycling Programs and Community Awareness are major components of the recent Compliance Order which directs the City to work in concert with the Integrated Waste Management Board staff to bring Ridgecrest into conformance with State Guidelines on Waste Stream Diversion. The City Council and the Community Development Committee have approved the Local Assistance Plan. The Plan contains nine (9) components:

- New Waste Generation Characterization Study and New Base Year
- Public Outreach Education Program
- Maintain Existing Green Waste Efforts
- Establish Mandatory Commercial On-site Collection of Recyclables
- Establish a Mandatory Residential Recycling Program & M.R.F.
- Community Clean-Up Events
- On Campus Recycling at Public Schools
- City Government Recycling
- Quarterly and Annual Documentation and Reports



Radley
Ridgecrest
Recycles!

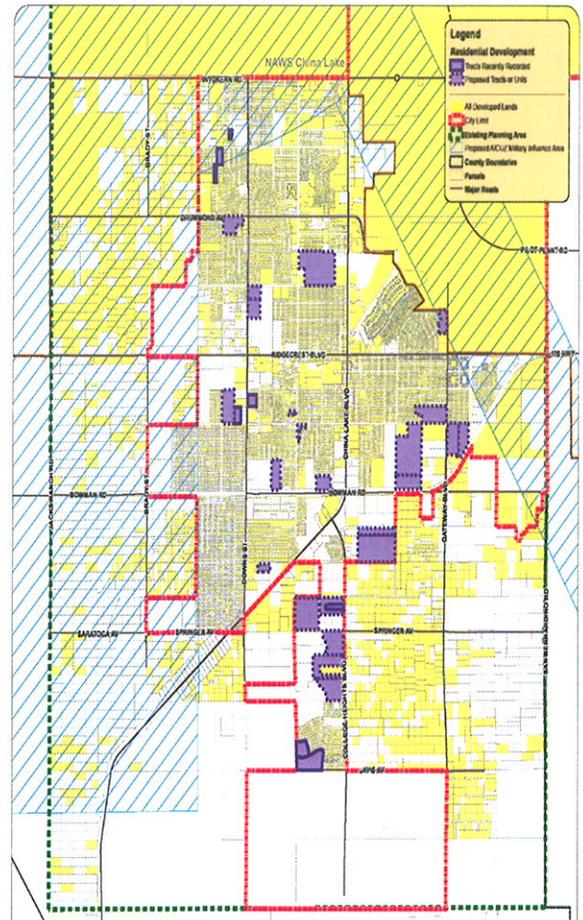
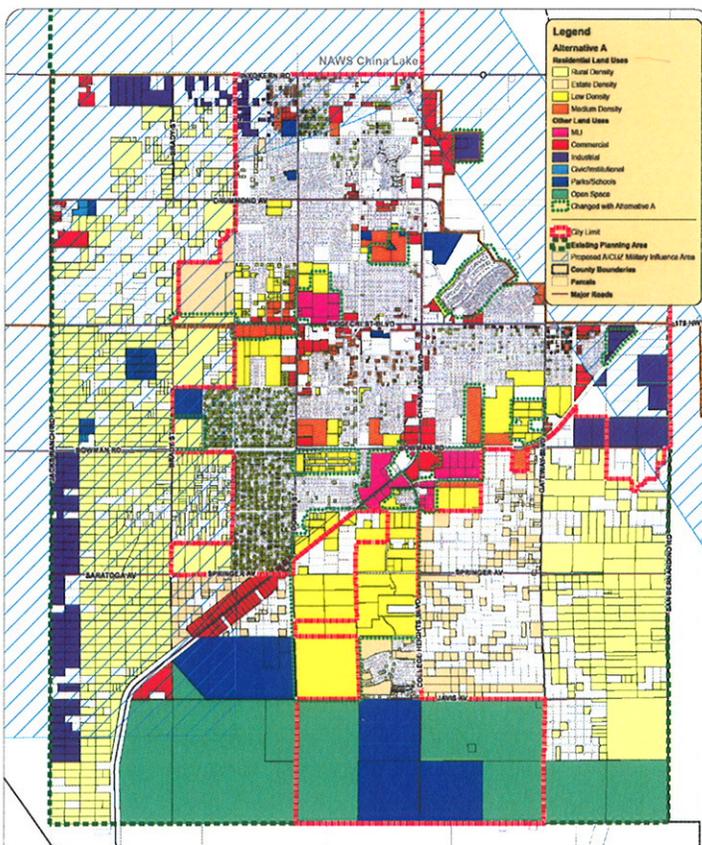
GENERAL PLAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

On December 4, 2007 the General Plan Advisory Committee held its tenth meeting which included discussion of Development Alternatives, including numerous resource maps.

