



HIGHGROVE HAPPENINGS

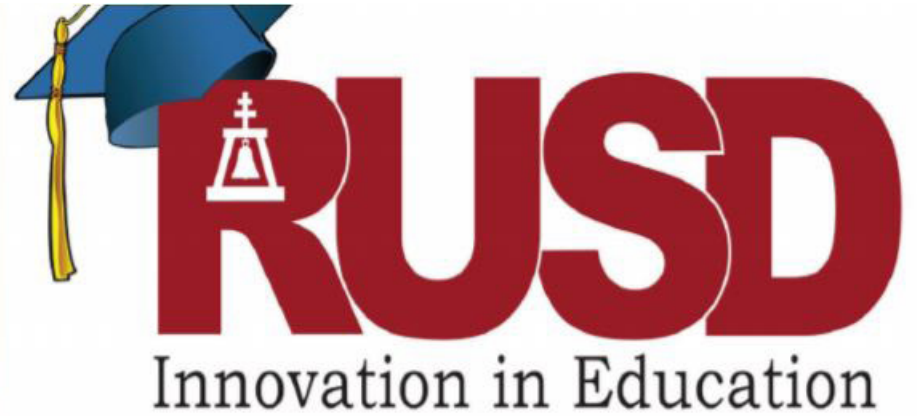


Dedicated to the improvement of our community through awareness and involvement in local issues

(FREE) Local News for the Highgrove Area

May, 2021

Highgrove Elementary School is now open



Riverside Unified School District Measure O funds that were approved in November 2016 and involved 2 components: the construction of a new 2 story building with 12 classrooms and the renovation of the existing classrooms with new flooring, paint, lighting, roofing and replacing air conditioning. This project is a \$20.5 million dollar improvement to Highgrove Elementary School. Below shows the groundbreaking on Sept. 14, 2019.



Photo by
Jeff Roy

L-R Davd Hansen, RSUD Superintendent; Ofelia Valdez-Yeager, Measure O; Brent Lee, RSUD Board; Dr. Angelov Farook, RSUD President; Kathy Allavie, RSUD Vice President; Patricia Lock-Dawson, RSUD Board; Andy Melendrez, Riverside city council; Sergio San Martin, Superintendent of Operations.

On September 24, 2019 the Riverside County Unified School District held a Ground Breaking ceremony at the Highgrove Elementary School that was attended by RUSD dignitaries, construction workers, Highgrove Elementary school children and members of the community.

More pictures of the grading of 385 acres in the Springbrook Estates project that will add another 600 homes to Highgrove.

See pages 4 and 5

On Wednesday, April 21, we welcomed our students back to the campus for a full five days a week. This is the first time that our students were able to be on campus together since March 2020. It was also the first time that our beautiful new buildings were in full use. The joy and excitement from our staff and students brought life back to our incredible school. Following all safety protocols, the classrooms are filled with learning and fun and we are thrilled to see all their smiling faces in person again!

Carolina Michel, Principal Highgrove Elementary School

Highgrove Song and Video Available on Our Web Site!

You can hear the Highgrove song and watch the video free of charge on our web site. I wrote this song and recorded it on May 10, 2001 and later it was used by the Highgrove Revitalization Team of the Riverside County Economic Development Agency to make another video.

The video includes a picture of the orange groves being planted in 1887, the ladies grading the oranges at the Brown Estate Packing House, and a video of the 40 acre orange grove by the school as it was being removed by the big machines.

Barney Fife is played by "Barney" Barnett (yours truly) and Sheriff Andy Taylor was played by Andy Frost of the Riverside County EDA. Ardie and I were just aching silly and having fun by using different hats during the video.

The song is copyrighted but to see the video free go to: www.highgrovehappenings.net and click on the original Highgrove Song or the Highgrove Revitalization team.

"Changes are coming that effect both you and me, changes to H-i-g-h-g-r-o-v-e" From the Highgrove song that can be heard on: www.highgrovehappenings.net.

