

CITY OF RIDGECREST



OCTOBER 2013

MONTHLY REPORT



CITY MANAGER / ADMINISTRATION

City Manager Memo

- * **The California Transportation Commission (CTC), at its October 8, 2013 meeting, approved construction funding for the West Ridgecrest Boulevard project. It is anticipated that construction will commence in the early spring of 2014.**

- * **Mr. Steven Morgan was appointed to serve on the City Council. His appointment fills the vacancy left by the resignation of Mr. Jason Patin. Councilman Morgan will serve the remainder of Mr. Patin's term.**

- * **The Strategic Planning Process was presented to the City Council. Prior reports and studies related to strategic planning elements were discussed. The City Council decided to move forward with the process by conducting a series of workshops.**

- * **Representatives of the Kern County Fire Department met with the City to discuss the renewal of the Fire Services Agreement.**

- * **Representatives of the UFCW met with the City to discuss a schedule for negotiating a new MOU.**

- * **Standing Council Committees were dissolved with the exceptions of the ACTION, VA, and RACVB Committees.**

POLICE

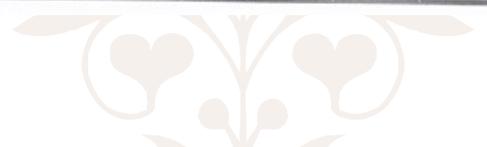


RIDGECREST POLICE DEPARTMENT

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	0	0	0	1	-50%
Rape	0	1	0	2	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	7	133%
Robbery	0	2	3	1	1	3	3	3	0	0	0	0	16	45%
Aggravated Assault	14	6	7	12	20	11	7	10	0	0	0	0	87	55%
Simple Assault	15	15	20	14	24	27	31	27	0	0	0	0	173	-4%
Burglary	26	21	20	10	17	14	13	22	0	0	0	0	143	4%
Larceny	42	20	28	30	22	18	22	25	0	0	0	0	207	-3%
Auto Theft	2	4	4	5	4	2	6	3	0	0	0	0	30	11%
Arson	0	5	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	8	-20%
Total Part One	99	74	82	74	92	76	84	91	0	0	0	0	672	5%
% Change Same Month Previous Year	14%	-1%	6%	-4%	-12%	12%	12%	8%	0%	0%	0%	0%		



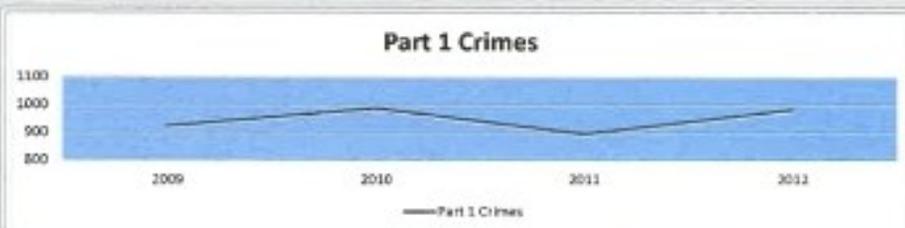
POLICE

Ridgecrest Police Department Statistics

Aug 2013

Crime	Monthly Comparison			Year To Date		
	Aug 12	Aug 13	% Change	2012	2013	% Change
Violent Crime	36	42	17%	249	292	17%
Murder	0	1	100%	2	1	-50%
Rape	0	1	100%	3	11	267%
Robbery	1	3	200%	11	56	45%
Assault	35	37	6%	233	294	13%
Property Crime	44	50	14%	368	390	1%
Burglary	17	22	29%	138	145	5%
Larceny	25	25	0%	213	207	-3%
Auto Theft	2	3	50%	27	30	11%
Arson	0	0	0%	10	0	-100%
Part 1 Crimes	80	91	14%	627	671	7%

Performance Measures	Monthly Comparison			Year To Date		
	Aug 12	Aug 13	% Change	2012	2013	% Change
Patrol Activity						
Total Incidents	2823	2556	-9%	21613	20491	-5%
Calls for Service	1893	1816	-4%	13703	12706	-7%
Officer Initiated Incidents	930	940	1%	7910	7785	-2%
Traffic Stops	274	360	32%	2103	2657	26%
Other OIA Incidents	656	571	-13%	5607	5128	-8%
Reports Taken	368	405	10%	2801	2958	6%
Total Arrests	189	234	24%	1616	1701	5%
Felony Arrests	45	68	51%	357	468	31%
Juvenile Arrests	22	11	-50%	222	137	-38%
Drug Related	28	48	66%	208	275	32%



