



HIGHGROVE HAPPENINGS



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

(FREE) Local News for the Highgrove Area

May, 2009

Highgrove Day May 9, 2009

24TH ANNUAL PICNIC

HIGHGROVE DAY

RIVERSIDE COUNTY SUPERVISOR MARION ASHLEY'S HEALTH & SAFETY COMMUNITY FAIR

SATURDAY, MAY 9TH
9AM - 2PM

Norton Younglove Community Center
Highgrove Community Park
459 Center Street, Highgrove, CA 92507 • 951.341.6634

ACTIVITIES
Pancake Breakfast • Kids' Zone • Community Picnic
Arts and Crafts • Vendors • Live Music • Car Show



Highgrove Day will be a combination of several events rolled into one. It will be the Volunteer Firefighter's Pancake Breakfast, the 24th Annual Highgrove Picnic, and Supervisor Ashley's Safety Fair. Something for every age!

There will be a car show, kids zone, arts and crafts, vendors, live music and the Pony League snack bar will be open. The Riverside County Economic Development Agency is organizing many vendors from the county and other organizations. Vendor space is free but you must register first (951) 696-0100. The car show registration is being handled by Ardie and "Barney" Barnett of the "Highgrove Happenings Newspaper. (951) 683 4994



Here is one of 25 trophies to be given out at the Highgrove Day Car Show!



For more information call 951.696.0100

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

SPONSORED BY THE HIGHGROVE VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY



7AM - 12 NOON

Purchase your tickets at the door on the day of the Breakfast at the Highgrove Fire Station

\$4 for Adults \$3 for Children under 12

CAR SHOW



CAR SHOW

9AM - 2PM

Pre-1972 vehicles only No motorcycles or mini-trucks
100 car limit

\$20 Registration Fee

Pre-Registration required, contact Barney 951.683.4994

DIRECTIONS: From the I215 take the Center Street/Highgrove exit, eastward one mile to the Norton Younglove Community Center. Show cars turn left on Michigan Ave and right on Main Street to enter Highgrove Park from the north end.

459 Center Street, Highgrove, CA 92507
(Between Michigan & Heron) North entrance - 1/2 block east of Michigan Street

Newly paved road across arroyo! Is this new road important?



This is Citrus St. looking north toward the new road between the RR tracks and the new warehouses.

See P. 4 for details!

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



Local residents receive awards



Joe Morones, 4th from left received an award for volunteering in Highgrove. The awards were given out on April 16, 2009 at the 3rd Annual Molina Healthcare of California Community Champions Awards Dinner. The award is named after Molina Healthcare's physician founder Dr. C. David Molina.

Joe and his wife Francis have been married for 59 years. He worked at Caltrans for 18 years before retiring but now he spends many of his retirement hours helping others by volunteering at the community center in Highgrove. He is in charge of several free food distribution programs such as the "Brown Bag", "Rolling Cart", and "Commodities". These programs help feed seniors and families each week. Joe has volunteered for 14 years running the food programs and he says he puts in about 80 hours a month. We appreciate having people like Joe in our neighborhood and thank him for his dedication and helping other members of our community. He received a grant of \$1,000 and he has designated Family Service Association/ Norton Younglove Community Center to be the recipient of the grant. Sherry Morris-Logan is in charge of the Norton Younglove Community Center in Highgrove and is pictured 2nd from the left. No names were provided for the other recipients but we congratulate them all for their fine service to their communities.

Louis Mejia also receives award!

Louis Mejia was also honored but his award came from The Volunteer Center of Riverside. He was awarded a certificate from the State and the Riverside County Board of Supervisors. Louis used to be on the Highgrove CSA 126 Advisory board and guess what! Joe and Louie are next door neighbors. What a neighborhood!

WHAT IS A MAC Highgrove

What is a MAC: Municipal Advisory Councils (MAC's) were formed by the direction of Supervisor Marion Ashley in order to bring government to the people. These meetings allow for community input and updates on projects happening in surrounding unincorporated areas of Riverside County. They serve as a forum to provide updates from various Riverside County departments and a venue to take back topics of importance.

How it was created: The MAC's were created through establishing physical boundaries, legal descriptions, and appointing members from the community. These actions were then adopted by the Riverside County Board of Supervisors.

Who is on the Council: On the Highgrove MAC we have R. A. "Barney" Barnett, Mark Visyak, Kathleen Cochran, Don Earp, Denis Kidd, Debbie Pierce and Melanie Zimmermann.

What do they cover: The subjects include but are not limited to water, code enforcement, transportation, planning, economic development, redevelopment, parks/recreation, animal services, and public safety such as sheriff protection.

What has been covered/ milestones etc: Recently, Highgrove MAC has discussed the 88 unit apartment complex proposed near the new library site. We also discussed Highgrove Day, which is scheduled on May 9, 2009. In February we took a van tour to visit some of the various project sites in Highgrove.

What is on the next agenda: The next agenda topics will be a potential project by AW Property West and Work Force Home Builders.

When and where do they meet: The MAC meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month at the Norton Younglove Community Center, in Highgrove.

Contact: Brenda Salas, (951) 955-6046 or brendasalas@rivcoeda.org

M.O.U.S.E

Making Online Use Safe for Everyone



- Want to keep your children safe when using the internet?
- Learn how to protect your children from online predators.
- Keep your child away from explicit material!

May 20, 2009
From 3:30 to 4:00pm
Highgrove Community Center
459 Center St., CA 92509 (951) 341-6634



"Family Strength is Community Strength"

Photo provided by: www.opi.mt.gov/images/xFrame1.jpg

Guest Speakers and activities for the month of May:

5/1 and 5/15 Benito Ruiz 909-653-8894 8:00-10:00 regarding State Program called Healthy Families and Medi-Cal for Children (low-cost and no-cost health coverage just for kids)

5/13/09 Department of Consumer Affairs Robert Snyder 10:45 to 12:30 to discuss how to protect yourself from fraud in the marketplace and learn about the resources and services available. For more info 951-782-4250

5/14/09 Martha Quintero is back in town – Line Dance Class from 10:00 to 11:30

5/19/09 11:00 to 12:30 Anna Rosetti from Riverside County Office on Aging regarding Farmers Market Vouchers

5/19 Darrel Evans 1:00 -2:00 from Scan 951-768-5398 1:00 – 2:00 refreshments will be served –learn how to enhance your benefits and services with SCAN Health Plan for Medicare and Medi-Cal members. Free Bingo

5/19 and 5/5 8:00 – 2:00 Department of Consumer Affairs Teresa Barnes to answer questions and provide resources to help you make educated decisions as a consumer and to help you protect yourself from fraud.

