

City of Ridgecrest



December 2013

Monthly Report



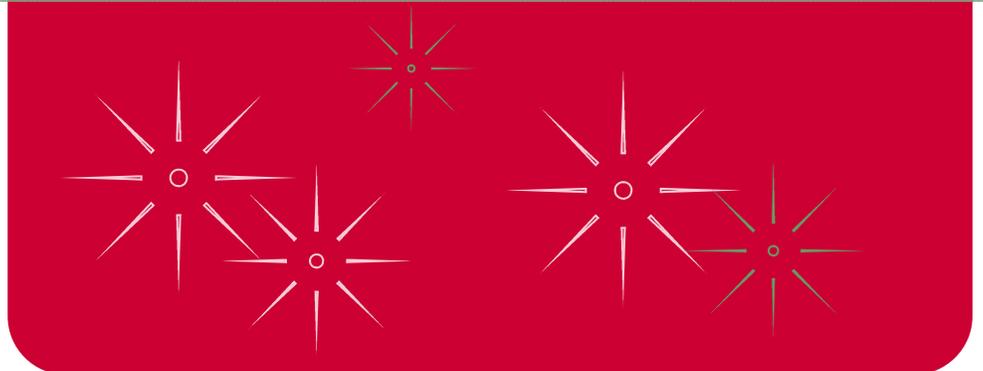
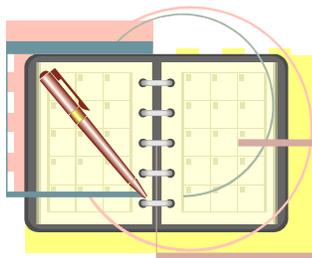
City Manager



City Manager Memo

- ◆ **TAB Funds Available** -The City Council met on December 6, 2013 and decided to pay the State the disputed RDA unexpended or unencumbered funds amount. Payment was made that day. On the following business day, the City received a Finding of Completion from the State Department of Finance. This will allow the expenditure of TAB Funds which were intended for the construction of various public improvements. A review of the proposed projects will be brought to Council in the near future.
- ◆ **Strategic Planning Goal Establishment Procedure** - At the December 4, 2013 City Council Meeting, the Council decided to establish a process utilizing parts of several alternative approaches. Specifically, the Council identified a process that includes the following steps:
 1. Staff will review and prioritize previous goals.
 2. These goals will be presented to Council for comment and input.
 3. Suggestions will be received from traditional and social media communications.
 4. A Town Hall meeting will be held to discuss these goals.
 5. The Council will establish the strategic planning priority goals with due consideration of the information received.

West Ridgecrest Boulevard Project - Willdan Engineering was selected as the Construction Management Consultant for the West Ridgecrest Boulevard Project. This project is expected to be under construction in the Spring of 2014.



City Clerk & Risk Management

The burned structure has been demolished and material removed. The City is now reviewing options available for restroom facilities to cover until the permanent structure can be rebuilt.

Insurance has authorized a partial payment for the depreciated value of the building and cost of demolition. Funds have not been received at this time.

Insurance underwriters are currently still reviewing the claim for contents lost in the fire and have not indicated when, or if, payment will be forthcoming.

Concession Stand Fire Update



Happy Holidays!



Holiday Schedule

City Clerk's Office will be closed
for the Holiday's beginning
December 23, 2013
and will reopen on
January 6, 2014

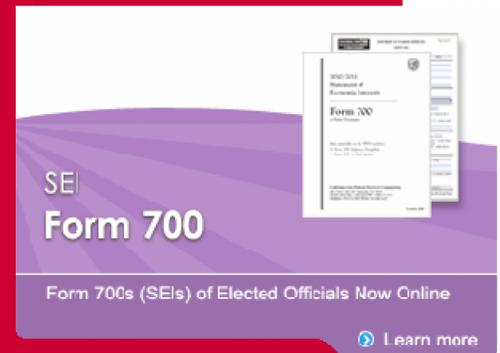
City Clerk & Risk Management



The City Clerk has a statutory duty to record the official minutes of all City Council meetings; maintain original resolutions and ordinances, and is the custodian of the City seal. Additionally, she is the chief election officer for municipal elections. The City Clerk's office is the depository for all official documents and records. The Clerk assists and supports the public and City departments by making available the records necessary for the City to advance its administrative, legal and legislative functions. The City Clerk encourages the use of cost-saving/productivity improving record management techniques throughout the City. The City Clerk prepares all necessary documents for public hearings, posts notices and copies of ordinances as required by law and maintains and updates the Municipal Code.

