



HIGHGROVE HAPPENINGS



Dedicated to the improvement of our community through awareness and involvement in local issues

(FREE) Local News for the Highgrove Area

September 2019

What every property owner should know about the **Highgrove Sheriff:** For the last 27 years written documents about the Highgrove Sheriff can be found in this box.

Breakdown:

On Feb. 12, 1992 the CSA 126 minutes showed how the \$10.00 per month parcel assessment would be broken down. CSA 126 Chairman Joe Barber explained that separating the extra police protection from park and recreation fees would be a county auditing/accounting office procedure and the \$10.00 dollars per month would be broken down to \$7.96 for Sheriff and \$2.04 for Park and Recreation Maintenance.

County Administrator Doug Vierra was present as well as Sheriff Lieutenant Dan Borden, Deputy Chuck Ortiz, and CSA 126 Advisory Board members at this public meeting.

Ballots mailed to property owners:

On Feb. 21, 1992 ballots were mailed out by Riverside County to all property owners in Highgrove east of the I-215 freeway and the Highgrove property owners voted to pay an extra annual fee of \$120.00 for a Deputy Sheriff assigned exclusively to Highgrove. This worked well for many years.

Another Ballot required in 1997:

Due to Proposition 218 another ballot was required to re-affirm that Highgrove property owners still wanted their own Sheriff.

Impartial Analysis:

Prior to the 1997 ballot, Riverside County Council stated that if the vote was approved: ***"The tax will be retained in the CSA 126 fund to be used only for purposes of continuing Extended Sheriff, and Park & Recreation services and improvements"***

1997 Ballot

In 1997 Riverside County mailed out another ballot and Highgrove property owners approved keeping the Highgrove Sheriff by a vote of 75.8 %.

This worked well for many more years and our designated deputy acquired a personal relationship with many of our residents and he/she knew if someone was new in town.



Written documents are inside this box of files to verify the facts about the elimination of the Highgrove Sheriff.



Deputy Dean Colbert
Highgrove's last deputy

What happened to the Highgrove Sheriff?

Since 1992 Highgrove's deputy would stop by my house and we would discuss what is happening in Highgrove. This included Highgrove's first Deputy Chuck Ortiz and other deputies over a period of several years that included Deputies David Flannery, Jackie Lane, Jason Corey, Matt Cosgrove, Patty Ortiz, Sheila Mears, Todd Torrenti, Brian Vig, and Dean Colbert. I didn't know at the time but Deputy Colbert would be the last Highgrove Deputy.

After Deputy Dean Colbert, I wondered why none of the deputies ever stopped by to see me even though I saw Sheriff cars driving past my house.

My further investigation revealed that our Highgrove deputy position had been eliminated and the sheriff car that I saw patrolling in Highgrove was not the deputy we were paying for with our property taxes but it was a sheriff car out of the Jurupa Valley Station that used various deputies in the beat 15 car.

Cont. on page 3

What every property owner should know about **Metrolink:** "A Metrolink Station at Highgrove will not affect the Perris Valley Line Metrolink trains"

For 18 years the Riverside County Transportation Commission has opposed building a Metrolink Station at Highgrove in spite of written support from civic organizations and residents from both Riverside and San Bernardino Counties, Senators from both counties, our Congressman, and city resolutions from Grand Terrace, Colton, and Loma Linda who all support a Metrolink Station at Highgrove. RCTC has owned the property at Highgrove for many years and has \$5,347,500.00 invested in vacant land they did not need for the Perris Valley Line Metrolink trains. The property is actually within the city limits of Riverside but has been known as the Metrolink station at Highgrove.

On Aug. 20 I spoke to the Mayor and Riverside City Council during public comments. Here is my 3- minute presentation I made at that time:

"On Aug. 8th I met with Councilman Mike Gardner to discuss the Metrolink station at Highgrove because this location is in ward one.

My request today is to ask the Riverside City Council to draft a letter addressed to RCTC to show Riverside's support for the construction of a Metrolink station that is within the City Limits of Riverside.

RCTC owns 17.22 acres of vacant land in Riverside that has been known for 18 years as the Metrolink station at Highgrove because it is surrounded on 3 sides by Highgrove, but the (Cont. on P. 5)



This Metrolink train is on its way to Perris as it goes around the curved track at Highgrove that connects the Perris Valley Metrolink trains to the BNSF main line. The Perris Valley Metrolink trains do not stop on the

curved track but they make a station stop at Marlborough Ave. one mile away that is known as Hunter Park.