5/19/09 selected Polling Place for the Consolidated Statewide Special Election.

Don't Forget!!!

Brown Bag:

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

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



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. 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

HIGHGROVE HAPPENINGS

Protect Our Nations Youth



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<http://eteamz.com/RiversideHighgrovePONY>

Ron Cruz, President Riverside Highgrove PONY





Join Highgrove PONY at the 66ers for our **FAMILY DAYS !!**
May 3rd &/or June 14th 2009 at 1:05 pm
Tickets start at \$6
Tickets include:

11 AM BASEBALL CLINIC
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to HAVE FUN!

Report from Highgrove Deputy

Graffiti vandals caught!

Riverside County cleaned the Highgrove area of old graffiti on April 17, 2009. But later, during a stake out by the Highgrove Deputy Bryan Vig, three males were observed spray painting new graffiti in the canal. Two of the individuals were juveniles and were released to the parents. Charges filed were vandalism and possession of items, (spray paint) used to commit graffiti. The third suspect was an 18 year old adult named Jaime Sandoval. The adult legally purchased the cans of spray paint that day and used/provided them to the juveniles. Charges filed with the Riverside County District Attorney are: vandalism, providing juveniles with items (spray paint) to commit graffiti, and contributing to the delinquency of minors. The amount of damage is estimated at approximately \$600.00. Restitution was asked from the suspects and their legal guardians upon adjudication of the case.

Graffiti hotline phone number (951) 955 3333

Search Warrant:
On April 4, 2009 at 8:00 AM a search warrant was executed by Highgrove Deputy Vig with the assistance of the RSO Jurupa Valley Gang Unit at a local self storage business in Highgrove. Items used to commit burglary and stolen property was discovered as a result of the search warrant. Felony criminal complaints of Fraud, Forgery, and Receiving Stolen Property were filed against the adult male suspect. Contact Deputy Vig at (951) 955 2611 or (951) 776 1099 or the Riverside County Sheriff Office at (951) 955 2600.

HIGHGROVE SHERIFF

Deputy Bryan Vig Stats :

Felony Arrests	1	Citations	15
Misdemeanor Arrests	14	Arrest warrants served	11

Phone Number for the Sheriff Dept.: **(951) 776-1099** (Non emergency)
Hot line tips for Highgrove Deputy Bryan Vig: **(951) 955-2611**

Call 911 for Emergencies only





**Community of Highgrove
Design Guideline Survey**

This survey is designed to obtain feedback from Highgrove residents about their vision for the community for the present and future. Please use the space provided on the opposite side to address any additional comments or concerns, and to provide specific examples and locations of projects you would like to recommend for your community. Your input and ideas will be used in the creation of the Design Guidelines for the Community of Highgrove. Please return the survey in the envelope provided by **May 25, 2009**.

- Name 5 things (character / activities / events / places / buildings) that you value most in your community.

- How would you rate the overall visual character of Highgrove?
1 = Great; 2 = Good; 3 = Average 4 = Bad 5 = Worst
- Please list 5 words or phrases that contribute positively to Highgrove's Character:

- Please list 5 words or Phrases that contribute negatively to Highgrove's Character:

- What 5 trees/plants/shrubs or flowers would you like to see on the public trails and sidewalks in order of priority?

- The designs below are examples of architectural designs, which do you prefer? Please check your preference.

Victorian Style



Mission Style



Art Deco Style



Craftsman Style



Contemporary Style



Modern Style



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Web: www.marykay.com/ardiebarnett
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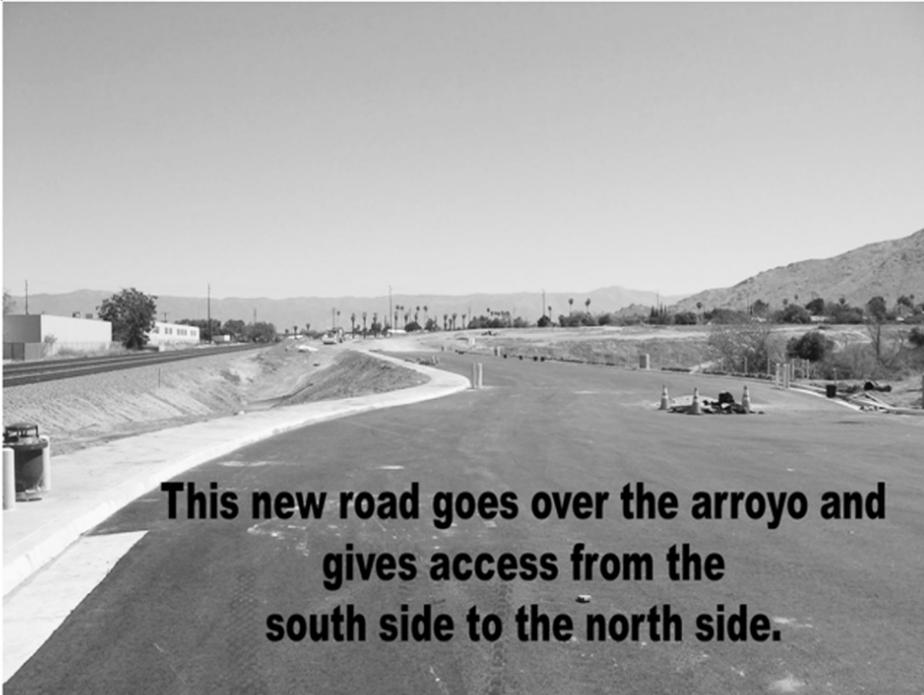


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T-shirt samples can be seen at:
Zorba's Burgers: 450 Iowa Ave.
Chris' Burgers: 407 Iowa Ave.

Give us a call! (951) 683 4994

HIGHGROVE HAPPENINGS



This new road goes over the arroyo and gives access from the south side to the north side.

This new pavement leads to the field on the north side of the arroyo. The north side is also accessible from Villa St. which is the northern boundary of the 19 acres of vacant land between the 2 railroads.