Fair Political Practices Commission

Beginning January, City Clerk's office will be sending reminders to staff to file their Annual Form 700 Disclosure Statements.



Training

City Clerk Rachel Ford and Deputy City Clerk Ricca Charlon attended the League of California Cities New Law and Election Conference in San Diego. Topics included FPPC regulation and forms changes, Ethics, and new laws either passed or proposed which have a direct impact on municipalities and elections.

Economic Development

This month has seen a large effort go into work concerning the former RDA; or Successor Agency. The Agency has received a formal Finding of Completion (FOC) from the State of California Department of Finance (DOF). This FOC will now allow the Agency/City to move forward with the use of its 2010 TAB funds in the amount of over 21 million dollars to be spent on authorized bond projects and as determined by the city council.

The Agency received this month a letter from the DOF authorizing the County Auditor/Controller's office to release the Agency's Recognized Obligation Payment Schedule (ROPS) 2013-2014B funds of over 3.4 million dollars so that it can meet its approved obligations.

This represents a great move forward in getting new roads and other infrastructure completed in the coming year. Staff continues to work with the city's attorney in efforts to gain a legal resolution to the 3 million dollar issue with the DOF.



Other issues worked on this last month include moving forward with the former Mervyns building and plans for the division of the building into four stores. Currently under review by the city/county building department the owner has submitted the tenant improvements for the Marshalls and JoAnne Fabric stores. Construction is planned to occur the first part of 2014.

The Wal-Mart project is now waiting for what the city hopes are the final plans for offsite infrastructure from the Wal-Mart engineering team. Currently the city has approved the Wal-Mart plans for the building itself. With the submission of the offsite plans by Wal-Marts engineers, and approval of them by our city engineer, the final development agreement can be executed and the project begins construction hopefully in the first part of 2014.



Staff has been aiding other departments with land acquisitions and city asset sales.

Finally, staff has been working on the completion of the Agency's Property Management Plan (PMP) and has produced the first draft of this document. If this is approved by the DOF it will allow the Agency/city to dispose of the former Agency property assets.

In summary, the New Year of 2014 is looking like one of growth and the resolution of many of the city's past issues!!!



RIDGECREST POLICE DEPARTMENT

The following tables reflect Part 1 Crime Data, of offenses reported to the Ridgecrest Police Department in January through December. The data listed below is collected from our Records Management System, and then sorted into Part 1 categories per Department of Justice reporting standards.

Monthly Part 1 Crime Report

2013	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total	year to date % chg 2013/2012
Homicide	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	2	0%
Rape	0	1	0	2	3	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	9	200%
Robbery	0	2	3	1	1	3	3	3	2	0	0	0	18	29%
Aggravated Assault	14	6	7	12	20	11	7	10	12	12	0	0	111	61%
Simple Assault	15	15	20	14	24	27	31	27	35	26	0	0	234	1%
Burglary	26	21	20	10	17	14	13	22	14	16	0	0	173	-5%
Larceny	42	20	28	30	22	18	22	25	26	27	0	0	260	-5%
Auto Theft	2	4	4	5	4	2	6	3	0	5	0	0	35	-3%
Arson	0	5	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	10	-9%
Total Part One	99	74	82	74	92	76	84	91	92	88	0	0	852	4%
% Change Same Month Previous Year	14%	-1%	6%	-4%	-12%	12%	12%	8%	3%	-8%	0%	0%		