The Hunter Park station at Marlborough Ave. opened for Metrolink service on June 6, 2016.

HIGHGROVE HAPPENINGS

Highgrove Community Center Hours: Mon-Thur 8am-4pm; Fri 8am-2pm

Highgrove Community Park Hours: Dawn to Dusk

Contact: (951) 241-7221



THE NORTON YOUNGLOVE COMMUNITY CENTER

459 Center Street- Highgrove web site: www.nycchighgrove.com



Family Service Association

Leila Santamaria Center Manager
Priscilla Burton Office Assistant II

Clerical Volunteers: Jack Aboytes,
Cynthia Kupfer and Rosie Navarro

Hello Community Members,



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Riverside University Health System Mobile Health Clinic 9 AM - 2 PM on First and Third Friday of each month: Health care services are

being offered free as a community service to assist families, especially those who do not have, or who have recently lost, their health insurance. Family Services: Primary Care, Health Screenings, Well Child Checks, Vision/Hearing Testing, Women's Health Services, Treatment for Acute and Chronic Illness, Patient Education. RUHealth.org/mobilehealthclinic 951-486-5765 for more info.

September 2nd: Closed

September 6th: 8:00 AM - 10:00 AM Medicare Advantage plan resources hosted by George Mora/Health Ins. Agent 909-900-6369 Lic# 0Lo6375 representing Central Health Plan and Scan.

Remember to have FUN.

September 4th: Sewing Class is Back! Mon at 8:30 AM and Wed at 1 PM. Learn the fundamentals of operating your sewing machine, having fun learning sewing techniques for projects while gaining confidence in your sewing ability.

September 4th: Friday night Line Dance class moved to Wed evening Sat 7:30 PM

September 10th: 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM Birthday Cake Provided. Sponsored by George Mora Health Ins Agent LIC# 0Lo6375

September 11th Wednesday: 9:30 AM - 11 AM FREE Weight Loss Program. For more information, call: 951-300-0456

Announcement!

September 17th: 8:30 AM - 10:30 AM "Opening Doors" 10 Week Program - 20 hours of instruction Sponsored by RUSD. Opening Doors workshops are designed especially for parents and child care providers 0-5, family and community members from Head Start programs to participate in their children's education, review and discuss strategies for making every opportunity they have with their children teachable moments

SAVE THE DATE

Register Today! Community Emergency Response Team NO cost for Training / A commitment of 20 hours. Only those who successfully complete the practical exercise with hands-on instruction will receive a certificate of completion. Hosted by the County of Riverside Emergency Management Dept. To register call 951-955-4700 or visit <https://www.rivcocert.org/>

September 14th Saturday:

Shop for your Treasure bargains from 7 AM - 12 Noon.

RUMMAGE SALE

Vendors: Reserve your participation space! \$10 includes 2 spaces, 1 table & chair. Set up at 6 AM

Line Dance

Party 11 AM - 3:00 PM
September 21st, Saturday

Come Join the Fun! \$5.00 at the door

October 19th Saturday: 10:30 AM - 4:30 PM Community Emergency Response Team Training Begins. Through training, citizens can manage utilities and put out small fires, provide basic medical aid. CERT is about readiness, people helping people, rescuer safety and doing the greatest good for the greatest number. Free

Family Service Association's Mission: Building community one family at a time, through compassion, advocacy and comprehensive model services, fostering self-sufficiency and sustainable impacts.



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www.etkdu.com

Riverside Single Swingers Square Dance Club

2019-2020 Sessions will begin Sept. 10th.

Tues 6:30pm-9pm \$6 donation. Info: 909-823-0294 or 951-788-4245
www.riversidesingleswingers.com

Zion Assembly Church of God

Sunday 11:00 AM For details call Pastor Pete Sarry 951-237-2337

jazzercise

Mon 5:20 PM, Tues 4 PM, Wed 5:20 PM, Thurs 6:15 PM, Sat 8:30 & 9:15 AM for details call Kim 909-721-2815

Sewing Class

Mon 8 AM 10:30 AM and Wed 1 - 4 PM For details call Maria with Sew & Vac 909-825-6009

Volunteer Opportunity!

1st, 2nd, 3rd Friday of each month. 8 AM-11 AM. Call 951-241-7221 for details.

