



HIGHGROVE HAPPENINGS



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

(FREE) Local News for the Highgrove Area

October 2019

Riverside Unified School District ground breaking ceremony at Highgrove Elementary School



Photo by
Jeff Roy

L-R David Hansen, RUSD Superintendent; Ofelia Valdez-Yeager, Measure O; Brent Lee, RUSD Board; Dr. Angelov Farooq, RUSD President; Kathy Allavie, RUSD Vice President; Patricia Lock-Dawson, RSUD Board; Andy Melendrez, Riverside City Council; Sergio San Martin, Asst. Superintendent of Operations.

On September 24, 2019 the Riverside 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.

Measure "O" is a \$329 million bond measure that passed on the Nov 8, 2016 ballot and these improvements are our tax dollars at work!



With Sugarloaf Mountain in the background, workers can be seen working on the concrete foundation of the new 2 story building that will become 12 new classrooms. "Measure O" funds include new air conditioning, new windows, new classrooms and other improvements.

The Highgrove Elementary School is the first project financed by "Measure O" funds and other up-coming projects will include the Sierra Middle School, Harrison Elementary School, Jefferson Elementary School and the Madison Elementary School.

We thank the RUSD for these improvements!

Another photo on P. 4

Highgrove Lawsuit-The complete story!

Here are the 27 questions submitted directly to Riverside County in 2016 from the Highgrove MAC in an effort to prevent a lawsuit about the elimination of the Highgrove Sheriff:

Question 1: When was the last day the designated Highgrove Deputy Sheriff was on duty?

County's answer: 12/30/2009

Question 2: How much was collected from the Highgrove property owners after the designated Highgrove Deputy Sheriff's position was eliminated?

County's answer: At the time the deputy was eliminated the cash balance was in the negative (\$7,662.20). Since 12/30/2009, \$1,436,213.40 has been collected in special assessments (this includes the addition of Spring Mountain Ranch assessments).

Question 3: Do you have a copy of the written agreement between the Riverside County Administration about the Riverside County Sheriff's Department about the designated Highgrove Deputy Sheriff?

County's answer: See attached agreement

Question 4: A portion of the Impartial Analysis of measure "T" in 1997, written by Riverside County Council states: "The tax will be retained in the CSA 126 fund to be used only for purposes of continuing Extended Sheriff and Park & Recreation services and improvements". Our records show the amount of the tax that was collected after the Extended Sheriff's position was eliminated on Dec. 30, 2009 was \$1,382,362.46. Why did the CSA126E fund only show a balance of \$164,962 on July 1, 2016?

County's answer: The total is \$708,511.57 stated under As of July 1, 2016. The value shown for CSA 126E was seperated by CSA Admin. To show a designation between Spring Mountain Ranch since SMR has a significantly larger amount of landscape maintenance in that area.

Question 5: If the special assessment collected \$120.00 from each parcel for 7 years after the Sheriff was eliminated, was any of this Special Assessment money given to the Sheriff Department that was

used outside the boundaries of the east side of Highgrove's CSA 126 after the deputy was gone?

County's answer: No

Question 6: On Feb. 18, 2015, CSA Administration Bill Brown told the Highgrove Municipal Advisory Council that the property owners in the Spring Mountain Ranch homes do not have to pay the special \$120.00 annual parcel assessment. Are the Spring Mountain Ranch property owners now paying the \$120.00 annual fee?

County's answer: At the April 27, 2016 meeting, it was stated that the Spring Mountain Ranch are still currently paying the \$120.00 annual fee. Yes, the residents in Spring Mountain Ranch are paying the CSA 126 assessment.

Question 7: If Spring Mountain Ranch property owners are now paying the special assessment of \$120.00 and there is no designated Highgrove Sheriff, does any of the Spring Mountain Ranch money go into a "fund to be uses only for Sheriff and Park & Recreation services and improvements" or for purposes of continuing Extended Sheriff, and Park & Recreation services and improvements"?

County's answer: Yes, the tax bills within Spring Mountain Ranch include the sheriff and park and rec. assessment for CSA 126. Out of the 1400 parcels to be built only 285 parcels are on the tax roll. This will include specialized enhanced enforcement in the Spring Mountain Ranch neighborhood as well.

Question 8: If the Spring Mountain Ranch property owners are now paying the annual \$120.00, how much of the money collected from Spring Mountain Ranch is going for Extended Sheriff?

County's answer: The amount designated for each service is not seperated. The funding is used as needed to accomplish both tasks.

