



NEWS



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ENGINE FIRE DESTROYS MERCEDES SUV EARLY FRIDAY MORNING

Staff Writer, Z107.7 FM News

Posted: December 13, 2019



Yucca Valley firefighters contained this fire to the engine compartment of the Mercedes SUV. San Bernardino County Fire photo

Yucca Valley firefighters were called out in the early morning hours for a vehicle fire. About 12:40 a.m., a Mercedes SUV experienced mechanical problems and the engine caught on fire near Valley View and Navajo Trail in Yucca Valley. Firefighters were able to contain the fire to the engine compartment. The driver managed to get out of the vehicle safely and there were no injuries.

<http://z1077fm.com/engine-fire-destroys-mercedes-suv-early-friday-morning/>

List of participants announced for Fontana Christmas Parade on Dec. 14

Staff Writer, Fontana Herald News

Posted: December 13, 2019



Santa and Mrs. Claus wave to the crowd at the Fontana Christmas Parade in 2018. This year's event will be held on Dec. 14.

The joyous excitement of the holidays will be on display during the Fontana Christmas Parade and Festival of Winter on Saturday, Dec. 14.

Temperatures in the 60s and partly sunny skies are in the weather forecast for the annual events, which take place in the downtown area.

The parade, which has a theme of "The Magic of Christmas," will begin at 10 a.m. on the corner of Sierra Avenue and Arrow Boulevard and will proceed south on Sierra to Merrill Avenue.

The event will feature several holiday-themed floats, marching bands, dancers, and other participants, including Santa and Mrs. Claus.

Members of the award-winning Randall Pepper Elementary School Robotics Team will be the grand marshals.

"We invite everyone to come out and enjoy the Christmas Parade this year," said Sonja Dawkins, the president of the Fontana Exchange Club, which coordinates the parade along with the City of Fontana.

"This year we are also happy to honor Chris and Marie Garcia, who have served as the Fontana Christmas Parade's Mr. and Mrs. Claus with beautiful presentations for the last six years. We are excited to see their 2019 creation themed 'Santa's Magical Christmas Sleigh and Santa's Helpers.'"

----- HERE is a preliminary list of parade entrants (not in order of appearance):

Fontana Police Department 1952 Ford

Exchange Club Banner, Girl Scouts of San Geronio Council

Grand Marshals, Randall Pepper Elementary School Robotics Team

Exchange Club President Sonja Dawkins

Mayor Acquanetta Warren

Young Homes Float

Eloise Gomez Reyes, Assemblymember

Josie Gonzales, San Bernardino County Supervisor

Laura Mancha, San Bernardino County Board of Education

Fontana Expanded Learning Program

Fontana Senior Center Classes

Fontana Senior Center Clubs

Fontana Senior Center, Senior Prom, Veterans Club and Board

Pomona Valley Corvette Association

Fontana Walks

CYSC Allstars

Jurupa Hills High School Marching Spartans

Fontana First Assembly of God

Inland Empire Square Dancers

Uplifting Arts Academy

Lewis Library and Technology Center Adventure Truck

Resurrection Academy

Fontana High School Athletics

Sequoia Middle School Marching Eagles

Truman Middle School Cheer

Fontana Elks Little League

Summit Skyhawks Marching Regiment

Door Christian Fellowship

Kaiser Catamount Pride Band and Color Guard

Norma J. Torres, Congresswoman

Christine Page, Giving Honor to Cancer Survivors

Fontana Chamber of Commerce

Cub Scout Pack 250

American Cancer Society, Relay for Life

Fontana Middle School Ballet Folklorico

FLIP

Fontana Kiwanis Club with Cub Scout Pack 625

Legendary Heroes Taekwondo

Fontana High School Ballet Folklorico

Route 66 Dance Studio

Fontana AYSO Region 136

Kiddie Academy of Fontana

Stater Bros. Market

Califas Classic Car Club

Fontana A.B. Miller Marching Rebels

Fontana Titans Football and Cheer

Cub Scout Pack 588

Kaiser High School Army ROTC

Truman Middle School Timberwolf Band

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

Ballet Folklorico Tierra de mi Padre

Inland Empire Bruins

Fontana Pop Warner

Rancho Los Marquez

Tonia Lewis, Fontana City Clerk

Janet Koehler Brooks, Fontana City Treasurer

Fontana Art Association

Miss Fontana and Court

City of Fontana Tiny Tots

West Valley Water District

Fontana Woman's Club

Buffalo Soldier Mounted Cavalry

Empowering Success Now

San Bernardino County Fire Station 71

Les Schwab Tire Center

Jesse Sandoval, City Councilmember and Mary Sandoval, FUSD Board Member

U.S. Census Bureau

Fontana High School ASB

Girl Scouts

Santa Claus

----- FOLLOWING the Christmas Parade, the City of Fontana will be hosting the Festival of Winter at Miller Park, 17004 Arrow Boulevard, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

This free community event will feature rides and attractions, live entertainment on two stages, photo opportunities with Santa, and a variety of vendors and activity booths.