A station platform could go here or any location between this point and mile post 7 for a Metrolink stop at Highgrove

Please turn to P. 8 for the story

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

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SAT 9:00-2:00

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Summer Youth Jobs programs receive \$9 million for jobs!

by Tom Freeman, Riverside County EDA

(951) 201 7312

Riverside County Facilities Department, the Economic Development Agency, and the County Workforce Development Board received \$9 million dollars for Summer Youth Jobs programs from federal funds via the Workforce Investment Act. It is our desire to put 2,500 young men and women in summer jobs. Our Workforce Development Board, appointed by the Board of Supervisors, has already given its approval to the plan to put 2,500 young men and women in summer jobs and will be forwarding the plan to our Board of Supervisors for their review and action in short order. After the board takes action on the plan, funds will be immediately available for the Summer Youth Job program. Eligibility requirement and transparency standards for these funds have been established by federal authorities. Specific information on the hourly wage rate and program eligibility requirements will be detailed later.

Riverside honored as one of

"America's Top 100 Places to Live"

RIVERSIDE, Ca. – Riversiders can feel a sense of pride knowing that they live in one of the best cities in America. This is according to RelocateAmerica.com, a website providing relocating consumers & area residents with access to local community resources. Riverside is included in their 12th annual listing of "America's Top 100 Places to Live" for 2009.

"With the increasing concern on our nation's economy and recovering housing market we approached this year's list with a different lens than in previous years. We concentrated on the outlook for future growth & ability to rebound in the communities that we selected" said Steve Nickerson, president and CEO of RelocateAmerica.com. "We looked at the local government & the business leadership in each community as we considered this year's winners. We selected communities with visionary leaders, improving or thriving economies including housing & realization of "green" initiatives."

More than 1,800 cities were nominated for this award at <http://www.RelocateAmerica.com>. Relocate-America's editorial team reviewed nominations and selected the TOP 100 cities based on interviews with local leaders, feedback from residents and economic, environmental, education, crime, employment and housing data for the past year.

"We are honored to have the distinction of being named one of America's top places to live for 2009," said Riverside Mayor Ron Loveridge. "We are especially encouraged that the city's future outlook is considered strong. Riverside is an urban, diverse, and successful city known for its arts, innovation, higher education, and green initiatives, and this award is further evidence that we are heading in the right direction."

Riverside's Top 100 profile along with community photos can be viewed at <http://www.relocateamerica.com/california/cities/riverside>.

HIGHGROVE HAPPENINGS

Developers seeking apartment complexes in Highgrove

Two different developers have been attending our MAC meetings to discuss and work with the council and community and explain what they want to build on the vacant land between Michigan Ave. and Garfield and Center St. and Spring Street. Tony Mize of Workforce Homebuilders has approached the council in regard to building 88 units on 6.2 acres south of the new library that is planned near the corner of Center St. and Michigan Avenue. And Kirk Wallace from A W Proper-

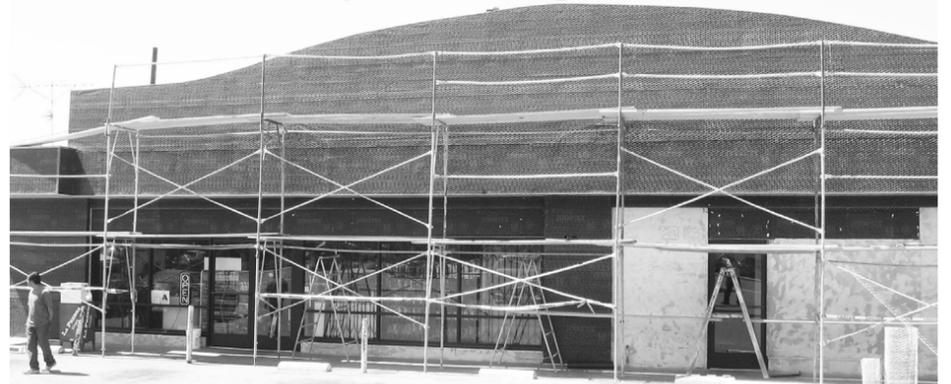
ties West has also attended our meetings in regard to building approximately 150 additional apartment units near the same location that is between Michigan Ave. and Garfield St. and Center St. and Spring Street. Both of these developers are interested in what the public concerns or interests are, and they are willing to listen to suggestions about the use of the vacant property. Please attend the MAC meeting on May 27, 2009 at the community center. The meeting starts at 7:00 p. m.



This old building was the location of the old "Market House" that was located on the west side of the freeway about 200 feet north of the Riverside city limits. The building was the former location where nearby residents could get a haircut, go shopping for groceries, get a TV repaired, or shop at the variety store. When my family first moved from Indiana to this area, we stayed at the nearby Aloha Trailer Court and later I became a box boy at the Market house. Maybe we should learn from this old concept since there is a lot more traffic now than there was back in the late 40's. We need a centralized location for shopping in Highgrove instead of having to spend our money in San Bernardino County!

Highgrove facade improvements!

During facade improvements



After completion



The Riverside County Economic Development Agency is improving the businesses in Highgrove. The Highgrove Plaza also has been upgraded and the owner paid part of the costs. Riverside Smog is next. Thank you Riverside Co. EDA!

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HIGHGROVE HAPPENINGS

Firemen save house in structure fire!

Late Sat. night on April 25, 2009 Debra Fury and her 13 year old daughter were startled by someone banging on their door to get out because of a fire!

Luckily the fire started in the back of their property and the house is located on the front at 620 Prospect Avenue. Both she and her daughter were able to get out of the house but the fire destroyed a shed, work shop, green house and an overhead structure that covered an indoor swimming pool. Also destroyed was a covered sun room that extended from the back of the house but firemen were able to stop the flames before the actual house was damaged.

She is very grateful to the firemen who saved her house. Her 17 year old son was not at home at the time but he lost everything in the fire including a bicycle, motorcycle and new guitar. The flames lit up the nighttime sky that could be seen for quite a distance and I counted 10 fire trucks that responded to the fire. The Highgrove station reported that there were a total of 31 firefighters and volunteer firefighters on the scene to put out the flames.

We returned the following day to take these pictures.



This photo shows some of the damage and how the roof fell into the covered swimming pool. If you look on the right side you can see the side wall of the pool. The roof was covered in corrugated tin and when the supports burned the roof collapsed. The firefighters did a great job but there was a lot of damage. It's hard to believe that the main house was saved from the intense flames.



We saw the wheels of the motorcycle on fire late Sat. evening and this is what was left the next day. Firemen are trying to determine what caused the fire.