(See P. 3)

HIGHGROVE HAPPENINGS

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

Highgrove Community Park Hours: Dawn to Dusk

Contact: (951) 241-7221



THE NORTON YOUNGLOVE COMMUNITY CENTER

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



Family Service Association

Leila Santamaria Center Manager
Priscilla Burton Office Assistant II

Clerical Volunteers: Jack Aboytes,
Cynthia Kupfer and Rosie Navarro

Hello Community Members,



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

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

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

SAVE THE DATE

October 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29th 8:30 AM - 10:30 AM "Opening Doors" Program - 20 hours of instruction Sponsored by RUSD. Opening Doors workshops are designed especially for parents and child care providers 0-5, family and community

members from Head Start programs to participate in their children's education, review and discuss strategies for making every opportunity they have with their children teachable moments

October 2nd Wednesday: 9:30 AM - 11 AM FREE Weight Loss Program. For more information, call: 951-300-0456

October 18th: 8:00 AM - 10:00 AM Medicare Advantage plan resources hosted by George Mora/Health Ins. Agent 909-900-6369 Lic# 0L06375 representing Central Health Plan and Scan.

October 19th Saturday: 10:30 AM - 4:30 PM Community Emergency Response Team Training Begins. Through training, citizens can manage utilities and put out small fires, provide basic medical aid. CERT is about readiness, people helping people, rescuer safety and doing the greatest good for the greatest number. Free To register call 951-955-4700. Training by the County of Riverside Emergency Management Dept. 1-955-4700 or visit <https://www.rivcocert.org/>

Sewing Class is Back! Learn the fundamentals of operating your sewing machine, having fun learning sewing techniques for projects while gaining confidence in your sewing ability.

October 25th: 3:30 PM - 5:30 PM 11th Annual Harvest Costume Ball

\$1 wristband for endless games, popcorn, &

Fun!



Costume Parade begins

at 4:30



PM

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.

2019 October Happenings

Norton Younglove Community Center

459 Center St. Highgrove, CA 92507

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951-779-3099 fax

www.fsaca.org

Tuesday Bingo



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



A social gathering for 18+ every 2nd Tuesday at 11:30 am

Line Dance Squad



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

Bailando en Fila

Polynesian Dance Class



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

Volunteer Opportunity!



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

E-Taekwondo United Martial Arts

For all Ages
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Tues & Thurs 5:00 PM For details call

Master Chavez 909-578-4799
www.etkdu.com

Riverside Single Swingers Square Dance Club



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

Zion Assembly Church of God



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

jazzercise JAZZERCISE

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

Sewing Class



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

Let's Celebrate!

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

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

Child Development Center Has Openings!!

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

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

Monday thru Thursday 8AM to 4PM

Friday 8AM to 2PM

HOURS OF OPERATION

HIGHGROVE HAPPENINGS

Sheriff Cont. from P. 1

Question 9: Is any of the money collected from the parcel assessment being used for Park and Recreation services and improvements or landscaping in Spring Mountain Ranch?

County's answer: The \$120.00 assessment ballot was for extended sheriff and park and recreation services. Spring Mountain Ranch will also have parks within the community, these funds will go toward those parks as well.

Question 10: In 1991 the distribution of the \$10.00 per month assessment was decided and specified that \$7.96 would go toward sheriff protection and \$2.04 would go to Park and Recreation. How much of the CSA 126E funds are currently designated to be used for "Sheriff protection and how much is designated for "Parks and Recreation services and improvements"?

County's answer: The ballot for the \$120.00 assessment did not specify. CSA Administration is tasked with managing these budgets, funding is used with a focus on responsible spending in order to successfully provide the services the CSA is tasked with.

Question 11: Who authorized changing the name of our special assessment on our tax bills from CSA 126E to CSA 126 PARK & REC LNDSCPE then changed it again to just CSA 126?

County's answer: CSA Administration is responsible for the labeling of assessments on the tax rolls.

Question 12: Was bill Brown the County Service Area Administrator on the day the Highgrove Sheriff was eliminated?

County's answer: He was the operations manager overseeing the CSAs.

Question 13: On May 9, 2009, were any CSA 126 funds used to pay for entertainment or food for Highgrove Day? How much was used and did Bill Brown authorize it?

County's answer: CSA 126 spent \$9,946.20 on the 2009 Highgrove Day. As the daily operations manager for CSA Administration, Bill Brown was the manager who would approve those expenditures.