Tired of waiting on trains at Center St. or Main Street ? Turn to page 3

HIGHGROVE HAPPENINGS

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



Contact: (951) 241-7221

THE NORTON YOUNGLOVE COMMUNITY CENTER

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

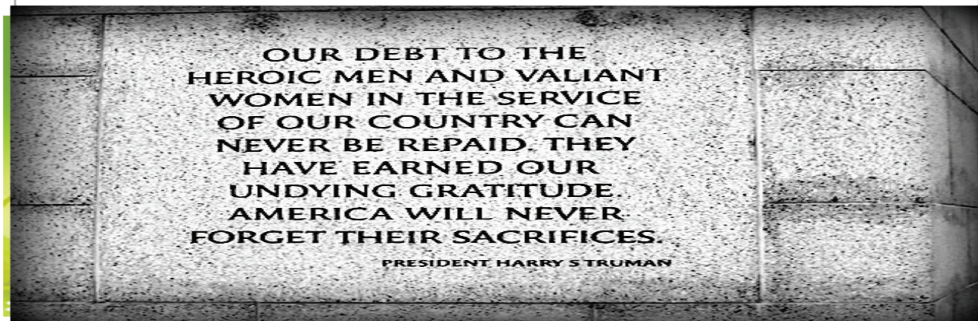


FAMILY SERVICE ASSOCIATION

Leila Santamaria Center Manager
Priscilla Burton Office Assistant II

Office Asst Volunteer
Cynthia Kupfer

Hello Community Members,



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. Bingo, Sr. Potluck, Linedance, Square dance, Polynesian and Zumba Classes are currently suspended until further notice. Staff is available by telephone at 951-241-7221 should you have questions Monday through Thursday 8 am to 4 pm 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.



Now Vaccinating: Individuals 16 or older who live, work, or study in Riverside County. Visit rivcoph.org/covid-19-vaccine to learn more or call 2-1-1 or 951-329-4703 for assistance.

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 your 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. Appointments 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>.

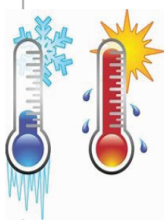
****C4Yourself Program** to help our community families to apply for benefits available to them through Riverside County: CalFresh, Medi-Cal and Cash assistance. This secure website will send your application directly to the county for processing:: www.c4yourself.com. County financial support programs, 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 -3 360

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

FeedingAmericaE.org/CalFresh or call 951-359-4757

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



Temperatures at 97 degrees officially activates Norton 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.

May 28th: Commodities Food Distribution for Highgrove Residents from 8:00 AM to 10 AM drive through pick up.

May 31st:



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.



Norton Younglove Community Center

459 Center St. Highgrove, CA 92507

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

www.fsaca.org

Current Programs

Line Dance



Virtual Sessions Available: Tues 1PM and Wed 10:30 am. For detailed info Call: Martha 951-329-7867 underthesun-linedance.com

Bailando en Fila



Voluntary Opportunity! Call 951-241-7221 for details.

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

***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**

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www.etkdu.com

Zion Assembly Church of God



Sunday Outdoor Services at 10 AM. For detailed information Call: Pastor Pete Sarry 951-237-2337

***Hand sanitizer, soap/water and disinfectant is available to all.**

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

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

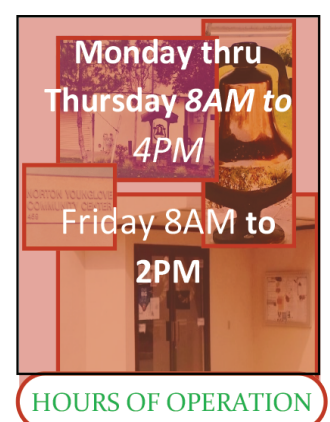
Let's Celebrate!

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

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!

Child Development Center Has Openings!!

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



HOURS OF OPERATION

HIGHGROVE HAPPENINGS

When Trains Block Center St. and Main St.: Spring St. Extension Would Allow Access to 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 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 un-used road leads to the base of the Iowa overpass that could be used when trains block Center Street. Pipe barriers were installed right after RCTC's road to nowhere was built.



Metrolink trains have passed by this Highgrove location for 11 years without stopping, but these barriers prevent access to RCTC's property where a Highgrove Metrolink station could be located.