Line Dance Squad

Mon 7:30 PM Intermediate, Wed 7:30 PM Beginner \$2 per class. For more details call 951-329-7867 under the sun-linedance.com

Bailando en Fila

Polynesian Dance Class

Mon-Wed-Fri 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM \$3 per class or \$8 per week.

Volunteer

1st, 2nd, 3rd Friday of each month. 8 AM-11 AM. Call 951-241-7221 for details.

Let's Celebrate!

Whether you are having a wedding, birthday, anniversary, company or church event; our banquet hall is the place for you. Room capacity is 150 people at a rate of \$100 per hour (Kitchen available for additional flat rate cost). Security needed with all rental event (additional cost). To reserve your party's date a \$200 non-refundable deposit is required. For further details contact center at 951 241-7221

Daily lunch for ages 60 and over The Center offers a daily lunch for people 60 and over. It's a great way to meet new people and get familiar with our center and all the services we offer. Delicious meals are served Mondays through Fridays, from 11:30 am to 12:30 p.m.

Child Development Center Has Openings!!

Free or low cost Early Care and Preschool Programs call 951-342-3151.

Call our FSA Administrative Office 951-686-1096 for details on other program services provided: Clinical Services, Housing Services, Mobile Fresh, and Hope Collaborative.

Monday thru Thursday 8AM to 4PM
Friday 8AM to 2PM
HOURS OF OPERATION

HIGHGROVE HAPPENINGS

Sheriff Cont. from P. 1

Highgrove Sheriff's last day:

As I continued to ask more questions, I found out that the last day Highgrove had its own deputy was on Dec. 30, 2009. This means that the Highgrove property owners have been paying the special assessment tax since Jan. 1, 2010 for a deputy that was eliminated without Riverside County, the County Supervisor, or the Sheriff Department ever notifying the Highgrove voters that Highgrove's exclusive deputy had been eliminated.

Two ballots approved Highgrove Sheriff Deputy but no ballot when Deputy eliminated:

Two ballots were mailed out by Riverside County from their tax records. The first one in 1992 and the second one in 1997. But when the deputy was eliminated the voters were not notified that on Jan. 1, 2010 Highgrove would lose its deputy. Another ballot could have asked voters if they wanted to (A) decrease the assessment to stay within our budget, (B) reduce the amount of hours the deputy patrolled Highgrove or (C) eliminate the exclusive deputy.

Meanwhile, the assessment still continues over 9 ½ years after the sheriff was eliminated. No official notice was ever sent to the Highgrove property owners/voters to tell them they are still paying for the sheriff they do not have. Most Highgrove Happenings readers know about this situation but other property owners who may own rental property in Highgrove but live outside the area, may still not know that their CSA 126 special tax assessment is being collected from their rental property for Highgrove's non-existent Sheriff.

Ashley Agreement:

When the Highgrove Sheriff was eliminated Supervisor Marion Ashley was the County Supervisor for Highgrove. The Highgrove Municipal Advisory Council minutes dated Nov. 9, 2009 state that: ***"Sr. Management of EDA, Supervisor Ashley and the Sheriff's Office met to discuss the sheriff's service to Highgrove. An agreement was made to provide patrols to Highgrove. This agreement does not include the use of CSA funds for the patrols."***

Supervisor Tavaglione replaced Supervisor Ashley

On September 27, 2011 Supervisor Tavaglione replaced Supervisor Ashley due to boundary re-districting.

Independent Audit handed to Supervisor Tavaglione about Highgrove's CSA 126 funds.

Four years later, on August 15, 2015, as Chairman of the Highgrove Municipal Advisory Council, I hand delivered a request for an Independent Audit of Highgrove's CSA 126 funds to Supervisor Tavaglione. The audit was returned on Jan. 12, 2016 but had many discrepancies.

Ashley Agreement:

Part of the audit stated: ***"In 2010, CSA 126 Administration and Supervisor Ashley worked with the Captain from the Jurupa Valley station to authorize 24-hour coverage (3 deputies) to Highgrove out of the general fund budget"***.

Ashley Agreement Violated:

But under Supervisor Tavaglione, the Ashley Agreement was violated

because the cost for the 3 additional deputies to Highgrove (after Highgrove's exclusive deputy was eliminated) was supposed to come out of Riverside County's General Fund and not the CSA 126 account.

