



Photos courtesy Mohave County

Mohave Valley Chamber of Commerce President/Mohave Valley, Fort Mohave Community Park President Emma Jean Watson accepts a check for \$530 from Don Perkins on behalf of the Mohave Valley Professional Firefighters Association Wednesday, May 27, at a chamber luncheon held at Casa Serrano restaurant in Mohave Valley. The money was gathered for the park project during a carwash fundraiser the firefighters held Saturday, May 16.

## Supervisor reports on park project, county issues

MOHAVE VALLEY – Mohave County Supervisor Tom Sockwell, Dist. 2, reported to the community Wednesday, May 27, concerning the Mohave Valley, Fort Mohave Community Park project during a chamber luncheon at Casa Serrano.

Mohave Valley Chamber of Commerce President Emma Jean Watson, who is also president of the Mohave Valley, Fort Mohave Community Park Committee, facilitated the luncheon, starting off by accepting a donation of \$530 toward the park project. Don Perkins presented the money on behalf of the Mohave Valley Professional Firefighters Association. The firefighters held a carwash fundraiser for the park on Saturday, May 16.

Sockwell thanked the firefighters “for stepping up to the plate” and then discussed the history of the park project. “We started out looking at the 40-acre piece of property on Boundary Cone Road next to the junior high,” he said. “A little later the Sherrill family offered to lease us 38 acres for a dollar a year for 50 years for a park. This is a good option. The land has been farmed and is level. It will cost us about a third as much to develop a park there than it would at the Boundary Cone site.”

Sockwell said Chip Sherrill told him he would not sign the lease until he gets through farming the land. “What that means is, he and Medhi Azarmi are going to do all the grading and sloping for the ball fields prior to turning the



Mohave County Supervisor Tom Sockwell, Dist. 2, updates the community on the Mohave Valley, Fort Mohave Community Park project and county issues Wednesday, May 27, at a Mohave Valley Chamber of Commerce luncheon held at Casa Serrano restaurant in Mohave Valley.

land over to us. That will save us all a lot of money.”

The 501c3 non-profit status of the park project has been approved at state level, Sockwell said.

“And if it has not been sent in to the federal government yet, it will soon,” Watson said. She agreed that the Sherrill family land donation is extremely generous and will save residents a lot of money. “As for the Boundary Cone Road property – that could be developed sometime in the future” when the population has increased. She also told the community members that the Park Committee is seeking pledges of support and volunteers to serve on committees.

Sockwell also gave an update on the 688-bed Mohave County Adult

Detention Facility being built in Kingman. All infrastructure is being installed so that when the need comes about, “the capacity could increase to more than 1,000 inmates,” he said.

“Also, people are becoming aware that we have a lot of sunshine in Mohave County,” he said. “We presently have three solar power projects on the books. There is one in the Red Lake area north of Kingman. It is being touted as the largest solar project in the world at 340 megawatts. Albiassa will build one south of Interstate 40 on Highway 93 that will utilize about 4,000 acres. I believe that is about a 200-megawatt project. And then there is a little guy in the Yucca area south of the Proving Ground that will be 46 acres. It will be a

one-megawatt plant. We have a lot of things going on as far as solar facilities. We also have a possible wind farm going in the White Hills area up east of Highway 93.”

Sockwell briefly discussed the proposed Mohave County 2009-2010 Fiscal Year budget.

“We will have a balanced budget again this year,” he said. “This will be the eighth balanced budget since I took office and I am proud of that.”

He also spoke concerning the recent reorganization of county departments.

“This is something that I have been pushing for several years,” Sockwell said. “We were basically caught flat-footed during the boom a few years ago.”

He said the reorganization solved a lot of problems, especially in the planning, zoning and building departments. “That was something we really needed. We have to give the people the service they expect and that is what the reorganization is all about.”

Watson thanked the firefighters for the donation and Sockwell and Mohave County staff for the help on the park project.

“I cannot tell you how many times they (county staff) have come in to help and advise us,” she said. “They show up evenings after work. We have some great people working for the county.”

Anyone seeking more information on pledging support or doing volunteer work for the Mohave Valley, Fort Mohave Community Park project can call Watson at (928) 768-3746.