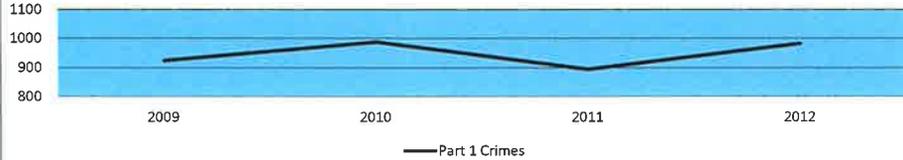
Ridgecrest Police Department Statistics

Oct 2013

Crime

	Monthly Comparison			Year To Date		
	Oct 12	Oct 13	% Change	2012	2013	% Change
Violent Crime	38	43	13%	309	387	25%
Murder	0	1	100%	2	3	50%
Rape	0	2	200%	3	15	400%
Robbery	1	2	100%	14	20	43%
Assault	37	38	3%	290	349	20%
Property Crime	60	49	-18%	503	480	-5%
Burglary	19	16	-16%	179	175	-2%
Larceny	36	27	-25%	277	260	-6%
Auto Theft	5	5	0%	36	35	-3%
Arson	0	1	100%	11	10	-9%
Part 1 Crimes	98	88	-10%	813	851	5%

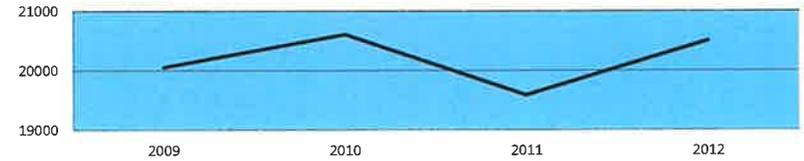
Part 1 Crimes



Performance Measures

	Monthly Comparison			Year to Date		
	Oct 12	Oct 13	% Change	2012	2013	% Change
Patrol Activity						
Total Incidents	2562	2487	-3%	26778	25657	-4%
Calls for Service	1858	1620	-13%	17216	16016	-7%
Officer Initiated Incidents	704	867	23%	9562	9641	1%
Traffic Stops	187	284	52%	2566	3344	30%
Other OIA Incidents	517	583	13%	6946	6297	-9%
Reports Taken	326	336	3%	3478	3660	5%
Total Arrests	175	197	13%	1963	2130	9%
Felony Arrests	63	60	-5%	472	581	23%
Juvenile Arrests	18	14	-22%	257	175	-32%
Drug Related	16	29	81%	250	331	32%

Calls for Service



Personnel

	Allocated	Filled	Vacant
Total	48	48	0
Sworn	31	31	0
Professional Staff	17	17	0

Vacant Positions	Status

Investigation

	Monthlv			Year to Date		
	Oct 12	Oct 13	% Change	2012	2013	% Change
News Cases	528	311	-41%	3151	3409	8%
Cleared DA or Other	104	131	26%	1063	1559	47%
Arrests	28	29	4%	205	209	2%
Inactivated	45	44	-2%	293	513	75%
Active	602	96	-84%	4548	3136	-31%

K-9 Deploy

	Monthlv			Year to Date		
	Oct 12	Oct 13	% Change	2012	2013	% Change
Deployments	3	5	67%	28	51	82%
Apprehensions	0	0	0%	3	6	100%
Building Searches	0	2	200%	3	21	600%
Vehicle Searches	2	2	0%	9	16	78%
Drug Finds	0	0	0%	1	6	500%

Traffic

	Monthly Comparison			Year To Date		
	Oct 12	Oct 13	% Change	2012	2013	% Change
Citations			0%			0%
Moving	15	32	113%	480	493	3%
Non-Moving	5	15	200%	139	89	-36%
RMC Violation	14	10	-29%	239	124	-48%
Collisions						
Fatal	0	0	0%	1	0	-100%
Injury	2	3	50%	57	30	-47%
Non-Injury	18	14	-22%	147	131	-11%
DUI Related	4	1	u7+	23	13	-43%

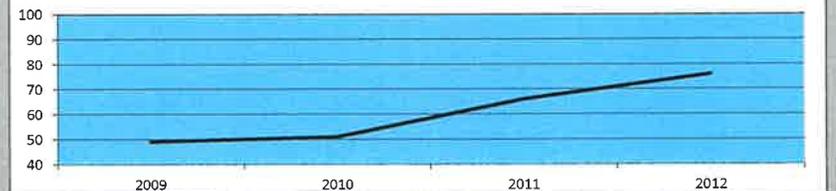
Top 5 Collision Intersections YTD

- S. China Lake Blvd./Upjohn Ave.
- W. Upjohn Ave./S. Downs St.
- W. Drummond Ave./N. Norma St.
- N. China Lake Blvd./Drummond Ave.
- W. Ridgecrest Blvd./S. Mahan St.