Grant applied for- to improve south side of Main Street

The new high school has prompted Riverside County to plan for improvements along the south side of Main St. between Sanrive and Michigan Ave. across the street from the new high school. According to Mr. Acuna they are hoping to build curb and gutter and a sidewalk on the south side. He also said that they are planning on having a traffic signal by the school entrance and that a small fence may be installed in the median on Main St. to discourage students from parking on the south side and having to cross Main St. to get to and from their cars. Widening of Main St. would be done on the north side of the street where there are no houses. For more information please call Dennis Acuna (951) 955 6820

Quotes From Famous People

- *My wife and I were happy for 20 years. Then we met.* ~Rodney Dangerfield
- *Love yourself first and everything else falls into line. You really have to love yourself to get anything done in this world* ~ Lucille Ball
- *Always get married early in the morning. That way, if it doesn't work out, you haven't wasted a whole day.* ~Mickey Rooney

9:00-5:00 Mon.-Fri.
9:00-3:00 Sat.

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HIGHGROVE HAPPENINGS



REDUCE REUSE RECYCLE

by Cynthia Williams, DC

I hope you had a pleasant Earth Day 2009. I am hoping that someday Earth Day won't be a social event or a marketing opportunity. Keep Earth Day in your heart every day.

The economy is the buzz-word now. Many people are embracing the concept of reducing and/or reusing as a means of saving money and making each dollar stretch. A basic self-help activity is growing our own food. It is easy and do-able for anyone. Your "farm" can be as small or as large as you can manage: you choose your "crop" and varieties.

What kind of supplies do you need?

Short List:

- .. Containers that drain well- repurposed items or build your own
- .. Potting medium (please no "dirt")
- .. Seeds

Long List: add to the above

- .. Watering system
- .. Shade covers
- .. Tables, stands or shelves for containers

Growing herbs in pots in the kitchen window is easy for anyone to do. Basil, thyme, oregano, and parsley all do well. It is so wonderful to have fresh herbs literally at your fingertips when you are cooking! Herbs don't require much care, water or full sun and will grow by themselves. They love to be used; the more you trim them the better they grow.

Salad greens are very easy as well. Window boxes or any container that is 24x24 inches or larger and 6 inches deep can be used. For several years I have used on old square BBQ. The lid holds in warmth and moisture while the seeds sprout, there is built in drainage, and the wheels allow me to roll it to various areas of the backyard to work with the sun. I scrubbed it out well, removed all the racks and grates,

and filled it with a potting medium. I plant one-half at a time. After my first "crop" is up I plant the other half. This is called succession planting- ensuring that I can have a continuous supply of salad greens. Greens such as romaine, curly leaf, oak leaf, arugula, escarole, and spinach grow well together. The key to have tasty salads with no bitterness is to cut the greens when they are less than six inches tall, make sure they do not dry out and cut frequently. You can chop them off about one inch from the top of the soil. They will grow right back out. Radishes, green onions and smaller carrot varieties (Like Burpee "Short 'n Sweet") will grow very well in containers. They need a good amount of full sun so they won't do in a window- the patio or porch will fit best.

Table top gardening has become very popular, particularly for those who are not able to get down to ground level and want to have a larger crop of vegetables. The Maryland Cooperative Extension of the University of Maryland, has designed The Salad Table™ which is just the right size: 33" wide and 58" long. Constructed from 2x4s, it will produce one to two pounds of greens each full cutting! They have also designed a smaller version: The Salad Box which is 15" wide and 21" long and has handles on the ends. This is a great size for children and smaller spaces. With our mild winters and even with our hot summers, you can always have fresh salad greens at your fingertips. You can grow other shallow produce like scallions, radishes, and herbs like thyme and oregano as well.

These web links can give you loads of information regarding produce and the plans for the boxes.

A pictorial guide to greens: <http://startcooking.com/blog/408/Salad-Greens-From-A-to-Z>

Sunset Magazine has information about gardening in a small space: <http://www.sunset.com/garden/fruits->

veggies/small-space-vegetable-gardens-00400000044403/

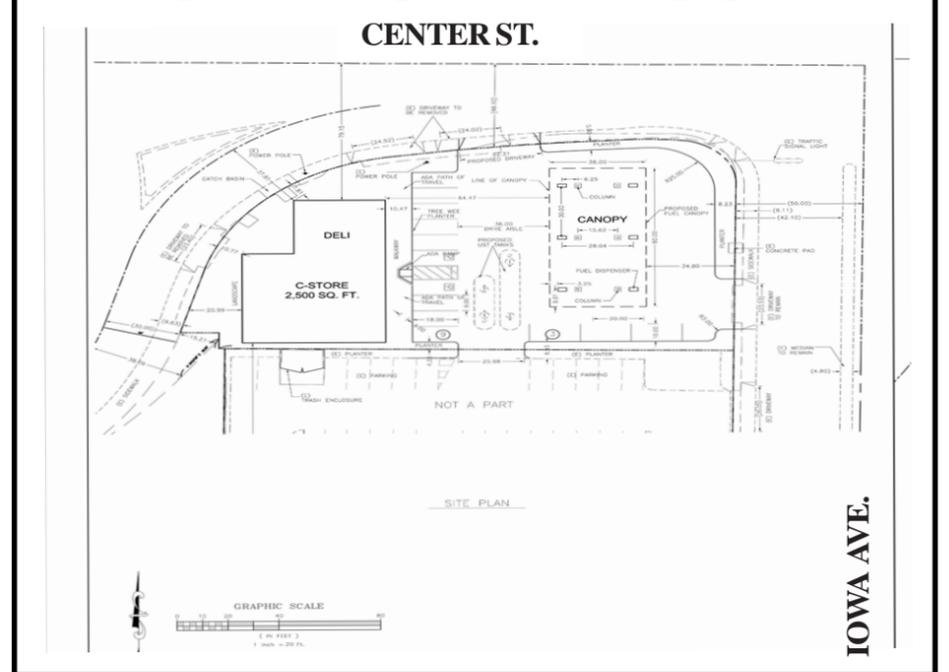
University of California Cooperative Extension, Riverside Master Gardeners, page 3 has a very informative article about Salad Bowl Gardens: <http://ceriverside.ucdavis.edu/newsletterfiles/>

Garden_Views16893.pdf

The Salad Table™ http://www.hgic.umd.edu/documents/HG601SaladTables_SaladBoxes.pdf

As always, if you have questions or comments, please email me: CWilliamsDC@aol.com

New gas station planned in Highgrove



A new gas station is planned for the S/W corner of Center St. & Iowa Avenue. (More details in the "Highgrove Happenings" when they become available).



