



HIGHGROVE HAPPENINGS



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

(FREE) Local News for the Highgrove Area

FEBRUARY 2017

METROLINK STATION AT HIGHGROVE NEEDED NOW MORE THAN EVER! Location, Location, Location

This Metrolink commuter train is located on the #3 BNSF main Line at Highgrove next to RCTC's 17.22 acres. If stopped, this train would be sitting right next to the Highgrove Metrolink Station that is shown in green and located north of the curve on the website map. This photo was taken on Jan. 4, 2012 from Villa St. looking toward Riverside.

web site: www.highgrovehappenings.net



RCTC's 17.22 Acres

This photo above was taken over 5 years ago but after 15 years, these trains still do not stop!

Benefits of the Highgrove location:

- 7 rail miles north to San Bernardino Metrolink station
- 3.5 rail miles south to Riverside Metrolink station
- The vacant 17.22 acre property at Highgrove is already owned by (RCTC) The Riverside County Transportation Commission
- The Riverside County Transportation Commission already has **\$5,347,500.00** invested in this vacant land not needed for the Perris Valley Line
- RCTC's vacant property at Highgrove is located right next to the Inland Empire/Orange County Metrolink Line shown above
- The IEOC line is on the # 3 BNSF main Line where the Metrolink trains operate and is next to the west side of RCTC's 17.22 acre vacant property
- Metrolink trains use this BNSF # 3 main line in both directions (7) days a week including Saturday and Sunday going through Highgrove
- A Parking lot and ticket machine is all that is needed on RCTC's vacant land at Highgrove next to where this train is shown
- Metrolink trains going to Oceanside need to STOP momentarily at Highgrove to pick up commuters to help relieve freeway congestion
- Metrolink trains going to San Bernardino need to STOP momentarily at Highgrove (The above train is headed to San Bernardino)
- A parking lot will reduce traffic congestion on the I-215 freeway that is only 1/2 mile from the Highgrove location at the Center St. exit
- This Metrolink route has been on the Inland Empire-Orange County Line since October 1995 when there was only 5 day a week service
- Metrolink trains on the Inland Empire-Orange County Line increased from 5 days a week to 7 days a week on July 15, 2006
- Since July 15, 2006 over 34,000 Metrolink trains have passed through Highgrove without stopping at this ideal location for a station
- The Highgrove Metrolink Station has had public support for over 15 years from both sides of the county line.
- Highgrove location has verbal support from Congressman Mark Takano 10-14-2014

Here is a list of written documents from cities, people, and organizations from both counties that support the Highgrove Metrolink Station!

Written support for Highgrove Metrolink station recieved from:

City of Grand Terrace	12-13-2001
Grand Terrace (8 years later)	12-29-2009
City of Loma Linda	1-24-2002
City of Colton	4-15-2015
Senator Jeff Stone, Dist. 28 (former Board of Supervisor)	2-11-2015
Senator Mike Morrell, Dist. 23	2-25-2015
Former Assemblyman Bill Emmerson	8-14-2006
Riverside Land Conservancy	10-18-2005
University Neighborhood Assnociation near UCR	10-21-2005
Bixby Land Company, now owned by Gregory Lansing	12-12-2005
Riverside Eagles Board of Trustees	(located in Highgrove)

Remember, a parked car emits zero emmissions!

Springbrook Heritage Alliance (located in west side of freeway)	
Former Riverside County Supervisor, Bob Buster	10-11-2006
RCTC Commissioner Mary Crayon (Canyon Lake)	2-11-2009
RCTC Commissioner Roger Berg (Beaumont)	2-11-2009
RCTC Commissioner James Potts (San Jacinto)	2-11-2009
RCTC Commissioner Robin Lowe (Hemet)	2-11-2009
RCTC Commissioner Jeff Stone	2-11-2009
Former Assemblyman Bill Emmerson (Dist. 63)	8-14-2006
UCR Professor Emeritus Mark Hanson	10-21-2005
University Neighborhood Association (unanimous support)	10-21-2005

Continued on page 4

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

Program Coordinator

Leila Santamaria

Clerical Volunteers

Priscilla Burton, Jack Aboytes,
Rosie Navarro and Cynthia Kupfer

Family Service Association's Mission is to provide quality human services, child development, housing and senior services to residents of the Inland Empire and Desert Communities.

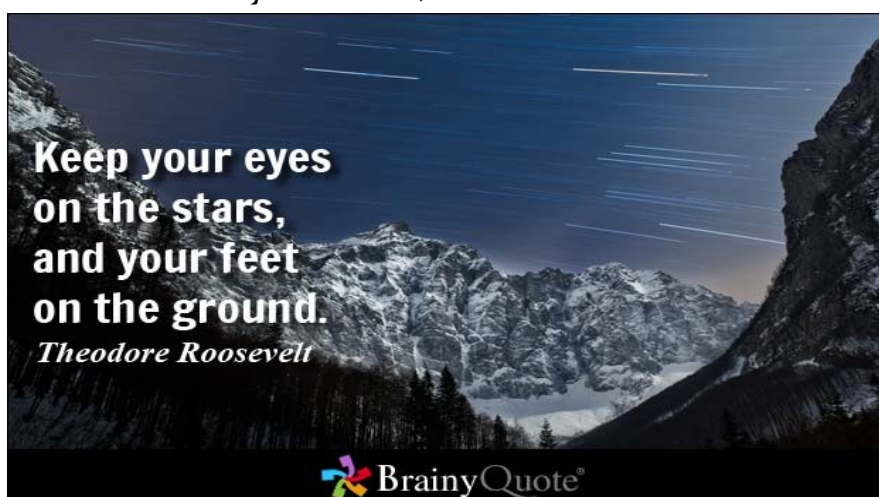


February



2017

Hello Community Members,



County Regional Medical Center Mobile Health Clinic is back ! 9AM - 2PM February 3rd & 17th: RCRMC will be here to answer your personal health questions and provide baselines assessment which include Health screenings (blood pressure /Diabetes-blood sugar screenings,) sick child visits. These 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.

February 3rd & 17th 8 AM - 10AM : Resource table hosted by Mini Medical School at UCR.: A student-run community that serves the residents of the Inland Empire by providing professionally approved medical and health-related information to those in community settings in order to help bridge health disparities.

Nutrition and Education Program: Nutrition Series to begin 10:15 AM hosted by RUHS- Public Health. Certificate of Completion awarded! Topics include *Build a Healthy Plate, What's on a label, Shopping on a budget, Planning Healthy Meals and Rethink your Drink.* Spanish class every other Thursday Beginning Jan 12. English class every other Thursday Beginning Jan 19. -o- cost program

February 20th: Center Closed

Presidents' Day Observed

Save The Date : March 18, 2017 7AM - 12Noon



Vendors reserve your participation!
\$10 includes 2 spaces, 1 table and chair

Norton Younglove Community Center

459 Center St. Highgrove, CA 92507



(951) 241-7221
951-779-3099 fax



@nycchighgrove

Aerodance Exercise

Mon-Thurs 9am-10am
\$3.00/per class.



Tuesday Bingo

12:30 PM 4 card for \$1
Includes refreshments

Sewing Class \$7.50
per class Wed 10:30-1:30. Note*2nd

Wednesday of the month @ 11:30- 2:30.
Call Sandra 951-616-7787 for project materials info and clothing alteration services.

3-D Gelatin Molding Class

5 students
minimum sign up to schedule classes. \$15 class/10 class course.