Attendees will be able to sled down more than 40 tons of fresh snow or watch their little ones play in a Tot Lot and experience snow for the first time.

For more information, call the Fontana Community Services Department at (909) 349-6900.

https://www.fontanaheraldnews.com/news/list-of-participants-announced-for-fontana-christmas-parade-on-dec/article_04d2b33a-1dc3-11ea-a44d-9bd552ab3511.html

FORMER PANORAMA HEIGHTS FIRE STATION TO OFFER HOMELESS ASSISTANCE

Staff Writer, Z107.7 FM News

Posted: December 13, 2019



Panorama Heights Fire Station. Google Maps photo.

In April of 2019, San Bernardino County announced that the Fire Station 35 building in Panorama Heights had been leased to a non-profit organization to be used as a day-use homeless facility. The County soon revoked the lease, however, after dozens of community members unexpectedly protested the decision with outrage. Months after the lease was revoked, San Bernardino County has issued a new lease for the land to a different non-profit organization that also works to assist the homeless. Reporter Andrew Dieleman fills us in...

San Bernardino County recently leased the Fire Station 35 building in Panorama Heights to Morongo Basin Aligning Resources, Challenging Homelessness, or ARCH. According to Community Outreach Coordinator Wayne Hamilton, the building will be used as an administrative office and resource center for the non-profit organization. ARCH provides temporary financial assistance in finding housing for the homeless and for those at risk of homelessness. Hamilton emphasized that meetings will be by appointment only and that the building will not serve as overnight housing. For more information on ARCH, contact Community Outreach Coordinator Wayne Hamilton at 760-401-0375.

<http://z1077fm.com/former-panorama-heights-fire-station-to-offer-homeless-assistance/>

Adelanto's Council votes to begin annexation of fire services

Martin Estacio, Victorville Daily Press

Posted: December 12, 2019



In this 2014 file photo, a San Bernardino County firefighter watches as flames envelop a home. The Adelanto City Council voted unanimously on Wednesday, Dec. 11, 2019, to annex its fire services to the County Fire Protection District in a cost-saving measure. [DAILY PRESS FILE PHOTO]

ADELANTO — The City Council voted Wednesday to begin the process of annexing its fire services to the **San Bernardino County Fire** Protection District, a move that could save the cash-strapped city \$2 million a year.

In addition, maintaining fire station buildings, vehicles and equipment would be the sole responsibility of the district, another potential cost savings.

Annexation would mean replacing a 10-year contract the city already has with the district, which totalled more than \$4.7 million this year.

“If you just consider the cost of upgrading the fire trucks, I mean that’s \$1.2 million right there that the city cannot afford right now,” said Ward Komers, Adelanto’s finance director.

The unanimous approval comes as city officials look for solutions to tackle a more than \$6 million structural deficit. Layoffs were made recently due to the deficit, and a proposed parcel tax is on the table.

If the annexation goes through, Adelanto’s fire services would be funded by city residents paying an annual parcel tax of roughly \$157, as well as a percentage of a 1% tax they already pay on their properties. The parcel tax would be subject to a 3% maximum annual increase if approved by the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors.

The tax, which is in effect elsewhere in the county, was met with backlash when the supervisors denied the district’s request for the maximum allowable increase earlier this year. The supervisors have since asked county staff and fire officials to seek alternative forms of funding.

Another benefit of annexation would be Adelanto’s inclusion in a larger fire-district area.

County Fire Assistant Chief Dave Corbin said Adelanto would be open to a shared pool of revenue that could be directed toward improving fire services, something the city isn’t able to accomplish financially.

The Council members appeared to be in consensus Wednesday that the annexation was a solution with almost no drawbacks.

“I think it’s important that we not just look at this as a dollars savings but also look at in regards to (whether) this is what’s best for all of our constituents?” Mayor Gabriel Reyes said.

Corbin said it was a move that several other cities, such as Upland, Twentynine Palms and San Bernardino, made when experiencing similar financial woes. Officials in Upland said the city had saved up to \$4 million after annexing to the fire district in 2017, the Inland Valley Daily Bulletin reported.

