



HIGHGROVE HAPPENINGS



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

(FREE) Local News for the Highgrove Area

December 2018

Highgrove files lawsuit against Riverside County

Here is a copy of what was filed in Superior Court on behalf of Highgrove property owners:

**FIRST AMENDED COMPLAINT FOR PETITION FOR WRIT OF MANDATE; DECLARATORY RELIEF
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE**

Plaintiffs: Richard Barnett, John Shivery, Haroldine Swing, Janet Aboytes

Defendants: County of Riverside, a Government Agency

General Allegations

At all times relevant, County of Riverside is a county in the state of California.

All Plaintiffs are residents of the unincorporated community of Highgrove, located in Riverside County, California. All the Plaintiffs are taxpayers and all have been subject to the property tax assessment for CSA 126 and as such, all have standing to bring this claim.

Highgrove is an unincorporated area of Riverside County that has the approximate borders of Main Street, 1-215 Freeway, and The Foothills between Highgrove and Reche Canyon including all of Spring Mountain Ranch homes and Riverside City limits.

In 1992, the residents of Highgrove passed a ballot measure to tax themselves a total of \$120 per year per parcel. The money was to be used for a full-time deputy sheriff that would basically be dedicated to the Highgrove area. This would supplement the normal law enforcement service provided to all unincorporated county residents, which is a much lower level of service.

The balance of the funds were to be used for Highgrove parks. At the time of the vote, the cost of a deputy sheriff was about \$105,000 and the gross revenue of the parcel tax was about \$132,000, with the balance going to parks.

Over time, many new parcels were added to the CSA and, the cost of a deputy sheriff increased. The residents have not been able to get a clear picture of the revenue and expenses for this CSA for many years. The County has refused to provide an adequate accounting for the funds received and spent in spite of public records requests.

In 1996, California passed Proposition 218, setting new standards for parcel taxes. The County did a new election in 1997 that was adopted by over 2/3's of the residents of the CSA. The CSA is divided into two zones, separated by Interstate 215. It is unclear exactly who voted on the measure and if either only one zone or both zones are subject to the tax. In addition, it is impossible to tell if both zones are being assessed for the tax or just one.

In spite of an increase in parcels, according to the County, there was not enough funds to pay for an extra deputy and on December 30, 2009, the extra deputy that this fund was supposed to be used for, was stopped.

Since that time, a small amount of the CSA funds have been used for some extra patrol in the Highgrove area but it is unclear how much patrol there is or how the funds have been used. However, the CSA was not authorized or voted for based on extra patrol but rather, for a full-time dedicated deputy for the CSA.

It was intended by the voters that most of the funds (\$10 per month) would be used for a dedicated deputy sheriff. This was all terminated by the County and yet, the County continues to assess and collect the full amount of the fee.

Plaintiffs are informed, believe and thereon allege that the County has been misusing the funds to reduce their own budget and expenses so in essence, the residents are paying a parcel fee for nothing. The residents have tried to get accountings and get information and an audit, all without any cooperation from the County.

(Cont. on P. 3)

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 Program Coordinator

Priscilla Burton Office Assistant II

Clerical Volunteers: Jack Aboytes,

Cynthia Kupfer and Rosie Navarro

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.



Hello Community Members,

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Riverside University Health System Mobile Health Clinic 9 AM - 2 PM Dec 7th & 21st:

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.

Upcoming Events:

December 11th: 10:30 AM - 12:30 PM

Continental Breakfast for Seniors 55+. Let's celebrate the holiday season together. Opportunity to win prize presented by the Riverside County Foundation on Aging. Gift sponsored by Riverside County Foundation on Aging and Dist. II Supervisor.



December 14th: 4 PM - 7 PM

Santa Clause is coming to Town!!

For Highgrove Community Residents. Join us to welcome Santa and his Elves with Dinner and Dessert. Parents to Bring proof of Residence to receive gifts for children Ages 3 - 18. Children must be present to receive gift. **Sign up starts at 3 PM.**

Closed

December

24th and 25th



Remember to have FUN.

December 13th: No Highgrove Community Meeting (Black Out)

Join the National Diabetes Prevention Program. IEHP partnered with Family Service Assoc. (FSA) to offer a free Diabetes Prevention Program (DPP) to

IEHP Members with prediabetes. Free screening, health education, and lifestyle support. To REGISTER or more information: FSA 951-300-0456. Classes will be held in Moreno Valley, San Jacinto, San Bernardino and Victorville. Night and weekend classes.