Polynesian Dance Class

Mon 7:15 pm. Wed 10 am Sponsored by Regal Medical Group \$0 COST for Regal Med Members \$2 for non Regal members . Wed & Fri 6:30-7:30pm \$3 per class or \$8 per week

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 Certificate Completion awarded

CIZE LIVE Hip Hop Class

Wednesday 7:30 PM
\$5 per class

E-Taekwondo Unit-ed

(Taekwondo Class)
Mon 5 50 PM & Thurs. 6pm For details please call Master Elvis Chavez 909-578-4798
etkdumc@yahoo.com or www.etkdu.com

Square & Line Dance

Tue 6:30pm \$6 donation. Info: 909-823-0294 or 951-788-4245
www.riversidesinglessingers.com

Zion Assembly Church of God

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

Sr. Nutrition Lunch Program

Mon - Fri @11:30 AM
\$3 suggested donation

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 a.m. 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



OFFICER INVOLVED SHOOTING FOLLOWED BY A PURSUIT

CORONA, California- On Wednesday, January 11, 2017, at approximately 8:50 PM, a California Highway Patrol Officer, stationed out of the Riverside Area, was on routine patrol, traveling southbound on Interstate 15, approaching Indian Truck Trail. The officer made an enforcement stop on a suspected DUI driver and the driver yielded on the right shoulder of Interstate 15 near Indian Truck Trail. The officer contacted the driver and the driver became extremely uncooperative. The driver made verbal threats toward the officer and began making furtive movements within the vehicle. For his own safety, the officer retreated and took cover behind a nearby barrier. The driver exited his vehicle with a gun and began shooting at the patrol vehicle, striking the patrol vehicle several times and rendering it disabled. The driver re-entered his vehicle and fled the scene southbound on Interstate 15. A nearby CHP unit monitored the call of shots fired and responded to the location of the shooting. The responding unit located the suspect vehicle and a pursuit ensued. As the pursuit continued, the suspect repeatedly fired at the pursuing officers. The suspect exited the freeway at the Railroad Canyon off ramp and turned left onto east-bound Railroad Canyon. The suspect continued fleeing through several city streets until he reached the pursuit termination point at Villa Milano and Villa Roma, in the City of Lake Elsinore. The suspect stopped in front of a nearby residence and fled on foot into the residence. Multiple Riverside County Sheriff Deputies also responded to the scene.

No officers were injured throughout this incident. Aside from the initial patrol vehicle involved, no other patrol vehicles were struck by gun fire.

This is an ongoing investigation and a collaborative effort between the California Highway Patrol and the Riverside County Sheriff's Department. Any further inquiries regarding this incident should be forwarded to the Riverside County Sheriff's Department.

Dan Olivas
Public Information Officer California Highway Patrol
Riverside Area, 8118 Lincoln Ave
Riverside, CA 92504
Office: (951) 637-8000 Fax: (951) 637-8003

Phil's Philosophy

By: Phil Turner

Todays Racism?

I usually stay away from political commentary, but I just can't stand not to write about John Lewis, the Representative from Georgia. To be more accurate, I suppose, this is a social comment.

Before the inauguration, Rep. Lewis commented during an interview that he didn't regard President Trump to be a legitimate president, because the Russian Government helped Trump get elected, and destroyed Hillary Clinton's campaign. He then declared that he wouldn't attend President Trump's inauguration. This led to about a third of the Democrat delegation following his lead.

Rep. Lewis also called President Trump, and the Republicans, wanting to replace Obama Care as being racist. Whenever Rep. Lewis's name is mentioned it is always in this way; "Civil Rights Icon John Lewis". So whatever he does or says; needs to be filtered or forgiven, because 55 years ago he was beaten during the civil rights movement.

This reminds me of General Santa Anna, the commander of the Mexican Army that fought at the Alamo. In 1838, two years after The Battle of The Alamo, he lost his leg in a battle against the French in Vera Cruz. For the rest of his life, he kept the leg in a place of honor in his office and wherever he traveled. This was an obvious reminder to all of his sacrifice.

Similarly, "Civil Rights Icon", is trotted out to preface any and all mention of Rep. Lewis. Many of us are veterans that served in foreign wars for our great nation but I don't recall ever being addressed as "Viet Nam Veteran Phil Turner". Or my father being addressed as "World War Two Veteran Jim Turner" or my grandfather as "World War One Veteran Henry Turner". A history professor that I studied under once said, "We are all decedents of slaves, and kings". He reminded us that peasants and serfs in Europe could be sold along with the land, barns, cattle, and pigs. Even after escaping serfdom, many paid their way to America by selling themselves as indentured servants for a number of years to pay for their passage. Slave, serf, peasant, are interchangeable descriptions.

Conversely, royalty routinely took advantage of their power to "have their way", with the serfs/peasants inhabiting their lands. Their offspring were rarely acknowledged, but were raised as part of the family of serfs.

Few of us escape trials and tribulations during our lifetimes. Almost none of us get to fall back on an instant in our past, to pave our way in the present. At this point, to me, Rep. John Lewis is merely an old, angry, black man.

Note: The opinions expresseed in this article are the opinions of the writer and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Highgrove Happenings Newspaper.

HIGHGROVE SHERIFF REPORT

Greetings, once again Highgrove is doing well when it comes to crime. As a community, Highgrove has seen decreases in burglary, auto theft, and larceny over last year, going against the trend being experienced in many parts of the state and county. There were 14 reported part 1 crimes during this rating period of 12/01/16 to 1/09/17; 2 assaults, 12 thefts (petty thefts, mail theft, vehicle burglary, vehicle theft. residential/commercial burglary). With the holidays came additional deployments of deputies in Highgrove to deter criminal activity. However, to keep those numbers low, the Riverside County Sheriff's Department encourages people to take

reasonable care to protect their property. Theft is usually a crime of opportunity. Individuals who are inclined to take your property are usually looking to make a quick, easy, score. Therefore, taking valuables inside, locking vehicle parked in the driveway or on the street, and having your property well-lit will discourage persons from stealing. As always, if you experience a theft, or in any way in the Riverside County Sheriff's department, please call.

We are here to help!



Sheriff Dept.: (951) 776-1099 X 5 (Non emergency)

Capt. Jason B. Horton (951) 955 2600

Lieutenant Don Sharp (951) 955 2629

Hot line tips for Highgrove area: (951) 955-2600

Sanctuary Cities:

"To Protect and to Serve"

But who are they protecting and who are they serving?

This motto appears on the sides of many police cars but listening to the various Police Chief's, Mayors and Governors around the country it makes me wonder who are they protecting and who are they serving?

Sanctuary cities are in many major cities in America that allow criminals to have a safe haven from those who would pursue them for crimes they have committed or for those who want to be protected from being arrested. There has been a lot of coverage recently about Sanctuary cities with Police Chiefs, Mayors and Governors stating that their city or police forces will not turn over criminals to other authorities such as the INS or other Federal agencies.

I may be wrong but I always though that Federal laws supercede State or local laws but that does not seem to apply any more. One example that comes to mind is the drug enforcement laws. On one hand the Federal laws say certain drug possessions or abuses are illegal while on the other hand States are passing laws that permit incidents that are supposed to be violations of the Federal laws.

Does the phrase: **"To protect and to Serve"** apply to the victims of crime who call the police for protection or does it apply to the criminals who are running from the Law?



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Across from FIESTA VILLAGE
Behind GEORGE BURGER

215 E Washington St.

Sparkling Clean Car Wash Inc.

