

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

(FREE) Local News for the Highgrove Area

California Street needed for a North/South road through Highgrove



The illistration above outlined in yellow shows the former Bixby property of 67 acres that were For Sale before it was purchased by the Formost Company. The illistration on the right shows Formost's plan to build 846 Townhouses on this same property within the yellow lines.. Both illistrations are a different scale but the Highgrove Town Center illistration will fit within the yellow bounderaies of the above map. The vertical boundary marked by the arrow is an un-used, un-improved north/south dirt road that is named "California Street". New traffic created by the Highgrove Town Center and Spring Brook Estates will overwhelm our local streets and California Street is right next to the west side of the entire proposed Highgrove Town Center project that could be extended to Palmyrita Avenue.



Highgrove Town Center

846 Townhouses are proposed for 65.2 acres in the middle of Highgrove



This is California Street Looking South from Center Street.



This is California Street Looking North from Palmyrita Avenue



This is California Street looking south from Spring Street. We Need More Roads to Accommodate Traffic Created by New Housing Projects



This is California Street looking north from Spring Street. Tired of Waiting on Trains at Center St. or Main Street ? Turn to Page 3

July, 2021

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



Contact: (951) 241-7221





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

FAMILY SERVICE ASSOCIATION

Leila Santamaria Center Manager Priscilla Burton Office Assistant II Office Asst Volunteer Cynthia Kupfer

Hello Community Members,

Todav we celebrate freedom thanks to those who came before. Those brave men and women who fought and died in each and every war. Freedom always comes at a price, and while we celebrate, we should tip our hats to the heroes who made our COUNTRY GREAT.



The City of Riverside and Family Service Association are monitoring county, state and national reports on the impact of COVID-19 and responding appropriately. The Norton Younglove Community Center is closed., Sr. Potluck, Line dance,, Polynesian and Zumba Classes are currently suspended until further notice. <u>Staff is available by telephone at 951-241-7221 should you have questions Monday through Thursday 8 am to 4 pm</u> Friday 8 am to 2 pm.



State of California www.covid19.gov During these uncertain times it is important to receive factual information from reliable sources. Below is a list of trusted agencies.

Verify your eligibility or schedule with My Turn: Every California can sign up at myturn.ca.gov or call 833-422-4255 to see if it's you turn to get COVID-19 vaccine. People with a high chance to exposure, high risk, and those 50 or older are eligible for vaccination and can schedule appointments now. If you're eligible, and live or work in certain counties, you can schedule and appointment through My Turn. Appoints are available in Spanish. Building a Healthier tomorrow together. Protect your health, prevent spread. Visit https://curative.com for COVID-19 Test Sites. (test is free of cost) For help, reach out to Curative Customer Success Team at support@curative.com or 888-702-9042.

Additional Vaccine resources: Walmart.com, SBCovid19.com/vaccine and https://www.rivcoph.org/COVID-19-Vaccine.

**C4Yourself Program to help our community families to apply for benefits available to them through Riverside County: CalFresh, Medi-Cal and Cash assistance. This secure website will send your application directly to the county for processing:: www.c4yourself.com. County financial support programs, nutritional and medical assistance: 877-410-8829

**To Report a scam or for help if you or a loved one has fallen victim, contact the AARP Fraud Watch Network Helpline: Call 877-908-3360

** CalFresh: If you need assistance applying, please visit

<u>FeedingAmericaIE.org/CalFresh</u>or call 951-359-4757

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.



ommunity Center 459 Center St. Highgrove, **CA 9250**7 (951) 241-7221

E-Taekwondo United Martial

Arts For all Ages

Todas las edades Mon & Wed 630 pm Virtual and Outdoor Sessions Available. For details: Call

Current Programs Tuesday Bingo

12:30 PM - 1:30 PM - 4 cards for \$1.00 Includes refreshments

Line Dance

Mon and Wed:- 3 PM—6 PM. For de-tailed info Call:

Martha 951-329-7867 underthesunlinedance.com

Bailando en Fila

Voluntary Oppor-tunity! Call 951-241-7221 for details.