See what's happening in the Highgrove Real Estate Market

Source (Multiple Listing Service)
Courtesy of : Margie Miller of Miller Associates Real Estate and Loans
(909) 888-9000

Real Estate statistics as of 04/28/2009

New Properties Sold in HIGHGROVE in APRIL:

ADDRESS	BR	BA	YR	SQ.FT	PRICE	DATE
3017 Date St	2	1	1929	944	\$50,000	04/02/2009
2030 Marlborough Ave	2	1	1927	828	\$53,800	04/03/2009
2517 6th St	2	1	1927	678	\$55,000	04/10/2009
2807 Denton St	2	1	1942	1,026	\$58,000	04/16/2009
4419 Ottawa Ave	2	1	1951	1,252	\$63,500	04/13/2009
1992 Blenheim St	2	1	1953	1,016	\$64,900	04/16/2009
1727 Matthews St	3	1	1956	1,043	\$66,000	04/04/2009
708 W. Main St	3	1	1956	1,212	\$69,900	04/13/2009
3029 Cridge St	3	1	1928	1,457	\$74,000	04/04/2009
596 Transit Ave	4	2	1956	1,262	\$129,900	04/11/2009
243 E. Blaine St	3	2	1949	1,673	\$155,000	04/10/2009
1764 Agrigento Ave	3	3	2007	1,819	\$160,000	04/17/2009
4557 Star Pass Rd	3	3	2006	1,442	\$205,000	04/01/2009
4541 Filson St	3	3	2006	1,615	\$207,500	04/01/2009
1397 Sutherland Dr	3	2	1999	1,338	\$210,000	04/04/2009
1910 Cefalu Crt	3	3	2007	2,046	\$223,500	04/22/2009
702 Spruce St	6	3	1962	2,941	\$249,900	04/13/2009
774 Navajo Dr	4	2	1963	2,727	\$254,625	04/27/2009
204 Owetzel Ln	3	3	1988	1,638	\$255,000	04/17/2009
290 Manadrin Way	3	3	1988	1,875	\$255,000	04/16/2009
4591 Sandano St	4	3	2006	2,112	\$264,900	04/24/2009
553 Athens St	4	3	1991	2,043	\$265,000	04/20/2009
1388 Sutherland Dr	3	3	1999	1,989	\$265,000	04/03/2009
272 Newell Dr	4	3	1985	2,128	\$302,000	04/16/2009

MONTHLY TRENDS:

Properties SOLD in HIGHGROVE in MARCH: 13
Properties SOLD in HIGHGROVE in FEBRUARY: 6
Properties SOLD in HIGHGROVE in JANUARY: 19

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Total Properties sold YTD: 39

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HIGHGROVE HAPPENINGS

Highgrove Metrolink plan facing rejection



Looking in this direction it is 3 1/2 rail miles to Riverside and trains could stop here

I received a call from the Riverside County Transportation Commission and I was asked if I could attend a meeting in their office on April 27, 2009 in regard to the Metrolink stop in Highgrove. Ardie and I had been working on a power point presentation that was just about completed when I received the invitation. I thought it would be an opportunity to show our power point to those present so I called Friday before the Monday meeting to see if it would be possible to show our supporting documentation, photos, and reasons for locating the station in Highgrove.

I did not hear back from them so I took 5 copies of our power point to the meeting but I was not allowed to show those in attendance the power point we had prepared.

Ardie and I attended the meeting hoping that we could explain the photographs of the commuter trains passing through Highgrove, etc. but we soon

found out that the staff decision to reject the Highgrove site to the commissioners had already been made. This became a notification meeting of their decision that had been made instead of discussing the merits of various station sites.

Those attending the meeting were Ann Mayer, Executive Director of RCTC, Commissioner/ Supervisor Bob Buster, RCTC Commissioner James Potts from San Jacinto, Edda Rosso, Kathy Bechtol and John Standiford, Deputy Director of RCTC. Another gentleman was also there but I did not know him and we were not introduced.

Instead of a station stop at Highgrove, RCTC is considering purchasing the 25 acre property where grading for a 520,000 sq. ft. warehouse is almost completed between Palmyrita Ave and Columbia Avenue. (See P. 6 of Feb. issue) RCTC said that they would also need to purchase the 19

acre property we wanted for a station because it is needed for the curved track to connect the 2 railroads. RCTC wants to purchase 2 different properties 1/2 mile apart instead of just one piece of property at Highgrove. One would be for a station at Palmyrita and the other for the curve.

At the meeting, we were presented a detailed map that stated several reasons why the committee was against a station at Highgrove. Many of these same problems and solutions were addressed in our power point presentation that was not played at the meeting.

Some of the objections to the Highgrove site from the RCTC staff were:

(a) Villa St. would need a \$2 million dollar upgrade and would be the only access to the portion north of the proposed curve.

(b) A pedestrian crossing over the curved track would be too costly.

(c) Transit Ave. would have to be widened and homes possibly purchased.

(d) There is limited parking at the Highgrove site.

(e) Warehouse traffic would restrict access to the platform area.

There were other items listed but these were the main ones.

Here is my response to some of these objections:

(a) Villa St. could be closed and a new crossing made 1 block south at Spring St. which would be in a direct line from the future Spring Mountain Ranch homes.

(b) I suggested going under the track before the track is laid. It would be much cheaper to go under the future curved track and it could be made wide enough for a shuttle similar to the one used at the Corona Metrolink station instead of going over the track.

(c) Access to the north side parking lot could begin at Center St. at Transit and go behind the homes on

Transit Ave., west of the Perris Valley Line track to reach Villa Street which is only 1 block. Transit would not have to be widened or any homes purchased.

(d) Many years ago we tried to get RCTC to buy this location when there were 35 acres of vacant land available. Now there are only 19 acres left because warehouses have been built on the south side of the arroyo and they say the location is too small.

(e) There is truck access to the rear of the 2 new warehouses between the buildings on Citrus Street. The new roadway across the arroyo could be used for the primary access to the south parking lot for Metrolink commuters and the area between the buildings for the trucks.

Naturally we were disappointed that we were not able to show our power point presentation. The unfortunate reality is that the existing commuter trains will continue going through Highgrove 7 days a week on the BNSF main line without stopping during the Perris Valley Line construction period. This amounts to 3,224 commuter trains per year, just like they have done for the last several years.

After the construction on the PVL is completed, this new limited service will only transport commuters from Palmyrita Ave. to Riverside or Palmyrita Ave. to Perris. Unlike the station at Highgrove, the Palmyrita station on the PVL will not take commuters to San Bernardino because it goes in the opposite direction. The Palmyrita station is on the wrong railroad for commuters who want to go north toward San Bernardino. Under their plan, going to San Bernardino from the Perris area would require going to Riverside first, then waiting on another train connection and backtracking back through Highgrove to San Bernardino. The possibility of having 2 train schedules that



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HIGHGROVE HAPPENINGS

would connect the PVL trains with the Riverside commuter trains that go to San Bernardino is very unlikely!

