



NEWS



News Headlines 9/18-19/2018

- Vacant commercial building burns in San Bernardino
- County official to speak at MAC meeting
- Candidate Profile: Successful, involved community focus of Martinez's platform in Barstow
- Victorville Man Arrested for Falsely Reporting Fire At Neighbor's Home
- Around Town: Signs of support or not?

Vacant commercial building burns in San Bernardino

Jonah Valdez, San Bernardino Sun

PUBLISHED: September 18, 2018 at 10:38 pm | UPDATED: September 18, 2018 at 10:45 pm

San Bernardino County Fire crews fought and eventually gained control of a fire at a vacant commercial building in San Bernardino on Tuesday night.

At 9:23 p.m., firefighters reported to a call about a fire at a single-story commercial structure on E Street and Magnolia Avenue. The flames were burning through the roof as crews arrived.

A road closure was in place on E Street between Virginia Street and Evans Street, fire officials said.

Fire officials gained control of the fire at 9:54 p.m., said Eric Sherwin, spokesman for the San Bernardino County Fire Department. There was no threat to any surrounding structures.

Sherwin said fire officials determined that no occupants were inside the building.

There were no injuries to fire officials or civilians.

<https://www.sbsun.com/2018/09/18/vacant-commercial-building-burns-in-san-bernardino/>

County official to speak at MAC meeting

Staff Writer, Victorville Daily Press

POSTED: September 19, 2018 at 12:01am

Brud Hancock, superintendent of operations for San Bernardino County Solid Waste Management, will be the guest speaker at Thursday's Lucerne Valley/Johnson Valley Municipal Advisory Council meeting. Hancock is expected to bring other members of his team and the MAC has earmarked his portion of the meeting for 30 or more minutes, according to Chairman Roger Peterson.

The MAC will meet at 5 p.m. Thursday at the Lucerne Valley Community Center, 33187 Highway 247 East, Lucerne Valley.

An additional 15 minutes will be allocated for continued discussion of the proposed **San Bernardino County Fire Tax**. This is a non-action item for the MAC Board, but the discussion will likely center around whether or not the Board wishes to either offer support for the tax or oppose it.

The meeting also will feature regular reports from a representative of the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department, a representative of the San Bernardino County Fire Department, a CALFIRE representative, a CSA 29 representative, and Mark Lundquist will give an update from Third District Supervisor James Ramos.

In addition, Peterson will give a report from the Land Use Committee, and vice chair Jean Fuqua will provide an update from the Cemetery Committee.

<http://www.vvdailynews.com/news/20180919/county-official-to-speak-at-mac-meeting>

Candidate Profile: Successful, involved community focus of Martinez's platform in Barstow

Paola Baker, Victorville Daily Press

POSTED: September 19, 2018 at 8:34am



Brianna Martinez, a 27-year-old graphic designer, is a Barstow City Council candidate for District 2. [James Quigg, Desert Dispatch]

BARSTOW — Brianna Martinez gravitated to the big city from Barstow in her early twenties, like many small-town residents tend to do.

“I did like the anonymity, not knowing everyone like you do in a small town,” Martinez said. “Originally, I didn’t want to come back. But I did miss that small-town charm.”

Martinez made it a point to get involved when she came back. And the more she did, the more she came around to the idea that maybe there was a reason for her to be here.

“I know it sounds cheesy, but it’s true,” Martinez said. “As I started to get more involved with the city and community, I started to realize I could make improvements.”

Improving the city is the name of the game for the 27-year-old graphic designer, who’s making her first run for City Council in District 2, where she resides. Martinez is running against incumbent Merrill Gracey and challengers Bennie Fedrick and James Noble.

Martinez immersed herself in learning all she could about the city’s inner workings by attending Council and Chamber of Commerce meetings and participating in various committees. But the one thing that struck her the most was the apparent lack of involvement — from both ends.

“It’s kind of unfortunate to say, but a lot of the community has the attitude of ‘what’s in it for me?’, Martinez said. “The community has given up on the city council, and the city council has given up on the community.”

She cites one of her frequent talking points — cleaning up the neighborhoods — and its response as a prime example.