Question 14: Why weren't the voters notified prior to eliminating the designated Highgrove Sheriff?

County's answer: They were notified. On Nov. 9, 2009 Bill Brown advised the Highgrove MAC that an agreement had been made with the Sheriff's d to provide patrols in Highgrove without the use of CSA funds and that is why the designated sheriff was eliminated on 12/30/2009.

Question 15: Physical ballots were mailed out by Riverside County in 1992 and 1997 to the east side Highgrove's CSA 126 parcel owners. Why wasn't another ballot mailed out to give voters other options such as reducing the amount of the Highgrove Deputy sheriff's hours to stay within our budget, increase the annual fee, or eliminate the extra Sheriff's position entirely?

County's answer: The issue was discussed at the MAC meeting and with the CSA funds in the negative and services such as street lighting, park and recreation, and landscaping still needed to be provided to the residents CSA Administration made the decision to adjust services to a more fiscally manageable level in order to rebuild a reserve. Daily operational decisions for any CSA are not put out for approval through special elections.

Question 16: Were the plants or shrubs in the Highgrove Community Park replaced with drought resistant vegetation?

County's answer: The landscaping at the Highgrove Park was already a California native palette.

Question 17: How many parcels are now paying the special assessment after the Sheriff was eliminated? Please list each year separately
County's answer: See attached.

Question 18: Please provide a list of names of property owners who paid the special assessment after the Sheriff was eliminated. Please list each year separately.

County's answer: CSA Administration does not keep a record of the names of property owners within CSAs. We only place APNs on the tax roll. If they would like to take the list of APNs and research each one for the owner's info we will provide the list.

Question 19: The report the MAC received on Oct. 19, 2016 states that on July, 2016 the balance for CSA 126E is \$164,926 and the SMR balance is \$543,649. If all parcels are within the same area on the east side of CSA 126, is there one fund for the older part of Highgrove and another fund for Spring Mountain Ranch?

County's answer: There aren't two fund numbers but by the number of parcels sold in SMR you can separate how much has been collected for just Spring Mountain Ranch.

Question 20: What is the amount of CSA 126E funds used to pay for "PARK & RECREATION SERVICES AND IMPROVEMENTS" for each year starting in 2010 and ending on the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2016?

County's answer: From 2010 to the end of fiscal year 2016, \$384,718 was spent on Park and Recreation Services and improvements. Of that, \$219, 545 was paid to Regional Parks and Open Space while they were operating CSA parks.

Question 21: Does the current CSA designation on our latest tax bills mean that both sides are now paying the special assessment? Won't this latest designation cause confusion?

County's answer: No, the naming of the CSA on the tax bill does not cause any taxing confusion.

Question 22: Will Riverside County refund the taxpayer's money that was collected after the Highgrove Sheriff's position was eliminated or will legal action be necessary?

County's answer: There was no money in the CSA fund when the designated Sheriff was stopped. The assessment collected after that time were kept in the CSA 126 account until enough was built up to provide enhanced sheriff services. No refunds will be issued.

Question 23: Will Riverside County provide a Deputy Sheriff assigned exclusively to the east side of CSA 126 for the next 7 years without taking any funds out of the CSA account?

County's answer: The cost of a designated Sheriff is \$266,000 a year with an annual increase of up to 5% and there is no way the CSA can afford a designated sheriff. The CSA is tasked with providing enhanced services, not a "designated sheriff"; CSA 126 and the Sheriff's Dept. have an agreement to provide enhances services.

Question 24: Has there ever been a FUND that shows how much of the parcel assessments was allocated for Extended Sheriff, and how much was designated for "Parks & Recreation services and improvements"?

County's answer: No, it is all assessed under CSA 126 because it is one assessment of \$120.00. The roll of administration is to determine how to best provide the services required with the funding available. (See P. 5)

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HIGHGROVE HAPPENINGS



After the "Measure O" Ceremony, I presented the Highgrove Elementary School Principal, Carolina Michael with a photo of the 1953 Basketball team I was on, and a copy of the last 7th & 8th grade class of 1953.