To Prevent the spread of COVID-19 and to insure the health and safety of everyone:

951-779-3099 fax www.fsaca.org



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

Our Senior Nutrition program is currently

offering frozen meals to registered participants age 60 and above only for pick-up on Wednesdays, 11:00 AM To 1:00 PM. We will make all attempts to keep you informed as information becomes available. Stay safe and we look forward to welcoming you back soon!



Zion Assembly Church of God

Sunday Services 9 AM and 11 AM. For detailed information Call: Pastor Pete Sarry 951-237-2337

**HEREO (Homebound Emergency Relief Outreach) - Once a month emergency food box for those who do not have transportation: Visit FeedingAmericaIE.org/Find-Pantry or call 951-359-4757 to locate your closest pantry.



Temperatures at 97 degrees officially activates Nor-Ton Younglove Community Center as a "Cool Center" for vulnerable individuals, seniors, the disabled, and others in need of temporary relief from the heat, Cool Centers are provided for and open to the public June 1, 2021 through October 15, 2021. For a list of Cool Center sites visit: capriverside.org or call 951-

955-4900. .se SAVE

THE

DATE

300

<u>**July 23rd:**</u> Commodities Food Distribution for Highgrove Residents from 8:00 AM to 10:00 AM drive through pick up.

Programs are back for you! July 12th Line Dance to begin, July 20th Bingo to begin. Zion Assembly Church of God Indoor services to begin July 4th (max capacity 34 guests)

Staff may limit the number of visitors inside at any time to maintain physical distancing -

*All to be screened to enter the building

*All must wear a face mask or face covering

Program at FSA located at 21250 Box Springs Rd, Moreno Valley:

HOPE Collaborative promotes the safety of children and prevents abuse and neglect in Riv-erside County. For more information call Family Service Association 951-686 -3750

*All high-contact areas inside are cleaned and disinfected according to guidance provided by the Center for **Disease Control.**

*Hand sanitizer,

soap/water and

disinfectant is

available to all.

*All visitors and staff must practice physical distancing at all times - keep at least 6 feet away from one another.



Child Development Center Has Openings!!

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



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HIGHGROVE HAPPENINGS When Trains Block Center St. and Main St. Spring St. Extension Wood Allow Acces To The Iowa Ave. Overpass



This is the west end of Spring St. where Spring St. ends at Transit Avenue.

Spring St. could be extended westward from this point into the 17 acre location that is already owned by the Riverside County Transportation Commission.



This is a view looking eastward from RCTC's vacant field toward Transit Avenue. The arrow shows where the Spring St. extension would begin and proceed westward through this vacant field next to the telephone poles then turn south toward Citrus Ave. and connect to the paved road shown below. This road was built in 2008 and has been blocked off for 13 years.





This old photo states 11 years but Metrolink trains have gone thru Highgrove 7 days a week for 15 years since July 15, 2006. This is near the base of the Iowa Ave. overpass.

In 2009, the Riverside County Transportation Commission paid \$8,625,000.00 for 17 acres so a curved RR track could connect the Perris Valley line trains to the BNSF main line.

But RCTC only needed 38 % of this land for the curved track. This amounts to \$3,277,500 but the remaining 62 % or **\$5,347,500** of this field still remains un-usable and RCTC has labeled this portion an "Uneconomic Remnant". (See *www. highgrovehappenings.net,, "Uneconomic Remnant"*)

RCTC already has over \$5 million invested in their vacant 17 acre field that is just growing weeds but for over 20 years RCTC has opposed using this vacant land for a Metrolink station. For written verification please go to **www.highgrovehappenings. net**. and click on the red article titled: *"RCTC's inappropriate actions to prevent a Metrolink Station at Highgrove 2004 to 2010"*

Today, Highgrove has thousands of new residents and an extention of Spring St. is needed through RCTC's vacant field so vehicles can get to the Iowa Ave. overpass. The remaining property is needed for a parking lot so commuters could use the existing Metrolink trains that pass through Highgrove 7 days a week between San Bernardino and Oceanside.

