



NEWS



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ALL FIREWORKS ARE ILLEGAL LOCALLY; ZERO TOLERANCE AND STIFF FINES

Staff Writer, z1077news

Posted: July 2, 2018

The **San Bernardino County** fire department is issuing a reminder that all fireworks are illegal in the Morongo Basin and that possession and use of these fireworks carry steep penalties. Reporter Andrew Dieleman has information on how you can stay safe this Fourth of July...

With our county facing a dangerous wildland fire season, County Fire is partnering with law enforcement to increase its vigilance in enforcing state and county firework laws to protect public health and safety. Fire officials will be issuing citations for the illegal use, possession, or storage of fireworks with fines up to \$1,250 for the first offense with the possibility of arrest. Property owners may be cited if they allow fireworks to be possessed, stored, or used on their property. All fireworks that explode, shoot into the air or move along the ground are termed dangerous and are illegal anywhere in California. Here in the Morongo Basin, all fireworks, even so-called "Safe and Sane" fireworks, are illegal. County Fire encourages residents to leave fireworks to the professionals and enjoy local shows planned for both Twentynine Palms and Yucca Valley. Residents are encouraged to report illegal fireworks to local authorities.

<http://z1077fm.com/local-news/todays-full-newscast/>

Two Hesperia Men Arrested When Authorities Locate Dangerous Fireworks in Their Possession

Staff Writer, 247 Headline

Posted: July 2, 2018

HESPERIA – Two Hesperia men were arrested as a result of a firework investigation authorities said.

On Saturday, June 30, 2018, at around 11:00 p.m. deputies from the Hesperia Station responded to the 15000 block of Farmington Street for the report of fireworks being burned in the street by 8-10 people. Deputies arrived at the home where they were having an early 4th of July celebration. They made contact with residents Timothy Coffey, 33, and Justin Henry, 40, inside the garage of the home. The two, who were with guests, refused to cooperate with deputies and fire department personnel.

Deputies located a live chemical improvised explosive device as well as debris on the street. According to the news release, the Sheriff's Arson Bomb Division responded and neutralized the live chemical improvised explosive device. As part of the investigation, a warrant search was conducted of the home in which Coffey and Henry resided. Coffey was arrested for possession of a destructive device on a public street, possession of a substance with intent to make a destructive device and possession of an assault weapon. Henry was arrested for being an accessory after the fact.

Several of the party guests were cited by **San Bernardino County Fire** Investigators for illegal possession of fireworks. Anyone with information regarding this case is urged to contact the Hesperia Police Department at (760) 947-1500.

<https://247headline.com/two-hesperia-men-arrested-when-authorities-locate-dangerous-fireworks-in-their-possession/>

Crash in Phelan sends woman to hospital Sunday morning

Staff Writer, VVNG

Posted: July 1, 2018



A Woman was transported to Arrowhead Regional Medical Center after her vehicle sustained major-front end damage in a crash on July 1. (Gabriel D. Espinoza, Victor Valley News)

PHELAN, Calif. (VVNG.com) Traffic on a stretch of westbound Palmdale Road in Phelan was temporarily slowed down following a crash that occurred here Sunday.

Reported at 11:08 a.m., on July 1, the collision was first dispatched as a crash that caught fire at the intersection of Palmdale Road and Lessing Avenue.

When **San Bernardino County Fire** personnel arrived on scene, they located two vehicles with major damage, a red Jaguar and a white Camry. A third vehicle, a brown Camry, crashed into a dirt berm while trying to avoid the collision.

The driver of the white Camry, a 37-year-old female of Apple Valley, sustained minor injuries and was transported by ground ambulance to Arrowhead Regional Medical Center.

According to witnesses at the scene, all three vehicles were traveling westbound on Palmdale when the incident occurred.

The cause of the crash is still under investigation by the California Highway Patrol's Victorville Division.

<https://www.vvng.com/crash-in-phelan-sends-woman-to-hospital-sunday-morning/>

Officials: Hesperia finances are balanced and 'booming'

Rene De La Cruz, Daily Press

Posted: July 1, 2018, 6:38 p.m.

HESPERIA — The Gateway City to the High Desert will begin the fiscal year with an operating budget of just over \$74 million that includes a number of infrastructure projects.

The Hesperia City Council put the final touches on next year's budget Tuesday night when they approved the city's new 2018/19 Capital Improvement Program budget that includes some \$30 million in projects.