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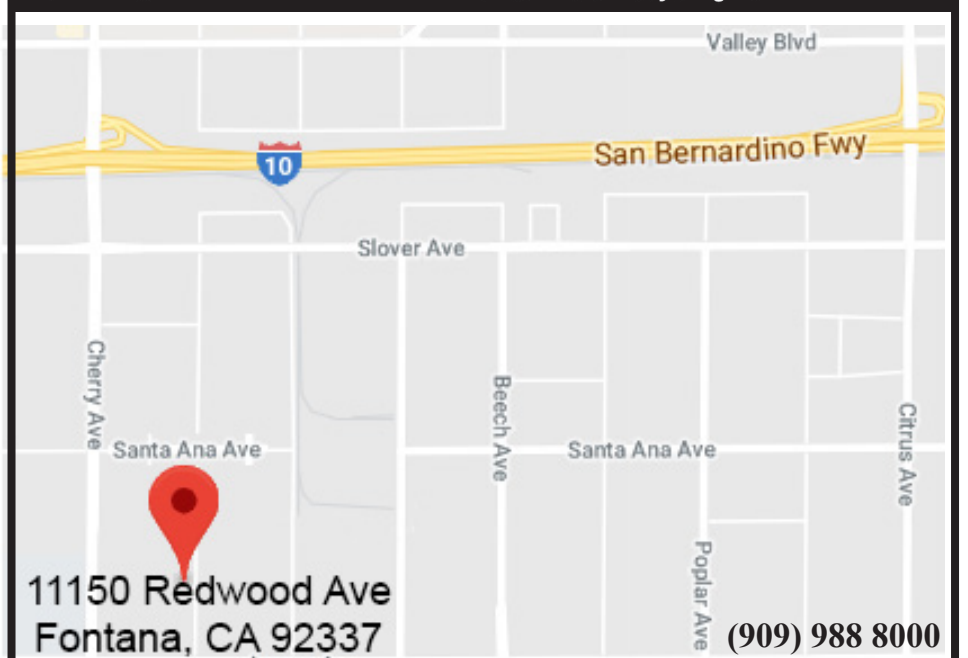


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HIGHGROVE HAPPENINGS

Sheriff Cont. from P. 3

Question 25: Was there ever a bookkeeping procedure put into place that seperated the two different purposes for this assessment?

County’s answer: No, separating the assessment between the two purposes would prevent administration from providing both services.

Question 26: The 1997 ballot’s “Impartial analysis” by Riverside County Council stated: “The tax cannot be increased except by a 2/3 vote of the electorate” Was the electorate ever given the opportunity to vote on increasing the assessment?

County’s answer: No, increasing the tax was not considered because the community is already receiving sheriff services. CSAs are not designed to replace services the County is tasked with providing, but are created to enhance services. The existing assessment is sufficient to provide enhanced service such as those provided in the agreement between CSA 126 and the Sheriff’s Department.

Question 27: The Highgrove Municipal Advisory Council is requesting a monthly financial report from Riverside County showing income and expenses for CSA 126.

County’s answer: CSA Administration does not update financial reports monthly. Revenue and Expense reports are updated on a quarterly basis and are available to anyone upon request.

EDITOR’S COMMENTS RELATED TO THE 27 QUESTIONS:

Question 2: In 2016 the county stated: “At the time the Sheriff was eliminated the cash balance was in the negative (\$7,662.20)”.

Riverside County also states that “Since 12/30/09, \$1,436,213.40 has been collected in special assessments.”

If \$1,436,213.40 has been collected since 12/30/2009 after the Sheriff was eliminated, where did the money go if there were no expenses for the sheriff?

Question 20 states that from 2010 to the end of fiscal year 2016 \$384,718 was spent on Park and Recreation Services and improvements.

Let’s do the math: If \$1,436,213.40 was collected and only - \$384,718.00 was for Park & Rec where did the \$1,051,495.40 go if there was no expense for the Highgrove Sheriff?

Question 4: When Riverside County was asked why did the CSAE fund only show a balance of \$164,962 on July 1, 2016 their answer was: “The value shown for CSA 126E was seperated by CSA Admin. to show a designation between Spring Mountain Ranch since SMR has a significantly larger amount of landscape maintenance in that area”.

But in 2016 there were no expenses in Spring Mountain Ranch for Park & Recreation because there was no park. And Landscaping was not on the 1997 ballot that the people voted for!

We did not vote to landscape all of the hillsides in Spring Mountain Ranch!

But in a recent article on April 20, 2019 in the Press Enterprise, the spokesperson for Riverside County, Brooke Federico was quoted stating: “The higher assessment covers costs associated with regular maintenance for more than 7 million square feet of landscaping, street lighting, enhanced sheriff services, Spring Mountain Ranch community park, community trails and water quality basins” she said in her e-mail.”

