

January 11, 2022



Letter From the Mayor

Dear Residents of Yucaipa,

Happy New Year, I can't believe it's 2022. I hope each one of you had a joyful holiday season with your family and friends and wasn't it great to see the Yucaipa community come together to celebrate so many different events late last year.

I hope you had the opportunity this past holiday season to attend the 2021 Winterfest. Being able to participate in this event brought me so much joy as I watched our community interact and engage in all the available activities. Watching everyone light-up with happiness and excitement as the Christmas Tree was lit and the snow began to fall throughout Uptown has become one of my favorite parts of the Winterfest experience. That moment truly kicks off the holiday season for the City. I would like to thank City staff for the phenomenal job they did planning and organizing this event. In addition, it was wonderful to see all the families and young adults taking advantage of the temporary ice rink in the Uptown. It looked like a lot of fun from the outside looking in. I would also like to thank all those involved in planning and executing the Yucaipa Christmas Parade, including Rotary Club members, the Yucaipa Police Department, the Yucaipa Fire Department, Community Services Department, and the Public Works team. In all the years I have participated, this past year's parade may have been the best attended yet. I was reminded of how much this event highlights and enhances our sense of community.

In addition to all the holiday excitement, this winter season has already been eventful. There have been several significant winter storms resulting in widespread rainfall. I would like to commend City Staff, the Yucaipa Police Department, and the Yucaipa Fire Department for all their hard work during these storms. They did an excellent job of monitoring all storm related activities as well as mitigating any negative impacts. Unfortunately, there was some limited damage to public and private property, particularly in the North Bench near the burn areas particularly along the unimproved streams. I would also like to applaud the residents in our community who may have been impacted by the evacuation warnings and/or orders that took place. Thank you for adhering to the instruction of our public safety officials. During these past storms, the City's existing drainage network functioned as designed. Not only did the drainage network mitigate debris and mud flows from inundating our community as a result of the El Dorado Fire Burn Scar but also our basins captured a significant amount of stormwater, allowing for further groundwater recharge to occur. If you have not already, I would encourage you to visit the Oak Glen Creek Basin or the Wildwood Creek Basin after a storm event to see firsthand how the basin system captures and retains water.

2022 will be a very exciting time for our City. Not only is our community growing with new residential develop but an array of new businesses are coming to our town. Some of you may already be aware but we are excited to announce the opening of Kluddes Smokehouse and Saloon in the Uptown area. Near the western edge of the City, the Yucaipa Pointe Development, is rapidly growing. As you drive past the development, you may have noticed that Quick Quack Car Wash is wrapping up construction and will be opening soon. We also anticipate seeing additional businesses opening this year, for example, Panera Bread, Chipotle Mexican Grill and Ono Hawaiian BBQ. These new businesses will be an excellent addition in our community.

Residents can also anticipate seeing construction activities taking place at the Yucaipa Community Park. City staff received Council approval to construct a new pickleball facility along the western edge of the property. The new facility will consist of 11 new courts as well as additional new park amenities. I look forward to this project breaking ground.

As we continue to move forward through 2022, I am excited and looking forward to all the new opportunities that this year will hold for our beautiful City.

Sincerely,

Mayor David Avila