Volunteer Opportunity !!

Seeking help for 1st and 3rd Friday of each month. 8 AM-11 AM.

2018



Norton Younglove Community Center

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Tuesday Bingo

12:30 PM - 1:30 PM



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Line Dance Squad

Mon 7:30 PM Intermediate, Fri 4:00 PM Beginner \$2 per class and 5:00 PM Intermediate. For more details call Martha 951-329-7867 under-the-sunlinedance.com

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Highgrove Community Assoc. (formerly known as MAC)
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Zion Assembly Church of God

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



Jazzercise

Mon & Wed 5:20 PM, Thurs 6:15 PM, and Sat 9:15 AM



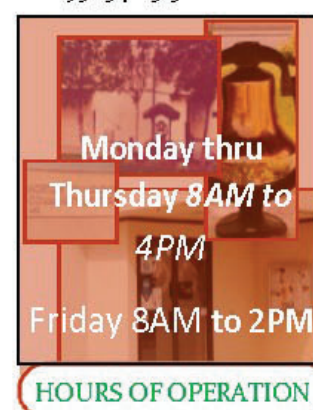
The Art of Cake Decorating Baking Intensive course/25 classes. \$15 per class.
Info: Call Marivel 951-275-6815. 5 students minimum sign up to schedule course AND 3-D Gelatin Molding Class

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.



HIGHGROVE HAPPENINGS

Highgrove Lawsuit (Cont. from front page)

First Cause of Action Petition for Writ of Mandate

Plaintiffs incorporate the allegations contained in Paragraphs 1 through 13, inclusive, as though listed here in full.

The County will continue to tax the residents of Highgrove and spend the money for whatever they want without court intervention.

The Plaintiffs ask for a writ ordering the County to provide detailed information about the funds and to re-allocate the funds for its intended purpose, of having a full time law enforcement officer in the Highgrove area. Should this not be feasible, the County should be ordered to reduce the tax and refund any misappropriations to the fund and not to the individual taxpayers. It is not the intention of this Petition to seek individual refunds but rather, to have any improperly spent funds returned to the CSA for the benefit of the entire CSA per the election by the owners to tax themselves.

Once the complete status of the fund is determined, Plaintiffs will seek to amend this complaint.

Second Cause of Action Declaratory Relief

Plaintiff incorporate the allegations contained in Paragraphs 1 through 13, inclusive, as though listed here in full.

There is a dispute as to the rights and obligations of the parties, as to how the funds collected for CSA 126 are being disbursed and whether or not, said disbursements follow the voters mandate per the special election.

Plaintiffs seek a determination of the rights and responsibilities of the parties.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs pray for judgment as follows:

1. For a writ of mandate ordering the County to reduce the parcel tax or to reallocate the distributions of the parcel tax to follow the intention of the voters;
2. To return any misappropriated funds back to the fund;
3. For a declaration of the rights and responsibilities of the parties;
4. For attorney's fees pursuant to CCP 1021.5 or such other available code sections
5. For other and such further relief as the Court deems just and proper.

Law Office of Michael Geller Inc., Attorney for Plaintiffs

PROOF OF SERVICE

STATE OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE

I am employed in the County of Riverside, State of California. I am over the age of 18 and not a party to the within action; my business address is 3576 Arlington Ave. Suite 210 Riverside, CA 92506.

On July 26, 2018 I served the foregoing document(s) described as FIRST AMENDED COMPLAINT on the interested parties in this action by placing a true copy thereof enclosed in a sealed envelope addressed as follows:

Gregory Priamos, County Counsel

James Brown Ronak Patal

3960 Orange Street Suite 500 Riverside, CA 92501

(X) By Mail. I am "readily familiar" with the firm's practice of collection and processing correspondence for mailing. Under that practice, it would be deposited with U.S. postal service on that same day with postage thereon fully prepaid at Riverside, California in the ordinary course of business. I am aware that on motion of the party served, service is presumed invalid if postal cancellation date or postage meter date is more than one day after the date of deposit for mailing an affidavit.

Executed on July 26, 2018, at Riverside, California.

(x)**State:** I declare under the penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the above is true and correct.

Federal: I declare that I am employed in the office of a member of the bar of this court at whose direction the service was made.

Lisa D. Ballow *Related article about Spring Mountain Ranch and D R Horton property owners on Page 4*

HIGHGROVE HAPPENINGS

Attention Spring Mountain Ranch and D. R Horton homeowners:

Since 1992, Highgrove property owners have been paying \$120.00 extra per year for our own Deputy Sheriff that was assigned exclusively to Highgrove.

