

High Desert Report

A quarterly economic overview of the High Desert region affiliated with The Bradco Companies, a commercial real estate group



I wish to welcome our current and future subscribers to the 48th edition of the Bradco High Desert Report, the only quarterly overview of the High Desert region, covering the northern portion of

San Bernardino County and the Inland Empire. We more specifically address economic issues affecting the cities of Adelanto, Barstow, Hesperia, Victorville, and the Town of Apple Valley.

As always, we wish to thank all of our committed article suppliers and our newsletter sponsors for their continued commitment to our endeavor, and our attempt to find positive, factual and interesting information as it relates to the High Desert economy.

As I have said for the past few editions, I strongly believe that our world, our nation, our state, the Inland Empire, and the High Desert region are currently challenged with a very serious financial crisis, a crisis that we have never seen before. As publisher of the Bradco High Desert Report, I still believe the "glass is half full," as evidenced by our continued attempt to monitor the High Desert region and to make information available to those that have an inherent interest within the High Desert region.

Our firm has noticed a definite increase in commercial, retail, and industrial leasing, as well as the sale of some industrial properties throughout the area. We continually caution our sellers and lessors to price their properties appropriately as the market changes, based on rents, CAP rates, comparable sales, etc.

Effective with the 45th edition, the Bradco High Desert Report has now been made available electronically. Over 1,750 people have now signed up to receive this publication or any other information that we put out from time to time for free, relative to retail, commercial, industrial vacancies, occupancies, comparable sales, etc.

If this is your first time reading this publication, please visit www.thebradcocompanies.com/register and

complete the short registration process to receive "for free" any information that we put out on issues that affect the High Desert economy, or anything that we put out that we believe needs to be communicated to those people that have an interest within the High Desert region.

We always appreciate hearing from our close friends and one of my all time idols, Dr. Alfred Gobar, Chairman Emeritus of Alfred Gobar Associates (Anaheim). His article titled, "Basis For Some Optimism?" is another well-written explanation of the current downturn. Dr. Al, we appreciate it!

We're pleased to welcome Mr. Michael Stewart's article representing Barstow Community Hospital. We wish Michael Stewart the very best in his recent promotion that's taken place since the submission of his article. Mr. Rick Piercy, CEO and President of the Lewis Center runs one of the nations top charter schools and we're humbled that he selected our publication to submit information. Again, many thanks, Rick!

Additional articles include Mr. Eldon Heaston, Executive Director of the Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District; Mr. Carlos Rodriguez, CEO of the Building Industry Association; Mr. Michael Stevens, Community Liaison Officer for the Mojave Water Agency; our favorite First District Supervisor, Mr. Brad Mitzelfelt and information on the High Desert Corridor. The High Desert Corridor is a very exciting project and I not only thank Brad, but also his staff for taking the time to educate our readership.

Another welcome to Mr. Gary S.

continued on page 5

Inside This Issue

Basis for Some Optimism?	2
Barstow Community Hospital Construction.....	6
The Lewis Center a Strong Educational Foundation	7
Air District Offers Emission-Reduction Grants	8
Victor Valley Housing and BIA Efforts Hold Keys to Recovery...	9
Preparing for the Next Drought	10
The High Desert Corridor	11
County of San Bernardino Schools Preparing Students.....	14
Victor Valley College's Public Safety Training Center	17
High Desert Transportation.....	18
The Difference a Year Makes.....	21
San Bernardino State of the County	22
Applying Lessons Learned from Our Past	23
Taking the Waste out of Wastewater	24
City Update	
Adelanto	25
Town of Apple Valley	26
Barstow	27
Hesperia	28
Victorville.....	31

To receive your **FREE** quarterly online subscription to **The Bradco High Desert Report** register today at:
www.TheBradcoCompanies.com/register



The Lewis Center a Strong Educational Foundation

By Rick Piercy, CEO/President of the Lewis Center for Educational Research

Across from my house a school is under construction, and for the past several months I've watched as earth was removed, returned, compacted, smoothed and leveled to exact specifications. It was then dug up again as conduit was laid, rebar placed, and footings poured. It has been months of exacting work after countless months of planning, engineering, and review. In the end the foundation that has been so meticulously laid will be hidden from view. It will be covered with walls, floors, roofing, and furniture, yet by all accounts it is the most important part of the building; on this all else will be measured. If the foundation lacks integrity the building's integrity will come into question. If it isn't square the rest of the structure will not be straight. And if an earthquake hits while full of children, it will not be strong enough to protect those inside.

It's true that we don't think much about the foundation of a school, hospital, or even our house, but they are obviously so important. Likewise, most of us don't think deeply about the foundation of our nation. We talk about the strength of a nation being its people; we use cliché sound bites: like our children are our future and needing a well-educated workforce. But few of us look at the importance of the national foundation of the American educational system. There is debate, criticism, letters to the editor, and a thousand self-serving solutions, but very few places where carefully planned solutions are being tested and refined. One such place is the Lewis Center for Educational Research.

Those of you who are reading this may be doing so out of curiosity. Why would this article appear in the "High Desert Report", an economic quarterly? At this point you may feel guilty and think you

need to get back to the important news in the report. But stay with me, this may be more relevant than you think. The analogy of a building's foundation is certainly apropos to many of the things you do in your normal workday, as well as the way we educate the country's children.