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 unusable 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 extension 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.

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HIGHGROVE HAPPENINGS



The top two pictures show water trucks in action. This location is where the field office building was located during the construction of Spring Mountain Ranch and was fairly level ground but the dirt west of Mt. Vernon Ave. is being dug out and will be moved to fill the west end to make the lots level. The other photos show the difference in elevation between the existing level of Spring St. and Mt. Vernon Ave. compared to where the new homes will be located.



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Highgrove Resident



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HIGHGROVE HAPPENINGS



Crime Stats 3-18-21 to 4-19-21



911 FOR AN EMERGENCY Sheriff's beat car 951-776-1099 Ext. 5

| | | | |
|-----------------|-----|----------------------|-----|
| Assaults | (3) | Robbery (knife) | (1) |
| Grand Theft | (4) | Residential burglary | (3) |
| Petty Theft | (4) | Theft from Vehicle | (1) |
| Car Jacking (1) | | Vehicle theft | (2) |

Lieutenant Sean Vickers

Riverside County Sheriffs Department

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HIGHGROVE HAPPENINGS

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HIGHGROVE HAPPENINGS

Petition to:

SAVE HIGHGROVE

Four cannabis dispensaries have already been approved for Highgrove and a fifth dispensary is being considered.

A 24-hour convenience store that sells alcohol is also planned for the corner of Mt. Vernon and Center. All of it is walking-distance from Highgrove Elementary School and the new school and park planned on Spring St.

Tell Supervisor Karen Spiegel to start prioritizing our residents and our children over tax revenue.

SIGN THE PETITION:
change.org/SaveHighgrove



Community Opposed to Using This Old Burnt out Building for a Cannabis Store

On March 31, 2021, new owners of the burnt out building at Center St. and Transit Ave. came to the Highgrove MAC meeting with their plans to make a retail cannabis store at this location and MAC members were opposed to this change. You are encouraged to sign the petition opposing the cannabis store by going to: change.org/SaveHighgrove

Cont. on P. 9

The Hidden Gem of the Inland Empire!

Breakfast

Lunch

Dinner

READERS POLL • READERS POLL • READERS POLL •

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HIGHGROVE HAPPENINGS

Contruction of Spring Mountain Ranch Headed for the Hills



As the grading begins for 600 new homes in the Springbrook Estates project, the Construction of 1,409 new homes in the Spring Mountain Ranch project continues to march eastward toward the foothills. There is still a lot of construction going



on at the east end of Spring Mountain Ranch. You can see the old Pigeon Pass Road above the construction and the empty space between Pigeon Pass Road and the construction is where 138 more homes are planned.

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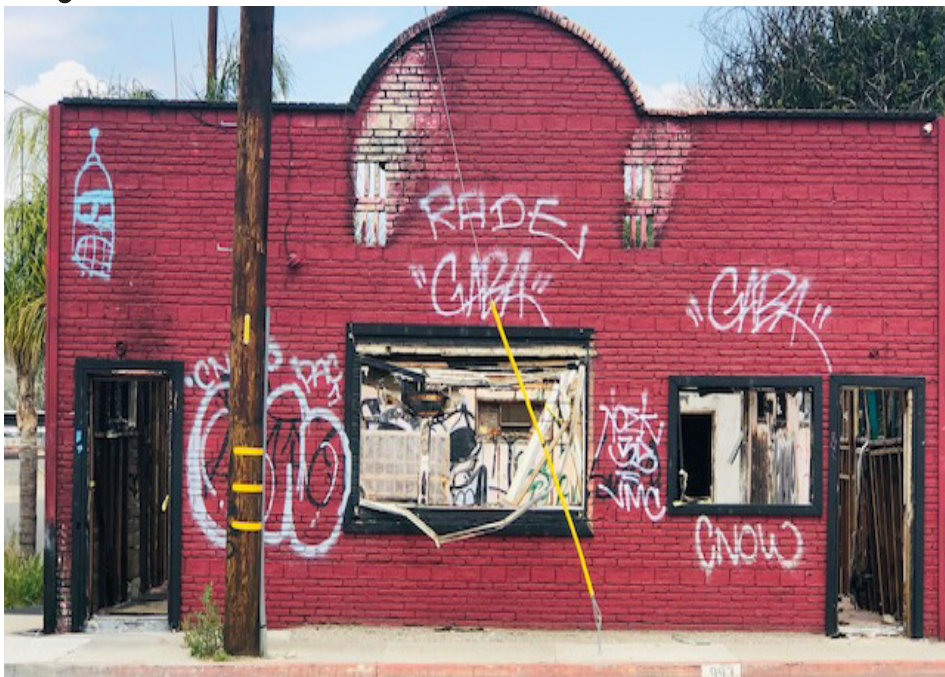
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HIGHGROVE HAPPENINGS