“There are several programs and information available on the subject, but I don’t think the community knows about them enough to involve themselves to care,” Martinez said. “We have to try and change that.”

That ‘can-do’ attitude extends to Martinez’s stance on other issues involving the city, such as curbing crime rates, developing more housing, and the need to bring in new business. It’s not just about preparing for goals, but actively reaching for them, as Martinez puts it.

“If we approach it with a ‘what’s in it for me’ attitude, no one is going to come here,” Martinez said. “Not only do we have to make ourselves more attractive for that business or development, we have to go out and compete for it.”

Like the Big Lots distribution center, now located in a remote part of Apple Valley.

“I don’t remember hearing or reading anything about our city competing for it. We could have had that right here in Barstow, right off the freeway,” Martinez said. “I just think we could be doing more.”

She’s gone against the grain from all other candidates by not supporting Measure Q, the one-percent sales tax on the ballot this fall whose revenues are expected to be earmarked for city fire and police services.

“I don’t think we as a city can continue to keep lifting up the fire and police department and keep the city itself afloat,” Martinez said. “I just don’t think it’s sustainable.”

City officials have said annexation of the fire district to the **San Bernardino County Fire Department** would be the most likely option if Measure Q fails. Officials pointed to the perceived negatives in that scenario — namely, the possibility of higher taxes and the loss of local control.

Martinez, however, argues that’s it’s more important to ensure the city’s well being by providing robust city and fire services, something the city’s struggled with.

“It’s not about being popular with the community, it’s about providing the best care and services,” Martinez said. “If you’re not equipped to provide the best care, then how can you keep doing your job?”

While detractors point to the estimated \$150-a-year parcel tax that a move to County Fire would cost, Martinez said she believes that money “would be used for its purpose.”

“With the city, we don’t know where the money will go,” Martinez said, underscoring another major factor behind her decision to run — merging the widening gap between city officials and the community they serve.

“I may not know everything, but I can learn anything,” Martinez said. “And I’m passionate enough about my community to help build it back up, whether I’m a council member or not.”

The general election is Nov. 6. Visit www.vvdailynews.com to see videos of each candidate explaining why they’re running for office and what key issues they’re focused on.

<http://www.vvdailynews.com/news/20180919/candidate-profile-successful-involved-community-focus-of-martinezs-platform-in-barstow>

Victorville Man Arrested for Falsely Reporting Fire At Neighbor's Home

Staff Writer, 247 Headline

POSTED: September 18, 2018



VICTORVILLE – A 54-year-old Victorville was arrested after falsely reporting that his neighbors home was on fire.

On Saturday, September 15, 2018, at around 8:00 p.m. a **San Bernardino County Fire Department** fire engine and three Sheriff's units responded to the 16200 block of Tokay Street for the report of a residential structure fire. When they arrived at the home, there was no fire, smoke, or anything else to indicate that there were ever any signs of a fire. Through investigation, it was learned that Garth Severin had an ongoing dispute with his neighbor and called 911 to report a fire to attempt to cause disruption to his neighbor.

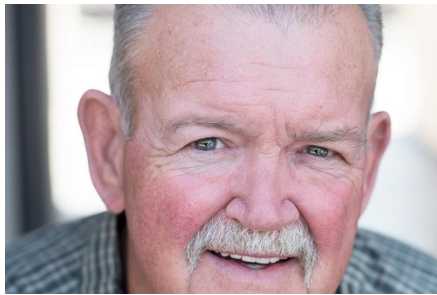
Severin was arrested and booked into the High Desert Detention Center. He posted bail on the morning of Sunday, September 16, 2018. There are no court appearances scheduled at this time.

<https://247headline.com/victorville-man-arrested-for-falsely-reporting-fire-at-neighbors-home/>

Around Town: Signs of support or not?

Pat Orr, Victorville Daily Press

POSTED: September 19, 2018 at 8:34am



Each campaign season we experience the onslaught of political signs. The large 4 foot by 8 foot signs you will see sprouting up around town this coming Saturday when you wake up are reasonably expensive and require the land owner's specific permission to be placed. Other local municipalities have caved in to arguments made by the ACLU and others that to have "rules" about when signs can be placed is unconstitutional and abridges the right of free speech. In a word, that's stupid. Without any rules our valley would be littered with signs all year. Victor Valley College Board candidate Dennis Henderson put up a few signs in Apple Valley weeks ago, which were promptly removed. He and his progressive friends may have bamboozled Victorville and Hesperia, but we stuck by our sign ordinance.

