



HIGHGROVE HAPPENINGS



Dedicated to the improvement of our community through awareness and involvement in local issues
(FREE) Local News for the Highgrove Area February, 2010

Happy Valentine's Day

Highgrove Metrolink site rejected by committee! 8 year controversy about Station location continues:

By R. A. "Barney" Barnett

On Oct. 14, 2009 Riverside County Supervisor Marion Ashley wrote a letter requesting that the Riverside County Transportation Commission take another look at the Highgrove location.

Then at the RCTC Jan. 25th Ad Hoc committee meeting, I was allowed to present our reasons why the station should be located in Highgrove.

Five days prior to the meeting I supplied the clerk of the board with copies of a short C D presentation we made showing Metrolink trains passing through Highgrove, and other supporting graphics such as a map comparing locations where RCTC wants to build a station, and where the people have requested a station for 8 years.

RCTC wants a station at either Palmyrita Ave., Columbia Ave., or Marlborough Ave. where there are no commuter trains (X on map), and the public wants a station at Highgrove where there are existing commuter trains 7 days a week (Arrow). The Highgrove location is on the same property needed for a curved track to connect the 2 rail-



Metrolink train going thru Highgrove

roads. The distance between these 2 locations is only about 1/2 mile but the destinations are different! One Highgrove station would serve Riverside, San Bernardino and eventually Perris. The RCTC location on Palmyrita Ave. will only serve commuters between Riverside and Perris and **after completion: the existing trains will still continue to pass through Highgrove without stopping!**

Also supplied before the meeting, were some excerpts from written letters of support over the last 8 years. STV, the Civil Engineering Consultant that was hired by RCTC, had previously listed 13 reasons why a station could not be built at Highgrove. But these 13 reasons have been challenged!

cont. on P. 4

Car crashes into house after taking out railroad gates 1 block away!



At approximately 1:00 am Sunday morning on Jan.24, 2010, there was a loud crash when a pick up truck crashed into this house occupied by 6 people.



The railroad crossing protection was broken off at its base. Story on P. 4



**Highgrove Day set for May 8, 2010
Volunteers needed.....
Come to the Community Center on
Tuesday Feb. 2, 2010 at 7:00 PM.
We need your help!**

On Feb. 2, 2010 there will be a planning meeting for the 2010 Highgrove Day which will be on May 8, 2010. The meeting will be held at the Norton Younglove Community Center at 459 Center St. starting at 7:00 PM. We need volunteers of all ages to help make Highgrove Day another successful annual event. No experience is necessary and don't feel that you have nothing to contribute. We need help of all different types and all ages so please come and participate in your community's big day. This will be the 25th year for our local event!

HIGHGROVE HAPPENINGS



Highgrove Community Center Hours: Mon-Fri 8:00am-2:00 pm

Highgrove Community Park Hours: Dawn to Dusk

Contact: Sherry at (951) 341-6634 (951) 786-6912

THE NORTON YOUNGLOVE COMMUNITY CENTER

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



Calendar of events: Mark the dates!

Feb 5th Refuge Bible Fellowship 'Valentine's Dinner'.

Feb 10th New Cake Class to begin Wednesday 9:30 to 11:00 AM.

Feb 9th and 10th Child Care Consortium Workshop from 9:00 to 11:00 AM.

The workshops are for the community to help receive their child care license and to start their own business and to have more affordable child care in our area.

Feb 2nd and 16th Teresa 951-320-6261 from Department of Consumer Affairs is here from 10:00 to 1:00 PM to answer questions, various information is provided.

Feb 2nd and Feb 16th Oscar 951-955-4900 from Community Action Partnership of Riverside County will be here from 8:00 – 10:00 AM regarding Low Cost Notary Service and Free Income Tax Service Locations.

Feb 2nd and 16th Mary 951-867-3800 from Riverside County Office on Aging will be here from 8:00 - 10 M providing information referral services for the weatherization program and will assist seniors in completing applications for the program "This stimulus money will provides outreach services to benefit 20,000 low-income Riverside County seniors with weatherization services designed to increase energy efficiency and save money on utility bills.

Feb 10th Norma 951-360-6455 from HR Benefits Consulting will be her from 11AM -12 Noon regarding Health Insurance services.

Feb 5th and 19th Oscar 951-955-4900 from Community Action Partnership of Riverside County will here from 8:00 -10:00 regarding Utility Assistance and Weatherization Programs.

Feb 26th from 3:30 to 4:30 free musical performance by UCR "Gluck Team".

March 20th Sat from 8:00 11:00 AM Norton Younglove Community Center Rummage Sale.

March 23rd Tuesday form 6:00 – 8:00 PM Spaghetti Dinner. Ticket on sale now

Spaghetti Dinner

Ticket Prices:
Adults: \$5.00
Children: \$3.00

Date: March 23, 2010
 Dinner Served: 6:00 PM – 8:00PM
(Includes salad, beverage, dessert)

Location:
 Norton Younglove Community Center
 459 Center Street
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Support Your Community Center Buy a Ticket!!

Opportunity Drawing!

Contact Leila Santamaria for ticket information.
 951-341-6634

Dinner served by Cub Scout Troop #389
 Sponsored by Norton Younglove Community Center and Cub Scout Pack #389

Cake Decorating Course.

Starting New Course Wednesday

February 10, 2010 From 9:30 - 11:00 AM

The course will be for 5 weeks, and when its finish you will be promoted to an advanced level.



Sign-up today for the entire course for only \$10 (includes practice materials)

For more info: Come to our center at 459 Center St. Highgrove, CA 92507
 Or call us at (951) 341-6634

Norton Younglove Community Center's Fundraising Campaign Drawing Feb. 12th 2010



Have you always wanted a Wii Game but couldn't afford one?
 Well, here's your chance!

Buy your Ticket TODAY!