Take a look at the 1997 ballot below. The ballot was for only two purposes: “to continue to finance the same Extended Sheriff and Park & Recreation Services.” Do you see any mention of landscaping, street lighting, Spring Mountain Ranch Park, community trails, or water basins? So how did all of these other things get added to the 1997 ballot?

Do you think there may have been any miss-appropriation of Highgrove’s finances that included other expenses that were not on the ballot?

Street lighting and landscaping were not part of the 1997 ballot as mentioned in the county’s answer to question 15. So why did “CSA Administration decide to adjust services to a more fiscally manageable level in order to rebuild a reserve” when the special assessment was only for two purposes shown on the 1997 ballot.

Prior to the 1997 ballot, Riverside County Council stated: “The tax will be “RETAINED” in the CSA126 fund to be used only for purposes of continuing Extended Sheriff, and Park & recreation services and improvements”. If the tax was properly “RETAINED” in the CSA 126 fund, there should be a lot of money in the CSA 126 fund for Park & Recreation Services because for the last 9 ½ years there was no expense for the sheriff.

Un-necessary use of CSA 126 funds for Highgrove Day see question 13

Just before the first of May, 2009, I received a call that the EDA was meeting at the Community Center about Highgrove Day. And as chairman of Highgrove Day for many years, I was surprised to hear about this meeting. When I asked Bill Brown who was paying for it I was told “Don’t worry about it”. But I later found out that the costs to feed everyone and pay for the Weinerschnitzel mobile unit that served “free” hot dogs to everyone and train rides for the kids were actually taken out of our CSA funds without notifying Highgrove’s CSA 126.

Riverside County’s answer to question 13 stated that on May 9, 2009, just 7 months before the Highgrove Sheriff was eliminated, Bill Brown CSA Administrator spent \$9,946.20 from our CSA 126 funds on Highgrove Day when all of the previous Highgrove Days were financed without using any CSA 126 funds. For many years Highgrove Day was supported by donations, car show registrations, vendor space sales, and volunteers. If our CSA funds were diminishing, why did Bill Brown take \$9,946.20 from our CSA 126 fund and use the EDA to take over Highgrove Day instead of using that money to pay for our Sheriff?

Variations of the Spring Mountain Ranch assessments:

At the Highgrove MAC meeting on Feb. 18, 2015, Bill Brown announced that the new residents in Spring Mountain Ranch would not have to pay the parcel fee of \$120.00. We have always counted on the future income from the parcel fees in Spring Mountain Ranch to enable us to continue to pay for our Sheriff and I remember pointing out that the ballot that approved the Sheriff stated “ALL” parcels within our CSA126” would be required to pay the \$120.00 annual fee. The Highgrove MAC was finally able to get the Spring Mountain Ranch to contribute to the special annual assessment but instead of the \$120.00 annual parcel fee, I found out later that now the Spring Mountain Ranch parcels are being charged way more than the old part of Highgrove. Highgrove’s tax bills in the old part show CSA 126 for \$120.00 but the tax bills in Spring Mountain Ranch show CSA 126 as much as \$2,967.40 for the same CSA 126 designation. I have several tax bills from Spring Mountain Ranch and the D R Horton property owners in Highgrove and all of the new houses show various amounts and all of them exceed the \$120.00 annual assessment. Check your tax bills and if the amount across from CSA 126 is more than \$120.00 you are paying too much. This is another reason for the lawsuit.

Funds not seperated: See questions 10, 8, 24, 25

Property owners not notified: See question 14, 15

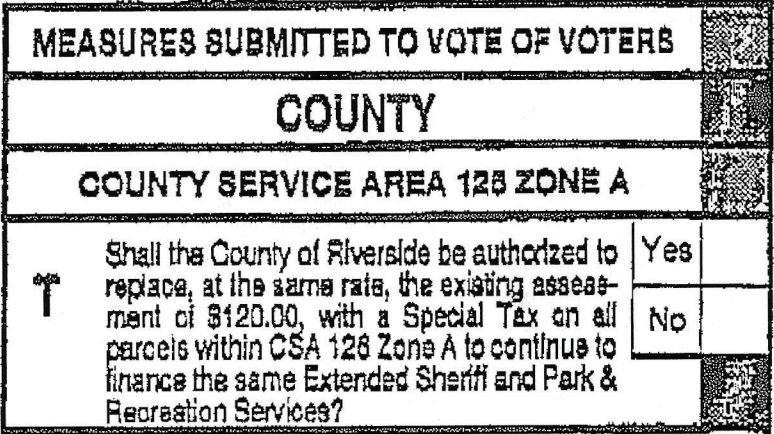
The annual Assessment was approved by 2 ballots mailed to the property owners by Riverside County, one in 1992 and one 1997 but when the Sheriff was eliminated none of the voters received another ballot that could have (1) reduced the number of hours for the Highgrove Sheriff to stay within our budget (2) increase the assessment or (3) eliminate the Sheriff entirely.