For 20 years of written support for a Metrolink Station at Highgrove go to: **www.highgrovehappenings.net** and click on Metrolink, the You Tube Video made on Feb.11, 2009, a concept map, Supporting Docs, Station costs, and others.

If you are tired of being blocked at Center St. by long freight trains or if you want to take your family to the beach on the train, ask your Highgrove MAC and Supervisor Spiegel to encourage RCTC to extend Spring St. through their property and build a Metrolink station on property they already own. Building vehicle crossings over the existing branch line tracks could be done a lot sooner and a lot cheaper than waiting for an overpass or underpass to be built on Center Street. (See P. 5)

could be used when trains block Center Street. Pipe barriers were installed right after RCTC's road to nowhere was built.





HIGHGROVE HAPPENINGS Former Pitruzello's Restaurant Approved for Another Cannabis Store



After two votes, the former high class Itallian restaurant on the west side of the freeway received approval at the last Highgrove MAC meeting on June 9, 2021.

Here are more photos of other Cannabis related businesses that are located in and around Highgrove.



This was the first Cannabis store to be approved in Riverside County and it is located in Highgrove.

Highgrove MAC Meeting July28, 2021

The next meeting of the Highgrove Municipal Advisory Council is scheduled for Wednesday July 28, 2021 at 6:30 pm. To Zoom in on this meeting-type in: Riversidedistrict2.org

Click on Karen Spiegel Supervisor District 2

Click on Our District

Click on Boards-Committees-Highgrove MAC

Click on https:/zoom.us/i94607756509?pwd=SWRzeVdIY lJmWkVldE03M25mZG4dzO9

If you want to speak during public comments use the hand raise button, message opinion, or state that you want to speak.

Four Questions Sent to Riverside County Planning Director John Hildebrand:

1. Will there be an **Environment Impact Study** about the Highgrove Town Center?

Will there be a **Public Hearing** about the Highgrove Town Center?
If a public hearing is held can it be after the 1st of July?
If not, please give a brief explanation why there will be no **Environmental Impact Study** or a **Public Hearing** about this project.



This west side Hydroponics business shares the same parking lot and is right next to the photo on the left where you can buy cannabis related items to grow your own. The photo below is another Hydroponics business on the east side side of the freeway..



This was the second Cannabis store approved in Highgrove that is located about 300 feet from the frst one one shown on the left.



This building on Iowa and Villa was rejected for a Cannabis business due to inadequate parking.

And on Sept. 19, 2020 a fire was blamed on illegally grown marijuana on the S/W side of the Center St. overpass.

You can read about it by going to: **www.highgrovehappenings.net** (latest issue Oct. 2020).

For another location where a cannabis store was rejected please turn to page 10.

The Riverside County Planning Department Stated That: <u>"NO PUBLIC HEARING</u> will be held on the Highgrove Town Center unless written requests are received by June 18, 2021." But at least 4 requests for a public hearing were sent before the deadline and here is the response I received on June 28, 2021 from the Riverside County Planning Department about a Public Hearing or an Environmental Impact Study: *"No addditional envronmental review is required for this permitted use."*

The answer received is shown on the right side of this article.





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Things You Should Know About Metrolink

Metrolink trains on the IEOC (Inland Empire Orange County) line have gone right through Highgrove since March 4, 1996. In July 2006, the Orange County Transportation Authority created weekend service on the IEOC.

On July 2016, eight Metrolink trains in each direction went between San Bernardino and Oceanside.