For your chance to win a brand new Wii Game system

One Ticket \$3.00

Two Tickets \$5.00

Three Tickets \$8.00

SUPER DEAL Five Tickets for \$10

All proceeds go to the Norton Younglove Community Center

Techniques and hands on demonstration after the "Community Pot Luck"

Self Defense Presentation by Yadira and Debra on physical release and assertive training for ladies ages 12 and up ("Seniors this is the class for you!") on Feb 16th from 11 to 12:30. (wear comfortable clothing and shoes- we will be using floor mats to learn self defense techniques). No Fee Contact the Center for further information 951-341-6634



Rolling Cart FOOD GIVE AWAY

1st and 3rd Friday of the month

Bring a rolling cart to the Center and our volunteers will attempt to fill it with food. Highgrove Community members are asked to provide their own cart, sturdy enough to carry about 40 pounds of food. However, we can **not** guarantee how much food each family will receive.

This program is sponsored by the Second Harvest Food Bank.

For more information, please call the Center, (951) 341-6634

Don't Forget!!!

Brown Bag:

1st & 3rd Tues. 8:00am - 10:00am

Commodities: 4th Friday of the month 7am -10am



HIGHGROVE HAPPENINGS

HIGHGROVE SHERIFF

Deputy Dean Colbert Stats :

The following contacts and/or arrests are a direct result of traffic stops, information obtained by local residents, pedestrian checks, business checks, and ongoing investigations.



Felony Arrests	3	Vehicles Towed	2
Misdemeanor Arrests	4	Calls for Service	196
Traffic Citations	2	Business Checks	15

Call **911** for Emergencies only

Phone Number for the Sheriff Dept.: **(951) 776-1099** (Non emergency)

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

Highlights:

On November 28, 2009, deputies from the Jurupa Valley station received a call of a carjacking that had just occurred at Center Ave. and Michigan St. in the unincorporated area of Riverside County known as Highgrove. The victim called stating the suspect had threatened him and told him to get out of the car. Fearing the suspect may be armed the victim complied and the suspect entered the car and drove away

Deputies in the area heard dispatch give a description of the stolen vehicle. While checking the surrounding area deputies located the victim's vehicle being driven by a lone suspect in the area of Interstate 215 and Iowa. Deputies followed the vehicle to a gas station located at the 2700 block of Iowa, where the suspect was taken into custody without incident

Arrested was Phillip Nunez (27 yrs old) of Fullerton. Nunez was booked at the Robert Presely Detention Center for carjacking, possession of stolen property, and driving under the influence.

Anyone with information about this incident is encouraged to contact Deputy S. Lycopulus at the Jurupa Valley station at (951) 955-2600.

On 01/06/10, a deputy was called to assist an off-duty detective who was following a possible DUI driver. As the vehicle passed the Center St. exit, traveling N/B on Interstate 215, the deputy entered the freeway and stopped the vehicle. The driver was determined to not be under the influence, but fatigued from lengthy driving. During the investigative stop, a consensual search of the truck resulted in the deputy locating a bag containing marijuana and paraphernalia. An adult male passenger admitted the items were his and he was subsequently arrested.

On 01/15/10, a deputy observed a BNSF Railroad Police Officer detaining three juvenile males near Villa St. X Transit Ave. The deputy assisted the officer while she conducted her investigation. The officer advised that they will be citing anyone who is seen crossing the tracks in areas not designated for foot and/or vehicle traffic.

The officer wanted to remind citizens that rail areas are private property and trespassing is not allowed.

On 01/15/10, a deputy performed a traffic stop on a semi-truck w/trailer, traveling W/B on Center St. X Highland Ave., for having a broken headlight. The driver of the big rig was contacted by the deputy who, while speaking with him, noticed he displayed symptoms of being under the influence of a controlled substance. The driver was asked to perform several field sobriety tests, after which, the deputy found cause to arrest the driver. During a subsequent search, the deputy located a glass pipe and 0.3 grams of methamphetamine in a compartment inside the cab of the truck. The driver was arrested for being under the influence of methamphetamine, possession of methamphetamine, and possession of drug paraphernalia.

On 01/20/10, a deputy responded to the 400 block of Prospect Ave. to conduct a follow up investigation into an assault with a deadly weapon report. After interviewing several witnesses, the deputy determined that a sexual assault had taken place just prior to the previously reported incident. The deputy is continuing the investigation which could result in criminal charges.

Extra Patrol Requests and Additional Public Safety Information:
Neighborhood Watch: Please be vigilant and take notice of any suspicious activity in your neighborhoods. Citizens are encouraged to call the Sheriff's Department and report anything or anyone out of the ordinary in their neighborhoods.

Sheriff's dispatch can be contacted 24hrs per day at (951) 776-1099.

Reminder to Highgrove residents: The county noise ordinance restricts loud music in our community and calls for a significant fine for each violation. Please be courteous to your neighbors when enjoying music and avoid a costly citation. For further information about the specific noise restrictions, please refer to the codified Riverside County Ordinance, sections 9.52.060C, 9.52.060D1, and 9.52.060D2.



Deputy Dean Colbert

Dog Rescued from fence
On 12/23/09, a deputy was flagged down by a passing motorist regarding a small Chihuahua with its head stuck in a fence. Upon closer inspection, the deputy noticed a larger dog was becoming aggressive with the head of the defenseless Chihuahua. The deputy was able to safely remove the Chihuahua from the fence and animal control was contacted. Shortly after this picture was taken, Mark Visyak, who is an Animal Control officer, arrived in his county truck and took the dog from the deputy. Mark is also a member of the Highgrove Municipal Advisory Council.

Arrest Made in Officer involved shooting

Last month we reported that a shot was fired by a Sheriff Deputy in Highgrove at a vehicle that tried to run over him. The incident occurred on Dec. 29, 2009. A suspect has been arrested but no other details are available at this time.

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When you get a chance, ask Ron Cruz about baseball. I love to listen to his intuitive, arranging mind about the game and what could be done to help improve a child or a team. A recent conversation with him revealed the "heart" for baseball that children need ~ to grow to their potential. It is the heart you see when they don't want practice to end... when they practice in the house in front of the TV or in the backyard when no one else is looking. It was described beautifully as an example in E-Myth Mastery by Michael E. Gerber,

"Professional ballplayers, for example, would never dream of questioning the dedication to practice, the hitting the ball in between at bats that's required, to prepare the players for every possible opportunity that might present itself.