Then on Dec. 30, 2009, Riverside County eliminated the Highgrove Deputy's position without notifying the Highgrove property owners but the assessment still continues today.

The old part of Highgrove has been paying the annual \$120.00 for many years but our new neighbors in the SMR and DR Horton homes are being charged up to \$2,967.40 for the same CSA 126 line item which is Highgrove's special assessment for the Sheriff we no longer have, and Park and Recreation.

On behalf of all Highgrove property owners east of the I-215, I am suing Riverside County to find out where Highgrove's CSA 126 money has gone for the last 9 years after our Deputy Sheriff was eliminated, but I need your input. I have collected several SMR and DRH tax bills showing the improper amounts being collected but I need more!

Check your property tax bill. If your CSA 126 assessment on your property tax bill is more than \$120.00 you should call Riverside County at (866) 810 0255 and request a **written** response showing where the CSA 126 assessment money is being spent. A verbal explanation over the phone is insufficient.

Then send a copy of your 2018/2019 property tax bill to: **highgrovenews@roadrunner.com** and include your phone number, and send me a copy of their **written** reply or their response to your request. You may have to request this information under the freedom of information act.

If you have any questions, please call me at (951) 683 4994.

Thank you,

R. A. "Barney" Barnett

Editor: Highgrove Happenings Newspaper

474 Prospect Ave. Highgrove, Ca. 92507

(951) 683 4994

e-mail: highgrovenews@roadrunner.com

Web site: www.highgrovehappenings.net

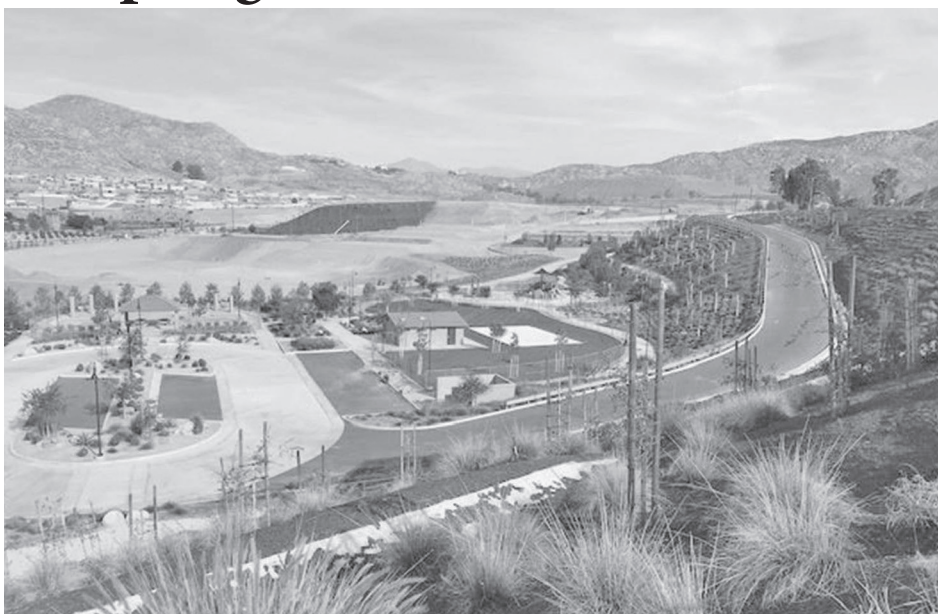
Notice

Highgrove Day Volunteers needed:

Next Highgrove Day scheduled for May 11, 2019.

Contact R. A. "Barney" Barnett at (951) 683 4994 or Dena Guyer at (951) 205 9927

Spring Mountain Ranch Park



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Many people have been asking when the new park in Spring Mountain Ranch will open. It is my understanding that on Dec. 4, 2018 the Riverside County Board of Supervisors will be discussing the cause for delaying the opening of the new park in Spring Mountain Ranch. A new lot line adjustment was needed because the access road into the Park was on 2 different parcels.

When this issue is resolved we will announce when the official opening of the park will occur.

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Merry Christmas from Highgrove Happenings

The Holiday season is a very special time that brings families together to celebrate Thanksgiving and Christmas. Many people travel long distances to see their loved ones, eat turkey, and worship God.

It is an extra special time when your children are young and their eyes light up in anticipation of Santa Claus coming to bring them presents and toys.