DEVELOPMENT ALTERNATIVES

In order to foster a discussion of Development Alternatives GPAC considered a review of the following maps:

- Existing Land Use
- Existing Zoning
- Existing General Plan
- Available Land
- Available Land (Aerial View)
- Proposed Residential Development Alternative A



The Pending Residential Development Map (above), identifies the current commitments the City has on behalf of approved tentative tract maps – purple surrounded by broken lines and recently approved final subdivision maps – purple surrounded by solid lines.

GPAC discussed the feasibility of Mixed Use, Western Expansion, Southern Expansion and Commercial lands. It was the consensus of GPAC that mixed use should be applied at the discretion of the developer, that expansion beyond the current city limits should be curtailed on behalf of the MIA and biologically sensitive BLM lands and that more discussion is needed regarding the appropriate designation of commercial lands.

Map Alternative A, (above) identifies the existing General Plan designations for vacant (available) lands in the Planning Area. BLM land on the south end of the City was included for discussion. Map 4 (available land) is used as the basis for the land use model. Review this map, its role in land use modeling, and discuss the land use model and assumptions. Review and refine parcel specific alternatives interactively with staff. Land use model will be used to evaluate changes, allowing for a real time “what-if” discussion.

PLANNING COMMISSION:

On December 4, 2007, the Planning Commission met and considered one public hearing item and two discussion items.

The Planning Commission considered the following public hearing item:

Site Plan Review SPR-07-09 Ridgecrest Hospital Co-Generation Plant.

The Planning Commission approved the application to build a new central plant located in the northwest corner of the rear parking lot of the Ridgecrest Regional Hospital located at 1081 N China Lake Boulevard consisting of a 30' x 67' x 16' high block building and equipment.

Discussion Item #1 – Draft General Plan

Molly Bosley, (Matrix Design Group), addressed the Commission highlighting the characteristics of the new zoning ordinance saying that the intent was to build upon the existing regulations and improve it. She said that surveys had been conducted to uncover best practices and that modernizing the ordinance was another focus. Ms. Bosley said that Matrix' intent was to ensure that the ordinance reflected the needs of the community. She added that items found to frequently cause conflict would be addressed to make the ordinance more "friendly". Ms. Bosley said that the new ordinance would include graphics and definitions for ease of use and interpretation.

Discussion Item #2 – Discussion of AMG Property located on Richmond St. at Upjohn Ave.

Kristen Weirick of AMG Associates had asked that the Planning Commission provide feedback on a request to reconsider amending the land use/zoning classification of property located on Richmond Street at Upjohn Avenue – owned by AMG – from commercial to residential.

Ms. Weirick then addressed the Commission. She said she had listened to the GPAC discuss reducing the available commercial land within the City earlier in the evening and that this request would assist in that endeavor. Ms. Weirick said that previously the Planning Commission had voted 3:2 stating a preference to maintain the commercial corridor along Richmond and that that argument had diminished by subsequent re-zonings. She went on to say that AMG's vision for the site was more appropriate than a 7acre

commercial site. Ms. Weirick said it was AMG's assertion that there was no need for such a commercial development on this site and she proposed maintaining the commercial designation adjacent to Richmond to a depth of 200 feet with the remaining area to be designated residential. She said this would be more consistent with other commercial developments in the area. Ms. Weirick then said that a residential subdivision (versus a commercial project) adjacent to the current residential developments would be preferable for residents.

Commissioner Laire said he liked this revised plan and he did not have a problem with it.

Commissioner Jeglum said she was against lessening access to Richmond Road and that she was not sure that commercial wasn't a good use for the area given the closeness to the fairground and what she believed would be a growing need to access the back gate of the base.

Vice-Chair Taylor said that he did not believe in the relinquishing of Richmond Street. He agreed with the adjusted commercial development proposal.

Commissioner Jeglum noted that currently there was a lot of water flow on the south side of Upjohn that dumped into the proposed development area and therefore drainage would be a concern.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

The completion of the Rite Aid project is scheduled for early January with a final punch list being developed. Other projects include restoration of Burger King which is currently in the building plan check and planning review process.

Several other retail projects are currently being discussed and will be further considered after the BRAC determination has been announced.