Today's educational system is built on a foundation laid over 100 years ago during the Industrial Revolution. Think of today's builders using 100 year old technology and materials from the early 1900's. Think of them going out and taking anyone off the street to work on the project and pouring foundations with a large group of laborers hand-mixing cement and transporting it in wheel barrows. Our education system was designed using the work of Frederick Winslow Taylor, born in 1856. He is considered the father of scientific management and a leader of the Efficiency Movement, which brought us the assembly line. Think about our schools. Each classroom is a different stage of the assembly line. Children are moved from room to room, from kindergarten to twelfth grade. They enter school not based on maturation or ability but by age. Children in our system are not treated like unique, one-of-a-kind individuals but as widgets; something to be shaped to look like every other widget on the line. That system worked for the industrial movement. Henry Ford didn't have to worry about child labor laws and needed unskilled, uneducated workers. As you know, that is not the case today.

So what can be done to change the system? Is it hopeless? Have so many special interests groups high-jacked the system that our only hope is the complete collapse of America's schools? We at

the Lewis Center and our two laboratory schools don't think so. In fact we have the audacity to believe that we can change the world and have been doing so a little at a time for over 25 years.

It may certainly sound conceited to say that a small organization in the Town of Apple Valley would think that its work with 2,000 students could change 100 years of entrenched government bureaucracy, but we do. The Lewis Center and its two charter schools, the Norton Space and Aeronautics Academy in San Bernardino and the Academy for Academic Excellence in Apple Valley, provide a wonderful opportunity for us to test and evaluate the latest brain research, pedagogy, best practices and techniques. It is where we look at the effectiveness of technology in the educational process and also look at reducing the cost of education and maximizing the return on investment.

The Lewis Center also operates programs that reach students across the United States and around the world. Our partnership with NASA allows us to control and operate three radio telescopes at the Deep Space Network at Goldstone, located on Fort Irwin near Barstow. Through our Mission Control Center in Apple Valley, students as young as Kindergarten operate a million pound, nine story high radio telescope from their classroom and gather data for NASA scientists on real scientific projects. Our K16 Bridge program is providing over 100,000 students in California and Texas with the tools to take charge of their education and prepare them for careers and higher education. Almost 300,000 students have traveled with their classmates and teachers on fieldtrips to our campus on the Mojave River.

continued on page 8

The Lewis Center a Strong Educational Foundation

Continued

The students at the Academy for Academic Excellence, our oldest school at 14 years, are providing proof that what we are doing makes a difference. Last year's graduating class was comprised of 96 students with 100% graduating. Five went into the military, well prepared in our nationally award winning Air Force JROTC program, a program that 27% of our high school students participate in. The other 91 students were accepted into two and four year colleges and universities, earning \$1.74 million dollars in scholarships. You might think that these students were selected into our school for their academic prowess. Not so. All of our students are selected by random lottery, and in fact we have a high percentage of students with special needs.

What we are doing is working. The model we have developed continues to be refined and revolutionary change is right at the tipping point. How do we push it over? How do we change America's educational system? How do we change the world? By allowing the wonderful technology of the twenty-first century to virtually tie children, teachers, parents and leaders like you into a nationwide community of revolutionary change with the use of networking and telecommunications. I invite you to be a part of this movement, help build a foundation for educational excellence, and America will be stronger for it. Visit us on the web at: www.lewiscenter.org.



Air District Offers Emission-Reduction Grants Up to \$1,000,000 Available in the High Desert

By Eldon Heaston
Executive Director, MDAQMD

The Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District is now accepting proposals for projects that reduce smog-forming emissions from motor vehicles and help improve air quality in the High Desert portion of San Bernardino County and in Riverside County's Palo Verde Valley.

Approximately \$1,000,000 in grant monies is available to public or private entities for projects that reduce emissions from mobile sources, which account for more than 60% of air pollutant emissions gauged in the High Desert. Eligible projects include those that reduce vehicle trips or miles traveled, or encourage the use of alternate travel modes, such as public transit. Projects related to alternative fuel vehicles, parking management, telecommuting, and public education programs that do not duplicate the MDAQMD's mobile source education efforts are additional examples of projects which may be eligible for funding. The incremental cost of purchasing or leasing clean fuel/electric vehicles or repowering existing vehicles to operate on alternative fuel may also be eligible for funding in an amount not to exceed 25% of the total project cost.

The AB2766 grant program is funded through vehicle registration fees, which the local air agency uses to support programs that reduce air pollution from motor vehicles, as required by law. Past projects funded through the program include a Park and Ride lot in the City of Hesperia, an LNG/CNG fueling station in the City of Barstow and two haul truck repowers for Hi Grade Materials of Hesperia.

Proposals will be competitively evaluated, and accepted through June 1, 2011 at 5:00PM. For more information on the competitive grant process, or to obtain a copy of the Call for Projects, please call (760) 245-1661, ext. 1885, or visit the district's website at www.mdaqmd.ca.gov.



NOMINATIONS WANTED:



The **EXEMPLAR** AWARD

To recognize businesses, industry, schools, agencies, organizations & individuals who have demonstrated an exceptional commitment to the prevention &/or control of air pollution within High Desert communities.

Award will be presented during Pollution Prevention Week - Sept. 19-25, 2011

NOMINATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED OR POSTMARKED BY AUG. 26, 2011

To receive a Nomination Packet, or for more information contact Violette Roberts at (760) 245-1661 x6104 or visit our web site at www.mdaqmd.ca.gov