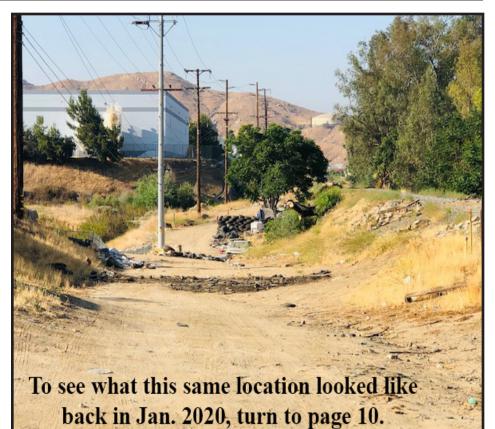
Currently, on Monday thru Friday there are Four Metrolink trains in each direction that go through Highgrove without stopping between San Bernardino, Riverside, and Oceanside. Currently, on Saturday and Sunday there are two Metrolink trains in each direction that go through Highgrove without stopping between San Bernardino, Riverside .and Oceanside. For 20 years residents from Highgrove and Grand Terrace have requested that a Metrolink station be built on the vacant property right next to the track that the Metrolink trains use. The Riverside County Transportation Commission owns 17.22 acres of vacant land right next to the track but for 20 years they have refused to build a parking lot and station at Highgrove. From Highgrove it is 7 rail miles to San Bernardino and 3 1/2 rail miles in the other direction to Riverside.

A station at Highgrove will not interfere with the Perris Valley Line Metrolink trains because they have different destinations.

Read about it on: www.highgrovehappenings.net Click on Metrolink, Supporting Docs (click on each line), Station costs, 8 years of comments, You Tube video about location, Concept Map, and other articles.

The grading for the Metrolink parking lot could be done when Spring St. is extended to connect to the Iowa Ave. overpass. 20 years later we now have the rooftops and a Metrolink station at Highgrove is needed now more than ever on the vacant land RCTC owns that is just growing weeds!



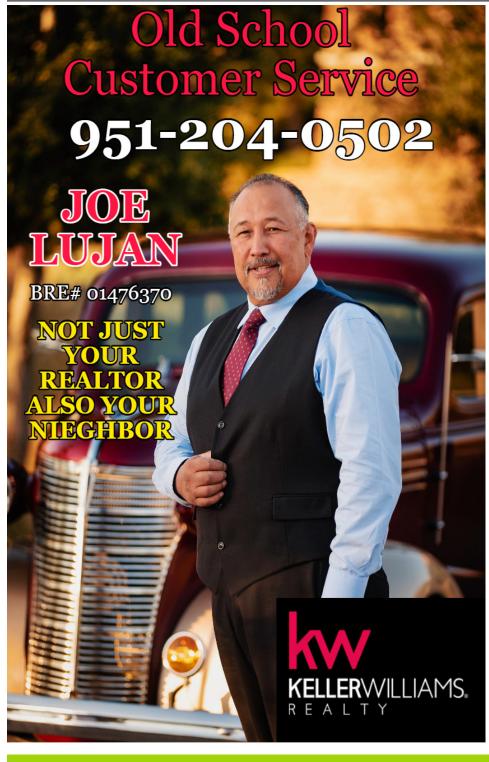


The raised portion on the right is the former UP railroad track that has been abandoned. California Street could go between the telephone poles and the abandoned railroad track where the tree is now located to connect to Palmyrita Ave. in the distance. This section has attracted illegal dumping for many years and used tires have again been dumped in this area. To see how this same area looked before the county cleaned it up in January of 2020, go to page 10 and see the boat and Jet Ski that were dumped.

