

A.V.'s State of the Town Address

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APPLE VALLEY — During the 20th anniversary State of the Town Address, the Apple Valley Council celebrated the growth and financial stability of its town.

“From large lot sizes to strict architectural standards in our commercial and industrial sectors,” Mayor Tim Jasper said, “doing things differently allows us to stay focused on our motto, ‘A Better Way of Life.’”

The speech — created as a videotaped presentation for the first time — touts the town’s progress in improving roads, increasing public safety, adding millions of square feet of retail and expanding the town’s recreation programs.

The town’s latest success involves the Yucca Loma Bridge project, which has \$16 million in bond and grant financing in place, millions more recommended from Measure I funding and approval received from Caltrans in just one month.

“It can typically take a year or more to get this approval, so the magnitude of this step cannot be overstated,” Councilman Peter Allan said. “With hard work and God willing, construction should start in 2010.”

The town is also just months away from completing the six-year, \$20 million Apple Valley Road improvement project, which included widening and landscaping the road, adding bike lanes and installing four traffic signals, plus extending the road north to help residents reach the freeway.

The final phase, from Sitting Bull to Yucca Loma Road, is still underway.

The town has slated \$13.6 million in the coming year for further road improvement projects.

Continued commercial growth played a key role in helping Apple Valley maintain a balanced budget without tapping into reserves. This included developments at Jess Ranch Marketplace and the Apple Valley Commons.

“Since 2005, nearly three million square feet of retail has been added or is under construction,” Councilman Scott Nassif said. “Despite the economic downturn occurring across the nation, some 200 stores and restaurants have recently opened across Apple Valley, with another 80 expected in the coming year.”

Nassif also spoke about development in the North Apple Valley Industrial area, with real estate

companies having purchased nearly 1,000 acres in the area.

“Their projects could make significant headway in our projection of 38,000 jobs we anticipate for the entire 5,100 acres at build out in 10 to 15 years,” Nassif said.

Two new deputies will join the town’s 49 sworn law enforcement officers later this year, Councilman Rick Roelle said. One will join the Apple Valley Gang Team and the other will be a Retail Officer, dedicated to preventing crime in commercial areas.

The town has also expanded its juvenile services including the SHOCK program, which has now graduated 38 at-risk teens.

Councilman Bob Sagona touted the growth in parks and recreation services since the town absorbed the district seven years ago.

“Program offerings such as classes, youth and adult sports leagues and special events have increased 98 percent, and program registrations are up by 365 percent,” Sagona said.

The town has added an aquatic center and amphitheater, plus almost 60 acres of parkland. Sagona said they are working to use reclaimed water for irrigation, and are looking forward to breaking ground this fall on a new Town Hall annex and animal shelter.

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State of Apple Valley: By the Numbers

75,000 residents in the town

20 years since the town incorporated

75 percent of town’s general fund budget will stay in reserves

\$16 million in financing in place for the Yucca Loma Bridge project

90 percent of Apple Valley’s 414 miles of roads have been resurfaced since incorporation

\$13.6 million has been set aside for road projects this year

2 deputies being added to the 49 that make up Apple Valley’s public safety force

38 at-risk teens have now graduated from the town’s SHOCK program

200 stores and restaurants recently opened across Apple Valley

80 more businesses expected to open this year

38,000 jobs predicted when the North Apple Valley Industrial zone is built out

98 percent increase in parks and recreation offerings

60 acres of parkland added

15,000 people served by town’s aquatic center each year