For several years we have been trying to get commuter rail service that will benefit the surrounding area and the region. We have tried to get Riverside and San Bernardino transportation agencies (RCTC and SANBAG) to cooperate for the benefit of the commuters that live on both sides of the county line. We have written support from surrounding cities that date back to Dec. 13, 2001. RCTC is the lead agency because it is in Riverside County but it seems that RCTC is only interested in train service between Riverside and Perris and has ignored the existing commuter trains that already go between Riverside and San Bernardino. Some of this may be expected to a certain degree, but our transportation tax dollars should be spent on transportation services that will benefit the entire area-not just one destination. We know that Highgrove is close to the county line but there is no division or interruption when our automobiles cross the Riverside/San Bernardino County Line on the I-215 freeway at Main Street. The I-215 freeway benefits residents on both sides of the county line but this plan for new commuter rail service proposed by RCTC does not!

The Highgrove location came from the people and has been supported in every direction for over 7 1/2 years. The issues raised at the meeting on April 27,

2009 by RCTC, are not physically impossible and if RCTC wanted this to work, I am sure they could have found a way to make it happen! If these decisions are being made by anyone who will benefit from the increased accessibility of freight trains to the Perris Valley area under the guise of commuter train service, instead of addressing the commuter rail needs of the people in both counties, then we have a problem! (This statement is not an accusation directed at any group or any particular person).

We have asked for one platform to be located where there are existing commuter trains at Highgrove that could also be used by future commuter trains on the Perris Valley Line.

One platform at Highgrove could serve as a pivot point both ways, for commuters in all three directions: To and from Riverside, To and from Perris, and To and from San Bernardino!

We have had community support for 7 1/2 years but now we need the RCTC commissioners to look at the power point presentation before the station locations are finalized. \$45 million dollars of our Federal tax money has been allocated for the Perris Valley Line in this \$163 million dollar project. We do not oppose the new commuter rail service on the PVL but we do object to locating the station at Palmyrita, Marlborough or anywhere in-between Highgrove and UCR. The station needs to be in Highgrove on the west side of the new curve! (see above right)

To view the new power point presentation that was never presented to RCTC please visit www.highgrovehappenings.net and click on **Metrolink** tab and then look at the **NEW ROAD VIDEO**.

Columbia Ave. to be closed during overpass construction!



The photo above was taken at the ground breaking ceremony on Nov. 6/08 but now the actual construction has begun. If you want to use Columbia Ave. you won't be able to get across the tracks until the overpass is completed in approximately 1 year.

The detour for vehicles on the east side of the tracks will have to take Iowa Ave. to Marlborough, west on Marlborough then north on Chicago Ave. to get to the west side of the construction. Vehicles west of the tracks will have to go south on Chicago then east on Spruce St. to Iowa Ave. to get to the east side of the construction site. After completion, the Iowa Ave. overpass will begin!



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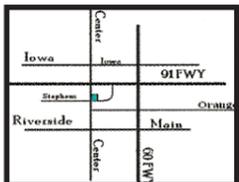
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HIGHGROVE HAPPENINGS

VIRGINIA'S VIEWPOINT

by Virginia Harford

SCHOOL BOARD STUBBORNLY REFUSES TO CHANGE ITS POSITION

I attended the Colton Unified School District's meeting held late last month. There were about 300 people in attendance, so many that the crowd spilled out into the parking lot. Fire officials refused to let some into the room which was already filled to capacity with many required to stand.

I have been trying to determine who the person or committee is that governs the school board. I admit to a great deal of ignorance about the political system. I realized several years ago that we are not in the least governed by people who give a tinker's damn about what we want or need. The position of the school board to ramrod the idea of naming Grand Terrace High School after Ray Abril Jr., a retired school board member is an abomination. Most of us do not even know him. I understand that those who are acquainted with him believe that he is a good man and did a good job when he was a member of the board. Why is that a reason to name a school after him that has absolutely nothing to do with him? The students of Grand Terrace High School will not even know who he is nor why the school board was so adamant about naming it after him. Can't you just hear them:

"Who was Ray Abril Jr.?"

After a previous meeting of the board I gave them a typewritten speech I had intended to give and was refused admission to the podium, that gave the board an out for their embarrassing position of being told that most of the residents of Grand Terrace wanted their high school named after their city. They ignored my letter. My

attempt to help them save face was simply that they rename Colton High—Ray Abril Jr. Colton High. I heard not one word from any member. I have an idea they filed my letter (speech) in the round file.

I am in the minority of those who do not believe we need a high school. I have been against it since the idea was formed about 25 years ago. I do not believe we need the expense and according to Steve Berry, our acting city manager, it will not cost us anything. There is such a thing as convincing yourself that something is true that you lose all sense of reality. This school is going to be costly and it will involve problems in which the Ray Abril Jr. issue is merely the beginning.

There will be disciplinary, social, physical and regulatory problems. There will be problems having to do with maintenance of the school such as trash removal, fire protection, toilets, nursing help, water supplies, security—the list is endless. Guess who will be paying for these services? Who is going to provide security? Do you really believe that this high school will be a peaceful, warm, socially upbeat, academically successful institution without the problems all high schools face such as drugs, guns, fights, destruction of the very place where they go to get education to prepare them for college? If you do you are sticking your head in the sand as Steve Berry is.

Another vote was taken and apparently, the board is stubbornly refusing to change its decision. Many in the audience were thoroughly dissatisfied with the result of this meeting and one

man in the back was loud and unruly. He was rude. That is not the way you get through to a group such as the school board.

FOURTH OF JULY FIREWORKS

It is my understanding the City of Grand Terrace Council persons have given the sports groups permission to erect and sell fireworks one more time in Grand Terrace. I sincerely hope that

none of their children or grand children ever become injured by the usage of fireworks. It was my belief that setting them off in Grand Terrace was illegal. Does it make any sense how it is okay to sell them here? **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"

No let-up seen in quest for "Grand Terrace High School" Name!