Crime Stats 5-19-21 to 6-14-21



Assaults	(7)	Misc. burglary	(1)		
Grand Theft	(9)	Residential burglary	(1)		
Vehicle theft	(2)	Commercvial burglary	(1)		
Petty theft	(2)	Robbery Firearm	(1)		
Lieutenant Sean Vickers					
Riverside County Sheriffs Departmen					





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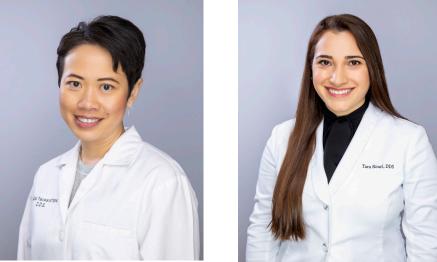
2 LOCATIONS TO SERVE YOU

#1 450 Iowa Avenue #2 9961 Mission Blvd. Highgrove, CA. Glen Avon, CA. (951) 686 5830 (951) 360 3977

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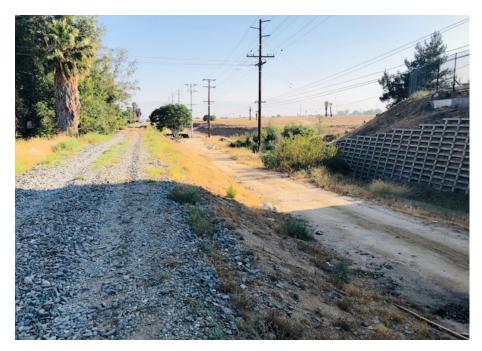
SpringHillsDentistry.com

yelp 🛠 | Google

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On the left side of this picture, this view shows where the abandoned UP railroad track used to go and on the lower right hand side is California Street.

This photo was taken near Citrus St. and Newport Avenue.



This photo was taken from the same place but in the opposite direction toward Palmyrita Avenue. California Street would be located on the left or east side of where the abandoned railroad track used to be. Maybe the area on the right could be a new trail.

All Fireworks are Illegal in Riverside County

All fireworks, including sparklers, are illegal in Riverside County. All fireworks are illegal because they cause serious injuries and very often, cause fires. Riverside County has very diverse terrain. The vegetation is very dry where fireworks can easily start a brush fire. Individuals who cause brush fires by using illegal fireworks will be held reponsible for all supression costs. These costs can run into the millions of dollars. Those caught with illegal fireworks will be subject to fines, citation and/or arrest; including fireworks confiscation.



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The future of Highgrove!

Aren't you glad you live in a small community instead of a large city?

For many years Highgrove was not very well known and many people didn't even know where it was because it is not a city.

It was just an area where orange groves were the main topic of interest until water costs increased and made it more difficult to pay for water to irrigate the orange groves. There were several packing houses but now there is only one left that is still working.

As water costs increased the developers bought up the former orange groves and the land became more valuable because people wanted to get out of the big cities and move to our rural area. Today there are only about 8 acres of orange groves left but the owners are still holding off the developers.

As a long time resident, I was looking forward to having new neighbors and meeting new people. The model homes I visited are now filled with new residents and there are hundreds more I would like to meet. We welcome all of our new residents to our community and hope that we will all be able to communicate and work together to make a better place for all of us to live and flourish.

The homes are beautiful and are an asset to Highgrove. When the new homes were started we wanted new residents to feel at home and be proud of where they lived so I ask for and received new street signs that have the Highgrove logo at the top.

Highgrove is more than just the people in the new homes because some of the residents in the original part of Highgrove have concerns about what is happening to the old part of Highgrove. Highgrove has a historical past and a promising future but it should not be divided into sections.

We want all of Highgrove to be considered as the best un-incorporated community in Riverside County.

The Highgrove Happenings Newspaper has been bringing local news to our area for over 25 years and is delivered free to every home in all of Highgrove including the original homes and all of the new homes on the east side of the freeway including Spring Mountain Ranch, Lenar homes, D. R. Horton homes, and

the west side when we are able. Any Information concerning Highgrove should come from both the Highgrove Happenings Newspaper and from Supervisor

Spiegel's office. We receive press releases and Email from the CHP, Sheriff, RTA,

and City of Riverside and othersbut nothing from our supervisor and that should change. Better communications between your supervisor and your local newspaper are urgently needed.

