

## **NEWS RELEASE FOR THE CITY OF YUCAIPA**

For Immediate Release

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The City Council is wishing Yucaipa residents a Happy and Safe Roundabout New Year! With the opening of the roundabouts in the Uptown District, the City strongly encourages the traveling public to understand how to navigate a roundabout and to follow the traffic signs. (Both lanes of Yucaipa Blvd. will be open from California Street to Bryant Street starting Friday afternoon.) The red yield sign indicates that traffic entering into the roundabouts must yield to the traffic already in the roundabout. Because the roundabouts were open to one-way traffic for a period of time on Yucaipa Blvd., drivers may have become accustomed to entering the roundabout with no conflicting traffic. According to Bill Hemsley, Public Works Director, "Now that California Street is open in all directions except the eastbound leg, which due to open in about two weeks (from California St to First St), it is imperative that drivers drive defensively, being aware of other vehicles in the roundabout." Police Chief, Lee Hamblin, again reminds drivers: "Drive responsibly, be aware of your surroundings and obey the traffic laws. The design speed limit through the roundabouts is 15 mph. Exceeding that speed could result in losing control of the vehicle." See last week's News Mirror article by Chief Hamblin. On the City's web site is a link, under the News section, to a video on how to use a roundabout. Local drivers are encouraged to take a look at it.

It should be noted that there will be intermittent lane and parking space closures to allow the landscaping and electrical contractors to complete certain work components safely such as the installation of the street light poles and for deliveries of construction materials.

Also of interest is the reverse angle parking that will be open to the public starting December 30 between California Street and Bryant Street. In hearing of reverse angle parking, some drivers are incredulous, declaring their utter repulsion of backing their vehicle up. The City would like to remind drivers that backing up a vehicle is a serious responsibility. Drivers should always make sure that the area they are backing into is clear and continuously check their three mirrors while maneuvering backwards. There is a six foot lane provided next to the reverse angle parking areas to allow drivers to pull their vehicle in front on the parking space and allow through traffic to pass before safely backing into the available space. See the attached exhibit showing how to use the reverse angle parking. In functionality, reverse angle parking spaces are safer than head-in angle parking spaces for the following reasons: 1) It is easier to see on-coming traffic when leaving the space; 2) It is easier to pull safely ahead of traffic from the parking space heading in the same direction as traffic than backing into traffic and then pulling ahead; 3) It is easier to see bicycle traffic when leaving the space; 4) Passengers are directed away from the roadway upon exiting the vehicle by an open vehicle door blocking access to the road which is especially good for young children; 5) Passengers/drivers do not have to stand adjacent to the roadway to load goods into the trunk of the vehicle; and 6) The safety lane allows for through traffic to pass before parking. Reverse angle parking is also functionally easier to maneuver than parallel parking between two fixed objects since only one turn is required to back into the space as opposed to at least two for parallel: one to back the rear end of the vehicle into the space and the other turn to pull the front of the vehicle into the space.

According to Mayor Riddell, "The City Council wishes our citizens a safe driving experience on our roadways. The responsibility for this is largely on the drivers to use the roadways with due caution, especially those roadways in the Historic Yucaipa District with new traffic controls possibly unfamiliar to the Yucaipa drivers. Please do your part so that our community can have a safe holiday season and a Happy New Year!"