HIGHGROVE HAPPENINGS

Metrolink supporters continued from page 1

San Bernardino Sun, Quote from Supervisor Hansberger	12-31-2006
Hugh Grant Late Chmn. San Bernardino LAFCO	6-21-2006
Southern California Association. of Governments	8-30-2007
Shopoff Group, Bill Shopoff	2-23-2009
Anthony Mize, Builder	2-24-2009
Kirk Wallace, Builder	10-21-2009
Bobbie Forbes, Terra Loma Real Estate	2-25-2009
Former Grand Terrace Mayor Byron Matteson	6-23-2006
Highgrove CSA 126 Resolution	11-27-2001
Highgrove Project Area Committee	1-28-2002
Late Civil Engineer, William Addington	12-11-2009

All of the above information is available on-line at: www.highgrovehappenings.net

Go to Metrolink, Supporting Docs, and 8 Years of Comments to view over 15 years of support for a Highgrove Metrolink Station, look at the dates, the map, and other important information!

Highgrove growth magnifies need for services!

If you do not know where Highgrove is located, you soon will!

Highgrove is in an un-incorporated area of Riverside County located on both sides of the 215 Interstate freeway from the Riverside/San Bernardino County line southward to the city limits of Riverside.

Highgrove is on the south side of the Riverside/San Bernardino County Line at Main Street and Grand Terrace and Colton are on the North side.

This small unincorporated community is only 3.2 square miles (2,048 acres) and the 2010 Census states the population is 3,988.

Highgrove used to have hundreds of acres of citrus groves that have been removed to make way for housing. But with more housing comes the need for more infrastructure such as roads and a Metrolink station to accommodate the existing homes and present construction and future growth of this area.

The Riverside County Transportation Commission owns 17.22 acres of vacant land at Highgrove where they have built a curved track to connect Riverside to Perris on the new Perris Valley Line Metrolink extension. This curved track goes through the 17.22 acre property at Highgrove.

This is WHAT is needed.....

A Metrolink "Parking lot" is needed on 17.22 acres owned by the Riverside County Transportation Commission which is located right next to the IEOC Metrolink line (BNSF Main Line) that could provide commuter service by using the existing daily Metrolink trains that go between Riverside County and San Bernardino County in both directions, every day of the week including week-ends!

Metrolink riders on the new Perris Valley Line cannot get between Riverside County and San Bernardino County from any station on the Perris Valley Line! This includes the new Marlborough Ave. Station that is only 1 mile south of RCTC's vacant 17.22 acre property at Highgrove. All that is needed is a parking lot at Highgrove and stop some of the daily Metrolink trains that go between the two counties. **But for the last 15 years RCTC has opposed building a parking lot on this property.**

Cont. top right

If RCTC would build a parking lot on their vacant land at Highgrove, (which is right next to the # 3 BNSF main line that is also the IEOC Metrolink Line), Metrolink commuters could use the existing daily trains that go between Riverside and San Bernardino Counties. The new Perris Valley Line Metrolink trains do not operate on week-ends and they do not go between the 2 counties! Commuters cannot get to San Bernardino or any cities in San Bernardino County from any station on the new Perris Valley Line. But the IEOC Line that goes through Highgrove to the San Bernardino Station has connecting Metrolink trains over the **San Bernardino Line** that stops at many cities on its way into Los Angeles. RCTC's property at Highgrove has had public support for 15 years but RCTC still refuse to build a parking lot on their property where the station is needed that goes between the 2 counties. The Metrolink station at Highgrove is needed now more than ever due to the additional population that is being added to this area. (See following article)

Please visit: www.highgrovehappenings.net/Metrolink and look at the map and click on: "Supporting Docs". If you click on each "Supporting Doc" at the top, you can read the letter of support. Some supporting letters date back to 2001. Also click on: "8 years of comments" plus other important information including the amount RCTC paid for the Highgrove property (\$8,625,000.00 and Marlborough Ave. property one mile away that cost RCTC another \$8,146,000. for a total of \$16,771,000.00).

Here are some more of the reasons Highgrove needs a Metrolink station to accommodate this growth!

1,409 single family homes in Spring Mountain Ranch (under construction)

1,300 townhouses, condominiums and apartments on 68 acres of Lansing Properties (approved)

87 Apartments in Highgrove Blossom Apartments (completed and fully occupied)

36 single family homes on N/E corner of Garfield and Spring St. (under construction)

600 Apartment complex on east side of Mt. Vernon between Center and Spring St. (approved)

138 single family homes east of Spring Mountain Ranch (approved)

72 Condos owned by Shopoff Group (pending)

650 single family homes on 103 acres of vacant land known as Springbrook Estates (pending)

4,294 Total housing units added to the 3.2 square mile area east of the I-215 freeway. This is why we need a Highgrove Metrolink Station!

Every body should know!

Here are some of the people and agencies being notified about the needs for a Highgrove Metrolink station!

Congressman Mark Takano, 41st District, 3403 10th St. # 610 (951) 222 0203 or 1507 Longworth House Office Bldg., Wash. DC, 20515


Congressman Pete Aguilar, 31st District 1223 Longworth House Office Bldg., Wash. DC 20515 (202) 225 3201 or 685 E. Carnegie # 100, San Bernardino, 92408 (909) 890 4445

California State Senator Richard Roth, 31st District, 3737 Main St., Riverside (951) 680 6750 or Capitol Room 4034, Sacramento, 95814

California State Senator Jeff Stone, 28th District, Calif. State Capitol Room 4062 Sacramento, Ca. 95814, (916) 651 4028

California State Senator Mike Morrell, 23rd District, State Capitol Room 3056, Sacramento, 95814 (916) 651 4023 or 10350 Commerce Center Dr. # 2220, Rancho Cucamonga 91730, (909) 919 7731

Cont. on P. 6




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HIGHGROVE HAPPENINGS

A Story About a Compass and a Bear

By Dennis Wilds

Dennis and Leilani Wilds formerly of Riverside and Wilds Veterinary Hospitals retired in 2012 and our current home is in Washington State on the Olympic Peninsula. Ardie and Barney invited us to share some of our Pacific Northwest experiences with you. You may remember a string of stories and book installments we shared through the Highgrove Happenings from 2008 through 2012 loosely called "The Devils Den Stories". Well, this story is about a compass and a bear.

On January 1, 2012, for her birthday, I gave Leilani a Lewis and Clark replica brass compass with the back engraved with "You lead the way Baby...". She led the way and I followed!

By that I meant that after working by my side in our businesses for thirty years, she had earned the right to pick our retirement destination. Along with that gift, I promised Leilani that somehow I would re-home our businesses by year's end, freeing us up for total retirement. I kept my promise and, reluctantly, Leilani shouldered the responsibility of finding us a place to spend the rest of our lives. At first she didn't want the total responsibility but I insisted and we began the home search which led us to Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Arizona, Nevada, and the few places in Northern California we had never seen. Our last trip was to Washington State, one of our favorite vacation destinations, and there she found a vacation home which we decided to try for one full year to test out the seasons in the Pacific Northwest. Seasons in the Pacific Northwest are exhilarating and exciting, each with its own beautiful sights, sounds, and weather. Now in the winter when you step outside, the smell of Alaskan snow is in the brisk, biting wind coming off the Hood Canal. The sea birds and eagles are actively playing in the stiff breezes, looking like small airplanes, the gusts send them crabbing sideways as they soar and dive.

We moved in on Christmas day 2013 and then moved one year later to a larger home one mile away. Satisfied we were good with year round living in Washington, we packed it all up again. December marks the two year anniversary living in our current home on the banks of the Hood Canal.