Eyesore Since Oct. 29, 2019



On March 3, 2021 I went to Riverside County and talked to Bob Magee, Director of Code Enforcement, about this unsightly building that burned down over a year and a half ago. The next day I received a letter from Jim Palmer, Senior Code Enforcement Officer who stated *"I am working on the demolition of the burned structure on Center Street."*

Since then, code enforcement states they have to notify the new owners about the difference in plans between what the new owner wants and what the community wants.

You Can Quote Me Cynthia Williams, DC

"Own the Suck" ~ Tammy Duckworth, US Senator, Illinois

Very recently I read the book *Every Day is a Gift: A Memoir*, published March of this year. Written by Senator Tammy Duckworth, we are allowed to share her childhood, pains, struggles, and triumphs as she survived and thrived after her war experience as an Army officer, Black Hawk helicopter pilot, and then recovery from a horrific injury in Iraq.

A child of an American Air Force member and a Thai-Chinese mother, she was born in Thailand in 1968. Her father was considered an exception in that at the end of the Vietnam war, he didn't abandon his family there and return to the US. He preferred his life there and stayed and worked in various industries

while she was growing up. Tammy knew she was an American, due to her father's citizenship, but she had very little knowledge of the States or when it meant to be a real American. She came to crave information and experience from that side of her life.

but she had very little knowledge of the States or when it meant to be a real American. She came to crave information and experience from that side of her life.

The family made the move to Hawaii when she was a teenager and she started to enjoy and appreciate her status as an American citizen. In her heart she became a true patriot. Highly ambitious and driven, during college she was drawn to the Army National Guard where she set her sights on becoming a helicopter pilot.

Few women were trained and of course, they were not
(Cont. on P. 10)

Results of Highgrove Survey

100% said they receive community information from the Highgrove Happenings.
67% have visited the Highgrove Happenings web site.
33% said they have not.
67% want application forms for the Highgrove MAC printed in the Highgrove paper.
33% want MAC application forms in both the Highgrove Happenings paper and Supervisor Spiegel's web site.
100% want the Highgrove paper to stay online and in print.
The survey was hand delivered to every home in Highgrove!

Missing Dog Was Not Really Missing!

Recently I was working outside and I was going in and out of the gate to the back of our property. Our dog "Buddy" is really good about staying in our yard even when the gate is open and as long as he can see me, he usually remains in the yard. But as I went out the gate I saw him outside in the alley behind our house about 20 feet from the gate. When I picked him up I noticed his collar was missing so I took him inside and asked Ardie to keep him inside while I was working outside. Then, when I gave "Buddy" to Ardie so I could go back outside again, things changed dramatically!

Please turn to page 10 to see what happened next.....

Community signs from our past



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HIGHGROVE HAPPENINGS

You Can Quote Me

Cynthia Williams, DC

Cont. from P. 9

allowed on combat missions. She excelled in flight school and passed as a top student to become a Black Hawk helicopter pilot. She loved the job and her service in the National Guard. She was a respected leader of her troops and the military was an excellent fit for her.