We welcome articles from Supervisor Spiegel and we are offering her space to write a monthly column. We will print her un-edited articles in our paper in order to keep our readers better informed about what is going on in Riverside County that Highgrove residents should know about.

According to a recent survey, most Highgrove residents get their local news from the Highgrove Happenings Newspaper because it has been delivered free to their residence for a such long time.

Those of you who get your news from the internet or social media also receive our newspaper that is delivered to your driveway, the base of your mail box or in a nearby gutter!

We want to unite Highgrove as one community but all of it's residents should be given the opportunity to apply for positions on the Highgrove MAC.

Hopefully our community will continue to be recognized as a great place to raise a family due to the 3 things that are important to Real Estate Agents: location, location, location.

Highgrove will continue to grow until we run out of room but traffic and transportation are some of my main concerns. Meanwhile I have included information about 2 new roads that are needed that are shown on the front page and pages 3, 5, 8 and 11 of this issue. There are only two North/South streets that go all the way through Highgrove that go between Main St. and Palmyrita Avenue. They are Iowa and Mt. Vernon.

Many other N/S streets do not go all the way through including: Cindy Circle, Heron, Garfield, Prospect, Transit, Highland, Pacific, Commercial, Browning, Mandarin, Michigan, Whipporwill, Murphy, Pelican, Walker, Elena, Swayzee, Keone, Carlin, and Sanrive.

California St. needs to be a 2 lane North/South paved road between Main St. and Palmyrita Ave. instead of a dirt road that is not used for anything but attracting illegal dumping. And California St. is half way between Mt. Vernon and Iowa Avenues that will help relieve additional traffic created by hundreds of new homes in Highgrove.

streets that go all the way through Highgrove that go between Main St. and Palmyrita Avenue. They Community signs from our past



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Bobbie Kay Forbes (909) 783-8888



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You Can Quote Me Cynthia Williams, DC

"We hold these truths to be self-evident: that ALL men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." ~ Thomas Jefferson, 1776

When Mr. Jefferson wrote this in the Declaration of Independence, unfortunately, not all "men" were equal. Native Americans, people of color, and women had no standing in the newly birthed country. It's historical fact that some of the concessions made while drafting the document and to obtain a vote in favor of independence from England the southern states insisted as a condition to sign on that they be allowed to retain their business of owning slaves. Without that distasteful concession independence likely would not have happened.

It took another 87 years before Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation effective on January 1, 1863 for the liberation of all enslaved people. And it took 144 years before women were allowed to vote. (It's sometimes referred to as women being "granted" the right to vote- we women will say we ALWAYS had the RIGHT to vote but we had to wait for the 19th Amendment to make it law.) Obviously it wasn't as simple as that. When the Emancipation Proclamation and the 19th Amendment were made law there were many men who felt, at times violently, opposed and fought back against it..

Changing cultural beliefs, prejudices. and norms is an uphill road. The Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965 were written to deliberately enforce specific issues that oppressed persons were experiencing. Ones that most people take for granted. These legislative acts were written over 100 years after the Emancipation Proclamation. Now in the 21st Century, nearly 60 years after the Voting Rights Act, there is still a tremendous amount of conversation, legislation, action and anger regarding the right for any and all United States citizens to vote.



I'm seeing a certain devolving of the attitude that all people are endowed with the right to vote- unless they are certain to vote along chosen party lines. Being a citizen who's had the right to vote for 50 years, I admit I've taken for granted the privilege and the right to vote. I have been able to walk into my polling place and place my votes with no obstructions or hinderances. (In Oregon we have ONLY Mail-In ballots.) I've never had to stand in line for hours for my turn to vote. I've never had to show ID at the desk. I've been able to do absentee voting without issues anytime it was necessary.

