

The Juniper Reader

A quarterly publication representing the
Apple Valley Bureau of Land Management Committee (AVBLMC)

A subcommittee of the Apple Valley Planning Board

Prepared by Dee Maranhao/BLM Recorder

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Welcome to the Juniper Reader. In this short newsletter, we hope to bring Apple Valley residents up to speed on our committee activities. We are a small group, but very active in our work and dedicated to the protection of Apple Valley lands, whether they be our own or belonging to the Bureau of Land Management. Should any of you be inclined, your enthusiasm stirred, or your interest stimulated, please feel free to join our group at anytime. There is a meeting schedule for 2010 on the backside of this newsletter. Just give our current Chairperson, Marie McGowan, a call to let her know you are coming so we can have an agenda and any handouts ready for you.

Our Purpose

The AVBLMC was established by Apple Valley Town Council approximately five years ago, with the first Chairperson, Dick Naylor, being appointed by the Mayor. Dick served as Chairperson until July 2009, when Marie McGowan was elected to act as AVBLM Chair. When I joined the AVBLMC last year, the group was already involved in the investigation of BLM lands lying within Apple Valley Boundaries, and with how best to work with the BLM in the possible purchase or leasing of BLM Lands.

The Recreation Public Purposed Act (RPP)

This act authorizes the sale or lease of public lands for recreational or public purposes to State and local governments and to qualified non-profit organizations. Examples of typical uses under the act are historic monuments, campgrounds, schools, fire houses, law enforcement facilities, municipal facilities, landfills, hospitals, parks, and fairgrounds.

The Resolution

The AVBLM Committee has been granted a Resolution from the Town Council that allows us to move forward in the lease/purchase of a beautiful 40-acre plot that will be used for parks and recreation purposes. Preparation of the application includes an environmental study and a written management and construction plan covering a five-year lease period. It is our hope to submit our application for lease/purchase within the next two years.

Partnerships

Form Tomorrow: representatives attend BLM Meetings, assist us in the RPP process, providing assistance with the application/lease/construction process, project design and engineering, grant searches, and a variety of other valuable services for a young town.

Five County AOG: Made up of five counties in the area, the group has developed, Vision Dixie, a complex system for the development of communities and surrounding areas. There are also DIB grants and CDBG funding available.

Other Partnerships—under investigation:

Minor or Junior League Baseball affiliates: may be interested in sponsoring a field that can be used for tournament play. The town of Virgin has partnered with a BMX Affiliation that provided assistance in development of the trail system. We are hoping for a similar partnership with baseball leagues and other partnerships that can assist us in developing and building the park.

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The Town Park:

Currently, there are two conceptual designs for the park. Both include ball parks, open lawn areas for play and picnic, designated picnic and BBQ areas, nature trail, and playground. Accessibility features, such as road access, park entrances, utilities, water, and sanitation need to be engineered. Additionally, a maintenance plan needs to be developed for aftercare of the facilities. There has been much discussion regarding approaching the project with sustainability in mind. All these components make up the application and petitioning process for filing an RPP with the BLM. The Committee and Mayor have met with BLM and received their "go ahead" to pursue the RPP submittal.

Upon approval of the RPP and the approved leasing in place, then Apple Valley town will have to carve the nature trails, build benches, tables, and other hardscapes, install baseball fields, picnic areas, playgrounds, and possibly structures. This will be a beautiful area that can be used and enjoyed by all residents of Apple Valley--a gathering place to call our own.

Other AVBLMC Activities:

Additionally, the BLM has expressed an interest in working with Apple Valley to improve current trails and to build new hiking, walking, and nature trails. There has been much enthusiastic talk among committee members on how best to utilize BLM support and programs. By joining current trails, we may be able to have one continuous trail that surrounds our town. Discussions of developing town trail maps and promotional activities that would bring more visitors (and revenue!) to our beautiful town are ongoing.

2010 Tentative Meeting Schedule:

All meetings are held on the first Monday of each month at the Smithsonian Firestation at 7pm unless otherwise stated*.

January 11*, February 1, March 1, April 5, May 3, June 7, July 12, August 2, September 13, October 4, November & December--no meetings are scheduled during holiday months.

AVBLMC Wish List: This list is ongoing and ever growing...

Help: assistance with engineering, drafting, construction, trail development, town planning; experience with baseball leagues and other sports affiliates, grant writing, funding proposals, fund raising, organizational skills....

Funding, Supplies, etc.: sponsorships, donations, construction equipment and services, building supplies, benches, picnic tables, BBQ design, installation, and construction, sustainable hardscape and paving supplies, composting toilets, solar systems, electrical, plumbing, irrigation, sod, soil and amendments, plant materials, seed....

The Juniper Reader is submitted on behalf of the Apple Valley BLM Committee: Chairperson, Marie McGowan; Past Chair, Dick Naylor; Recorder & Editor Dee Maranhao; and valuable volunteer members: Shelby Brewer, Helen Holzknecht, Mike Maddocks and Krista White. For more information, call Committee Chair, Marie McGowan at 705-5300 or email PlaidAppleRanch@yahoo.com

This will be the first issue of our quarterly publication with other issues released around the first of March (Spring), June (Summer), and September (Fall).