Also, the agreement mention by Bill Brown in Question 14 about providing patrols in Highgrove without the use of CSA funds was violated under Supervisor Tavaglione’s jurisdiction when \$60,000.00 was taken out of our CSA 126 fund instead of Riverside County’s General Fund as provided for in Supervisor Ashley’s agreement dated Nov. 9, 2009. I have a copy of a letter showing that the Sheriff department received \$60,000.00 that was improperly taken out of our CSA 126 account.

No Refunds! The last 5 words of Question 22 was the main reason why the lawsuit was started.

More income: The answer to Question 23 states: “there is no way the CSA can afford a designated Sheriff.” We knew the costs were going up but hundreds of new homes were being built that would contribute into the fund that was paying for the sheriff. All of the Spring Mountain Ranch homes and all of the D R Horton homes are in Highgrove and are part of CSA 126E. The Highgrove deputy was not just any deputy who drove the beat 15 car. The Highgrove deputy was a “designated sheriff deputy” who was assigned exclusively to Highgrove that was paid for through a special self-imposed tax. The Highgrove sheriff was over and above what other cities are entitled to and was not based on the number of deputies per thousand residents. The Highgrove sheriff was in addition to and not instead of but we are still paying for extra Sheriff protection that we no longer have.

See P. 8



This is a copy of the 1997 ballot that was approved by the Highgrove voters by 75.8 %.
This ballot was approved for only for two specific purposes.
If not used for these two purposes the funds were supposed to be “Retained” in Highgrove’s CSA 126 account!

HIGHGROVE HAPPENINGS

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HIGHGROVE HAPPENINGS

Crime Stats for HIGHGROVE

Monthly Crime stats July 18 to Aug. 20, 2019

Petty Theft (2)

Assaults (3)

Robbery Firearm (2)

Burg. Cml. (1)

CarJacking (1)

Grand Theft (4)

Veh. Theft (1)

Theft from veh. (2)

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Sheriff Cont. from P. 5

No new ballot: Question 26 mentions the possibility of another ballot to increase the tax to which I am opposed. But another ballot should have been mailed out by Riverside County instead of just eliminating the sheriff without properly notifying the voters. When the Sheriff was eliminated the assessment should have been stopped or reduced and the voters should have been notified that after Dec. 30, 2009 there will be no more Highgrove Sheriff. For Riverside County to continue to collect the special assessment from Highgrove taxpayers for a service that was eliminated over 9 ½ years ago is why we are in court over this issue.

We seem to be getting back to where we were in 1991 when slow response time was the reason we needed to have our own deputy because recently a Deputy Sheriff was needed at the Highgrove Elementary School and it took over 2 hours to get a Deputy to the school.

I want everyone to know that it is not the deputies fault for poor response time but it takes time for a deputy to come from Jurupa Valley or Home Gardens if we have to share a deputy.

In the Press Enterprise on June 27, 2016 former Sheriff Stan Sniff stated: *"The department can't trim patrols in cities that contract with the sheriff because these partners, also pinched by labor agreements, pay their own way for specific service levels".*

Highgrove may not be a city but we had a contract just like a city and we were paying our own way for a specific service. So what happened under Sheriff Sniff's jurisdiction?

Thankfully we now have a new Sheriff Chad Bianco, and we look forward to working with him.

Question 8: The minutes of the 1992 CSA 126 meeting dated Feb. 12, 1992 show that the \$10.00 per month (\$120.00 per year) assessment would be broken down monthly to **\$7.96 for Sheriff and \$2.04 for Park & Recreation** because it made the accounting process simpler to assess through County Assessor's office. Present at this public meeting 27 ½ years ago was Lieutenant Dan Borden and Deputy Chuck Ortiz from the Riverside County Sheriff's Department, Riverside County Administrator, Doug Vierra and members of the community including yours truly Vice-Chairman "Barney" Barnett. The meeting was conducted by CSA 126 Chairman, Joe Barber.