I have many fond memories of when our family would gather at Thanksgiving to eat turkey dinner at Mom and Dad's house where Ardie and I now live and to celebrate Christmas as a family with our children. But when your children start having children it becomes more difficult to coordinate getting everyone together at the same place at the same time. Enjoy your Christmas especially if you have young children and appreciate the special time with your family while you still can.

On behalf of those who make this paper possible: Merry Christmas from "Barney" and Ardie Barnett



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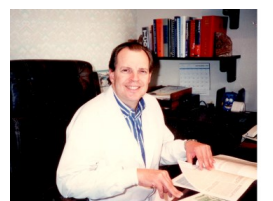
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HIGHGROVE HAPPENINGS

Highgrove School holds another Career Day
It was my honor to again be invited to participate in the Highgrove Elementary School's Career Day on Nov. 7, 2018 and talk to the students about their future plans. This program brings in people from many different occupations to talk to the students about a career choice

Statement from new Riverside County Supervisor for Highgrove in District 2

This space was reserved for the winner of the Riverside County Board of Supervisors position in District 2 which includes the community of Highgrove.
Unfortunately the ballots are still being counted and the new Supervisor's position was not certified in time to meet our December deadline.
The new Supervisor for District 2 will be either Eric Linder or Karen Spiegel but if we wait for the certification, the December papers would not be delivered until around the 10th of December.
We will print comments from the new Supervisor in the January 2019 issue but the results in this election will not be certified until December 6, 2018.

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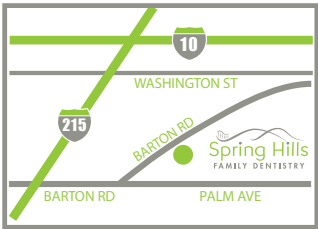
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HIGHGROVE HAPPENINGS

You Can Quote Me by Cynthia Williams, DC

This year people started putting up Christmas decorations well before Thanksgiving. Lights on the houses, blow-up Santas in the front yard, shrubs draped with lights and garlands; the holiday spirit was in evidence before the bird-dressing cooled off. I contemplated why this is.

As a whole, this has been a horrid year. Fires of epic proportions, an extraordinary number of deaths from mass shootings, and the political discord has reached levels of incivility that are not appropriate in any setting. The song "We Need a Little Christmas" started going through my head. In the 1966 Broadway musical "Mame" who is played by the talented and charming Angela Lansbury, has lost her fortune in the bank crash of 1929 sings: For I've grown a little leaner,

Grown a little colder,
Grown a little sadder,
Grown a little older,
And I need a little angel
Sitting on my shoulder,
Need a little Christmas now.
In the US and other parts of the world, the Christmas spirit is expressed in various ways. Glittering decorations, brightly lit trees, holiday music, and the madness of shopping are common, of course. This is also the time of the year our hearts open and we give of ourselves, our resources, and our time. Many organizations are asking for your help. It's up to you to choose to whom you want to give of yourself. Ideally you are one of the many generous people who gives of themselves all year long. Money is needed but your time and energy are priceless and appreciated. My brother, Mark, just

finished a two week stint with the American Red Cross helping the fire victims in So Cal. He was loading trucks with supplies, coordinating evacuations, and driving those trucks into the fire zones to deliver much needed water, food and other goods. Not everyone is in a position to take two weeks for a cause such as this but nearly everyone is able to give of themselves in some way. Ubuntu Is a Zulu word meaning "You are not a human being until you express your humanity with other human beings"*. There is no English word for this kind of giving. It essentially means true happiness comes from helping other people. One way expressed was "how can you be happy when a child is starving?"*. The deeds you do "may well reverberate until the end of time. That child you are helping keep alive... will

go on to live his or her life... it may well justify your existence until the end of time."*. Please consider ways to give of yourself this Christmas season. The way you do it doesn't matter. The act of doing it is what's important. You may have an impact on someone's life that will last a lifetime or forever.

Have a lovely, peaceful, and healthy Holiday season. I'm wishing you a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the chilly north country of Central Oregon.