A few of the new and continued CIP projects include numerous street improvements, an I Avenue Corridor Enhancement Study in anticipation of the construction of the Tapestry Project and the addition of traffic signals along Rancho Road at Cottonwood and Maple avenues.

“This year’s budget process is the first completed after Financial Director Brian Johnson retired and handed the reins to Casey Brooksher,” Mayor Bill Holland told the Daily Press. “Casey and his team broke up the budget presentation into two smaller segments, which made it simpler and easier to digest, especially for a city that is booming.”

Revenue

The approved balanced budget includes anticipated revenue for the city to increase overall by 10 percent or \$8.7 million, with the General Fund also increasing by 6 percent or \$1.7 million to an estimated ending reserve balance of \$7.4 million.

The increases are primarily due to Sales and Use Tax increasing by \$400,000, Vehicle License Fee increasing by \$600,000 and Development-Related Revenue, as 200 building permits are planned to be issued, increasing by \$400,000 over last year.

Water District revenues are expected to increase by 13 percent over last year’s fiscal budget. The rise in water district revenue is primarily attributable to increases in water sales and water availability charges, as the Hesperia Water District approved a utility rate increase over five years that went into effect in January. That includes an annual 9 percent revenue rate increase for water sales and 6 percent revenue rate increase for sewer.

The largest increase in the city’s revenue by percentage is streets related, which is anticipated to increase by 24 percent or \$3.2 million. The primary factor for this increase is the combined \$2.6 million increase in Development Impact Fees for streets and storm drainage. This gain is also due to the anticipated continuation of growth in development activity. This increase is conservatively based on DIF rates prior to the City Council-approved revisions that are to take effect on July 16.

Expenditures

The new budget proposes expenditures of over \$104 million, which is a 10 percent or \$9.9 million increase over last year’s budget of \$95 million. The proposed budget consists of \$30.6 million of Capital Improvement Program projects, \$6.4 million of debt service, and \$68 million for normal operations.

The new CIP will increase by 30 percent, which is primarily due to the streets, storm drain, and sewer-related projects. The debt service budget will increase 58 percent due to the Rancho Road Interchange loan. The new operating budget of \$68.0 million is considered a “modest increase” of 1 percent or \$600,000 from last year’s budget of \$67.4 million.

Capital Improvement Projects highlights

- Water: \$14.2 million
- Reclaimed Water Distribution System

- Interstate 15 corridor water
- Street Improvements: \$10.1 million
- Rancho Road aqueduct crossing
- Rancho Road from Seventh Avenue to Mariposa Road
- Rancho Road undercrossing
- Rancho Road/Interstate 15 Interchange
- Rancho Road traffic signals
- Main Street traffic signal synchronization
- Sultana and Muscatel streets
- Main Street aqueduct crossing

Sewer \$3.7 million

- Interstate 15 Corridor
- Maple Avenue line replacement
- Main Street improvements
- Golf course line

Facilities: \$1.3 million

- Park and Ride Facility
- Animal Control and remodel

Storm Drainage: \$1.2 million

- Retention Basins at Temecula and Escondido avenues, and Walnut Street

Full-Time Salary by Department

- San Bernardino County Sheriff: 25 percent
- Fire District: 19 percent
- Water District: 19 Percent
- Public Works: 10 Percent
- Code Compliance: 8 Percent

- Community Development: 5 Percent
- Management Services: 5 Percent
- City Manager: 4 Percent
- Sewer: 3 Percent
- Economic Development: 2 Percent

With a total of nearly \$16 million, the city's contract with the San Bernardino Sheriff's Department takes up a quarter of the yearly budget. The Hesperia Fire Protection District, which is currently being annexed by San Bernardino County, has a budget of \$12 million.

"The fire budget was prepared prior to the approval of the Hesperia Fire Protection District's annexation into **county fire**," Holland said. "The annexation process still continues, so we still have that budget on the books, which includes the collection of property taxes, but no additional fire tax to the residents."

Beginning with the 2019/20 budget, the fire budget will only see two entries, including its pension obligation and funds coming from county fire to over the pension liability, Councilman Paul Russ said.

For more information, visit www.cityofhesperia.us or call 760-947-1000.

<http://www.vvdailynews.com/news/20180701/officials-hesperia-finances-are-balanced-and-booming>

50-acre brush fire burning in San Bernardino National Forest, officials say

Staff Writer, abc 7

Posted: June 30, 2018

Between 250 and 300 firefighters are battling a 50-acre brush fire burning in the San Bernardino National Forest on Saturday, officials said.