Councilwoman Stevevonna Evans said she liked that the process of annexation would give the residents a voice in whether they wanted it or not.

As part of the process, Adelanto residents would receive mailers during a 60-day period.

At a hearing, if 25 to 50% sent back protests, the annexation would have to be approved by voters in a ballot measure. If over 50% disagree, it would be killed outright.

Corbin said the entire process if approved would likely take less than a year.

<https://www.vvdailypress.com/news/20191212/adelantos-council-votes-to-begin-annexation-of-fire-services>

Skateland is gutted by inferno

Paul Prado, Highland Community News

Posted: December 12, 2019



Firefighter Mollicone, from engine 221, provided exterior water support, during the Skateland blaze, that occurred last Thursday. Battalion chiefs begin to evaluate the structural damage to Skateland roller rink, after a devastating fire gutted the interior of the building, last Thursday.[Paul Prado]

In the early morning hours of Thursday, Dec. 5, a huge plume of thick black smoke poured from the abandoned Skateland in San Bernardino, a signal that the once popular skating was engulfed and eventually destroyed by fire.

The rink, on the 2100 block of N. Lugo Street, was a popular destination to skate for residents in the Inland Empire.

According to Battalion Chief Mike McClintock, of **San Bernardino County Fire 138**, the alarm was made at 6:40 a.m.

“One of our engines returning back from a call, found a working fire in the building,” said McClintock.

“They saw heavy smoke showing and started a first and second alarm, to get a bunch of companies to help out.”

According to McClintock, San Bernardino County Fire started from a transitional attack and ended holding a defensive posture on the fully engulfed building.

“Right now, we have master streams from multiple companies and inter-companies from the exterior,” said McClintock. “We have nine engines and three companies, on the scene, with multiple chief officers, our fire investigator team, to work on cause and origin.”

As the firefighters engaged the inferno, several blocks were affected in the vicinity.

“This building was a fixture in San Bernardino that many people enjoyed,” said Battalion Chief Steve Tracy. “It’s sad to see this happen to such a popular place.

“We’re happy that there were no significant injuries and that it didn’t spread to any of the nearby occupancies,” he added.

McClintock said that the fire crews would be on scene to extinguish the blaze and overhaul what needs to be done.

Afterwards, the investigation of the origin of the fire will begin.

One fire firefighter suffered a minor injury in the incident.

“It’s pretty good that we got this fire under control, in a little less than an hour,” said Tracy. “The response was big, and we took the upper hand of the fire right away. I believe this place was sort of a landmark in San Bernardino.”

After the fire was completely extinguished, heavy equipment arrived to begin demolition of the iconic building.

No other injuries were reported.

https://www.highlandnews.net/news/public_safety/skateland-is-gutted-by-inferno/article_02f3e502-1d19-11ea-842f-67be63503dde.html

State Requests Voluntary Cessation of Fire Insurance Cancellations

Nick Kipley, Mountain News

Posted: December 12, 2019

In the comprehensive study titled “2010 Wildland-Urban Interface of the Conterminous United States” authored by the USDA Forest Service, the term ‘wildland-urban interface’ (WUI) is described in the abstract as “the area where structures and other human development meet or intermingle with undeveloped wildland, and it is where wildfires have their greatest impacts on people. Hence the WUI is important for wildfire management.”

The survey offers the most comprehensive data to-date on the number of homes and people residing within a WUI area in the contiguous 48-states. These data may have changed in the past ten years, but it is quite difficult to conceive that the number of homes built upon - or existing upon - WUI land has declined substantially since 2010, this especially in the San Bernardino Mountains and the other WUI regions in California.

As of 2010, the Forest Service calculates there were 302,815 seasonal homes in California, and 67.5% of those homes were in WUI areas. The Forest Service also calculates 11,244,948 people (or 30.2%) of California’s 2010 population of 37,253,956 people lived in communities located in WUI areas. Lake Arrowhead, Crestline, Running Springs and the other San Bernardino Mountain Communities fall into this category.

The span of years between 1998 to 2018 saw 10 of the 10 hottest years ever recorded, with nine of those years taking place during the 21st century, according to data from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA). During that same twenty-year period span, fifteen out of twenty of the most destructive (in terms of structures burnt) wildfires in California state history also occurred according to data provided by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE). In recent years, wildfires in California have come to consume more acres of vegetation or forest than they ever have, according to data from the National Interagency Fire Center.