*William Shatner, Live Long And.... 2018



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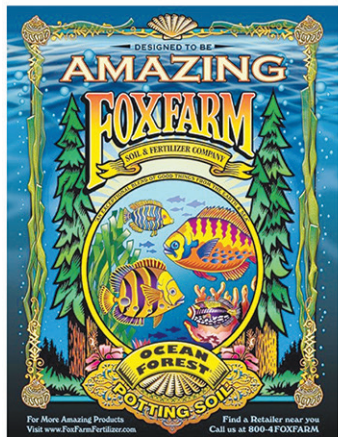
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CRIME STATS FOR HIGHGROVE Crime stats 8-21-2018

Petty theft (1) Grand Theft (3)
Vehicle Theft (1) Assault (1)
Theft from Vehicle (1) Burglary Misc. (1)
Burglary Residential (1)



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HIGHGROVE HAPPENINGS

Highgrove Archeology:

Find out what was discovered under a local Highgrove resident's property. Was it Dinosaur bones, gold, metal items, or something unusual? To find out, please turn to page 10



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Obituaries



Pat Hara

2-18-45 to 10-30-18

Patricia Hara passes away at the age of 73 due to congestive heart failure. She lived in Highgrove for 53 years, ran the PTA at Highgrove for 10 years and attended city council meetings on behalf of Highgrove for 20 years. She had 6 children, 16 grandchildren, 12 great grandchildren and was loved by many friends who knew her.



Pat Nix

8-27-31 to 11-7-18

Grand Terrace community leader Patricia Nix passed away after a long battle with Alzheimer's. Pat and her husband, Roy moved to Grand Terrace in 1967. She was a Girl Scout leader and PTA President and member of the Grand Terrace Womans club for 51 years and was recognized as woman of the year in 2012 by Senator Mike Morrell.



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HIGHGROVE HAPPENINGS

Highgrove Archiology (Cont. from P. 9)

The Diggins in a Highgrove residence was in the Editor's driveway and here is what happened: I have always wondered why the grass would not grow on the north side of my house. I recently found out when I took a pick to the grass and discovered that there was a layer of old asphalt about 3 inches below the grass. As I dug up the grass I could see that the grass roots were root bound because the asphalt was preventing the roots from growing any deeper. I dug up the old asphalt and strained the dirt through one inch square screening and removed anything that didn't fit through the screen including asphalt, rocks, and dead grass roots. I am sorry to disappoint you because finding any of the previous items mentioned would have been a more interesting story but I am now hoping the grass will finally grow grass in this area.



During my digging I discovered this old fork so I guess I un-earthed the famous fork in the road I have always heard about when I asked for directions!

Wanted: March, 2016 and May 2017 issues of Highgrove Happenings Newspaper for Library

Every month for many years we have been supplying the Highgrove Library with copies of the Highgrove Happenings which they keep on file. The March issue of 2016 is missing and hopefully some of our readers may have saved past issues. If you have a copy of the March 2016 or May 2017 please contact Louise at the the Highgrove Library at (951) 682 1507 or "Barney" at (951) 683 4994.

Past issues can be seen on line at www.highgrovehappenings.net for easier reference to see what was on the front pages.

Strange sounds in our kitchen!

While I was working on removing the asphalt from my dirt driveway, one of my visits to the kitchen resulted in me hearing a high pitched sound that I could not determine where it was coming from. The sound was constant and seemed to be coming from behind the China Cabinet so I removed the contents of the China Cabinet so I could move it because it was very heavy. There was a 1/2 inch pipe that went through the floor and by using a wooden spoon between my ear and the pipe I was able to determine that the sound was coming from that pipe. When I turned the water off

at the street the sound stopped so I knew it was a water line. I turned the water back on and climbed under the house and traced the water line with my spoon and the water line led to an outside faucet near the porch on the north side of the house. When I tightened the water valve a little tighter the sound quit. The shut off valve was just loose enough to make the noise.

Between the old asphalt under the grass and the strange noise from the water pipe, I wondered if any of the new houses in Spring Mountain Ranch will ever have any problems when their houses are 118 years old. Our house was built in 1900 and I guess I should expect problems due to old age.

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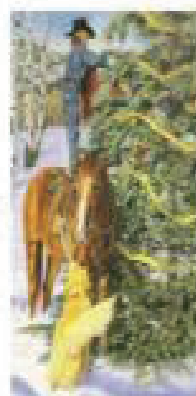
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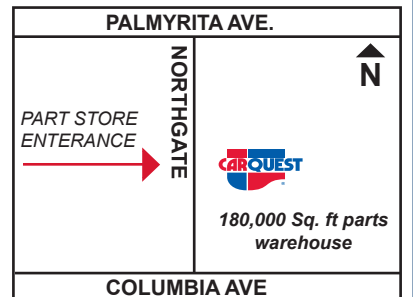
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"Dedicated to the improvement of our community through awareness and involvement in local issues"



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