Our neighborhood is rural and forested and the wildlife abundant. We share the land with bears, river otters, eagles, ospreys, great blue herons, deer, raccoons, mountain lions, and an occasional elk. Washington State is apple country and everyone here has at least one apple tree on their property and the bears know it. Each fall, one bear we all call "THE LOCAL BEAR" makes his rounds eating wild black berries, blue berries, and apples. There are several small estuaries entering the Hood Canal near here and I am sure he knows just when to access the spawning fish too. You never know when you will see our friend and our first meeting is documented in a photo painting attached to this story. That happened one spring day on our neighborhood forested road near our lot. Driving slowly along I noticed a dog, or so I thought, emerge running from the trees and pacing us in our car just slightly ahead of us. I slowed down and he ran on ahead revealing himself to be a black bear about 200 pounds.

Up ahead he climbed about ten feet up a cedar tree and paused, his black hair glinting in the sun, to look over his left shoulder at us. We stopped the car and watched as he climbed back down and reentered the forest out of sight. Pulling ahead about a hundred feet we caught sight of him again facing us and the road with his front feet on a downed log. This is the pose Leilani captured with her cell phone camera. We also videoed from that point on for about a minute as our friend turned to his left and plunged head first into a depression at the base of a dead tree and began digging, dog like, throwing dirt a good eight feet between his rear legs. Dirt and dust flew in the air behind TLB with each strong swipe. He had found a bee hive and while he dug, they stung. Pausing occasionally, to paw at his face and eyes, he kept up his search for honey until the bees' stinging got the better of him and he ran off into the trees in a cloud of dust. We didn't see him again until mid-summer when we watched him follow a beach goer for a ways before peeling off and disappearing into the trees. Observing from a distance we thought initially it was just a big black dog

Cont. on P. 15

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN FOR THE 2017 RIVERSIDE COUNTY HISTORY SYMPOSIUM!



This is an exciting year for us - we have incorporated the Riverside County Heritage Association, a 501(c)(3) organization which will now be in charge of the symposium. It's the same people - just as an incorporated entity! The symposium will remain the same and will (hopefully) continue to bring you the best and most interesting aspects of Riverside County historical research that our many authors, researchers, and lecturers have to offer!

When - Saturday, March 4, 2017

Where - Historic Hemet Theater, 216 E. Florida Avenue in Hemet.

Registration Deadline - February 17, 2017

Please visit our website at www.rivcohistorysymposium.weebly.com for all of the particulars. Download the 2017 registration form.



OBITUARY



FORREST "MAC" MCKINLEY, 80, was born on July 16, 1936 in St. Louis, Missouri and passed away peacefully on December 21, 2016 in Riverside, CA. In 1957, he and his wife Sarah moved to California to raise their 4 children and pursue a career as an electrical apprentice with the IBEW Local Union 440. He later became owner of Imperial Electric for many years as well as Imperial Industrial Coatings. Mac's zest for life and work was evident, he never retired, still coming to the office

and traveling with his longtime companion Aurora and family until recently. He especially enjoyed spending time with friends and loved ones in Mexico, Lake Mead and Idyllwild. He is survived by his longtime companion Aurora Segovia; sons Steven, David, and Jeff (Glynnis); daughter Laura (Lenny); 9 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren. Friends and family celebrated Mac's life on Saturday, January 21, 2017 at 1:00 pm at the Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie 997, 466 E. La Cadena Dr., Riverside, CA 92507, where he was a member for many years.



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California Assemblyman Jose Medina 61st District, P. O. Box 942849, Sacramento, Ca. 94249-1409 (916) 319 2061, or 1223 University Ave., # 230, Riverside, 92507, (951) 369 6644

California Assemblywoman Eloise Gomez Reyes, 47th District, 290 N. D St. # 803 San Bernardino, 92401, (909) 3813238

Riverside County Board of Supervisors, Jeffries, Tavaglione, Washington, , Ashley

San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors, Lovingood, Rutherford, Ramos, Hagman, Gonzales

Riverside County Executive Officer, Jay Orr, 4th floor, 4080 Lemon St., 955 1110 ceo@rceo.org

Riverside County Chief Assistant Executive Officer, George Johnson, 4th floor, 955 1034

Riverside County Assistant County Executive Officer, Rob Field, Economic Development Agency, 3403 10th St. # 400 92501, 955 8916

Suzanne Holland at same location and phone #

Riverside County TLMA Planning Director, Steven Weiss, 955 6097, planning@rctlma.org

Riverside County Planning Commission, Charissa Leach, Aaron Hake, Ruthanne Berger, Bill Sanchez, Mickey Valdivia

Riverside County Planning Department, Kristi Lovelady, P. O Box 1409, Riverside, 92502 (951) 955 3200

Riverside County Director of Transportation Land Management Agency, Juan Perez, 4080 Lemon 14th floor, 955 6740 or 955 6880

Riverside County Deputy Director of Transportation, Patty Romo, 4080 Lemon 8th floor, Riv. 92501, (951) 955 6740.

Riverside County Traffic Engineer, Lawrence Tai, 3625 14th St. Riverside 92501, 955 6880

Riverside County Transportation Commission Executive Director, Anne Mayor, 4080 Lemon 3rd floor Riverside

Riverside County Transportation Commissioners Franklin, Carroll, DeConinck, Hyatt, Haggerty, Pettis, Hernandez, Reed, Spigel, Matas, Rush, Krupa, Reed, Wilson, Berkson, Radi, Magee, Winter, Baca, Gibbs, Hanna, Harnik, Foat, Vargas, Weill, Bailey, Kotyuk, Naggar, Benoit, Bulinski

Riverside County Community Action Partnership, Brenda Freeman, Executive Director, 2038 Iowa Ave. # B-102, 92507, 955 4900

Riverside City Mayor, Rusty Bailey, 3900 Main St., 92501 (951) 826 5551

Riverside City Council, Mike Gardner, Andy Melendrez, Mike Soubirous, Paul Davis, Chris MacArthur, Jim Perry, John Burnard

Riverside City Manager, John Russo

SANBAG Executive Director, Ray Wolfe, San Bernardino

SANBAG President, Ryan McEachron, Victorville

SANBAG Vice President, Robert Lovingood, San Bernardino County

SANBAG member Frank Navarro, Colton

SANBAG member R. Carey Davis, San Bernardino

City of Grand Terrace, Mayor Darcy McNaboe (darcey@mcnaboe.net) (909) 824 1506

City of Loma Linda, Mayor. Rhodes Rigsby rrigsby@lomalinda-ca.gov or rrigsby@llu.edu, 25541 Barton Road, Loma Linda 92354 (909) 799 2810 4th Tuesday 1-24-17

City of Colton, Mayor, Richard DeLaRosa, 650 LaCadena Dr., Colton 92324, (909) 370 5059 Meets 3rd Tuesday

City of Colton District 6, Isaac Suchill, (909) 370 5057

Southern California Regional Rail Authority (SCRRA) Andrew Kotyuk

Southern California Regional Rail Authority (SCRRA) Larry McCallon

Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) Executive Director, Hasan Ikhrata, 818 W. 7th St. 12th floor, Los Angeles, Ca. 90017 (213 236 1800)

(Cont. top right)



*Photo by
Steve Lech*

A Story of Early Settlement, Agua Mansa, and La Placita

by Jim Wood

After crossing the treacherous pass and the lower sycamore grove, now Glen Helen, some travelers began to settle near Politana. It was a simple, native-run mission outpost reportedly set up by Father Dumetz from Mission San Gabriel near 1810 in honor of ‘San Bernardino of Sienna’. It was on the Bunker Hill south of Colton Ave. After an earthquake, an outpost was reestablished east on Mission Road in 1819 and then at Barton Road about 1829. In 1840, F. Alvarado lived there and described acres of cattle but only ten buildings on the huge San Bernardino Rancho. The Lugo family mapped the region in 1842 and was granted land. The New Mexican settler’s planned to work with him, but eventually worked with Bandini, a land holder, to settle along the Santa Ana River near 1844. Some were led by Juan Manuel Lorenzo Trujillo, born at Abiquiu and of Spanish-native decent. He made several trips to California and with others established the settlement of La Placita on the flats below La Loma Hills, north of Orange and Center Streets today.