That leads me to my next political sign complaint – yard signs. Yard signs are called yard signs because they belong in the front yards of a candidate's supporters. I always have a few yard signs on my property during the run up to an election. But I am also aware of my neighbor across the street and monitor his vacant parcel for inappropriate sign use. What has evolved though is that yards signs are being planted on commercial corners, vacant lots, empty homes and along busy roads where they do not belong. I am hereby empowering you to remove any yard sign you see on your property that you did not approve. Further, go ahead and ask that merchant if he approved a sign out on the parkway in front of his busy store or your neighbor if he wants the sign in front of his house on the corner. No? It goes. Do not throw the sign away or destroy it. Leave it on the ground or drop it at Town Hall.

There are regulations about how far off the roadway signs must be placed and clear field of view required at corners and stop signs which no one seems to follow or understand anymore, but signs are not to be in the public right-of-way. The folks who put the sign there didn't have permission and so they have no inherent "right" to use private property for this purpose. You have no "right" to destroy the sign. When a candidate puts yard signs all over Town everywhere but where they belong, in yards of supporters, you can quickly determine that they have a little money but not the voter support to get elected. Name recognition doesn't come from signs, it comes from community involvement.

Dodged a bullet

A few days ago, residents of the county received a letter from the **San Bernardino County Fire Department** detailing a new fire tax. The tax, with automatic 3 percent annual increases will fund service in vast areas of our county. The good news is that Supervisor Robert Lovingood, in consultation with local fire and Town officials made sure that residents who are now in the Apple Valley Fire Protection District Boundaries but technically outside Apple Valley Town boundaries and thus county residents, are exempted from this new fire tax. Many of these same folks already feel double taxed because of the State Fire Fee that hits some residents

who are also serviced and taxed by AVFPD. At least this helps these residents avoid triple taxation for the same basic services.

Two resource meetings for ‘seniors’ today

The Association of Realtors is hosting a Senior Resource Fair from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. today at their offices at 1890 Hesperia Road in Hesperia. Information about new funding and programs for senior citizens, Reverse Mortgages and real estate questions of every type and manner are available to attendees. Getting ready to down-size and not sure about the new transferable property tax rules? Come on down and let a qualified expert give you the benefit of their experience.

On the other end of the spectrum, Congressman Paul Cook’s office is hosting a Service Academy Orientation Seminar aimed at high school seniors who may have a desire to attend one of the fine U.S. Military Academies like West Point, Annapolis or the Air Force Academy. This is the time of the year for high school seniors interested in this future to get the facts, details and planning materials to seek a Congressional Appointment. The orientation will be held at Victorville City Hall Room D tonight between 6:30 and 7:30 p.m.

Can you believe the label?

Partisan designations in a non-partisan race cannot be taken too seriously. Like every other label, one must “examine the goods” before just believing the label. I am told there are nine Republicans out of the 12 Apple Valley Town Council candidates. I doubt it. Party registration is one identifier, but actions speak louder than words. As I have said many times in this space, watch what they do and not what they say. For better or worse, I have been involved with GOP politics in San Bernardino County for more than a decade and most of these self-identified “Republicans” in this race have never been involved in any other campaign, gone to a fundraiser or organizational meeting. I would encourage voters at all levels to look at candidate’s public statements on the issues.

Our biggest local issue is the water company acquisition which has been already approved by voters. Are these candidates against public ownership of our water? Has a candidate signed the front of a paycheck – meaning do they have some experience in budgeting, team building and the people skills to build a business and deal with adversity. While we all want to bring new leaders into our community the fact is, experienced leadership isn’t easy to find. Principled leadership is even harder to find. People doing the will of the people first and following their own agenda second. Look deep at the candidates this year and be critical. Elect the ones who will serve your agenda.

<http://www.vvdailynews.com/news/20180919/around-town-signs-of-support-or-not>