As a result of the increasing intensity of State wildfires, Senate Bill 824 was drafted in 2017 and put into effect in September 2018, just after the most destructive fire season ever recorded (in terms of structures damaged) in state history saw the total destruction of the town of Paradise, California.

Michael Soller, Deputy Commissioner for Communications with the California Department of Insurance said that State Bill 824 was signed by Governor Jerry Brown in 2018 on his way out of office. The bill makes it illegal for insurance companies to drop coverage of homes located in ZIP codes located next to declared fire disaster areas for one year. The bill went into effect in January 2019, but it wasn't triggered until emergency declarations by Governor Gavin Newsom this past October. On Dec. 5, California Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara released a bulletin pursuant to insurance code section 675.1(b), or a 'Mandatory Moratorium on Non-Renewals After Recent Wildfire Activity.' What this means is,

"If you live near a declared fire disaster you get automatic protection from [insurance] non-renewal," Soller said. "This currently affects 800,000 policyholders but it is expected to go up."

In the past two months, the Mountain News has covered developments in this story as it has unfolded. At first, it seemed that insurers could drop coverage of any home they wanted, especially those in the WUI communities of the San Bernardino Mountains, but since SB 824 has been initiated by Governor Newsom's declaration of a statewide emergency in October, the ZIP codes that touch fire zones like October's Old Water Fire off of Highway 18 might see immunity from being non-renewal. Soller also noted that the list of ZIP codes immune from non-renewal from the Old Water Fire, and other fires in San Bernardino County this past autumn is still forthcoming.

For homes that aren't located in ZIP codes immune to non-renewal, however, the future is less clear.

On Dec. 5, State Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara also sent out an official notice to Insurers and Brokers addressing "All Admitted and Non-Admitted Insurers Writing Residential and Commercial Property Insurance in California," which many immediately interpreted to read saying insurance companies cannot cancel on homeowners due to the elevated fire risk of living in a WUI community, irrespective of whether or not they lived in the ZIP codes specified in the Mandatory Moratorium. Upon closer inspection, though, it becomes less clear that this is the case because the official notice uses extremely vague language to make the non-renewal request of insurers.

Craig Coston the broker/owner of Lake Arrowhead Insurance received a copy of the notice and described the puzzling the language used in a key paragraph.

"It's very ambiguously written," Coston said. "There was a state of emergency back in October and it gave the areas that even though it was a statewide state of emergency it gave the zip codes. Then [Commissioner] Lara sent out a letter to all insurance companies and brokers like myself saying basically it sounds like a

mandatory moratorium but it's not. It says in it directly "voluntarily refrain" from canceling except in those zip codes [that immediately surrounded a number of wildfire areas that were active at the time]."

The exact language of the notice is as follows:

On October 27, 2019, Governor Gavin Newsom declared a state of emergency for the entire state of California due to extreme fire danger conditions, one of several such Declarations for wildfires the Governor issued this year. Because the fires identified in the Governor's Declarations were located throughout the state, Commissioner Lara is calling on insurers to immediately voluntarily cease non-renewing all homeowners, condo unit owners, mobile homeowners, residential renters, and commercial property policies for one year from the date of this notice (until December 5, 2020) for the reasons specified above.

"Immediately voluntarily cease non-renewing. What does that mean?" Coston asked. "If a police officer pulled you over and asked you to immediately voluntarily cease speeding, would you have to? No! You'd probably keep speeding!"

"I've had so many customers calling me. I can't tell my customers with any degree of certainty that they won't be canceled [on by the insurance companies]," Coston added. "This is my community I'm deeply concerned about."

The Mountain News asked Deputy Commissioner Soller the hypothetical police officer question: "If a police officer pulled you over and asked you to immediately voluntarily cease speeding, would you have to?"

"I take your point," Soller said.

When asked about the number of insurance companies currently complying with the notice, Soller replied:

"This just went into effect and we haven't heard anything from [Insurance companies] yet." He said.

"I don't know what to expect [from insurers] exactly," Soller added. "But we will be following up with them to make sure they know this is important to communities."

Deputy Insurance Commissioner Michael Soller confirmed that an invitation-only roundtable event discussing **San Bernardino County fire** insurance concerns has been planned. Officials from San Bernardino County are in the process of selecting community leaders to attend. The meeting has been scheduled from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Wednesday Dec. 18 at the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors Office. A live video stream will be available on the California Department of Insurance's Facebook page. At the time of print, no press release was made available for the meeting.

http://www.mountain-news.com/news/article_24d05262-1ce9-11ea-9253-b7083b722e62.html