We've all seen the miracles that can happen in the ninth inning, with bases loaded, where the game is won in the last seconds by a successful hit or a successful play in the field. Well, those miracles happened long before those players met those balls. They happened one swing at a time, one catch at a time, one practice at a time, one day at a time..." **PLAY BALL!** <http://www.HighgrovePONY.com>

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HIGHGROVE HAPPENINGS



The BNSF railroad crossing protection warning sign that was in the center divider on the west side of the crossing at Center St. had been dragged off of the road into the field on the south side of the road. Reports indicate that the truck that took this railroad sign off at its base is also the same pick up truck that crashed into the house on Center St. one block away. The residents of the house said they were awakened by

a loud crash about 1:00 am Sunday morning on Jan. 24, 2010. There were 6 people in the house at the time of the collision. The impact was in the same room where one individual was sleeping but he was at the other end of the room.

The residents reported that the woman driver of the pick-up truck took off on foot eastbound on Center St. but was caught and an arrest was made.

Truck Parking on Center St. discussed at last Highgrove MAC meeting

At the monthly meeting of the Highgrove Municipal Advisory Council on Jan. 27, 2010, there was a discussion of how to resolve the issue of parking big rigs on Center St. between the school and the church. Seven members of the MAC were present as well as representatives from the Riverside County Sheriff Dept., CHP, community members, and truck owners.

Everyone was given an opportunity to express their concerns and offer a solution. The truck drivers present were asked to e-mail their ideas to the "HappeningsNewspaper" and we

would print their viewpoint since they felt they were being targeted. I gave them a business card but we did not receive anything from them to print to show their side of the story.

The Riverside County Transportation Department agrees that this location is not suitable for parking big rigs and has devised a plan to help alleviate the problem. Further discussion is planned at our next meeting on Feb. 24, 2010.

Meanwhile it is uncertain how Riverside County will address this item or if any action any will be taken soon.

Station Locations Cont. from P. 1

I contacted 4 independent Civil Engineers for their professional opinions but could not afford the \$24,000 fee to hire a consultant of our own. However, Mr. William H. Addington, who is a retired Civil Engineer with 54 years experience in the business and 35 years as a registered Civil Engineer, volunteered to speak on behalf of the public with no fee. He spoke on the technical aspects of the Highgrove location and gave input to the committee that the Highgrove location is possible through good engineering. I would like to thank Mr. Addington for attending and giving his assistance.

But, after 8 years of requests, letters, city resolutions and comments from the public, on Jan. 25, 2010 the Ad Hoc committee voted again to deny the requests for a Metrolink station in Highgrove. (Supervisor Ashley abstained)

Your and my **Federal tax money** is being sought for the \$220 Million dollar Perris Valley Line improvements and should benefit taxpayers on both sides of the county line where commuter trains already exist. One station at Highgrove would serve 3 cities in both counties. 19 acres has to be purchased for the curve and could also be used for the Highgrove station. But RCTC would need another 10 or more acres for a Palmyrita station. Their plan will turn new trains away from from the San Bernardino County Line (only 1/2 mile away), to stay within Riverside county and ignore the existing trains between the 2 counties. Using Federal tax money for a station where there are no commuter trains makes no sense at all!

Station locations should be based on "Regional Transportation Needs" and not on local politics!

(www.highgrovehappenings.net)

Design Guidelines being discussed at Community meetings

The Highgrove MAC has been taking input for future guidelines to follow a citrus theme. For suggestions please call Brenda Salas at (951) 955 6046

Vendors wanted for Highgrove Day

Highgrove Day will be on Sat. May 8, 2010 and requests are being made for vendors who want to participate. Spaces are only \$10.00 for Highgrove businesses or \$20.00 for businesses outside of Highgrove.

For more information please call: (951) 341 6634 or (951) 683 4994.



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HIGHGROVE HAPPENINGS

Tour of Stater Bros. new warehouse



Ed Demuth invited me to the first employee and family tour of the new Stater Bros. distribution center in San Bernardino on the site of the former Norton Air Force Base.

The tour of this 200 acre site was made by transporting guests from building to building via trams like at the Fairplex in Pomona. In fact Fairplex is what was painted on the side of the trams.

Touring this large facility was very interesting and it is huge. This Stater Bros. distribution center serves 167 Stater Bros. stores throughout the area.

The new distribution center and corporate offices cover 2,460,736 sq. feet. The Stater Bros. had an annual payroll of \$170,000,000 million dollars in 2009 and had \$3.77 billion dollars in annual sales in 2009.

It is the largest private employer in both Riverside and San Bernardino Counties and there are approximately 19,000 employees.

We were given a tour of the various buildings such as the bakery, print department where they print all of the signs for their stores, the warehouses that have 40 foot high ceilings and 250 unloading docks, and the corporate offices where Jack Brown looks over the vast facility from his executive office. The cold room was 35 degrees and they handle 1/2 million pounds of meat per day through this facility.

Over 16,000 truckloads of cement were used to construct the walls and driveways. This building is not only huge but is beautiful and efficient.

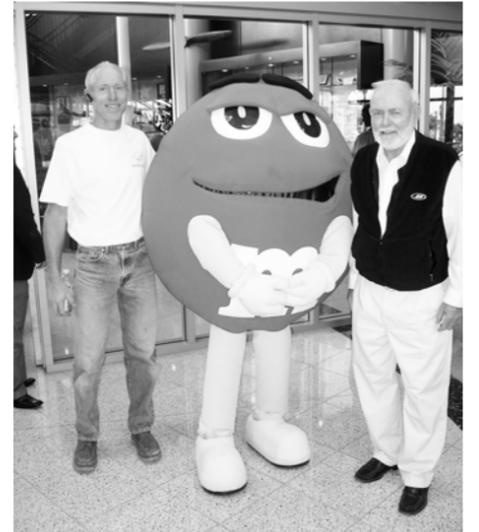
(Thanks Ed for the invitation!)



This huge warehouse is the new distribution center for Stater's 167 food stores. *The 1st Stater Bros. started in Yucaipa on Aug. 18, 1936 by Leo and Cleo Stater.*

Years ago, my son Billy started boxing groceries at the Grand Terrace store and as a joke, when he was a box boy I used to tell him I pushed my grocery cart way out in the parking lot to give him "job security" because he would have to go and get it.