Meetings attended this month included a preliminary relocation discussion for individuals involved in the BRAC process, training on Special District Formation, IWV2000 2008 Outlook Conference, development of a truck parking facility, as well as monthly meetings of local groups involved in economic development.

Staff has been working on several ideas for a senior housing development in Ridgecrest and has ongoing discussions with several developers in an effort to bring a senior housing facility to the community.



100 W. California Ave.
Attn: Code Enforcement
Ridgecrest, Ca 93555

Phone: 760-499-5065
Fax: 760-499-1580

Monthly Report

November 2007

PACT and Code Enforcement to join forces

The Police and Community Together volunteer organization and the Ridgecrest Code Enforcement Division are excited to announce that plans to join forces in the abatement of nuisances across the city began in the month of November.

“Meetings between the two organizations have been held and positive ideas of the implementation of the program have been discussed,” said Code Enforcement Investigator Bob Smith. “I’m excited to have PACT help me in my efforts to make Ridgecrest a better place to live. I think there are several areas that PACT will be able to fill for the department as we look to add more coverage area on a weekly basis.”

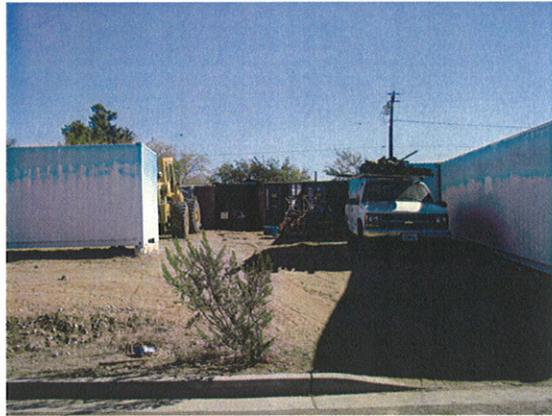
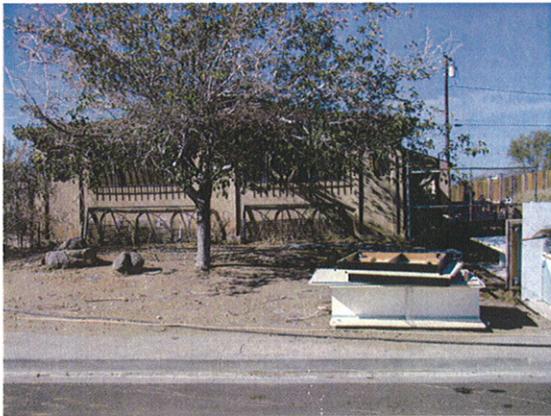
Final plans and the implementation of the program are expected to be in place by mid-January 2008.

“I urge anyone wishing to be a part of this new determined effort to join PACT and become a part of a winning team,” said Smith.

PHOTO GALLERY
Abandoned Home on Graaf St.



Continued Work in Ridgcrest Heights





12/17/07

Files

CloseDate Greater Than or Equal to '11/10/2007' AND CloseDate Less Than or Equal to '12/17/2007'

File#	OpenDate	CloseDate	Description	PropertyAddress	CycleTime
07-000822	10/26/2007	11/13/2007	Trash collected behind business	721 INYOKERN Road	18
07-000823	10/10/2007	12/17/2007	Local Business painted signs on new business venture with no sign permit.	233 West Ridgecrest Boulevard	68
07-000824	10/26/2007	12/17/2007	Businesses overwatering on Downs at Inyokern RD.		52
07-000828	10/25/2007	12/17/2007	Motorhome has people defecating in public, fires, and living in junk		53
07-000829	10/25/2007	12/17/2007	Dust from Development is affecting equipment.		53
07-000837	11/05/2007	12/17/2007	Briarwood Aptment Complex #1 in disrepair and the trees are dying.		42
07-000730	08/03/2007	12/17/2007	Sidewalk removed with no permit. RV blocking the ROW.	1437 South PORTER Street	136
07-000744	08/09/2007	12/17/2007	Build up of junk and debris in the yard.	421 KARIN Street	130
07-000774	08/29/2007	12/17/2007	While on routine patrol I found the property to be filled with a multitude of pieces of junk and debris.	329 MARI Court	110
07-000787	09/25/2007	12/17/2007	Trees overhanging in the street.	259 SIERRA VISTA Street	83
07-000794	10/09/2007	12/17/2007	Trailer/RV on Locust Street	321 LOCUST Street	69
07-000811	10/09/2007	12/17/2007	Lilliard received a complaint regarding tumbleweeds in the easment behind several homes on the south side of the 300 block of Moyer St.	329 MOYER Street	69
07-000816	10/24/2007	12/17/2007	Person living in camper shell in backyard of 1329 S. Sims and dumping human waste.	1329 SIMS Street	54
Record Count:13					