Denis Kidd is shown holding a sign at the ground breaking ceremony of the # 3 High School on April 4, 2009 referring to the Colton Joint Unified School District meeting that was held on March 12, 2009. The meeting was held to decide the name of the new school. There was a time limit of 3 minutes for each speaker under public comments which is fine. But during the public comment section a letter was read by one of the board members from Mr. Herbert Fischer (former superintendent of San Bernardino County schools-retired), who supported naming the new

school Ray Abril Jr. High School. This letter should have been read in another portion of the meeting other than the "public comments" portion because a board member reading a letter from the former Superintendent of schools was not a public comment! Mr. Fischer did not even speak to the board as a citizen from the public to voice his opinion. In fact he did not speak at all to the board at the March 12th meeting. Other speakers (and there were many including-yours truly) were not allowed to speak due to the school board's time

Continued on page 11

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HIGHGROVE HAPPENINGS

GT High School Name Continued from page 10

limit rule and many people in the crowded room were angry that their voices were not heard. The chair called for other speakers who were in favor of another name besides Grand Terrace High School under public comments. There were a couple of speakers who supported the Ray Abril Jr. name and a vote was taken to name the school after Ray Abril Jr.

Board member Pat Haro was the only member who did not vote for the Ray Abril Jr. name. Many Grand Terrace residents were infuriated and felt this action was pre-determined.

Then at the following school board meeting on April 23, 2009 at the same location, the subject of the name was on the agenda again and the room was filled to capacity with an overflow of people carrying signs outside the entrance into the parking lot and along Mt. Vernon Avenue. Some of the people were asked to leave by the fire marshal but were allowed to go back

inside to sign the register then go back outside. The room capacity is 134 people.

Grand Terrace residents have collected 3,600 signatures to change the name to Grand Terrace High School and people are very passionate about this name.

Also, at the April 23, 2009 meeting, board member Robert Armenta spoke from his seat during the "public comments" period in favor of Ray Abril Jr. High School.

In my opinion I feel that the Ralph M. Brown Act may have been violated, not because there was a 3 minute time limit or a 15 minute maximum on this subject but because the decision was pre-determined and the public comments period was taken up by reading a letter or listening to a board member instead of hearing from the public under "public comments"!

LAST MINUTE HIGH SCHOOL UPDATE!

JUST BEFORE WE WENT TO PRINT THERE WAS A COMPROMISE NAME AGREED TO BY THE COLTON JOINT UNIFIED SCHOOL BOARD.

The full name of the new high school will be:

GRAND TERRACE HIGH SCHOOL

AT THE RAY ABRIL JR., EDUCATIONAL COMPLEX

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<input type="checkbox"/> Have I offered good, usable products I can't use to my neighbor, family or friends?	<input type="checkbox"/> Is the box placed in the trunk of your car or in the bed of your pickup truck and secured to prevent movement? (Keep items away from passengers.)
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<input type="checkbox"/> Are any of the containers leaking? (If they are, place them in a container or material that will not allow the leak to	

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HIGHGROVE HAPPENINGS

A "LOVING" LOOK AT POLITICS

by Jerry Loving

Education Costs are too high in California

To be honest, education costs are too high everywhere but because education unions have such a strong foothold in California, the taxpayers and parents are an easy prey for these unions. As a former education administrator and currently an international graduate level professor, hopefully, this column will expose the discrepancies in your child's school and will give you the initiative to do something about it.

For example, unions have demanded that the number of students in a classroom be limited to a certain amount. Why? Because a school district will have to hire more teachers, build more classrooms, and provide administrative services to parents, teachers, and students. And you, as the taxpayer, foot the bill. And who really benefits? The unions. They get more dues because of their demands. There is one thing I stopped in my school district when I became the Superintendent and that was the school's payroll division automatically deducting the union's dues from the teachers' paychecks and then sending the union one check. I told them, "sorry. We are not a collection agency and you must bill the teachers yourselves." Guess what happened? The union went away because after a while, the teachers realized they were paying for something that was providing them very little service.

I think ever parent should go into their children's schools and meet with the administrators and ask them how many good, well qualified teachers have left their district because of the incompetence of the other teachers and the harassment of the local union. Unions will protect the incompetent teachers to the point where the school district real-

izes the cost of paying the legal fees to get rid of the teacher will cost more than the salary of the teacher and the unions know this. Therefore, if you are a sixth grade teacher and the fifth grade teacher is incompetent, you not only have to teach your students required by the sixth grade standards but also teach remedial courses to catch the students that were passed because the fifth grade teacher didn't do their job.

In all of my years of being in education, I have never understood why there has to be a ratio of teachers to students. A good teacher, I mean a well qualified, dedicated teacher doesn't care how many students are in the classroom as long as the teacher has the authority to discipline the unruly students and the administrators back the teachers' decisions. Of course, this is the biggest joke of all. Administrators, first of all, are extremely overpaid but are scared to death of a lawsuit. Parents of minority students know this and use it very well and in the past have won huge lawsuits because of liberal Judges and an education system that has forgotten that ALL the students in that classroom are entitled to an education. Yet, one student can disrupt the entire process and if the teacher decides to discipline, say a minority student, the parents immediately scream "Racial prejudice" and the unions jump on that issue, sue and usually win suit thereby reinforcing that unruly students have more rights than good students.

Private schools are not the answer. Even though you send your child to a private school and pay his tuition, you are still paying school taxes for the local school district. I believe we should go to a voucher system and then you can take your child to ANY school of YOUR choice. But of course, the schools in a

bad neighborhood will fail because of the lack of students and by all rights, they should. Why? Because the parents don't care or the unions have so much control that a parent can't do anything to make the school better.

In closing, I know this is a complex issue and there can be arguments on any one of a hundred points which can last for years (and has) but the bottom line is that education is really BIG BUSINESS and the unions know this. Just check the government budget on edu-

cation and the total budget and you will find that education is the number one business in America. There are solutions but there is no room in this column to recommend them. Maybe the next column.

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"

ABOP Centers

Antifreeze, Batteries, Oil (and Filters), and Paint (Latex) ONLY
Collection Center

See Site location for Hours of Operation
LIMIT: 5 gallons or 50 lbs. (per trip)
CLOSED: During inclement weather and hazardous conditions.
HOLIDAY CLOSURE DATES:
01/03/09, 01/17/09, 02/14/09, and 05/23/09

<p>Cathedral City Area Edom Hill Transfer Station 70-100 Edom Hill Rd. (92235) TB 757 E1 (near Vamer Road) Non-Holiday Saturdays, 8:00 to 4:30 (760) 340-2113</p> <p>Murrieta Area County Road Yard 25315 Jefferson Ave. (92562) TB 928 C6 (near Murrieta Hot Springs Rd.) NON-Holiday Saturdays, 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM.</p>	<p>Coachella Valley Area Coachella Valley Transfer Station 87-011A Landfill Road (92236) TB 5411 D6 (near Dillon Road) Mon - Friday, 8:00 to 5:00, and Saturday 8:00 to Noon (760) 863-4094</p> <p>Palm Springs Area Fire Department Training Center 3000 E. Alejo Rd. (92262) TB 786 H1 (near Civic Dr.) NON-Holiday Saturdays, Oct - May 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM NON-Holiday Saturdays, Jun - Sept 7:00 AM to 12:00 PM</p>
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Proper Disposal of Medication and Sharps

Most medications are not considered hazardous waste and can be disposed of in regular trash. Remove personal information from containers before disposal.

