

## **SIGN IMPOUND Candidate: VVUHSD board hopefuls being targeted**

**BY BROOKE SELF**

October 4, 2014

STAFF WRITER

**VICTORVILLE** — A Victorville city official said this week that city employees removed campaign signs posted at “public right-of-way” areas in the city. Meanwhile, a candidate in the Victor Valley Union High School District race believes he and two other candidates are being “targeted” by an unknown entity.

Victorville Director of Public Works Sean McGlade said campaign signs were removed because they did not meet the city’s regulations for placement of political signs.

McGlade said he has reminded public works employees to notify candidates before removing signs.

“We understand that something can happen quite innocently and I have directed staff to give an opportunity for candidates to remove them themselves,” McGlade said. “We will be notifying the candidates and give them 72 hours to remove them.”

McGlade said signs creating a safety hazard, such as being placed in front of a stoplight or stop sign, are an exception and will be removed immediately. When asked if the city was targeting any candidates in the VVUHSD campaign, McGlade said, “absolutely not.”



Candidate signs are seen near Bear Valley and Tamarisk roads in Victorville. Some signs in the city have been taken down due to code violations.

DAVID PARDO, DAILY PRESS

Timothy Hauk is campaigning with a cohort of two other candidates for the VVUHSD board including Penny Edmiston, a teacher in the Victor Elementary School District, and Tim Norton, a military consultant. All three are being endorsed by the Victor Valley Teachers Association. He said code enforcement officials denied removing their campaign signs but later a total of 14 signs were discovered at the city yard on McArt Road, after he contacted an assistant to the city manager.

“They said they weren’t trying to target anybody,” Hauk said.

Hauk added that he believed there was an outside effort against the three candidates because an additional 15 to 20 signs had been removed by an unknown source. He said the individuals removing the signs may be against teachers unions.

“This is unbelievable what’s going on. I’ve never seen anything like this before,” he said. “I suspect there is a conspiracy out there that has nothing to do with the city, but with private individuals destroying them and stealing our wood. I ran for four different elections in Hesperia and put 4-by-8 signs everywhere. I only had

one sign that looked like someone ran it over. Other than that, I had no problems with anybody taking any signs.”

Commercial retail broker Joseph W. Brady said he called Hauk to ask him to remove two of the group’s signs on two properties that he manages. However, Brady said he has not touched any of their signs.

“I haven’t touched a sign since I worked on the campaign to elect R. Keith Olbert to the California Assembly in June of 1994,” Brady said.

Brady said he was upset with the VVUHSD candidates for posting their signs on private property without receiving permission because he said property owners could be held liable “if a sign blows away and causes a traffic accident.” “These are educators and if we’re going to educate our students to do things the right way, then we also need to educate our educators,” Brady said. “The challenge is that people running for office are adults and they need to understand there are rules and regulations.” Rounding out the candidates running for the VVUHSD Board on Nov. 4 are Ken Larson, Rita Jackson, Ricardo Flores and Randy Guth.