12/17/07

Files

OpenDate Greater Than or Equal to 11/10/2007 AND OpenDate Less Than or Equal to 12/17/2007

File#	OpenDate	Description	PropertyAddress
07-000841	11/15/2007	Back yard of residence collecting junk and debris. Fifth-wheel sticking into easment.	301 NORMA Street
Record Count:1			
Record Count:1			

Public Works

Telephone 449-5080 - Fax 499-1580

Many people think marked crosswalks are safer pedestrian crossings than unmarked crosswalks. That is not always the case. This TIP from R.C. takes a look at marked crosswalk requests.

MARKED CROSSWALKS: "HOW DO I GET ONE INSTALLED?"

Studies indicate marked crosswalks are often less safe than unmarked crossings when there are no traffic signals or stop signs. There are several reasons for this.

- Motorists traveling at highway speeds cannot easily see the crosswalk stripes in time to stop for pedestrians.
- It is believed that pedestrians tend to lower their guard when they cross between two marked crosswalk lines. They erroneously believe the two lines offer protection from vehicles. This is especially true with children and elderly pedestrians.
- Without marked crosswalks, pedestrians are more likely to watch for approaching traffic.
- Many pedestrians believe that when they are in a painted crosswalk they have an absolute "right of way" regardless of the speed and proximity of traffic. This is not true.



To mark or not to mark?
That is the question!

If marked crosswalks don't improve pedestrian safety, why use them at all?

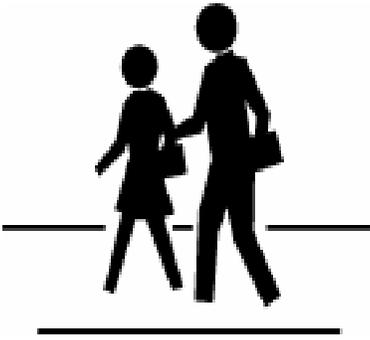
The purpose of marked crosswalks is to show pedestrians where to cross, not to show drivers where a pedestrian may enter the roadway. The markings are most useful at signalized or stopped intersections with unusual geometrics or large numbers of pedestrians. Crosswalks serve primarily to guide pedestrians in the proper paths. If crosswalks are to be installed across uncontrolled, high speed approaches to intersections or at mid-block locations, they must be based on traffic and engineering studies and, if warranted, should include advance signing to alert motorists of the possibility of pedestrians.

Crosswalk studies in San Diego (1972), Long Beach (1986) and throughout California on State Highways (1996) support the position that marked crosswalks at uncontrolled intersections do not improve pedestrian safety. Many jurisdictions, including Kern County, discourage the marking of crosswalks unless the marking is intended primarily to channelize pedestrians.

Pedestrians must be on the alert when crossing a street under any conditions!

School crosswalks are installed according to rules and regulations established by the California Vehicle Code.

Dennis Speer
Public Works Director
Joe Pollock
City Engineer



These marked crosswalks are used to guide large numbers of school children in close proximity to schools. The location of school crosswalks must be coordinated with each school's "Suggested Route to School" and when installed, prescribed advance signing and pavement legends are used.

Engineering

Private Sector Projects

Residential construction has come to almost a complete halt due to the national credit mess. Commercial and multi-family projects however increased.

Street Projects

The Downs Street Landscaping job was bid and seven bids were received. The response this time was much better this time than the prior two times when no bids were received. This time however the second bidder is protesting the low bidder alleging that the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) requirements were not followed. CALTRANS has determined that DBE requirements do not apply in this case. It will be interesting to see how this turns out.

Traffic Signals

Plans and specifications have been received for the China Lake and Church intersection. It should go out to bid the first part of the year.

Wastewater

A draft report regarding the planned expansion of the treatment facilities is under staff review.

Wastewater Report

The City of Ridgecrest WWTF operated within design and compliance directives issued under Board Order No. 6-00-56.

The department hydro flushed 7,410 ft. of main line sewer, as preventative maintenance.

The department inspected and passed three new connections to the sanitary sewer system.

The reclamation department reclaimed 1.43 million gallons of secondary effluent for use as fodder crop irrigation.

Pond maintenance is being performed on the reclamation site holding ponds.

Transit

Transit served 6 new riders in the month of November. Ridership was down due to the schools Thanksgiving break.