He later became a checker and first learned to do art work on a pig's foot from the meat department with a devise he made from parts of a slot car motor. He worked for Stater Bros. in Grand Terrace for 8 years but has been a tattoo artist for 16 years and now lives in Oceanside. He is a very good artist and does a lot of different art projects but he has no tattoos himself.



L-R: Danny DeMuth, M of M&M fame (I don't know where the other M was), and Edward DeMuth.

Ed is a former Stater Bros. truck driver who invited me to go with him and his son on the tour of the Warehouses.

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HIGHGROVE HAPPENINGS

Cement truck overturns in Colton



On Jan. 29, 2010 shortly after noon we were driving down the hill from Grand Terrace to Colton when we noticed the freeway congestion below. This cement truck was evidently exiting the southbound I-215 at Mt. Vernon Ave. and trying to go eastward back over the freeway. This location, in my opinion has always been dangerous because there is minimal room to make the tight right turn to go over the freeway because of oncoming traffic that appears that you should wait until the other eastbound cars let you in. There is even a sign that reads: **“Right lane keep moving”** which indicates that you may be a traffic hazard if you stop. (see insert in photo)

After taking a few pictures we left and later I called the Colton Police Dept. who said there were no injuries. During these incidents I try to stay back and out of the way. I did not talk to any officers at the scene but another observer commented that the people in the car must have really been scared seeing a cement truck turning over toward them.

Is this a result of a poor design of a freeway off ramp or just another example of going too fast for the curve? Maybe it is a combination of both. If you slow down or stop at this location you risk being rear-ended. This accident could have been a lot worse if the car was underneath! Please slow down, pay attention to your driving, and don't talk on the phone or text while driving.

DEVILS DEN

by Dennis Wilds (continued from last month)

Out of desperation I asked mom to bring me some rope from home. The next day she brought me some clothes line rope and I am sure she thought I meant to play with it but the Portege and I had devised a plan to stop the shots. My reasoning was that a dropped glass syringe was a broken shot and if I could trip the nun as she entered the room carrying the medicine tray, that would solve my twice daily problem. That afternoon I had tossed the end of the rope to my new friend's bed on the far side of the doorway and when the nun entered the room we lifted it up to trip her. She politely stepped over the rope in her long habit without missing a step and said “nice try Dennis, now rollover for your shot.” It must have been obvious I was getting stronger even though it was going on two weeks and I still was confined to bed. When the day to go home came I was dismayed that I had to have one last penicillin shot. No argument would sway the nun so I rolled over like a man and took the most painful shot I have ever had in my life then mom loaded me up in the back seat of the Ford and we headed home.

This was over a month ago but I went from crawling to ambulating around the camp and this day I felt really good for the first time I could remember. Just lying there out of the cold wind watching the clouds float by be-

tween heaven and earth may have been my first philosophical experience. With the sweet smell of the broken blades of barley around me I napped and luxuriated in health and happiness.

GOFORTH

The characters to this following story remain somewhat vague to me, more than I would expect even after fifty odd years. The two kids I will introduce you to here were very real and there is no doubt in my mind of their existence and place in my life, but they remain shadow characters in some respects. They are ill defined with respect to certain details of their existence but the way they lived their young lives has impacted me strongly. Who ever launched this young boy and girl into life must not have given them much guidance, allowing them to drift along without the mandate my family had to survive and then thrive.

How ironic then their family name, Goforth. This little lost family of Devils Den drifted thru our camp and my life simultaneously making me sad for them and happy just to be a Wilds. This is how I remember watching the tragedy of the spilling and waste of the Goforth spirit unfold so many years ago.

We all come into this world with a god given supply of hope. You use it as a child and live from one promise to another but it is my belief that your mother is the keeper of this fragile flame.

Continued on page 8

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HIGHGROVE HAPPENINGS

Aerie #997 thanks Highgrove/Grand Terrace Firemen



L-R: Highgrove firemen Danny Serrano, Juan De Leon, holding June Christiansen, and Greg Casteel, Captain of station 19 in Highgrove.

The Fraternal Order of Eagles, Riverside Aerie #997 held a dinner for the Fireman in Highgrove and Grand Terrace. This dinner was a way to say thank you to our wonderful firefighters for all they do for our community. June Christiansen was responsible for planning this event. She said: "We are so grateful to the firefighters. Our heartfelt thanks goes out to each one of them".

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For more information please call Highgrove Library 951-682-1507

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ceive an award certificate with each five books read, limit three during the program duration. For more information please call 951-682-1507 or visits Highgrove Library at 690 W Center St, Highgrove CA 92507 the library is open on Tuesday 10:00 am to 6:00pm - Wednesday 10:00 am to 2:00 pm - Thursday 10:00am to 6:00 pm and Saturdays 10:00am to 3:00 pm.

Highgrove library is offering free wireless internet access, bring your lap tops to the library during our opening hours.

Income Tax forms and booklets are also available at the Highgrove for more information please call 951-682-1507

"I have no other view than to promote the public good."

- George Washington



This Presidents Day,
let us reflect on the
momentous achievements
of our founding fathers.

- Marion Ashley

Paid for by Marion Ashley for Supervisor

HIGHGROVE HAPPENINGS

GOFORTH *Continued from page 6*

Let's call this your spirit for now. There are times you are called on to share this precious commodity such as in building friendships. When we moved into Devils Den we brought our Wilds family spirit and it gave us warmth against those first cold winter days in that god forsaken expanse of treeless ground. The growing season was long thanks to all the irrigation water pumped from the ancient untapped aquifer below Devils Den Ranch. Ironically the season for growing friendships could be so brief with people coming and going seemingly randomly. Amid this harshness my big sister and I befriended Edith and Gaylord Goforth. We were fatherless and they were motherless and I believe that was the real basis for our immediate bonding. By comparison we were rich since those two kids of seven and eleven years had only what they could carry in a cardboard box. In retrospect, Sad and Hopeless would have been more appropriate names for our new friends. Gaylord was outwardly happy and fun loving, but there was a sadness to Edith. That spirit barely flickered in her eyes. I have to attribute Edith's melancholy to the absence of a mother in her life.