I have a copy of a letter dated Feb. 9, 2017 that shows that \$60,000.00 was received by the Sheriff Department from the CSA 126 account for patrols in violation of the Supervisor Ashley agreement. This \$60,000.00 is in addition to the regular property taxes we already paid for the Sheriff we did not have. Under Supervisor Tavaglione's watch, the special assessments had already been paid with our property taxes then an additional \$60,000.00 was taken out of our CSA 126 fund for the extra patrols.

Twenty-Seven Questions:

Instead of the Highgrove MAC initially obtaining an attorney about the county's handling of our CSA 126 funds, the Highgrove MAC decided to ask questions directly to Riverside County instead of filing a lawsuit. Questions were submitted to Supervisor Tavaglione on Nov. 16, 2016 and were printed in the Dec. 2016 issue of the Highgrove Happenings. Question # 22 was: ***"Will Riverside County refund the taxpayer's money that was collected after the Highgrove Sheriff's position was eliminated or will legal action be necessary?"*** The County's answer was: ***"There was no money in the CSA fund when the designated sheriff was stopped. The assessment collected after that time were kept in the CSA 126 account until enough was built up to provide enhanced sheriff services."***

No refunds will be issued."

Question # 25 was: ***"Was there ever a bookkeeping procedure put into place that separated the two different purposes for this assessment?"*** The county's answer was: ***"No, separating the assessment between the two purposes would prevent administration from successfully providing both services"***.

The answers to the 27 questions were due back from the county at the MAC meeting on Jan. 18, 2017 but no county representative attended the Jan., Feb., or March Highgrove MAC meetings. Then on April 11, 2017 Supervisor Tavaglione held a public hearing and dis-banned the entire Highgrove MAC.

As Chairman for CSA 126 for many years and the Highgrove MAC since it started, prior to the public hearing, I resigned from the Highgrove MAC and asked Supervisor Tavaglione to let the Highgrove MAC continue without me. Tavaglione would not have to deal with me since I was asking too many questions about our CSA 126 finances. The last Highgrove Municipal Advisory Council meeting was on March 15, 2017 at the Highgrove library but I understand that our new Supervisor Karen Spiegel is taking applications to restore the Highgrove MAC so we can have community meetings again.

Grand Jury Investigation:

On Sept. 1, 2017 I filed a complaint with the Riverside County Grand Jury and on Nov. 14, 2017, I testified before the Grand Jury for 2 hours.

I supplied information from my files and requested that Supervisor Tavaglione also be put under oath to testify before the Grand Jury but that did not happen. After several weeks the Grand Jury issued the following response addressed to the Riverside County Board of Supervisors and the Riverside County Economic Development Agency:

Please turn to page 4 to view a copy of the Grand Jury recommendations.

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HIGHGROVE HAPPENINGS

Grand Jury recommendations from page 3.

"CSA 126 Communication"

CSA 126 management provide a one-time public notice clarifying exactly how the CSA 126 funds are distributed. This notice should include the number of assessed parcels, the amount per parcel for different housing areas, and any current agreements and contracts in effect. At least once every 2 years, CSA management should make a summary available online and at a public meeting open to all interested Highgrove residents. This effort is appropriate and necessary since there is no current forum to discuss such issues in the Highgrove community. Part of the summary of contacts and agreements should explain the effective date and cost of the current chain of agreements between the CSA 126 management and the Jurupa Valley Sheriff Station for focused law enforcement coverage. The Board of Supervisors should enforce these recommendations"

Summary:

Our new Supervisor Karen Spiegel is in the process of re-establishing the Highgrove Municipal Advisory Council and I have not applied for a position on the MAC. Highgrove has not had a community meeting at the library since March 15, 2017. By the time another MAC meeting is held in Highgrove it will be close to 2 and ½ years since a MAC meeting was held in Highgrove. Hopefully the new Highgrove MAC will enable the Highgrove people to have a voice again with better communication between our community and our new supervisor.

FAKE NEWS CHALLENGE

The articles in the Highgrove Happenings Newspaper are the truth of what is happening in and to Highgrove and we are not just printing our opinion. We print articles about what is actually happening to Highgrove that affect you and we have verification to prove that what we print is true-such as the Deputy Sheriff we are paying for that we do not have and the 18 year struggle to get a Metrolink station at Highgrove. Documentation is available upon request and we welcome anyone who wants to challenge any statements in our paper. Please go to: www.highgrovehappenings.net and click on "Latest Issue" to see articles that go back to July of 2008. Thank you for your many years of support! R. A. "Barney" Barnett (951) 683 4994 highgrovenews@roadrunner.com.