The brush fire is 5 percent contained and was first reported in the area of Highway 330 near Forest Road, according to San Bernardino National Forest officials on Twitter.

The incident began as a small, 1-acre fire before quickly increasing to at least 25 acres in less than an hour. **San Bernardino County** and Cal Fire firefighters were assisting forest officials in the firefight with resources from the ground and air.

There have been no reports of injuries or threatened structures.

<http://abc7.com/50-acre-brush-fire-burns-in-san-bernardino-national-forest/3682251/>

Car barrels through garage and into Victorville house

Staff Writer, Daily Press

Posted: June 29, 2018, 2:14 p.m.



Officials said a woman was taken to a hospital after her crashed through a garage and into a home in Victorville Friday. Only minor injuries were reported. [Photo Courtesy of the San Bernardino County Fire Department]

VICTORVILLE — Only minor injuries were reported after a car barreled into a house here Friday morning.

Reported just after 10:30 a.m., officials said an elderly woman was taken to a local hospital after the incident, which occurred at a home in the 15500 block of Naples Lane.

Initially reported as a vehicle into a house with possible occupants trapped inside, **San Bernardino County Fire Department** Cpt. Jeff Allen said they dispatched a “full extrication response.”

“The Heavy Rescue unit is a specialized resource in the High Desert that is used on more complex rescue situations, like this call had the potential to be,” Allen said. “Fortunately, no one in the home was injured, no extrication was required and the occupants of the vehicle sustained minor injuries.”

The vehicle, described as a small white passenger vehicle, was occupied by an elderly couple. Victorville Sheriff’s Sgt. Josh Conley said the driver suffered an unknown medical emergency while pulling into the driveway of the home.

“It caused the car to then proceed through the garage and collide into the home,” Conley said.

The woman was transported to Victor Valley Global Medical Center for treatment, Conley said. No other injuries were reported.

<http://www.vvdailypress.com/news/20180629/car-barrels-through-garage-and-into-victorville-house>

SBD approves long-term lease with FedEx

Hector Hernandez Jr.

Posted: June 29, 2018

San Bernardino International Airport (SBD) approved a 10-year lease agreement to bring daily Federal Express Corp. air cargo operations to the airport, building on a strong year in which air cargo activity increased from 36 flight operations and more than 5 million pounds of cargo landed in 2016 to 148 flight operations and more than 20 million pounds landed in 2017.

The airport authority approved the lease agreement, with a 5-year extension option, at its June 27 meeting during which it also approved a \$45.68 million budget for the 2018-19 fiscal year. The agreement will now go to FedEx for approval.

FedEx will pay about \$25,000 per month or \$300,000 per year, with annual consumer price index adjustments, for lease of 57,676 square-foot Hangar 795 plus additional ramp space, two support buildings and two guard booths, Director of Aviation Mark Gibbs reported to the board.

This agreement will add to the airport's recent growth in cargo revenues since 2016 and 2017 agreements with UPS, first for seasonal flights then for daily flights.

The airport and FedEx will each make improvements to adapt the hangar and support buildings for the company's unique needs before it can move in its operations. FedEx will be installing its own conveyor equipment into a 3,000 square-foot building. These upgrades are expected to be completed by October, Gibbs said.

Gibbs added that working with FedEx — the world's fifth largest airline and the largest air cargo company — will come with the added benefits of at least 60 new direct jobs, additional flight activity and additional fuel sales for the airport.

While FedEx has not yet finalized its flight schedule, daily flights are expected with a likely ramp up during the fourth quarter, the busy season for shipping.

The \$5.68 million budget for 2018-19 includes about \$19 million from the general fund, \$10.37 million from fixed base operations, \$9.46 million from capital projects and \$6 million from property management, reported SBD Director of Finance William Garay.

With general fund expenses of about \$18.6 million, net income for the general fund is projected to be \$494,644. The largest portion of the general fund, about \$10.5 million, will be used for administration.

The board also approved a new lease agreement in which the airport will provide the airport fire station and equipment for the **San Bernardino County Fire** District to provide the airport aircraft rescue and firefighting services.

According to the agreement the airport will pay \$766,159 per year (about 50 percent of annual operating expenses) for the emergency services, paid for using rescue and firefighting services fees collected from airport users.

This new agreement, since San Bernardino City Fire Department was annexed by County Fire, will move from providing services on an as-needed basis to providing dedicated 24-hour services.

https://www.highlandnews.net/business/sbd-approves-long-term-lease-with-fedex/article_a5a5d2a2-7bde-11e8-824a-fbdd3174d37c.html