Top 5 PCFs YTD

- Fail to yield
- Unsafe speed
- Fail to stop at stop sign
- Unsafe start/backing
- Unsafe turning movement

Injury Traffic Collisions



Parks, Recreation



& Cultural Affairs

Parks

As we move deeper into the winter season the grass in the parks continues to go more and more dormant. Also during this time of the year there is less use of the parks. We are taking advantage of this fact as we continue to seed and fertilize over the winter months. As IWV youth football wraps up their season and IWV youth baseball is preparing for their upcoming season in the spring it is an excellent time for us to give the parks some extra attention. As we continue our efforts to restore our parks I believe within a year's cycle we will be in pretty good shape.



Recreation

In the November report I mentioned that we were holding signups for the flag football season and the volleyball program. Both programs are underway and moving along smoothly. The flag football season will run until February 1, 2014 and the volleyball program will run until January 18, 2014. The spring soccer program is coming soon. The signup period for the spring soccer league will be from January 28, 2014 to February 22, 2014. The spring soccer season will run from March 11, 2014 to May 10, 2014. Also, IWV youth baseball is currently holding signups for their spring season. Opening day for IWV youth baseball will be in May. Check their website for further details (WWW.IWVYB.COM).



Parks, Recreation & Cultural Affairs



Facilities

As you look around city hall and the Kerr McGee center you sure can tell it's the holiday season. The facilities look great and very festive thanks to the maintenance crew. Thanks guys for the great job decorating the facility and community Christmas tree. The Kerr McGee center is booked solid from now until the end of January with holiday events. Again, thanks to the maintenance and recreation staff for their extra efforts during this very busy time of year. I am sure all of the users of our facility appreciate it.



Medians

The routine maintenance on our medians continues as scheduled and will year round. During the winter months the growth of the plants as well as the weeds slows a quite a bit. This is the perfect time for the maintenance crew to get caught up and ready for the warmer months when growth speeds up again. We also look forward to the continued beautification efforts by private groups within the community.

Wrap up

I have been with the department for about 3 months now and I am very pleased with the direction we are headed. We hope to have our new software and point of sale system up and running next month (January 2014). This alone will make the Parks and Recreation department more efficient. Thanks to the maintenance crew and all of the other city employees that contributed to the community Christmas tree lighting event this year as it was a tremendous success. One last thank you to the entire city staff for making the past 3 months a pleasurable experience for me. I really appreciate all of your help and guidance.

Public Services - Planning

2014 Will be the Year that the Balsam District Takes Off

By Matthew Alexander AICP, City Planner

2014 should pay dividends on behalf of the City of Ridgecrest's efforts to implement a revitalization program for our downtown. We are now on the threshold of creating a vibrant economic center that will provide not only amenities for our citizens, but also a quality of life that will increase, civic activities, attract new employees, and bring in new businesses and customers.

In order to accomplish these goals the City has proposed branding our "L" shaped Central Business District, (comprised of Balsam St. and W. Ridgecrest Blvd.) as the Balsam District. A successful *Balsam District* promises to become a household word within the Indian Wells Valley during this coming year driven by three factors:

1. the W. Ridgecrest Blvd. Roadway Improvement Project,
2. the consideration of TAB funds allocated for Economic Development, and
3. the outstanding success demonstrated at the Balsam District on November 2nd.

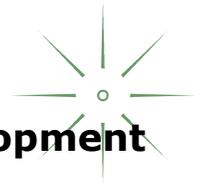
W. Ridgecrest Blvd. Improvements:

W. Ridgecrest Blvd. Improvements have been in the planning stages for several years. Due to the tenacious and vigorous administrative efforts by the Public Works Department and oversight by our City Council representatives at the Kern Council of Governments, W. Ridgecrest Blvd will be resurfaced from China Lake Blvd. westerly to Mahan St.

The roadway improvements within the Balsam District portion of W. Ridgecrest Blvd. include landscaping, bulbouts, (sidewalk extensions), and new street lights that shall be consistent with the globe street lights found on Balsam Street.