Personnel

	Allocated	Filled	Vacant
Total	50	47	3
Sworn	31	31	0
Professional Staff	17	17	0

Vacant Positions	Status

Investigation

	Monthly			Year to Date		
	Aug 12	Aug 13	% Change	2012	2013	% Change
News Cases	487	522	34%	2529	2746	9%
Cleared DA or Other	98	287	172%	912	1297	42%
Arrests	23	23	0%	151	150	0%
Inactivated	19	12	-37%	228	407	79%
Active	436	164	-62%	3590	2892	-19%

K-9 Deploy

	Monthly			Year to Date		
	Aug 12	Aug 13	% Change	2012	2013	% Change
Deployments	4	4	0%	25	41	64%
Apprehensions	0	2	200%	3	4	33%
Building Searches	0	0	0%	3	17	467%
Vehicle Searches	2	2	0%	7	13	86%
Drug Finds	1	0	-100%	1	5	400%

Traffic

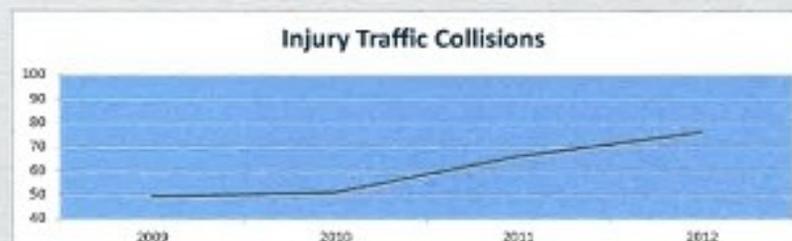
	Monthly Comparison			Year To Date		
	Aug 12	Aug 13	% Change	2012	2013	% Change
Citations						
Moving	53	28	-47%	354	419	18%
Non-Moving	14	4	-71%	114	64	-44%
RMC Violation	16	11	-31%	183	107	-43%
Collisions						
Fatal	0	0	0%	1	0	-100%
Injury	4	3	-25%	42	23	-45%
Non-Injury	15	8	-47%	97	99	2%
DUI Related	4	1	-75%	16	9	-44%

Top 5 Collision Intersections YTD

1. W. Drummond Ave./Heritage Dr.
2. S. Norme St/W. Uppah Ave.
3. S. Mahar St/W. Ridgecrest Blvd.
4. S. China Lake Blvd./S. College Hgts. Blvd.
5. N. Balsam St/W. Station Ave.

Top 5 RCFs YTD

1. Unsafe speed
2. Unsafe start/braking
3. Fail to yield
4. Fail to stop at red signal
5. U-turn in a business district



ECONOMIC

DEVELOPMENT

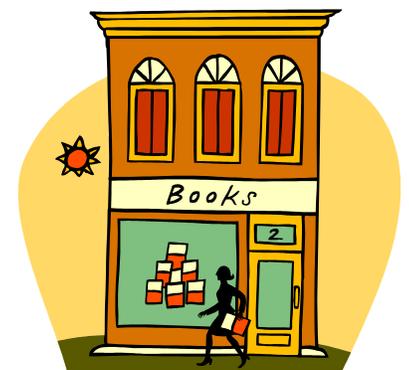


The Economic Development Department is funded by the Ridgecrest Redevelopment Successor Agency (RRSA) and is approved by the RRSA Oversight Board and the State

Department of Finance (DOF). The funding is detailed in the Recognized Obligation Payment Schedule (ROPS) as reported every fiscal year in six month intervals. Administrative Overhead funding for the City of Ridgecrest is limited to \$250,000 or 5% of the total pass thru funding provided by the DOF plus approved obligations.

Economic Development issues for Business growth & retention, job creation, increased sales taxes, increased property taxes or other such development are handled by the Economic Development Manager.

The RRSA is prevented from beginning any new projects or programs and funding by the DOF is only provided thru the ROPS for winding down and disposing of exiting debt service, assets and property.



ECONOMIC



DEVELOPMENT

The Staff has been working to increase the tax base of the City of Ridgecrest thereby increasing the revenue available within the general fund. Our goal is a better overall quality of life within the community through providing better shopping opportunities, and more jobs availability, while working to maintain and serve our existing retail community members who work hard to meet our citizen's needs.