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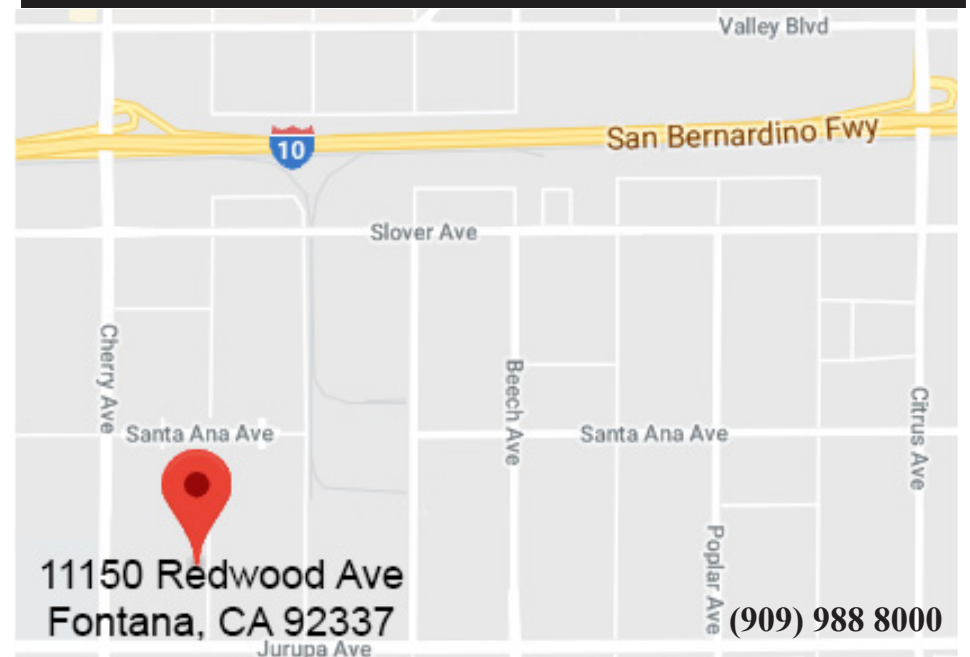
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HIGHGROVE HAPPENINGS

Metrolink Cont. from P. 1

property is actually within the city limits of Riverside!

This property is a vacant field except for the width of the curved track that was used to connect the Perris Valley Line to the BNSF main line but RCTC's excess property is needed for a parking lot that would use the existing daily Metrolink trains that have operated between San Bernardino & Oceanside for the last 13 years, since July 15, 2006.

A Metrolink station at Highgrove will not affect the existing Perris Valley Line trains!

4 years ago, on August 13, 2015, this item was discussed at the Riverside City Transportation Committee meeting but no action was taken because RCTC's Deputy Executive Director stopped this item from being presented to the city council.

I would like to invite each city council member to visit this location and I will show you why this station has had 18 years of support from residents, cities, and elected officials from both counties.

A city resolution from Riverside for this station will complete the circle of support in all directions. If necessary, please place this on the next agenda. Thank you!"

If the Riverside City Council will support the construction of a parking lot maybe RCTC will supply a common sense reason as to why they oppose building a station at Highgrove.

Personal reasons Vs. transportation efficiency

Many people who support this station have asked **why does RCTC continue to oppose this station?**

I have wondered if the personal differences between RCTC's Executive Director, Deputy Executive Director, and yours truly, have been overshadowed by the actual need for this station that will help commuters by relieving freeway congestion and helping reduce air pollution.

Could it be that my criticism of RCTC has made this a personal goal to oppose this station because of me publishing an article in the Highgrove Happenings in 2009 about RCTC making a public announcement about building a new Metrolink station at Palmyrita Avenue?

RCTC's public announcement was challenged when I printed information about the construction of a 520,000 Sq. Ft. warehouse on the same 25 acre location where RCTC was going to build a station. I am sure RCTC was embarrassed by this article that exposed the truth.

Please go to: www.highgrovehappenings.com, latest issue and read pages 6 and 7 of the February 2009 issue of our newspaper.

Personal Attack?