Mr. Goforth or "Daddy" as he came to be known to us was an itinerant drunk and a dismal provider for his two children. He moved his little family into Devils Den one day and quickly abandoned them for days at a time while he sought work wherever he could in this part of the San Joaquin Valley.

Gaylord and Edith's lives revolved around our cook house and they soon became part of our family in some ways. Gaylord was in my class at Kettleman City Elementary so we struck up a good friendship right off. I don't remember seeing Edith at school often so it is likely she skipped most of her education. This whole unlikely association between us four kids was brief but on one day we approached the closest thing to true childhood friendship Devils Den life would allow. That was the day when the fragments of these two fractured families went on a wonderful picnic with "Daddy". My big sister Anna Jane tells the following story:

It was summer and must have been a hundred and ten degrees. The sun beat down on me and little brother Dennis. Since there were no trees to sit under to help with the unbearable heat we had been sitting close to one of the little shacks the workers lived in. It was next to a little black top road that seemed to stretch forever. Very few cars passed by so when Dennis and I saw one coming, of course we stood up to better look at whoever it was that was coming our way. Much to our surprise, the car slowed down and pulled in right in front of the cabin, coming to a screeching stop beside us causing dust to fly all around.

Out stepped a boy and girl. The girl was my age, about twelve and a boy about Dennis's age of about seven. The man who had been driving didn't bother to get out of the car. He was drinking a beer. While the girl and boy unloaded

some boxes which contained their clothes the man popped another beer and waited for them to finish unloading. As soon as they finished the man drove away. Dennis and I as well as the boy and girl stood there looking each other over. Not having many other kids to play with we were delighted to see them. We offered our names and they did the same...Gaylord and Edith. They told us that the man we saw was their daddy and he was going to another labor camp to look for work. He'd be back later. The four of us put boxes in an empty shack which was to be their home for a while. After that we showed them around the camp and when we got to the barracks where we lived we were proud to show them. It was a long two story building and that is where our mother ran the cook house for the nationals (men who were in this country from Mexico). Two or three days passed and no sign of Daddy. They were given food from the cook house and slept on the floor of their cabin. Since none of us had any obligations we mostly roamed around the camp and looked for things to do. We were sitting by their shack when here comes "Daddy". Once again, he was driving like a maniac and drinking beer. When he stopped he yelled "Hey, you kids want to go have a picnic?" Well, of course we did so we jumped in the car, all vying for shotgun. Edith won and the boys and I sat in the back seat. We looked around for some evidence of the makings of a picnic but there was nothing. Then, "Daddy" pulled up in

front of the camp store and told us to wait a minute. Shortly he came out carrying more beer, a stick of bologna, a loaf of bread and four cokes. Hot dog! We were all set so off we went down the blacktop road. About a couple of miles on the road he turned and we took off over the low, sun browned hills which surrounded Devil's Den. About a mile into the hills he stopped, opened another beer and asked, "Who wants to drive?" Since Edith was shotgun, she was quick to slide over her daddy's lap and take her position behind the wheel. Not knowing anything about gears, and with "Daddy" not caring, she grinded away until she hit one and the old sedan bucked ahead in a slow crawl. She tried shifting but like all of us kids, she didn't know how to do it and the car just kept jerking and the motor was roaring. We went on for a while then she stalled it and it died. "Daddy" laughed like a crazy and he yelled "Who's next?". I jumped out and got behind the wheel. Problem was, in order to reach the pedals I had to lower myself so much that I was literally looking through the steering wheel. Like Edith I didn't know what I was doing. I too was driving in the wrong gear and the kids in the back were screaming, "Faster". I hit the clutch, found a higher gear, and then poured on the gas. It worked! We were flying over bumps and then it happened. The front wheel of the car didn't quite make it over a large hole and the car came to a rather abrupt stop. Everyone in the back hit the back of the front seat. The whole

Continued on page 11

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HIGHGROVE HAPPENINGS

From the farm in Iowa to Las Vegas!



L-R: Lori Wassenaar, Ardie's daughter-in-law, Ardie Barnett, and Kendall Wassenaar, Ardie's son at the Venitian Hotel in Las Vegas.

We had a great time when we joined Ardie's son and daughter-in-law in Las Vegas. Lori was there for a convention and we joined them for a couple of days while they were in Las Vegas from Iowa. Kendall works on his dad's cattle ranch in Orange City, Iowa along with his brother Kyle, who had to take care of the family cattle business back home. They had a great week and they were happy with the weather even though it was rainy. Their hometown has been blanketed with snow with below zero temperatures. When they flew back to Iowa there was a bad blizzard and they had a hard time driving back from the airport to the farm.

We too were fortunate we came home when we did. We were almost in-between storms but we hit really hard rain around Barstow and the rain continued until we got home. And it continued to rain as other storms hit southern California. It's always good to get away for a few days but it's really good to get home safely no matter where you live, especially during bad weather.



Is this the way you return from Vegas?

I told Ardie's son, Kendall that if they were lucky they will look like the statues inside Harrah's when he and Lori head back to Iowa.

Unfortunately, they said that was not the case, but we all had a really good time and everyone contributed to helping pay the light bill along the strip and at the Fremont Experience downtown.

Junk your clunker????



One of the best auto collections in the world is on the 5th floor of the Imperial Palace. Most of them are for sale but they are not cheap. This 1937 Mercedes is not for sale but some of the others are around \$1.5 million dollars each.



Have you ever stopped in Yermo on your way to Las Vegas? If not, give it a try because you can get some good food and relive some old memories. The gift shop is great if you like Elvis, Marilyn Monroe or other souvenirs from the past.



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HIGHGROVE HAPPENINGS

Opposition to street name changes east of Mt. Vernon Avenue



This Street sign above has the Highgrove Logo and indicates EAST Main St.

One of our newer signs in Highgrove shows that Main St. east of Mt. Vernon is still called Main St. which is how it should remain.

But the former builder for the Spring Mountain Ranch homes wants to change the names of Center St. and Spring St. on the east side of Mt. Vernon Avenue.

Changing the name of a street as you cross an intersection without turning is really confusing and does not fit in with long time recognizable street names.

R. W. R. homes, the former builder who went bankrupt convinced the county to change Center St. to "Old Highgrove Trail" on the east side of Mt. Vernon Ave. and change Spring St. to "Blue

Mountain Drive" on the east side of Mt. Vernon Avenue.