Public Services - Planning



The Consideration of TAB funds allocated for Economic Development



In July, 2010 the City Council earmarked some Tax Allocation Bond funds for economic development projects to assist the downtown, (Balsam District). These include the potential for a storefront façade improvement program to assist small businesses and the procurement of entryway signs and directional signs. Prime locations for Balsam District entryway signs include the intersections of China Lake Blvd. and Ridgecrest Blvd., China Lake Blvd. and French Street and Norma St. and Ridgecrest Blvd. The TAB funds are now available for procurement.

The Activity Generated within the Balsam District as part of the City's 50th Anniversary Exceeded Everyone's Expectations:



More than 100 vendors participated within the Balsam District during the Ridgecrest 50th anniversary celebration last November 2nd. Many merchants reported that they had their best sales day ever. The Old Town Action Plan Committee, (aka the Balsam District Committee) is highly supportive of sponsoring a seasonal, weekly *Balsam Wednesday Market event*. The thousands of residents and out of town guests that were on Balsam Street for the 50th will attest that this family street fair will no doubt become an institution.

Thus, it is predictable that the Balsam District will improve during the next calendar year by providing excellent entertainment, dining, shopping venues and street fair events. As the heart and destination of the Indian Wells Valley, the *Balsam District* will become an inviting magnet for visitors and residents.

Public Works



Traffic Signals

Purpose of Traffic Signals

Traffic signals are used to assign vehicular and pedestrian right-of-way. They are used to promote the orderly movement of vehicular and pedestrian traffic and to prevent excessive delay to waiting traffic.

Traffic signals should not be installed unless one of the warrants specified by the *Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices* (MUTCD) has been satisfied. The satisfaction of a warrant is not in itself justification for a signal. A traffic engineering study must be conducted to determine if the traffic signal should be installed. The installation of a traffic signal requires sound engineering judgment and must balance the following, sometimes conflicting, goals:

- Moving traffic in an orderly fashion
- Minimizing delay to vehicles and pedestrians
- Reducing crash-producing conflicts
- Maximizing capacity for each intersection approach

Where A Signal Should Be Installed?

The MUTCD lists eight warrants for the placement of traffic signals. Part 4 of the MUTCD provides greater specificity regarding signal warrants. Access management considerations and the spacing of signals on arterial roadways are critical elements of system efficiency and operational safety. The basic question that must be answered is "Will this intersection operate better with or without a traffic signal?"

Advantages of Signals

Warranted traffic signals properly located and operated, usually have one or more of the following advantages:

- Provide for orderly movement of traffic
- Increase traffic capacity of the intersection
- Reduce the frequency of certain types of crashes (e.g. right-angle crashes)
- Provide for continuous or nearly continuous movement of traffic along a given route
- Interrupt heavy traffic to permit other traffic, vehicular or pedestrian, to cross

Public Works

Traffic Signals (Continued)



Factors to Consider When Installing a Signal

A number of factors should be considered when planning to signalize an intersection. These factors include:

- The need to balance delay. Excessive delay results in significant fuel waste, higher motorist costs and air pollution. Solution: signal timing improvements.
- Potential diversion of arterial traffic neighborhood streets. Solution: signal timing improvements.
- Red-light running violations and associated crashes. Solution: Signal Timing, Adequate Yellow Clearance Interval/All-Red Interval.
- Cost. The cost for a signal ranges from \$150,000 to more than \$400,000 based on the complexity of the intersection and the characteristics of the traffic using it. In addition, the annual operating cost of each signal ranges from \$1,000 to \$5,000.