They cleared a central plaza area and made a school, later named La Loma. The trail that crossed the river north toward a bluff later became Old Pellisier Rd. A church was started but never completed. Also near 1844, Salazar and others established Agua Mansa just north of the river. Feeble homes were set up with orchards, vineyards, and gardens near the river. The settlers were simple, kind, and generous, and the settlement grew to be the largest between LA and New Mexico. The trail that came to link it with Cajon Pass and Los Angeles is part of the Old Spanish Trail.

many caravans of settlers and traders arrived. The Santa Ana River flowed well, fed by Lytle Creek, Cajon Wash, Warm Creek and Mill Creek. It flowed 73 years earlier when de Anza crossed to the south, and 37 years in the future when a diversion for Riverside canal was placed a mile north. In 1847 a Mormon expedition from Salt Lake (Cont. on P. 11)



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HIGHGROVE HAPPENINGS



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Jose Crespo: Pastoral Coordinator
Parish Office 909-783-3811 Fax 909-783-4689

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HIGHGROVE HAPPENINGS

36 Houses under construction require improvements to infrastructure!



Road signs were moved out of the way to allow room for construction crews to work on the intersection of Garfield Ave. and Spring Street.



New concrete was poured at the north/east corner of Spring St. and Garfield Avenue just south of the Highgrove Elementary School.



New curb and gutter was poured on the north side of Spring St. which made Spring St. wider between the Gage Canal and Swayzee Court.

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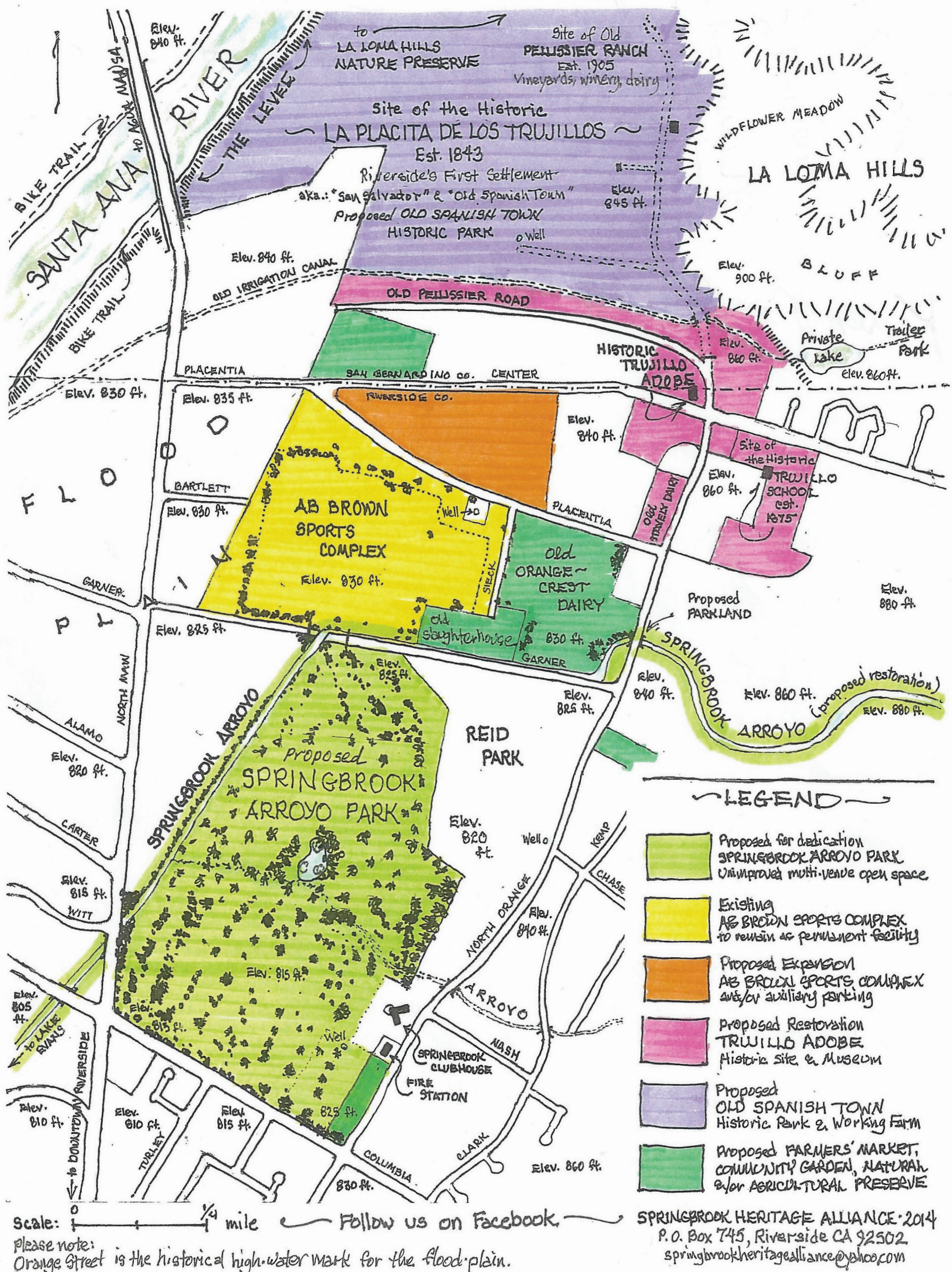
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HIGHGROVE HAPPENINGS

A Citizens' Proposal by Springbrook Heritage Alliance for SPRINGBROOK HERITAGE PARKLANDS & WALKING TRAILS



Here is a handmade map of the Springbrook Heritage Parklands & Walking Trails made by Karen Renfro who is the leader of the Springbrook Heritage Alliance which is an organization on the west side of the I-215 freeway. The east side of North Orange St. between Center St and Nash St. is in County Service Area 126 which is Highgrove's County Service Area. The west side of North Orange St. is within the city limits of Riverside. This is where the Ruth Lewis Community Center is located and where the Springbrook Heritage meetings and Northside Improvement Association meetings are held.

HIGHGROVE HAPPENINGS

Advertising rates

The "Highgrove Happenings" advertising rates are the lowest rates in town. If you have already trained your dog to bring in the paper (like the one on the right) you can be assured that he won't be lifting anything too heavy by bringing in our little newspaper. Some of the other larger newspapers are wasting just too many trees, especially in their Sunday edition. No one should ever ask their dog to lift something that heavy! Our little paper has lots of local news and we take pride in providing you with something free of charge that will fit in the bottom of your birdcage! Give us a call (951) 683 4994 or check out our web site for pricing and sizes of our ads. Go to www.highgrovehappenings.net and click on the contact us page.



Call us !