We have asked the county to change the street names to: **E. Center St.** and **E. Spring St.** on the east side of Mt. Vernon Ave. similar to E. Main Street. The sign above has the Highgrove Logo at the top, and was adopted buy the Highgrove MAC 2 or 3 years ago. Any new street signs or replacement signs are supposed to have the Highgrove logo on the top like the one above.

Correcting the maps should be a lot easier to do instead of waiting for new homes to be built on a new street that nobody knows where it is located.

The new homes would have addresses of E. Center St. or E. Spring Street.

Plump Pets: Tipping the Scale

By: Jessielee Coley

Obesity is detrimental to humans and animals alike. This epidemic is rarely discussed amongst people when it concerns their pet's weight. However, as loving pet owners, it is our duty to protect our pet's health and happiness. The choices we make for them, well-planned or impetuous, have a huge effect on their well-being. Many owners seem to be overzealous in feeding their pets, yet they are not as enthusiastic when it comes to exercising. Unfortunately our pets are not equipped to serve themselves proper portions or take themselves on nightly walks, so we must learn to be responsible for their sake.



to stop your pet from begging. Place your pet's food bowl at the other end of the kitchen so your pet will be distracted with his kibble, while you enjoy your meal. If this doesn't work, try removing your dog from the kitchen when he eats, over time the connection between his dinner time and the kitchen (where now only you eat!) will dissolve.

Lack of exercise is another crucial factor when weight gain occurs in an animal. Make a morning or nightly routine to go for a walk or play in the backyard. You and your pet will benefit from the extra exercise and quality time spent together. Prevention is truly a better remedy than treatment, so if your pet is currently at a healthy weight continue an exercise schedule to maintain their weight.

When your pet becomes obese it has multiple negative effects emotionally and physically. When your pet is carrying extra pounds it will be harder for them to play or even walk; the reduced mobility and energy levels can be depressing! Also small framed dogs (like Chihuahuas and Pomeranians) have a harder time supporting the extra weight and they start to exhibit medical problems like high blood pressure and osteoporosis. Don't let your pet's weight tip the scales. You can provide your dog or cat with the healthy life they deserve by following just a few of these tips.

Continuous snacking, consuming table food and lack of exercise are major factors contributing to chubby puppies. Providing your pet with numerous fatty treats daily is never beneficial. Popular dog treats are loaded with fat and have a high caloric count. It is better to search for a healthier treat and important to that remember providing food isn't the only way to show your pet affection. Many owners feel obligated to give their pet a food reward when they do something correct, but there are also other ways to show your praise. Play with their favorite toy or scratch their belly, these are calorie free ways to spend time with your pet and a potential way to sneak in exercise.

An owner sharing their table food is another reason for overeating amongst pets. When your pet utilizes those pleading puppy dog eyes it is hard not to cave in, but dinner time for you does not mean dinner time for Toto! Making your dinner dates at the same time or in different rooms are two great ways

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That's a line from a Roger Miller song but in this case it is just "For Sale" and not for rent.

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HIGHGROVE HAPPENINGS

A "LOVING" LOOK AT POLITICS

by Jerry Loving

Perils of a Congressman:

When a candidate is elected to the U.S. Senate or the House of Representatives, once they take office, the reality of how politics is played in our nation's capitol is quite a shock to them. They are just getting over the rigors of their successful campaign and now they realize they have at least four political situations to overcome to stay in office.

First, they have to remember the promises he made to the voters during his campaign. If he fails to successfully address his promises, the voters will most likely vote him out of office the next election. If he is a U.S. Senator, his term will be 6 years. If he is elected to the House of Representatives, he has only 2 years to fulfill his promises.

Second, no matter which office he won, he enters the U.S. Congress as a freshman which means they are at the bottom of the seniority list. However, he is normally appointed to a committee or committees who have an impact on his home district. Once on a committee, he quickly realizes that he cannot voice an opinion on an issue or even submit an issue for discussion because seniority prevails on who runs the committee and who can submit a Bill for discussion. The only hope he has is for one of the senior members to submit a Bill that could have an impact on his home district thereby getting his name in the media and the voters realize he is working for them as promised.

If, for whatever reason the freshman is not liked by the Committee Chairman, he runs the risk of being transferred to another Committee which has nothing to do with his district thereby assuring he will be voted out of office at the next election cycle. Also, the Committee Chairman can table a bill that would help the freshman back home. In essence, the freshman is at the mercy of the Committee Chairman until he gets enough seniority to demonstrate to the chairman that he will support any of his Bill that are submitted for passage.

Third, if the freshman is involved in a scandal that could possibly embarrass Congress, such as an affair with a staff member or taking bribes from lobbyists, not only will the media punish him but the Speaker of the House or the Senate Pro Tem could censor him or remove him from office. This rarely happens but when it does happen, it is widely publicized and the member can bank on being voted out of office. If thrown out of office, this means that a special election costing millions of dollars must be held in his district and the voters, being angry over not only the scandal but the special election, vote someone from the other Party to the office which could possibly influence which Party has the majority in Congress.

Fourth, the elected official MUST support the issues introduced by his Party affiliation. If he is a Democrat and the Party is pushing gun control, he

better vote the way the committee Chairman or the Party leader tells him how to vote. If he fails to cooperate with the Party and the respective issues, he faces the consequences of not having his next campaign funded or endorsed by his Party which means he has to depend on individual or corporate contributions and it is usually not enough to get re-elected. With the recent Supreme Court decision allowing corporations to be treated as individuals and thereby can contribute large amounts of money to a candidate, once again, without their support; he will have a very difficult time being re-elected.

In conclusion, if the candidate is running against an incumbent, it will be very

difficult to beat him unless he has violated one of the issues mentioned above. Most voters are not aware of these issues but when the incumbent is a senior member of Congress, 95 percent of the time, an incumbent will be re-elected to office. And, each time he is re-elected, his seniority increases and he can bring "home the bacon" to his district thereby making the voters very happy with him and they remember him at election and, if he should become a Committee Chairman, chances are he will die while in office.