If you have been voting in Highgrove or the area I would expect you all have had the same easy voting privilege. Obviously, too many other citizens in our country of 245 years are not enjoying the privilege and the right to vote without intimidation, harassment, obstruction, or coercion. We should all be angry about this. Even if we are not amongst those who are struggling with freedom to vote as should be allowed, we should want everyone to be able to vote freely, without obstruction. The only way to guarantee that we will have the right to vote as we choose is to guarantee everyone else is able to vote as they choose.

This Independence Day, enjoy the freedoms we have, the ones our forefathers fought for, the ones our grandparents, parents, and others have fought for. Be part of the future of fair, free voting by insisting it is available for everyone. Have fun, safe, and sane 4th of July!

Feel free to share your thoughts and ideas with me: <u>wmscon-</u> <u>sultingsvcs@gmail.com</u>



This was what "California St." looked like in Jan. of 2020 that included a discarded boat, jet ski, and other illegally dumped articles BELOW: This building on Center St. and Transit Ave. cauht fire on Oct. 19, 2019 but an application was made to turn this into a can-

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570 E. La Cadena Dr. Suite 1-G Riverside, CA. 92507 Page 10 July 2021 Enforcement to demolish this eyesore that we have been looking at for one year and 9 months! Either Fix it up or tear it down!



California Street Could Also Extend From Main Street to Center Street



This photo was taken from the south side of Main Street looking south toward Center Street



And this one was taken in the opposite direction from the north side of Center Street looking north toward Main Street.

Former Highgrove Residents Celebrate 75th Wedding Anniversary

Bill and Dorthy Owens met in 1945 as co-workers at an Indiana factory that produced more than 6,000 fighter planes during WW II.

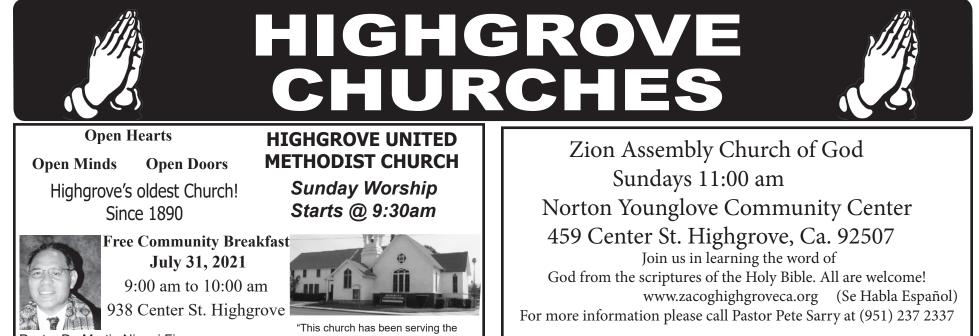
Dorothy, then 22, was a genuine "Rosie the Riveter" connecting fuselage sections of P 47 Thunderbolts with rivits while Bill, 21, was was an inspector at Republic Avaition Corp. in Evansville, Indiana.

Bill is now 97 and Dorothy is 98 and were married in 1946. They currently reside in Sebastopol, California with their daughter. Bill and Dorothy built a house on Michigan Ave. They built a house next to Haroldine Swing on Michigan Ave. in Highgrove where they lived for 31 years.

Bill served on the Highgrove School Board and worked for A M Lewis as an accountant and Dorothy worked for the Harris Company. They retired in St. George, Utah.

The fighter plane factory in Evansville, Indiana was shut down immediately after the war ended in 1945 and was converted to making Whirlpool washing machines to launder the diapers of millions of baby boomers.

We thank the Press Democrat for permission to take information from their article and we thank Haroldine Swing for telling us about her former neighbors. Happy Anniversary!



Immanuel Baptist Temple

45 Michigan Ave., Highgrove 951-784-1100 Pastor John Pettit

Sunday School 10:00 AM

Church Service 11:00 AM and 6:00 PM

Bible Study 7:00 PM Wednesdays



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