We have no reporters so we are asking for your help. You can be a reporter by just giving us a call or sending us an E-mail or a picture. Small town news is what we are all about and we want to encourage you to participate. We try to print positive things since there is so much bad news on TV and in other newspapers. Send us a story, take a picture or call us about something that is happening in Highgrove. (951) 683 4994



Please visit our Highgrove Happenings website:

www.highgrovehappenings.net

Keep in touch: Send us your e-mail addresses to help us keep you informed of activities and projects that effect our community. Send your address to:

highgrovenews@roadrunner.com

Highgrove T-shirt prices reduced! (See P.3)

Notice: We have some Highgrove T-shirts in various sizes that have just been printed. They have the Highgrove logo on the front and a picture of a 1916 "Highgrove Brand" orange crate label showing Sugarloaf with an orange grove at it's base. It states: Grown and Packed in Highgrove by Sugarloaf Orange Growers Assn., Highgrove. Call (951) 683 4994

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Monthly newspapers are delivered to each Highgrove resident along with Public Offices and businesses in Highgrove, Grand Terrace, Colton, Riverside County and Riverside City.

(A minimal transaction fees will be applied)



New Colors of Highgrove T-Shirts available!

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HIGHGROVE HAPPENINGS

Highgrove MAC meeting Feb. 15, 2017

7:00 PM Highgrove Library, 530 Center St. Highgrove. Public invited! Bring a friend!

Agua Mansa, and La Placita

Cont. from P. 6

City came into the region. The first wagon over Cajon was with a Mormon party near 1848. In 1849, it is said that Mormon travelers from Utah arrived at Agua Mansa, starving. Mr. Slover offered them bacon and squash which they quickly ate uncooked. Sadly, nine then died and were buried east of the trail by Politana. In the 1920's, seven bodies were unearthed while building Valley College. They were reburied at Pioneer Cemetery with a marker.

They are believed to be the same Mormons that died at Agua Mansa. In later years, Slover was killed by a bear and possibly buried temporarily near Slover Mountain, a cement plant today. His gravestone is at Agua Mansa Cemetery museum now and is likely a reproduction.

A Mormon party in 1851 slid their wagons through Cajon Pass, camped at the Sycamore Grove for months searching for free land, settled on Rancho San Bernardino northeast of Politana, and there assembled a fort-like structure for protection from natives as more Mormons arrived. This is downtown San Bernardino today. Meanwhile, Agua Mansa and La Placita prospered in the peaceful river valley filled with trees and hopes. About 1853, a church was erected and called San Salvador. Mormon Carolyn Crosby visited Agua Mansa from San Bernardino in 1856, noting it was neat but lacking some furniture, glass windows, and wood floors. She saw a priest dressed in black walking up a hill from the new church to the back of the cemetery (Look for his path there today.)

Awful Santa Ana winds dusted the area at times. In 1857, all survived the terrible Fort Tejon quake to the west. But the 1862 flood was the worst event for the settlement, known also as San Salvador. It rained for nearly a month. Father Borgatta heard the roar of water and rang the town bell that hung on a wood frame. Still, some had to swim to safety. Agua Mansa's agriculture and most structures washed away. The church and Jensen's place escaped the flood. Most of La Placita was washed and buried under sediment. Hayes later wrote, "They used to show me here, at the foot of the ridge of lofty hills and peaks that hem in the valley on the southeast, all the stations each with its rude cross surmounting a little mound of rocks, where the corpse rested on its

journey to the grave-yard", (maybe referring to Agua Mansa Cemetery, but that was to the west, not the southeast). No lives were lost in the flood as far as is known, but the near total destruction of the tranquil community that took 18 years to build should not be forgotten. There is a lack of local accounts, possibly because settlers were Hispanic, did little writing, or papers were lost in the flood. In 1863 Father Peter came from LA to serve as pastor at San Salvador de Agua Mansa. He learned that the old church bell had hung on a wood frame for years. He was told that the wood sprouted into a tree that died, so the bell was rehung on another tree. Then the old bell cracked and that tree died. Peter then took a horse and buggy to 'Robidoux', Rincon by Corona, Temescal, and Santa Ana to collect donations for a new bell. He hired an old Mexican to forge it, paying him \$12 and two horses. By 1866 the bell was made at Jensen's place near the church. With crowds present, it was rung, but holes near the top caused a poor sound. (It exists today at Riverside's Mission Inn outdoor restaurant, and a reproduction is at the Cemetery.) La Placita probably grew southward with La Placita school, cantina, and homes on higher ground along Center St.. The place existed even into the turn of the century, often called Spanish Town. The church is gone, but renderings of it and a bell, exist. An adobe house used by the Trujillos exists today under a cover near Center St. and Orange St. The cemetery is a tourist site with 19 Trujillos reported buried there. It closed in 1963. The old cantina reportedly closed in the 1940's. The river bed has been dredged to build levees on both sides.

It is likely that artifacts remain buried in the river bed and even within the levee mounds. There is a movement to establish a protected historical site in the region. The internet can be a valuable source for research.



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Spay neutar program available to Highgrove residents

The Riverside County Department of Animal Services is very pleased that the Highgrove community has embraced the pet service offered to the community. With a generous donaton by the grantor, an organization which wishes to remain anonymous, the department has provided spay or neuter services to over 126 dogs and 12 cats at the Highgrove Library located at 530 Center Street in Highgrove.

The mobile clinic also provided complete core vaccination, rabies vaccination, microchip and flea treatments to your neighbor's pets.

Everyone knows that spayed and neutered pets live healthier and happier lives and vaccination prevents most of the common infectious diseases which can devastate young pets. Microchips provide permanent identification which can reunite lost pets with their owners. In the end, everyone benefits from this program, but it is the pet population which gains the most. the principal of herd health immunity helps protect even those pets which had not been vaccinated and a lowering of the reproduction rate of the population keeps unwanted pets from being born and out of animal shelters.

The community is welcome to stop by the Highgrove Library and obtain an appointment for a future spay neuter deployment or call 951-358-7335.

Allan Drusys, D.V.M.,MVPHMgt
Chief Veterinarian
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HIGHGROVE HAPPENINGS

If You Think Print Is Dead, You're Wrong

By Juan Manuel Colome



As digital platforms continue to grow in popularity, many of those who previously believed that digital would replace print are coming to recognize a new reality. It is not digital OR print rather, it is digital AND print. One of the primary reasons for this is that print provides a very different experience than digital.

As Nicolas Brown stated in an article about millennials and print, “The more our lives are influenced by digital media, the more we are drawn to print as a retreat from online space.” Before you decide to abandon your direct mail efforts and physical advertisements, understand that there is still a place for them in modern marketing and sales.

What Makes Print Appealing?

This, of course, raises the question: what is it about print that makes it a “retreat”? The answer is that print is an enjoyable experience. It’s tactile. It’s immersive. It requires 21% less cognitive effort to process than reading on a screen. In fact, in our fast-paced world, print is now regarded as luxurious and indulgent.

Pop-up ads, flashing banners and other intrusive forms of advertising make screen-based reading at many websites an unpleasant experience. And with hundreds of emails vying for attention in the inbox, many people spend very little time reading (or deleting!) each one.

The following materials can be read and enjoyed at a slower pace:

- | | |
|-----------|-------------------------|
| books | magazines |
| postcards | brochures |
| catalogs | other printed materials |

The best part? These materials come without the distractions of intrusive advertising or the stress and pressure of a full email inbox.

Print and Digital Are Different

As advertisers in “high luxury” categories such as fashion and jewelry have discovered, it’s very hard to reproduce the physical allure of a magazine in a digital platform. There’s just something about “the sheen of the paper, the way that the ink sits on the page, the smell of money and desire that wafts off the page,” explains Nicholas Coleridge, international president of Vogue.³

Print is such a comfortable and enjoyable experience that it is trusted, savored, shared, dog-eared and displayed ... a welcome respite from the hectic pace of the digital world.