Another thing that needs to be exposed is another display of a personal attack, on August 13, 2015.

A Riverside City Councilman called and suggested that I should attend a **Riverside City Transportation Committee** meeting because the Highgrove Metrolink station was going to be discussed.

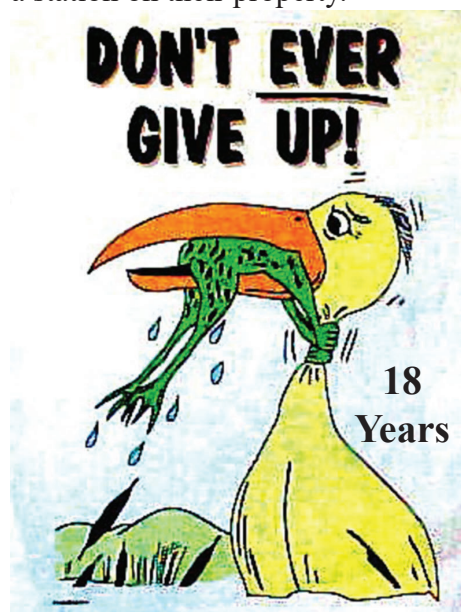
The committee consists of 3 members but 2 members provided a quorum for the meeting that was conducted by Paul Davis and Andy Melendrez. **I was the only person in the whole room where the audience sits.**

For about 15 minutes, the RCTC Deputy Director, John Standiford presented reasons to oppose the Highgrove station. And while I listened to Mr. Standiford, it wasn't long until I realized that this meeting was about stopping Barnett at the committee level before it reached the city council because I counted Mr. Standiford using the Barnett name **25 different times during his presentation.** My comments were limited to 3 minutes as required and I have a copy of the minutes of the committee minutes showing that no action was taken by the committee regarding this subject.

It is too bad that this opposition exists because I have always been a gentleman and never raised my voice at any RCTC's meetings. But their Executive Director, Anne Mayer and I agreed to dis-agree on station location many years ago!

Also, on March 8, 2017, RCTC Chairman at that time, John Tavgliione denied my request to take a pre-arranged bus trip to the Highgrove location so the 30 commissioners from other cities in Riverside County could actually see why this location has been supported by so many for so long.

Upper management of RCTC needs to let the commissioners see this location to realize that the need for this station has increased significantly because of the hundreds of new homes that are being built in Highgrove. Leaders of this transportation agency should stop the political opposition and let their commissioners actually see this location and the new homes and build a station on their property.



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Facts about Labor Day?

Here are some facts you may not know about Labor Day: Labor Day is celebrated on the first Monday of September and is a creation of the labor movement that is dedicated to the social and economic achievements of American workers.

It constitutes a yearly national tribute to the conditions workers have made to the strength, prosperity, and well being of our country.

Here are 11 Facts about Labor Day you may not know:

1. The first celebrated US Labor Day was on Tuesday, September 5, 1882 in New York City, planned by the Central Labor Union.
2. 10,000 workers marched from City Hall all the way to 42nd Street and then met with their families in Wendal's Elm Park for a picnic, concert, and speeches.
3. Canada is said to have originated the idea of hosting a day honoring the labor movement. In 1872, they held a "Nine-Hour Movement" to show support for striking workers.
4. There is a disagreement about who actually proposed Labor Day as a holiday. Some say it was Peter J. McGuire, who was the cofounder of the American Federation of Labor.

Others believe that it was Matthew Maguire, a machinist.

5. Oregon was the first state to celebrate Labor Day as a legal holiday in 1887.
 6. The decision to make Labor Day the first Monday of September was approved on June 28, 1894.
 7. Labor Day started as a part of the labor union movement, to recognize the contributions of men and women in the US workforce, but modernly is seen as a chance to celebrate the last weekend of summer.
 8. Americans worked 12 hour days seven days a week during the 19th century.
 9. The Adamson Act was passed on September 3, 1916 to establish an eight-hour work day.
 10. Historians say the expression "no white after Labor Day" comes from when the upper class would return from their summer vacations and stow away their lightweight, white summer clothes as they returned back to school and work.
 11. There is still a Labor Day parade in New York city which takes place throughout the 20 blocks north of the 1882 labor march.
- Happy Labor Day from the Highgrove Happenings!**