1. Staff has recently completed and submitted the City's former Redevelopment Agency ROPS 2013-14B to the State of California's Department of Finance for payment of the existing RDA obligations for January 1, 2014 - June 30, 2014.
2. Staff has provided support to the city attorney on current ongoing litigation issues involving the City's former RDA.
3. Staff, with the assistance of the community and council, successfully retained Staples as an ongoing retailer within the city continuing a sales tax flow to the general fund and services to the community over all.
4. Staff continues to work on the reuse of several existing retail and commercial buildings within the city including the former Mervyns 56,000 sq. Ft. store.
5. Staff has completed a request for proposal and selection process for the selection of a consultant to prepare and implement the City's former RDA Property Management Plan to sell agency property assets.
6. Staff continues to market the City to both Retailers/developers to bring new retailers to Ridgecrest. Staff recently attended the International Council of Shopping Centers (ICSC) in San Diego which resulted in several new retailers considering coming to the city of Ridgecrest.
7. Staff has been working with several local existing retailers who wish to relocate for additional space for the expansion of their business.
8. Staff has continued working with the developer of the proposed new Wal Mart Supercenter on engineering and design, as well as contract and budgetary issues.
9. Staff has been working with several local nonprofit industrial development groups to assist them in bringing new industry to Ridgecrest. These include, but are not limited to, IWV EDC, the Ridgecrest Chamber of Commerce, Gavea, East Kern EDC, China Lake Alliance, WEDA and several others to bring new Jobs to the community.

PARKS & RECREATION



What's happening in Parks and Recreation from Interim Recreation Supervisor Jason Patin

Most are aware by now that some changes have been made in the Parks & Recreation Department. The most significant is the departure of Jim Ponek as the Director of Parks and Recreation. On behalf of the Parks & Recreation Department I would like to wish Mr. Ponek well in his new endeavor.

Moving forward I have assumed the position of interim Recreation Supervisor. Although I am not the Director of Parks & Recreation, I have assumed the duties of the Director of Parks & Recreation until a permanent replacement is hired.

Let's talk about what is going on in the department. The City of Ridgecrest recreation programs are in full swing. We just finished up all of our various summer programs and camps. Now that the summer season is behind us it is time to look forward to the fall programs already underway. We are currently in the middle of the fall basketball season which seems to be going very well. The kids, coaches, and parents are having a blast. Now that the basketball program is running smoothly it's time to get signed up for youth flag football and volleyball. We are now in the sign up period for both programs. Signups for flag football will close on November 2nd and close for volleyball on November 9th. There are many other programs offered this fall. For a full listing of offered programs please stop by and pick up a fall schedule at the Kerr McGee Community Center or visit our website at www.ridgecrest-ca.gov.



PARKS & RECREATION



Now on to the parks.

It is a major goal of mine and the parks maintenance staff to put the necessary resources into our parks to get them back into exceptional condition. I have directed the parks maintenance staff to do whatever it takes to make this happen. I am happy to say that they could not agree more, as the condition of the parks is a matter of pride for this hard working crew. I invite you to drive around the community and have a look for yourself. Over the past few months there has been a substantial improvement condition wise in every park in the city. Over the next 6 to 12 months you will continue to see the condition of the facilities improve until we reach our goal. Once our goal is met we will continue to maintain these facilities to the same standard. We all understand that we are in tough economic times, but we still have a job to do and a responsibility to the community to get the job done. I am fully confident that the parks maintenance crew is up for the challenge.

On a similar note, we will be taking the same approach with the medians. Like the parks you will notice that the maintenance of the medians has been exceptional as well. We now have a set schedule to maintain the medians and that will continue to be the case.

As far as our other facilities are concerned (banquet halls, meeting rooms, etc...) we are heading into the holiday season. This means we are booked solid for the rest of the year for holiday parties and other similar events.

Last but not least, the recreation staff is hard at work along with the IT staff (Matt Freese & Phillip Braem) on implementing a new software system. This new software system will make the parks & recreation department more efficient in all areas.



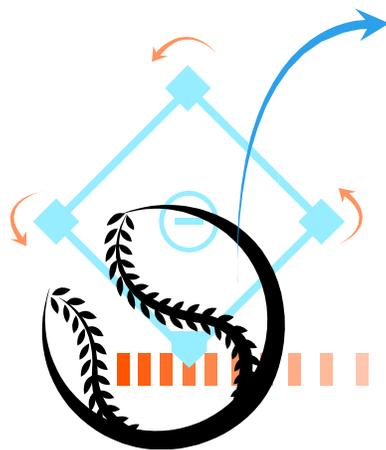
PARKS & RECREATION

The new software will allow the department to accurately track revenues, inventory, personnel, and programs. It will also allow the department to track our parks and facilities usage and facility scheduling. For our youth programs the software will be able to create teams and schedule the entire season of play.