Without the Highgrove Happenings what are you going to use in the bottom of your bird cage.....your computer?



Climb Blue Mountain on March 5, 2017

This picture was taken shortly after the rain in late January when the field of the Lansing property in the foreground was a lush GREEN, the Sky was BLUE and the mountains shown on the left were covered in WHITE.

Hopefully the weather will be as good on March 5th for the hike!

Remember, when BLUE Mountain is GREEN later it will turn BROWN when the GREEN grass dies and if we are not careful it could turn RED/ORANGE if the brush catches fire which will later turn BLUE Mountain into a BLACK ugly color!

If you want to hike to the top of Blue Mountain see the details below.

10th Annual WALK ON BLUE MOUNTAIN



Join the Friends of Blue Mountain, Sierra Club and The Foundation of Grand Terrace for the Tenth Annual hike/walk up beautiful Blue Mountain on Sunday, March 5, 2017 at 8:00 a.m. You must begin your walk/hike no later than 10:45 a.m. and we ask you to start down by 12:30 p.m.

Friendly pets are allowed but must remain on a leash

Please leave time to visit the Friends of Blue Mountain booth and learn about the efforts to create the Blue Mountain Wilderness Park.

- ♦ *Start at the corner of Palm Ave. & Honey Hill Dr*
- ♦ *There will be commemorative T-shirts available*
- ♦ *Free-Will Offering—Please contribute to our Land Acquisition Fund*
- ♦ *There will be a devotion at the top at 9:30 a.m.*

Driving directions: From the 215 Freeway in Grand Terrace, exit East on Barton Road and proceed uphill until Barton begins to veer left. Continue straight on Palm Ave. to the top where it meets Honey Hill Drive

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HIGHGROVE HAPPENINGS

You Can Quote Me!

By: Dr. Cynthia Williams



“Perhaps love is like a resting place, a shelter from the storm. It exists to give you comfort, it is there to keep you warm. And in those times of trouble, when you are most alone, the memory of love will keep you warm.” ~ John Denver

Love- no other word is held up in such high regard. It evokes a wide range of feelings from the love for a baby to the passion between two people that can make them blind to all flaws. Love is considered more powerful than any other emotion, being able to triumph over deceit, selfishness and even hate. If we have a life devoid of love, we are looked upon with pity; if we are fortunate to have a life full of love for and from many, we are considered to have the best and richest of lives.

So it being February, it's the month to show love and devotion; it is the month for lovers. Others deserve to be shown your love as well. In a broader sense, classical Greek readings define several types of love we can experience. “Eros” is the passionate love we are familiar with. It's the kind of love that can make us tremble, lose sleep, make foolish decisions, even kill for it. It's the love that is the stuff of music, poetry and deeds.

“Philia” is the love between friends. Over the years, I've been blessed to have had some dear friends, but I've been very blessed to have a special friend for over 30 years. Barbara and I have been through a lot together; we met in our first

year of chiropractic college and have been the closest of friends since then. We have shared tears, many laughs and quite a few shots of tequila. Barbara is intelligent, passionate and the most delightful of people. Ours is an easy, steady, enduring friendship and I consider myself to be very fortunate to have her as my closest friend- my philial love for her and hers for me is the foundation of our friendship. (And she's a superior chiropractor!)

“Storge”, a funny word for the love between parent and child. When the child is very young the love is one way, dominated by the powerful love a parent has for her child. It's unconditional and unlimited. As the child matures, the storge love can evolve into a philial love, with the mature child and parent finding friendship with each other. “Agape” love is a type of affection in the broadest sense. It is the love one has for a stranger, sometimes called “Christian” love. Agape love has been shown to have positive health benefits contributing to greater mental and physical health and longevity. This is the kind of love that gives one the “helper's high”, the euphoric feeling that comes with altruistic actions.

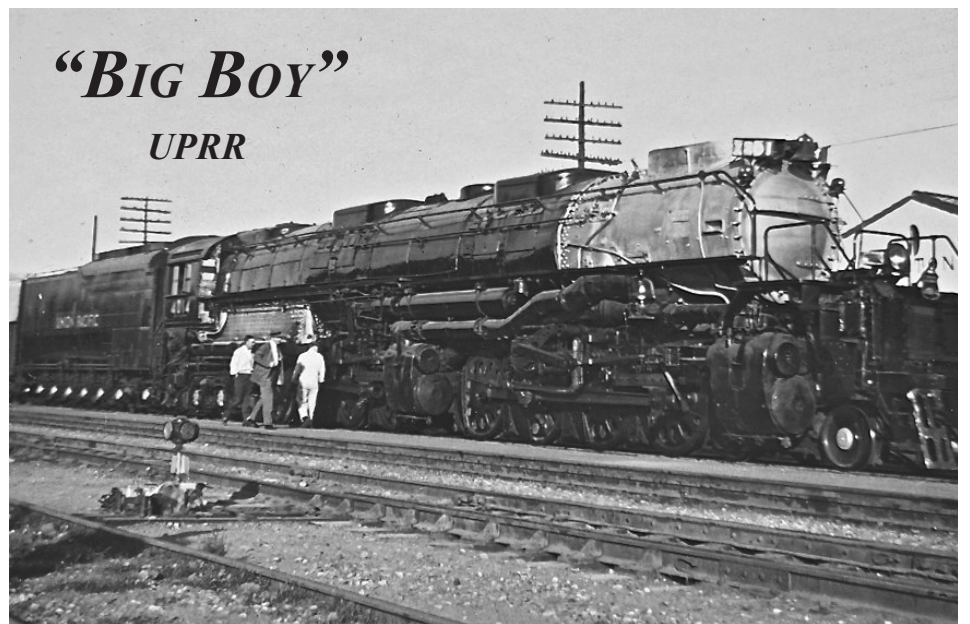
Obviously, if we are fortunate, we are blessed with a blend of these many types of love. They all bring happiness and a sense of fulfillment that enriches our lives and we in turn, can enrich the lives of others. We should all be so fortunate.

Try to focus on the love you can give to others- family, friends and even strangers. Let it flow from you with no expectations or demands. Funny thing- it will be returned to you in ways you may never have expected. “...the memory of love will keep you warm.”

Union Pacific Restoration of A “Big Boy”