Editor's note: The opinions expressed in this article are the viewpoints of its author and do not necessarily reflect the viewpoints of the "Highgrove Happenings"

Continued from page 8

episode made "Daddy" laugh even more. We got out and took a look at what was to seal our fate. The entire wheel was stuck in the hole and the prospect of a picnic faded quickly as we assumed "Daddy" was going to have a fit of anger and would slap us around. But instead he said, "Well, how are you kids gonna get us out of this mess?" Us kids, we eyed the bologna and cokes hoping for a miracle when he said "Get to digging". He went back inside the car and continued with his beer and we began to claw at the dirt as if we were going to actually get the wheel loose.

After a while we noticed that "Daddy" was sound asleep. Well, the bologna and bread and cokes were

there so Edith stuck her hand through the window and pulled them out. After our feast, we sat in what little shade one side of the car offered and wondered what to do. Now rattlesnakes were plentiful around there so none of us wanted to venture off. We sat there and watched the sun making its descent and began to get scared. Daddy was snoring away and the boys started to cry. "Snakes are gonna get us, Mama's gonna whip us." On and on they complained and whined. Now it wasn't that Edith and I were not afraid, we were just as scared as the boys but too old to cry in front of each other. It got dark. "Daddy" continued to snore and then we saw car lights. We all jumped up and started waving our hands and shouting "Here we are, over here!"

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HIGHGROVE HAPPENINGS

VIRGINIA'S VIEWPOINT

by Virginia Harford

JOHN MORRIS RETIRES

John Morris has been my mailman for 30 years. I and all of his loyal deliverers will miss him. He was an excellent mailman and would go out of his way to help you. I often asked his advice for computer help. He never failed to help and was always knowledgeable about the computer. John often stayed a few minutes to visit. He was more than a mailman; he was a friend also. I think in this day and age of young people who believe staying in a job for six months is a long time that people like John are a rarity. I hope he got a generous pension.

SENIORS INSTITUTING PINOCHLE

There is a fascinating card game that I have played all my life. When I was a little girl and my folks would go to friend's homes to play pinochle and visit I would be chosen to sit in on a hand when someone had to go get a fresh beer or powder their nose. I learned how to play and love the game. If you are interested please call JoAnn Johnson at the Grand Terrace Senior Center and sign up for pinochle playing. It really is a lot of fun. P.S. I am not really a very good player so you do not have to be intimidated playing with me. I will reach my eightieth birthday in April and my memory is not as good as it once was. I forget who had the ace of spades or the king of hearts. Anyway call JoAnn if you are interested: (909) 824-1491.

SAVE ON THE WATER BILL

The rainstorms have been a blessing in one way. I bet we won't have to water our lawns for a while. All of my potted plants that are on my front porch blew over and two were knocked out of their pots. It does look like they have survived but I hope we don't have another one like that.

It appears that literally everything has been thoroughly soaked.

ROAD CLOSURES

Several times during this rainstorm session, the portion of Mt. Vernon Ave. in Grand Terrace that goes down the hill to Colton known for many years as Jap Hill had to close. I asked one of the workers why we could not drive down the hill and he said that the rains were causing mudslides and that mudslides can be more dangerous to motorists than rainwater. So if you have to take a detour consider it for your own good. You can still maneuver the other hill on the east side of Grand Terrace. It does not appear that the Barton Road route will ever be closed because of mudslides because the hillside is more stable than the Jap Hill route.

BLUE MOUNTAIN PARK

Denis Kidd of Grand Terrace and spokesperson for the Foundation of Grand Terrace and the effort called Friends of Blue Mountain is spearheading a campaign to buy land on Blue Mountain to be a park for hikers, bikers and those who just like parks. Denis has been successful in getting beginning donations for this project. He has raised two donations of \$5,000 for the park but needs a lot more. There are many other citizens of Grand Terrace and Highgrove and other places that would love to support this cause but are not in the position of giving \$5,000. Well, you are in luck, you can donate any amount to this cause. Just write your check and make it out to the Friends of Blue Mountain and send it to 22874 Pico St., Grand Terrace, CA 92313, no cash please. It will be tax deductible. It really is a wonderful idea and one which will benefit lots of people.

AGAIN I PLEAD WITH YOU

The Grand Terrace City council is again considering allowing sports groups to sponsor a fireworks booth in Grand Terrace. How many children will suffer horrendous burns because you did

not listen to me. There is no such thing as *safe and sane* fireworks. Tell the council that you do not approve of fireworks in a city that has a statute that says there can be no shooting off of fireworks in Grand Terrace. Does it make sense that we can buy them here?

COLTON UNIFIED SCHOOL BOARD

Elections for new members and/or changing the set up we now have will be coming along soon. Please remember how upset we were when the school board would not listen to us in regard to naming our high school Grand Terrace High. We need to replace the board members with people who will listen to

our wishes. I still do not understand why Ray Abril did not announce that he withdraws from having his name placed on our school. He is probably a nice man and does not deserve to be placed in a position of discord but he should stand up and say that he would be happy to have his name on the Colton High School Auditorium or other designation.

I hope you are having a nice New Year and that 2010 will be a better year for all of us. FINIS
Editor's note: The opinions expressed in this article are the viewpoints of its author and do not necessarily reflect the viewpoints of the "Highgrove Happenings"



The snow on the mountains was a beautiful site to see. This Channel 7 Eyewitness news van was at the top of Jap Hill just west of Mt. Vernon in Grand Terrace. We talked to the driver/op-

erator who was videotaping for a later broadcast. He said he had been snowed in for 3 days while he was filming in the mountains. There was still snow on the roof that can be seen in the photo.