Liquid.....Empty liquid medication onto absorbent paper towels or rags and throw IN TRASH.
Pill.....Crush pills, mix with coffee grounds or kitty litter, and dispose of mixture IN TRASH.
Inhaler.....Empty container, expel propellant, and toss empty cylinder IN TRASH.
Sharps/Needles.....Must be placed in a secure approved sharps container and brought to a Household Hazardous Waste collection for disposal. FREE Approved containers are available while supply lasts. If a container is not available, put sharps in rigid plastic jug (bleach bottle), tighten lid, secure with tape, and place label "SHARPS/NEEDLES".
ALWAYS BRING SHARPS TO HHW PERMANENT FACILITY OR TEMPORARY EVENT.
Check with your local City Hall for additional Sharps disposal collection programs.



Universal Waste

The following items can't be tossed in the trash. They contain harmful chemicals and need to be disposed of properly through the Household Hazardous Waste Program (see front schedule).

- **Common Batteries:** AA, AAA, C & D cell and button batteries (e.g. hearing aid & watch batteries). Automotive type batteries are not Universal Waste and are regulated under a different law.
- **Fluorescent Tubes, Bulbs and other Mercury-containing Lamps:** fluorescent light tubes and bulbs, High Intensity Discharge (HID), metal halide, sodium and neon bulbs.
- **Electronic Devices** - TV's, computer monitors, computers, printers, VCR's, cell phones, telephones, radios, and microwave ovens.
- **Non-empty Aerosol Cans** that contain hazardous materials (labeled toxic, flammable, or corrosive).

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HIGHGROVE HAPPENINGS

California Early Ford Reunion held in Highgrove



The former members of the Early Fords (1940 and older) met in Highgrove for a long awaited reunion. There were about 40 members who attended the bar-b-q and looked at old albums dating back 30 years when this group used to go on trips to the River, Las Vegas and many other locations on the old car runs. Many of these former members had not seen each other for over 30 years. One couple came from Oregon and another member came from Arizona. but most of the other members were still around southern California. The club first started in 1969 in Riverside and once had a club house in Rialto. Back in those days, this club was well respected when it came to volleyball competition between the various clubs at the gatherings. But if someone's vehicle broke down on one of the runs they had to have their picture taken and keep the "Early Ford" toilet seat until someone else broke down! We all had a good time reminicing and renewing old friendships!

Highgrove Day Car Show May 9, 2009

www.highgrovehappenings.net, click on Highgrove Day, print out an application, fill it out, and mail in with \$20.00. or call (951) 683 4994 for an application. Space is limited and some restrictions apply. Awards! Please pre-register!

Car show in Riverside hosted by Old Farts Racing Team

The weekend before the Highgrove Day car show there will be a car show in downtown Riverside called "Show and Go". It will start on Friday May 1st and continue thru Sunday May 3, 2009. In both cases-the Highgrove Day Car show and the Show and Go car show- there is no admission charge to see the cars.

But please remember to look with your eyes- and not your hands!

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TEE PEE ON BLUE MOUNTAIN

The TeePee was painted on a Blue Mountain Boulder for The TeePee Ranch, a horse ranch at the end of Main Street in Grand Terrace once owned by silent movie star, Clara Bow and her husband B Western star, Rex Bell. Clara was known as the "It" girl because she had "It". She was the star of the first movie to win the Academy Award - "Wings". Rex Bell was later elected Lieutenant Governor of the State of Nevada.

In the 1960s and 1970s, the TeePee Ranch was owned by Roy Anderson, owner of Anderson Van and Storage in Redlands. He called the ranch Anderson's Arabians.

(see photo below)

If you haven't noticed the Tee Pee before, the next time you drive down Mt. Vernon, look at Blue Mountain and you will see the Tee Pee painted on the rock. I have lived in this area for many years and it was here when we came to California in 1946. The property is currently owned by Don and Marlene Ritz, who have owned Fair Price Carpet in Highgrove for over 40 years.



The Tee Pee Landmark is visible on the side of Blue Mountain.

The original Ranch House, guest house and caretaker's house that were on the property were a constant target for vandals so Don let the fire department use the structures for practice.

Friends of Blue Mountain

Denis Kidd is the Chairman of the organization that wants to create a wilderness park on Blue Mountain. To learn more- give him a call at: (909) 783 1664



A monument to "Anderson's Arabians" is near the base of Blue Mountain.

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HIGHGROVE HAPPENINGS

KIDS WORD SEARCH

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

AMBER
 ANGLE
 APPLE
 DADDY
 EDWARD
 FUNNY BUNNY
 GO GREEN

HAPPY
 HAVEN
 HONEY
 BUNNY
 I LOVE U
 JUMPSTART

LILLI ANNA
 LOVE
 ORIGAMI
 PLAYFUL
 RAYMOND
 SWIMMING
 TWILIGHT

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: _____
 CITY: _____
 SCHOOL: _____
 TEACHER: _____

Word Search Winner of the Month

Amber Rayann Rios is the April Highgrove Happenings Puzzle Winner!

Amber is 12 and attends the Highgrove Elementary School. Her teacher is Diane Roebuck.

Thank you Amber for completing the puzzle and winning this months prize and also supplying the words for this month's puzzle.

Good luck to the next winner!



Pico Ave. closed between Taylor St. and Pico Park



Don't take Taylor St. expecting to turn east onto Pico. The road has been closed!



This is Pico looking toward the old Highgrove power plant by Pico Park. I have ask Grand Terrace to post signs on Main and Taylor-and Michigan and Pico.

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HIGHGROVE HAPPENINGS



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Highgrove Happenings website

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We have no reporters so we are asking for your help. You can be a reporter just by giving us a call or sending us an Email. 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 or call us at (951) 683 4994



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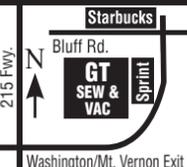
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