But today, Riverside County's answer to question 8 is: *"The amount designated for each service is not seperated. The funding is used as needed to accomplish both tasks."*

The distribution of the \$10.00 assessment was decided over 27 ½ years ago at a public meeting with all parties present but Riverside County did not comply with the instructions from CSA 126.

The preceding information is why other members of the Highgrove community continue to support the Barnett Vs. Riverside County lawsuit that is currently being heard in the Riverside County Superior Court.

I have never sued anyone and I have never been sued but I filed this lawsuit on behalf of every property owner in Highgrove whether it is in the older part, or our new neighbors in Spring Mountain Ranch or the DR Horton homes who have been paying for a Sheriff we have not had for 9 years and 9 months as of this issue.

I was glad to show Karen Spiegel around Highgrove for 2 hours when she was running for Supervisor but I have not been able to communicate with her since she became our County Supervisor. These problems occurred before she was elected but it is now under her jurisdiction. Hopefully mutual respect can be regained once this is over and the Highgrove Municipal Ad-

See P. 9



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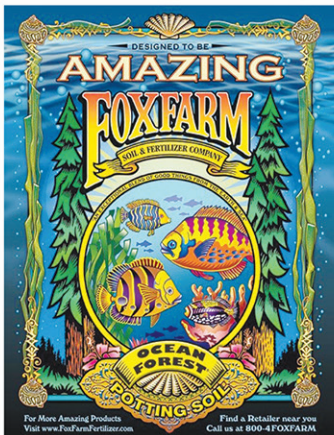
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HIGHGROVE HAPPENINGS

Sheriff cont. from P. 8
visory Council is revived with new volunteers so we can have a voice in our community again that was silenced when the entire Highgrove MAC was eliminated on April 11, 2017 by our previous Supervisor John Tavaglione.

It is understandable why sometimes I feel that the lawsuit has changed my relationship with some of the Riverside County employees who I have known for many years. But my allegiance is to Highgrove and to see that all of Highgrove is treated fairly. Those in the county who oppose what I am doing should ask themselves if this happened to them in their community would they have done the same thing?

I have several friends in Spring Mountain Ranch and the D R Horton homes but I would like to meet more people who live in the new houses. The bottom of the last page of this paper is how to reach me and I welcome your comments.

Treat Highgrove fairly

Over the last 28 years I have volunteered for 5 different Riverside County Supervisors and I have a Highgrove T-Shirt that I am proud of that has been autographed by former Supervisors Norton Younglove, Tom Mullen, Marion Ashley and John Tavaglione and our present Supervisor, Karen Spiegel.

As the Chairman of the former Highgrove Municipal Advisory Council, we tried to avoid legal action by submitting 27 questions directly to Riverside County and I am truly sorry this subject has turned into a legal problem.

Even though I will not be on the new Highgrove Municipal Advisory Council that I will miss, I will continue to work for all of Highgrove- new and old and I will always stand up for the people of Highgrove if they are not being treated fairly.

I have an Attorney who is working on consignment and we have been to court 4 times. Our next court date is on Nov. 12, 2019 at 8:30 am in Department 4 in the Riverside County Court House in Riverside with Judge Daniel A. Ottolia presiding.

I need your help spreading the word through social media!

Please give me a call or send me an e-mail because I am requesting your feedback and comments to support or criticize what I am doing in regard to the Highgrove Sheriff.

Thank you, R. A. "Barney" Barnett
(951) 683 4994
highgrovenews@roadrunner.com



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

Where are the Riverside County Employees now, when the Highgrove Sheriff was eliminated?

Riverside County Supervisor **Marion Ashley**-Retired
Riverside County Supervisor **John Tavaglione**-Retired
Riverside County CSA Director **Bill Brown**-now on Family Service Association Leadership Team

Riverside County EDA Assistant Director **Suzanne Holland**- still Assistant Director

Riverside County Legislative Assistant for Supervisor Tavaglione, **Jason Farin**-transferred to Riverside County Executive office 4th floor Administration building

Riverside County **Sheriff Stan Sniff**-was defeated when Chad Bianco was elected Sheriff in 2018

Riverside County **Deputy Sheriff Dean Colbert** (Highgrove's last deputy)- whereabouts unknown

Other Riverside County officials I have worked with:

Former Riverside County Supervisor Jeff Stone-now California State Senator 28th District

Former Riverside County Supervisor John Benoit- Deceased in office in 2016

Former Riverside County Supervisor Bob Buster-Defeated by Kevin Jeffries in 2012

FAKE NEWS CHALLENGE

The articles in the Highgrove Happenings Newspaper are the truth of what is happening in and to Highgrove and we are not just printing our opinion. We print articles about what is actually happening to Highgrove that affect you and we have verification to prove that what we print is true-such as the Deputy Sheriff we are paying for that we do not have and the 18 year struggle to get a Metrolink station at Highgrove.

