



Desert Alliance for Community Empowerment

RANCHO HOUSING ALLIANCE
GOOD NEIGHBOR SERVICES



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

WWW.DCEZ.ORG

DECEMBER 2007

DACE Repairs Gen. Patton Museum Parking Lot in Chiriaco Summit

(See page two for photo)

DACE/RANCHO project staff completed a \$30,000 resurfacing of the Gen. Patton Memorial Museum's parking lot, just in time for the facility's Veteran's Day extravaganza on Nov. 10th.

The museum's parking lot had suffered from decades of wear and traffic, with deep potholes and inadequate drainage.

The museum board recently embarked on a fundraising campaign — headed by former Indian Wells Mayor Walter McIntyre and DACE/RANCHO Board Member Margit Chiriaco Rusche — to fund a \$2 million expansion of the museum's collections and facilities, including a 12,000 sq. foot multi-purpose room and diversification of the tank yard.

Big-rig drivers en-route to Los Angeles or Phoenix often park overnight in the museum's front lot, obstructing motorists' view of the museum from the frontage road and Interstate 10.

An additional \$10,000 is being contributed by Riverside County to stripe and seal the lot.

Dignitaries, Families Celebrate Completion of RANCHO's Blythe Infill Housing Project



Riverside County 4th District Supervisor and DACE/RANCHO Board Member Roy Wilson (far left) welcomes the Aguliar family into their new three-bedroom home, part of RANCHO's latest "stick-built" infill housing project in downtown Blythe. Three of the six homes — which were completed a month ahead of schedule — are still available to prospective homebuyers.

Ranch Market, Forty Jobs Coming to Blythe Village Center

Abesud "Abby" Halum, owner/operator of Coachella Ranch Market, is the newest tenant in the DACE-owned Blythe Village Center.

A lease agreement with Mr. Halum was formalized on Nov. 15th, according to DACE Property Manager Eddie Cedeño.

Halum's grocery, a 15,000 sq. foot Hispanic-specialty store, will bring an estimated forty jobs to the Blythe area. His store will be located in the space previously occupied by Imperial Home Furnishings.

Halum has owned and managed Coachella Ranch Market — as well as six Toro Loco stores in the Coachella Valley — for twenty years. He is an esteemed member of the business community and a generous benefactor.

The Blythe Village Center's current tenants include K-Mart, Radio Shack, the County of Riverside and Checker Auto.

Inside This Issue

Mesa Verde/Ripley Manufactured Homes — 2

San Felipe to Planning Commission — 2

Manufactured Infill Homes Find Permanent Foundation in Mesa Verde and Ripley



The first phase of DACE/RANCHO's infill housing effort in Mesa Verde and Ripley is underway, with delivery of three manufactured homes to lots on Pepper and Green Streets in Mesa Verde. The factory-built homes are equipped with the same amenities of "stick-built" homes, including energy-efficient appliances, carpeting, and central air/heating. As well, the three- and four-bedroom models both come with two full bathrooms and detached garages. The project is slated for completion by Christmas 2007.

Migrant Dormitory Goes to County Planning Dept.

On Thursday, Nov. 15th, the County of Riverside Technical Review Committee approved substantial changes to the 48-bed San Felipe Migrant Housing and Community Center in Thermal.

The revisions to the project's site plan, which demonstrate the highest and best use of the parcel, will be presented before the County of Riverside Planning Commission in January 2008.

Pending commission approval, construction on the facility is expected to begin in February 2008.

— *Michael Dixon, DACE/RANCHO Project Coordinator*



A photo of DACE/RANCHO's renovation of the Gen. Patton Memorial Museum parking lot, taken on Nov. 14 by RANCHO Project Manager Katherine Mejia. The \$30,000 resurfacing was performed by One General Engineering.