Signal Improvements That May Decrease Crashes

- Signal retiming
- Signal phasing and cycle improvements
- Review and assure adequacy of yellow change interval/all-red clearance interval for safer travel through the intersection
- Use of longer visors, louvers, backplates and reflective borders
- Installation of 12 in. signal lenses
- Install additional signal heads for increased visibility
- Provide advance detection on the approaches so that vehicles are not in the dilemma zone when the signal turns yellow
- Repositioning of signals overhead (via mast arm) instead of post mounted
- Use of double red signal displays
- Remove signals from late night early morning programmed flash

(Source: ITE)



Public Works



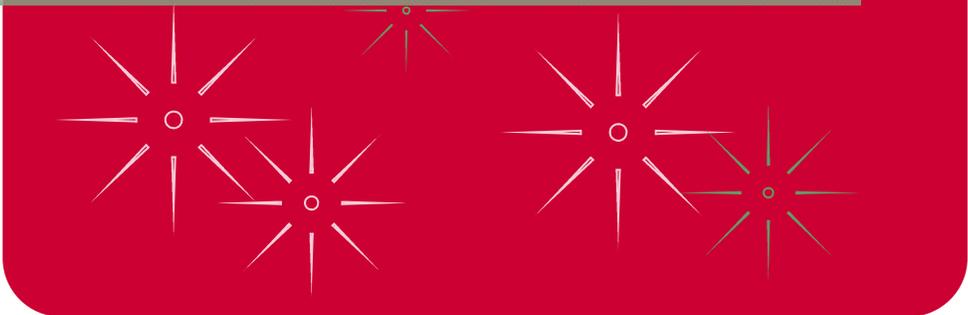
Engineering

During the week that school will be out for Christmas break at Ridgecrest Charter School, the Street Department, will be installing some interim traffic control devices on Downs Street. The devices will consist of a painted median with K-rail barriers and sand barrels. No parking signs will be installed along both sides of Downs Street. These interim traffic control devices are being installed in an effort to help mitigate the traffic impacts and traffic violations generated along this corridor. These interim improvements will be implemented with the intention of an ultimate Downs Street Improvement Project being constructed.

In July of 2013, the City of Ridgecrest submitted to the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) two projects for consideration for the sixth cycle. These projects are considered on a competitive basis. One project was the improvement of signal timing and coordination between California Avenue and College Heights Boulevard on South China Lake Boulevard and the other was a Four Way Stop with modified existing left turn lanes at the intersection of Downs Street and Bowman Road. The Engineering Dept. regrets to inform the public that the projects were not selected for funding at this time.

The Engineering Department is continuing with the West Ridgecrest Blvd. project by working with our design firm Mark Thomas Inc. on final stages of redesign. They are also working with Southern California Edison and the Indian Wells Valley Water District with utility relocations and new driveway locations. The City has also been working with the Consultant on the decorative street lighting issue along West Ridgecrest Boulevard. The City has also obtained a utility agreement and invoice for the relocation of power poles between Downs Street and Mahan Street.

The most exciting thing that has been achieved is that the City has obtained a Construction Management firm for the West Ridgecrest Boulevard Project, Willdan Engineering Inc., who will be handling all of the inspection, state and federal paperwork, and also invoicing for the project. We at the Engineering Department welcome Willdan Engineering as part of our extended family.



Public Works



Wastewater Treatment Facility Information

- The City of Ridgecrest Wastewater Treatment Facility operated within design and compliance directives issued under Board Order No. 6-00-56.
- The Department inspected and passed (2) replacement connections to the sanitary sewage system.
- The Department responded to (1) requests for service, which was related to homeowner lateral problem.
- The Department as SSMP & SSO Board Order compliance performed routine maintenance (Hydro Flushing) on 9,950 ft. of main line collection system.
- The Department performed maintenance on the headwork's grinder unit, drive shaft broken, installed backup unit.



- The Department continued pond maintenance activities, road repair, additional rip rap added to strengthen pond retaining walls.
- The Reclamation Department reclaimed 2.49 million gallons of secondary effluent for use as fodder crop irrigation.
- The perimeter fencing around the agriculture/reclamation facility was repaired due to vandalism event.

TRANSIT

Ridgerunner Transit is presently researching the drop-off locations to coordinate where and what bus stops get the most use. Their hope is to utilize this information to redesign some of the routes and streamline the overall process. One important factor to keep in mind is that the December and January period will traditionally fall back on customer usage. This is due to the vacation period at the College. *Ridgerunner* Transit will see the increase back up by the middle of January.

Nov. 2013 –Total Ridership				
Coyote Route	Roadrunner Route	Rattlesnake Route	Mid-Day Express (2 hour run)	County Contract
238	136	114	65	155