HIGHGROVE HAPPENINGS

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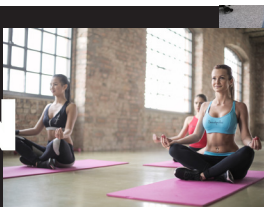
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HIGHGROVE HAPPENINGS

Crime Stats for HIGHGROVE

Monthly Crime stats July 18 to Aug. 20, 2019

Petty Theft (2)

Assaults (3)

Robbery Firearm (2)

Burg. Cml. (1)

CarJacking (1)

Grand Theft (4)

Veh. Theft (1)

Theft from veh. (2)



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Obituary

Mark Lamont Visyak, 59, formerly of Grand Terrace and Highgrove, passed away on August 15, 2019, in Fontana, California, surrounded by his family and close friends. He was born May 5, 1960, in Fontana, California, to Paul and Nancy Visyak. On May 2, 1998, he married his beloved wife, Christine, and together they raised two sons.

After 8 years with the Fire Department and over 30 years as an Animal Control Officer, Mark retired last year to become an avid traveler. He enjoyed cruising and traveling in his RV through the Western United States. He had a passion for trains and photography. He often embarked on his own adventures to capture the perfect picture of the trains running through Cajon Pass and other places.

Mark also served on the Municipal Advisory Council for Highgrove for many years and was awarded many accolades for his work with Animal Control and the City of Eastvale.

Mark is survived by his wife, Christine, sons Trenton and Tyler, his mother Nancy, and his siblings Scott, Sharon and Cheryl. He is also survived by 8 nieces and 5 nephews. He is predeceased by his father,



Mark Visyak

5-5 1960 to 8-15-2019

Paul, who passed away in February 2005.

The family invites all of Mark's friends to come and celebrate his life with them. There will be a viewing held at Ingold Funeral Home, 8277 Juniper Ave., Fontana, (909-822-8083) on Thursday, September 5, 2019, from 5 pm-9 pm with a Memorial at 7 pm. A graveside service will be held at Montecito Memorial Park 3520 East Washington St., Colton, (909-825-3024) on Friday, September 6, 2019, at 10 am with a reception to follow. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations in his name at either Ingold Funeral Home or Montecito Memorial Park to help with funeral expenses.



This 129 year old church at the corner of Center St. and Prospect Ave has been serving Highgrove since 1890. Recent upgrades include a new roof and a new sidewalk. Sunday service starts at 9:30 am.(See page 11)



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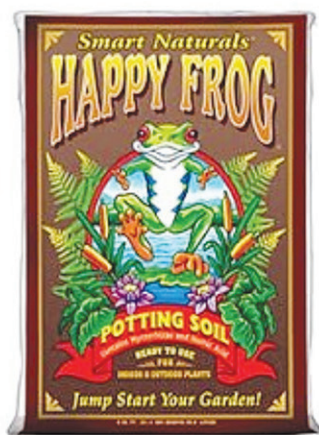
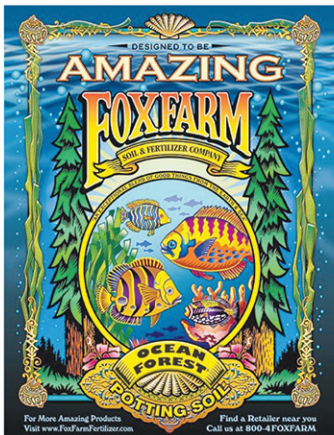
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HIGHGROVE HAPPENINGS



HELP US DESIGN MICHIGAN was the theme in Grand Terrace on Saturday August 17, 2019. Shown above is Jeffrey McConnel from Grand Terrace who is placing colored dots on what he wants to see along Michigan Avenue in Grand Terrace. The workshop was only about Michigan Ave. in Grand Terrace and was hosted by ktua which is a consultant in charge of finding out what Grand Terrace residents want to see on Michigan Ave. such as sidewalks, improvements for walking and bicycling, lighting, or trees. This study group ends at Main St. and does not include Michigan Ave that extends thru Highgrove.

