



NEWS



News Headlines 4/4/2017

- Fire destroys garage, vehicles in Mohave Valley
- Upland hopes you'll pay for July 4th show, firework by firework

Fire destroys garage, vehicles in Mohave Valley

DK McDonald, Mohave News

Posted: April 3, 2017, 1:03 AM



No one was injured in a structure fire in Mohave Valley on Sunday morning that destroyed a garage, fifth-wheel and pickup and damaged homes on both sides, fire officials said. No cause has yet been determined and the fire is under investigation.

MOHAVE VALLEY — No one was injured in a structure fire Sunday morning that destroyed a garage and two vehicles and left two homes with minor damage, fire officials said.

Emergency crews were called shortly after 11:30 a.m. to reports of a structure fire in the 7300 block of Aquarius Drive, said Fire Marshal Don Gibson, Mohave Valley Fire Department.

Arriving crews found a garage and 5th wheel fully involved with exposures to both houses to the north and south of the structure. A pickup parked in front of the garage was also on fire.

Additional units from Bullhead City, Fort Mojave Mesa and **San Bernardino Fire Departments** were requested.

“We were watching TV and heard a really loud explosion,” said David Goddard, a neighbor. “It shook the house. We looked outside and our neighbor’s garage was fully engulfed. The flames were higher than the house and it was really scary.”

Goddard said he called 911 as he saw his neighbor bring out the hose to try and protect the house.

“It was pretty intense,” Goddard said.

Propane tanks in the garage and in the fifth wheel were the probable sources of the explosions, Gibson said.

A neighbor’s house to the north had a window blown out in one of the explosions and sustained minor smoke and flame damage, including scorched fencing and trees. The owner’s home also had minor damage.

The cause of the fire is under investigation, Gibson said.

A dollar value of the destroyed property was not immediately available, but the garage, 5th wheel and pickup were a total loss.

http://www.mohavedailynews.com/news/fire-destroys-garage-vehicles-in-mohave-valley/article_0a3efe00-1844-11e7-817c-0be669cf7092.html

Upland hopes you'll pay for July 4th show, firework by firework

Liset Márquez, Inland Valley Daily Bulletin

Posted: April 3, 2017, 1:09 PM



The city of Upland's 4th of July fire works show at Upland High School, Sunday night, July 4, 2004. FILE PHOTO

UPLAND >> For the price of \$17.76 per shell, you too can help Upland throw its annual fireworks show.

Rather than giving up the expensive Fourth of July fireworks spectacular celebration, leaders in the cash-strapped city are asking the public to "adopt-a-firework."

A listing on the city's website states, "Proud 'parents' will receive an official 'Adopt-A-Firework' certificate and recognition at the City of Upland's 31st Annual 4th of July Fireworks Spectacular."

"The intent is try to get more personal involvement within the community to help fundraise this fireworks show," interim City Manager Martin Thouvenell said.

In the past, officials have said the lights display expends \$25,000 of the \$38,000 budget for the show. To recoup that, the city would need more than 1,400 "adoptions."

With a population of 73,000, can it be done?

Councilman Gino Filippi isn't sure just yet.

“It’s hard to say because it’s a new program, and I haven’t heard any feedback from residents,” he said. “I think it’s a creative program.”

For the last couple of years, Upland has stepped up its effort to get corporate sponsors and ticket sales to cover the costs.

But last year, after calculating the costs for the fireworks and staff time, including police, Upland had to pay \$9,800.

That’s just not acceptable, Thouvenell said.

“I’m a proponent of doing the fireworks, but we can’t continue to subsidize it. We can’t continue to go in a hole,” he said.

Monetarily challenged, Upland is in the process of dissolving its Fire Department and annexing it to **San Bernardino County Fire**, which will add a \$150 tax to property owners’ bills. If that effort fails, Deputy City Manager Jeannette Vagnozzi has said the city would have to close a fire station and lay off nine firefighters.

The pricey fireworks show has been an issue for years. The problem is the city typically loses money on the patriotic display. Thouvenell said the total costs for last year’s show was about \$37,000. He expects that budget to grow slightly to \$38,000.

“Our endeavor is to cover our expenses so there will be no big impact on the general fund,” he said.

In 2014, the council considered canceling the fireworks spectacular because it had to dip into the general fund to make up for the shortfall. Despite efforts to cover the costs through more sponsorships, Upland still ended up footing the bill for the losses.

Filippi has expressed concern in the past about the show’s burden on the shrinking budget. But like other members of the council, Filippi has worked to increase sponsors.

“I’m encouraged that the city manager is interested in continuing the program. I think it continues to grow each year, and hopefully we can reach that goal (to cover costs),” Filippi said.

<http://www.dailybulletin.com/lifestyle/20170403/upland-hopes-youll-pay-for-july-4th-show-firework-by-firework>