Like the rest of the world, 9-11 changed everything for her. Her guard unit was activated and sent to Iraq. She and her crew didn't fly combat missions but were armed for ground support. On a flight in 2004, her helicopter was fired on by Iraqi insurgents and hit by an RPG (rocket-propelled grenade). It came up through the bubble at her feet and exited over her head in the cockpit. The path of the RPG was devastating to her body. Her right leg was "vaporized" to the hip, the left leg lost just below the knee, and her right arm severely damaged. As her helicopter is going down she was desperately trying to control it to find a clear landing site. Due to the massive shock she was in she didn't realize at the time that her legs were gone so she

couldn't control the foot pedals and that her copilot had the controls. The recounting of the "shoot-down" (NEVER a "crash") is breathtaking to read. Her crew thought she had to be dead and they drug her body across the dirt to another helicopter, the "never leave a man behind" philosophy driving them. Several other members of the crew that day suffered injuries from the RPG but none as severe as hers.

She was in Walter Reed Army Hospital within hours of her injury. The care there absolutely saved her life and gave her hope for recovery. She fought hard, suffering through daily agonizing debridement surgeries for her wounds, skin grafts, surgeries to her arm to put in many plates, screws, and bolts to try to save it. At one point her arm was surgically attached to her abdomen to get new tissue and muscle for rebuilding her arm. The care there was truly groundbreaking and remarkable. Tammy knew she couldn't overcome the total devastation to her body unless she acknowledged the loss and injuries head on. "OWN THE SUCK"

became the motto she lived by while she was recovering. She shared that philosophy with her troops.

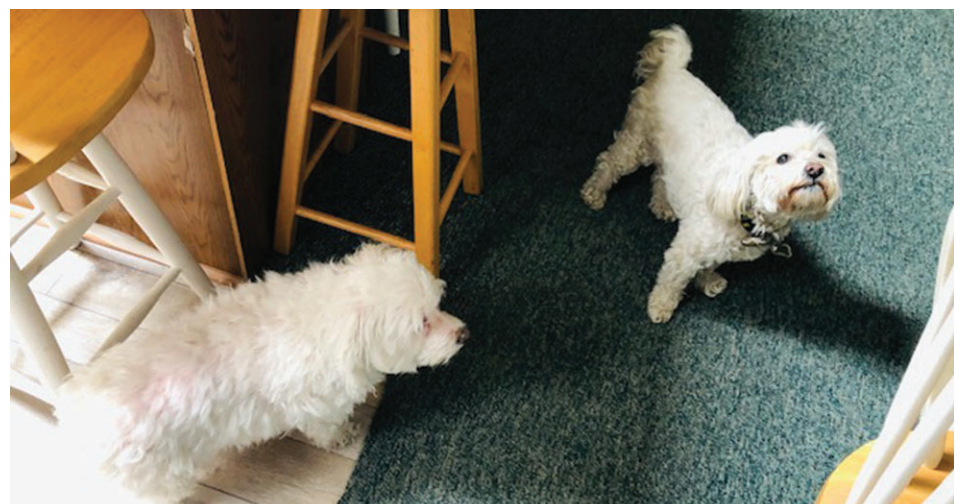
A Major at the time, she became the highest ranking officer in the rehabilitation unit and a leader among the other recovering soldiers. She was a strong, vocal advocate for injured warriors and their families. This was the start of the focus of her life of advocacy and assistance to all military members and their families. Despite her grievous injuries, she obtained a medical waiver so she could continue to serve in the Illinois Army National Guard, retiring in 2014 as a Lt. Colonel. She is tremendously proud of her military service to the United States.

In 2012 she was elected to the US House of Representatives for Illinois. Her continued goal of serving and advocating for military members lead her to run for US Senate in 2016.

Her election to Congress gave her a list of "firsts": first Thai American woman, first person born in Thailand, first woman with a disability, the first female double amputee, and the first senator to give birth while in office. She acknowledges these "firsts" but she doesn't allow them to define her or her work. She continues to tirelessly serve and advocate for the military.

Her husband, Bryan Bowlsbey, whom she married in 1993, was her strongest advocate during her recovery, during her campaigns and now during her service to Congress. With their two little daughters, they are a formidable team in Washington, DC. Her book is a fascinating look into what drove this woman to recover from her service related injuries and to continue to serve her country.