By Jim Wood

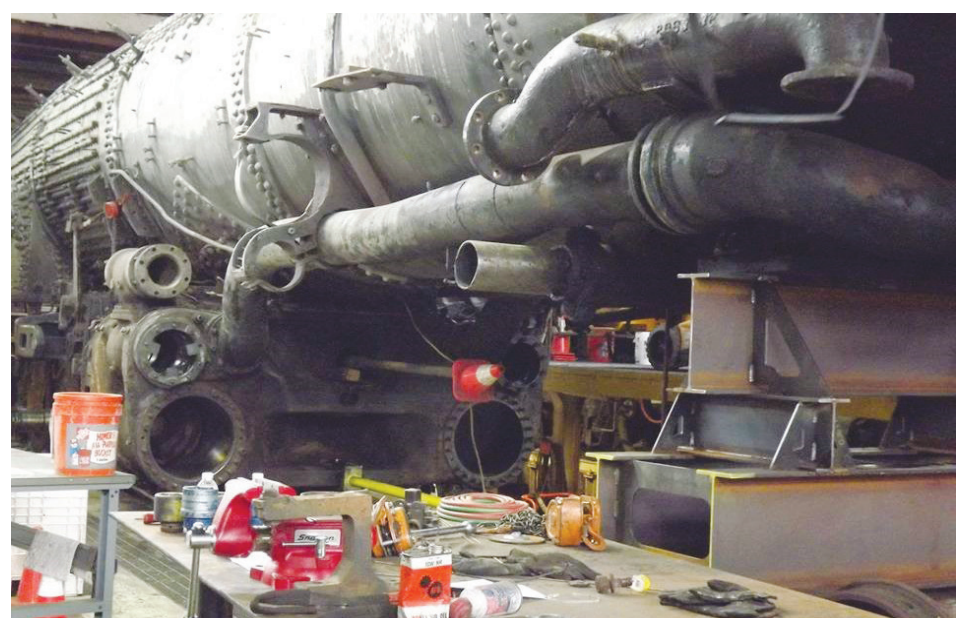
You may not know but Union Pacific negotiated a major trade with the Railway and Locomotive Historical Society - Southern California Chapter at Fairplex in Pomona. UP received the 4-8-8-4 “Big Boy” steam locomotive number 4014 that was on display since 1962. RLHS received a modern engine, boxcar, and caboose; they have over 5 steamers. The arrival in California in 1962 of what many call the ‘largest steam locomotive in the world’ was documented, as was its long display and the move out of Pomona through Colton to Cheyenne, Wyoming in 2014 for the restoration. The work requires that the 1.2 million pound, 133 foot long locomotive be dismantled, reconditioned, and re-assembled. They hope for completion in 2019. I was fortunate to help on the locomotive at Pomona and Colton. I also rode the train that moved “Big Boy” up Cajon Pass. Enjoy the photos:



Arriving at Colton in 1962



Preparing for repairs at Cheyenne, Wyoming in 2016



Inside the Cheyenne shops in 2017- Photo by Allen Helus (Is the small vice on the workbench big enough for the BIG BOY?)

I have been to see this monster when it was at the Fairplex in Pomona and it is really big! It is much bigger than the Santa Fe 3751 Steam Engine.

When I looked at the size of this engine, as a former railroader I wondered what would happen if a Brakeman or Conductor told the Trainmaster they were responsible for a derailment that resulted in this engine coming off the track? Do you think the Trainmaster would be upset????



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Information is accurate as of the date of the publication. Models do not reflect racial preference. Not all features are available in all homes. Subject to change without notice.



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Roads:

To accommodate all of this new growth, new roads need to be added. Extending Michigan Ave. ½ mile southward across the empty field to Palmyrita Court (between the buildings) would enable having a North/South road from Barton Road in Grand Terrace, through Highgrove, and all the way to Columbia Ave. in Riverside.

Another westward extension of Spring St. is needed at Transit Ave. across the Perris Valley track and curve, on the property owned by RCTC, to connect to Citrus St. at the base of the Iowa Ave. overpass. This would be a direct line down Spring St. westward from the Spring Mountain Ranch homes and within walking distance from the 68 acres planned community on the former Bixby property now known as the Lansing Companies property.

A Compass and a Bear

Cont. from P. 5

following his master along the beach. When the “dog” exited the beach we could tell from his gait and profile it was TLB again. When the beach goer reached us we asked him if he knew the bear was following him. He said “no” and later on, a local resident confirmed that this was the usual track the bear followed along the beach and through the trees in the general direction of our lot about a half mile away.

A few months ago our neighbor almost bumped into the bear taking out the garbage one evening. They scared each other and TLB ran off. We have yet to get a good photo of him with our game camera.

We hope you enjoy this account. Leilani and Dennis Wilds

Andrew Kotyuk elected Metrolink Chairman



Andrew Kotyuk

TheRiversideCountyTransportation Commissioner representing the City of San Jacinto has been elected as Chairman of the Southern California Regional Rail Authority Board of Directors. The SCRRA is the governing body for Southern California Metrolink operations.

Kotyuk, 35, is on the San Jacinto City Council and is the place he calls his home town. He was elected to replace James Potts last November.

The Southern California Regional Rail Authority is made up of 11 members representing Transportation Agencies in 5 Counties, Ventura County, San Bernardino County, Los Angeles County, Orange County and Riverside County.

SCRRA’s Web Site states:

“As drivers choose Metrolink, traffic is relieved and air quality is improved”.

Since 2006 over 34,000 Metrolink trains have passed through Highgrove where a station is needed. Hopefully, after 15 years, Mr. Kotyuk will help us get a Metrolink station at Highgrove!

OBITUARY: JOHN BENOIT

By Supervisor John Tavaglione

On December 26, 2016 members of the Board of Supervisors lost a colleague and friend, and Riverside County residents lost a man who had served them for almost 50 years. But it was John J. Benoit’s family who suffered the most heartbreaking loss – the loss of a loving husband, father, brother, and grandfather.



Some might call John a politician or elected official, a description often given to those of us who enter public life. But John J. Benoit – Supervisor Benoit, Assemblyman Benoit, Senator Benoit, School Board Member Benoit, and CHP Commander Benoit – was most proud of being called a public servant, a man who went out each day to serve the community where he and his family lived, and who was honored to represent it.

John and I never met when we were young, even though we both grew up in Riverside in the ‘60s, were only three years apart in age, and went to high schools less than a half-mile apart. I met John after he was elected to the 64th Assembly District in November of 2002. He was a freshman Assemblyman and I was in Sacramento lobbying state legislators on a legislation crucial to counties. Because counties represent people of all social and economic backgrounds, it is critical to us as county supervisors that our elected state and federal representatives can work across party lines and support legislation to the betterment of everyone in their district. That is exactly why all California counties elect non-partisan county supervisors. Historically, the most effective and longest serving county supervisors in California have been those who are fiscally conservative yet sensitive to the social fabric of the demographics of their county and district, regardless of party affiliation. John epitomized that quality and it is why we hit it off from the moment we first met in Sacramento.

John was a doer, a thinker, a planner, and a problem-solver who just wanted

to get things done for his Coachella Valley and for all Riverside County residents. Though a Republican, it did not matter to him if a particular piece of useful legislation was authored by Democrats across the aisle. If it was good for his Coachella Valley and our County he would walk over to meet with the Democratic author, then knock on the door of the Assembly Speaker or Senate President Pro Tempore in his efforts to help pass good legislation.

My dear friend and colleague, Supervisor Roy Wilson, was John’s predecessor on our Board. Roy knew exactly what he was doing just before he died in 2009 when he asked then-Governor, Arnold Schwarzenegger to appoint Senator Benoit to complete the unexpired term on our Board. I had the distinct honor to serve 14 years with Roy, who knew John was a great legislator, a man dedicated to the Coachella Valley and (like Roy) a man for all the people! Roy wanted a successor who would carry on the work he did not have the chance to complete. It was a blessing that Governor Schwarzenegger appointed John as the Fourth District Supervisor to continue the work Roy began. From the moment he joined the Board, John began building his own legacy through tireless dedication and hard work.

John J. Benoit was my friend and colleague on the Board of Supervisors, a former State Assemblyman, State Senator, School Board Member, CHP Commander, and Corona police officer. More simply, he was an amazing public servant and a fun-loving guy. When he was not talking business, he just enjoyed talking to people and he listened to every word they said.

When he was diagnosed recently with end-stage cancer, among John’s first thoughts were all the goals he had hope to reach before he left office. My colleagues on the Board of Supervisors and I will sorely miss John’s leadership, as will his dedicated staff and every constituent in his Coachella Valley. May our dear friend rest in peace.

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