One of the most convenient features of the software is that it will also enable participants of our youth programs to sign up online. Participants will still have the option to sign up here at the parks & recreation department, but it will no longer be necessary.

Finally, I would like to thank the Parks & Recreation staff for making my transition into the position very pleasant and comfortable. They made me feel like part of the team instantaneously. Also, I would like to thank all of the other city staff as well. I have had to bug many people and ask many questions of many different departments and individuals - Human resources, planning, Administration, community development, Finance, public works, Police department, MIS, and of course Parks & Recreation. Everyone has been incredibly helpful. I appreciate you all very much.



PUBLIC WORKS & PUBLIC SERVICES

Speed Limits - How and Why They Are Established

In California the maximum speed for any passenger vehicle is 65 MPH, (except on a few sections of specially zoned freeways). The maximum speed for most trucks and for vehicles towing any trailer is 55 MPH. These are absolute limits which may not be legally exceeded under any circumstances.

All other speed limits are prima facie limits which, "on the face of it," are reasonable and prudent under normal conditions. A driver may exceed any prima facie limit if it is safe to do so, however, when a police officer cites a driver for exceeding a prima facie speed limit it is up to the driver to prove that he was driving in a reasonable and prudent manner under the existing conditions. The opportunity given to the driver to exceed a prima facie speed limit when it is safe to do so recognizes the fact that any posted speed limit cannot adequately reflect

the many different conditions of traffic, weather, visibility, etc., that may be found on the same highway at different times.

Certain blanket (or automatic) prima facie limits are established by law, including the 15 MPH limits in alleys, at blind intersections and at blind railroad crossings, and the 25 MPH limit in business and residential districts. There is also a part-time 25 MPH in school zones when children are present in route to or from school.

Business and residential districts are defined in the California Vehicle Code (CVC) as specific areas meeting a particular minimum density of roadside development. A count of houses or active businesses facing on a highway must be made to determine whether or not a valid business or residential district exists. The law

does not require posting these prima facie limits which are readily apparent.

State law permits local authorities to lower the maximum speed limit



(65 MPH) or to raise business and residential district speed limits (25 MPH) on the basis of a Traffic and Engineering Survey. These "intermediate limits" between 25 and 65 MPH must be posted to define clearly the limits of the zone and the maximum speed established.

(Continued on next page)

Operations at the Wastewater Treatment Facility

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 (1) new connections to the sanitary sewage system.

The Department as safety compliance continued painting the safety barriers around the primary clarifiers.

The Department performed annual maintenance on #1 primary clarifier, (new wear shoes, flight links and replaced idler sprockets).

The Reclamation Department reclaimed 6.08 million gallons of secondary effluent for use as fodder crop irrigation

PUBLIC WORKS & PUBLIC SERVICES



Speed Limits - How and Why They Are Established

(Continued from previous page)

Engineering and Traffic Surveys for speed limits should be regularly conducted once every five years for the purpose of complying with Section 40802(B) of the California Vehicle Code (CVC). This law requires that speed surveys must be no more than five years old if radar is to be used for enforcement. Unless the current survey has been completed within five years, the segment of roadway for which the survey applies is considered a speed trap as stated below:

CVC Section 40802: A speed trap is either of the following:

- (A) A particular section of highway measured as to distance and with boundaries marked, designated, or otherwise determined in order that the speed of a vehicle may be calculated by securing the time it takes to travel the known distance.
- (B) A particular section of highway with a prima facie speed limit provided by this code or by local ordinance pursuant to paragraph 1 of subdivision B of Section 22352, or established pursuant to Section 22354, 22357, 22358, 22358.3, which speed limit is not justified by an Engineering and Traffic Survey conducted within five years prior to the date of

the alleged violation, and where enforcement involves the use of radar or electronic devices which measure the speed of moving objects.

In addition, testimony and evidence based upon a speed trap is inadmissible in a court of law.

California Transportation Commission Approves Funds

The State of California and the Department of Transportation announced that \$6,200,000 was allocated for the West Ridgecrest Boulevard four-lane project. The location on West Ridgecrest Boulevard, from Mahan Street to China Lake Boulevard, will rehabilitate 5,400 feet of roadway, realign the roadway to correct geometric deficiencies and pro-

vide 7,200 feet of shoulder widening to enhance pedestrian and vehicular safety. The Public Works Department has been working closely with our consulting firms of Mark Thomas and LSA Associates on the environmental document and utility relocation to move the

project forward to this point. The Department has prepared a Request for Proposal for a Construction Management firm to help the City in the Administration of the inspection, soil material testing, contract administration,

“\$6,200,000 was allocated for the West Ridgecrest Boulevard four-lane project”

Upjohn Traffic Signal Project

The Public Works Department sent out a Request for Proposal for Consultant Services for the Construction Management of the new Upjohn Traffic Signal Project. After the City Clerk received proposals, a panel was set up to review and score each proposal.

