

CITY MANAGER UPDATE – February 2016

Greetings to all residents, businesses and visitors of the City of Jurupa Valley,

As we roll into 2016, we are all looking forward to all that it will bring! One of the many well wishes would be a Happy 5th Birthday Jurupa Valley! The City will be holding numerous events over the next year to celebrate this special occasion; stay tuned and stay in touch so you may come out and celebrate and join in all the fun. There are many exciting things taking place for the future of the City of Jurupa Valley. I would like to share some of the ongoing and upcoming information with you!

El Nino: We have implemented a mitigation strategy to help our residents abate some of the flooding concerns in many areas of the City. The Engineering and Public Works Departments are working closely together to further enhance our response efforts during the winter season, and have completed several projects that have helped to alleviate some of the drainage and flooding problems that have occurred in the city. Other projects are ongoing. We have also supplied all four of the fire stations located within the city with plenty of sand and sandbags that are available to residents during operating hours, and have worked closely with the Jurupa Valley Lions Club to supply them with sand and sandbags and they have taken the lead in assisting many residents by having ready filled bags on hand and even occasionally delivery to those in need. Our Boy Scouts have been out helping shovel sand as well as many outstanding community volunteers. Go JURUPA VALLEY!

Healthy Jurupa Valley: By now, we hope you have heard about or attended a Healthy Jurupa Valley event. Our 3rd annual Healthy Living Extravaganza will once again occur on Saturday, April 9th at Rancho Jurupa Park. This is an amazing day filled with activities, entertainment, food, games, information and so much more. Best of all the day is FREE to everyone! We will also be kicking off "THE WALK" which is a new walking corridor that will take place on March 19th at 9:30 a.m. on Mission Blvd. This activity is the kick-off for this exciting new element within our city. Your help spreading the word about these activities would be another means of sharing information. Come on out and meet the business owners, enjoy the morning and learn all about this venture. There are so many events coming-up that I would like to encourage you to check-out the city's website at www.jurupavalley.org, stop by City Hall for flyer/posters or information from staff. We will also have banners for some events and share information via emails, flyers, the Press Enterprise and through collaboration with other city agencies.

Street Improvements: One of the most pressing issues we are working hard to rectify is the significant amount of deteriorated road conditions that have plagued the city since before incorporation. It is clear that the lack of preventive maintenance of the city's roads by the county prior to incorporation has manifested itself into maintenance efforts far exceeding what should have been necessary had the county expended the necessary resources to keep the roads in serviceable conditions. We are actively working to correct these deficiencies as fast as possible with the road revenues we receive, have accelerated our efforts on pot hole repairs and road resurfacing on a priority basis based on level of deterioration, and will continue to do so. There are hundreds of miles of roads in the city, with many streets that have not seen maintenance in 20 or 30 years, and we will get to all of them at some point in time.

Upcoming Special Meetings: We have a Town Hall Meeting calendared for Tuesday Feb. 23rd at Rubidoux High School, 4250 Opal St, at 6:00 p.m. in the gymnasium. We also are having a first ever Joint City Council meeting with the City of Riverside on Thursday February 25th at 6:00pm. This joint meeting

will take place at Crestmore Manor, 4600 Crestmore Rd, Jurupa Valley. Topics for discussion will include recreational opportunities along the Santa Ana River, which straddles the border between the two cities and is a popular destination for walkers, cyclists and equestrians; a more organized approach to addressing homelessness in the river bottom, where illegal camping creates a fire hazard and contributes to the dumping of trash in the area; and a coordinated effort to better address traffic concerns on major roads between the two cities, including Van Buren Boulevard and Mission Inn Avenue/Mission Boulevard. I encourage everyone to attend these two meetings and stay involved in the latest happenings.

Your City Council has reorganized as follows: Mayor, Laura Roughton will be presiding this year, Verne Lauritzen will serve as Mayor Pro Tem, and Council Members Brian Berkson, Brad Hancock and Frank Johnston are all your representatives. We look forward to their wisdom and direction in the coming year.

In conclusion, please be sure to contact City Hall for any questions you have concerning City functions, problems that need addressed, or assistance in activities you are engaged in requiring working with City Hall.

Sincerely,

Gary Thompson
City Manager