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Light exercise Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 8:30. Wii games and Pool at any time we are open. 1st or 2nd Monday at 10am, Auto Guru, Robert Snyder. HICAP (Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program) 1st & 3rd Monday at 9. Nurse 2nd Monday 8:30 to 11:30. HEAP 4th Tuesday 10am to 12pm. and on Tuesdays for Crafts at 9am also on Tuesdays for Bridge, Samba, etc. at 12:45 Wednesdays for Art at 9am and Guitar at 12:30 (Birthday Cake 3rd Wednesday at lunch) Wednesday evenings for Games at 6 o'clock. Thursdays for Penny Bingo at 1 o'clock and Bunco at 6:45 Garden Club 3rd Friday at 10am. Needlework Club 1st and 3rd Friday at 9am. Book Club 1st Friday at 12:30. General Meeting on Second Friday at 9:30 a.m. Game Night on Second Saturday at 6:30 p.m. Lunch is served daily from 11:30 to 12:30 for a \$3.00 donation if over 60 and a \$5.00 charge if not. No children please

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HIGHGROVE HAPPENINGS

Fox Theatre re-opened



There were a lot of people who wanted to see the inside of the old Fox Theatre. We took the tour on Jan. 16, 2009 and it is really beautiful inside!

I remember seeing "Rock Around The Clock" at the Fox many years ago!



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Eagles are a Social Group

Thousands of people are attracted to the Eagles by our social events. We are fun-loving individuals who enjoy spending time with family, friends and neighbors. It is not uncommon to hear a longtime member say that a dance was the first Eagles function he or she attended. We also offer many social opportunities at our regional and national conventions. Call today to join or if you know someone who is a member come along as a guest and check it out!

See what's happening in the

Highgrove Area Real Estate Market

Source (Multiple Listing Service)

Courtesy of: Margie Miller of Miller Associates Real Estate and Loans

(909) 888-9000

Real Estate statistics for JANUARY 2010

New Properties Sold in HIGHGROVE AND SURROUNDING AREAS in JANUARY:

ADDRESS	BR	BA	YR	SQ.FT	PRICE	DATE
375 Central Ave, #142	1	1	1997	740	\$120,000	01/05
2639 Prospect Avenue	3	2	1962	1,473	\$150,000	01/05
851 Villa Street	4	3	2006	1,784	\$200,000	01/07
600 Central Avenue, #342	2	2	1980	1,076	\$99,900	01/27
600 Central Avenue, #359	2	2	1980	1,076	\$115,000	01/29

As of 01/2010	# of Homes
Total properties available for sale:	17
Total properties pending a sale in escrow:	13
Total Properties sold YTD:	5

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HIGHGROVE HAPPENINGS

KIDS WORD SEARCH

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 M R L T G C G I R S L P R N U
 D E Z O U R L L O L H I C O N
 B S I D H L X K N E P T U N E
 F R P K E K P Y A L P E R Q V
 L Z L T K E C W U E C R Y O S
 S P A C E S T A T I O N X R N
 U S N I M P X Y L J E G A B O
 N R E P P I D G I B V T L I I
 A A T T M L P F U O S K A T R
 R M S V P C L L V Q I E G X O
 U Y Y A M E A R T H R O V E Q
 V W N G E R X B G Z E P H Q X

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MARS	BLACK HOLE	URANUS
EARTH	NEBULA	NEPTUNE
JUPITER	BIG DIPPER	NORTH STAR
	ORIONS BELT	ORBIT

The first child 12 or under to turn in the correct answer to the above puzzle will win a prize and get their picture in next months paper. (You can only win once) Take your completed puzzle to the Norton Younglove Community Center 459 Center Street during their regular business hours. Good Luck!

NAME: _____
 AGE: _____
 PHONE: _____
 PARENTS: _____
 CITY: _____
 SCHOOL: _____
 GRADE: _____
 TEACHER: _____

Trenton Visyak is the son of Mark and Chris Visyak. They are long time residents of Highgrove and both parents have been very active in the community. Trenton attends Highgrove Elementary School and his teachers name is Miss Ogland. Thank you Trenton for providing us with the words for this months puzzle.



Trenton Visyak
age 10

Advertising rates

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



Call us !

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



Please visit our Highgrove Happenings website:

www.highgrovehappenings.net

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

highgrovenews@roadrunner.com

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

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

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HIGHGROVE HAPPENINGS



HIGHGROVE CHURCHES



Immanuel Baptist Temple

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Pastor John Pettit

Sunday School: 10:00 am

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Bible Study: 7:00 pm Wednesdays

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HIGHGROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

938 Center St., Highgrove, CA 92507

The mission of the Highgrove UMC is to grow spiritually and to proclaim the Christian faith through worship and service.

The vision of Highgrove UMC is to be a vital, open, inclusive and vibrant Christian presence providing a welcome to all, hospitality to all, and service to our community.

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10:00 a.m.

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Paul Kim

Church Office: (951) 684-1395



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E-Mail: CRGT@URS2.NET

Sister Deanna O'Neill, OSB, Pastoral Coordinator
Parish Office 909-783-3811 fax 909-783-4689

Heritage Bible Church

(Meets at the United Methodist Church)



Pastor Kris Stephens

Sunday School meets at 10:15 am

in the house behind the church building.

Morning Worship Service is at 11:20 am.

Wednesday evening Prayer Meeting is at 7 pm

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Wednesday 10:00 am to 2:00 pm, Thursdays 10:00 am to 6:00 pm

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For more information please call 951-682-1507

The Refuge Bible Fellowship

In November 2009, a small group of believers gathered together in a backyard on Sunday mornings and in the living room on Wednesday evenings, to come together to hear the word of the Lord delivered by Pastor Raul Montano.

In late November, the Lord opened the doors for a nearby facility for our time together.

We now meet at The Norton Younglove Community center, located at 459 Center Street in Highgrove. Wednesday evenings, at 6:30pm and Sunday mornings at 9:00 am. Children are welcome! We have a Children's Ministry with age appropriate Bible Study, Games, and Crafts.

Any concerns or prayer requests, please contact:

Pastor Raul Montano
(909) 856-2916
raulm@refugefellowship.org

Psalm 91:1-2 He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High Shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the LORD, "He is my refuge and my fortress; My God, in Him I will trust."

Visit us at: www.refugefellowship.org

Love Never Fails

1 Corinthians 13:7-8, It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails...

Refuge Bible Fellowship "Valentine's Dinner"
February 5 (Friday), 6p - 8p
Norton Younglove Center
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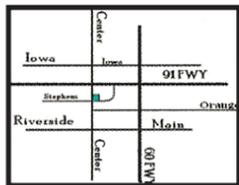
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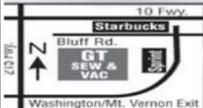
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