A consultant was selected and a fee was negotiated. This was taken to City Council on October 2, 2013. Our

Consultant for the Upjohn Traffic Signal is Hall and Foreman Inc. Hall and Foreman Inc., has done several projects for the City of Ridgecrest.

They have been instrumental in the construction management of two other traffic signal projects in our



community. They are the traffic signals a South China Lake Boulevard and Church and South China Lake Boulevard and Radar.

The Public works Department looks forward to this new project.

PUBLIC WORKS & PUBLIC SERVICES

ridgerunner Transit

This month marks our first year as The City of Ridgecrest ridgerunner Transit, a traditional Fixed Route System with additional deviated services for our Transit Functional Needs clientele. The contrasts of Para Transit vs. Fixed Route reflected in both ridership and fare box. As we review the statistics of this past year it is our goal to adjust routes, bus stops, and timetables to improve the system to better meet the City's require-

ments. Items of concern which are being addressed include Monthly Passes for County residents' who are attending Cerro Coso Community College and a location for the Transfer Hub where ridgerunner, Kern Regional Transit, and Eastern Sierra Transit systems would meet to exchange commuters. This would allow commuter long

range travel up the eastern corridor. The yearly ridership is listed in the chart according to the five Fixed Route within the



Oct. 2012 – Sept. 2013 Total Ridership				
Coyote	Roadrunner	Rattlesnake	Mid-Day Express	County Contract
5015	2635	2720	552	2138

PRIVATE DEVELOPMENT IN AND AROUND RIDGECREST

The City of Ridgecrest has seen development over the last few months throughout our community.

The Ridgecrest Self Storage located on Inyo Street is adding additional units to their business. The Sierra Sands Unified School Districts Architect's have met with Staff to review plans regarding the new Middle School that will be across from Burroughs High School. Traffic

circulation plans have been discussed in this area to make a smooth transition.

The Maturango Museum continues with their development of adding on to their existing building and I'm sure that the community is as excited about seeing the new museum and all that it

"Engineering Consultant continues to evaluate the Traffic issue surrounding the area of the Ridgecrest Charter School"

will have to offer.

Lastly, the Ridgecrest Charter School has added two more class rooms to their facility. The Public Works Department along with the Police Department and our Traffic Engineering Consultant continue to work on the traffic issues that surround this area.

Call for Projects for the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) Congestion Mitigation Air Quality and Regional Surface Transportation Projects (RSTP)

The Engineering Department has applied for several grants for the Fiscal Year 2014-2015 Cycle.

For the HSIP Grant a four way stop sign at the intersection of Bowman Avenue and Downs Street will be considered.

CMAQ which looks at roads that reduces the amount of dust in the air will look at Warner Street and West Graff Avenue.

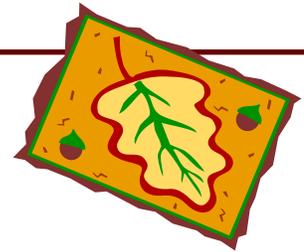
And finally, RSTP is an allotted amount of funds that the City of Ridgecrest receives from the Kern Council of Governments every other year will be looking at rehabilitating the roadway between Bowman Avenue and College Heights Boulevard.

Notices for the awards for these grants are made available to the City in the Spring. We will bring you the infor-

mation about our success of funding at that time.



PUBLIC SERVICES DEPARTMENT



City of Ridgecrest FY 13 Planning Permits Issued	
Home Occupation Permits	41
Sign Permits	13
Conditional Use Permits – Planning Commission	1
Site Plan Approvals - Planning Commission	7
Site Plan Approvals - Staff	26
Variances – Planning Commission	0
Lot Mergers	4
Lot Line Adjustment	1
Tentative Tract Maps	0
Tentative Parcel Map	2
Fireworks Booth Permits	14
CEQA Categorical Exemptions	8
Alcohol Beverage Commission application review and approval	8
Alcohol Beverage Commission - issued letters Public Convenience & Necessity	5
Temporary Use Permits (off-site auto sales)	4
Landscape Plans	3
Planning Commission Resolutions to Abate Code Violations	0
TOTAL PERMITS	137