A message from Highgrove Elementary's new Principal



Carolina Michel

It is with great pride and excitement that I write this letter of introduction to you as the new principal of Highgrove Elementary School for Riverside Unified School District (RUSD). I am honored to have the opportunity to lead a school with such a rich tradition of education. I have been dedicated to the field of education for more than 23 years. I have worked with a variety of students ranging from Kindergarten through eighth grade. I recently served as the principal of John Adams Elementary for four years. Prior to that experience, I served as an instructional services specialist for RUSD's Instructional Services Department and as assistant principal for George Washington

Elementary. I am excited and eager to bring my skills as an educational leader to Highgrove Elementary School to work alongside the Highgrove staff, parents and the community to ensure our students' success. All of us at Highgrove Elementary School are eager and excited to begin an exciting year of learning and growing. Together we will continue to build strong relationships with parents, students and community partners. It is going to be an extraordinary year!

Highgrove Elementary School is currently under the RUSD Measure O renovation. Our project consists of two main components: (1) our existing classrooms are under renovation to receive new flooring, lighting, roofing, air conditioning, etc. and (2) the construction of two new buildings to add 12 classrooms. We are looking forward to the completion of our project in June of 2020.

My door is always open and I welcome your visits to Highgrove Elementary.



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HIGHGROVE HAPPENINGS

You Can Quote Me (by Cynthia Williams, DC)

“Someone taught me everything I know.” ~ Ron Denning

Dang it all! Summer is just about over. In my life here in central Oregon it means the warm weather will quickly be going away and the wicked cold will be moving in. By October 1st I should be pulling out the jackets and gloves. Some people are happy about that- they look forward to everything “pumpkin spice”. One year I counted all the PS products at Trader Joe’s. It was well over thirty; I expect there to be well over forty this year.

When I was a kid the only pumpkin spice was in Mom’s pies. I also looked forward to returning to classes at Highgrove Elementary. I have so many fond memories of my seven years there. The Williams’ had a strong presence with eight kids attending all seven years within about ten years. Most of the time being a Williams was and still is a good thing. A couple of the boys were a handful and made the staff cringe at times but they turned out to be wonderful men. The teachers are a huge part of my great memories. Mrs. Wright, Mrs.

Smith, and Mrs. Fobert particularly stand out. They each encouraged, fostered and supported our interests, talents and nurtured our souls for the betterment of us.

I’m sure there are thousands of teachers just as fine as these women. How long will we be able to attract the kind of talented and dedicated educators we need to help our young people get the information and skills needed to succeed in their lives and in supporting our communities? There is a critical teacher shortage in this country and in California and we run a serious risk of continuing the downslide of the education standards we once held as number one in the world.

As of last year there was estimated to be a shortage of 20,000 teachers across the US. According to the Economic Policy Institute (EPI) “A shortage of teachers harms students, teachers, and the public education system as a whole. Lack of sufficient, qualified teachers and staff instability threaten students’ ability to learn and reduce teachers’ effectiveness, and high teacher turnover consumes economic resources that could be better deployed elsewhere. The teacher shortage makes it more difficult to

build a solid reputation for teaching and to professionalize it, which further contributes to perpetuating the shortage. In addition, the fact that the shortage is distributed so unevenly among students of different socioeconomic backgrounds challenges the U.S. education system’s goal of providing a sound education equitably to all children.” (EPI, March 26, 2019)

Of course, it’s always about the money. Always. Riverside deserves a big pat on the back for passing with 70% approval a \$705 million dollar bond. That kind of support shows a true commitment to the educational obligation to the youth in the RUSD.

How can you ensure the quality education for students and your community? The EPI recommends that communities “Tackle the working conditions and other factors that are prompting teachers to quit and dissuading people from entering the profession, thus making it harder for school districts to retain and attract highly qualified teachers: low pay, a challenging school environment, and weak professional development support and recognition. In addition to

tackling these factors for all schools, we must provide extra supports and funding to high-poverty schools, where teacher shortages are even more of a problem.” (EPI, March 26, 2019) I’ve talked with people who either think since they no longer have children in school they don’t need to support bonds or the schools and I’ve talked with those who won’t support a bond measure because they don’t agree with the curriculum and thinks other things should be taught. They think their money is being wasted. I think both these groups of people are shortsighted. Bond measures are always a long-term investment; not just in the teachers and students but also in the buildings; if structural failures occur due to environmental causes (fires, floods, earthquakes, etc) or due to age and decay, the catastrophes that could occur will cause huge expenses to not just the school district but also the communities. Please continue to vote YES on school bond measures. Find ways you can support your schools to help find and retain the best educators you can. It’s a wise investment in your communities.

“If you can read this... Thank a teacher.” ~ Bumper sticker

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