Documentation is available upon request and we welcome anyone who wants to challenge any statements in our paper.

Please go to: www.highgrovehappenings.net and click on "Latest Issue" to see articles that go back to July of 2008. Thank you for your many years of support!
R. A. "Barney" Barnett (951) 683 4994 highgrovenews@roadrunner.com.

Definition of a Whistleblower:

"A Whistleblower is a person who informs on a person or organization engaged in an illicit activity."

I guess by the above definition I qualify as a Whistleblower. I still regret having to file a lawsuit against Riverside County but the long list of reasons why this had to happen have just been explained in the preceding article that shows why Highgrove was forced to take legal action. I have not filed this lawsuit alone because 3 other property owners John Shivery, Haroldine Swing, and Janet Aboytes also were plaintiffs on May 21, 2018 when the lawsuit was filed on behalf of all of the residents in Highgrove east of the freeway who are tired of paying for a service that was eliminated. The new property owners in Spring Mountain Ranch and the D R Horton homes are all being charged enormous amounts in excess of the annual \$120.00 that is shown on their neighbor's CSA 126 tax bills.

We are working for you to rectify this inappropriate action on behalf of all of the Highgrove CSA 126E property owners. That includes everyone east of the I-215 freeway whether you live in the old part or in the new homes. Your comments are welcome by calling (951) 683 4994 or sending an e-mail to: highgrovenews@roadrunner.com

Thank you, R. A. "Barney" Barnett, Editor Highgrove Happenings.

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HIGHGROVE HAPPENINGS

You Can Quote Me
by Cynthia Williams, DC

“The canopy of the woods was spread out beneath me and it looked as if autumn had taken a great torch to the trees, burnishing them gold, red, and bronze.” ~ Kate Morton, The Distant Hours

Living in Highgrove, I don’t recall having distinct seasons like I do now living up north. At home on Flynn St the fruitless mulberry trees lost their leaves, not in a glorious, riotous blaze of color but with a rather sad, dusty, dingy brown-green piling on the ground. Fall might be a bit cooler but could easily be as hot as summer ever was. I recall Thanksgiving in 1976 when it was 100° and we moved our feast to tables set up out back in the shade. Autumn can be treacherous in SoCal

and certainly nothing to fawn over and wax poetically. The signs Autumn is coming are obvious here. The leaves are changing colors and dropping, starting to dance in circles on the ground and pile up against walls and in gullies. Flower blooms are spent and waiting to be cut down or drop with the heavy snowfalls to come. The deer are heading into town, the bucks with their beautiful racks, moving through the bushes and trees; they know hunting season starts very soon and are taking refuge among the safety of the city people. There are other subtle signs as well. The little orange poles to guide snowplows on the highways are going up and soon will be planted in parking lots and streets. The signs on the highway have reappeared indicating

the areas for installing and removing chains on tires. October 1st is the day many people start flocking to the tire shops to have their snow tires installed. They have to come off by April 1st, no matter the weather. Pumpkin spice, worshiped by some and hated by others, has arrived. The varieties this year are more bizarre than ever- SPAM, Oreos, and PopTarts; hand soap, almonds and Twinkies. People swoon over the “PS”. I have a friend who hates pumpkin so hates PS. I explained to her that most products don’t have actual pumpkin, just the spices. No matter, the word pumpkin is there so she doesn’t like it. Some people... Our weather is a bit out of balance. It acts like a hormonal 14 year old. It’s about 80° today but last

night it got down to 33°. It’ll stay like this for a few weeks and then the cold will settle in. Every warm day is a gift to treasure and get out in to enjoy as though I’m saving warmth to utilize in the coldest of winter months. I used to enjoy the cool weather but it gets just plain too cold for me. Freezing, fingers-turning-blue cold. No joy in that. So I enjoy the heat and bank the sensations and memories of the summer to dip into when it’s the coldest. It’ll be cold before you read this. Freezing temps are coming in a few days and snow is forecast for the end of the month; it’ll stay this way until mid June. Three glorious months of Summer to sustain us the other nine frosty months. Wishing you a beautiful Fall and a mild Winter to come.



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