.....
There were two dogs: It wasn't "Buddy" I was holding, it was "Abby" the neighbor's dog!



As I was handing "Buddy" to Ardie I was really surprised to see another dog just like ours. The dog I was holding was not "Buddy" it was "Abby" our neighbor's dog that lives two houses away. "Buddy" had been in the house with Ardie.

Bob and Vicky were very glad to get their dog back and we all sat on the front porch and laughed about this doggie mix up.

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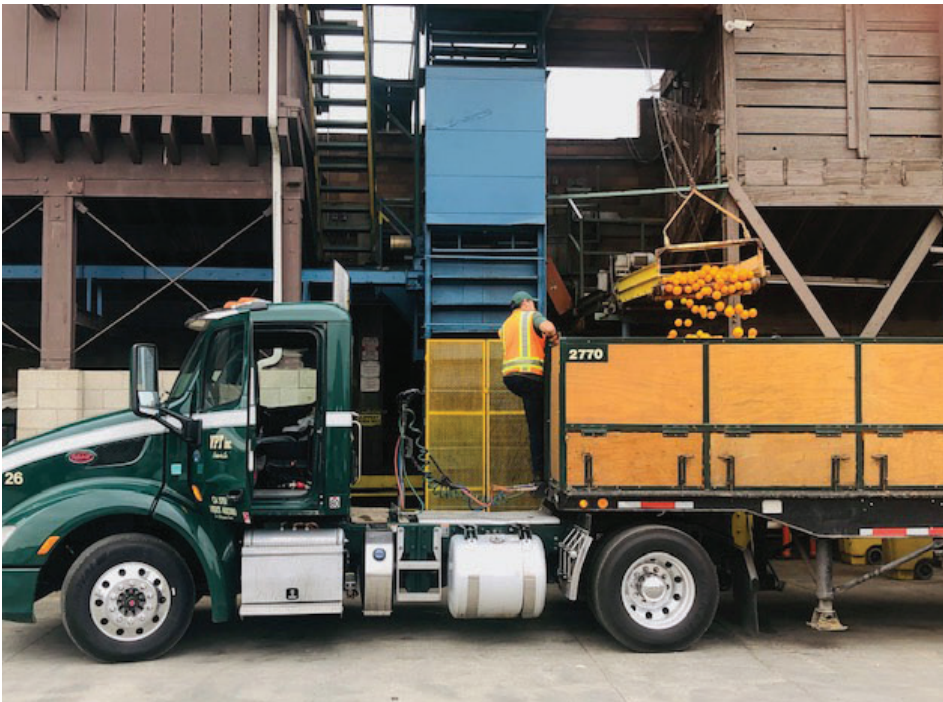
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HIGHGROVE HAPPENINGS

The Last Packing House in Highgrove is Still Working!



These pictures were taken on April 23, 2021 at the last packing house in Highgrove. Highgrove used to have several packing houses but the one on Center St. was formerly called the Brown Estate Packing house. The Brown Estate family owned many acres of orange groves and grapefruit groves that is now covered with new homes in Spring Mountain Ranch. Today the packing is done by machines but the Highgrove Video/Song shows a black and white photo of workers planting the orange groves back in 1887 and another black and white photo of workers sitting at a table during their break and Center St. when it was just dirt.

There is also a colored video of some of the last workers who were grading the oranges by hand. There are two Highgrove videos. the **Original Highgrove Song** and the **Highgrove Revitalization Team** video made by the Riverside County Economic Development Agency.

To view these videos about Highgrove's important past go to: www.highgrovehappenings.net.



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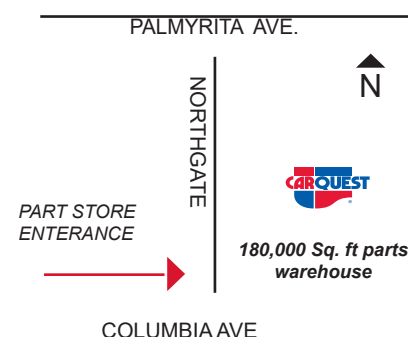
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HIGHGROVE HAPPENINGS NEWSPAPER

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